

中国文化节
CHINESE
CULTURAL
FESTIVAL

Expression of Interest

Chinese Cultural Festival 2026



Expression of Interest

Chinese Cultural Festival 2026

Sunday 15 February to Tuesday 3 March 2026

Presented by:



DUNEDIN | kaunihera
CITY COUNCIL | a-rohe o
| Ōtepoti

Contact: Events at events@dcc.govt.nz

| Celebrate Chinese New Year in Dunedin

The Chinese Cultural Festival is Dunedin's signature celebration of the Spring Festival (Chinese New Year) – a vibrant, family-friendly festival that honours tradition and celebrates the dynamic spirit of our city. At its heart is a major public celebration that draws more than 3,000 people into the city centre for fireworks, cultural performances, food, and festivity.

In 2025, the festival successfully expanded to a two-week programme. In 2026, we build on that success with an even more exciting citywide calendar of events. From Sunday 15 February to Tuesday 3 March, we invite performers, venues, tourism operators, stallholders, food vendors, businesses and cultural partners to express their interest in being part of this iconic celebration.

| Festival Overview

The Chinese Cultural Festival 2026 aligns with the Spring Festival (Chinese New Year) period, which runs from New Year's Day, Tuesday 17 February. To maximise community engagement, the festival begins before Chinese New Year opening with a city launch event on Sunday 15 February and concluding with a Lantern Festival celebration on Sunday 1 March. Spanning two weeks, the festival will feature:

- Stage performances and traditional displays
- Cultural workshops and community-led activities
- Art installations, light activations, and pop-up events
- Dumpling tastings, calligraphy classes, and lantern making workshops
- Retail and hospitality collaborations.

The festival embraces diverse forms of participation, from intimate experiences to large-scale celebrations.

| Key Dates at a Glance

Festival Dates

Sunday 15 February - Tuesday 3 March 2026

The Dunedin Chinese Cultural Festival runs for two weeks, with public events and activities across the city.

Cultural Dates

Chinese New Year's Day

Tuesday 17 February

The first day of the Year of the Horse, according to the traditional Chinese lunisolar calendar.

Festival Programme Highlights

Festival Launch

Sunday 15 February

Opening celebration with live performances and media visibility. (Held ahead of the Chinese New Year's Day).

Chinese New Year's Celebration

Saturday 21 February

Large-scale public event at Lan Yuan Chinese Garden with performances, family activities, food court, and fireworks. (*Expected attendance: 3,000+*)

Lantern Festival & Closing Celebration

Sunday 1 March

A tranquil, family-friendly event with lantern workshops, tea ceremonies, and dumpling tastings.



| Opportunities to get involved

The Dunedin Chinese Cultural Festival is a celebration for the whole city – and you're invited to help bring it to life. Below are some suggestions to spark ideas, but they're just a starting point. Whether you're a performer, artist, venue, business, vendor, or creative thinker, we'd love to hear your proposal. Tell us how you'd like to be involved, and we'll work with you to see how it might fit into the festival programme.

Performers & Artists

- Perform on stage, as a roaming act, or at partner venues
- Deliver cultural workshops or creative demonstrations

Stallholders & Food Vendors

- Trade at the flagship event or other activations
- Offer themed menus or goods promoted through festival marketing

Venues

- Host cultural activities, talks, or performances
- Attract foot traffic and participate in coordinated festival marketing

Tourism Operators

- Create themed tours and experiences (e.g. food trails, heritage walks)
- Join the coordinated citywide programme and attract foot traffic

Local Businesses

- Offer themed promotions or in-store activations
- Decorate your space or windows in celebration

Activation Partners

- Install red lanterns, wishing trees, or public art trails
- Organise creative public experiences across the city

| Why Participate?

- Be part of a high-profile Dunedin cultural festival
- Reach a broad, multicultural audience
- Feature in citywide promotional campaigns
- Build relationships and connections with community and audiences
- Contribute to a vibrant, inclusive, and creative city

| Support for Participants

- Guidance and development opportunities for your event or activity
- Use of the official festival logo for your own promotions

| How to Apply

- **Step 1:** Choose how you'd like to participate (e.g. performer, vendor, venue host, etc.)
- **Step 2:** Submit a short proposal (1-2 paragraphs) describing your idea, what support you may need, and any relevant experience
- **Step 3:** Email your proposal to events@dcc.govt.nz by **17 October 2025**

| Timeline

1 Sept	Call for Expression of Interest Open Contact events@dcc.govt.nz if you'd like to discuss your idea before applying.
17 Oct	Deadline for Expression of Interest
Late Oct	Applications reviewed by festival committee The Chinese Cultural Festival Advisory Committee will review all applications and align them to the festival goals and strategies.
Early Nov	Confirmations sent Confirmations sent to successful applicants, allowing time for planning and logistics.
5 Dec	Deadline for collection of event information This includes final event details for promotion, AV/equipment needs, and signing of a Participation Agreement.
Mid Jan	Final logistics and Health & Safety submissions due This is the final info round-up — including your health & safety plan, any remaining logistics, and key contact details.
Late Jan	Programme launch and marketing begins 15 Feb – 3 Mar Festival delivery period
9 Mar	Post-festival reporting and feedback collected



| Participation Notes

- EOIs will be reviewed, and selected applicants confirmed in November
- Participation is free; vendors may be subject to site or power fees
- All participants are responsible for meeting basic health & safety requirements (templates and support provided)
- Environmentally friendly practices are encouraged (e.g. low-waste, reusable materials)
- You agree to be included in festival marketing upon confirmation
- Accessibility is encouraged and appreciated in your event design

| Need Help or Inspiration?

We're happy to workshop ideas or help with planning.

Contact: events@dcc.govt.nz



Let's Celebrate Together

Join a city-wide festival that lights up Dunedin with colour, culture, and connection. Whether you're performing, trading, creating or supporting behind the scenes – the Chinese Cultural Festival 2026 is your opportunity to shine.