



CHINESE COMMUNITY CENTER

中華文化服務中心

2017 Spring Newsletter



Celebrating the Year of the Rooster

On Saturday, January 28, CCC hosted its 2017 Lunar New Year Festival, presenting the Houston community with an array of authentic, exciting, and fun performances, cultural exhibits, food, and entertainment. Celebrating the Year of the Rooster, the festival drew a record-breaking crowd that included Congressman Al Green, State Representative Gene Wu, Mayor Sylvester Turner, and more than 14,000 attendees from all over Houston.

The festival featured a full day of performances from across the cultural spectrum, including crowd-pleasing lion and dragon dances, the classic Sichuan opera act known as Bian Lian or “Face Changing,” folk dances from China, India, and Polynesia, and Japanese and Chinese martial arts. The quality and

diversity of the performances demonstrated the cultural vibrancy of Houston and were met with high praise from festival attendees.

Of course, an integral element of Asian culture is the food, and the food available at the festival did not disappoint. The festival's outdoor Asian market featured a mouth-watering lineup of authentic street foods and drinks from China, Taiwan, Japan, Korea, and Afghanistan, all provided by local businesses. In addition to street food staples, like fried rice and bubble tea, festivalgoers enjoyed Chinese crepes (jianbing), Afghan spiced cubed meats, and Korean kimchi rice cakes, among many other delectable treats. The market also offered a range of entertaining activities, such as pop-up basketball hoop throws from the Houston Rockets, carnival-style games with stuffed animals as prizes, and many free sponsor giveaways.

The 2017 Lunar New Year Festival, which was free and open to the public, would not have been possible without the support of our many wonderful sponsors: City of Houston, Houston Arts Alliance, Wells Fargo, Dignity Memorial, CenterPoint Energy, ExxonMobil Foundation, H-Mart, H-E-B, Holiday Inn, Houston Symphony, Hu Shao Lean and Cecilia Sze, McDonald's, Rocky and Tracy Lai, MD Anderson Cancer Center, Senior's Choice, Silver Eagle Distributors, Simon Printing, Whole Earth Provision Co., and Xfinity.



Join an Asian Heritage Tour!

In partnership with Houston Arts Alliance, the Chinese Community Center launched two exciting Asian Heritage Tour programs. We invite you and your friends to join us on one (or both!) of these tours to learn about Asian culture and discover the best that Southwest Houston has to offer.

Our **Asian Heritage Bus Tour** takes visitors on a half-day guided tour along Southwest Houston. Visit popular locations such as the Jade Buddhist Temple, Ten Yen Tea & Herbs, H-Mart Korean Supermarket, and Harwin Central Mart and learn about the exciting history of Houston's Chinatown and the Mahatma Gandhi and International Districts. A family-style lunch allows everyone to enjoy Asian cuisine.

Our **Asian Heritage Cultural Discovery Tour** enables visitors to engage in compelling cultural workshops, such as tai-chi, calligraphy, origami, and paper cutting. Guests also get to enjoy a tasty lunch in Chinatown and learn more about Asian cuisine.

Book your Asian Heritage Tour today at www.ccchouston.org/tour! Our next tour will be held on April 15 during Easter weekend.

BOOK YOUR TOUR TODAY



Oh, the Places You'll Go!

On June 5, CCC will kick off its 11-week youth summer camp entitled **Oh, The Places You'll Go – Careers in the Community**. In response to a growing need for students to be career-focused by the time they graduate from high school, CCC's summer camp will help students learn about and explore a diverse range of career paths that various leaders in our community have taken, inspiring them to create a vision for their own future.

For more information or to register, please visit www.ccchouston.org/summercamp or click the button below.

Early Registration Discount: You will receive \$15 off the registration fee if you register and make your payment by May 14!

REGISTER TODAY



Building Financial Literacy

On February 17, [State Farm](#) awarded a \$13,000 Good Neighbor Citizenship company grant to CCC to sponsor its [Financial Literacy](#) and [Homebuyer Education](#) programs. These programs offer free financial education, first-time homebuyer workshops, and one-on-one credit counseling and are a critical part of CCC's efforts to help people from low- and moderate-income households achieve self-sufficiency and financial resilience. The grant from State Farm will help CCC provide these services to 600 people during 2017.

