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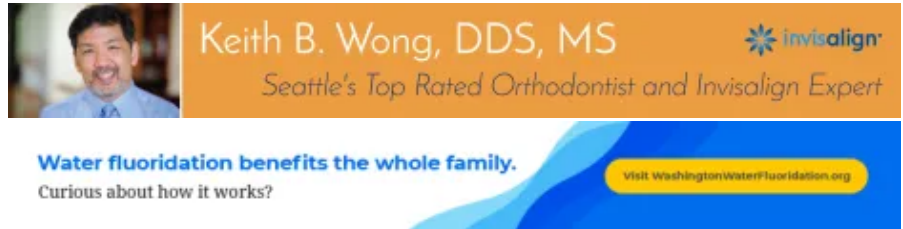
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BLOG: Wow, China at the Washington State Fair!

SEPTEMBER 19, 2013 BY [NORTHWEST ASIAN WEEKLY](#)

By Assunta Ng



Luminasia carries obvious Chinese themes. (Photo by George Liu/NWAW)

I consider Luminasia at the Washington State Fair amazingly avant garde and dramatically in the style of Chihuly.

Inspired by the art of Chinese lanterns, Luminasia transformed a piece of dull land into a Chinese garden with glowing objects, including a gigantic dragon boat, a bridge, pagodas, koi fish, lotus flowers, frogs, and butterflies. Lanterns in Chinese culture are used to celebrate the Mid-Autumn Festival — also known as the Moon Cake Festival — and now is the perfect time for such a display.

The dramatic entryway to Luminasia is marked with lit Japanese waves and a flare of the Northwest, featuring Mt. Rainier, the Space Needle, and dramatic Totem Poles. Visitors couldn't believe what they were seeing! I heard people saying, "Wow," "It's so cool," and "It's beautiful!"



Luminasia is open day and night but is most impressive in darkness. (Photo by George Liu/NWAW)

The lanterns reminded me of my childhood during the days of the Moon Cake Festivals. I would pray, "Please God, no rain," since the animal-shaped lanterns were made of paper, and were lit by candles. The good thing is, rain can't ruin the fair's lanterns as they are made of waterproof materials.



40 artists traveled to Washington to set up the lanterns. (Photo by George Liu/NWAW)

More than 40 Chinese artists from Sichuan came to Puyallup a month ago to help make and install the pieces of illuminated art. Some smaller pieces were made in China and then shipped to Seattle. While some artisans had gone back to China, a crew of over 10 stay behind to maintain the show.

If you haven't yet visited Washington State Fair this year, you should. Remember to stay after 7 p.m. for Luminasia to see the lights. The show might not be there next year. It will travel to Long Beach after Oct. 13. Each piece of artwork is for sale after the exhibit.



Symbols of the Northwest were mixed in. (Photo by George Liu/NWAW)

State Fair has Asian history

The fairgrounds were once an internment camp for Japanese Americans during World War II called Camp Harmony. Of course, no one mentioned this fact.

The visitors at the fair were diverse. As the largest single annual attraction held in the state of Washington, it draws over a million fans every year.