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CHILDREN'S MUSEUM HOSTS WEEKEND LUNAR NEW YEAR FAMILY FESTIVAL

Music, Dance, Cultural Arts & Crafts Explored

Long Island Children's Museum invites visitors to hop into the Year of the Rabbit and explore the customs and traditions associated with Lunar New Year. LICM will host "Celebrate Lunar New Year" on Saturday, January 28 and Sunday, January 29 from noon-4 p.m. The family festival is made possible with the support of JPMorgan Chase & Co., in partnership with the Nassau County Office of Asian American Affairs.

In announcing details about the weekend activities, LICM President Suzanne LeBlanc noted, "The Children's Museum is delighted to be working with cultural groups in the community to bring vibrant, authentic experiences to our audience. We look forward to welcoming families who celebrate Lunar New Year in their homes and to invite others to learn about activities associated with this global holiday and explore shared connections."

Lunar New Year is known as the *Spring Festival* in China, while Koreans call it *Seollal* and Vietnamese refer to it as *Tết* --this marks the start of the new year of the lunisolar calendar and is celebrated all over the world. Each year in the Lunar calendar is represented by one of 12 zodiac animals; the year 2023 is the Year of the Rabbit.

Throughout the weekend, visitors will be able to experience various cultures that celebrate Lunar New Year including Chinese, Korean and Vietnamese traditions. They will be able to enjoy a variety of dance and musical performances, live artisan demonstrations, food samplings, craft stations, and of course a Lion Dance.

During the weekend, visitors will enjoy a multi-sensory celebration, where they can:

- View artist demonstrations of Tai Chi martial arts, sugar painting, dough sculpting and calligraphy.

- Make their own Riddle Lantern, a tradition that goes all the way back to the Han Dynasty and Rabbit Lanterns to celebrate the story of the Jade Rabbit .
- Enjoy a variety of dance performances including the traditional Lion Dance, folk dances, and Peking opera dance
- Play *jegichagi* to honor the Korean Lunar New Year" and make your own jegi to play with at home.
- Make your own paper peach blossom to adorn your home, recognizing the symbol of the Vietnamese Lunar New Year.
- Explore music from the sounds of the ancient Chinese instrument guzheng to traditional and contemporary songs.
- Sample "lucky" foods traditionally served at family celebrations.

All *Celebrate Lunar New Year* activities and performances are included with Museum admission.

Event Partners

Celebrate Lunar New Year at Long Island Children's Museum is supported by JPMorgan Chase & Co, in partnership with Nassau County Office of Asian American Affairs. Advisors and contributors to Celebrate Lunar New Year at Long Island include Nico Li, cultural consultant, Long Island Chinese American Association, the Chinese Center on Long Island, Korean American Association of Greater NY and the Korean Culture Center.

All activities will be held at the Long Island Children's Museum, 11 Davis Avenue, Garden City, NY. Children must be accompanied by an adult. **Museum admission: \$17** for adults and children over 1 year old, **\$15** for seniors, FREE to museum members and children under 12 months old. Additional fees for theater and special programs may apply. For additional information, contact 516-224-5800.

Hours: September to June: Tuesday through Sunday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. July - August: Open Daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

About the Long Island Children's Museum (www.licm.org)

The mission of Long Island Children's Museum is to connect all our communities' children, and those who care for them, to a life of wonder, imagination and exploration. At LICM, children discover their passions and their relationship to the world we share. The 40,000-square-foot museum welcomes nearly 275,000 children and annually. The private, not-for-profit institution chartered by the New York State Board of Regents, offers museum-based educational programs and cultural

experiences, as well as an extensive community outreach program offered in schools, libraries and youth centers across Long Island. Additionally, the Children's Museum operates the historic Nunley's Carousel in association with Nassau County, one of three intact Stein & Goldstein carousels still in existence.

LICM is accredited by the American Alliance of Museums (AAM), recognized as the field's gold standard for museum excellence and signifies a museum's quality, credibility and deep commitment to mission and community. Less than 3% of the nation's more than 30,000 museums have earned this recognition. LICM is currently the only children's museum in NY State, and just one of 16 nationwide, to achieve accreditation. The Museum is the recipient of the 2012 National Medal for Museum & Library Service, the highest honor conferred on museums for extraordinary civic, educational, economic, environmental, and social contributions.

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