





The event kicked off with the mystical Chinese lion dance. We first shared about the history of this treasured tradition and provided cultural context for the different styles implemented by Vietnam, Korea, Malaysia, Japan, and China.



Performing the dance were Israel Hoffman, Michael Lee, Jerry Li, and Jack Sun. Local Iowans, both students and community members, were thrilled to see something so exotic in the heart of downtown. Many took pictures with the lions and enjoyed the view from their tables while eating lunch as the lions paraded past shops and restaurants.





APAPA also had crafts tables set up for traditional calligraphy taught by Professor Helen Shen, retiring Director of the Chinese program at the University of Iowa, as well as bracelets shaped like traditional Chinese coins and with characters expressing good fortune.



The Chinese Dance Club also sent a few of their members Rebecca Guo, Emily Kalmanek, Lei Zhu, Jessica Zhao to perform the romantic song “Shenhua” with solos by Jessica Zhao and Lei Zhu. There were three Chinese Classic dances in total, each representing a different era in China. There was from Han Dynasty (almost 2000 years ago), Tang Dynasty (1600 years ago), and from present.

Children and parents had fun at this inaugural event taking home special crafts and warm memories regarding Asian culture.