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Patrons can take the Metro Gold Line to the Tofu Festival in the future, but, for now, the rendering of the Little Tokyo Station will be on display at the community celebration this weekend in Little Tokyo.



Metro Staff Participates in the 9th Annual Tofu Festival

By JESSICA TYERMAN

(July 23, 2004) Imagine your hands tied behind your back, you hear a bell and you lunge nose-first into a large, white block of... tofu!

It's a tofu-eating contest and it's only one of the events offered at, yes, the Los Angeles Tofu Festival.

Not only does such a festival exist – Metro is one of the patrons for the ninth annual Tofu Festival. This year's theme is "Unleash the Secret Power of Tofu!"

The festival is scheduled Saturday and Sunday, July 24-25, in Little Tokyo at San Pedro and Second Streets. The fun starts at noon both days and ends at 8 p.m. Saturday and 6 p.m. Sunday.

Staff from the Planning and Community Relations departments volunteered to work at the Metro booth. This is the third year Metro has participated in the event. The staff will promote the Metro Gold Line's future Little Tokyo/ Arts District station at 1st and Alameda.

"As a part of community outreach and public participation involved in planning the Metro Gold Line Eastside Extension, we became one of the festival patrons," says Henry Gonzalez, project manager, Central Area Planning Team.

The festival also includes more than 40 food and drink booths (not only with tofu products), health information and screening booths, samurai demonstrations, capoeira dances, several taiko drum groups, and other children's activities.

Admission is \$8 for adults and \$5 for children (ages 5-12) and seniors (ages 60 and up). Children less than five years old are free. All proceeds

benefit the Little Tokyo Service Center, which provides counseling, job training and transportation services.

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