

新年快樂



Dear Chinatown...

I created this as a love letter to Philly's Chinatown, from its shining Friendship Arch to the energetic lion dances that welcome the Lunar New Year. This one marks the Year of the Fire Horse, so I thought it would be fitting to show a joyous celebration inside the silhouette of a horse clad in the lucky colors of red and yellow. I wanted to contrast the prophesied year of conflict and restlessness with one of love, fun, and community. The traditional characters at top spell out Happy New Year to pay respect to the Cantonese community that founded Chinatown in 1870. Thank you for being a space where anyone can enjoy good food and Asian culture, whether they're new to the area, part of the Asian diaspora, or just looking for a cool place to be. — Julie Benbassat

Julie Benbassat is a Philadelphia-based illustrator and teacher. Find out more about Lunar New Year events at <https://chinatown-pcdc.org/2020-chinese-new-year-events/>