

PRESS RELEASE

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Asian Women Giving Circle of New York Announces Over \$55,000 in Awards to Local Non-Profit Organizations

New York City, NY, June 2, 2006 – In its inaugural year, the Asian Women Giving Circle (AWGC) distributed over \$55,000 in funding to six local Asian American women-led projects at New York City non-profit organizations. This year's recipients are The Asian American Writers' Workshop, Third World Newsreel, Chinese Staff & Workers' Association, Desipina Productions, Inc., Silence Broken Foundation, and Slanty Eyed Mama.

These outstanding organizations and projects were chosen because they are dedicated to AWGC's goal of using the tools of culture, the arts and education to raise awareness and catalyze action around critical issues that impact Asian American communities.

Six local Asian American women-led projects have been awarded grants

The **Asian American Writer's Workshop** will work with 15 female student newspaper editors and reporters selected from high schools throughout NYC. The students will represent a diverse cross-section of Asian American teenagers and will be paired with a professional female journalist who will mentor them. **Chinese Staff and Workers Association** will develop an Immigrant Women's Oral History Project as well as organize hundreds of women in a grassroots campaign against sweatshops. **Third World Newsreel** will produce a series of short 5-10 minute videos that focus on communities of color and the social changes they are working towards. One of these projects will feature young Asian American women performers speaking out against anti-Asian bias, and another will follow the efforts of women-led organizing against anti-immigration laws. **Desipina** will invite South Asian youth, high school and university students to performances of their Seven-11 Series. The series of short plays interweaves stories which explore and counter the traditional 7-Eleven stereotypes of the immigrant. **The Silence Broken Foundation** will support the public education efforts of documentary filmmaker Dai Sil Kim Gibson around two of her films – one about Korean girls and women forced into sexual slavery

by the Japanese army during WWII and another about the 1992 Los Angeles crisis from the perspective of Korean women shopkeepers. **Slanty Eyed Mama** is the dynamic duo of lyricist and singer Kate Rigg and electric violinist Lyris Hung. They create music, spoken word, storytelling and modern butoh dancing in hilarious and sharp social commentary. They will create a new show called “Americasiana” inspired by the stories of Asian American kids; and they will do workshops and outreach with teens around it.

AWGC is a group of ten Asian American women with a common goal of funding works and projects that advance gender equity in our cultural, artistic, intellectual and political lives. It aims to raise resources to support Asian American serving and Asian American women-led organizations for social change in New York City’s under-served communities.

“We are a collective of diverse Asian American women working together to raise funds that support women-led organizations and initiatives serving the Asian American community,” states Rini Banerjee, AWGC Member and Program Director of The Overbrook Foundation. “By directing philanthropic dollars into community-based social change organizations, we put money into the hands of local experts working to make our society systems more equitable.”

“Recognizing that less than 1% of philanthropic dollars go to Asian American communities, and even less funding is directed to Asian women, the Asian Women Giving Circle seeks to focus and support Asian American women-led programs in our community,” says Lisa Philp, AWGC Member and Head of Philanthropic Services at JP Morgan Private Bank.

For more information please visit, www.aapip.org/givingcircles. For additional information on AWGC, contact Hali Lee at hali@goldenpig.com

About AWGC - The Asian Women Giving Circle is a group of Asian American women working together to raise resources to support Asian American serving, Asian American women-led social change organizations in New York City’s under-served communities. AWGC is a donor advised fund of Asian Americans/Pacific Islanders in Philanthropy (www.aapip.org).

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