

**PRESS RELEASE
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ASIAN WOMEN DONORS GRANT \$74,000 TO NEW YORK NON-PROFITS

New York City, NY, May 21, 2007 – In its second year of grant making, the Asian Women Giving Circle (AWGC) distributed \$74,000 in funding to six local non-profit Asian American women-led projects in New York City. These outstanding organizations and projects were chosen for their dedication in using the tools of culture, the arts and education to raise awareness and catalyze action around critical issues that impact Asian American communities.

“There’s an enormous dearth of resources available to Asian American organizations dedicated to building stronger, more equitable communities,” states Hali Lee on why she’s committed to AWGC’s mission. “So our group of 20 inspired women felt it was dispiriting to wait for traditional philanthropy or governmental institutions to respond to the growing needs of the Asian American communities and just decided to do it ourselves.”

Year 2007 recipients are Andolan, The Asian American Writers’ Workshop, Broken English Productions, Museum of the Chinese in the Americas, New York Asian Women’s Center, and South Asian Youth Action.

Andolan (Organizing South Asian Workers), will launch *Claiming our Space*, a collaborative theater project that integrates community organizing with popular theatre and tell stories of struggle and survival to transform the image of immigrant women and domestic workers.

The **Asian American Writers’ Workshop** will produce *UnFairy Tales: The Myths in Myths* to raise the consciousness of female youth about how these stories have scripted the role of gender and shaped sexuality and ethnicity in contemporary life and to encourage them to think critically about these issues in their personal and educational lives.

Broken English Productions’ *New Year Baby* is a documentary film directed by Socheata Poeuv about her family that survived the Khmer Rouge genocide. *The Outreach Campaign* will utilize *New Year Baby* as an educational tool which through partnerships with social service

organizations, educators and health advocates will engage the Cambodian American community in New York City, especially the youth, in a dialogue about honor and healing one generation after the Khmer Rouge genocide.

Museum of the Chinese in the Americas (MOCA) the *Archeology of Change: Mapping Tales of Gentrification in New York City's Chinatown* is a collaborative community arts project. Along with Tomie Arai, printmaker and installation artist, and writer Lena Sze, this project will address the timely issue of gentrification in Post 9-11 Chinatown and will culminate in a site-specific installation for MOCA's new facilities opening in January 2008.

Living Portrait is a collaboration between Nisha Shah Tanwar of the **New York Asian Women's Center (NYAWC)**, new media artists Heather Greer and Liubo Borisov and composer Woody Pak that uses mixed media sculpture giving voice to the remarkable women in the Asian immigrant community who have broken and are breaking the cycle of domestic violence. The resulting piece will serve to raise awareness about their situations outside of their immediate community and in turn help further the NYAWC's efforts to break the domestic violence cycle.

South Asian Youth Action will produce *Desi Girls on 'Da Rise*, a program for low income South Asian young women to empower them with skills, opportunities and resources they need to be social change agents. These arts activists will organize and educate their communities around gender discrimination and other relevant issues impacting their lives.

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. For more information on AWGC, go to **www.asianwomensgivingcircle.org**. AWGC is a donor advised fund of Asian Americans/Pacific Islanders in Philanthropy (www.aapip.org).

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