



07.24.03

Greetings from the **Asian American Artists Collective-Chicago!**

As you may have heard, the Collective has collaborated in bringing the 2nd Bi-Annual National APIA Spoken Word and Poetry Summit ("**first there was the WORD...then there was the FIST**"), August 1-4, 2003, in Chicago. Co-sponsors for this year's summit include: Depaul University's Women's Studies Department, Hostelling International-Chicago and Diaspora Flow (Minneapolis, MN). Grass-roots efforts are already underway, with invaluable fundraising and support from Isangmahal Arts Kollektive (Seattle), Proletariat Bronze (Bay Area), Balagtasan Collective (Los Angeles), Yellow Rage (Philadelphia), Luvjones Productions (Chicago) and members of Minneapolis' community of poets.

After mobilizing members of APIA arts groups and organizations from over 15 cities, the first summit, organized by I Was Born With Two Tongues and Isangmahal Arts Kollektive, brought over 120 people to Seattle. After such an amazing experience, and the buzz that was created from it, we are expecting 175 people to register for this year's summit in Chicago.

The mission of the summit is to give a unified, national voice to the concerns of the APIA community and address the vital role we as artists play in the development and empowerment of our community. Participants are the youth workers, teachers, poets, actors, writers, visual artists, monologists, history keepers and future of Asian America.

The Asian American Artists Collective and all the summit's participants have been very fortunate to be part of the Asian American movement — a movement which has helped redefine and love ourselves beyond the basic identity politic, beyond the rhetoric and propaganda, and onto a path towards changing this world into something worth living in and fighting for.

You know just as we do that ideals are all and good, but positive change comes at a price, and artists with only pocket change for resources are the harsh realities.

Learning from the first summit, will have many expenses to support approximately 175 participants. Costs include: showcase facility rental, transportation (van rental or CTA transit cards), food, supplies & travel/lodging for guest speakers. Registration fees have been kept low for the artists, with the majority of the costs being absorbed by the Asian American Artists Collective.

So you may be asking yourself, "What's in it for me?"

The answer is clear: you will have the undying gratitude of the future of Asian America, and we artists are not only proud enough to beg, but we never forget the face of a funder and friend. On a more serious note, this summit first started as a side conversation and "what if" situation, and has grown into a nationwide dream. We'd hate for such a worthy cause to fall short because we dreamed two thousand dollars bigger than ourselves. For those that believe in the intrinsic ties art has with creating culture and community, then you understand why this summit is a necessary event.

Check a box and mail this slip in with your donation.

Organization: _____

Name/Individual: _____

Address: : _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Yes!

I would like to contribute a check money order
in the amount of \$50 \$100 \$150 \$200 other (please specify) _____

No! You freaks. I'm a starving artist too. You should donate to me.

Please mail your donation by July 18, 2003, and make all checks/MO's payable to:

Asian American Artists Collective
(EIN 42-1563420 - "Memo: APIA Summit 2003/donation").

APIA SUMMIT 2003
c/o Asian American Artists Collective
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