



## CHINESE FINE ARTS SOCIETY

### **For Immediate Release**

Photos: available on request

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### **Chinese Fine Arts Society Announces its 2020 Chinese New Year Celebrations**

*Celebrate the year of the rat, a symbol of wealth and the beginning of the zodiac cycle, with FREE events open to the public at iconic Chicago locations including Millennium Park, Maggie Daley Park, the Chicago Cultural Center, Navy Pier, Apple Michigan Avenue, and the Art Institute of Chicago. Enjoy performances of Chinese music, dance, martial arts, and more by many of Chicago's most esteemed performers within the Chinese community.*

**Chicago, IL (January, 2020)** —The Chinese Fine Arts Society (CFAS) announces an exciting series of Chinese New Year events celebrating the Year of the Rat, **January 24 - February 8**, in partnership with **Choose Chicago, the Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events, Navy Pier, the Art Institute of Chicago, the Chicago Park District, and Apple Michigan Avenue**. Event details are included at the end of this release.

CFAS will provide programming throughout the Chicagoland area, showcasing the vibrancy, beauty and richness of Chinese New Year traditions. For 35 years, CFAS has been a leader in promoting excellence in Chinese music, dance, and visual arts. 2020 will usher in the Year of the Rat, symbolizing abundance and wealth, as well as the beginning of a new zodiac cycle.

Celebrations begin on **Friday, January 24**, the eve of the Lunar New Year, with a city-wide Chinese New Year Kickoff event presented by CFAS in partnership with **the Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events, and Choose Chicago**. This free, multi-arts lunch-hour event starts at **12:00pm** in the **Chicago Cultural Center's Preston Bradley Hall** (78 E. Washington St.), and features lion dance, music, and dance from

renowned local performers, and direct from China, special guest artists the **Zhejiang Shaoju Opera Theatre**.

Festivities continue at **Navy Pier** (600 E. Grand Ave), on **Saturday, January 25 from 1:00 - 5:00pm**. The **Aon Grand Ballroom** will be transformed into a festive Chinese marketplace with food, crafts, and performances for the whole family. Three stages will feature performances by the Chicago Chinese Cultural Center Lion Dancers, pipa master Yang Wei, the award-winning dance troupes the Flying Fairies and Hao Dance, Yin He dance, and Xilin Dance, martial arts demonstrations by Beidou Kung Fu and Zhong Hua Kung Fu, traditional Chinese music by the Eight Tones Chinese Instrument Ensemble, Tuvergen band, and Cheng Da Drum Team, and many other luminaries from the Chicago Chinese community. A sneak peek of the Shaoju Opera Theater's program at Symphony Center will also be presented.

Chinese New Year festivities continue on **Saturday, February 1, from 2:00 - 3:30pm** at **Apple Michigan Avenue**. Enjoy interactive multi-arts performances of Chinese dance, martial arts, calligraphy, and music. Then, get hands-on experience using the enhanced slo-mo and time-lapse video features of iPhone filming the performances and learn tips from Apple's own *Today at Apple* team.

CFAS **concludes its Chinese New Year celebrations** with a Lunar New Year celebration and lantern procession presented in partnership with the **Art Institute of Chicago** (111 S. Michigan Ave), **Maggie Daley Park** (337 E. Randolph St), and the **Chicago Park District**. Celebrate the Lunar New Year at the Art Institute of Chicago with artmaking, music, games, an artist demonstration, a puppet performance about the zodiac, and gallery talks in the Asian art galleries. Then, light up the night with a lion-dance led lantern procession from Millennium Park to Maggie Daley Park, followed by more New Year's activities, including a lion dance finale, art making, food, and ice skating.

"The Lunar New Year is the biggest holiday of the year for Chinese people worldwide. We are thrilled to see a growing number of major cultural institutions in Chicago embrace this tradition and create opportunities to showcase China's 5,000 year-old cultural heritage" remarked CFAS President Julie Tiao Ma.

For more information on CFAS and its upcoming Chinese New Year events, visit

[www.chinesefinearts.org](http://www.chinesefinearts.org)

## **CFAS 2020 Chinese New Year Event Calendar**

### **Citywide Chinese New Year Kickoff**

Date – Friday, January 24th

Time – 12:00pm - 1:00pm

Location – Chicago Cultural Center, Preston Bradley Hall (78 E. Washington St)

Admission - Free and open to the public!

Link for more info – <https://chinesefinearts.org/>

### **Global Connections Chinese New Year Celebration**

Date – Saturday, January 25th

Time – 1:00 - 5:00pm

Location – Navy Pier, AON Grand Ballroom (600 E. Grand Ave.)

Admission - Free and open to the public!

Link for more info - <https://chinesefinearts.org/>

### **Today at Apple: Chinese New Year Celebration**

Date - Saturday, February 1

Time - 2:00 - 3:30pm

Location - Apple Michigan Avenue (401 N Michigan Ave, Chicago, IL 60611)

Website - [apple.com/today](https://apple.com/today)

### **Lunar New Year Celebration and Lantern Procession**

Date - Saturday, February 8th

Time(s):

- Events at the Art Institute of Chicago - 1:00pm - 4:30pm
- Lantern Procession From Millennium Park to Maggie Daley Skating Ribbon - 5:00pm
- Skating Demonstrations, Lion Dance, and Activities at Maggie Daley Park - 6:00pm - 7:30pm

Location - Art Institute of Chicago; Maggie Daley Park

Admission:

- Lantern Procession and Maggie Daley Park activities are free and open to the public!
- Normal admission rates apply at the Art Institute of Chicago

Link for more info – <https://chinesefinearts.org/>

Additional Information - The procession will line up across from the Art Institute's Modern Wing on the West side of The Lurie Garden (look for the lanterns, and see the bottom of this release for map)). Lanterns with lights will be available to participants at the procession line-up location for a \$5 deposit. Lanterns can be returned to at the Chinese Fine Arts Society table in Maggie Daley Park at the end of the parade route. (Look for the CFAS Banner) Lanterns available on a first come, first served basis, but a lantern is not required to join the procession! Participants may also bring their own lanterns.

If you are interested in bringing a large group or club to join the lantern procession, or interested in volunteering, please contact Elizabeth Clawson at [eclawson@chinesefinearts.org](mailto:eclawson@chinesefinearts.org).

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### About the Chinese Fine Arts Society

The Chinese Fine Arts Society (CFAS) is a Chicago-based non-profit dedicated to promoting the appreciation of Chinese culture, enhancing cultural exchange, and pursuing excellence in Chinese music, dance, and visual arts. Since its founding in 1984, CFAS has been a leading champion of Chinese culture, bringing together people from diverse backgrounds to celebrate the beauty and majesty of both traditional and contemporary Chinese art. Find more information about the Chinese Fine Arts Society's events at [chinesefinearts.org](http://chinesefinearts.org).

### About Choose Chicago

Choose Chicago is the official destination marketing organization for Chicago, Illinois. Its mission is to bring regional, national and international business and leisure visitors to Chicago for the economic benefit of the City, the community and its membership. Choose Chicago and the China International Cultural Association signed a Memorandum of Understanding in 2015, strengthening cultural ties between Chicago and China. For a comprehensive listing of many of the amazing events and activities awaiting visitors, visit [ChooseChicago.com](http://ChooseChicago.com).

Get answers to your Chicago questions on the go, restaurant recommendations, and tips on citywide events and activities by following [@ChooseChicago](https://twitter.com/ChooseChicago).

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### Map of line-up location and route for February 9 Lantern Procession

