

Thank You



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29th Anniversary

Explor**ASIAN** Festival

Arts and Culture
Celebration

May 21st 2025

Theater

Session 1 | 4:00-5:30PM

Break Time | 5:30-6:00PM

Session 2 | 6:00-8:00PM

Studio A

Arts Exhibition | 3:00-5:30pm



Ron McKinnon, MP

**RON
McKINNON**
Member of Parliament
Coquitlam-Port Coquitlam



Dear Friends:

I am happy to extend my warmest greetings to everyone attending the 2025 Vancouver Asian Heritage Month Society Annual Celebration of Asian Arts and Culture. For hundreds of years, art and culture have been forces of evolving societies. Today, we take time to appreciate Asian cultures throughout Canada and worldwide, representing the mosaic that is our country. I congratulate the organizers for putting this all together.

Your dedication to the arts is evident. I wish you all a day of fun and celebration.

Yours sincerely,

**The Honourable Hedy Fry,
P.C., M.P.**



Dear Friends,

I am delighted to send greetings to all the participants of the 29th annual Celebration of Asian Arts and Culture, organized by the Vancouver Asian Heritage Month Society.

The scope of this not-for-profit organization is to promote multiculturalism and diversity, and to celebrate the arts and cultural diversity that Asian-Canadian communities bring to Canadian society. You have the chance to gain valuable insight about our diverse community in a manner that will broaden your outlook to an international arts community.

As the former Secretary of State for Multiculturalism, I applaud your efforts in bringing together different cultures. During this festival, I know that you will generate the same energy and enthusiasm as was done during the previous year.

To each of you, I send my best wishes.



Vancouver Asian Heritage Month Society

VAHMS was founded in 1996 celebrating Asian Heritage Month, and the members are mostly from Asian background and to promote the rich and diverse cultural heritage of Asian communities through art displays, music, and performances. Talented artists from Chinese, Korean, Japanese, Filipino, Iranian, Pakistani, and Indian communities will share their vibrant traditions and artistic expressions.

VAHMS Event Planning Committee

Chief Event Planner: June Chen McIntyre

Event Director: Behnaz Fazli-fard

Executive Director: Isabel Shen

Event Team: Nessim Tariq, Yansi Liang, Alireza Fadaie, Christiana Zachau

Outreach Committee: Maryam Rostamy, Meer Anwar, Shirley Huang

Sponsors



Canadian Heritage



Vancouver Foundation



Filipino Canadian National Congress



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Tri-City Chinese Community Society

Media Partners



Mable Elmore, MLA Vancouver-Kensington



I wish to extend my warmest congratulations to the Vancouver Asian Heritage Month Society (VAHMS) for this year's ExplorASIAN Festival.

The 29th Annual Celebration of Asian Arts and Culture is a glowing testament to your commitment in celebrating the countless contributions of people of Asian heritage to the vibrant culture of Canada.

Around seven million people of Asian identity call Canada home, making up nearly 20 percent of the country's total population.

As well, more than 80 Asian cultural origins were reported in the 2021 Census, underlining the significant contribution of Asian people to Canada's diversity.

As the only Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA) of British Columbia and first Deputy Speaker of the legislature who is of Filipino heritage, I am absolutely delighted by the work VAHMS does in providing a platform to showcase Asian communities.

By embracing diversity, we are creating a more inclusive and humane society.

Thank you for inviting me to your wonderful festival.

Sincerely,

Mable Elmore

Anne Kang, MLA Burnaby Centre



Congratulations on the successful Opening Ceremony of this remarkable festival marking the beginning of Asian Heritage Month! It is truly inspiring to see the community come together in celebration of culture, creativity, and shared heritage. I extend my best wishes for a memorable and meaningful event.

Anne Kang

Mayor Richard Stewart



On behalf of Council and the City of Coquitlam, I extend best wishes for prosperity and wealth as we celebrate the 2025 Asian Heritage Festival.

We are lucky to live in such a welcoming country where we have the ability to come together to share our cultures and traditions and celebrate these special occasions that contribute to the richness, diversity and quality of life in our communities. This annual event is sure to be a success and I applaud the event organizers, volunteers and groups who provide their expertise to make these celebrations so very special.

Yours Truly,

A blue ink signature of Richard Stewart, written in a cursive style.

Artists Studio A

Ms. Hong Shi
Chinese Calligrapher

Mr. Guo Ting Xu
Traditional Chinese Painter

Ms. Mu Ling Deng
Traditional Chinese Paper Cutter

Mrs. Afagh Advai
Traditional Persian Wall Sculpturer

Mr. Mostafa Pourmehdi
Traditional Persian Calligrapher

Ms. Parvin Sarabadani
Persian Potter

Mrs. Mona Kia
Traditional Persian Miniature Painter

Toward the Future Cultural Academy
(Means: Be Sooye Ayandeh)
Poetry Book Making

Ms. Nageen Yousaf Chaudhry
Graphics & Painter

Mr. Mayo Landicho
Filipino Artist

Korean Heritage Photo Booth

Mayor Ken Sim



On behalf of the residents of Vancouver and my colleagues on City Council, I want to extend my warmest greetings to everyone attending the 29th Annual Festival of the Asian Arts and Culture.

