



MEDIA ADVISORY

GIANT LIGHTED SCULPTURES INSTALLED WITH CRANE FOR CHINESE LANTERN FESTIVAL IN FRANKLIN SQUARE

- WHAT:** **Giant Lantern Installation in Franklin Square**
 Artisans from China have been in Philadelphia for a month creating displays for the Philadelphia Chinese Lantern Festival in Franklin Square. Cranes will be used to install several larger than life, giant elements, as well as topping off the enormous phoenix. The glowing phoenix lantern is longer than three school buses and weighs 6,000 pounds. Standing 200 feet long and 21 feet high, the wings will be installed by a crane with a 15-person crew. In addition to the phoenix wings, the artisans will finish the lantern creation process by hand with silk fabric stretched over steel frames and then lit with hundreds of LED lights.
- WHO:** **Stephanie Zhou**, Project Manager, Tianyu Arts & Culture, Inc.
 (Representative of the company creating the lanterns available for interviews)
Amy Needle, President & CEO, Historic Philadelphia, Inc.
- WHEN:** Wednesday, April 24, 2019, 10 am
- WHERE:** Franklin Square, 6th & Race Streets
- VISUALS:** Throughout the morning, the artisans from China will continue installing lanterns and finishing the creations around the Square. Simultaneously, a construction crane will be used to place giant elements, including the wings of the phoenix.
- DETAILS:** Media should save the date for 7:30 pm on Tuesday April 30 for the press preview for the Philadelphia Chinese Lantern Festival in Franklin Square (RSVP requested). The Festival will take place from May 1 to June 30, 2019.

The spectacular **Philadelphia Chinese Lantern Festival in Franklin Square** is a celebration of light and culture that features magnificent steel-framed and silk-wrapped giant lighted sculptures, created by hand using traditional Chinese methods. The 2019 Festival will illuminate Franklin Square at 6th & Race Streets in Historic Philadelphia from May 1 – June 30 with 29 larger-than-life illuminated displays made of 2,000 individual lanterns and 20,000 LED lights in brilliant colors.

All of the lanterns are new for the 2019 Festival, including new lighting design techniques. Highlights feature a 200-foot long phoenix, 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.

In addition to the gorgeous light installations, festival-goers will witness authentic cultural stage performances. 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 Philadelphia Chinese Lantern Festival in Franklin Square will take place in Franklin Square, 6th and Race Streets, from May 1 – June 30, 2019, 6 - 11 pm, daily. Franklin Square will be open during regular daytime hours. The Franklin Square Playground will continue to be open and free during the evening hours, accessible from 7th Street, and for festival-goers from inside the park. The lanterns are able to be viewed for free during daytime, while a ticket is required for nighttime entrance after 6 pm (no re-entry). On Friday – Sunday nights, a second entrance at 7th & Race (Lion Gate Entrance) will be open for those who have purchased tickets in advance. Advance tickets are strongly recommended. To book a group, call 215-629-5801 x209. Visitors can learn more here: historicphiladelphia.org/chineselanternfestival/. **The proceeds that Historic Philadelphia, Inc. receives from the Festival will go into the operation and management of Franklin Square and its many free events all year long.** The Philadelphia Chinese Lantern Festival in Franklin Square is produced by the Tianyu Arts & Culture, Inc. and its parent company, Sichuan Tianyu Cultural Transmission Co., Ltd. in conjunction with Historic Philadelphia, Inc.

The Philadelphia Chinatown Development Corporation is a partner of the Festival. PECO is a season-long sponsor of Franklin Square. Other partners include the City of Philadelphia, Philadelphia Parks & Recreation, and Visit Philadelphia™. *Further details including performances, handicrafts, and a full list of lanterns and accompanying photographs are available for media usage at: <http://bit.ly/FSPressKit>.*

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. Follow HPI at twitter.com/HistoricPhilly and 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).

CONTACT: Cari Feiler Bender, Relief Communications, LLC (Press Information Only)
(610) 416-1216 or cari@reliefcomm.com
Public Information: 215-629-4026 or www.historicphiladelphia.org