

Asian Arts Initiative

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ATTENTION EDITORS!

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STADIUM IN CHINATOWN CONTROVERSY INSPIRES ASIAN ARTS INITIATIVE GALLERY EXHIBITION

Opening Reception- Friday, Sept. 29, 7 p.m. • Runs through Nov. 30

The Asian Arts Initiative's first formal exhibition, *Chinatown and Resistance*, is inspired by the outrage against Mayor Street's proposal to build a baseball stadium atop Philadelphia's Chinatown. The exhibit includes artwork and activist materials responding to current and past political actions in Philadelphia's Chinatown.

Artists address the repercussions of building a stadium in Chinatown, from the stifling of a growing community, to the burden guaranteed to be placed upon taxpayers. The community speaks out about a history of upheaval, with Chinatown's existence threatened by several urban renewal and redevelopment projects in the past thirty years.

The opening reception at 7 p.m. on Friday, September 29 will feature *The Big Bail Out*, a shadow puppet performance designed by Shoddy Puppet Company, and *Field of Schemes* authors Joanna Cagen and Neil DeMause, addressing the displacement of urban communities by modern stadiums. The gallery opening also presents the premiere screening of *InvAsian*, a 12-minute film directed and edited by local teens documenting Chinatown's struggles.

Our Gallery Program is the newest addition to the Asian Arts Initiative, centered on our belief in the arts as a powerful force for challenging misperceptions and catalyzing social action. The Asian Arts Initiative's gallery will invite local and national artists to exhibit 2-dimensional, 3-dimensional, and multi-media work relating to current issues and events facing Asian American communities.

The *Chinatown and Resistance* exhibition runs from September 15 through November 30. The opening reception is on Friday, September 29 at 7:00 p.m. at the Asian Arts Initiative, 1315 Cherry Street, 2nd Floor, Philadelphia; there is a \$5 suggested donation.

The Asian Arts Initiative is grounded in the belief that the arts can provide an important political and cultural “voice” for the Asian American communities in Philadelphia. We are a community arts center where artists and everyday people explore and express our diverse experiences as Asian Americans.

**Call for more information:
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