



## **Chapter 12**

### **Collaborative Agenda Setting for Action: Raising Awareness through Media, Cultural Arts, and Theater**



Ethnic media is a powerful tool for getting messages about DRS into Asian American communities. Because these communities also look to ethnic media for information, such media may be a good way for VR counselors to reach out to them. Media awareness traditionally broadens outreach to promote social and public policy changes (Minkler, 2005). To extend outreach to Asian American communities in Chicago, DRS counselors and staff must make greater efforts to contact and work with pan-Asian radio, news, and television stations (please see Appendix Y for listing of Asian media stations).

It is well documented that both traditional and non-traditional venues in Asian American communities are useful ways of informing these typically hard-to-reach communities about VR and employment services (Li et al, 2009). Mass media in China, for example, was found to be the single most-popular and most-trusted way to inform people about HIV and sexually transmitted diseases (Li et al., 2009). When ethnic media are used effectively they can significantly increase the use of mental and physical health care and rehabilitation by traditionally uninvolved communities (Ma et al., 2004). The same result can be obtained with issues of VR and employment for people with disabilities and mental health issues.

In fact, using media to portray success stories or challenges faced by individuals, families, and communities can have a huge impact on how the public views disability and the rate at which DRS services are sought. Media can help empower individuals, but it can also shape public beliefs and influence the government to make fundamental changes in services and legislation. There are many ways to target pan-Asian American populations, especially if you link to the full range of venues. They can help to inform the community about local DRS-VR offices and publish stories that help people to understand their own situations.

**Appropriate use of different types of media can provide a gateway to understanding disability and employment.**



Information can be spread by:

- word of mouth
- television announcements
- radio announcements
- pamphlets
- newspapers
- phone calls
- e-mail
- flyers and brochures

The methods and messages used must be culturally appropriate for the target audiences. Media outreach should be tailored to each Asian community through multiple media venues, such as videos, brochures, and television.

### **ABC7 Features C4 for Its Supportive Jobs Services Program**

Chicago-based counseling center C4 (Community Counseling Centers of Chicago) was featured on ABC for its Supportive Jobs Services Program (<http://tinyurl.com/43jucdg>). ABC noted how successful the program has been and highlighted one of the program's long-time successes, Earl Burke. Burke has a mental disability, but when he got involved with C4, his life changed for the better. C4 is a local not-for-profit agency working to help people with mental illness to find steady jobs. Earl Burke has been working at a Jewel food store on Chicago's North Side for two years. He works four days a week, six hours a day. Burke is just one of many employees with disabilities who are part of Jewel-Osco. He loves his current job. He enjoys the fact that the people are friendly, he gets fair pay, and the job keeps him busy.

## Press Releases, Press Conferences, and Town Hall Meetings

When putting on an event or educational forum that addresses how DRS-VR can reach out to job-seekers with disabilities in the pan-Asian American community, it is important to work in partnership with key stakeholders. ADOPT has been tackling aspects of the effort to mobilize traditionally hard-to-reach communities.

## Press Releases to the Asian American Community



### **OUTREACH SPOLIGHT: ADOPT and Erasing the Distance (ETD) Present: *Falling Petals***

ETD, a Chicago-based theatrical company, uses theater to shed light on mental illness and other disabilities. The company, sponsored by ADOPT and UIC's Asian American Studies Program, presented *Falling Petals* as part of its mission to generate awareness, disarm stigma, and spark dialogue in Asian American communities. This professional theatrical production was based on real people's experiences with mental illness and disability. All were welcome to join the cultural event and tickets were free. (Please see Appendices R, S, T, and U.)

## **Japanese American Citizens League Statement on the DREAM Act and Don't Ask, Don't Tell Legislation**

One of the nation's oldest and largest Asian American civil rights organizations, the Japanese American Citizens League (JACL), has expressed concern about the United States Senate's opposition towards the DREAM Act (from [http://www.jacl.org/documents/12-21-10DREAM\\_and\\_DADT.pdf](http://www.jacl.org/documents/12-21-10DREAM_and_DADT.pdf)). In an address to the Senate, JACL members spoke against denying many immigrants the chance to pursue the American Dream.

## **Japanese American Citizens League and Direct Relief International Join Together for Japan Relief and Recovery Efforts**

The JACL announced via a press release that it has formed a coalition with Direct Relief International to aid in relief and recovery efforts after the 9.0 magnitude earthquake and tsunami that struck Japan in March 2011 (from <http://tinyurl.com/3padjed>). The two groups collaborated to ensure that all donations to the Japan Relief and Recovery Fund were used efficiently and appropriately. This collaboration worked well because the disaster was too large for only one organization to tackle.

