

91 發·現·臺·北  
DISCOVER TAIPEI

Dt

SEP./OCT. BIMONTHLY 2012

# POP MUSIC in a Luminous City

Taipei – the Epicenter of the Chinese Pop Music World

Taipei's Indie Music Scene – Alternative plus Underground  
Adds Up to Mainstream Popularity

The Lowdown on Taipei's Live Music Venues

Experiencing the Mist-eries of Taipei's Hot Springs

Taipei Launches Its Bid for  
2016 World Design Capital Status



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# Pop Music in a Luminous City

Taiwan is a beacon of inspiration and leadership in the Chinese pop-music world, and Taipei its center of energy and operations. The city gives birth to popular music of great variety and individuality, and is also home to a great many performance venues, ranging from large public facilities to small live-show spaces which have served as an incubator for countless young musical talents. Our theme this issue is "Music Moves Taipei," and inside we take you on a whirlwind tour of the city's tremendous musical energies, introducing Taiwan's pop-music evolution, its pop-music performance venues, and its indie-music creative base.

The cool days of autumn are now rolling into town, meaning it's time for hot-spring soaking to soothe body and soul. In complement to Taipei Hot Springs Season we present "Experiencing the Mist-eries of Taipei's Hot Springs" in our In-Depth City Culture Explorations section, giving you a detailed description of the springs of Yangmingshan and Beitou – their type, water quality, and the local hot-spring culture. Studying cooking with a master chef has become very popular of late, and in our Taipei's Best Foods & Gifts unit we bring you into four of Taipei's kitchen classrooms to savor the joys of your own culinary creation. With the annual Mid-Autumn Festival fast approaching, we also explore new flavors in mooncakes with you – great treats for yourself, and gifts much appreciated by others.

The Ximending area is prime turf for starstruck young folk on the hunt for pop music idols. We serve as your guide on a "cool play" autumn day-tour of the enclave, checking out the diversified currents running through Taipei culture. The September-October season is perhaps the most animated on the local calendar of cultural festivals, and we raise the curtain on this year's Shilin International Culture Festival, Taipei Confucius Temple Culture Season, Dream Carnival, and Taipei Hakka Yimin Festival celebrations. Something new will be constantly hitting the stage, in every corner of the city, and you're warmly invited to dive into the cheerful excitement.

In its quest for World Design Capital laurels in 2016, Taipei has initiated a series of ambitious design activities. In September and October enjoy Taiwan Designers' Week, the Taipei Design City Expo, and other attractions, a powerful collective showcase of Taiwanese designers' prowess. Among the city's not-to-be-missed events in its program of large-scale arts and cultural events are the 2012 Taipei Biennial, 2012 CNEX Documentary Film Festival, and Kuandu Arts Festival.

The best of in music, food, design, and arts – it's this fusion of elements that makes Taipei wonderful, and all that's needed to compose a moving autumn-touring symphony for you! 🎵





## Discover Taipei

### Taipei City Government

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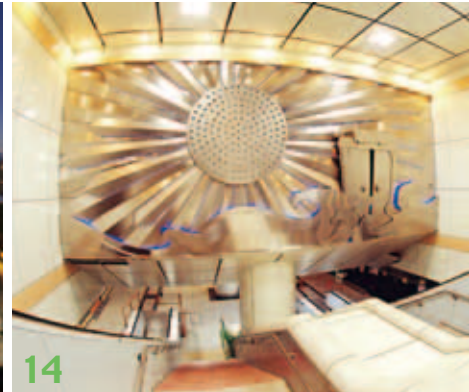
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Hope you enjoy reading this issue of DTB.  
If you have any suggestions, please do  
not hesitate to email or fax us.

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Taiwan has long been a beacon in the world of Chinese pop music, and Taipei is its main stronghold. Issue an album or song that sells well here in Taiwan and there is immediate buzz in mainland China, Hong Kong, Singapore, Malaysia, and elsewhere in the Chinese-speaking world. To understand how this place has become a locus for the Chinese pop-music market, with a value of 1.5 billion, it's necessary to understand how the Taiwanese people's view of the pop-fashion world is so all-inclusive, and how the music of the Western world and of Japan, Korea, Hong Kong, and elsewhere are all accepted, cultivating discerning ears. Creative offerings that don't possess strong personal character won't resonate with the Taiwan audience.



## Taipei - the Epicenter of the Chinese Pop Music World





Landy Chang (張培仁) is an iconic figure in Taiwan popular music. He was long ago the planning director for the pioneering Rock Records (滾石), then managing director for Magic Stone (魔岩) records, and is now executive director at Neutron Innovation (中子創新). His rich experience and musical qualifications make him uniquely qualified to talk about the development of Taiwan's pop-music scene. "Taiwan's key musical watershed was in the 1970s," he says. The Kuomintang government's move to Taiwan had occurred long before, but Taiwan's music was still beholden to a Shanghai legacy, and "cavalcade of stars" (群星會) shows still prevailed. Taiwan's half century colonization by the Japanese was also still in evidence, and Taiwanese songs were still sung in the Japanese sentimental ballad-style called *enka*.

In the 1970s, local tastes began to come to the fore, homegrown movies with locally-set love stories did well, and the love songs they featured became mainstream. On another front, with the passing of President Chiang Kai-shek the Taiwanese public felt a sense of urgency, and from these emotional tribulations arose both patriotic songs and campus folk music. In those days Western music was prevalent on local campuses, but with President Nixon's visit to the People's Republic of China a great deal of anti-American sentiment resulted. In 1976 singer Lee Shuangtze (李雙澤) started the "sing your own songs" (唱自己的歌) movement, his battle cry

"use your own language, create your own music." Many a new solo singer was born, accompanying themselves on the guitar. "That period was the launch-point for modern Taiwan songwriting," says Chang.

In the 1980s the Taiwan economy really took flight, and the local entertainment industry flourished. A culture that worshiped the pop-idol singer was bred, yet at the same time, singer/songwriter Luo Dayou (羅大佑) was preaching his "don't write superficial songs" philosophy, influencing the songwriting ethos of the day. Creative direction was wrenched toward vital current affairs, with an emphasis on inner meaning. A trend toward expressing one's feelings and emotions in the text of the song was established. "In the mid-1980s, Jonathan Lee (李宗盛) proclaimed that only 'true-feeling' realistic love songs could best resonate with audiences," says Chang. In the 1990s, as the last vestiges of the martial-law era faded away, it might be said that an era of liberated sensory awareness dawned. In succession the public witnessed a diversification of the media, the introduction of video players and karaoke machines, and other manifestations of emerging freedom. The era of the pop idol also arrived with a great impact.

1. Jonathan Lee, one of the Chinese-pop greats, had many hits over the years. (Photo courtesy of True Color Music)
2. Renowned Taiwan composer and singer Luo Dayou has been dubbed the "godfather of Chinese pop music" by the media. (Photo courtesy of True Color Music)



"It cannot be underestimated how important this period was to the formation of today's most popular musical elements and sources of creative energy. Figures like Wu Bai (伍佰), Lim Giong (林強), Chen Mingchang (陳明章), and Bobby Chen (陳昇) emerged to sing the emotional music of a new Taiwan. The young and the people of the land were given voice. This was, in effect, the very first generation in Taiwan to be allowed to express its musical consciousness."

The live-house phenomenon took root in the mid-1990s. Faith Yang (楊乃文), Wu Bai, A-Yue (張震嶽), MC HotDog (熱狗), and Cheer Chen (陳綺貞), among many other singers, gained experience for big-stage concert venues on these smaller stages. The kinetic energy of self-creation and the absorption of elements from the world's popular music systematically began showing up in rock, hip hop, urban folk, and other music genres. A new era of creative musical diversity dawned, presaging the advent of the era of independent music expressing social and personal liberation.

"In 1998 the arrival and rapid spread of MP3 and the Internet were warning signals that the traditional record industry would need to be restructured."

According to Chang, the past can be seen as a fish bowl—consumers were the fish in the tank, and the record companies were their owners. Consumers would eat whatever feed their owners tossed to them; there was no freedom of choice or initiative. MP3 changed the rules, consumers could pick what they liked, and the range of possible choices became global. "Everyone said that widespread piracy and the advent of MP3 would send the music industry into decline," says Chang. "What nobody realized was that this was the inevitable result of changes in consumer choice and globalization. The tidal wave of information merely quickened the forces of disintegration."

With the Internet and globalization at the center of the new information age, traditional boundaries between professional and non-professional music have disappeared. The Internet can make an unknown singer





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an overnight sensation, young people have the means to give expression to their creativity, and everyone can broadcast their views on everything under the sun without fetters. This is the most frenzied period of young creative energy in history. "Add all the small live-house stages in Taipei such as Witch House (女巫店), Riverside Music Café (河岸留言), and The Wall, plus the big annual music-fests such as Spring Scream (春天吶喊) in Kenting (墾丁) and the Ho-Hai-Yan Rock Festival (海洋音樂祭) in Gongliao (貢寮), and the number of stages available to young music creators has blossomed even more."

If you're looking to better understand Taiwan's current music scene, Chang recommends StreetVoice.com. Launched in February 2006, within six months over 2,000 musicians had registered and published more than 6,000 musical works. Its inventory now includes more than 100,000 songs. "You can also go to the live music venues near National Taiwan University (臺大) and Taiwan Normal University (臺師大) for original music," says Chang. And in December the curtains will rise on the

Simple Life Festival (簡單生活節), held every two years at Huashan 1914 Creative Park (華山1914文化創意產業園區). Enjoy the wide-ranging creative displays of the young generation, and take advantage of a great opportunity to experience Taiwan's pop music.

This is the complex background amidst which local musicians in all genres trod their creative paths. Countless emotional and philosophical inspirations have created an equal number of powerful or touching songs. Taipei has a continuing impact on Chinese pop-music culture, and defines the dominant trends in Chinese music. This is a true pop-trend stronghold, and the brightest star in the Chinese pop-music galaxy. 🎵

- 3-7. Left to right, top to bottom: Wu Bai, A-Yue, Bobby Chen, Chen Mingchang, Cheer Chen, among the biggest pop musicians of the 1990s. (Photos courtesy of Moonlight Music, True Color Music, Peace Land Creation, CMC Music, Team Ear Music)
8. Visit StreetVoice.com and you can get intimate with the creative nature of musical sound. (Photo courtesy of Neutron Innovation)

# Taipei's Indie Music Scene – Alternative plus Underground Adds Up to Mainstream Popularity

KoOk (偏執狂), Elesha (伊蕾莎), Sorry Youth (拍謝少年), No Name, Lily et Coco, Sideeffect (賽得費)……. These are the acts – indie bands and singers – headlining at The Wall Live House in September and October. The average person is probably none too familiar with these names, but each has a loyal following of diehard fans. They offer a variety of musical styles, and are bold, avant-garde, and averse to respecting taboos. The Wall is a platform where “a hundred flowers bloom” (百花齊放), bouncing

with the cries and shout-outs of youth, nourishing many a musical inspiration.

Underestimate not the power of the indie-music scene — visit a live-music site and you'll feel the passionate interaction between those on stage and those listening, and a radiance and energy that equals that of the best talent from the pop world.

In the past, independent music was called “alternative” or “underground” music, a term that refers both to the spirit of independence embodied in the music and to the works issued by indie labels. Taiwan's indie

labels may be comparatively small, but as with similar record companies elsewhere, they're almost inevitably set up by individuals with the noble ambition of pursuing musical ideals. Their instincts in sniffing out new musical styles are often more artful and sensitive than that of big mainstream labels, and they're often pioneers in establishing new musical trends, and the driving force for continued freshness and vitality in the recording industry.

In its early days of development, Taiwan's indie music scene drew great sustenance from the North American and European scenes. What was called a “sing your own songs” movement spread across local campuses in the 1970s, focusing on folk music, and directly inspired the growth of an indie-music consciousness — using your own style to express your own music, without kitsch or affectation, and free of commercial influence. The resulting music was cultured in spirit, experimental, and free-ranging. In the beginning the listening market was extremely small, but acceptance has grown, and today it might even be said that the genre is approaching mainstream, popular status. Such well-known contemporary mainstream singers and bands as Mayday (五月天), Wu Bai, Cheer Chen, Sodagreen (蘇打綠), and Deserts Xuan (張懸) have risen from the indie sub-scene, bringing alternative modes of expression to the big scene.



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During the early days, Taiwan's modern music scene was dominated by covers and tributes to overseas songs, and snippets of rock-and-roll were buried in pop tunes. For musical souls resentful of restraints, the freedom granted in "underground" and "alternative" performance spaces slaked their thirst for sincerity in creating music. The Shida (師大) or Taiwan Normal University, and Gongguan (公館) areas are local indie-music stronghold, populated by such iconic performance venues of high creativity and experimentation as The Wall Live House, Riverside Music Café (河岸留言), Kafka by the Sea (海邊的卡夫卡), Pipe Live Music (水管音樂), and Witch House (女巫店). A broad range of indie-label CDs is available at White Wabbit Records (小白兔唱片).

If you enjoy a diversity of music, when visiting Taipei be sure to experience the city's vibrant indie-music scene – the flip side of its mainstream culture – which maintains a beat in synch with the global scene. 📍

1. Famed indie composer and singer Cheer Chen. (Photo courtesy of Team Ear Music)
2. The huge Taiwan mainstream group Mayday got its start on the indie-music scene. (Photo courtesy of B'in Music)
3. The Wall is a Taipei indie-music icon, launch-pad for many groups and singers that are now heavyweight names.
- 4-5. At locations such as Kafka by the Sea and Witch House, singers rely on fresh styles and a unique sound to gain a following.
6. Sodagreen, popular with the young crowd, was discovered by the indie record company Willin Music. (Photo courtesy of Willin Music)
7. White Wabbit Records store is a great spot to buy CDs issued by indie labels.

## Information

### The Wall Live House

**Add:** B1, 200, Sec. 4, Roosevelt Rd.  
(羅斯福路4段200號B1)

**Tel:** (02)2930-0162

**Website:** www.thewall.com.tw

### Riverside Music Café 河岸留言

**Add:** B1, 2, Lane 244, Sec. 3, Roosevelt Rd.  
(羅斯福路3段244巷2號B1)

**Tel:** (02)2368-7310

**Website:** www.riverside.com.tw

### Kafka by the Sea 海邊的卡夫卡

**Add:** 2F, 2, Lane 244, Sec. 3, Roosevelt Rd.  
(羅斯福路3段244巷2號2樓)

**Tel:** (02)2364-1996

**Website:** kfkabythe.blogspot.tw

### Witch House 女巫店

**Add:** 7, Lane 56, Sec. 3, Xincheng S. Rd.  
(新生南路3段56巷7號)

**Tel:** (02)2362-5494

**Website:** www.witchhouse.org

### White Wabbit Records 小白兔唱片

**Add:** 1-1, Lane 21, Pucheng St.  
(浦城街21巷1-1號)

**Tel:** (02)2369-7915

**Website:** www.wwr.com.tw



# The Lowdown on Taipei's Live Music Venues



1. International star Sarah Brightman has performed at Taipei Arena. (Photo courtesy of Taipei Arena)
2. The Sky Dome in Nangang Exhibition Hall is spacious and free of pillar obstruction; the size of 3.5 football fields, it is chosen by many international entertainers for large-scale concerts. (Photo courtesy of Nangang Exhibition Hall)
- 3-4. Aaron Kwok performing at a concert at Taipei Arena, one of the city's hottest performance venues. (Photo courtesy of Taipei Arena)
5. Entrepreneurs booking Taipei Arena can select from 3 different stage configurations. (Photo courtesy of Taipei Arena)
6. Nangang Exhibition Hall is currently Taiwan's largest exhibition venue. (Photo courtesy of Nangang Exhibition Hall)
7. Legacy Taipei is in an old alcohol factory that has been thoroughly refurbished.

Hundreds of popular music concerts, large and small, are held in Taipei each year. From the brilliant spectacles of shows by world-class superstars to performances by singers seeking to make their name, fans of live music are spoiled for choice. Taipei sports the range of music venues needed to meet various performance needs, from big public stages to small and intimate live-show spaces.

## Performance Stages for International Stars – Nangang Exhibition Hall and Taipei Arena

Taipei World Trade Center Nangang Exhibition Hall (台北世界貿易中心南港展覽館) is the preferred venue among big international bands and singers. The biggest names from the USA, England, Japan, South Korea, and many another land has played here, notably Lady Gaga, Radiohead, Linkin Park, Maroon 5, Kylie Minogue, L'Arc-en-Ciel, X Japan, and Shinhwa.

The Nangang facility, formally opened in 2008, is Taiwan's largest indoor exhibition/performance venue. The main exhibition area is spread over two floors, including an upper space called the Sky Dome (雲端展場). It's expansive: around 3.5 soccer fields in size, and is free of obstructing pillars — perfect for large-scale concerts, especially if special stage design and large props and sets are involved. The broad, unobstructed space allows entertainers maximum creative range.





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### Music Spaces with a History – Legacy Taipei and Pipe Live Music

Another place that has been utilized by a stellar lineup of international entertainers is the Taipei Arena (臺北小巨蛋), opened in 2005. The list of heavyweight names that have played here includes A-Mei (張惠妹), Andy Lau (劉德華), Aaron Kwok (郭富城), Sarah Brightman, Namie Amuro, Ayumi Hamasaki, and Arashi. The venue can facilitate a full range of performance types; it's five stories high, and the main show space can seat 15,000. Producers can select from a number of stage types, bringing audience members into the world of illusion and fantasy performers seek to create. On the second level is a barrier-free balcony for use by those with limited mobility, along with their companions. The careful design of the Taipei Arena has made it a prime choice among visiting big-name international artists.

Legacy Taipei (傳—台北音樂傳記) is located in Huashan 1914 Creative Park. This old factory complex was once a site for alcohol production, and today, after extensive renovation, is one of the city's key sites for cultural events. The Legacy facility has been redone in "studio" style, measuring just over 740 square meters, and has a ceiling 8 meters high. There is no visual obstruction by high columns. While the basic historical appearance of the structure has been maintained, there is flexibility for transformation into whichever type of performance configuration is needed. This allows performers to bring their artistic skills into full play, and enables direct interaction with the audience. Artists and fans are brought into intimate contact – a performance venue that puts the music first.



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Since its opening in 2010, Legacy has played host to an impressive array of major local and international performers. Numerous new groups have also turned in blockbuster performances here, making a name for themselves. A new wave of talented Taiwan singers that includes Afu (阿福), Aska Yang (楊宗緯), Jam Hsiao (蕭敬騰), and Crowd Lu (盧廣仲) has made this a sought-after venue for creative artists.

Pipe Live Music is located by Taipei Water Park (自來水園區), and is housed in an old pumping station built over a century ago; you can still see some of the heavy-duty pumps and other gear. Needless to say, this makes Pipe Live Music a most unusual and attractive venue, making tourists of music fans. This performance space complements the Gongguan Riverside Integrated Development Plan (公館水岸總體發展計畫), winner of a FIABCI Prix d'Excellence Award, which has beautified the nearby Xindian River (新店溪) waterfront. Audiences who come here for the music will also be rewarded by the lovely scenery. This venue, measuring well over 300 square meters, is an oasis devoted to indie music, and is

the place to experience the experimental sounds of a new generation, and feel the passion that Taiwan musicians have for independent, unfettered musical expression.