Asian Heritage Month is a meaningful time for our city. It's a chance to celebrate the incredible contributions of Asian communities- here in Vancouver and across Canada. From culture and the arts to business and public service, Asian Canadians continue to shape our city's story in so many important ways.

Asian Heritage Month is a time to reflect on the diverse traditions, languages, and histories that enrich our vibrant community. This festival is a great example of how we come together to learn from one another and celebrate the diversity that makes Vancouver one of the best cities in the world.

A big thank you to the Vancouver Asian Heritage Month Society for your dedication and hard work in organizing this event. Your commitment to promoting understanding, fostering inclusivity, and celebrating the multifaceted contributions of Asian Canadians is truly commendable.

Thank you to all the organizers, volunteers, artists, and participants who have made this event possible.

Your efforts are deeply appreciated.

Sincerely,

A blue ink handwritten signature, likely of Mayor Ken Sim, consisting of stylized, flowing letters.

Event Schedule

Arts and Culture Celebration

3:00 PM – 4:00 PM | Registration & Check-In

4:00 PM – 5:30 PM: First Session

1. Opening Remarks from MCs
 - Introduction of VAHMS
 - Land Acknowledgement: Maryam Rostamy
2. Opening Dance 'Kumala' - Juno Dance Academy
3. Filipino Dance and Traditional Filipino Instrument: Kudyapi
 - Performer: Mayo Landicho
4. 'Song of the Yue Boatman'
 - Performer: Geoff Schellenberg
 - 'Wishing You All the Best'
 - Performers: Geoff Schellenberg and Tamar Simon
5. Peking Opera: MU Guiying Takes Command - Vancouver Jing Yun Opera Association
 - Performers: Lihua Zou, Yi Zhao
6. Punjabi Folk Songs 'Lathey Di Chadaar' and 'Maaye Ni Meriye Shimley'
 - Performer: Arvind Kaur
7. Persian Poetry Display - Toward the Future Institute
 - Instructors: Parinaz Zhandy, Naghmeh Keshavarz, Maryam Samimi, Catherine Beteivazi
 - Performers: Setareh Setayesh, Atrin Heshmatifar, Nikki Torshizi, Faria Zandinia
8. Urdu Prose Recital 'Sur O Sher Ka Sangam' - Shah O Shab
 - Performers: Shahzad Hussain & Shabana
9. Traditional Indian Dance - Mirchi
 - Performers: Arzu Lalani and Nazifaa Vasaya

5:30 PM – 6:00 PM | Break time with drinks and snacks

MCs

Yansi Liang (English, Chinese)

Aliraza Fadaie (English, Persian)

6:00 PM – 8:00 PM | Second Session

6:00 PM – 6:10 PM | Opening Remarks

- Speech by VAHMS President - June Chen McIntyre
 - VIP Greetings
9. Traditional Persian Vocalist & Musical Instrumental 'Pir e Farzaneh' and 'Ghet'eh Zarbi Birjandi' - Rasan
 - Performers: Yousef Sadat, Sahand Sarbishei, Shahin Pourghiasian
 10. Uyghur Dance: Maqsim Layip
 - Instructor: Juno Wang
 - Performers: Juno Wang, Tammy Feng, Jing Wang
 11. 'Listening to the Rainfall on the Mountain Mist' on Guqin, Traditional Chinese Instrumental
 - Performer: Linmin
 12. Peking Opera: The Gentle April Breeze Brings Warmth - Vancouver Jing Yun Opera Association
 - Performers: Gary Ji, Isabel Shen
 13. Punjabi Folk Songs 'Murr Wataanaa Nu Kali' and 'Charkha Mera Ranglaa'
 - Performer: Anjali Sharma
 14. Traditional Korean Dance: Janggu-Chum
 - Performer: Min Lee
 15. Classical Dance: Drunken Spring Breeze - Juno Dance Academy
 - Instructor: Juno Wang
 - Performers: Nicole Li, Lisa Huang, Ruby Jiang, Tammy Feng, Judy Zhu
 16. Traditional Persian Dance: Baroon, Baroon - Vancouver Pars National Ballet
 - Performers: Tara Nazemi, Negar Saberi, Sheida Arjmandi, Sharareh Saremi, Nikki Alagha Emami
 17. 'Delyar' and 'Bella Ciao' - Persian Singer
 - Performer: Azita
 18. Traditional Persian Dance: Sarve Naz - Vancouver Pars National Ballet
 - Performers: Tara Nazemi, Negar Saberi, Sheida Arjmandi, Sharareh Saremi, Nikki Alagha Emami
 19. Han Dynasty Dance: The Pan Drum Dance
 - Instructor: Yuan Wu
 - Dancers: Nicole Li, Lisa Huang, Ruby Jiang, Nana Liu, Leana, Maise Li, Tammy Feng
 20. Chinese Peking Opera: Peking Opera Medley - Vancouver Jing Yun Opera Association
 - Performers: Lihua Zou, Yi Zhao, Ruilin Xu, Jinkui Yu, Isabel Shen, Gary Ji