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Chicago Goes Turkish During 10th Annual Celebration of Chicago Turkish Festival

CHICAGO – Chicago Turkish Festival will celebrate its 10th anniversary September 9-12 at Daley Plaza 10am to 6pm daily, presenting world-famous Turkish cuisine, fashion show with Ottoman flair, festive performances, arts and crafts booths, and the premiere of Chicago Turkish Film Series.

Through the collaboration of City of Chicago and the Turkish-American community, the public four-day event, free of charge will present the sights, sounds, and exotic flavors of Turkey; no passport needed. “This is a unique opportunity for Chicago to experience Turkish culture and cuisine without leaving home,” said Fatih Yildiz, Consul General of Turkey.

“Turkish Cuisine is largely recognized as one of the three best cuisines in the world,” said Yildiz. Some of the dishes, inspired by the exotic feasts of the Sultans, include baklava, Turkish coffee, Turkish delight, and orchid ice-cream.

This year the festival will not only bring back the famous wild orchid ice-cream but will bring the city where it originates from, Kahramanmaras. Known as Maras, this city’s rich history dating back to 2,000 BC will be waiting in the arts and crafts booths for Chicago to delve into. The Turkish wild orchid ice-cream brand, MADO, will also have vendors hanging Maras’s one-of-a-kind ice cream from a hook and cutting it with a knife to serve visitors.

In addition to the showcase of Turkish delicacies, few steps away at the Gene Siskel Film Center will be the premiere of Chicago Turkish Film Series, the largest group of films ever to be brought from Turkey. Aiming to share Turkish films with American audiences, the Chicago Turkish Film Series will also expose the developments taking place in Turkey. General Admission is \$11 while discounts are available for students, members, and groups.

Chicago Turkish Festival, under the leadership of the Turkish Consulate General of Chicago and the Turkish-American Cultural Alliance, has been sharing Turkish history, culture, music, art, cuisine, and hospitality with the culturally diverse community of Chicago since 2003. Annually, participants from Turkey and Turkish-Americans living in Chicago join in organizing the festival. Visit Chicago Turkish Festival online at <http://www.chicagoturkishfestival.com> and Chicago Turkish Film Series online at <http://www.chicagoturkishfilmfestival.org>. Purchase tickets at Gene Siskel Film Center box office at 164 North State Street, Chicago, IL 60601 or call (312)-846-2085.

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