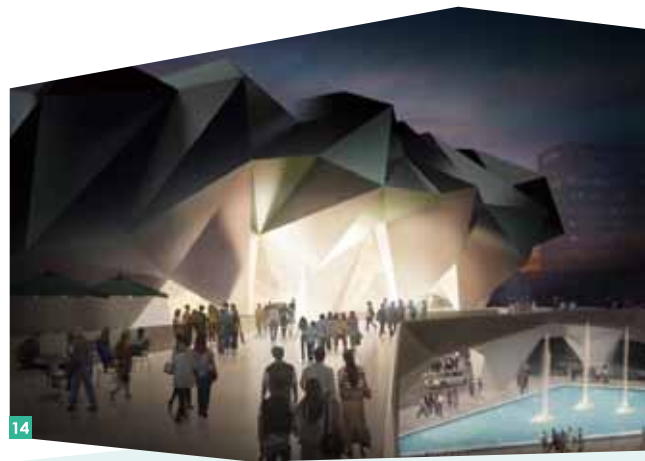
### Fresh Forces in Pop Music Show Spaces – NTU Sports Center and Taipei Pop Music Center

The doors opened at the National Taiwan University Sports Center (臺大綜合體育館) in 2001. The center is primarily for the use of the university, but because it's spacious, can seat 5,500, and has a large-scale media wall, it's often booked for international meetings, cultural-arts performances, professional sporting events, and other occasions. Its proximity to a dense student residential area and the MRT Gongguan Station has made it a popular choice for shows by pop singers of light to moderate renown. Among the names to have appeared on the marquee in recent years have been such fast-rising names as the Taiwan band F.I.R. (飛兒樂團) and singer Cheer Chen, Chinese-Malaysian singers Fish Leong (梁靜茹) and Penny Dai (戴佩妮), and hot Japanese and Korean acts such as JAM Project, 2PM, and BEAST.



11 12





The opening of the Taipei Pop Music Center (北部流行音樂中心) in four years is much anticipated. The multifunctional complex will have a main indoor performance hall with seating for 4,500 to 6,000 and an outdoor performance facility with seating for 15,000, plus a music hall of fame, exhibition space, digital library, small/medium-sized live house, theme park, industrial community, and more. The facility will be fully integrated for staging performances, post-production, marketing and development of talent, and information distribution. The complex is being built in Nangang District (南港區), near MRT Kunyang Station, with construction to start in 2013 and finish in 2016.

Taiwan's pop and indie music are distinctive and iconic brands on the Chinese music scene, and the existence of the Taipei Pop Music Center will further strengthen and add a spark to local pop talent by supplying the

best and most complete facilities. The best news of all for music lovers, of course, is that this will be yet another place hosting the best in worldwide talent, concert after concert. In Taipei, the music will never stop. 14

8. Pop singers performing in the Legacy Taipei heritage-architecture space enjoy the old/new ambiance. (Photo courtesy of Legacy Taipei)

9-10. Legacy Taipei has served as incubator for such names as well-known singer Harlem Yu and new-generation singer-songwriter Crowd Lu. (Photos courtesy of Legacy Taipei, Team Ear Music)

11-12. Pipe Live Music, in an old Japanese-era pumping station that has been refurbished, is a most unusual and attractive performance venue.

13. The NTU Sports Center has of late become a favored performance venue with many pop singers. (Photo courtesy of NTU Sports Center)

14. The Taipei Pop Music Center will be a multifunctional complex able to accommodate many different types of music-related activities.

## Information

### Taipei World Trade Center Nangang Exhibition Hall 台北世界貿易中心南港展覽館

**Add:** 1, Jingmao 2nd Rd. (經貿二路1號)  
**Tel:** (02)2725-5200, ext. 5526/5521  
**Website:** www.twtcnangang.com.tw

### Taipei Arena 臺北小巨蛋

**Add:** 2, Sec. 4, Nanjing E. Rd. (南京東路4段2號)  
**Tel:** (02)2578-3536  
**Website:** www.taipeiarena.com.tw

### Legacy Taipei 傳—台北音樂傳記

**Add:** 1, Sec. 1, Bade Rd. (八德路1段1號)  
**Tel:** (02)2395-6660  
**Website:** www.legacy.com.tw

### Pipe Live Music 水管音樂

**Add:** 1, Siyuan St. (思源街1號)  
**Tel:** (02)2364-8198  
**Website:** www.pipemusic.com.tw

### NTU Sports Center 臺灣大學綜合體育館

**Add:** 1, Sec. 4, Roosevelt Rd. (羅斯福路4段1號)  
**Tel:** (02)3366-5959  
**Website:** ntusportscenter.ntu.edu.tw



## MRT Dongmen Station Set to Open! Getting to Yongkang Shopping Area Now to Be Super-Convenient!

Recently the number of rides taken on the Taipei Metro system broke the 5 billion mark, and soon the quality of service on the system will be even better, with the opening of the new MRT Dongmen Station (linking the Zhonghe Line and Xinlu Line) scheduled at the end of September. The old Nanshijiao-Beitou Line will be adjusted to run from Nanshijiao to Luzhou and Nanshijiao to Fu Jen University. The Zhonghe and Xinlu Lines will be categorized as the Orange Line, interconnected and operating independently.

Once Dongmen Station opens, trains at MRT Guting Station will serve both the Green and Orange Line platforms, which face each other, making transfers easy. Those traveling north from the Zhonghe (中和) area will need just 10 to 15 seconds to cross over to the other platform and make the transfer needed to continue their journey. For those traveling to the city's east area via the Zhonghe Line, continue past Dongmen Station to

Zhongxiao Xinseng Station and transfer there to the MRT Bannan Line. Just one level divides the two lines. There will now be three fewer stations on this route than in the past, and the total travel time will be 5 to 6 minutes less. The fare will also be NT\$5 less for some riders.

Taipei's Department of Rapid Transit Systems (臺北市政府捷運工程局) estimates that once Dongmen Station is opened, rider transfers at MRT Taipei Main Station will be eased by 80,000 daily, approximately 30% of the current total. Rider traffic on the Taipei Main Station to Zhongxiao Xinseng Station section will also fall, by 17%, significantly easing congestion.

In coordination with the construction of Dongmen Station, nearby street-level sidewalks have been widened from 3~4 meters to about 7 meters, enhancing the comfort level of pedestrians along Xinyi Road (信義路). The station's presence will also bring even greater energy and



dynamism to the adjoining Yongkang Shopping Area (永康商圈), making access even easier for tourists and the daily sea of locals. With Yongkang Park (永康公園) at its center, the district encompasses Yongkang Street (永康街), Lishui Street (麗水街), Jinhua Street (金華街), and the businesses along Xinyi Road where it intersects with the other two streets.

Sculptor Chang Naiwen (張乃文) has created two public installation works, which complement each other, for the new station. His theme is “An Arbitrary Time Gate” (時光任意門). “The Taipei Metro shuttles you in all directions,” he says. “Just hop on a train and in no time you transport yourself to a completely different world, sometimes bustling and buzzing, sometimes quietly elegant.”

The two artworks are on the walls inside the station, one on each end-wall. *The Brilliant Dongmen* (璀璨東門) is at the east end. The term dongmen (東門) means “east gate,” and this work echoes the East Gate of the old walled city, located in this area. The wooden doorway on the work signifies the wooden archway at the entrance to the area’s traditional Dongmen Market (東門市場), while the brilliant sun rising in the east is also seen as the “eastern gate.” In the work *Dragons Rising on Yongkang* (龍躍永康), at the west end of the platform, the leaping dragon symbolizes the trains that weave rapidly through the city, as well as the long, dragon-like streams of shuttling people. The works reflect the important role given to the station as a key transportation hub.

After Dongmen Station opens, make time to take in these newest works by a local artist of tremendous talent. They possess a refreshing vibrancy, and you’ll be well rewarded. 📍

1. The public artwork *The Brilliant Dongmen* uses the imagery of the wooden archways at traditional markets and rising sun to symbolize the old walled city’s Dongmen or East Gate.
2. The new MRT station’s presence nearby will bring even more locals and tourists to the Yongkang Shopping Area, centered on Yongkang Park.
3. In coordination with the station’s construction, street-level sidewalks have been widened, enhancing the comfort level of Xinyi Road pedestrians.
4. In the public artwork *Dragons Rising on Yongkang*, the leaping dragon symbolizes trains weaving rapidly through the city, along with the long dragon-like streams of shuttling people.



## Information

**Taipei's Department of Rapid Transit Systems**  
臺北市政府捷運工程局

**Tel:** (02)2521-5550

**Website:** [www.dorts.gov.tw](http://www.dorts.gov.tw)

# 2012 Asia Masters Athletics Championships Being Held in Taipei

The 17th edition of the 2012 Asia Masters Athletics (AMA) Championships (亞洲常青田徑錦標賽) is being staged in Taipei in November. Since the competitors are middle-aged and senior (aged 35 to 95) the competition subverts the stereotype that athletic vigor and skill is possessed solely by the young, proving that people in this age group do not necessarily lose their physical skill and fitness.

The city government places great emphasis on the promotion of sports and exercise, and systematic effort has been put into a program that has supplied each administrative district with a well-equipped sports center charging low fees. As the world's population grows older, maintaining good physical exercise habits among the elderly is important. With the staging of the AMA Championships in Taipei, both the city government and the achievements of its long-term efforts are being put on display. At the same time it's helping to ignite a lifelong passion for sport in the local populace.

From 1,500 to 2,000 athletes from at least 18 countries are expected to participate in the competition, which falls into two categories: field and track. Among the field events are the high jump, triple jump, javelin, shot put, and discus, while track events include dashes, hurdles, relays, steeplechases, and race walks. Last year, two athletes from Taiwan achieved particularly noteworthy results: Peng Hongnien (彭宏年) and Wang Zanxun (王贊勳), both over 90 years old, won gold medals in the 100 meter, 200 meter, 400 meter, and 800 meter events. Continued success is expected from these two champion models for senior athletes in this year's meet.

The main venue for this year's championships will be the Taipei Municipal Stadium (臺北田徑場), completed in 2009. It's a first-rate facility, with International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) accreditation. It's also an eco-friendly green facility, introducing natural light and using sustainable ventilation. The AMA Championships are a unique experience for both athlete and spectator, so come on down to cheer on the many ageless warriors. 📍



1



2

1. The Chinese-Taipei team won gold in the discus event for 60-year-olds at the 16th edition of the competition.
2. At the 16th edition, the Chinese-Taipei team was given a special "Asia Light" award for participation by athletes 90 and older.

## Information

### 2012 Asia Masters Athletics Championships 2012亞洲常青田徑錦標賽

**Time:** 11/2~11/7

**Venue:** Taipei Municipal Stadium (臺北田徑場)

**Add:** 3, Dunhua N. Rd. (敦化北路3號)

**Tel:** (02)2570-2330, ext. 122

**Website:** master2012.taipei.gov.tw

# Taipei Hotels – Eco-Friendly Package Deals

Taipei  
New Images



- 1-2. Prepare your own toiletries and use the same sheets during a multi-day stay to enjoy preferential room rates and enter a big lottery draw. (Photo shows guestroom of Charming City Hotel)
3. Prepare your own toiletries, help ease Mother Earth's load, and get a free Taipei Pass.

## Information

### Taipei Hotels – Eco-Friendly Package Deals

入住臺北旅館 節能減碳省荷包

**Time:** Until 12/16; 12/18 lottery

**Tel:** (02)2389-9881

**Website:** [www.taipeihotels.tw](http://www.taipeihotels.tw)

Staying at a comfortable hotel or other accommodation is one of the great joys of travel, but make the journey even more worthwhile by doing your bit to protect Mother Earth's riches at the same time.

The “Taipei Hotels – Eco-Friendly Package Deals” (入住臺北旅館 節能減碳省荷包) program has been jointly organized by the city's Department of Information and Tourism (臺北市政府觀光傳播局) and by the Taipei Hotel Association (台北市旅館商業同業公會). It's going on until December 16 and 55 hotels are participating. Show your concern for the environment and planet Earth by preparing your own toiletries and using the same sheets during a multi-day stay, and you can enjoy preferential room rates and also join in on a big lottery draw.

If you stay in a participating hotel a single night, and prepare your own toiletries, you get 5% off the room rate. If you stay two nights or more, prepare your own toiletries, and use the same bed sheets, towels, etc., you also get a free Taipei Pass, and can use a QR Code in a lottery draw.

Each small, spontaneous act on the part of a traveler or hotel, though seemingly invisible, reduces consumption of the Earth's resources. Each time you reuse a bed sheet or towel, instead of turning it in to be washed, 50 to 100 liters of water is saved. The carbon footprint that would have been created by transporting, washing, and drying the item is also eliminated. Carbon emissions are reduced, water consumption is reduced, and energy is saved.

Taipei has the highest number of rooms in licensed hotels in Taiwan. The city government provides systematic guidance and support to the local hotel industry, offering financial assistance and counseling in efforts to enhance public safety and service quality, as well as conducting regular hotel safety evaluations. The goal is to provide domestic and international travelers with complete comfort and peace of mind during their stay in the city. 🌱

# The New Taipei Metro One-Day Pass – Your New Travel Partner



There's a new One-Day Pass available on the Taipei Metro system. The biggest difference between it and the previous version is that there is now no deposit. Just pay NT\$150 and enjoy the wonderful convenience of greater Taipei's public transport system.

The highlighted visual image on the new day pass is the iconic Taipei 101 tower, standing amidst the glittering lights of the Taipei night. Sparkling dots of light symbolize the lines that carry people to Taipei in search of fun, and the stripes from top to bottom – green, brown, red, orange, and blue – are the code colors of the Xindian, Wenhu, Tamsui, Zhonghe, and Bannan lines, highlighting the MRT system's extensive nature, covering the city and beyond. Integrated into the stripe at the bottom is an image of a Metro train, conveying the idea of how easy it is to hop aboard the system's trains and shuttle effortlessly around this fascinating metropolis.

In addition to the ticket's completely new layout design, the use of IC card material minimizes damage

or deterioration, and makes this handy little helper that accompanies you through the day highly collectable. You can keep the ticket after use, as there is no refundable deposit, so not only do you get to take home an attractively designed card as a memento, but your Taipei travels are also even more convenient.

In addition to the individual-purchase One-Day Pass, the Taipei Rapid Transit Corporation (臺北捷運公司) also offers a One-Day Pass (Group Purchase). This edition features the solemn and majestic exterior of the Sun Yat-sen Memorial Hall (國父紀念館), a classical-style architectural work with imperial-yellow roof tiling, red-brick walls, and eaves swooping upward like the wings of a great mythical bird. The cards will play their part in making a group tour of Taipei an unforgettable experience, possessing great value as mementoes.

Taipei 101 and the Sun Yat-sen Memorial Hall are two scenic attractions that all international travelers must visit while in Taipei. Don't forget to buy your One-Day Pass when riding the Metro system, which adds even greater convenience to your travels, and will remain as a memory of your stay in Taipei that you can take home.

1. The new One-Day Pass is beautified with glittering Taipei imagery.
2. The group purchase pass features a work of classical-style architecture, Sun Yat-sen Memorial Hall.

## Information

### Taipei Rapid Transit Corporation

臺北捷運公司

Tel: (02)218-12345

Website: [www.trtc.com.tw](http://www.trtc.com.tw)

# New Look for the Pavilion of Aroma of Flowers

Taipei  
New Images



The Taipei Expo Park's (花博公園) Pavilion of Aroma of Flowers, a.k.a. the "Pavilion Indigenous of Aroma of Flowers" (原民風味館), has undergone a thorough makeover, and is now a stage for dance performances and DIY handicraft sessions by Taiwan's indigenous peoples. The highly original program is oriented toward tourists.

The most striking new feature in the transformation are the "Indigenous Peoples • Tree" (原民•樹), made with eco-friendly cardboard. The tree is decorated with the arts and crafts of Taiwan's various indigenous peoples, along with art-installation animals made from the same material. The iconic themes of each people are featured, displaying each tribe's spirit. A new space for refreshments called Let's Drink (飲吧) offers quaffs representative of each of the tribes; the area is furnished with tables and chairs also made of "green" cardboard. There are also areas devoted to creative indigenous cultural merchandise, folk music, and published materials, and agricultural specialties. Culture guides supply background stories on all the items, providing a heightened appreciation of the creativity on show and a deeper understanding of indigenous culture.

The different cultures of various tribes are featured at the pavilion each month, including theme events. In September and October the tribes being celebrated are the Puyuma (卑南族) and Taroko (太魯閣族; also spelled Truku). Enjoy the representative foods of each at any time, and on Saturday and Sunday afternoons learn how their arts and crafts are made and enjoy their unique dance performances.

The annual Taipei Naruwan Culture Festival (臺北市娜魯灣文化節), taking place for the third time this year, brings together the city's indigenous communities and helps solidify tribal consciousness and identity. There will be a grand indigenous-athletics meet at the Taipei Municipal Stadium on September 15, and the Taipei Indigenous Peoples Commission (臺北市政府原住民族事務委員會) invites you to visit its Naruwan Park (娜魯灣園區), beside the Pavilion of Aroma of Flowers, from September 15 to December 31. The park will feature traditional indigenous buildings and a variety of installations, demonstrating the distinctive style of each tribal culture. This is the perfect chance to experience the traditional lifestyle and culture of Taiwan's tribes at the Pavilion of Aroma of Flowers and Naruwan Park! 

1. The new-look Pavilion of Aroma of Flowers has decidedly indigenous features.
2. Handicrafts relay the story of local indigenous peoples and their hardy warmth.

## Information

### Pavilion of Aroma of Flowers 原民風味館

**Add:** 181, Sec. 3, Zhongshan N. Rd.; inside Taipei Expo Park (中山北路3段181號; 花博公園內)

**Tel:** (02) 2599-2655

**Time:** Tues~Sun 11:00~19:00

**Website:** taiwanpaf.org

### 2012 Taipei Naruwan Culture Festival

2012臺北市第三屆娜魯灣文化節

**Tel:** (02) 2720-6001, ext. 27

# Experiencing the Mist-eries of Taipei's Hot Springs

Soaking in hot-spring waters draws away fatigue and cleanses the mind and soul, and has, for good reason, become a popular choice among modern-day folk looking to live a more healthy lifestyle. Among the many attractions of Taipei's hot-spring locations is that they are so easy to reach by the MRT or public bus. In Taipei the joy of a relaxed, soothing soak is always close at hand.

Most of greater Taipei's hot-spring facilities (which are one of its key tourist attractions) are to the north of the city, in the Datun Volcano Group (大屯火山區). Sulfides in volcanic gases dissolve into geothermal waters, and sulfur springs occur throughout the group, the most famous in the Beitou (北投) and Yangmingshan (陽明山) areas.



