



PRESS RELEASE

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EGG ROLLS, EGG CREAMS & EMPANADAS FESTIVAL



Museum at Eldridge Street's free block party celebrates the Chinese, Jewish and Puerto Rican communities of the Lower East Side

New York, New York -- On Sunday, June 16 the Museum at Eldridge Street will present its 19th annual **Egg Rolls, Egg Creams & Empanadas Festival**, a joyous celebration of the diverse communities of the Lower East Side neighborhood. With the Museum's home, the landmark Eldridge Street Synagogue, as its centerpiece, the **festival spills out onto the street with a mash-up of Jewish, Chinese and Puerto Rican tastes, traditions, sights and sounds**. Chinese, Jewish and Puerto Rican folk arts celebrate side by side, highlighting cultural commonalities while preserving the distinctive voice of each community.

"This festival perfectly encapsulates what the Museum is all about," says Museum at Eldridge Street Executive Director Bonnie Dimun. "We preserve the Lower East Side's historic Jewish heritage while celebrating contemporary cultures that continue to make this city so special." Among a diverse and open audience, festival attendees enjoy the merging of rich cultural traditions of Jewish, Chinese and Puerto Rican artists and performers - and have a blast, too.

New to the 2019 festival is a focus on music. Skilled instrument-makers will demonstrate how to build a *bomba* drum and *panderetas*. Chinese folk musicians will lead hands-on lessons in playing traditional Chinese instruments. Along Eldridge street, attendees will learn Yiddish songs and dances, move to the rhythms of *Plena* and *Bomba* music, and apply face paint for a Chinese opera performance.



More highlights Include:

- Willie Martinez and the *NYC Salsa All Stars*
- Chinese opera facepainting
- Klezmer band *Litvakus*
- Chinese folk music workshops for kids
- Jewish scribal arts
- Chinese Tea Ceremony
- Tradition Chinese music from the *East River Ensemble*
- Puerto Rican *Vejigantes* Paper Mache mask making
- Mahjonn tournament



The Festival is named for three foods that are associated with the Jewish, Chinese, and Puerto Rican communities of the Museum's Lower East Side neighborhood. These foods originated with these cultures but have been either founded in America or greatly adapted on American soil – a perfect way to celebrate immigrant culture and communities' interactions and adaptations to their new home. This signature event annually attracts more than 10,000 visitors. **More information about the festival, performers and a full schedule can be found at www.eldridgestreet.org/festival.**

ABOUT MUSEUM AT ELDRIDGE STREET

The Museum at Eldridge Street is housed in the historic Eldridge Street Synagogue, a magnificent National Historic Landmark and New York City landmark. The building was nearly lost to neglect before a 20-year, \$20 million project restored the National Historic Landmark to grandeur. The nation's first great house of worship built by Eastern European Jews, it was a proud symbol of immigrant ambition and success. Today, the Museum is reimagining how a historic sacred space can foster community and culture. The historic space has become a one-of-a-kind art gallery, a place of cultural collaboration, and a laboratory for new thought on immigration and cultural preservation.

The Museum at Eldridge Street is located at 12 Eldridge Street, between Canal and Division Streets. The Museum is open Sunday – Thursday from 10AM to 5PM and Friday from 10AM to 3PM. Admission is \$14 for adults, \$10 for students and seniors, and \$8 for children. Admission is 'pay what you wish' every Monday. A guided tour is included the price of admission but not mandatory. All exhibitions are included in the price of admission. For more information, visit eldridgestreet.org or contact 212-219-0302 or contact@eldridgestreet.org.

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