CCC has been a beneficiary of grant funding from State Farm totaling \$95,300 since 2004 and has received in-kind donations, including coloring books on safety for children, since 2000. In addition to sponsoring CCC's programs, State Farm has provided representatives to share their expertise on such topics as homeowners insurance and home safety during CCC's educational workshops. CCC thanks State Farm for their longtime partnership and support!



Keeping Houston Communities Safe

On January 19, Houston Police Chief Art Acevedo and Houston Police Department (HPD) commanders joined the Houston Consulate General of the People's Republic of China in hosting a public safety meeting at CCC. The meeting was sponsored by the Southwest Management District, and its purpose was to address safety awareness. Hundreds of community members attended the meeting to learn about what HPD is doing to sustain and enhance safety throughout all of Houston's communities and to learn what they can do to keep themselves and their families safe.

CCC thanks the Houston Police Department, Consulate General of the People's Republic of China, and Southwest Management District for sharing this important information with the community.



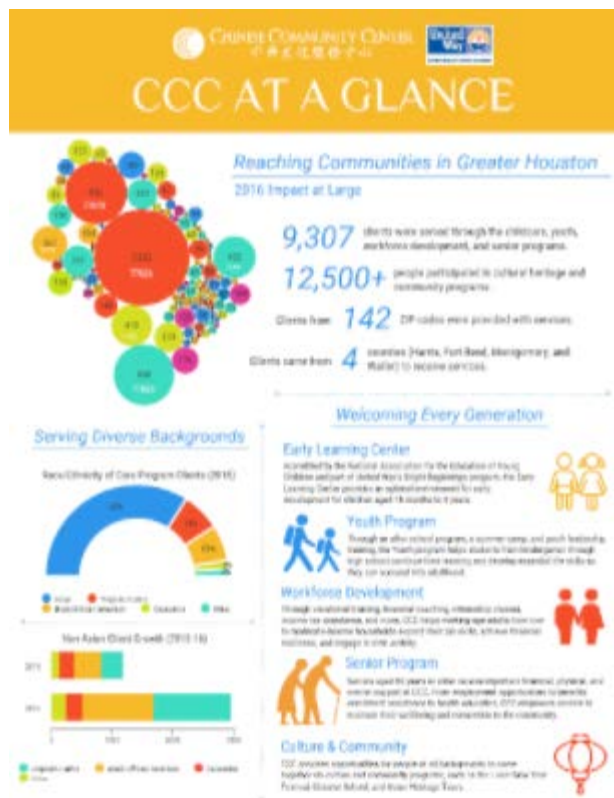
An Outing on a Budget

Budgeting is one of the most important financial skills to master, because it helps people have the money they need and avoid acquiring unmanageable debt. To help our clients enhance their budgeting skills, CCC provided an innovative project in February called “An Outing on a Budget,” which was sponsored by [Southwestern National Bank](#).

Participants in the project were each given a pre-paid debit card. Working with CCC’s financial coaches, the participants created a personal budget for an outing in Houston’s Chinatown, during which they used their debit card to pay for goods and services of their choosing. After the outing, clients met with the financial coaches to review how well their budget correlated with their actual spending and to discuss what they can do to improve their budgeting skills going forward.

Because the participants used debit cards, the “Outing on a Budget” project also encouraged small businesses in Chinatown that only accept cash to consider taking credit and debit cards for payment as well. By keeping large amounts of cash on-hand, cash-only businesses can become targets of crime, which makes the community less safe for everyone.

CCC thanks Southwestern National Bank for supporting our efforts to teach important financial skills and to promote safety within the community!



CCC at a Glance in 2016

CCC's 2016 numbers are in! We are excited to share our one-page "CCC at a Glance" report that shows our our geographical reach, the diversity of our clients, and the services we provide. The report is available [here](#).

To support the Chinese Community Center with a donation, please visit cchouston.org/donate or click the button below.

DONATE NOW



The Chinese Community Center is a United Way agency.

CCC wishes to thank the program sponsors whose support enables us to impact the lives of more than 20,000 people each year.



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