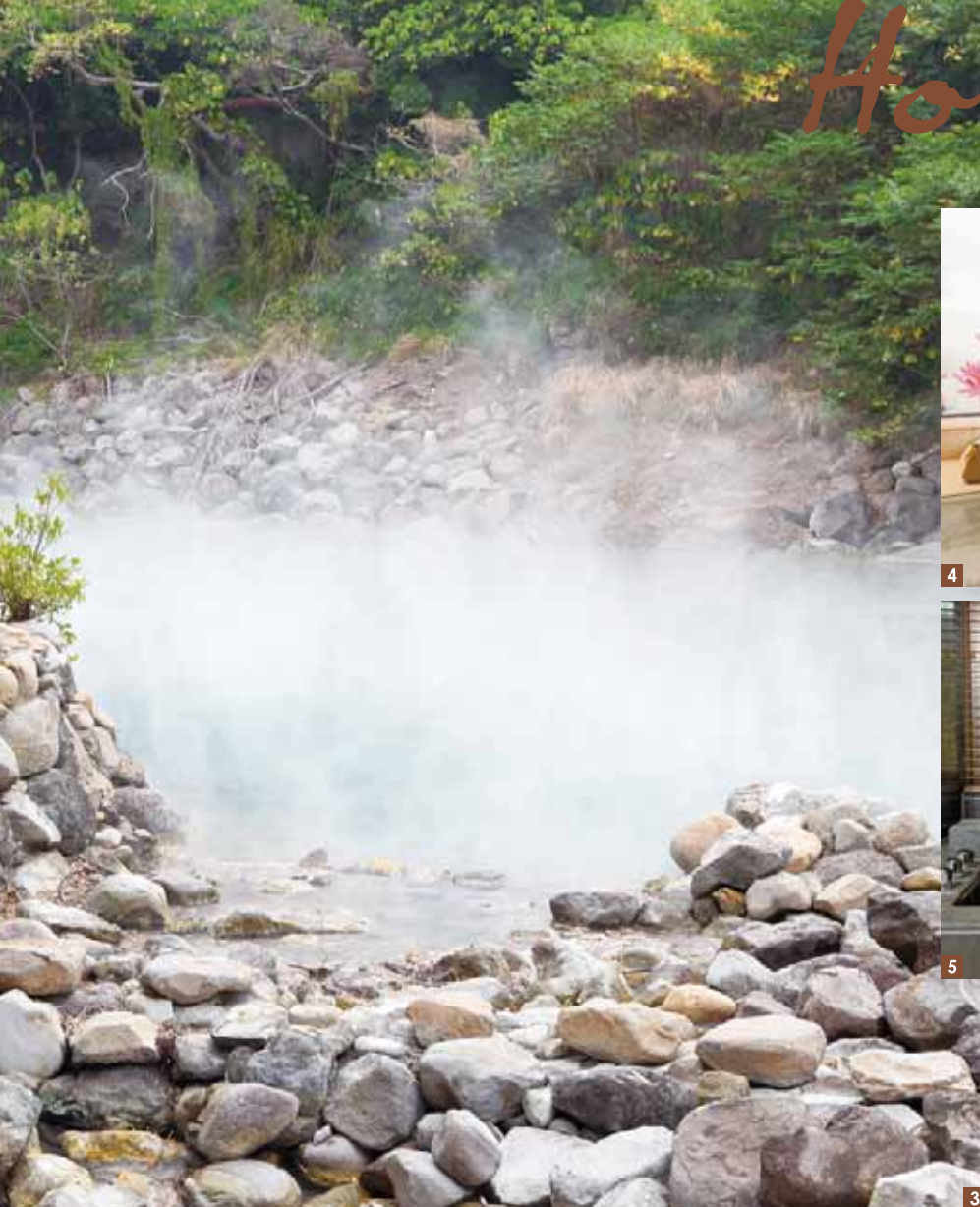
1. The natural white-sulfur springs on the east-side mountain area by the Zhongshan Building have a faint sulfur smell and hint of milkiness, giving rise to the pretty name “milk springs.” (photo courtesy of Landis Resort Yangmingshan)
2. On Yangmingshan, hot-spring areas have been developed at Lengshuikeng, Macao, Gengziping, and other areas.



## Yangmingshan's “Milk Springs”

Yangmingshan is often called Taipei's “back garden.” Geothermal heat created around Mt. Shamao (紗帽山), Mt. Datun (大屯山), and Mt. Qixing (七星山) has resulted in the Lengshuikeng (冷水坑), Macao (馬槽), Gengziping (庚子坪), and other hot-spring areas. There are white-sulfur and green-sulfur springs, although the former are more common. Each spring has a different temperature, and has a distinct mix of dissolved minerals, among other special attributes. For example, the waters at Lengshuikeng are milky in color, and have a lower temperature than other Yangmingshan springs, hovering around 40 degrees Centigrade at source. The waters here are said to be good for improving the skin and for soothing sore joints and muscles. The waters at Macao bubble out of the ground at about 70 degrees, and are said to help ease the pain of gout sufferers.

# Hot Spring



3. Thermal Valley, where mists constantly float through the air, is a Beitou hot-spring icon.
4. The SweetMe HotSpring Resort has both green-sulfur and white-sulfur bathing facilities.
5. Radium Kagaya, located on the site of Beitou's first hot-spring inn, Tiangouan, has plush trappings and chamberlain service in the classic Japanese-inn style.

Many conveniently located Yangmingshan hotels, among them the Landis Resort Yangmingshan (中國麗緻大飯店) and the International Hotel (國際大旅館), draw their mineral waters from the natural white-sulfur springs by the Zhongshan Building (中山樓) beside Mt. Shamao. The slightly alkaline waters are clear, with just a hint of milkiness, and are 70 degrees and above. Piped in to the hot-spring bathing facilities their temperature lowers slightly to about 68.5° C. The hint of creamy color (which means there is sulfur present, resulting in a faint sulfur smell) has given rise to the “milk springs” (牛奶湯) moniker. A bath leaves your skin tender, silky-smooth, and supple.

## Beitou “Witch Springs”

Beitou is located on the southeast slopes of the massif formed by the Datun Volcano group's Mt.

Zhuzi (竹子山), Mt. Datun, and Mt. Miantian (面天山). This place was originally called “patauw” or “witch” in the language of the original Ketagalan (凱達格蘭) inhabitants. Han Chinese, who arrived later, pronounced “patauw” as “Beitou”. The thick mists here rising from the hot springs made this a place the Ketagalan both venerated and feared, and also gave rise to the native name “witch springs” (女巫之湯). The magical air and deep-rooted hot-springs culture of this place gained Beitou a spot on the list of Taiwan Top 10 Small Tourist Towns (臺灣十大觀光小城) this year.

The honorary chairperson of the Taipei Hot Springs Association (台北市溫泉發展協會), Ms. Chou Shuimay (周水美), says that the Beitou hot springs are among the world's more unique, situated in a densely populated area, in a big city, with easy and convenient transportation. There are three types of spring here:



white sulfur, green sulfur, and iron-sulfur. The green-sulfur springs are transparent with a slight green tint, and contain hydrochloric acid. They are also sometimes called radium hot springs (鑛溫泉). Only two places in the world (Beitou and Akita in Japan) have green-sulfur springs, which are said to be especially effective in easing myalgia.

In 1894, a sulfur merchant from Germany named Ouely built a simple hot-spring club facility in Beitou, and two years later a Japanese businessman named Hirata open the area's first hot-spring inn at the side of Beitou Stream (北投溪), named Tiangouan (天狗庵). The area was thus launched as a hot-spring spa site. In 1905 the Japanese government set up the area as a convalescent and R&R area for military personnel involved in the Russo-Japanese War; the number of inns and hotels, restaurants, clubs, and other related attractions mushroomed in the Beitou Park (北投公園) area. The area was always busy with geishas and the traveling groups of *nakashi* (那卡西) minstrels popular in Japanese hot-spring resorts. Beitou's nightlife, with its pronounced red-light quality, became renowned.



If interested in learning more about Beitou's history and development, there's no better place than the Beitou Hot Springs Museum (北投溫泉博物館). The museum is housed in a structure built by the Japanese that imitates the traditional hot-spring facilities on Izu Mountain of Shizuoka in Japan. In 1997 Taiwan's Ministry of the Interior declared this a Historical relic of the Third Grade, and in 1998 the building was renovated as part of the Taipei City Government's blueprint to bring new uses to heritage facilities, and became a hot-spring museum.

Among the many hot-spring inns and hotels in today's Beitou are the oldest facility, a public bath called Longnaitang (瀧乃湯), and the first Taiwan hot-spring inn declared a heritage site, Yinsongge (吟松閣). These are complemented by many other facilities of noble heritage. There are also many new, fashionable hotels that offer hot-springs, spa hydrotherapy, beauty care, fine dining and banquets, and other facilities. Notable names in this latter category include SweetMe Hotspring Resort (水美溫泉會館), Radium Kagaya (日勝生加賀屋), and Beitou Grand View Resort (北投麗禧溫泉酒店). Your choice of accommodation and facilities is almost unlimited, making this more than ever Taiwan's most representative hot-spring resort area.



# Hot Spring



## Promotion of the Taipei Hot Spring Culture

Each year, from September through November, Taipei Hot Springs Season (臺北溫泉季) is held to celebrate the area's unique hot-spring culture and natural endowments. Activities bring together international academics and professionals to engage in knowledge exchange, as well as local and international tourists in significant number. The event schedule brims over with fun and excitement, bringing you nakashi performances, music shows, stone-cutting demonstrations of the local Qilian stone (唎哩岸石), tea ceremonies, and guided tours. A highlight of this year's festival will be the special "Children's Deity Palanquin Parade" (兒童神轎踩街), part of the culture of the Japanese city of Matsuyama, in Ehime Prefecture, highlighting the tradition of parading sedan chairs at the 3,000-year-old Dōgo Onsen, or Dōgo Hot Springs. 📌

6. Beitou Grand View Resort draws its white-sulfur spring waters from a nearby Mt. Datun source, providing soothing natural soaking.
7. Radium Kagaya provides a foot-soaking facility where feet, body, and mind are soothed.
8. Longnaitang, Beitou's oldest hot-spring inn.
9. Like a mineral spring, Beitou Hot Springs Museum is a documentary "source" where one can quickly learn the basics on the area's development and special character.
10. During Taipei Hot Springs Season, visitors from Japan's Matsuyama will stage a special version of its traditional battering deity-sedan ceremony.

## Hot Spring Bathing — Tips and Precautions:

1. Wash your body thoroughly before entering the hot-spring bath.
2. Any person with heart disease, lung trouble, high blood pressure, diabetes, or troubles with their circulatory system should consult a doctor before hot-spring bathing.
3. Drink plenty of water before and after bathing.
4. Enter a bath slowly, feet first, then lower body, then upper body, but do not immerse yourself above the heart.
5. After entering the bath, if any discomfort is felt, exit immediately and notify service staff.
6. Those who have traveled a long distance, are suffering excessive fatigue, or have engaged in strenuous exercise should first rest and recuperate before bathing.
7. Persons with infectious diseases are prohibited from entering a hot spring bath.
8. Women should not use hot-springs during their menstrual cycle.
9. It is inappropriate to bring pets into a bath.
10. Bathing alone is not advised for pregnant women, persons of limited mobility, seniors, and children.
11. Bathing is not advised for persons with an empty stomach, full stomach, or who are intoxicated.
12. Bathers should not immerse themselves for more than 15 minutes at a time, or more than 1 hour in a session.
13. Entering a sauna immediately after bathing is not advised.

## Information

### Taipei Hot Springs Association

台北市溫泉發展協會

**Add:** 224, Guangming Rd. (光明路 224 號)

**Tel:** (02)2895-5418

**Website:** [www.taipeisprings.org.tw](http://www.taipeisprings.org.tw)

### Taipei Hot Springs Season 臺北溫泉季

**Time:** 10/19~10/22

**Venues:** Xinbeitou south-side streets, Qixing Park

## New Experiences in Fine Food — Learn to Cook while in Taipei

Tourists consistently report that one of their main reasons for visiting Taipei is the great food. A series of food-experience journeys have been developed in the past few years, with a cooking instructor explaining the ingredients and cooking methods used for each dish tasted. Students experiencing the process of preparing fine food can also share their experiences with others, and taste the results. In this issue we introduce four cooking classrooms, each with its own distinguishing features, and each offering the joy of cooking gourmet food in a relaxed setting.



1

**1-3.** The Kitchen Lab is decorated in French style, is bright and spacious, and has instructors from France's Lenôtre Culinary Institute, especially attracting female students, here tasting their own chicken and potato creation.

**4-5.** At the Cooking Club, instructor Ivy has over 10 years of experience teaching foreigners, stressing that "When cooking good food, it's important to relish the joy of the process itself."



## Kitchen Lab – The Joy of Experimenting in the Kitchen

East Taipei's Hana Café, with its signature afternoon tea with muffins, is a hit with young folk, and knowing how young customers love sweet things, but have little chance to spend time in the kitchen, the owners have opened the Kitchen Lab nearby, to teach budding cooks how to make good simple dishes, while making new friends at the same time.

In the chic, bright classroom, each student is outfitted with a chef's apron, and is provided with the necessary ingredients and a cookbook. The teacher-chef first gives an explanation and a demonstration before the students get to work, learning the character of the ingredients used while at the same time getting to know their fellow food enthusiasts.

A Kitchen Lab class is held each night if six people have signed up. The focus is on French and Italian cooking, and there are both beginner and advanced classes. Special family-fun cuisine and theme dishes are introduced for holidays and festivals. Each class has a regular teacher, and instructors from France's Lenôtre Culinary Institute are also sometimes specially invited to teach sessions on French-style desserts. There's no need to visit France to learn its cuisine – at Kitchen Lab the country's culinary secrets are brought to you.



## Cooking Club – Sharing Delicious Food and Wine

Down a lane off Songjiang Road (松江路), New Century (心世紀) wine and spirits shop organizes classes at the Cooking Club (小巷酒食) in cooperation with teacher Ivy. Recipes and complementary spirits vary by month in accordance with what's in season, but the idea is always the same: students learn to create a meal comprising appetizer, entree, and dessert, and are taught key secrets in planning a meal pairing fine wine and food.

Ivy has served as a cooking instructor for foreigners for over 10 years at Taipei's Community Services Center. "When it comes to good food, it's important to relish the joy of the cooking process too, not just the tasting," she says. She has a cheerful, lively approach to teaching, getting students to first pick up and smell the ingredients, touch and feel them, then chop and mix them together. Many students originally sign up more for the opportunity of getting a chance to enjoy good food and drink than to master the intricacies of preparing the dishes. However after witnessing their instructor's zeal and passion in giving such detailed explanations and demonstrations, they become infused with the joy of cooking, and despite their original intentions, turn into keen cooks.

New three-month-long classes begin each season, and are announced online. The theme for the ongoing class that started in September is the B.B.Q. party, and among three featured recipes is ancho chicken with spinach and mushroom tortilla. There are about 14 students in each relaxed class, and all are welcome to sign up.



### Mise en Place – A Space to Experience Fine-Food Culture

Mise en Place was opened two years ago by Zeng Yulan (曾郁嵐), who has a great deal of experience in tourism and travel, accumulated as a hotel management consultant. Her goal in opening this independent culinary-arts space is to encourage a lifestyle in which fine food, culture, and art are brought together. The French term *mise en place* means “everything in place or order,” and it has become a professional cooking term, meaning to have everything needed for cooking ready in advance before the actual cooking starts. Students here can concentrate on enjoying the fun of cooking, for all ingredients are taken care of in advance, and there's no need to wash dishes or put things away afterwards.

The teachers here are professional, attentive, and well-prepared, and ingredients are sourced from Taiwan – perfect for the optimal teaching of locals and expats intent on maximizing their culinary talents. Students work in teams of two, and each team has its own cooking suite and its own stove, ensuring each student gets maximum hands-on experience.

Mise en Place provides a space where Taipei folk can get a taste of the fine-food lifestyle, exploring the world's cuisines. Management has also developed courses appropriate for foreign tourists; book in advance over the phone. Come to Mise en Place for a wonderful journey into the world of authentic Taiwan ingredients and food.

6. Mise en Place is fastidious about its teaching methodology and its preparation of ingredients, attracting many seeking to become culinary professionals.

7-10. Mise en Place is exacting and comprehensive in its course preparation, with a range from authentic Chinese cuisine to French-style desserts, its classes taught by dedicated professional instructors.

11. Each student at Mise en Place has an individual oven and work station, ensuring the most comprehensive learning experience.



## Cooking Studio – A Feast of Fine Cuisine and Cooking

The Cooking Studio (廚藝雅集) sets its sights on providing top-quality food for gourmands while teaching them the kitchen arts. Creation of a cooking classroom was an intrinsic part of the original plan for this restaurant, and the furnishings here give the space the sumptuous feel of a mansion kitchen, grand but inviting.

The Cooking Studio features a full professional menu, ensuring that after studying here you'll be able to present a first-rate set meal back home. All instructors are master chefs and other professionals of high repute from the hospitality field, and each class concentrates on the same rich trove of skills and techniques that the pro in charge adheres to. In addition to teaching Italian, French, Thai, Japanese, Chinese, and other cuisines, there are also sessions on the making of pastries and breads and on the etiquette of wine and dining. All students, whatever their tastes, will find them satisfied.

Most students here are experienced gourmands, wealthy spouses, and professionals from the hospitality industry. Detailed attention is therefore paid to the selection of ingredients. Special items such as white asparagus, truffle, caviar, and fresh oysters are used, and healthy cooking techniques that ask for minimal oil and produce minimal smoke are emphasized. Most special of all, perhaps, is that with Cooking Studio's private-teaching service, once just five students sign up for a class you can set off immediately with your own professional teacher, preparing your own menu.

Today, the most sophisticated and fashionable way to come to Taipei and explore its delicious food is to spend time in a cooking classroom, learning local culinary secrets and immersing yourself in wonderful taste sensations. Come join up — the experience is sure to suit your palate. 🍷

**12.** At the Cooking Studio, a master chef from a leading hotel shows students how to make lamb shoulder with oyster sauce and red wine.

**13-14.** Cooking Studio courses are designed for knowledgeable gourmands and ladies of means; instructors are well-known hospitality-industry professionals and university lecturers.



12



13



14

### Information

#### Kitchen Lab

**Add:** 11, Lane 160, Yanji St. (延吉街160巷11號)

**Tel:** (02)2751-6468

**Website:** [www.kitchen-lab.com.tw](http://www.kitchen-lab.com.tw)

#### Cooking Club 小巷酒食

**Add:** 7, Lane 156, Songjiang Rd. (松江路156巷7號)

**Tel:** (02)2521-3121

**Website:** [ncw.tw](http://ncw.tw)

#### Mise en Place

**Add:** 10, Lane 295, Sec. 1, Dunhua S. Rd. (敦化南路1段295巷10號)

**Tel:** (02)2784-7460

**Website:** [www.miseenplace.com.tw](http://www.miseenplace.com.tw)

#### Cooking Studio 廚藝雅集

**Add:** 15, Lane 14, Sec. 7, Zhongshan N. Rd. (中山北路7段14巷15號)

**Tel:** (02)2876-7167

**Website:** [www.cookingstudio.com.tw](http://www.cookingstudio.com.tw)

# Great Mid-Autumn Festival Gift Choices for Moon Festival Get-Togethers

The family unit is considered of utmost importance in the Chinese-speaking world; therefore traditional festivals, such as the Mid-Autumn Festival (中秋節), are all about family reunions. On this day the full moon shines brightest in the sky, and family members get together and (equally important) exchange gifts to express their good wishes and continued kinship. The best and most iconic Moon Festival choice is a giftbox of mooncakes in various different flavors.





### Ten Ren – East/West Harmony, Design Chic

Established in 1953, each autumn Ten Ren (天仁茗茶) rolls out a popular line of tea-flavored mooncake gift boxes. This year East meets West in the packaging design, creating gifts of good taste for both eye and palate.

The “Cha for Tea” (喫茶趣) gift box features cakes with a traditional Hong Kong-style shell that contain dried grapes and such Chinese health-enhancing herbal ingredients as longan, medlar, and hawthorn. The “Lustrous Moon” (璨月) gift box has mooncakes with Japanese Momoyama-style shells made with bean paste and egg yolk, and fillings with green or black tea in accompaniment with familiar Western-theme fruits such as orange, strawberry, cranberry, and lemon. The box has an image of a rabbit frolicking amidst flowering shrubs on a moonlit night, symbolizing the bliss calm that comes with a perfect full moon.

The Tea & Pineapple Cake Classic Gift (鳳茗雙禮) features cakes with fillings of Assam black tea and indigenous Taiwan pineapple. The long fibers of the pineapple, and the mix of sweet and sour, is a perfect blend. The attractive gift box features a glossy checkered design and an image of a bright-red phoenix carrying a gold coin in its mouth, bestowing blessings of wealth and position on the lucky recipient.

