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Navy Pier Welcomes Tibetan Monks from India

Refugee Monks from the Drepung Gomang Monastery in India Will Create a Sacred Sand Mandala in Navy Pier's Crystal Gardens August 13 – 15



CHICAGO – Navy Pier will welcome refugee Tibetan Monks from the Drepung Gomang Monastery in India **Monday, August 13 – Wednesday, August 15** to Navy Pier's Crystal Gardens.

For three days the public is invited to get a glimpse into the sacred practice of creating a sand mandala. Eight monks will create the mandala, a sacred sand painting, by meticulously arranging dyed sand in intricate patterns to represent the Buddhist principal of compassion.

The Tibetan Monks will work on the mandala each day from 10:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. with special chanting ceremonies at **noon** at **6 p.m.** The ceremonies seek to spread their

message of peace and compassion. Also, they will sell hand-crafted items to help provide food and health care for fellow refugee monks at the Drepung Gomang monastery.

On their final day at Navy Pier, Wednesday, August 15, the Tibetan Monks will perform a closing ceremony at 6 p.m. in which the completed sand painting will be dismantled and the sands will be poured into water to represent the transitory nature of material life. For more information visit navypier.com or gomang.org.

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A Chicago Landmark since 1916, Navy Pier has evolved from a freight passenger ship docking facility to the #1 tourist attraction in the Midwest, drawing more than eight million visitors annually. Navy Pier currently encompasses more than fifty acres of parks, gardens, shops, restaurants, family attractions and exhibit facilities, making it a tourists and visitors entertainment hub. For more information, visit our website at www.navypier.com