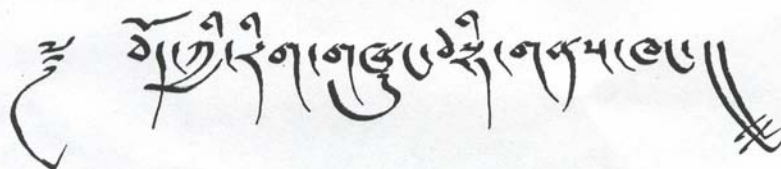


The Tibetan Cultural Center



For Immediate Release

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Sample

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Drepung Gomang Monastery Tour Group to Create a Sand Mandala at the Tibetan Cultural Center

The Tibetan Cultural Center (TCC) is hosting the creation of a Medicine Buddha Sand Mandala by the Monks of Drepung Gomang Monastery at the TCC's Main Building, 3655 Snoddy Road, Bloomington, Indiana from December 15 through 19. The event is open to the public daily from 10 a.m to 4 p.m. Donations are gladly accepted

The mandala, Tibetan sand painting, is an ancient art form of Tibetan Buddhism. "Mandala" is a Sanskrit word meaning cosmogram or "world in harmony." The sand mandala is carefully constructed from dyed sand particles as vehicle to generate compassion, to realize the impermanence of reality, and to create a social/cosmic healing of the environment. The Medicine Buddha Mandala invokes healing of mind and body and promotes the well-being of all sentient beings.

The opening ceremony for the mandala construction will take place at 10 a.m. on December 15. Khensur Rinpoche Tsultrim Phuntsok, tour leader, and the tour monks will chant powerful prayers for peace, prosperity and healing in traditional overtones—the chant master intoning a full chord of three notes. This chanting will be accompanied by delicate hand gestures, cymbals, drums, horns, and flutes. The closing ceremony will take place at 4 p.m. on December 19. At that time the mandala will be deconstructed by Khensur Rinpoche and the sands will be dispersed in the pond at the rear of the TCC property. Mandalas are destroyed at the end of the ritual as a symbol of the impermanence of all phenomena.

The Monks of Drepung Gomang are presently on tour in the United States to share the compassion and wisdom of Tibetan Buddhism, to demonstrate the artistic accomplishments of the people of Tibet, and to generate funds to insure the survival of Tibetan culture. Drepung Gomang Monastery will use donations to house, feed, and educate everyone wishing to study at this monastic center of higher learning-- including orphans and refugees fleeing Chinese occupied Tibet. The monastery wishes to establish a [Food Foundation Fund](#) which will help the monastery to provide a continuous food supply to the student monks in years to come.

Information about Drepung Gomang Monastery and their North American Tour is available on their website: www.gomang.org. Information about the Tibetan Cultural Center is available at www.tibetancc.com.

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