



SAN DIEGO CALIFORNIA

# 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Lao Boat Racing Festiva

#### September 21, 2024 Tecolote Shorer North, Mission Bay 8:00AM - 5:00 PM

A cultural celebration that connects the communities

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#### Message from the Chairwoman of the Board of Directors

It is my distinct honor and privilege to welcome you to the 9th Annual Lao Boat Racing Festival here in San Diego. On behalf of the Lao Community Cultural Center (LCCC), we are proud to present this cherished national tradition, one that not only celebrates the vibrant heritage of Laos but also brings our community together for a day filled with joy, cultural expression, and excitement.

Laos, with its beautiful landscapes of rivers and mountains, is home to a people whose lives are deeply intertwined with their cultural roots. Across the country, from the northern hills to the southern plains, traditions have been passed down through generations. Music, folklore, traditional costumes, and the way we celebrate key life moments vary by region, yet these diverse expressions all speak to the rich cultural tapestry of the Lao people. Boat racing is no exception to this, reflecting both local variation and a shared sense of identity.

In Laos, the boat racing festival is deeply tied to the rhythms of the land and water, celebrated at the end of Buddhist Lent and the agricultural season. While the festival takes on slightly different forms across the regions from North to South - the spirit remains the same. It is a time to honor the Naga, the river spirit, and to celebrate the community's hard work as they prepare for the rice harvest.

Here in San Diego, we continue this tradition, adapting it to our local setting while maintaining its core meaning. The festival is more than just a competition of strength and skill on the water—it is a joyful expression of our shared cultural heritage. The vibrant parades, lively music, colorful traditional Lao silk attire, and playful humor that accompany the races remind us of the festival's deeper significance: a celebration of life, unity, and the resilience of our culture. I would like to extend my deepest gratitude to our local dignitaries, community members, volunteers, paddlers, out of town guests, spectators, sponsors, and local businesses whose dedication and support have made this event possible. Thanks to your commitment, we are not only preserving a beloved tradition but creating new memories for generations to come.

Let us celebrate together, honoring both the past and the future of our Lao heritage. Enjoy the day, and we look forward to seeing you again next year!

Sincerely,

Bobbie Oudinarath Bobbie Oudinarath Chairwoman of the Board Lao Community Cultural Center (LCCC)



### Angels

Team Angels was established in 2014. The bond between the Angels grows stronger and stronger as the ladies continue to nurture their friendship and share their appreciation of the Lao culture (especially food!) outside of practices. Even though the team is made up of new and veteran paddlers, the ladies know the key to a successful race is working together as a team. Team Angels is honored to be part of the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Lao Boat Racing Festival in San Diego. We are looking forward to partake in an event that promotes a much loved and celebrated Lao tradition.





"Courageous Youth Dragon Boat Team (CYD) is a youth dragon boat team from San Diego. The team started out as a kayaking club in the summer of 2021, during the pandemic. With students from local middle and high schools around San Diego joining the team, it grew into the current dragon boating team. It consists of a close group of friends who share a love of nature and passion for dragon boating.

The team was founded to emphasize not only paddling skills, but more importantly, enhance team collaboration as its way to inspire people back in the low moments of the pandemic. Its mission is to empower and train youth to become outstanding student athletes, develop young leaders, and cultivate a deeper appreciation for Asian and Pacific Islander culture through team building."

### **INTUIT Turbo Dragons**





Intuit Turbo Dragons, formed in 2019, is sponsored by Intuit's Asian Pacific Network. The San Diego-based employees are excited to paddle while building comradery and growing interest in the sport. Almost half of the teammates will be paddling in their first dragon boat race, and the team is thrilled to be part of the paddling community at this festival!



### LACDBC/PWD



#### LA County Dragon Boat Club (Team DPW)

Team DPW was formed in 2006. Their first practice has 9 members comprised of Public Works employees. The team grew to hundreds with members now comprised of County employees and friends from all over Los Angeles County. Team DPW has been around the world racing in Australia, several parts of Europe, Tobago, Philippines and all over North America.

### Lao Houston



We are promoting Lao Heritage and Culture of Laotian-Americans living in Houston & surrounding areas.

Laostons team is a novice on Lao Boat Racing Festival & urging to adapt, support, promote our Community in all aspects of Lao Culture Heritage Traditional Festivities.

Communities: "One Team, One Community!"

### Lao San Diego Soccer Club

The Lao San Diego Soccer Club (LSDSC) is dedicated to promoting physical and mental wellness through the game of soccer, other sports, and recreational, social, and cultural activities. The club accomplishes this through engaging, assisting and cooperating with the Lao Community to help preserve and promote Lao culture, tradition, and heritage. As the result the club promotes friendship, activities, and community involvement.

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### LezBHonest



Lezbhonest, established in 2015 and based in San Diego, is the city's LGBTQ+ multicultural dragon boat racing team. Our mission is to foster inclusivity by welcoming participants of all backgrounds, regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity, or ethnicity. We strive to create a supportive and diverse community through the sport of dragon boat racing.

# LV92111





LV92111 is bringing two enthusiastic Teams, the OGs and the Young Gunz to create more memories at the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual San Diego Lao Boat Racing Festival. No matter the outcome, the most important thing is LV92111 Teams were here and took part to help celebrate and carry on Lao rich tradition of our Boat Racing Festival as well as bringing our families and communities together. LV4Life and our unbreakable friendship bond shall live on!!



