

From: Chinatown Partnership Local Development

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**CHINATOWN COMMUNITY KICKS OFF
NEW YEAR EVENTS WITH A ‘BANG’**

Firecracker Ceremony Lights Up the New Year Schedule

New York City’s Chinatown – one of the oldest in the country – will welcome in the Year of the Golden Rabbit with the **New Year’s Day Firecracker Ceremony and Cultural Fair**, Thursday, February 3, at Roosevelt Park between Grand and Hester Streets. The festivities, which will last from 11 AM to 3:30 PM, will include music, food and, of course, plenty of firecrackers.

For a slightly more relaxed way to begin the New Year celebrations, visitors can enjoy a talk on the Chinese Almanac, Saturday, January 29, at the **Museum of Chinatown in America**, located at 215 Center Street. From 2:30 to 3:30 PM, Joanna C. Lee and Ken Smith, co-authors of the *Pocket Chinese Almanac*, will explore what the coming year has in store and share some New Year’s traditions designed to protect your home. Admission is \$15 for adults, \$12 for students, and free for MOCA members and seniors 65 and over. All attendees will receive a free copy of the *Pocket Chinese Almanac*.

Saturday and Sunday, January 29 and 30, marks the **6th Annual Pre-Lunar New Year Gala & Flower Market** at Confucius Plaza from 10 AM to 6 PM. Located at 33 Bowery, the market will include over 25 vendor booths, on stage performances and traditional cultural exhibitions such as a Money God visit, feng shui talk and cooking demonstration. The fun-filled community event, which will include an opening ceremony on Saturday, is free.

The festivities continue on Sunday, February 6, with the 12th annual **Chinatown Lunar New Year Parade & Festival**. The parade, which is one of Chinatown's signature events, includes a festive display of traditional music, inventive dances, intricate dragon puppets, and much more. After starting at 11:30 AM in Little Italy, the parade winds its way through Chinatown and down the streets of Lower Manhattan. The accompanying cultural festival takes place at Sara Roosevelt Park, between Canal and Forsyth Streets, and lasts until 4:30 PM.

Closer to home, **Feng Shui Master John Tsang** will offer insight on what is to come in the Year of the Rabbit on [ExploreChinatown](#). For the next several weeks, the talented Tsang will provide surprising and perceptive forecasts on the year ahead.

The festivities will wind down with traditional **lion dance performances** taking place throughout Chinatown on Saturday, February 12 from 11 AM to 5 PM. The annual event will feature competing clubs and dance leagues showing off their best moves to close the New Year celebrations. The groups will perform in front of businesses to bring good luck, with some establishments handing out red envelopes – a traditional Chinese custom – in return.

Chinatown and all listed New Year events are easily accessible by subway, bus or car. Directions and event information can be found by visiting www.explorechinatown.com.

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