



ASIAN ARTS INITIATIVE

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Governor Appoints Asian Arts Initiative's Executive Director Gayle Isa As The First Asian American Member of the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts Council

Philadelphia, PA – Governor Tom Corbett announced yesterday the Senate confirmation of Gayle Isa, Founder and Executive Director of Asian Arts Initiative, to a three-year term on the Council of the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts. Gayle is the first Asian American and one of 15 private citizens and four members of the General Assembly to serve on the Council, which sets the mission and goals for the agency, evaluates the PCA's progress toward these goals, formulates policy, and makes final decisions on the use of funds.

“Gayle is that rare leader whose peer network, experience and management style mean that she can bring both a national and neighborhood perspective at the same time. What a great selection for the Council,” responded Tom Kaiden, President of the Greater Philadelphia Cultural Alliance.

Gayle has been an active participant in Philadelphia's arts and culture community for the past 18 years, beginning as an intern and evolving as a staff member at the Painted Bride Art Center. She also spent three years working with the Southeast Asian Mutual Assistance Associations Coalition, learning about human services and advocacy within the Asian American community in Philadelphia. She has been a National Finalist in the Ford Foundation's Leadership for a Changing World program. She has served on the boards of the Philadelphia Cultural Fund and the Greater Philadelphia Cultural Alliance, and is currently on the Executive Committee of the National Performance Network and the Steering Committee of the nascent National Asian American Theater Project. She is a 1993 graduate of Swarthmore College.

“I'm thrilled and honored to have been nominated to serve the arts community in this capacity,” said Gayle. “This is wonderful recognition of the vital work Asian Arts Initiative does every day to strengthen Philadelphia's cultural vibrancy by sharing the diverse experiences of Asian Americans through our gallery, performance and youth programs and our role as a hub of creativity and community in Chinatown North.”

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Asian Arts Initiative is a community-based arts center in Philadelphia that engages artists and everyday people to create art that explores the diverse experiences of Asian Americans, addresses our social context, and imagines and effects positive community change. Recently relocated due to the expansion of the Pennsylvania Convention Center, Asian Arts Initiative is now in a new home at 1219 Vine Street where we are contributing to the revitalization of Vine Street and Chinatown North. For more information about Asian Arts Initiative, please call (215) 557-0455 or visit www.asianartsinitiative.org

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