1. Ten Ren's Lustrous Moon mooncakes match tea with Western-theme fruits, creating delicious taste.
2. The Lustrous Moon gift box above, Tea & Pineapple Cake Classic Gift below.
3. The Cha for Tea traditional cakes, which feature Chinese medicinal ingredients, are both refreshing and healthy.
4. Ten Ren rolls out attractively priced mooncake gift boxes each Mid-Autumn Festival, available at its many outlets.
- 5-7. 4H House's mooncakes, which contain Muzha-cultivated Tie Guanyin/Iron Goddess tea, have such names as Iron Prosperity Cakes, Tie Guanyin Shortbread, and Iron Jade Cakes.



### 4H House – Tea-flavored Pastries, Aromatic Fragrance

In today's Taiwan much attention is paid to healthy eating. The mooncake (月餅), a traditional treat heavy in oil, sugar, and salt, has been made much healthier, and is now a trendy new food option. You'll find the 4H House (貓茶町) on Baoyi Road (保儀路) in Taipei's Wenshan District (文山區) a place of master craftsmanship which uses no artificial additives in the pastries; all are invited to savor the authentic local flavors of the Muzha (木柵) area.

The bakers here have developed a series of Tie Guanyin pastries, which use Tie Guanyin (鐵觀音) or Iron Goddess tea, grown in the plantations of the Maokong hills. The tea leaf is rich in glycol, and has a gentle acidity and osmanthus fragrance. Among their offerings are “iron prosperity cakes” (鐵旺酥), which have a crispy shell and fragrant filling, the latter containing tea leaf, crispy walnut, local Taiwanese pineapple, and dried cranberry. The taste is rich, wide-ranging, and multi-textured. The “Tie Guanyin shortbread” (鐵觀音奶油酥餅) has a filling of powdered tea, malt, sugar, and butter, creating an aromatic delicacy with a rich buttery and light tea fragrance. The “iron jade cakes” (鐵玉酥) took more than 400 days of research to perfect; the delicate, elegant tea subtly complements the dense sweetened bean paste.

By introducing tea to the traditional mooncake, the latter's sweetness, oiliness, and greasy heaviness has been reduced, and the pleasurable fragrance of tea added, providing a truly healthy taste of local culture.



### Moon 12 – Insistence on Quality Craftsmanship and Ingredients

Moon 12 (月十二曲) on Bade Road (八德路) opened in 1994. The proprietor, surnamed Chen (陳) explained the shop's unusual name, saying that the "moon" is from the mooncake, starting point of the shop's fortunes, and "12" is a good, round, auspicious number in Chinese culture. All the products here are proudly handmade, and the shop's claim to fame is that in 2008 First Lady Christine Chow (周美青) visited the shop for a round of gift purchases.

The shop's "walnut phoenix cakes" (核桃鳳凰酥) are a favorite of Hong Kong film star Stephen Chow (周星馳). The pastry shell is made with high-grade all-natural butter, and within the pineapple-paste filling is half a salted egg yolk. This sweet/salty medley mixes well with the cake's buttery fragrance. One of Moon 12's signature treats, "juicy taro cakes" (養汁芋頭酥), feature taro cultivated in the Zhuoshui River (濁水溪) region on the island's central plains. The filling 80-90% taro, which has a high moisture content – hence the "juicy" in the name.

Green bean kernel (i.e., shelled green bean) is used in the shop's "little green kernel amber cakes" (小篆仁琥珀酥). Traditional techniques are used; the kernels are washed and steamed three times, creating a fine paste with a dense texture. The "royal gift box" (皇家禮盒) features "red bean mochi cakes" (紅豆麻糬餅), made with red bean from Taiwan's Pingtung (屏東). "Peninsula custard cakes" (半島奶皇酥), healthy treats made with minimal sugar and oil, and "sesame green bean cake" (麻優綠豆太郎), have a filling of green-bean paste with salted egg yolk, dried meat floss and steamed mochi, inside a shell prepared with Japanese sesame seeds.

These great-tasting treats are not just a Mid-Autumn Festival specialty: drop by the shop anytime and treat yourself.





## Ganso Snow Cakes – Heritage-shop Snow Cakes, Fruity Flavors

Breaking the with traditional mold for mooncakes, Ganso Snow Cakes (元祖雪餅) introduced ice cream as a filling in their mooncakes, and the result is. They are a favorite with both children, and a favorite child memory among adults. Ganso (元祖食品) was established in 1979, and in the beginning concentrated used mainly concentrated on on mochia in the beginning. It was in 1985 that the firm broke away from the mooncake tradition of using bean paste as filling and with a shortcrust-type pastry shell. It introduced fruit-flavored ice cream as filling instead, with a handmade Japanese pancake-style shells. Many older local folk middle-aged and older well remember these as Taiwan's first ice-cream mooncakes.

This year Ganso is specially promoting its "Snow Cake Collection Gift Box" (雪餅集禮盒). The cakes, featuring Ganso's signature Japanese-style, pancake-like shells of Japanese-style thin pancake, have are filled with three flavors of ice-cream flavors: strawberry, mango, and chocolate. The shells are firm and flaky, and the fillings have the classic a delicate texture of ice cotton. The "Starry Sky Collection Gift Box" (星空集禮盒) features cakes with soft, chewy shells made with arrowroot flour, filled with fruit-yogurt ice cream that is low in fat, sugar, and calories. The three-layered fillings and cute star shapes make these treats.

The Mid-Autumn Festival is a time whenre local families must begather together, and feelings of family unity run high, so why not bring home a box of mooncakes home to share these same feelings with your own family. 🌕

- 8. Moon 12's Royal Gift Box features Red Bean Mochi Cakes, Peninsula Custard Cakes, and Sesame Green Bean Cake.
- 9. Moon 12's cakes are available at its outlets year-round, not just for the Mid-Autumn Festival.
- 10-11. One of Moon 12's signature treats is its Juicy Taro Cakes.
- 12. Packing yummy ingredients in with ice cream was Ganso's original ideas, and Ganso Snow Cakes are the source of many fond childhood memories for Taiwan folk.
- 13. Ganso has introduced the Starry Sky Collection Gift Box this year, featuring healthy low-calorie cakes and cute star shapes, aimed at female customers.



### Information

**Ten Ren (Taipei Main Station Breeze Center outlet) 天仁茗茶 (微風臺北車站店)**

**Add:** 2F, 3, Beiping W. Rd. (北平西路3號2樓)

**Tel:** (02)2388-0756

**Website:** www.tenren.com.tw

**4H House 貓茶町**

**Add:** 115, Baoyi Rd. (保儀路115號)

**Tel:** (02)2937-6800

**Website:** www.4hhouse.com.tw

**Moon 12 月十二曲**

**Add:** 6, Lane 74, Sec. 3, Bade Rd. (八德路3段74巷6號)

**Tel:** (02)2579-2057

**Website:** www.moon12.com.tw

**Ganso (Xinyi store) 元祖食品 (信義店)**

**Add:** 287, Sec. 2, Xinyi Rd. (信義路2段287號)

**Tel:** (02)2394-3118

**Website:** www.ganso.com.tw

# COOL PLAY IN ★ XIMENDING

## Route:

MRT Ximen Station → Taipei Hero House-Friends of Armed Forces Association Restaurant (breakfast) → The Red House (browse historic site, cultural-creative merchandise) → Mei Guan Yuan (Japanese-style lunch) → Hanzhong Street, Wuchang Street (singers, street performers) → Tattoo Street (enjoy graffiti subculture) → American Street (popular clothing fashions) → Taipei Cinema Park (graffiti-art walls, second-hand clothing bazaar), Ximen Backstreet Festival → Amba Taipei Ximending Hotel (dinner, overnight accommodation)

Taipei's Ximending area (西門町), the city's most popular entertainment district, means movies, clothing, anime, music, street performances, and other entertainments ad infinitum. Crowds of fashionably dressed young men and women roam the streets, especially the pedestrian-only areas, on weekends and holidays. This is perhaps Taiwan's most iconic youth-culture enclave. Yet despite the emphasis on chic modernity, this is also a district with a nostalgic heart, filled with historical sites and a grand buffet of heritage eateries and restaurants. It's a unique area where old and new, traditional and modern live together in harmony. Want to find out what defines "cool play" in Taipei? This is cool-play central.

## New and Old in Creative Ferment

Early one morning, travel to MRT Ximen Station, take Exit No. 2, turn right, walk toward Changsha Street (長沙街), and



1

you'll soon come to the Taipei Hero House (國軍英雄館). Head up to the Friends of Armed Forces Association Restaurant (軍友餐廳) on the second floor: it's time for breakfast! The food here is Chinese, with traditional congee and side dishes as the main fare, along with fresh soybean milk, poached eggs, fruits, and other delights, presented in Western-buffet-style. Feast as you wish for just NT\$100.

After breakfast, head to the intersection of Zhonghua Road (中華路) and Chengdu Road (成都路). Standing in an area off the junction, surrounded by taller buildings, is The Red House (西門紅樓), an important heritage building. Opened in 1908, this was Taiwan's first publicly



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operated market. Today an official city historical site, it is also a key Ximending cultural-creative base. The front part is in the form of an octagon, and the rear is cruciform in shape. The rear part houses the Creative Boutique (十六工房) – the Chinese name translates directly as the “16 Studios” – and what is called the The Cradle of Cultural Creative Dreamer (文創孵夢基地). Here you'll find small shops and craft items of great variety. Creative bazaars are staged in the courtyard area beside The Red House on weekends/holidays, with imaginative illustrated postcards, designer T-shirts, hand-crafted decorative items, and many other attractive surprises awaiting your discovery.

## 1 Savoring Old-Style Food Treats, Enjoying Street Performers

After The Red House, visit the Hanzhong Street (漢中街)/ Emei Street (峨眉街) pedestrian area. Here you'll be amidst a forest of chic fashion-attire statements, styles and prices aligned with the needs and desires of the

student crowd. Meander around this area and you'll soon find yourself infected with a vigorous, youthful world-view. In this bustling district you'll find an old Japanese-style business, called Mei Guan Yuan (美觀園), that's been here 60 years. The proprietor says this restaurant's cuisine is best described as “Japanese-Chinese” (和漢料理), for local Taiwan ingredients are integrated into the original Japanese recipes. The emphasis is on the freshest foods at the most reasonable prices. Travelers who enjoy the freshest in fine Japanese cuisine can't go wrong by coming here for lunch.

1. Taipei Hero House restaurant offers an NT\$100 all-you-can-eat traditional Chinese breakfast.
- 2-3. Mei Guan Yuan, opened in 1946, and its fresh, reasonably priced food.
4. The Emei Street and Hanzhong Street pedestrian area, brimming with clothing outlets, is a favorite weekend gathering spot with young guys and gals.
- 5-6. The Red House front plaza, where weekend creative bazaars are held, and its Creative Boutique shops.

Emerge from the restaurant and you'll be greeted by the many street performers that add color to this area in the afternoons. There are buskers, portrait artists, spray-paint artists, dough-figurine artists, drummers, and talent of many other types. East and West are mixed, creativity and originality is impressive, and Ximending's most vivid streetscapes are brought to life. In this same area, on weekends/holidays at the plaza on the intersection of Hanzhong Street and Wuchang Street (武昌街), the hottest pop singers come out to sing their latest releases. Come on out to experience the star-chaser culture of Taiwan's student population.

Next, walk along Hanzhong Street to Lane 50 (剌青街) Here you'll find a side lane that specializes in tattoos, drawing many a subculture aficionado. You might well see tattoos as graffiti art for the body, and if you'd like to see the real thing, head to the other end of this lane and to the end of Lane 96, Kunming Street (昆明街96巷), where you'll see artwork on walls created by visiting graffiti artists from overseas. This unique form of artistry has given rise to the name "American Street" (美國街),

and along this artery you'll also find shops specializing in earlier-period American second-hand clothing, defining hip-hop regalia, skateboarder clothing and accessories, and other declarations of international chic. This is a pulsating market for the hottest in the most popular youth brand names.

## ① Experiencing the New Youth Culture — Staying at a New-Style Cultural-Creative Hotel

By way of the end of Lane 96, you enter the wide Taipei Cinema Park (臺北市電影主題公園). On non-workdays a succession of graffiti-art, skateboarding, dance, and second-hand clothing events take the stage here, at what has become a key node in the popular youth lifestyle of the city. Step out of the park via the main entrance, go right, and you're facing Ximending's well-known Movie Street (電影街). The name was coined in the 1960s, when up to eight movie theaters stood shoulder to shoulder here. Though today there are only four, the air is still thick with the ambiance of film-culture.

As dusk falls, you'll likely be in the mood for a special dinner and a bit of relaxation, the Amba Taipei Ximending (臺北西門町意舍) is just the place. A stylish hotel opened in February this year, motifs recalling Ximending abound in rooms, along corridors, and elsewhere. Music and fine food are brought together in a place that exudes originality and design confidence. Illustrators have adorned corridors and elevators with iconic Ximending images, and rooms feature illustrations in different themes, along with designer slippers and designer door cards. The lobby area features an open-concept art gallery, with periodic showings of works by contemporary artists. In the Chiba (吃吧) dining area, which features rustic wooden bookshelves and meals served on rustic wooden boards, enjoy East-West fusion dining. Perhaps the most special touch of all is Tingba (聽吧), a cocktail and music lounge, which every Saturday and Sunday night features a dedicated DJ, with music videos screened in sync with the various music themes. The area's youth-chic vitality and "cool play" atmosphere is thus with you until your very last moments in Ximending.




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## Ximen Backstreet Festival

Sponsored by the Taipei Culture Foundation (台北市文化基金會), the Ximen Backstreet Festival (西門町後街文化祭) is an artful mix of graffiti art, skateboarding, creative DJs, street dance, music, and much else from the backstreet pop-culture world. Also introduced into the mix are movie special-effects make-up, 3D painting, and other nifty stuff. The city's west-side street culture is put on full and glorious display.

This is the third edition of the festival, and it's going on until October 31, every Wednesday night from 19:30 to 21:30 at Taipei Cinema Park. In addition to the main highlights, the Infinite Cosplay Theater (無限人形劇團) is putting on "Infinite Cosplay Workshop" (無限人形工作坊) sessions, with free sign-up. Be sure to also take part in the rollicking good fun of the October 27 "2012 Ximen Halloween – What the Devil Are You Up To!" (2012西門萬聖, 搞什麼鬼!) activities. 



7-8. In the maze of side lanes and alleys are chic tattoo parlors and the bursting international flavor of American Street.

9-10. On weekends enjoy the shows by street artists and the many mini-concerts put on by singers promoting new releases.

11-12. Chiba features timber-theme bookshelves and international feasting with an East-West mix.

13. The Ximen Backstreet Festival at Taipei Cinema Park features graffiti, skateboarding, special-effects makeup, street dancing, and more, in a full-range display of the west side's pop culture.

14. The character “吧,” pronounced “ba,” is featured on various Amba Taipei Ximending articles.

## Information

### Taipei Hero House – Friends of Armed Forces Association Restaurant 臺北國軍英雄館一軍友餐廳

**Add:** 2F, 20, Sec. 1, Changsha St. (長沙街1段20號2樓)  
**Tel:** (02)2371-8237

### The Red House 西門紅樓

**Add:** 10 Chengdu Rd. (成都路10號)  
**Tel:** (02)2311-9380

**Hours:** Tues~Sun 11:00~21:30, Fri~Sat extended hours 11:00~22:00 (closed Mon); the Creative Boutique and The Cradle of Cultural Creative Dreamer open at 14:00

**Website:** www.redhouse.org.tw

### Mei Guan Yuan 美觀園

**Add:** 47 Emei St. (峨眉街47號)  
**Tel:** (02)2331-0377

**Website:** www.oldshop.com.tw

### Taipei Cinema Park 臺北市電影主題公園

**Add:** 19 Kangding Rd. (康定路19號)  
**Tel:** (02)2312-3717

**Website:** www.cinemapark.org.tw

### Amba Taipei Ximending

臺北西門町意舍  
**Add:** 77, Sec. 2, Wuchang St. (武昌街2段77號)  
**Tel:** (02)2375-5111

**Website:** www.ambahotel.com

### Ximen Backstreet Festival 西門町後街文化祭

**Time:** Until 10/31

**Venues:** The Red House, Taipei Cinema Park (西門紅樓、臺北市電影主題公園)

**Tel:** (02)2312-3717

**Website:** www.cinemapark.org.tw

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# Taipei's Autumn Festivals



**A**utumn is here, and it's a season heavy with arts and culture activities, and a time to refresh body and soul as the heat lifts and the pace of life slows down.

## 2012 Shilin International Culture Festival —Exploring the Beauties of Mayan Culture

Taipei is an international city. Whether long-term expatriate residents or short-term visitors from afar, faces from the world's many nations are visible throughout the city, on high streets and down back alleys. They come from North America, Europe, Korea, and many other lands. And with the presence of the Taipei American School, Taipei European School, and Taipei Japanese School, the Shilin District (士林區) has an even more pronounced international flavor and concentration of foreign folk.

Things kick off in September with the Shilin International Culture Festival (士林國際文化節), staged each year by the Shilin District Office (士林區公所). All

foreigners resident in Shilin are invited to participate in what is designed as a platform of mutual exchange between international culture and the local lifestyle. The district has many cultural attractions and the historical homes of famous people, including the Kuo Yuan Ye Museum of Cake & Pastry (郭元益糕餅博物館), Lin Yutang House (林語堂故居), Ch'ien Mu House (錢穆故居), and Zhishan Cultural and Ecological Garden (芝山文化生態綠園). Guided tours bring a deeper understanding of the rich local history. A special festival draw this year is an exhibit entitled "In Shilin – Meet the Maya" (在士林~遇見馬雅), a journey into the mysterious Mayan culture that includes models of ancient cities, pictures, calendars, and traditional apparel and handicrafts. September 27 is the last day to enjoy this intriguing window into an ancient civilization of alluring beauty; the exhibit is being staged at Shilin Public Assembly Hall (士林公民會館).

The highlight of the festival will come on October 13, when the “Culture, Cuisine, Carnival” (文化、美食、嘉年華) event is being held at the Tianmu Baseball Stadium Ticket Booth Plaza (天母棒球場售票處廣場). The Time Gallery Area(時光憶廊區) will have a kids' experience area with games and toys from yesteryear, along with snacks from when grandma and grandpa were kids. The Fine Food Area(美食區) will have stands dishing out international treats from Oman, South Korea, the Philippines, Africa, Spain, and elsewhere, as well as traditional Hakka (客家) treats and other local delicacies with old-time flavors — a true carnival of taste sensations.

## 2012 Taipei Confucius Temple Culture Season — Witnessing Ancient Confucian Rites

To commemorate the great Chinese thinker Confucius, each year on September 28, his birthday, the Confucius Ceremony (釋奠典禮) is staged at Taipei Confucius Temple (臺北市孔廟). This is the most complete of the ancient Three Consecrations (三獻) rites in existence. The rites, which begin at 6 a.m., are a faithful re-enactment of the rites as performed 2,000 years ago, with an elaborate process of 37 steps. The eight classical Chinese musical instruments are played, the Yi Dance (佾舞) is performed, there is a ceremonial opening of the main gates to invite the gods in, a sacrificial feast is presented, and there is an offering of incense. The ceremony is followed with cultural-arts performances, and ceremony spectators presenting their entry passes can line up for a longevity peach (壽桃), wisdom cake

(智慧糕), and memento of the event, presented in person by the mayor. If interested in attending this unique event, pick up tickets right at the temple.

Beyond the Confucius Ceremony, this year a host of new attractions have been added to the temple complex, making a visit even more interesting – and fun. Existing space has been refurbished to create the Multimedia Six Arts Experience Exhibit (多媒體六藝體驗展), featuring novel interactive high-tech facilities that allow visitors to journey back 2,000-plus years to attend classes taught by the Great Sage himself. Listen to lectures by the great man in the “Confucius Academy” (孔子學堂), learn the Yi Dance at the “Six Arts Rites and Music” (六藝之禮、樂) area, and use a computer to learn calligraphy at the “Six Arts Books” (六藝之書) display. With each stroke you gain greater appreciation for the beauty of the written character, and connect the thinking of the ancients with modern-day life.

- 1-2. Many people of foreign nationality participate in the Shilin International Culture Festival, and you can savor food treats from many different lands.
- 3-4. As part of the In Shilin—Meet the Maya exhibit, inspect Mayan handicrafts, calendars, and other items.
5. The Confucius Ceremony, staged each Sept. 28 at Taipei Confucius Temple, is the most complete of the ancient Three Consecrations rites in existence.
6. The Multimedia Six Arts Experience Exhibit allows visitors to experience ancient Chinese culture.



Minglun Hall (明倫堂) has been transformed into a 4D theater. Two films are screened regularly, Tuesday through Sunday—*Taipei Confucius Temple* (臺北市孔廟) and *Confucius* (孔子). Watching these well-crafted films is a particularly enjoyable experience, because in addition to the 3D effects you are also enveloped in a “fourth dimension,” experiencing wind, rain, mist, and other tactile stimulation. The experience is powerful and delightful, and will leave you with deep impressions of a place steeped in the ambiance of the archaic.



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## 2012 Dream Carnival — Fun in the Streets

The Dream Carnival (夢想嘉年華) was created in 2002 by the Dream Community Culture & Education Develop Foundation (夢想社區文教發展基金會), based in Xizhi (汐止). Like-minded artists were called together to enter different communities in the area to raise neighborhood-friendship awareness, using humor and laughter to break the barriers of indifference.

In this celebration, self-expression is king. Everyone creates their own props and costumes, showing them off together in splendid parade. Grandmas and grandpas in their seventies and eighties march together in exotic and bizarre dress, causing big smiles, and groups of moms march in hot samba outfits or on stilts. The fun goes on and on. Onlookers cannot help but applaud the creativity – and the bravery – of the marchers.



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New Orleans Mardi Gras troupes have been specially invited this year, adding a big splash of the gorgeous, sumptuous, brazen New Orleans style. The parade will set off at 3 p.m. from Chiang Kai-shek Memorial Hall (中正紀念堂), proceed along Zhongshan South Road (中山南路) and Ren'ai Road (仁愛路), and end up at the plaza before the Presidential Office Building (總統府) on Ketagalan Boulevard (凱達格蘭大道). A big evening blast, starting at 6 p.m., will top things off.



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Don't forget the date – October 20. Join the fun along Ketalgalan Boulevard and you'll be part of one of the year's most merry and raucous carnival celebrations.

## 2012 Taipei Hakka Yimin Festival — Local Taiwan Culture at Its Most Authentic

The United States describes itself as a melting pot. Taiwan can be described the same way, as it's home to people of many ethnicities. The Hakka (客家人) originally came from the south of China; the term “Hakka” literally means “guest people,” for wherever they went they were always perceived as outsiders, always perceived as coming from lands beyond, though still in China. Their roots are unclear, but it is generally believed that they were originally from the north, had been obliged to move many times until they ended up in the central plains, and finally moved to the southeast coast region to escape central-plains war. The Hakka on Taiwan have a language and customs quite distinct from their majority Han Chinese brethren. Last year the Taipei City Government opened the Taipei City Hakka Cultural Park (臺北市客家文化主題公園) on Tingzhou Road (汀洲路), a splendid place for tourists to experience traditional Hakka culture.

The 2012 Taipei Hakka Yimin Festival (臺北客家義民嘉年華), staged by the Taipei Hakka Affairs Commission

(臺北市政府客家事務委員會), will run from October 13 through 15. Yimin (義民) or “Lords of the Righteous” from 25 Yimin temples around Taiwan have been invited to Taipei, along with natives of Hakka townships. They will be involved in the carrying out of traditional Yimin Festival rites that pay homage to Hakka ancestors who sacrificed their lives opening up new lands or defending Hakka settlements in the old days. Though solemn and respectful, the festival also has a carnival-like atmosphere.

At 8:30 a.m. on October 13, 25 Lords of the Righteous will gather at Chiang Kai-shek Memorial Hall and engage in a “greeting the spirits procession” (迎神遶境). The route will be lined with devotees paying their respects, and there will be battle-array formation teams and other performance troupes. The procession will end up at the Hakka Cultural Park, where a “Settling of



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7. At the Minglun Hall 4D Theater, experience dazzling 4D films.

8. The idea behind the Dream Carnival is to use humor and laughter to overcome the cold indifference between people in modern society, regenerating warmth between people.

9-11. In the Dream Carnival parade each participant is a model of originality.

12-13. The Taipei Hakka Yimin Festival features traditional rites and folk performances.

the Positive Energies of the Righteous Lords” (義民爺安座) grand ceremony will be carried out. This type of folk festival is a rarity in north Taiwan, so don't miss out.

At 8 a.m. on October 14 the “Carrying-pole Rice Presentation to the Gods” (挑擔奉飯) takes place. This also sets out from CKS Memorial Hall. This is a 200-year-old custom, originally carried out in days of old by living members before or during a military expedition. Wines and various foods were carried in baskets slung from shoulder poles by villagers, expressing support and empathy for the Hakka braves. Happening at the same time is the activity entitled “Flying Fortune Dragon Greets the Yimin” (龍飛耀福迎義民), a parade in which 60 contingent of marchers in fine costumes will act out the theme “101 Possibilities of the Dragon” (龍的101種可能性) — a small-scale carnival brimming with Chinese flavor. At 11 a.m. a solemn and august ceremony will be held in which the loyalty of the gods in protecting the people is communicated, general peace and prosperity is beseeched, and descendents express their sincere devotion and reverence for these deified



14. The “greeting the spirits procession” route is lined with devotees paying their respects, a folk-religion activity not often seen.

ancestors. On October 15 is the grand ceremonial send-off for the visiting gods, sending the 25 representative Lords of the Righteous back to their hometowns, where they will continue to bless and protect the local people.

Come enjoy Taipei in the cool air of autumn, which promises to be one of carnival colors blended with the beauty of dreams, art, folklore, and culture. [▶](#)

## Information

### 2012 Shilin International Culture Festival 2012士林國際文化節

“In Shilin – Meet the Maya” Exhibit

**Time:** Until 10/13

**Venue:** Shilin Public Assembly Hall  
(臺北市士林公民會館)

“Culture, Cuisine, Carnival”

**Time:** 10/13; 14:00~17:00

**Venue:** Tianmu Baseball Stadium Ticket Booth Plaza  
(天母棒球場售票處廣場)

**Tel:** (02)2882-6200

**Website:** www.slido.taipei.gov.tw

### 2012 Taipei Confucius Temple Culture Season 2012臺北市孔廟文化季

**Venue:** Taipei Confucius Temple (臺北市孔廟)

**Website:** www.fct.taipei.gov.tw

#### Confucius Ceremony

**Time:** 09/28; 06:00~07:00

#### Tickets:

Individual Advance Request: Sept. 14~19,  
09:00~17:00, limit of 400 tickets (2 tickets per person).

Request on Day of Ceremony: Sept. 28, 05:30~06:00,  
at Hong Gate (鬯門) office (100 tickets available).

### Taipei Confucius Temple Multimedia Six Arts Experience Exhibit 臺北市孔廟多媒體六 藝體驗展

**Time:** Tues~Sun 09:00~17:00 (free entry)

**Venue:** Taipei Confucius Temple Minglun Hall 4D  
Theater (臺北市孔廟明倫堂4D劇院)

**Screenings:** Tues~Sun, 09:00/10:00/11:00/14:00/15:00/  
16:00 (free entry)

### 2012 Dream Carnival 2012夢想嘉年華

**Time:** 10/20; starts at 15:00

**Venue:** Chiang Kai-shek Memorial Hall→Ketagalan  
Blvd. (中正紀念堂→凱達格蘭大道)

**Tel:** (02)2695-9393

**Website:** dreamcommunity.org.tw

### 2012 Taipei Hakka Yimin Festival 2012臺北客家義民嘉年華

**Time:** 10/13~10/15

**Venue:** Taipei City Hakka Cultural Park (臺北市客家文  
化主題公園)

**Tel:** (02)2702-6141

**Website:** www.thcp.org.tw

# 2012 Taipei Car – Free Day

Concern about pollution and efforts to save energy have spread worldwide in recent times, so this year why not join the cause and participate in the 2012 Taipei Car Free Day (2012大臺北國際無車日)? This year will be the 11th time this, the city's leading green-living promotional event, has been held. The Taipei City Government is deeply committed to the creation of a friendly environment with a green transportation system, and encourages people to use the city's mass-transportation system, bicycles, and their feet in the march toward a low-carbon lifestyle.

This year, the first in the event's second decade, will be a model year. The theme for 2012 is "It's not my carbon" (It's not my碳). Numerous activities have been planned that will show citizens how they can engage in car-free, carbon-free green living at all times. The main activity, Taipei Car Free Fun (臺北放駕趣), will hit the stage on September 22. Numerous new YouBike bike-rental stations are being opened at the same time, and a YouBike New Station Treasure Hunt (Youbike新站點尋寶) will be held at each. These will introduce the new facilities to the public; check the official website for event details.



1. This year's theme is "It's not my carbon."
2. As part of the Taipei Car Free Fun festivities, a YouBike New Station Treasure Hunt will be held at new stations to introduce them to the public.



For the Car Free Grand Assembly (放駕大會師), bike-riding citizens will be invited to gather together and spell out the word "GREEN" in giant capital letters, shouting out the commitment of Taipei's citizens and city government to the spirit of low-carbon green living. This will be followed by the Car Free Music Party (放駕樂Party) in the square before Taipei City Hall. Party-goers are encouraged to make their way to the venue via eco-friendly means, in keeping with the ultimate goal of this being a carbon-free day. The party site will be divided into five zones, among them a stage-show, interactive experience, and children's play area. There will be an unplugged concert with live bands, an environment-themed painting exhibition, and a display on electric low-carbon buses, solar vehicles, and other green transportation tools.

Taipei Car Free Day aims to teach the public, through personal experience, about the functions of each type of public transportation and how each complements their lives. By melding car-free concepts into our everyday life, we can make Taipei a more pleasant and livable city. 10

## Information

### 2012 Taipei Car Free Day 2012大臺北國際無車日

Taipei Car Free Fun (YouBike New Station Treasure Hunt, Car Free Grand Assembly, Car Free Music Party)

**Time:** 9/22; 09:30~17:00

**Venue:** Citizen Square 市民廣場

**Website:** [www.2012taipeicarfreeday.com.tw](http://www.2012taipeicarfreeday.com.tw)

# Folk Singing and Beitou Storytelling — Spending Time with Chen Mingchang



## Chen Mingchang 陳明章

- CMC Music
- Musical score for films *Dust in the Wind*, *The Puppetmaster*, *Maboroshi No Hikari* (幻之光), *March of Happiness*
- Grand prizes for best film score at film festivals in France, Belgium, Japan, and the Asia-Pacific area
- Founder of Formosa Tamsui Wandering Minstrels (福爾摩沙淡水走唱團) and Taiwan Yueqin Folk Music Association (台灣月琴民謠協會)



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1. During the Taiwan Moon Lute Folk Music Festival, take in the display of colorful painted lutes at Beitou Hot Spring Museum.
2. Chen Mingchang has been called "Taiwan's folk music master," producing many acclaimed works.
3. Lively debut of the festival on the lawn area outside Beitou Hot Springs Museum, under the moonlight.
4. A moon lute performance by Chen Mingchang and like-minded friends at the museum.



"Spring evening dew – tipsiness, memories flooding, bright flowers reduced to dust – the soft movements of a night of mellow spirits." (……春夜的露水，是酒意，是回憶，是一朵蕊花淪落的風塵，是三分酒意中的溫柔……)

These lines are from the song *Farewell, Beitou!* (再會吧！北投), by Chen Mingchang (陳明章), and gently echo the ambiance of the Beitou hot-springs. Chen was born and bred in Beitou, which brings a distinctive mood and character to his work. Next year is the centenary of Beitou Park (北投公園); Chen is now hard at work crafting the celebratory musical play *Farewell, Beitou!* for the event, and his many fans are waiting in eager anticipation.

Chen has been called "Taiwan's folk music master" (臺灣民謠大師), as well as the "prodigal poet" (浪子詩人). Renowned as a composer, producer, and singer, he is bound closely to common folk and the local earth in his creative process, resulting in works that are one-of-a-kind. Representative examples include the early-period album *Songs of Madness* (抓狂歌), written when he was with the band Blacklist Studio (黑名單工作室), and the musical scores for the films *Dust in the Wind* (戀戀風塵), *The Puppetmaster* (戲夢人生), and *March of Happiness* (天馬茶房). His solo albums include *An Afternoon Opera* (下午的一齣戲), *Don't Ask My Name* (勿愛問阮的名), *She's Our Darling* (伊是咱的寶貝), and *Taiwanese Children Songs* (台灣囡仔歌), and he has written the lyrics and music for *Wandering to Tamsui* (流浪到淡水) and other hit singles. Not long ago he created a special album in commemoration of Beitou's old, now-gone railway station, entitled *Treasuring the Old Train Station* (心愛的老車站).

Perhaps it's the special character of Beitou's hot spring environment and the sulphurous fumes that inspire the

vicissitudes of mood in Chen's music and lyrics, which are deeply imbued with local emotions. Plucking at a *yueqin* (月琴; moon lute), he talks about his early Beitou days: "When I was young my grandpa took me all over the place on his bicycle to see outdoor shows by traveling opera troupes. He'd also take me to the Earth God Temple (土地公廟) at the market by the Beitou District Office (北投區公所), to see temple-fair drum-formation performances." Sitting under the big tents, year after year, he became fascinated by all the traditional folk arts such as *nanguan* (南管) and *beiguan* (北管) music, Taiwanese opera, and glove-puppet opera. The Beitou hot-spring inns and hotels of the era also had a strong *nakashi* (那卡西) culture: *nakashi* music has a mixed Japanese-Taiwanese heritage, and is closely associated with the hot-spring experience. These many elements had a powerful influence on his blossoming musical knowledge and creativity.

"Music inspired by the local soil cannot be taught in schools; it is nurtured by everyday living," says Chen. His music emerges from such influences as *nakashi* and the local campus folk-music movement, with one of his other key influences the moon-lute music and song of Chen Da (陳達), a legendary Taiwan *shuo-chang* artist (說唱藝人). *Shuo-chang* is literally "talk-sing," meaning storytelling with singing and reciting. These have enabled him to reflect on local culture and his feelings toward his native soil, creating in him a new way of thinking about composing Taiwanese music. This simple and honest music has a sincerity that touches the heart.

In recent years he has taught the moon lute in Beitou, and also established the Taiwan Yueqin Folk Music Association. His goal is to cultivate 100 teachers, who will pass on the native strength of Taiwan folk music. Last year Chen staged the first Taiwan Moon Lute Folk Music Festival (臺灣月琴民謠祭) at the Beitou Hot Springs Museum (北投溫泉博物館), which was received with great enthusiasm, and the second edition is on now, taking up the whole month of September. On September 29, the eve of the Mid-Autumn Festival, there will be a grand jam session featuring "national treasure" moon-lute artists and like-minded talent. Everyone is invited to Beitou to share in the fun.



"Beitou is a great place with fine natural scenery," says Chen. "It enjoys the convenience of the city and the atmosphere of the country. This is one of the key wellsprings of my creativity, and if you'd like to hear folk music, Beitou is the place." He hopes all travelers can make it to this fine destination, a place brimming with stories. 📍

## Information

### 2012 Taiwan Moon Lute Folk Music Festival 2012 第二屆臺灣月琴民謠祭

**Time:** Until 9/30

**Venue:** Beitou Hot Springs Museum (北投溫泉博物館)

**Add:** 2, Zhongshan Rd. (中山路2號)

**Program:**

- Moon Lute Painting Installation Exhibit (月琴彩繪裝置展)
- Moon Lute Folk Music Song & Storytelling (月琴民謠講唱會)
- "Heritage, Incense, Generational Sentiments"  
Taiwan Folk Music Heritage Concert  
(「傳承、香火、世代情」 臺灣民謠薪傳音樂會)
- "Simplicity, Serendipity, Flowering Hearts"  
Taiwan Moon Lute Ballad Jam Session  
(「簡單、隨意、心花開」 臺灣月琴歌謠同樂會)

※ 9/29 Taiwan Moon Lute Ballad Jam Session: Open to all; registration required; register at (02)2893-3088

**Website:** [www.facebook.com/events/259305194185652](http://www.facebook.com/events/259305194185652)

# Charles Landry, Urban Innovator, Reinventing Taipei as a Creative City



## Charles Landry

- Founder of Comedia, a European consultancy working in creativity, culture, and urban change
- Author of *The Creative City: A Toolkit for Urban Innovators* (2000)
- Previously served as advisor to Helsinki, helping it win World Design Capital designation in 2012
- Has served as an advisor to Japan, mainland China, and Hong Kong on Creative City development



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English academic Charles Landry is the author of the best-selling *The Creative City: A Toolkit for Urban Innovators* (2000), published to widespread international acclaim. Among his many ongoing projects, he has been appointed by the British Ministry of Culture to conduct research in Asia and to assist in creative city development. In late June this year he was invited by the city of Taipei to serve as an advisor as it seeks the appropriate transformation blueprint in its quest for recognition as a global creative hub. He's conducting extensive interviews and research here and is helping to construct Taipei's Creative City (創意城市) planning framework. He is also providing targeted analysis and innovative ideas to help the city in its bid for World Design Capital designation in 2016.

Charles has visited Taiwan seven times, and he lived here for a short time earlier this year. He's found that the city has many places and things that are quite a surprise to people from elsewhere, such as the use of convenience stores for tax and other payment services, the local Keep Trash Off the Ground (垃圾不落地) program, the transformation of city neighborhoods into bases of creativity bases, and the existence of small enclaves of great eating spots and small-scale merchandise shops hidden down lanes and alleys. Each of these is a showcase of the city's exceptional creative talent and abundant creative energy. The question is how to best integrate these many advantages and most powerfully demonstrate this city's character, thus attracting more visitors from overseas.

"To be honest, 10 years ago I read in a travel guide that 'Taipei is the ugliest city in the world,' so I felt I had to buy a plane ticket right away to come see for myself." He found that Taipei seemed to be stuck in the concepts of an industrial city. All building and road design simply met functional requirements, exhibiting the monotony of matchboxes, with no thought put into the sensory enjoyment of users. "Yet I fell in love with Taipei then," he says, "because this is such a warm and comfortable city." He sees Taipei as being much like England's Liverpool, a place of strong functionality and con-

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1. Charles says that Taipei's streets and alleys, filled with shops of character, brim with the city's creative energy.
- 2-3. The old Nangang Bottle Cap Factory has been transformed into a creative base, used as a space for innovation expression by young people. (Photo courtesy of URS13)
4. This heritage shophouse in Dadaocheng has been transformed into a creative base where various cultural-arts events are staged. (Photo courtesy of URS127)
5. Zhongshan District's lanes and alleys exhibit the distinctive feel of a creative village.
6. The outdoor space at Café Trouve, in a refurbished old residence, has been used to put into practice community-beautification concepts.

venience where people are approachable and courteous, and are very friendly toward foreign tourists. In his eyes the most pronounced deficiency is the rush toward architectural modernity and the resulting lack of old structures of cultural character.

