

MEDIA RELEASE

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Chinese New Year projections set to light up Sydney



George Street will be turned into a mini-Hong Kong with stunning coloured projections during next year's Chinese New Year celebrations.

The City's 2012 Twilight Parade will be bigger and better than ever, with dazzling illuminations set to be projected onto some of Sydney's most iconic buildings along the Parade route.

More than 2,500 local and international performers take part in the Twilight Parade each year, with crowds of 100,000 people lining the city streets to catch a glimpse of the vibrant floats, dancers, martial artists, dragons, acrobats and more.

Now for the first time, buildings along the Parade route – which runs from Sydney Town Hall on George Street through Chinatown and ends up in Darling Harbour – will be lit up in contemporary Chinese New Year designs, wishing Sydneysiders 'Kung Hei Fat Choy' as they welcome in the Year of the Dragon.

"Sydney is home to the biggest and best Chinese New Year celebrations outside of mainland China," said Lord Mayor Clover Moore MP.

"Now we're preparing to mark the dawning of the Year of the Dragon by transforming some of Sydney's best-loved buildings with colourful projections, lighting and visual effects, which will look like scenes from downtown Hong Kong.

"We're excited to have accepted a tender for these projections and will now be finalising the designs which will delight all Sydneysiders, visitors and tourists.

"Sydney can look forward to a celebration like no other with our fourth annual Chinese New Year Twilight Parade set to be a highlight of the City's fantastic summer events program."

The building projections will start at 7:45pm as the Twilight Parade kicks off and will continue until midnight as part of an expanded celebration of the Lunar New Year.

"A major focus for our 2012 Parade is to build on the fantastic street party we've created in previous years and give our audience a truly 360-degree experience," said Gill Minervini, City of Sydney Creative Director/Producer of Events and 2012 Chinese New Year Parade Director.

"We've drawn our inspiration from the dazzling neon Lunar New Year celebrations in cities like Hong Kong and Shanghai, but we also want to give our Parade a special Sydney twist, and do something that hasn't been seen in any other street parades in the world.



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"I'm confident the surprises we've got planned for next year's Parade will blow Sydneysiders away – and as new technologies emerge over the coming years we'll continue to expand our display in order to produce an even more spectacular Sydney Chinese New Year."

Last month, the City announced that Chengdu, the capital of Sichuan Province in south-western China, will be Sydney's partner city for next year's Festival.

Artists from Chengdu, known for its delicious spicy food, traditional tea, stunning temples and giant pandas, will join some of Sydney's most talented performers in the 2012 Twilight Parade.

Final projection designs and building locations will be determined later in the year as event organisers continue to develop the program for the City's 16th Chinese New Year Festival.

The 2012 Festival will run from Friday 20 January to Sunday 5 February, with the Twilight Parade and fireworks on Sunday 29 January expected to attract more than 100,000 people to the City's streets.

The Festival includes more than 60 events including markets, dragon boat races, temple tours, a film festival, art exhibitions, kids' events, cultural and historical tours, calligraphy demonstrations, opera and banquets.

More than 600,000 people attend the festival annually, making it one of the most popular events on Sydney's annual calendar.

The full 2012 program will be available online from late 2011.

To see highlights from this year's Festival, visit: www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/cny

Media Contacts:

City of Sydney: Keeley Irvin (02) 9265 9106 or kirvin@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au

Lord Mayor: Matt Levinson 0427 044 768 or mlevinson@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au

