

## About the Lao-American Buddhist Monks Council

The Lao-American Buddhist Monks Council was established in 1981 by current Council President, Ven. Abbot Bouakeo Sengsouriya. The purpose of the Council is to unite & reunite Lao-American Buddhist monks in the USA; to promote Buddhist teachings, tradition, and literature; to encourage & expand the construction of Lao Buddhist temples, monasteries, and centers throughout the USA; to assist & support Lao-American Buddhist monks, and to give support and encouragement to the minds and hearts of all.

In what we know today as Laos, almost the entire population practices Buddhism, with the temple, or Wat, serving as the center of village life. Most Lao-Americans are also Buddhists, though many have converted to Protestant Christianity, especially in areas where there is no significant Laotian community to sustain traditional practices. Additionally, due to a lack of funds, Lao-American Buddhist temples are frequently established in converted garages, private homes, and other makeshift centers.

In 1976, approximately ten thousand refugees from Laos fled across the border into Thailand and were admitted to the United States. By 1990, according to the U.S. Census, there were about 150,000 Lao-Americans living in the United States. Today, the majority of Lao-Americans maintain a low profile in the United States, and consequently, few Americans have much knowledge of Laotian culture and people. As a result, the everyday American knows Laotian people by stereotypes, whether positive or negative, rather than by the reality of rich culture and people.

To this day, many Lao-Americans retain the values from our homeland. Most significant among these values is the practice of Buddhism, which pervades every aspect of Lao-American life; while individual Lao-Americans may not follow all Buddhist teachings, its philosophy serves as a behavioral guide.

This year, at the 2022 Annual General Conference, we are honored to gather with an interfaith community at the Salt Lake City Capitol, and to collectively recognize and bless our newly constructed temple in West Valley City, Utah.

# Support Your Community

## In-Kind Donations

Wat Lao Salt Lake Buddharam is accepting donations to help grow our community!

In Kind Donations Needed:

- Kitchen supplies
- Bathroom supplies
- Office supplies
- Tables & chairs

Donations can be delivered to the temple any day, any time. Please package donations in sealed bags or boxes, and clearly label them as donations for Wat Lao Salt Lake Buddharam.

Delivery address: 7010 W Parkway Blvd, WVC, UT 84128

Or text to arrange for pickup: 801-557-5707

## Monetary Donations

Monetary donations can be made via Venmo.

Tax deduction ID provided upon request. Please text Lena Sisavath-Pham at: 801-557-5707



## Welcome to the 2022 Annual General Conference

Hosted by the Lao-American Buddhist Monks Council



September 21st | 4:00pm  
Proclamation Ceremony at  
the Senate Floor

September 22nd | 8:00am - 1:00pm Annual  
General Conference - Open to the public at  
11:00am at the State Capitol Rotunda

September 23rd | 8:00am - 5:00pm Annual  
General Conference - No Public Attendant

Location: Utah State Capitol,  
Salt Lake City, Utah



## Celebrate with Our Community

# Conference Highlights

Day 1: Wednesday, September 21st  
10:00am - 3:00pm

Day 2: Thursday, September  
22nd 8:00am - 1:00pm



LDS Temple Joseph Smith Memorial Building  
Lunch will be provided by the LDS Church

PICK-UP / DROP-OFF LOCATION - WAT LAO  
7010 W PARKWAY BLVD. WVC, UT 84128  
*If you are going to ride to the capitol with us, please arrive by 9 am.*

### Directions/Parking At JSB

Meet at the Joseph Smith Memorial Building, come up State Street to South Temple and turn left. Go down the parking ramp and turn right into the underground parking lot (parking validations will be provided) or just proceed to the front of the Joseph Smith Memorial Building and drop off their passengers.

**10:00am - 3:00pm** | Meet and Greet and tour the LDS Church

**3:15 pm** - Leave JSB to State Capitol for Proclamation Ceremony

### Directions/Parking at State Capitol

350 State St, Salt Lake City, UT 84103  
Park on the East side parking lot or along the street (east side)

-10 Recipients will be escorted to the Senate Floor

-The remaining will be escorted to the gallery to be seated (4th floor)

PICK-UP / DROP-OFF LOCATION - WAT LAO  
7010 W PARKWAY BLVD. WVC, UT 84128  
*If you are going to ride to the capitol with us, please arrive by 10 am.*

### Direction and Parking

350 State St, Salt Lake City, UT 84103  
Park on the East side parking lot or along the street (east side)

**8:00 am -10:30 am** | Monks Council Conference

**10:30 am - 11:30 am** | Brunch for Monks Council

**Open to Public 11:00 am- 12:30 pm** - State Capitol Rotunda

**11:30 am - 11:45 am** | Speech by Senator Escamilla & Ven. Douangphaneth Mingsisouphanh

**11:45 am-12:00 pm** | Recognition Citation / group photos by Senator Escamilla

**12:00 pm -12:30 pm** | Dance performance by Wat Lao Salt Lake and Savanh Muang Lao

Message from Senator Luz Escamilla

Blessing of Wat Lao Salt Lake Buddharam

Council Progress Reports by Region

Traditional Lao Dance by Wat Lao SL Dance Group



www.watlaoutah.com  
watlaoslbuddharam@gmail.com  
Facebook @WatLao.Utah