

## **Chinese Community Center 2011 "Starry Starry Night" Gala Press Release**

The Chinese Community Center of Houston held its 32<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary Fundraising Gala on November 5, 2011 at the Westin Galleria Grand Ballroom. The theme was "Starry Starry Night, Celebrating East Meets West," honoring outstanding Asian individuals who exemplify East Meets West through their dedication, commitment and enrichment in performing arts. \$300,000 was raised which will be used by CCC to serve the growing needs for social services in Houston's Asian communities.

Gala chairs Dr. and Mrs. Jarvis Cheung and Board chair Marylynn Kallina-Matthews welcomed nearly 600 guests and supporters to the gala. Dignitaries and distinguished guests included Houston Mayor Annise Parker, Chinese Consul General Xu Erwen, Taipei Economic and Cultural Office Director Joseph Chen, Judge Theresa Chang, Judge Steven Kirkland, Sugar Land Mayor Pro-tem Jacquie Chaumette, and many community, business and academic leaders and representatives from various charitable foundations.

Mayor Parker presented University of Houston student Van Diep a Memorial Scholarship in honor of the late Helen Chang, who served not only as a CCC board member, but also as Director of International Trade and Development over four mayoral administrations.

The highlight of the gala was the live performances by the honorees, which included award-winning Jazz pianist and composer Helen Sung, world renowned violinist Lin Cho-Liang with piano accompaniment by Evelyn Chen, Grammy nominated artist and composer Angel Lam, and Houston Ballet Principal Dancer Jun Shuang Huang and his wife Xiao-Chen. Their world class performances, embodying East Meets West, mesmerized the audience and were met with the loudest applause.

International superstars Yao Ming, Zhang Ziyi, Simon Yam, famed fashion designer Vivienne Tam, celebrity chef Martin Yan, supermodel Qi Qi, and the prominent bottlemania artist Eileen Chan sent their congratulatory messages and well wishes for the gala.

The gala's finale started with pop star Cindy Yen's music video and her congratulatory message from Taiwan. Cindy, who was Miss Chinatown Houston 2008 and Miss Chinatown USA 2009, introduced the fashion show with 12 former and current Miss Chinatown Houston winners and finalists. The models showcased classical costumes over various dynasties of China leading to the present day Vivienne Tam "Om" collection. East met West beautifully on the catwalk, bringing the Starry Starry Night gala to a successful and memorable conclusion.

For a copy of the program book and further information, please contact the Chinese Community Center at 713-271-6100.