

isangmahal arts kollektive (Seattle) and i was born with two tongues (Chicago) presents:



The 1st National
APIA SPOKEN WORD & POETRY SUMMIT:
**“first there was the word...
then there was the FIST!”**

Greetings familia!

Peace & Blessings. We would like to welcome each of you to the **1st National Asian Pacific Islander American Spoken Word and Poetry Summit- FIRST THERE WAS THE WORD...THEN THERE WAS THE FIST!**

This summit has been over two years in the making, and we are proud to say that what you are about to experience what started out as a simple, "you know what would be great to have..." comment someone blurted out once. To chalk up another one for happenstance, the indelible bond between Isangmahal and the crew that eventually became 2Tongues formed over a 24-hour period in August 1998, brewed from a simple open-mic in a remote suburb of Chicago and incubated over a conference 120 miles south in the Midwestern heartland.

And so, here you are— one of 120 participants from over 12 cities, out to spread the word, cipher with our ancestors and family, and cultivate our personal text into action. The aim of this summit is simple: to learn to love our impending selves through the reflections and stories of our fellow Asian American brothers and sisters. The word is just the medium. What you put into this gathering is what you get out of this gathering, so make it count. Let us redirect your theoretical "you are here" arrows to a spot where the "craft" and the "process" are backseat pantomimes to your driving narrative and to your place in Asian America. There is little time for the poet to not have the fortitude to dance, the actor to not have the courage to write their own story, for the play-write to not have a rightful place on stage. In other words, you are being asked to partake in pure, unfiltered theater, which is so much bigger than ourselves, our self-deprecation, and our notions of community. We are building living history. Thank you for coming.

As you read this, there are several Seattleites/Asian Americans/Isangmahal members in the shadows, masquerading as minions to the logistics and fierce schedules of this summit. Their contributions in making sure you are not still at Gate 4 in SEATAC, crammed in a lost-and-found bin at the SU Union, or sleeping in a cupboard under the stairs is testament to their power. There are also those who have valued our vision enough to have helped support this endeavor above and beyond what is necessary like The Asian American Writers' Workshop (NYC), United Filipino Club of Seattle University, Filipino American Student Association of University of Washington, NorthWest Asian American Theater, and Wing Luke Asian Museum. Respect, fear, and profusely thank them.

one love,
isangmahal arts kollektive (SEA)
I Was Born With 2 Tongues (CHI)

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