



DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS  
*City of Los Angeles*

January 1, 2009

Dear Friends,

This year's festival guide is full of unique events and celebrations for you and your family and friends to enjoy. I hope you will venture out into our great City and discover all the cultures, traditions, sights, tastes, and sounds that our neighborhoods and cultural sites have to offer.

Many of these events are annual favorites, but some are new festivals that we thought you might enjoy. We again focused our attention on celebrations that honor the intercultural mix that make Los Angeles such a joyous place to live and work. Although this guide focuses on LA festivals, we also included some interesting listings in our region's surrounding cities.

The celebrations in this guide also reflect the passion our festival organizers feel about their cultural traditions, as well as the breadth of festivities presented this year by our neighbors. The good news is – no reservations are required! And many of these offerings are free.

As you experience the many events presented in this guide, I guarantee you will learn something original, meet new people, experience different cultures, feast on excellent cuisine, and participate in the art of over 100 different distinct nationalities and cultural communities. We offer many choices for your indulgence!

Many of our presented festivals will expose you to literature, music, film, theatre, and dance. Explore deeper, and you will also find a fusion of folk art, myth, storytelling, history, and tradition.

It is my pleasure to invite you to join me this year in a non-stop celebration of festivals when we need it most.

**Olga Garay**

Executive Director

City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs