



STL PARTNERSHIP

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**St. Louis-Nanjing Sister Cities Committee and World Trade Center St. Louis
to welcome Chinese Representatives for Dragon Boat Ceremony
at the Missouri Botanical Garden**

*-- Chinese business and government leaders to travel from Nanjing for donation ceremony,
luncheon, and economic development activities
May 23 and 24 --*

ST. LOUIS — St. Louis-Nanjing Sister Cities Committee and World Trade Center St. Louis will welcome a delegation from Jiangsu Province and St. Louis' sister city, Nanjing, China on May 23 and 24.

The delegation, comprised chiefly of government and business leaders, will visit St. Louis from the morning of May 23 to the afternoon of May 24.

A ceremony to present St. Louis with a dragon boat will be held at 10 a.m., Tuesday, May 23, at the Missouri Botanical Garden, 4344 Shaw Boulevard, St. Louis. The event will take place in the Lelia J. and David N. Farr Auditorium.

Fang Wei, Vice Governor of Jiangsu Province, and Zhiyi Deng, Vice Mayor of Nanjing, will lead the ceremony. Jared Boyd, Chief of Staff for St. Louis Mayor Tishaura Jones, will accept the dragon boat on behalf of St. Louis. The ceremony will include Deng and Boyd painting the eyes and head of the dragon boat with a red dye, symbolizing the dragon's awakening from its slumber.

"We're so pleased to again welcome our friends from Nanjing to St. Louis," said Tim Nowak, Executive Director of World Trade Center St. Louis. "Our sister city relationship has been in existence for 44 years and continues to thrive, providing so many opportunities for cultural and economic exchange for our communities."

Other speakers expected to be in attendance include Jian Zhao, the Consul General of China in Chicago, Dr. Joel Glassman, former President of St. Louis-Nanjing Sister Cities Committee, and former Missouri Governor Bob Holden. The ceremony will be followed by a tour of the Chinese Garden and a barbecue luncheon.

“The longstanding relationship between our two communities has been a source of pride as well as an opportunity to strengthen the cultural and economic ties our communities share. This visit will continue to strengthen our connection,” Joel Glassman, Past President of the St. Louis-Nanjing Sister Cities Committee.

Local and state economic development leaders will meet with the Chinese visitors later Tuesday afternoon at the World Trade Center St. Louis offices. On Wednesday, the group will have a private tour of the arch, as well as a visit to the Nanjing baseball statue at Ballpark Village, prior to their departure.

“The cities of St. Louis and Nanjing have benefited from this exchange for so many years,” said Mayor Jones. “We are pleased to again welcome representatives from Jiangsu Province and Nanjing to St. Louis. I know both the St. Louis and Nanjing delegations are looking forward to these upcoming events.”

About the St. Louis Nanjing Partnership: In 1979, St. Louis was linked with the city of Nanjing (formally Nanking) and became the first U.S. municipality to have a sister city in the People’s Republic of China. Inspired by President Dwight Eisenhower, Sister Cities International pairs communities throughout the world. Sister cities conduct educational, cultural, municipal and economic exchanges that promote mutual understanding. The St. Louis – Nanjing Sister Cities Committee has sponsored many exchanges that have touched thousands of people in both communities from school children to corporate leaders. Mayors of both cities have led official trade delegations and given enthusiastic support to sister city activities.

About World Trade Center St. Louis: For more than 25 years, as the international division of St. Louis Economic Development Partnership, WTC has supported growth for the region’s businesses, most importantly, ensuring St. Louis companies are represented in an increasingly global marketplace. From customized research to trade training, hosting inbound/outbound delegations and managing St. Louis’ Mosaic Project, Foreign Trade Zone and EB-5 investor visa program, WTC brings together a strong system of business and government agencies to support trade and investment and enhance St. Louis’ global connectivity.

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