



COURTESY

The 20th annual Asian Celebration at the Lane County Fairgrounds brings many different Asian cultures together for a celebration of their individual heritages.



# 'Struttin' their stuff

*Eugene's rich and diverse Asian-American cultures collaborate on an event to strengthen relationships*

BY AMY LICHTY  
PULSE REPORTER

From Chinese to Japanese, from Hawaiian to Tahitian, the Asian community has been a part of Lane

County for more than 100 years. Although separate backgrounds have pushed each culture into its own ethnic group, this weekend's Asian Celebration at the Lane County

Fairgrounds will allow them to come together under one roof.

Originally conceived to help Asian-Americans connect with their community and each other in a festive environment, the Asian Celebration also allows attendees to learn about cultures outside America.

"(The Celebration) is a way to

allow the Asian community with different backgrounds to work with one another in putting on this cultural event for the community," event co-chair Tony Lum said. "It's also a great opportunity for friendship and a way for harmonious relations among all people that represent activities or at least emulate an understanding of Asia and Asian cultures. You don't have to be Asian by birth; you can be Asian by education, or you can be Asian by being a transplant and picking up their culture."

A core group of individuals took small steps to build the Asian Celebration into what it is today.

"About 30 years ago, a small group of us got together and said, 'You know, our kids are going to grow up without any exposure to Asian culture, so why don't we try to get together and have potlucks and talk about stuff we could do in the community?'" co-chair Ken Nagao said. "So we looked in the phone book for Asian-sounding names, we

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