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Lan Su Chinese Garden invites community to celebrate Dongzhi this December

Enjoy expanded day and night offerings featuring Asian Santa, festive décor, and illuminated lion dance

November 25, 2025 — PORTLAND, Ore. As the Winter Solstice approaches, Lan Su Chinese Garden welcomes the community to celebrate the traditions and warmth of Dongzhi. This year's Dongzhi events will take place on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays from December 6-21, offering both daytime and evening opportunities for visitors to experience Lan Su during this festive season.

“Dongzhi” refers to the Winter Solstice in Chinese—the shortest day and longest night of the year, and a moment that symbolizes the return of light,” says Venus Sun, Vice President of Culture & Community. “Across East and Southeast Asia, Dongzhi is a time for reunion and renewal. Families and friends gather to share comforting foods, slow down from everyday routines, and express their hopes for health and prosperity in the year ahead.”

Daytime offerings include a wide range of family-friendly cultural activities throughout the garden to discover the traditions behind Dongzhi. Guests can meet **Asian Santa**, a warm and welcoming photo experience designed for visitors of all ages (\$5/group). Or, channel a classic Chinese scholar through a winter wellness **Tea Chat with Tea Master Eric**, an engaging introduction to **Qinggong (清供)** led by Curator of Horticulture Josie Losh, and **Scent and Seal**, an incense art experience that provides a calming and meditative glimpse into traditional fragrance culture. Families can also take part in **Warm Hearts, Warm Ears**, a creative craft inspired by the classic Dongzhi story of why dumplings are shaped like ears.

The ticketed nighttime experience—Dongzhi: A Chinese Holiday Party—will transform the garden into an immersive holiday experience. The highlight of the evening will be **an illuminated lion dance performance**, a colorfully glowing as they wind through the garden inviting playful audience interaction. Visitors can also enjoy **Melodies of Winter Cheer**, a live musical performance blending seasonal favorites with Chinese-inspired pieces. Step into **Dongzhi Kitchen**, where guests will be guided through tangyuan (湯圓) and dumpling (餃子) making, complete with samples.

Ticketed Event Details

Dongzhi: A Chinese Holiday Party

- Date: December 12, 13, 19, 20
- Time: 5-7pm
- Location: Lan Su Chinese Garden, 239 NW Everett St, Portland, OR 97209
- More info: lansugarden.org/dongzhi

Nightly Ticket Rates & Categories

- Free — Child (ages 5 and younger)
 - \$10.95 — Lan Su Members & Guests
 - \$22.95 — General Admission
 - EBT Cardholder - \$10.95
- Limited availability only at Lan Su Ticket Booth. Show your EBT Card to purchase. Up to 4 tickets per cardholder.*

About Lan Su Chinese Garden

Located at 239 NW Everett Street, Lan Su Chinese Garden is one of Portland's greatest treasures. A tranquil oasis in the heart of the city, Lan Su is a powerfully inspiring experience that takes you through time, offering a window into Chinese culture, history, and way of thinking. Lan Su Chinese Garden opens 10 a.m.- 6 p.m., Sunday through Saturday. Daytime admission is \$16.00 with reduced rates for students and seniors. Visit www.lansugarden.org for more details.

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