



LANTERN FESTIVAL

26 Lantern Sets



PRESENTED BY EMERSON.

1. *Welcoming Dragon* – Missouri Botanical Garden entrance

One can't help but notice the giant dragon greeting visitors to the Missouri Botanical Garden for "Lantern Festival: Art by Day, Magic by Night." The 42-meter (137-foot-long) mythical creature spans the length of the center median at the Garden's entrance, standing sentry in front of *The Dragon Pillars Gate*.

2. *The Dragon Pillars Gate (Hua Biao)* – Missouri Botanical Garden entrance

The lantern set is modeled after a pair of pillars standing at the entrance of the gate towers at the Tiananmen Square in China. The original pillars were built over 500 years ago by a famous *feng shui* grandmaster who closely advised the emperor of the Ching dynasty. The *Hua Bio* represents good prospect, wealth and luck. It attracts the attention of powerful people and lucky benefactors and turns bad luck into good. When lit, the gate will dazzle in its transparency.

3. *The Terracotta Warrior* – Linnean Plaza entrance

The Terracotta Army is a collection of terracotta figurines depicting the armies of Qin Shi Huang, the First Emperor of China. The figures, dating from 210 B.C., were discovered in 1974 by farmers near Xi'an, Shaanxi province, China, near the Mausoleum of the First Qin Emperor. The original figures vary in height from six- to six-and-a-half-feet tall according to their roles. The generals are the tallest; other figures include warriors, chariots, horses, officials, acrobats, strongmen and musicians. The four pieces of *The Terracotta Warrior* lantern set are approximately ten feet tall.

4. *The Faces of Chinese Opera* – Ridgway Visitor Center, upper level

Opera is the national essence of China, combining music, dance and song together in a unique art form. Sheng, Dan, Jung, Chou and Mo are the main characters in Chinese opera, represented through distinct faces and costumes. The movements of the dances, unique singing styles and old, touching stories of Chinese opera are rich in tradition and culture. Chinese opera is considered to be China's "national essence." The art form will forever remain a Chinese classic, and is honored through colorful opera masks on display in the Ridgway Visitor Center.

5. *Dragon Embracing the Pillars* – Latzer Fountain, Spoehrer Plaza

This intricate set rises from waters of the Garden's Latzer Fountain. The dragon is a traditional symbol for the Chinese people, incorporated into Chinese history, beliefs, religion, nationality and culture. The mythical animal was created by the Chinese people and is one of the 12 zodiac signs. The dragon symbolizes luck, nobility, bravery, strength and knowledge. For thousands of years, it has stood for people's hopes and wishes for a better future, tying together the hearts of Chinese people around the world. The year 2012 is the Year of the Dragon in the Chinese zodiac.

6. *Lotus Flower* – Swift Family Garden, adjacent to the Linnean House

The lotus flower represents strength, good luck, long life, honor and respect. It has often been described as the most exquisite wishes of Mother Nature for mankind. Some believe the lotus flower is a universal representation of the spiritual presence in human lives, holding the secret of happiness and cheerfulness. Set in the still waters of the Swift Family Garden ponds, the *Lotus Flower* lantern set creates a tranquil scene in the dark.

7. Lotus Ponds – Gladney Rose Garden

The lotus flower grows in muddy water, yet the dirt and mud fall off its leaves and petals, keeping it clean and pure. A lotus flower is born in water, grows in water and rises from water to stand above it unsoiled, raised in the world but having overcome the world, or living unsoiled by the world. In turn, the lotus is often viewed as a symbol of aspirations to rise towards the light. *Lotus Ponds* depicts an exaggerated version of the lotus and a large, central, rotating vase to bring holiness, good wishes, purity, safety, peace and positive energy to visitors.

8. Porcelain Dragon – Milles Sculpture Garden

Ancient China's mythical animal has been represented in many ways over the years. For the Garden's animated *Porcelain Dragon*, the zodiac sign is created two-fold from tens of thousands of Chinese cooking utensils – bowls, spoons, bottles, wine cups and more, brought together through traditional hand-tying techniques. Set in the waters of the Milles Sculpture Garden ponds in the Garden's central axis, the *Porcelain Dragon* set is a truly unique and artistically exquisite creation.