"After the past 10 years of change and transformation, I find the neighborhoods of Taipei have become even more interesting," he says. The traditional-fabric culture of Dadaocheng (大稻埕) has been built upon to make this neighborhood a fashion center. The backside-street culture of Fujin Street (富錦街) is unique. The Zhongshan District (中山區) has also developed the distinctive feel of a creative village. But in none of these enclaves has the transformation been enough to develop the special representative character of a place like the Champs-Élysées in Paris. "Taipei is still engaged in the search for her representative look and style," says Charles. "How will local people introduce their city to visiting foreigners?" He feels the city already possesses a rich and diverse personality, with its night markets, great food, foot-massage parlors, metro system, and other distinctive attractions. But even if you name 100 such special attractions, you still cannot simplify things to name "what represents Taipei."

"Taipei is a city with great potential," he says, "but if a way cannot be found to show off its special attractions with ingenuity and an original approach, grabbing the attention of tourists, these charms may fade." His new task is to ponder a holistic framework that will make Taipei a design capital, and recommend how the city government can find a balance between the commercial and cultural realms. He feels that the development concepts already being followed, are slowly transforming the city into a creative one, and city – with the steady unveiling of such initiatives as the Taipei Pop Music Center (北部流行音樂中心) project, Taipei Performing Arts Center (臺北藝術中心), Digital Art Center, Taipei (臺北數位藝術中心), and Urban Regeneration Station (都市再生前進基地) program – are all steps in the right direction.

His sincere wish is that the city's bid for World Design Capital status will enable the city government and the local citizensry alike to look anew at Taipei's fundamental characteristics and to move forward together, with more clearly agreed consensus, toward agreed objectives. Charles believes that, whatever the final outcome, the people of Taipei will more deeply understand and love a city they have "grown" themselves. 

# Explorer of Taiwan Singing Talent — Keith Stuart



## Keith Stuart 司徒松

- From Arkansas, USA
- Music composer, producer
- Creator of more than 800 songs



Keith has discovered many new voices, including the well-known rock singer Shin.

Originally a student of vocal music, Keith Stuart came to Taipei to study Chinese, intending to stay just a short time. Little could he know how the warm-heartedness of the local people would affect him, and that he'd be here 20 years later. While most of his fellow American students ended up teaching English, Keith picked up his guitar, singing in local restaurants. He possesses an attractive voice, and also understands composition, so when he performs his repertoire is filled with songs he has created himself. Record companies took notice, setting him on the path of pop-music composition and production in Taiwan.

"The very first song I composed was recorded by Tracy Huang (黃鶯鶯) a popular Taiwan singer in the 1980s," he says. He's arranged, produced or written over 800 tunes since then, and has also worked as an agent/manager, searching high and low for new talent. Among his finds has been Ricky Hsiao (蕭煌奇) and Shin (信), former lead singer of the band Shin (信樂團). "What I look for is not just someone who sounds good," Keith says. "To be a good manager, you have to enlarge the singer's strong points."

Taiwan has strong musical tolerance, he says, and absorbs many musical influences from overseas. The country brims with creative talent, and the character of the music is very rich and wide-ranging. All of this has made Taiwan the beacon for Chinese pop music. "However," he says, "we have a deep problem with the spread of online downloading. Nobody wants to buy CDs anymore, and music companies don't dare to spend the big money needed to produce good music."

Keith now dedicates much of his energy to producing singers' records. He's worked with a succession of big-name Mandarin pop-music singers, including Shunza (順子) and Chyi Chin (齊秦). Over the years he's amassed 25 platinum records (sales of 100,000) and 50 gold records (sales of 50,000).

Keith is now working on new material with such renowned Taiwan artists as Dai Ai Ling (戴愛玲), Roger Yang (楊培安), and Van Fan (范逸臣). "I like Taipei," says Keith. "The people are polite and have respect for others, and the music is diverse and rich." His goal is now to create even more brilliant sparks of artistry in Taiwan pop music and song. 🎵



# Bringing Joy to One and All — ADOGA

Four foreigners living in Taipei meet by chance, and although each has come to Taiwan for a different reason, their shared love of music inspires them to form ADOGA (阿逗仔), a cover band that sings Taiwanese and Mandarin pop tunes and takes great pride in bringing the joys of music to folks in Taiwan.

"You know the Taiwanese pop hits *Wu Nu* (舞女; Dancing Lady) and *You Are My Flower* (你是我的花朵), by Wu Bai (伍佰)?" says drummer Slawek Kolodziei. "Those are our signature tunes." The band was formed in 2008, after the four members were introduced to each other by mutual friends. They found that they each played a different musical instrument as a hobby, and that they were exactly what was needed to make up a band. They chose the Taiwanese term *adoga* (阿逗仔) as the band's name, which refers to Westerners' high noses. "So now," jokes Slawek, "whenever anybody calls us an 'adoga' out on the streets, we take it as proof that we've become famous."

Each of the four members also has other work. Slawek sells 3C products. Lead singer Brandon Thompson is an English teacher who also does dubbing and is an entertainer on local talk/variety shows. They practice in their spare time, and their song repertoire now contains about 100 tunes – Western, Mandarin, and Taiwanese pop hits from the 1970s through 1990s. In the beginning they were interested in just about any kind of performance space, then later began accepting more and more private invitations, becoming a performance group specializing in weddings, year-end parties, and other large social gatherings. They're now hard at work producing their first Mandarin EP, showing off their wide-ranging skills by doing all the creative work, singing, and recording themselves.

Slawek finds the band's wedding gigs especially interesting, because the Taiwan wedding is so different from the Western version, comparatively more serious and solemn. After their performance starts, however, he sees the guests slowly loosen up, and soon there's a sea of laughter and smiles. Being invited to participate in a key life event of local people, say the band members, is the most emotionally rewarding element of what they do. 🎵



## ADOGA 阿逗仔樂團

- Formed in 2008
- **Website:** [www.adogaband.com](http://www.adogaband.com)

1-3 Formed 6 years ago, ADOGA wants to bring the happiness of music to ever more people.

## Introducing Dom — The Chinese Rapper



### Dominick Fresina 帥老外 Dom

- From Texas, USA
- Chinese-language rapper/DJ/composer/remixer/magician
- Proprietor, Lil' America restaurant
- **Website:** [iwantdom.com](http://iwantdom.com)

No, Dom isn't Chinese. His name is Dominick Fresina, he lives in Taipei, he once worked here as an English teacher and nightclub DJ, and now he's a Chinese rapper – as in entertaining audiences in the Chinese language. His ultra-cool stage name is *Shuai Lao Wai* (帥老外), meaning “handsome foreigner,” and in September he's releasing his first Chinese rap-song music album, entitled “Alien Music” (外星人音樂).

After graduating from university, Dominick set off to travel the world. Seven years ago, while traveling around, he bumped

into a friend who said he was teaching English in Taipei. After hearing many an interesting story about the city, Dom decided he was destined to come here to seek his fortune. Once in town he walked into the local nightclubs, volunteering his services as a DJ, and though he didn't get any offers he quickly got a sense of the local market opportunities. In those days only one club stayed open into the morning hours, so he booked the space and ran what he titled his “After Party” from 4 till 7 a.m. He booked a number of other foreign DJs, business was good, and he established a name for himself on the local club scene.

Taking advantage of his growing reputation, Dominick energetically developed his music and other creative pursuits. One example is his Chinese rap songs. He spent time every day writing down English words and then recording the pronunciation of the corresponding Chinese terms (for example, “white board” is “bai ban”). He then constructed his tunes by piecing together rhyming Chinese words into meaningful sentences. Stage-show theatrics were added, as well as entertainment from his magician's bag of tricks, and voila, after he'd created enough songs he had a full show. Entrepreneurs showed interest and offered sponsorship, the media began filing reports, and he started working toward the release of an album.

“I don't do things with a set plan,” he says. “Instead, I grasp opportunities when they present themselves.” While browsing Raohe Street Night Market (饒河街夜市) a while back, he saw that a space was up for lease and jumped right in, thinking that opening a shop in a night market would be an interesting thing to do. “I thought of the deep-fry contests in Texas, so I bought oil and started frying OREO cookies and Snickers bars, and other famous American state fair fried foods. I never thought the shop would be so well received but we've been all over the news and are now opening up a second location.”

Dominick's philosophy of life is that you should never walk away from an opportunity when it shows up. Taipei is a free-thinking and creative city; he's found many opportunities here, and is on the way, he hopes, to one day having “superstar” attached to his name. 🇹🇼

# How to Talk to TAIPEI

Here are a few sentences in Mandarin Chinese and Taiwanese that backpackers can use while in Taipei to ensure smooth sailing.

Are you looking for this CD?

**Mandarin Chinese**

你要找的是這張CD嗎?

Nǐ yào zhǎo de shì zhè zhāng CD ma?

How much is this CD?

**Taiwanese**

這張CD多少錢?

Jì duan CD wǎ zéi jīn?



Excuse me, can you tell me where I can listen to live music around here?

**Mandarin Chinese**

請問，這附近哪裡可聽現場演唱?

Qǐngwèn, zhè fùjìn nǎlǐ kě tīng xiànchǎng yǎnchàng?

Excuse me, can you tell me how to get to Taipei Arena?

**Mandarin Chinese**

請問臺北小巨蛋，怎麼去?

Qǐngwèn táiběi xiǎo jù dàn, zěnmé qù?



This song sounds really nice. What is it called?

**Mandarin Chinese**

這首歌真好聽，歌名是什麼?

Zhèshǒu gē zhēn hǎotīng, gē míng shì shénme?

Please sing that again.

**Taiwanese**

請再唱一次，

Qiā gōu xiù jǐ gài.





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# Taipei Launches Its Bid for 2016 World Design Capital Status

On June 29, Taipei City Government formally announced the city's entry into the competition for World Design Capital (WDC) laurels in 2016. Under the WDC program, originated by the International Council of Societies of Industrial Design (ICSID), every two years a professional panel of judges reviews applications submitted by cities. They then choose the city deemed to be the best urban-design exemplars, and bestows on them the title of World Design Capital.

Turin was declared the World Design Capital title holder in 2008, Seoul in 2010, Helsinki in 2012, and Cape Town in 2014. These cities were selected because they have energetically created environments and conditions conducive to design-industry development, and because they have understood how to utilize design concepts to address the major development issues they have faced. They have also discovered

solutions that inspire admiration, greatly accelerating and improving the quality of urban development.

Taipei is Taiwan's leading city, and a key example of the global process of internationalization of cities. Hence, a clear design perspective is needed for the city's march into the future, ensuring the formulation of a cross-generation development blueprint. The primary objective in the WDC Taipei 2016 bid is to implement a "Design Is People" concept, and a program of urban-renewal projects has been launched that will improve the quality of the metropolitan environment and enrich the lives of its citizens. In September and October two special series of activities are being staged that are designed to serve as the vanguard in the WDC Taipei 2016 quest, adding to the richness and diversity of the city's cultural life.



## 2012 Taiwan Designers' Week – Showcasing Taiwan's Contemporary Design Prowess

International cities with reputations for design, among them Tokyo, Milan, New York, London, Hong Kong, Bangkok, and Berlin, invariably stage “design week” events. These gatherings are a grand annual showcase celebration of a city's design energy, thinking, and style, and markedly improve inter-city exchanges while enhancing a city's international visibility.

The 2012 Taiwan Designers' Week (2012台灣設計師週) is the sixth time this event is being held. This year, it will take place for the first time at the EXPO Dome in Taipei Expo Park (花博公園爭艷館). The theme is “FLOW: The Power of Forward.” It symbolizes the development of design from past to present, but also the never-ending drive of local designers, through inspiration and originality, to explore and develop the boundless possibilities and new opportunities that will define the future.

Complementing the city as it steps up to the plate this year to seek 2016 WDC status, the following 12 sections will comprise this year's Taiwan Designers' Week: Theme Zone (主題聯展), TWDW Presents (大會主題展), 3X3 Design Show (設計產業形象展), Rising Star (設計星勢力), Design Bazaar (設計市集), Design Workshop (設計工作營), Let's Talk Design (設計論壇), Go Design (逛設計), Buy Design (買設計), Design Links (城市設計串聯), Open House (設計開放日), and Design Cinema (設計影展). This will be the largest edition of this event to date, with the most comprehensive display of the features of local designers and the local design industry.

In the Theme Zone, the core section of 2012 Taiwan Designers' Week, you can enjoy the latest inspirations from designers of various professional concentrations, focusing on ten themes. You'll learn about the concerns that Taiwan designers bring to their work, such as their reflections on the normalcy of daily life, the incorporation of local cultural memories, and environmental sustainability and symbiosis.

1. Taipei City Government has formally announced, to Taiwan and the world, the city's quest for 2016 World Design Capital laurels.
2. Works of furniture design at the 3X3 Design Show section of Taiwan Designers' Week, repeated winners of national awards.
- 3-4. The highly diverse exhibits at Taiwan Designers' Week show off the myriad features of Taiwan's design industry and designers.
- 5-6. Posters from the Design Cinema section, for *Indie Game: The Movie* and *Design and Thinking*.



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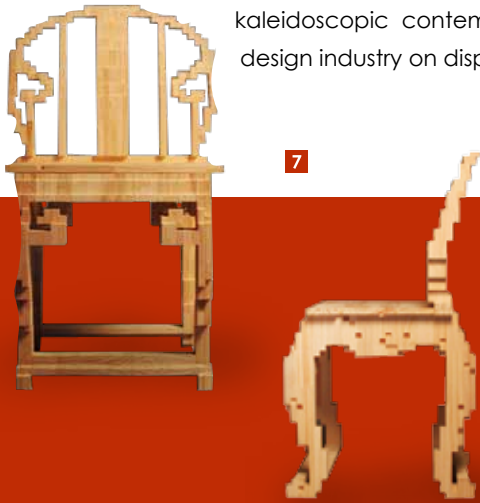


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Another especially significant section is the 3X3 Design Show. The organizer states that the main goal behind this show is to encourage independent designers, designer brands, and design enterprises and organizations to present and convey the philosophy behind each of their design. The section has grown this year to about 75 brands and design teams, 70% participating for the first time, including teams from Sweden, Germany, and Japan. The designs are to be divided into 12 fields, including stationery, daily necessities, eating utensils, digital interactivity, fashion, and image creation. Each category will have its own pavilion, intended to stimulate dialogues and inspirational sparkles with the kaleidoscopic contemporary Taiwanese design industry on display.

The international community has created many splendid documentary works, but few in Taiwan have been created on the subject of its design industry. Design Cinema has thus been added as a new section this year, with the hope that the original creative works showcased will vividly convey design concepts, and help audiences to better understand the substantive content of such fields as industrial design, visual design, and spatial design.

After wandering through all the sections, be sure to pick up a copy of the show's specially created guidebook, or download the guidebook app. Using the Design Links and Go Design travel guidance, wander along Taipei's main streets, side streets, and hidden byways in search of a whole series of pleasant design surprises, among them restaurants and cafes with vivid character.



- 7. In the Rising Star section are furniture works by designers employing challenging craft techniques and fusing old and new.
- 8-10. In the Zhongshan-Shuanglian block: SPOT-Taipei Film House, Garden City Bookstore, URS21.
- 11. In the Guling Street block: Nanhai Gallery.
- 12. In the East District block: VVG Something.
- 13. In the Tianmu block: Tianmu Market.

## 2012 Taipei Design City Expo – A Look at Good City Design

Many tourists from overseas have commented that much of Taipei's beauty resides in the local culture found both on the streets and in back alleys. Much of Taipei's abundant creative energies also flourish in large part down its side streets, inconspicuous from the outer thoroughfares. In October Taipei City Government is staging the first-ever Taipei Design City Expo (臺北設計城市展) at Songshan Cultural and Creative Park (松山文創園區). The expo is a declaration of the city's determination in its quest for World Design Capital designation in 2016.

The expo will have four main exhibit areas – "Social Design Manifested" (社會設計概念展), "Presentation of Urban Solutions through Design Incorporation in Nine Main Domains" (設計之都九大領域設計深化推廣成果展),





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"Designed in Taipei Fair" (臺北設計主題博覽會), and "Works from the Taipei Creative Academy Camp" (臺北創意學院工作營成果展). Overall, the expo will explore concepts and achievements surrounding the idea of "Design City." It will also showcase an impressive array of independent designer brands.

The expo gathers the efforts of the design elite from all fields and presents them in one location for all to explore the best of Taipei design. In addition to this gathering there is also a city-wide event called "Design Blocks" (設計街區) that features a selection of neighborhoods in which creative professionals and business owners present an array of programs and events that showcase local creative achievements, but also continue to strengthen the connection and conversation between local culture and the creative industry.

The four city blocks being featured are Zhongshan-Shuanglian area (中山雙連街區), East District (城東街區), Guling St. area (牯嶺街街區), and Tianmu area (天母街區). What is common to these areas is that in each, residents and professionals have shared the belief in the power of creativity and sought to transform their neighbourhoods through collective creative efforts. These are areas that reflect Taipei's emerging creative-clustering phenomenon, exemplifying the interplay of creative people and urban development.

According to the city's Department of Cultural Affairs (臺北市文化局), "Design Blocks" will highlight the creative character and vitality of chosen areas, bringing citizens and visitors into intimate contact with "people first" design. They will see how good design brings greater convenience to a city and the different



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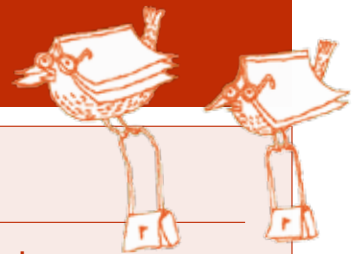
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social groups that inhabit it, and the crucial role that design plays in everyday life. The misconception that design is something too elevated for ordinary people to understand is being challenged; and hence the barriers between people and design can be knocked down. With a goal of enhancing the quality of life for their residents as its foundation, "Design Blocks" celebrates the uniqueness of local character and strengthens local vitality and competitiveness.

As the metropolis of Taipei transforms itself, such milestones as the city's WDC Taipei 2016 bid, 2012 Taipei Designers' Week, and 2012 Taipei Design City Expo will serve as optimal driving forces that makes this city more attractive and design-perfect. A grand metamorphosis of the city is under way—let's be the witness as it develops. 



## Information

### 2012 Taiwan Designers' Week

#### 2012 台灣設計師週

**Time:** 9/14~9/23; Mon~Thurs 10:00~20:30,  
Fri~Sun 10:00~21:00

**Venue:** EXPO Dome, Taipei Expo Park (花博公園爭艷館)

**Website:** [www.designersweek.tw](http://www.designersweek.tw)

### 2012 Taipei Design City Expo 2012 臺北設計城市展

**Venue:** Songshan Cultural and Creative Park  
(松山文創園區)

**Time:** 10/5~10/28, daily 09:00~18:00

**Website:** [www.taipeidesign.org.tw](http://www.taipeidesign.org.tw)

### 2012 Taipei Design City Expo — Design Blocks

#### 2012 臺北設計城市展—設計街區

**Time:** 10/5~10/28

**Venues:** Zhongshan North Rd., Shuanglian Area, East District Area, Guling St. Area, Tianmu Area (中山雙連街區、城東街區、牯嶺街街區、天母街區)



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14-15. In Taipei's East District: Songshan Cultural and Creative Park.





