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## HISTORIC PHILADELPHIA ANNOUNCES RETURN OF CHINESE LANTERN FESTIVAL TO FRANKLIN SQUARE

**PHILADELPHIA, February 6, 2019 – Historic Philadelphia, Inc. announces the return of the Philadelphia Chinese Lantern Festival in Franklin Square beginning May 1 and running through June 30, 2019.** The

spectacular Philadelphia Chinese Lantern Festival in Franklin Square is a celebration of light and culture that features artisans from China creating magnificent steel-framed and silk-wrapped giant lighted sculptures, using traditional Chinese methods. This spring marks the fourth year



the Festival to take place in Franklin Square. In 2018, 130,000 visitors experienced the Philadelphia Chinese Lantern Festival, and a total of over 280,000 have attended since 2016. Tickets are now on sale here: <http://historicphiladelphia.org/chineselanternfestival/>.

**Amy Needle, President and CEO of Historic Philadelphia, Inc.** said, “Historic Philadelphia, Inc. is pleased to bring this treasure of Chinese culture to our region. Gorgeous works of art, performances, and a magical evening in Franklin Square will create lasting memories for Philadelphia residents and visitors.”

The 2019 Festival will illuminate Franklin Square at 6th & Race Streets in Historic Philadelphia from May 1 – June 30. Bigger than ever before, 30 larger-than-life illuminated displays made of 2,000 individual lanterns and 20,000 LED lights in brilliant colors will glow in the Square. All of the lanterns

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will be new for the 2019 Festival, including new lighting design techniques. Highlights feature a 200-foot long phoenix (different from previous years' giant dragon), a walk-through dragon tunnel, mythological creatures created from small glass bottles filled with colored water, and a host of interactive installations such as lit swings and a fortune-telling wheel. The lanterns are installed all around the seven-acre Square, and guests stroll under, around, and through the displays each evening.

**The Philadelphia Chinese Lantern Festival Student Design Contest** gives area youth the opportunity to design a lantern for the 2019 Festival. Children ages 8-14 are invited to submit a drawing of a pig to celebrate the Year of the Pig. Lantern artists from China then bring the winning drawings to life and create an actual sculpture based on the students' designs. Submissions are due March 25. More information is available at <http://historicphiladelphia.org/chineselanternfestival/studentcontest/>.

In addition to the gorgeous light installations, festival-goers will witness authentic cultural stage performances, including the unusual and fascinating face-changers. Visitors can taste Asian cuisine and American favorites, drink a toast at the Dragon Beer Garden open nightly, and shop for Chinese folk artists' crafts created on site as well as Festival-themed merchandise. Guests can also play Philly Mini Golf, ride the Parx Liberty Carousel (additional tickets required for both), and enjoy Center City's best play place. The Franklin Square Playground will continue to be open and free both daytime and during evening hours, accessible from 7<sup>th</sup> Street, and for festival-goers from inside the park. The lanterns are able to be viewed for free during daylight hours, while a ticket is required for nighttime entrance. The Festival will be open 6 – 11 pm, 7 days a week.

**Franklin Square** is an initiative of **Historic Philadelphia, Inc. (HPI)**. HPI makes our nation's history relevant and real through interpretation, interaction, and education, strengthening Greater Philadelphia's role as the destination to experience American history. Historic Philadelphia, Inc.'s programs include the Betsy Ross House, Once Upon A Nation storytelling and immersive walking tours, and Franklin Square. For more information, (215) 629-4026 or visit [www.historicphiladelphia.org](http://www.historicphiladelphia.org). Follow HPI at [twitter.com/HistoricPhilly](https://twitter.com/HistoricPhilly) and [twitter.com/FranklinSqr](https://twitter.com/FranklinSqr), on Facebook at <http://on.fb.me/HistoricPhila> or <http://on.fb.me/FranklinSquare>, or on Instagram [instagram.com/historicphilly](https://www.instagram.com/historicphilly).

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**High-resolution photographs are available for media usage at: <http://bit.ly/FSPressKit>  
Email [cari@reliefcomm.com](mailto:cari@reliefcomm.com) with any questions.**

*Photo by Jeff Fusco for Historic Philadelphia, Inc.*