9. Sail Boat – Dry Streambed Garden

The *Sail Boat* is depicted sailing the calm sea, letting people get to their destinations with ease and representing “doing everything well.” The installation is “recycled” from thousands upon thousands of discarded bottles brought together to bring color and shape to the boat. A phenomenon from waste!

10. Zodiac Lanterns – Pathway from Spink Pavilion to the Jenkins Daylily Garden

The 12-year Chinese zodiac cycle is represented through a series of decorative, boldly-colored Chinese lanterns of paper-cutting design, hanging from posts along the Garden's east side. The rabbit, tiger, ox, snake, monkey, rooster and other animals of the zodiac are depicted in detail on the face of the lanterns, with strings of traditional balloon-shaped lanterns dangling from each. A person's zodiac sign is determined by the year in which he or she was born. Each of these signs has its own distinctive advantages in strength or power, intellect, heart and more.

11. Panda's Paradise – Bamboo grove, Cleveland Avenue Gate House

Pandas are one of the world's most precious animals, and one of China's most protected. The round black-and-white bears dwell mainly in the provinces of Sichuan, Gansu and Shanxi of China. Living in the bamboo forests on high mountains, pandas dine on a diet of bamboo shoots, bamboo leaves and tender bamboo tips. *Panda's Paradise* captures the emotions and expressions of these beloved creatures through careful artistry.

12. Moon Lit Pathway – Mausoleum entrance

The *Moon Lit Pathway* is a rousing welcome to all guests at the Missouri Botanical Garden's Lantern Festival. Crescent moons and stars aglow with LED lights symbolize a happy and celebratory occasion for new friends.

13. Goddess Blessing Buddha – Facing the Mausoleum entrance

Bodhisattva, also known as *Avalokistevara*, is an enlightening being who embodies the compassion of all Buddhas. The *Goddess Blessing Buddha* lantern set is based on the famous *Avalokistevara* created in the Tang dynasty and located in the stone caves of Dunhuang in Gansu province, China. It depicts an *Avalokistevara* who has listened to the preaching of the Tathagata Buddha and has pledged to help all that are suffering and in pain.

14. Double Seventh Festival – Bottlebrush buckeye pathway

The Chinese Double Seventh Festival is held on the seventh day of the seventh lunar month, falling in mid-summer when the weather is warm. At night when the Milky Way constellation is visible, one can see a bright star at the far north and south ends. These stars represent the Cowherd and Weaver Maid,

who fell in love and were torn apart, only allowed to meet once a year on the seventh day of the seventh month. In modern times, the Double Seventh Festival is celebrated as a Chinese version of Valentine's Day.

15. *The First Emperor's Quest for Immortality* – Facing the Mausoleum entrance

Qin Shi Huang was the First Emperor of a unified China, ruling for 35 years from 246 to 210 B.C. During his reign, he influenced incredible cultural and intellectual growth and created magnificent and enormous construction projects, including the Great Wall of China. He also caused much destruction within the country; whether he should be remembered as for his creations or his tyranny is a matter of dispute. However, the fact that he was one of the most important rulers in Chinese history is unquestionable. As Qin Shi Huang entered middle age, he grew more and more afraid of death and became obsessed with finding the elixir of life, which would allow him to live forever. *The First Emperor's Quest for Immortality* tells his tale.

16. *The Flying Apsaras* – Bottlebrush buckeye pathway entrance

The Flying Apsaras are female spirits and symbols of Buddhism – beautiful, youthful women proficient in the arts. *The Flying Apsaras* lantern set showcases the beauty of fairies dancing and playing celestial music. Passing under the arched display, visitors will feel as if they are entering an ancient Chinese artistic atmosphere.

17. *Four-Faced Buddha* – Southeast of the Climatron® conservatory

Buddhism originated in India but was passed on and quickly accepted in China due to its many doctrines and beliefs similar to that of Confucius. Buddhism has had great respect in all Chinese imperial dynasties since the Tang dynasty. The *Four-Faced Buddha* lantern set is designed with reference to the temple in the Chinese city of Xian. Each of the lantern's four sides depicts a different portrayal of the Buddha and represents one of the four traditional Buddhist postures; the significance of the four-faced Buddha was to offer help to people in need and grant them their wishes, so it is believed there is significance in the religious items held in its hands and postures.