## Taipei Story House – The Story of Carrier Bags

Carrier bags are functional, yet can also be used to make a fashion statement. The Taipei Story House (台北故事館) itself something of a fashion statement, is staging the Story of Carrier Bags Exhibition (手提袋的故事展) until October 28. Inside you can explore the last century of the carrier bag's history, culminating in today's blend of eco-friendliness and chic, while at the same time taking a journey through the past to the present.

The exhibit is divided into six sections: industry, creativity, emotion, memories, Taiwanese culture, and international fashion. There are over 600 works on display. On the first level is the "Carrier Bags – An Industry" (手提袋，是一種產業) section, featuring bags made from rush grass and other traditional sources, along with old film showing how hard human work was so central to the process. In the "Carrier Bags – A Design" (手提袋，是一種設計) section, eco-friendliness married with functionality is the focus. The handbags created by Taiwan designer Wu Shangche (吳尚哲; an iF Award winner this year) are being featured – they're made from 100% recycled bags. Also being featured are handbags created by another 20 cutting-edge Taiwan designers.

On the second floor is "Carrier Bags – A Sentiment" (手提袋，是一種情感). The personal bags of numerous intellectuals, professionals, and creative workers have been gathered, each with its own compelling story. "Carrier Bags – A Memory" (手提袋，是一種記憶) has a nostalgic collection of bags from Taiwan's past, from department stores and other retailers. It's designed to be enjoyed in tandem with the section "Carrier Bags

– A Taiwan Culture" (手提袋，是一種臺灣文化). This area presents today's famous shops and souvenir items, showing visitors the strength of contemporary local design.

Come visit the Taipei Story House this autumn. This heritage building takes you on a journey into the past, and the exhibit takes you on an unusual journey into the world of the carrier bag. 📍

1. "Carrier Bags – A Sentiment" features the personal bags of many well-known public figures.
2. "Carrier Bags – An Industry" section featuring bags made from rush grass and other traditional sources.

### Information

#### Story of Carrier Bags Exhibition 手提袋的故事展

**Time:** Until 10/28

**Venue:** Taipei Story House (台北故事館)

**Add:** 181-1, Sec. 3, Zhongshan N. Rd. (中山北路3段181-1號)

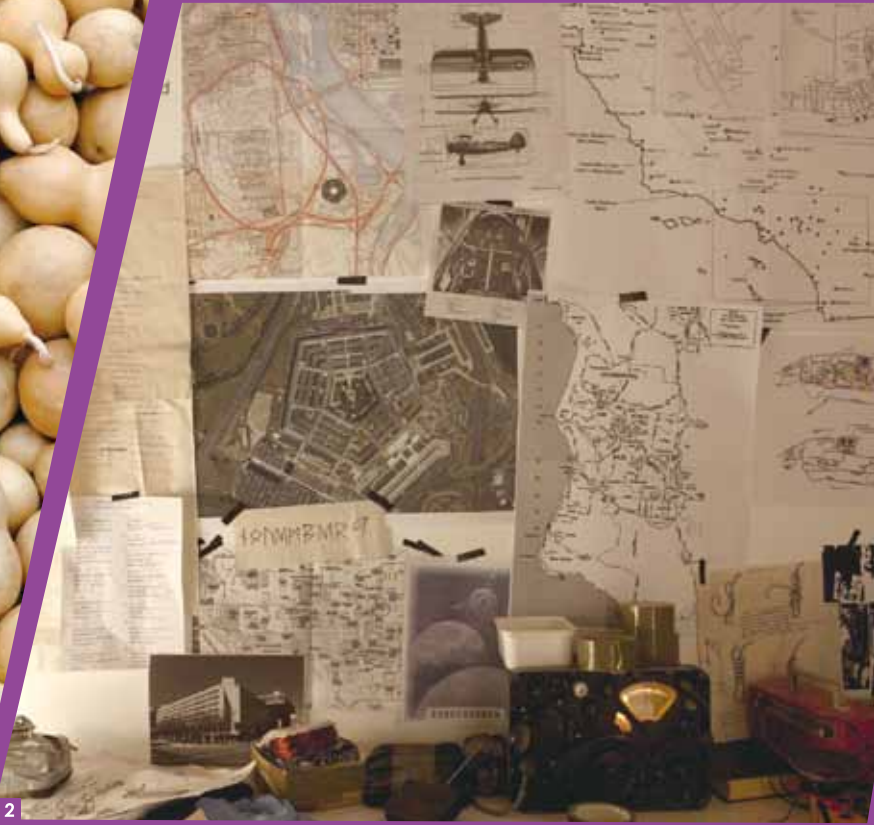
**Tel:** (02)2587-5565

**Website:** [www.storyhouse.com.tw](http://www.storyhouse.com.tw)



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# Renaissance of the Monster That Is History— Taipei Biennial 2012

The Taipei Biennial (台北雙年展) reflects developments in the world of contemporary art, and the 2012 edition is being curated by Berlin-based freelance curator and writer Anselm Franke, whose starting point is the idea that “The monster that is history, restricts our thoughts on the past.” His hope is that through works of art, spectators will be inspired to reimagine their memories of life in the past. His desire is to subvert the way we look at time, changing common thinking on mankind and life via an Asian frame of reference and utilizing a diversity of works by international contemporary artists.

Franke's chosen theme is *Modern Monster / Death and Life of Fiction* (現代怪獸 / 想像的死而復生). His inspiration is local literary historian David Der-Wei Wang's (王德威) recent study of Chinese literature, entitled *The Monster That Is History* (歷史與怪獸). History, in Wang's book, is identified with the vicious ancient Chinese monster Taowu (檮杌), which had the ability to see both future and past. This can be seen as a reflection of today's global capitalism, also seen as an all-

consuming monster, which impacts our lives deeply but is something we choose not to see.

A total of over 40 individual artists and artist collectives have been invited to participate in this year's exhibit. There are nine artists from Taiwan, including Chang Chaotang (張照堂), Chen Chiehjen (陳界仁), Kao Chungli (高重黎), James T. Hong (洪子健), and Jao Chiaen (饒加恩). The artists interpret history from multiple perspectives, and approximately one-third of the works on display have been specially created for this show. A series of six large-scale Mini-Museums (微型博物館) has been organized for the Biennale, entitled *The Museum of Rhythm* (韻律), *The Museum of Ante-Memorials* (紀念), *The Museum of the Monster That Is History* (歷史與怪獸), *The Museum of Gourd* (葫蘆), *The Museum of the Infrastructural Unconsciousness* (基底無意識), and *The Museum of Crossings* (跨越). In addition to the works on display on the first through third floors at the Taipei Fine Arts Museum, four video installations are on display at the Shilin Paper Mill (士林紙廠) exhibit area.




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1. The Museum of Gourd curated by Chihiro MINATO.
2. The Turner Archives, by Chen Yinju.
3. Bilbao Song, by Peter Friedl.
4. Rajkamal Kahlon's *Did You Kiss the Dead Body?*.

This year a special concept expressed in the exhibited works is the idea that “the body is also a carrier of historical writing.” One example is the work *The Report of G* (G報告), featured in *The Museum of the Monster That Is History*, the Mini-Museum co-curated by Taiwan director James T. Hong and Anselm Franke. This work utilizes documentation on Second World War chemical and biological weapons experiments carried out on humans by the Japanese in mainland China's northeast.

Among the other works you'll see is *The Taste of Human Flesh* (人肉的滋味), a new creation by Taiwan artist Kao Chungli. He uses photos to tell the story of his father, who went through the civil war in China between the Nationalists and Communists, was shot, and came to Taiwan with the bullet still lodged in his body. *Did You Kiss the Dead Body?* by Indian artist Rajkamal Kahlon, uses the autopsy reports of U.S. military personnel killed in Afghanistan and Iraq, unexpectedly exposing the violence within a public, rational framework.

Many of the other works are reflections on the audience's single-minded vision of what the term

“progress” means. The crisis faced by the culture of global capitalism and the brutal impact of its monster-like character are explored, and its dialectical contradictions are dissected. In Franke's words, “It is only by reimagining our past that we can ponder a different vision of our future.” 

## Information

### Taipei Biennial 2012: Modern Monster / Death and Life of Fiction

2012台北雙年展：現代怪獸 / 想像的死而復生

**Time:** 9/29 to 1/13/2013

**Venue:** Taipei Fine Arts Museum (臺北市立美術館)

**Addr:** 181, Sec. 3, Zhongshan N. Rd. (中山北路3段181號)

**Tel:** (02)2595-7656

**Website:** www.taipeibiennial.org

**Shilin Paper Mill Exhibit Area** 士林紙廠展區

**Tel:** (02)2595-7656

**Addr:** 31, Fude Rd. (福德路31號)

# Youth and Citizenship

## 2012 CNEX Documentary Film Festival

CNEX is a non-profit foundation established in 2007 by lovers of documentary film based in Taiwan, mainland China, and Hong Kong, and is devoted to the production and promotion of documentary films. The

foundation launched its annual film festival and related activities in 2008, intended as a promotion and idea-exchange platform for a new generation of Chinese documentary creators, supporting industry professionals and creating an audiovisual and textual library recording the development of Chinese society.

The “Youth and Citizenship” CNEX Documentary Film Festival will be staged from September 29 to October 7. Contributors' camera lenses roam the globe to explore the world of the younger generation. Whether it is campus life, getting married and starting a family, heading to the big city and returning home, renting or buying a home, the differences between the ideal and reality while traveling down the road of life are depicted. At the same time the documentaries show young people stepping out into the world to participate in community and public affairs, and the interplay between innocence and maturity, public and private, and tradition vs. the future. What sort of new social citizen will take shape? What type of civil society will emerge?

There are six film sections. In Youth and Politics (青春與政治), the focus is on the revolutionary

power of young citizens, and on reactionary consciousness around the world. Self-Awareness and Realization of Youth (青春的自我意識與實踐) explores the immersion of today's young generation in a virtual world of sensory pleasure, and the social impact this will have. In the section The Must-Know Public Issues (青年不可不知的公共議題), the hope is to stimulate a sense of concern for public issues among young people. In the Feature: Animated Documentary (動畫紀錄片), Filmmaker in Focus (大師專題), and Feature: Music Documentary (音樂專題) sections, approximately 50 related documentary works from Taiwan, the rest of the Chinese-speaking world, and the international arena have been selected for screening, to be accompanied by extended discussion activities.

The Filmmaker in Focus section is one not to be missed. One of the filmmakers being highlighted is Arthur Dong (曾奕田), an American director of Chinese descent. His work *Hollywood Chinese* is a detailed record of the struggles of Chinese Americans in

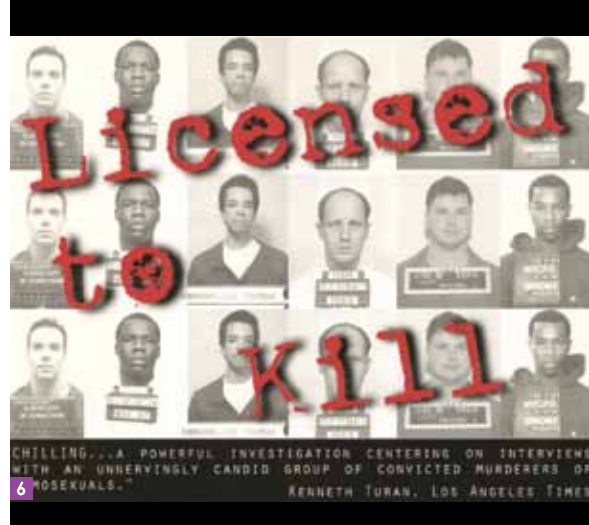




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Hollywood. *Licensed to Kill* features interviews with a group of prison inmates convicted of anti-gay assault or murder, discovering how they themselves are also injured and wounded.

One of the films in the Feature: Music Documentary section is *Hit So Hard: The Life & Near Death Story of Patty Schemel*. This outstanding work chronicles the struggles with fame and addiction of the drummer in the band Hole, led by Courtney Love, one of the most controversial figures in the history of rock music. *When the Drum Is Beating* tells the story of Haiti over the past 60 years—tormented by earthquake, tsunami, and sickness – through the words and music of the country's oldest and best-known band.

Another special highlight of the festival is the CNEX Doc Academy (CNEX紀錄片學院), being held September 28 to October 2. There will be an opening general assembly with a documentary pitching forum, master workshops, producer workshops, and other

gatherings. Those interested in documentary filmmaking can learn about the method for pitching proposals at the general assembly, the preferences of international buyers and commissioning editors, preferred subject matter, storylines and narrative technique, and other matters. If you'd like to participate, note that the sign-up deadline is September 26; details are available on the official website ([ccdf.cnex.org.tw](http://ccdf.cnex.org.tw)).



Unlike the stories told in feature films, in documentaries those doing the recording and those being recorded experience the story together. At this year's CNEX gathering the starting point is the exuberance of life as experienced by the young, and you are invited to participate in the awakening and fulfillment of civic consciousness. 

1. "Youth and Citizenship" is the theme of this year's CNEX Documentary Film Festival.
2. Famed film director Ang Lee (left) and documentary director Arthur Dong (right), both of Chinese descent.
3. The festival's general assembly documentary pitching forum is open to all those interested, as participant or observer.
4. A still from *Hit So Hard*.
5. A still from *When the Drum Is Beating*.
6. A still from *Licensed to Kill*.

## Information

### "Youth and Citizenship" 2012 CNEX Documentary Film Festival

2012 CNEX青春有為主題紀錄片影展

**Time:** 9/29~10/7

**Venues:** Eslite Bookstore, Dunhua and Xinyi outlets (誠品敦南店、誠品信義店), Vie Show Cinemas-Xinyi (信義威秀影城)

**Website:** [fest.cnex.org.tw](http://fest.cnex.org.tw)

**Facebook Page:** [www.facebook.com/cnextw](http://www.facebook.com/cnextw)  
(Please contact ERA Ticket for ticket purchases)

### CNEX Doc Academy CNEX紀錄片學院

**Time:** 9/28~10/2

**Venue:** Zhongshan Hall (中山堂)

**Tel:** (02)2322-4228

**Website:** [ccdf.cnex.org.tw](http://ccdf.cnex.org.tw)

# 2012 Kuandu Arts Festival — Celebrating TNUA's 30th Anniversary by Unleashing Art's Power



1

The Taipei National University of the Arts (國立臺北藝術大學; TNUA) is 30 years old this year. Each year the university organizes the Kuandu Arts Festival (關渡藝術節), bringing together groups of artists from around Taiwan and overseas through the month of October in an international arts festival with a strong local focus. This year's event is summed up by the acronym A.C.T., which stands for Action, Creation, Transformation (行動, 創意, 轉變), echoing the university's "30 years of unleashing art's power" (三十年而力). TNUA's boundless creative energies will be displayed in a grand showcase of music, dance, drama, exhibits, and a film festival.



2

The Kuandu Arts Festival seeks to boldly break through artistic boundaries and established viewpoints. Former teachers and students from the university's music department have been invited back to give a number of chamber-music performances, and Japanese musician Kazue Mizushima and choreographer Midori Yaegashi have collaborated to create *Stringraphy* (搭通音樂線), in which myriad musical-device installations transform a space into a large harp, creating beautiful sounds and regaling audiences with a "visible sound performance."

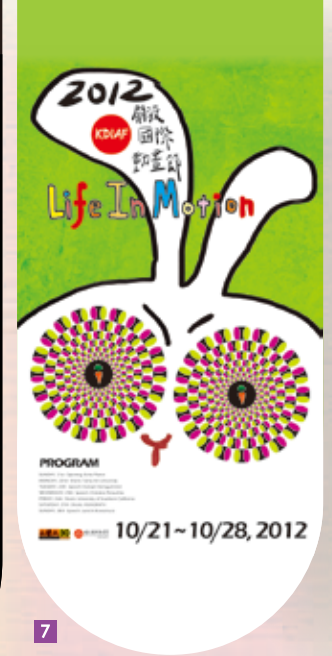


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In the theater section, the spotlight is on director Tang Shuwing (鄧樹榮), who has been described as "one of the most talented theater directors of Hong Kong." He uses storytelling, music, and dance in the work *Titus Andronicus 2.0* (泰特斯2.0), a reinterpretation of Shakespeare, which was featured at the 2012 London Cultural Olympiad. In *The Dream*, an adaptation of Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* by South Korea's Theatre Company DOMO, a world of dreamy reverie is created that allows viewers to revisit their hopes and dreams.

The dance program is also splendid. Modern-dance choreographer Mathilde Monnier has worked with visual artists to create *Soapéra*, during which foam fills the entire stage, encouraging feelings of surprise and wonder among spectators.

1. *Stringraphy*, by Japanese musician Kazue Mizushima and Japanese choreographer Midori Yaegashi.
2. The main visual for the 2012 Kuandu Arts Festival.
3. Modern-dance choreographer Mathilde Monnier has worked with visual artists to create *Soapéra*.



The hip-hop dance duet *Monchichi*, created by Sébastien Ramirez (a Frenchman with Catalan and Spanish roots) explores questions of identity among second- and third-generation immigrants. South Africa's The Forgotten Angle Theatre Collaborative (FATC), winner of a great many awards, reinterprets Shakespeare using dance in *I Think It's Hamlet*, a work steeped in social concern.

The Kuandu Museum of Fine Arts (關渡美術館) is staging the 2012 Kuandu Biennale: Artist in Wonderland (「藝想世界」2012關渡雙年展). Ten artists from 10 different parts of Asia, each from a different cultural background, are working with 10 curators on a series of shows, presenting their combined outlook on the current situation in Asian contemporary art.

The 2012 Kuan-Du Film Festival (2012關渡電影節) features works of all genres by teachers and students from film schools in Taiwan, Japan, South Korea, Thailand, the Philippines, Singapore, and elsewhere in the region. There is also a special section, the Indian Film Program, during which Indian new-wave film directors will chair discussion sessions.

The theme for the 2012 Kuandu International Animation Festival (2012國際動畫影展), now Taiwan's largest animation festival, is "Life in Motion" (生·動). Japan's ASIAGRAPH will be represented, focusing on idea exchange and the premiere of new creations, and audiences will be able to choose from a program of almost 100 animation works being screened.

International talent from the University of Southern California and Thai animation directors will also hold discussion sessions with audiences.

As summer exits stage left, and autumn enters stage right, take advantage of the cool and comfy weather to head out to the beautiful green campus of Taipei National University of the Arts at Kuandu, and at the same time why not embark on a fascinating artistic journey? 🎨

4. South Africa's The Forgotten Angle Theatre Collaborative reinterprets Shakespeare in *I Think It's Hamlet*.
5. The HuiDance troupe is premiering *The Door*.
6. Director Tang Shuwing challenges Shakespeare, uses storytelling, music, and body dance, in *Titus Andronicus 2.0*.
7. The poster for the 2012 Kuandu International Animation Festival.