# New England Top Gun





New England Top Gun Boat Club is beyond the ordinary. Our passion and strength as a team pushes boundaries to strive, work together, and have a good time. Since 2014, a Top Gun family was made working together in progress and in success. Our family bond is strong because of our Laos culture. Maintaining unity amongst our Laotians American communities and retaining our traditions in our culture. We loves to see communities united to celebrate one of our most celebrated event, the boat race. We want to share our cultures and traditions with others and getting our younger generations involved, so they can carry on this rich traditions of ours.

### **OYY** Tai Leo

The return of OYY Tai Leo



## **Paddle Warriors**

Two women came together, clicked, and magic happened. The Co-founders,Vanessa Urea and Maria Elizalde met while competing on a different team. They soon realized that they shared the same goals and vision as what they looked for in a team. Thus, the Paddle Warriors were founded on August 4, 2019. They Have a vision that goes beyond Dragon Boating, a vision to empower women through a physically, mentally, and emotionally challenging sport, and a vision to give back to our local community. Since its inception, the team's purpose has been to challenge its members and the status quo of the international sport of Dragon Boating. The discovery of strength, innovation, competition, and community is what makes the members of Paddle Warriors get out of bed every morning and put forth their absolute best. The sisterhood that has been created through this team and sport is indescribable and priceless!



# PKU 5/4

Peking University (PKU) in Beijing is regarded as the most prestigious university in China. PKU's alumni are all over the world. Many found their new home in America's finest city, San Diego. San Diego Peking University Alumni Association (SDPKUAA) is a big happy family of over 500 PKU alumni. The SD PKU dragon boat team was founded in 2015. Since then, we have been competing in all the major dragon boat races in Southern California, including Lao Boat Race Festivals in each year it was held. Our latest achievements are 1st place in the LA County Dragon Boat Festival Marina Del Rey in March, 3<sup>rd</sup> place in San Diego Dragon Boat Festival in May, and 2nd place in the LA County Dragon Boat Festival Castaic Lake in June of 2024. Here we are, celebrating the Lao culture, challenging ourselves, and enjoying dragon boating in San Diego!



## San Diego Paddlers United

Covid has devastated Qdragon as practices and races were halted. The good news is there are 2-3 new teams started this year. Some of these teams are so new that they are not so confident about joining a race. After running into Qdragon members and having practices together, these newbies are finally taking a plunge into the exciting world of dragon boat racing! This year, Qdragon members will be racing together with several new members as one team now known as San Diego Paddlers United.



#### Satree SD

"Satree" signifies "royal females" in Lao, reflecting the strength and grace of the team. SD stands for San Diego, the beautiful city we live in, and reflects the various ethnicities on our team. Our goals are to promote the excitement and teamwork of paddling in the Lao Boat Festival and enjoy our experiences together and just have fun!







Brand new team joining Lao Boat Racing Festival this year.



### **Solar Dragons**



Solar Dragons began as a casual interest group in 2012 and turned into a powerhouse of diverse and highly motivated new and experienced men and women paddlers. Our strength lies in every one of our teammates' dedication to training, professionalism, and will to win! We paddle to realize our core values of "Integrity, Excellence, Teamwork, Commitment, and Sustainability" which is the force multiplier in our profession, our community, and our lives. We, Solar Dragons, are second to none!

### **Sticky Rice Dragon**



Sticky Rice Dragon is a vibrant mix of paddlers from all walks of life. Our crew includes seasoned veterans with years of racing experience and enthusiastic newcomers eager to learn. Our team's dynamic is made even more unique by its combination of families, friends, husbands and wives paddling side by side. Our favorite part of the event is meeting new friends, enjoying tasty traditional food and having tons of fun.

#### LAO BOAT RACING FESTIVAL 2024 PRESENTS BOAT PRINCESSES

Miss Lao San Diego Jessalyn Grace and 1st Princess Jada Phimmasone Onepeng

### HALF TIME PROGRAM

9th Annual Lao Boat Racing Festival Half Time Show

12:30-1:45PM (\*Khanongsak Phaiboon is Halftime show DJ)

**Opening - Bobbie Oudinarath & Pida Kongphouthone** 

Introduction of Boat Princesses and Show Emcees: Jessalyn Grace and Jada Phimmasone Onepeng

12:35-12:40	.Champa Noy "Boun Baung Fai"
12:40-12:45	.Theptida Phomthavong "Dok Champa"
12:45-12:50	.Champa Noy "Thend Seng Khan Lao"
12:50-01:00	.Kara Koulavongsa (Morlum sensation)
01:00-01:12	.Superstars Trio: Soup Pha DJ
	Aquamari Khanongsak Phaiboon
01:12-01:30	.Kimmi Thai Tea (Queen of New Wave)
01:30-01:45	.Closing - Bobbie Oudinarath & Pida
	Kongphouthone (Invites LCCC BODs,
	Executive Team, Dignitaries and all
	performers on stage.)

**Councilmember Kent Lee - LBRF Proclamation** 

**Recognition Certificates and Gifting Ceremony** 

**End Halftime Show** 

#### THANK YOU TO THE PERFORMERS AND DANCERS





#### **2024 SPONSORS & DONORS**

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Thank you Kob Jai ຂອບໃຈ







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# DON'T MISS LAO NEW YEAR FESTIVAL April 5, 2025 Info to be posted end of year at https://lccc-sd.org/