18. *Blissful Wedding* – North of the Dwarf Conifer Garden

Marriage is the avenue with which ancient Chinese families can carry on titles for future generations, traditionally arranged with the help of a matchmaker. *Blissful Wedding* depicts a traditional Chinese wedding, complete with bride and groom in the lucky color of red, which also symbolizes love, happiness and prosperity. This lantern set is an ideal photo opportunity for couples.

19. *Qilin* – Azalea-Rhododendron Garden

The Chinese Qilin is a mythical, chimerical creature with hooves that is said to appear alongside the arrival of a sage. The Qilin's appearance is a good omen that brings prosperity. In this lantern set, millions of colorful Chinese medicine bottles are pieced together to showcase the exquisiteness of these auspicious animals.

20. *Nine-Dragon Mural* – South of the Doris I. Schnuck Children's Garden entrance

The nine-dragon mural is one of China's most precise pieces of architectural artwork. There are three sets of nine-dragon murals in China – one in the city of Datong and two in Beijing. This lantern set is a magical replication of the architectural nine-dragon mural in Beijing that was built in 1756 B.C. during the Qing dynasty. The nine dragons are each of different colors, expressions and emotions.

21. *Butterfly Love* – North of the Doris I. Schnuck Children's Garden entrance

Butterfly Love depicts the love story of Liang Shanbo and Zhu Yingtai, a "Romeo and Juliet" tale passed down in China for over 100 years. Zhu Yingtai, disguised as a man, becomes best friends with her classmate Liang Shanbo. The two plan to marry, but when Shanbo visits Yingtai's home, he learns the

girl is betrothed to another. Under the pressure of traditional societal rules, the two die for their love, and transform into a pair of butterflies.

22. Heavenly Temple – Shapleigh Fountain, Lehmann Rose Garden

Perhaps the most overwhelming of the lantern sets, the *Heavenly Temple* is modeled after the Beijing Heavenly Temple constructed in 1420. The traditional architectural structure is a grand shrine for the gods where emperors would pray for a fruitful harvest. The Beijing Heavenly Temple is an attraction not to miss on a visit to China; in turn, the *Heavenly Temple* at the Garden is a magnificent presence.

23. Colorful Flower – Chinese Garden entrance

Eight rich and vibrant colored balls line the entry pathway to the Grigg Nanjing Friendship Garden, serving as a welcome sight and inviting visitors into the festive atmosphere of the Lantern Festival and Chinese Garden.

24. Jiang Tai Gong Fishing – Chinese Garden

This lantern set tells the popular legend of Jiang Tai Gong, first known as Lü Shang, the great historical Chinese military advisor and the father of strategic studies. Lü Shang detested the tyrannical and corrupted Shang ruler, so he abandoned his post and left the palace with his wife. He suffered many years in poverty, but hoped that someday someone would overthrow the tyrant king. Lü Shang patiently waited until he was 72 years old for the opportunity to come along, when he met the future Zhou ruler Wen Wang. King Wen had gone to the river, where he saw Jiang sitting on the grass, fishing with a bamboo pole with no hook on the line; his fishing line was positioned a few feet above the surface of the water. Jiang's fishing style was based on his theory that fish would come to him of their own volition when they were ready, if he was just patient – “if one waits long enough, things will come their way.” Enlisting Jiang's help, King Wen and his son eventually overthrew the Shang dynasty.

25. Cherry Blossom – Chinese Garden

Enjoy mesmerizing cherry blossoms at night! The flower petals on the *Cherry Blossom* lantern set are extravagantly illuminated to create a beautiful, glowing cherry tree in the dark.

26. Chinese Pillars – Cohen Amphitheater

These decorative pillars provide an oriental ambience for stage performances, rich with Chinese traditional icons and design.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Portions of text provided by LanternFest®.

For more information, contact the Public Relations Department at (314) 577-0254 or (314) 577-5141 or check the Garden's Lantern Festival website at www.mobot.org/lanternfestival. For 24-hour recorded visitor information, call (314) 577-5100 or 1-800-642-8842 toll free.

The Missouri Botanical Garden's mission is “to discover and share knowledge about plants and their environment, in order to preserve and enrich life.” Today, 152 years after opening, the Missouri Botanical Garden is a National Historic Landmark and a center for science and conservation, education and horticultural display.

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