

8th Asian American Festival

2006 Daley Center Plaza / Chicago
In Celebration of Asian Pacific American Heritage Month
Hosted by the Chinese American Community / May 22-26

A Message from the Chair

Welcome!

The 8th Annual Asian American Festival 2006, is proudly presented by the Asian American Coalition of Chicago and hosted this year by Chicago's Chinese American Community in the heart of Chicago's Loop, May 22nd-26th at Daley Center Plaza. This year's weeklong celebration features Cultural Immersion Performances, a Food Court and Chef Demos, a Dynasty Marketplace, and fun activities for various ages.

The Asian American Festival celebrates approximately 16 different cultures. Over the years, our Coalition has included representatives of the Bangladeshi, Burmese, Cambodian, Chinese, Filipino, Indian, Indonesia, Japanese, Korean, Laotian, Malaysian, Nepalese, Pakistani, Sri Lankan, Thai and the Vietnamese communities. Each year, the Festival is hosted by a different Asian community. This year, the Chinese American community proudly takes this special leadership role.

Our theme, "Celebrating Asians in America"—ushers attendees into Chicago's Loop with a positive and vibrant beat, showing us the beauty of many ethnicities of Asia, but of one culture. This year, we have set aside Tuesday, May 23rd as Seniors' Day to honor our elders. Wednesday, May 24th is the annual CPS Day, when Festival-goers will enjoy performances from Chicago Public Schools.

On behalf of the Asian American Festival Planning Committee, I would like to thank everyone involved in this year's Festival.

My deepest gratitude goes to the City of Chicago Mayor's Office of Special Events, Chicago Public Schools, TV news media for their coverage and special appearances by their celebrity personalities as emcees during the week. Thanks to ENERI Communications, LLC for its outstanding liaison with the major TV networks putting the Festival in the forefront of the media.

I must also thank the generous support of our sponsors for the Festival. It is remarkable to see so many Asian communities providing manpower through staff, volunteers and performers, working in harmony for the success of the Festival. Thank you all.

Lastly, I am thrilled to present to you an entire week of amazing Asian culture and heritage. I urge you to join in this once a year celebration and increase your cultural appreciation for the vibrant and colorful flavors of the Asian Pacific American communities in Chicago. Enjoy!

Esther Wong
Chair, 8th Annual Asian American Festival 2006



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