



**Office of the Mayor
City of Los Angeles**

ANTONIO R. VILLARAIGOSA

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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MAYOR VILLARAIGOSA TO KICK OFF CITY'S ASIAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH FESTIVITIES

City to honor LAPD Deputy Chief, Toy District founders and Dodgers' All-Star closer

LOS ANGELES - Launching a month of cultural events throughout Los Angeles, Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa will officially kick off the City's Asian and Pacific Islander American Heritage Month celebration, sponsored by The Walt Disney Company, with an awards ceremony and reception at City Hall at **10:00 AM on May 9, 2008, 200 N. Spring St. , Los Angeles, CA 90012.**

During the ceremony, the Mayor will present the signature Spirit, Hope and Dream of Los Angeles awards to Deputy Chief Terry Hara, 28-year Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) veteran and the highest ranking Asian American in the LAPD; Peter Woo and Charlie Woo, co-founders of Megatoys and Downtown's Toy District; and Takashi Saito, All-Star closer for the Los Angeles Dodgers.

"Los Angeles truly is a global city. This month the City is recognizing the lasting achievements of Asian and Pacific Islander pioneers and their imprint on the makeup of Los Angeles," Mayor Villaraigosa said. "I encourage every Angeleno to explore the activities and events throughout the month and join us in celebrating our heritage."

"Asian Pacific Islander American Heritage Month is another example of how the City of Los Angeles embraces the wonderful diversity of arts and culture throughout our City and communities," said Joan McCarthy, Director, Los Angeles Community Relations, Disney Worldwide Outreach.

"The Walt Disney Company is proud to work alongside Mayor Villaraigosa to shine the spotlight on the important contributions made by all Asian Pacific Islanders, especially the 2008 Honorees: Deputy Chief Terry S. Hara, Peter Woo and Charlie Woo and Takashi Saito. All of us at Disney pay tribute to their accomplishments and look forward to a month of special celebrations," McCarthy added.

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"Wells Fargo's relationship with the Asian community dates back to its early history more than 150 years ago when we served Asian merchants as customers and employed Asians as agents. The company was one of the first California companies to service Chinese customers in their native languages, and published a directory of Chinese-owned businesses on the West Coast in 1871," said Fung-Fung Wu, Wells Fargo marketing consultant.

"Wells Fargo's team members throughout the greater Los Angeles area speak more than 23 Asian languages. Wells Fargo is proud to celebrate and reflect on the history, culture and contributions of Asian and Pacific Islander Americans as the sponsor for the city's Asian and Pacific Islander Heritage Month Art Poster Contest for the third year in a row."

Since the inception as a single week in 1977, Asian and Pacific Islander American Heritage festivities have grown into a month-long celebration across the country. It is celebrated in May to acknowledge the first Japanese immigrants to the United States who arrived on May 7, 1843.

The theme for this year's celebration is "Honoring Our Pioneers and Uniting Future Generations."

A list of all activities and events is available at www.apahm.org.

ASIAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH SPONSORS

The Walt Disney Company

Title Sponsor

Wells Fargo
Poster Contest

Time Warner Cable
Writing Contest

ABC7
Media Sponsor

LA 18
Asian-language Media Sponsor

Additional Sponsors

The Nielsen Company

TARGET

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**UPCOMING ASIAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH ACTIVITIES
SPONSORED BY THE MAYOR'S OFFICE:**

Opening Ceremony – May 9, 10:00 AM

City Hall (Council Chambers & Spring Street Forecourt)
200 North Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Join the Mayor and City Council to officially declare the opening of Asian and Pacific Islander American Heritage Month in the City of Los Angeles. The Mayor will award the City's Spirit, Dream, and Hope honorees and host a reception at City Hall following the Proclamation Ceremony in Council Chambers.

Poster Competition Awards and Program – May 10, 2008, 10:00 AM to 1:30 PM

Sponsored by Wells Fargo

Grace E. Simons Lodge
1025 Elysian Park Drive
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Wells Fargo, Disney, ABC7, Panda Express, Mayor Villaraigosa, and the Department of Cultural Affairs are hosting a poster competition for students in Los Angeles. This annual contest invites students of all ages and backgrounds, from kindergarten through high school, to showcase their artistic skills and to explore Asian and Pacific Islander American heritage and contributions. Entries will be judged by a panel of professional artists, educators, and community leaders.

Creative Writing Competition Awards Ceremony – May 20, 2008

Sponsored by Time Warner Cable

Call 213.202.5545 for information

Join Time Warner Cable, Disney, ABC7, Mayor Villaraigosa, and the Department of Cultural Affairs by participating in a creative writing competition for students in grades 6 through 12 in Los Angeles. This annual contest invites middle and high school students of all backgrounds to explore this year's theme of: "Honoring our Pioneers and Uniting Generations." Students learn and write about Asian and Pacific Islander American history and traditions. Entries will be judged by a panel of professional authors, educators, and community leaders.

31st Annual Lotus Festival – July 11 to 13

Echo Park
1632 Bellevue Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90026

The Lotus Festival celebrates the people and cultures of the Asian and Pacific Islands. This event will feature the culture of Japan and will include a variety of entertainment, exotic food, boutiques, a community health fair, dragon boat races, displays of artworks featuring the Lotus flower, a children's courtyard, and a carnival. Don't miss the Saturday night fireworks display over the water.

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Music LA Free Music Classes – May to June

Sponsored by Disney and TARGET

Music LA celebrates Asian and Pacific Islander American Heritage Month by hosting music classes for elementary, middle, and high school students presented by Mayor Antonio R. Villaraigosa, The Walt Disney Company, TARGET, ABC7, and the Department of Cultural Affairs. The Music LA Program has partnered with professional musicians that will expose youth to the rich and diverse landscape of Asian and Pacific Islander culture and music.

Students will learn basic principles of music through hands-on instrumental and vocal classes based in selected curricula, including Classic Korean music, Taiko Drumming, and Pilipino Folk Arts. Student participation will include performance training in an ensemble setting through workshops and rehearsals.

Student participation will include performance training in an ensemble setting through workshops and rehearsals. After eight to ten weeks of instruction, all students will take part in culminating performances for family and friends. All Music LA classes are designed to celebrate Asian and Pacific Islander culture, foster pride and understanding of Asian and Pacific Islander music traditions, and are free for young people up to age 18.

Korean Educational Center
680 Wilshire Place #200
Los Angeles, CA 90005
Jumi Song, 562.858.4340
songjumi@koreancenter.org

Search to Involve Pilipino Americans (SIPA)
3200 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90026
Joel Jacinto, 213.382.1819 ext. 102
jjacinto@esipa.org

For information on additional Music LA classes during Asian and Pacific Islander American Heritage Month, please visit culturela.org or contact Angelica Loa Perez, Music LA Program Manager, at 213.202.5561 or angelica.loa.perez@lacity.org.

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