

# Lord Mayor of Sydney

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Thang Ngo  
By email [thang@noodlies.com](mailto:thang@noodlies.com)

08 MAR 2013

Dear Thang

## Chinese New Year Festival

I refer to your letter about the Chinese New Year Festival.

The festival's name is historic, reflecting its origins in the Chinese community, when groups in Chinatown started organising it as a community event 17 years ago. At that time there were no other major communities in the area.

Over the past few years, the City has invited other people from other cultures that celebrate the Lunar New Year, notably the Korean and Vietnamese communities. These communities are growing in the City of Sydney local government area and play an important part in the festival. Members of these communities have provided overwhelmingly positive feedback on the festival.

This broadening of the Festival has prompted discussion about the Festival's name which is still ongoing.

The CEO and I appoint the members of the Chinese New Year Advisory Group in consultation with relevant community groups. The need to appoint new members to the group provides us with an opportunity to consider the kinds of skills and backgrounds needed to ensure the Festival continues to build on its success.

Neither the Chinese government nor Shenzhen provided financial support for the festival. The participation of performers from Shenzhen was wholly paid for by Shenzhen and the Chinese government. The involvement of selected Chinese provinces has no bearing on the naming of the festival.

If you would like to speak with a Council officer about the Chinese New Year Festival, you can contact Stephen Gilby, Senior Program Manager, on 9265 9333 or at [sgilby@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au](mailto:sgilby@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au).

Thank you for providing your comments on this issue. It's very helpful for us to have your feedback, especially at a time when the festival is changing with the increased participation of the diverse communities that celebrate the Lunar New Year.

Yours sincerely

Clover Moore  
Lord Mayor of Sydney

*city of villages*