



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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COLORADO DRAGON BOAT FESTIVAL RETURNING TO SLOAN LAKE PARK

Dragon Boating Returning to the Denver Area After a Two Year Hiatus,

DENVER, CO — The Colorado Dragon Boat Festival, a staple summer event in the Denver community, will return to Sloan’s Lake Park on July 23 and 24, 2022. After two years of cancellations due to COVID-19 and toxic algae blooms, the park will be filled with dragon boat races, great food, an Asian marketplace, endless entertainment and thousands of members of the community gathering for a sorely missed annual celebration.

“This event had been running continuously for 19 years and allowed people to experience phenomenal culture and food before we had to take a brief, unexpected pause,” said Sara Moore, Executive Director of Colorado Dragon Boat. “We’re so excited to be back this year and to continue this tradition for the 20th iteration of our event. This summer’s event is going to be better than ever and we can’t wait to continue this work for the next twenty years!”

With over 40 teams racing, 20+ food vendors, 50+ marketplace vendors, and plenty of performances — the festival is bound to have something for everyone. This fenced in event is free to attend, but donations are always welcome to support the operations and programming of our 501(c)3 nonprofit.

2022 Colorado Dragon Boat Festival Opening Ceremony

Join us on Saturday, July 23rd, starting at 9:45 am for the official opening of our Festival!

Unique to the Colorado Dragon Boat Festival, we open the event with Shaolin Hung Mei Kung Fu parading it’s 75-foot long, colorful, traditional Chinese Dragon throughout Sloan Lake Park, the Dragon’s presence symbolizing chasing away “negative energies” sending good luck, good fortune and a safe day of racing to all of the race teams, vendors and attendees. When passing by Team City, all of the competitors will line up behind the Dragon and follow as it passes by the Band Stage where each team will be introduced.

After the welcoming addresses, a story teller will present the history and culture behind Dragon Boat racing followed by a Buddhist Monk and congregation chanting, offering a formal blessing for the event. The Monk, congregation, and dignitaries will then form a procession, following the Dragon to the shoreline where a ceremonial purification and “eye dotting” will take place.



Per cultural norms, “dotting” the eyes, nose, ears and so on of the Dragon Boats awakens the boats’ “senses” – sight, smell, hearing... and imbues the boats with the spirit of life helping to ensure a safe day of racing. Stick around after the “Eye Dotting” is complete and watch the 75-foot-long Dragon twist and turn as it performs a spectacular, traditional Chinese Dragon Dance.

Dragon Boat Racing!

Come watch as our teams participate in the fast-paced dragon boat racing competition with two full days of racing. The colorful Flag Catching- Taiwanese-style boats are back by popular demand. Each Boat will have 18 paddlers, one drummer and one flag catcher. Head to the finish line to witness the exciting moment that the flag catcher has to lean out and grab the flag to help win the race!

We will also have the Hong Kong style division. On this slimmer, sleeker boat, they travel faster on the water. Each Boat will have 20 paddlers.

Come cheer on your favorite team!

Shop til you Drop!

Savor a Taste of Asia and Shop until you Drop Festival-goers can satisfy their appetite with culinary delights from all of Asia and the Pacific at both of our Taste of Asia Food Court. Food vendors will showcase an abundance of mouthwatering Asian cuisine from all over Asia and the Pacific! There is something for every palate. Attendees can also shop to their heart’s content at a Marketplace full of unique, one-of-a-kind arts, crafts and vendors similar to those found in the open-air street markets all over Asia.

Feel the Asian Beat

Get your toes tapping and your body dancing at our 3 Performance Stages which will feature traditional and contemporary Asian and Asian-American instrumental, vocal, choral and dance performances by well-known local artists. Past performances have included: Japanese Taiko drumming by Denver Taiko, Halau Kalama, and Indian-fusion dancers, Mudra Dance. This is an interactive dance you do not want to miss!

RepresentASIAN through Art

Our festival is all about representASIAN. Here we celebrate the amazing contributions and accomplishments of the AAPI communities right here in Colorado. Back by popular demand are our live art demos that showcase local AAPI artists in the community. This year we will be able to see the amazing work done by Casey Kawaguchi, Ratha Sok, Grace Gee, Bakemono 0504, and the Japanese Arts Network!

In addition to live art demonstrations, we will be bringing you interactive art projects throughout the festival! Come create your own Manga to take home, add your own addition to our giant scroll painting, and practice Mottainai by donating your empty cans to help create scales for our dragon statues!

Education and Empowerment



The last two years have been very difficult for the Asian American Pacific Islander community due to the increase of hate and racism plaguing our nation. We believe that the best way to fight back against injustices is education and empowerment! Come check out the section of our marketplace that will host local AAPI nonprofits and organizations to learn more about how you can help and become an ally!

For more information, visit <https://cdbf.org>. Additional volunteer opportunities are available for those interested in getting involved!

Festival Facts:

What: 2022 Colorado Dragon Boat Festival, a family-friendly celebration of Colorado's rich Asian American Pacific Islander heritage

When: Saturday, July 23, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., and Sunday, July 24th, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Where: Sloan's Lake Park (West Side) – 25th Avenue and Sheridan Boulevard, northwest Denver

Cost: FREE Admission

Transportation: We encourage all attendees to use Lyft/ Uber, or bike/walk to get to and from the festival. There is NO PARKING onsite at the park.

Who's Invited: EVERYONE!

2022 Colorado Dragon Boat Festival **Presented by:**

Isle Casino Hotel/ Lady Luck Casino & Monarch Casino

Associate Sponsors: Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office, San Francisco, MolsonCoors, Toyota, Ameristar Casino Resort & Spa, Go RVing

Contributing Sponsors: Coca-Cola Swire, Chevron, Amazon, WellPower, Denver Art Museum

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About Colorado Dragon Boat

Colorado Dragon Boat is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization advocates for the Asian American Pacific Islander communities through our three programs: the Colorado Dragon Boat Festival, the Colorado Dragon Boat Film Festival, and the AAPI Emerging Leaders Program. For more information please visit our website at www.cdbf.org.