## Information

### Kuandu Arts Festival 2012關渡藝術節

**Time:** 10/3~10/28

**Venue:** Taipei National University of the Arts  
(國立臺北藝術大學)

**Add:** 1, Xueyuan Rd. (學園路1號)

**Tel:** (02)2893-8130

**Website:** [kdarts.tnua.edu.tw/festival/2012](http://kdarts.tnua.edu.tw/festival/2012)

2012 9/10

September-October  
Arts Exhibition Calendar



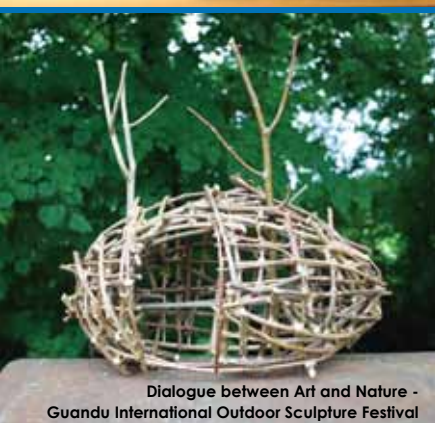
Going Forward, Going For Money –  
The New Biography of  
Veterans Wu Shaoxiang and Jiang Shuo



Lifting the Spirit and Body: The Art and  
Culture of Snuff Bottles



Salvador Dali: Mind of Genius



Dialogue between Art and Nature -  
Guandu International Outdoor Sculpture Festival

### Museum of Contemporary Art, Taipei (MOCA Taipei)

Tel: (02)2552-3721

Add: 39, Chang'an W. Rd. (長安西路 39 號)

Website: www.mocataipei.org.tw

Until 9/30

Toilet Project Taipei

9/28~10/28

Going Forward, Going For Money –  
The New Biography of  
Veterans Wu Shaoxiang and Jiang Shuo

Until 11/11

Crush on EMU

### National Palace Museum

Tel: (02)2881-2021

Add: 221, Sec. 2, Zhishan Rd. (至善路 2 段 221 號)

Website: www.npm.gov.tw

Until 2013/6/20

Lifting the Spirit and Body:  
The Art and Culture of Snuff Bottles

9/29~2013/3/31

Mapping the Imperial Realm –  
Exhibition of Ancient Maps

10/8~2013/1/7

The Cultural Grandeur of the Western Zhou  
Dynasty

### National Theater & Concert Hall

Tel: (02)3393-9888

Add: 21-1, Zhongshan S. Rd. (中山南路 21-1 號)

Website: www.ntch.edu.tw

Until 9/23

Cloud Gate Dance Theatre of Taiwan(Nine Songs)

9/27~9/28

Legendary Violin Master Accardo Recital

10/11~10/12

NSO Classics – Big Nightmare Music –  
Igudesman & Joo

### National Chiang Kai-shek Memorial Hall

Tel: (02)2343-1100

Add: 21, Zhongshan S. Rd. (中山南路 21 號)

Website: www.ntdmh.gov.tw

Until 9/23

The Dawn of the Dinosaurs

Until 9/30

Salvador Dali: Mind of Genius

### Treasure Hill Artist Village

Tel: (02)2364-5313

Add: 2, Aly.14, Ln. 230, Sec. 3, Tingzhou Rd.  
(汀州路 3 段 230 巷 14 弄 2 號)

Website: www.artistvillage.org

9/22~10/14

The Site

### National Museum of History

Tel: (02)2361-0270

Add: 49, Nanhai Rd. (南海路 49 號)

Website: www.nmh.gov.tw

10/16~2013/1/8

Petit Louvre

### National Taiwan Science Education Center

Tel: (02)6610-1234

Add: 189, Shishang Rd. (士商路 189 號)

Website: www.ntsec.gov.tw

Until 10/7

Secrets of Emperor Qin Shihuang's Mausoleum  
and The Terracotta Warriors and Horses Exhibition

Until 11/30

Our Land Our Story –  
Environmental Aerial Film and Photo Exhibition

### Huashan 1914 Creative Park

Tel: (02)2358-1914

Add: 1, Sec. 1, Bade Rd. (八德路 1 段 1 號)

Website: web.huashan1914.com

Until 9/30

SEER Special Exhibit

9/29~9/30

TEDxTaipei

10/4~11/4

Huashan Living Arts Festival

Until 10/28

B'InL!ve B'In!side – The Making of A Super Concert

### Songshan Cultural and Creative Park

Tel: (02)2765-1388

Add: 133, Guangfu S. Rd. (光復南路 133 號)

Website: www.songshanculturalpark.org

Until 9/23

Ultimate 3D: The Wonder of Holography

Until 10/14

Nathan Sawaya – The Art of the Brick

### National Dr. Sun Yat-sen Memorial Hall

Tel: (02)2758-8008

Add: 505, Sec. 4, Ren'ai Rd. (仁愛路 4 段 505 號)

Website: www.yatsen.gov.tw

Until 9/23

Robot Story

10/12~10/14

Franz & Friends' Voyage Undersea

### Chung Shan Creative Hub URS21

Tel: (02)2562-1617

Add: 21, Sec. 1, Minsheng E. Rd.  
(民生東路 1 段 21 號)

Website: www.jut-arts.org.tw

9/15 & 9/22

Creative Lab

### Guandu Nature Park

Tel: (02)2858-7417

Add: 55, Guandu Rd. (關渡路 55 號)

Website: your.gd-park.org.tw

Until 12/30

Dialogue between Art and Nature – Guandu  
International Outdoor Sculpture Festival



# How To Get from Taiwan Taoyuan International Airport to Taipei

For traveling between Taipei and Taiwan Taoyuan International Airport, whether by inexpensive, high-quality coach, safe and fast taxi, or high-grade professional airport limo service, you're spoiled for choice in satisfying your particular time and budget.



**The Transportation Map of Taiwan Taoyuan International Airport Terminal I & II**

## Taxi

### Service locations:

North of the Arrivals hall of Terminal I and South of the Arrivals hall of Terminal II

### One-way fare:

meter count plus 15%, with freeway tolls extra; average fare to Taipei around NT\$1,100.

### Terminal I Arrivals hall taxi-service counter

Tel: (03) 398-2832

### Terminal II Arrivals hall taxi-service counter

Tel: (03) 398-3599

## Passenger Coach Bus

### Service locations:

Southwest of the Arrivals hall of Terminal I (exterior vehicle pickup corridor) and Northeast of the Arrivals hall of Terminal II (exterior vehicle pickup corridor)

### Coach-service companies:

Taiwan Bus Corp., Evergreen Bus, Free Go Express, Citi Air Bus, U Bus

### One-way fare: NT\$85~145

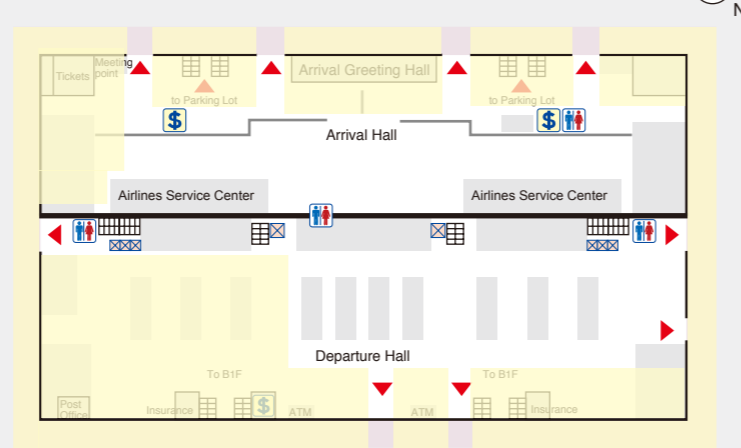
### Travel time:

40~60 minutes depending on routes (60~90 minutes for Citi Air Bus, which has more stops)

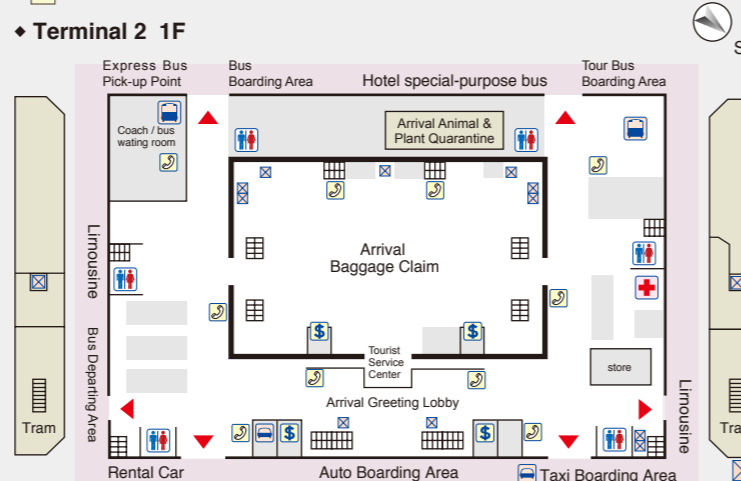
### Schedule:

Every 15~20 minutes (Citi Air Bus 20~30 minutes)

### ◆ Terminal 1 1F



### ◆ Terminal 2 1F



- { INDEX }
- Outdoor
  - Bus Station
  - Taxi Station
  - Toilet
  - Health Center
  - Telephone
  - Elevator
  - Moving Walkway
  - Foreign Currency Exchange

## NOTICE

In order to facilitate inquiries by the public, the city government has set up the 1999 Taipei Citizen Hotline. Whether by telephone, mobile phone, or Internet phone (public telephones and prepaid cellphone cards excluded), dial 1999 for free access. There is a time limit, with service personnel restricted to 10-minute service availability, and a 10-minute limit on call transfers. Citizens are asked to make the most efficient use of this resource, making all calls as brief as possible.

For more information, call 1999 or visit [www.rdec.taipei.gov.tw](http://www.rdec.taipei.gov.tw)

## TAIWAN EMERGENCY TELEPHONE NUMBERS

### Police / 110

Crimes, traffic accidents, and other incidents for which police assistance is needed

### Fire / 119

Fire, injury or accident, or other urgent matters for which emergency relief is needed

### Women and Children Protection Hotline / 113 ext. 0

24-hour emergency, legal information, and psychological services for victims of domestic violence and/or sexual abuse.

## NON-EMERGENCY TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Unit	Tel. No.
Taipei City Govt. Citizen Hotline	1999
English Directory Service	106
IDD Telephone Service Hotline	0800-080-100 ext.9
Time-of-Day Service	117
Weather Bureau	166
Traffic Reports	168
Tourism Bureau (MOTC) 24-Hour Toll-Free Travel Information Hotline	0800-011-765
Tourism Bureau (MOTC) Toll-Free Traveler Complaints Hotline	0800-211-734
International Community Service Hotline	0800-024-111
Tourism Bureau Information Counter, Taiwan Taoyuan International Airport	Terminal 1: (03)398-2194 Terminal 2: (03)398-3341
Bureau of Foreign Trade	(02) 2351-0271
Taiwan External Trade Development Council (TAITRA)	(02) 2725-5200
Taiwan Visitors Association	(02) 2594-3261
The Japanese Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Taipei	(02) 2522-2163
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	(02) 2348-2999
Ministry of Foreign Affairs Citizens Hotline	(02) 2380-5678
Police Radio Station	(02) 2388-8099
English Hotline for Taxi Service	0800-055-850 ext.2
Consumer Service Center Hotline	1950
Bureau of National Health Insurance Information Hotline	0800-030-598 ext.3
AIDS Information Hotline	0800-888-995

### Source for Above Information:

Information For Foreigners Service / Tel: 0800-024-111  
Tourism Bureau, Ministry of Transportation and Communications  
Tel: (02) 2349-1500

※ Entries in blue indicate service in English provided

## LIST OF TAIPEI VISITOR INFORMATION CENTERS

**Taipei Main Station Visitor Information Center**  
(02) 2312-3256 1F, 3, Beiping W. Rd.

**Songshan Airport Visitor Information Center**  
(02) 2546-4741 340-10, Dunhua N. Rd.

**East Metro Mall Visitor Information Center**  
(02) 6638-0059  
Underground Mall 4-2, 77, Sec.1, Da'an Rd.

**MRT Ximen Station Visitor Information Center**  
(02) 2375-3096 B1, 32-1, Baoqing Rd.

**MRT Yuanshan Station Visitor Information Center**  
(02) 2591-6130 9-1, Jiuquan St.

**MRT Jiantan Station Visitor Information Center**  
(02) 2883-0313  
65, Sec. 5, Zhongshan N. Rd.

**MRT Beitou Station Visitor Information Center**  
(02) 2894-6923 1, Guangming Rd.

**Taipei City Hall Bus Station Visitor Information Center**  
(02) 2723-6836 6, Sec. 5, Zhongxiao E. Rd.

**Plum Garden Visitor Center**  
(02) 2897-2647 6, Zhongshan Rd.

**Miramar Entertainment Visitor Center**  
(02) 8501-2762 20, Jingye 3rd Rd.

**Maokong Gondola Taipei Zoo Station Visitor Center**  
(02) 8661-7627  
2, Lane 10, Sec. 2, Xinguang Rd.  
(1F, Maokong Gondola Service Center)

**Maokong Gondola Maokong Station Visitor Center**  
(02) 2937-8563  
35, Lane 38, Sec. 3, Zhinan Rd.  
(Exit area, Maokong Station)

## Cool Play in Ximending (P32~P35) Map



## Cool Play in Ximending (P32~P35) Tour Information



### Cool Play in Ximending

#### Taipei Hero House – Friends of Armed Forces Association Restaurant

臺北國軍英雄館 - 軍友餐廳  
**Add:** 2F, 20, Sec. 1, Changsha St. (長沙街1段20號2樓)  
**Tel:** (02)2371-8237

#### The Red House 西門紅樓

**Add:** 10, Chengdu Rd. (成都路10號)  
**Time:** (02)2311-9380  
**Hours:** Tues~Sun 11:00~21:30, Fri~Sat extended hours 11:00~22:00 (closed Mon); the Creative Boutique and The Cradle of Cultural Creative Dreamer open at 14:00  
**Website:** www.redhouse.org.tw

#### Mei Guan Yuan 美觀園

**Add:** 47, Emei St. (峨眉街47號)  
**Tel:** (02)2331-0377  
**Website:** www.oldshop.com.tw

#### Tattoo Street

刺青街  
**Location:** Ln. 50, Hanzhong St. (漢中街50巷)

#### American Street

美國街  
**Location:** Ln. 96, Kunming St. (昆明街96巷)

#### Taipei Cinema Park

臺北市電影主題公園  
**Add:** 19, Kangding Rd. (康定路19號)  
**Tel:** (02)2312-3717  
**Website:** www.cinemapark.org.tw

#### Movie Street

電影街  
**Location:** Sec.2, Wuchang St. (武昌街2段)

#### Amba Taipei Ximending

臺北西門町意舍  
**Add:** 77, Sec. 2, Wuchang St. (武昌街2段77號)  
**Tel:** (02)2375-5111  
**Website:** www.ambahotel.com

### Transportation Information

#### Taipei Hero House - Friends of Armed Forces Association Restaurant

Go straight from MRT Ximen Station, Exit No. 2 on Zhonghua Rd. →Walk 5 minutes and turn left onto Changsha St. →Taipei Hero House

#### The Red House

Walk left from Taipei Hero House →Turn right onto Zhonghua Rd. →Turn left onto Chengdu Rd. →The Red House

#### Mei Guan Yuan

Go straight from The Red House →Walk straight along Hanzhong St. for 5 minutes →Turn left onto Emei St. →Mei Guan Yuan

#### Hanzhong St. / Wuchang St.

Walk right from Mei Guan Yuan on Emei St. →Turn right onto Hanzhong St. (street-performer acts); or walk straight along

Emei St. → Turn left onto Hanzhong St. → Sec. 2, Wuchang St., singing and street-performer acts (in front of Watson's)

#### Tattoo Street / American Street

Lane 50, Hanzhong St. (Tattoo Street) →Walk to Kunming St., turn right →Lane 96, Kunming St. (American Street)

#### Graffiti Walls / Taipei Cinema Park / Movie Street

Walk to end of Lane 96, Kunming St. →Mouth of Lane 120, Sec. 2, Wuchang St. →Turn left at graffiti walls →Taipei Cinema Park →Exit via main portal, go right →Sec. 2, Wuchang St. →Movie Street

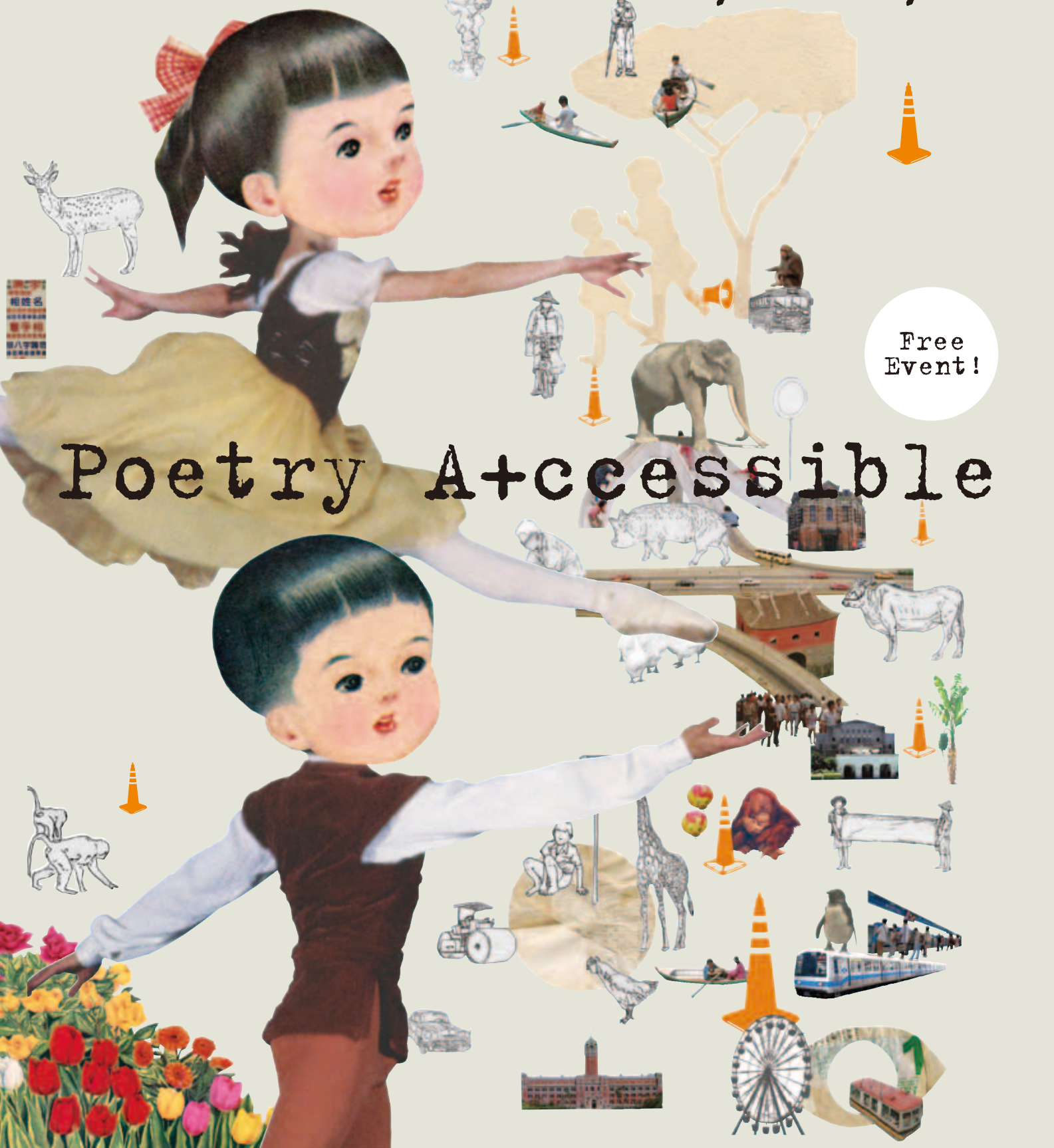
#### Amba Taipei Ximending

Go straight on Sec. 2, Wuchang St. →Intersection of Wuchang and Kunming Streets →Amba Taipei Ximending



# 2012 Taipei Poetry Festival

10/20-11/11



Free  
Event!

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TAIPEI 觀光傳播局  
Department of Information and Tourism

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