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# Helping Others: Dance fest celebrates arts and diversity

By Gloria Glycer

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**What: Sacramento's two-day World Music & Dance Festival.**

**When and where: Sept. 26-27, with auditioned performers onstage Sept. 26 at the Benvenuti Performing Arts Center, 4600 Blackrock Drive (off Del Paso Road in Natomas). The 3 p.m. matinee is \$16; the 7:30 p.m. show is \$22.**

**Festival activities continue Sept. 27 in [Old Sacramento](#), with free shows from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Visit the Web site at [www.sacramentoworld festival.com](http://www.sacramentoworld festival.com).**

**On Sept. 26: Miriam and Leonardo, Argentine tango dancers who won the "Superstars of Dance" competition on NBC, will be in the spotlight. Among countries and styles represented will be French Polynesian, Spanish flamenco, the Jubilee American Dance Theatre, Saampan of India, [Middle Eastern](#), Zimbabwean, Chinese, Gypsy and Romanian, and mariachi.**

**Sept. 27 specialties: The all-day event in Old Sacramento will highlight music, dance, food and learning activities for children and adults on two stages and in the [Global Village](#).**

**The reason: Lina Fat, chairwoman of the festival board, says it best: "The Sacramento World Music & Dance Festival celebrates the rich diversity woven throughout our community. It's extraordinary that dancers and musicians with ties from all over the globe will be performing right here in Sacramento."**



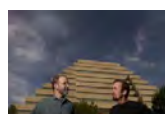
California Bank & Trust

Heddy Chiang heads the overall committee for the World Music & Dance Festival and has been in charge of the event's auditioning committee.

MORE INFORMATION

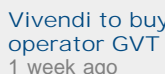
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Featured volunteer: Heddy Chiang, who is with California Bank & Trust, heads the overall committee for the festival but also has been in charge of the auditioning committee.

"Lina Fat has known we are musically interested, and five years ago, she asked us to start a task force to see if Sacramento wants to have a dance festival," said Chiang, whose husband, Dennis Yep, has the InterAct Dance Company.

"We toyed with different things to do, and three years ago, we had our kickoff," said Chiang.

She also sees the festival as a way to bring more educational opportunities to young people.

"Students get out of touch with the arts because education does not do much."

For her favorite style of dance, Chaing said, "It depends on the music, but I like them all, maybe tango and ballroom best. "

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