

T O R R A N C E



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City of Torrance Announces Date for Sixth Annual Cherry Blossom Festival

Torrance, Calif., Jan. 11, 2017 – The City of Torrance invites the community to celebrate the first signs of spring under the blooming cherry trees at the sixth annual **Cherry Blossom Cultural Festival on Sunday, March 26 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.** The free family festival will be held on the east side of Columbia Park, 4045 190th Street in Torrance, near the corner of 190th Street and Prairie Avenue.

As is traditional in Japan, the community is invited to bring blankets to sit on while they picnic under the blossoms. Columbia Park has more than 110 cherry blossom trees, which have been donated by Soka Gakkai International – USA. In Japan, cherry blossoms, or *sakura*, are a symbol of hope, virtue and new beginnings. They also symbolize clouds due to their nature of blooming *en masse*, and are an enduring metaphor for the ephemeral nature of life.

Entertainment typically includes groups from all over Asia – including Polynesian dancers, an Indian music ensemble, Taiko drumming and more. Members of the Torrance Craftsmen’s Guild will exhibit and sell their artwork, and food trucks and booths will have items available for purchase.

(continued)

Sponsors of the Cherry Blossom Festival include the City of Torrance; the Torrance Sister City Association; the North Torrance Homeowner's Association, Torrance Craftsmen's Guild and Soka Gakkai International, the Buddhist Association for Peace, Culture and Education.

For additional information, please call the Cultural Services Division, Community Services Department at (310) 618-2376 or visit [Facebook.Com/TorranceCherryBlossom](https://www.facebook.com/TorranceCherryBlossom).

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