

Rec & Parks's Lotus Festival Encourages Sharing of Asian, Pacific Island Cultures

By Jorge Suarez, Club Counselor

The Lotus Festival in Echo Park, sponsored by Rec and Parks, brought together crowds from nearly every culture in Los Angeles. Its stated goal is "to develop, promote and create an atmosphere of understanding in which Asian and Pacific Islander communities in Southern California are brought together for two days of cultural sharing, to preserve and enlighten the public with a sampling of distinctly different and unique Asian and Pacific Islander customs and traditions in the arts, music, dance, drama and food; and to provide a fun and enjoyable festival for the entire family."

Flower Island. A health fair featured free screenings, information and referrals.

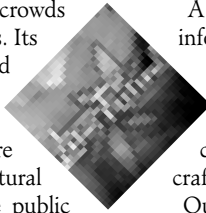
An international marketplace offered a variety of Asian and Pacific Islander items for sale, including clothing, jewelry, artwork, hand-made crafts, incense, body oils and much more.

Queens and princesses representing their local communities wore traditional native dress.

Dragon Boat Races were held both days

Thanks to Rec and Parks for sponsoring a great festival!

Here are photos from the event.



The Lotus Festival, held in conjunction with the traditional time of the blooming of the lotus flower) was held July 10 and 11.

The festival included live music, dance and entertainment from a variety of performers representing many of the diverse countries of Asia and the Pacific Islands. This year's highlighted culture was Malaysia. A fabulous fireworks final over Echo Park Lake concluded the day's activities at 9 p.m., with Taiko drummers playing the background.

Artisans-at-work were on hand to demonstrate their skills on the beautifully decorated



A boat at the Lotus Festival.



LA's Finest taking care of Lotus Festival.



Dan Hammett, Sr. Rec Director II, 15 years.



From left: Esequiel Esquivel, Gardener/Caretaker, Recreation and Parks - MacArthur Park; and Art Reyes, Gardener/Caretaker, Recreation and Parks - MacArthur Park.



LA's Finest taking care of the Lotus Festival.



Pete Nishimura, Rec Coordinator, 2 years.



Baya Louie, Rec Coordinator, 3 years.



From left: Bladimir Campos, Advanced Technologies Group, Department of Public Works - Bureau of Sanitation; and Marshall Lowe, Public Information Officer, Department of Public Works.



Cesar Ramirez, Rec Coordinator, 4 years.



Charles Juzang, Rec Leader I, 1 year.



Shavonne Espinoza, Patrol Guard, 5 years.



Robert Perea, Gardener/Caretaker, Rec and Parks.



Elaine Piha, Rec Assistant, 1 month.



From left: Barbara Arnold, Director III, Recreation and Parks; and Keith Barbour, Recreation Coordinator, Recreation and Parks.



Kim Weldon, Rec Assistant, 1 month.

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