## **Midwest Asian Health Association Fundraiser for "Break the Silence, Erase the Distance" to Raise Mental Health Awareness in Asians**

The Midwest Asian Health Association released an invitation to its annual benefit reception in order to raise public awareness about mental health issues in Asian American communities (<http://tinyurl.com/3zxbtbp>). The event honored numerous guest speakers who had significant roles in their communities.

## South Asians Living with Disabilities

South Asian Community and Disabilities: Raising Awareness, Facing Challenges, Accessing Resources was a one-day conference held on June 15, 2007 in New Jersey to raise awareness and create discussion about the needs of South Asians with disabilities as well as their families ([www.southasianhealth.org](http://www.southasianhealth.org)). Five leading disability advocacy groups, including the South Asian Health Project (SAH), South Asian Mental Health Awareness in Jersey (SAMHAJ), and the Boggs Center from the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey (UMDNJ), made presentations. Two tracks were provided for participants. Track One provided information on developmental disabilities such as Down syndrome and autism, and mental illnesses such as depression and schizophrenia. Track Two featured community leaders who presented cultural issues and perspectives on disability to service providers who work with families and individuals in order to help them provide more culturally competent services.

### **OUTREACH SPOTLIGHT: Asian American Disabilities Business Forum**

The first-ever Asian American Disabilities Business Forum is another example of ADOPT's partnerships with other stakeholders. On April 7, 2011, ADOPT hosted Chicago's first Business Forum for Asian Americans with disabilities (AAWDs). The full-day forum provided critical information on expanding employment opportunities for Asian American job-seekers with disabilities. The forum, which was supported by many community businesses and Asian stakeholders, detailed the inclusive work of ADOPT and the services and programs of city, state, and federal agencies to help improve the lives and workforce participation of people with disabilities, especially Asian Americans (see Appendix V for the event's press release and Appendix W for the event's flyer).

## Gaining Access to Media in a Culturally Appropriate Way

Using media to send politically charged and informational messages about DRS services can be an extremely persuasive means of communication. Advocacy groups can use media to promote changes in communities and in politics (Minkler, 2005). When doing media outreach to pan-Asian Americans, cultural relevance increases response to the message.

For example, Braun and Browne (1998) noted that it is important for social workers to seek out ways to increase their awareness of cultural values in Asian American communities, and that it is crucial to avoid stereotyping. DRS staff must understand that there is great diversity within API American groups. Figure 12.1 provides suggestions to media companies on how to offer culturally appropriate and culturally targeted messages.

Asian American communities have lagged behind other U.S. ethnic communities in defining and addressing the VR and employment-related needs of their members via mass media despite an abundance of opportunities to do so (Ma, Fleisher, Gonzales, & Edwards, 2004). However, the success of DRS staff in connecting with Asian media is deeply rooted in their connection to this community (Minkler, 2005). Without community support or interest, media outreach will prove fruitless.

## **Examples of Best Practices for Culturally Appropriate Media Outreach**

- Acknowledge, recognize, and address the diversity among and within Asian American groups (Braun & Browne, 1998; Ma et al., 2004).
- Use minority-oriented public media as primary dissemination outlets (Braun, Takamura, Forman, Sasaki, & Meininger, 1995) and develop culturally appropriate messages (Ma et al., 2004).
- Use multiple Asian languages to reach out to Asian Americans through various media outlets to increase readership (Ma et al., 2004).
- Provide information in a culturally sensitive manner with innovations more likely to be accepted and further adopted by Asian populations by carefully addressing the population's attitudes and cultural values (Ma et al., 2004).
- Provide messages in English, as well as Asian languages and dialects (Ma et al., 2004).
- Address common misconceptions of target populations in culturally sensitive ways (Braun et al., 1995).
- Work with multiple leaders, groups, community members, and leaders of specific community groups to educate the larger communities (Braun et al., 1995).



**Figure 12.1. Suggestions for Asian Media Outlets to Create Culturally Appropriate Messages.**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Raise awareness of the VR and employment challenges facing Asians with disabilities and the factors (such as religious views and the model minority myth) that can lead to stigmatization of people with disabilities.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote the message that Asians with disabilities are part of our communities and should be part of our workforce.</li> <li>• Inform communities about various VR services and how to access them.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bring discussion of disability into pan-Asian agencies, communities, and the public arena to challenge the idea that disability is a taboo subject.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote policies, products, services, and environments that support the full participation and development of Asians with disabilities.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Feature examples of Asian Americans with disabilities as providers of expertise, services, assistance, and sources of support for their families and communities.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Disseminate information on DRS services and eligibility issues and processes.</li> </ul>

**Note:** These examples are adapted from the ILO document, *Media Guidelines for the Portrayal of Disability*.

## Raising Awareness through the Arts



**Top painting: Rage, 36"x 12"**  
 This work is a reflection of contemplative feelings and pent-up emotions on the verge of release.

**Bottom painting: Euphoria, 36" x 12"**

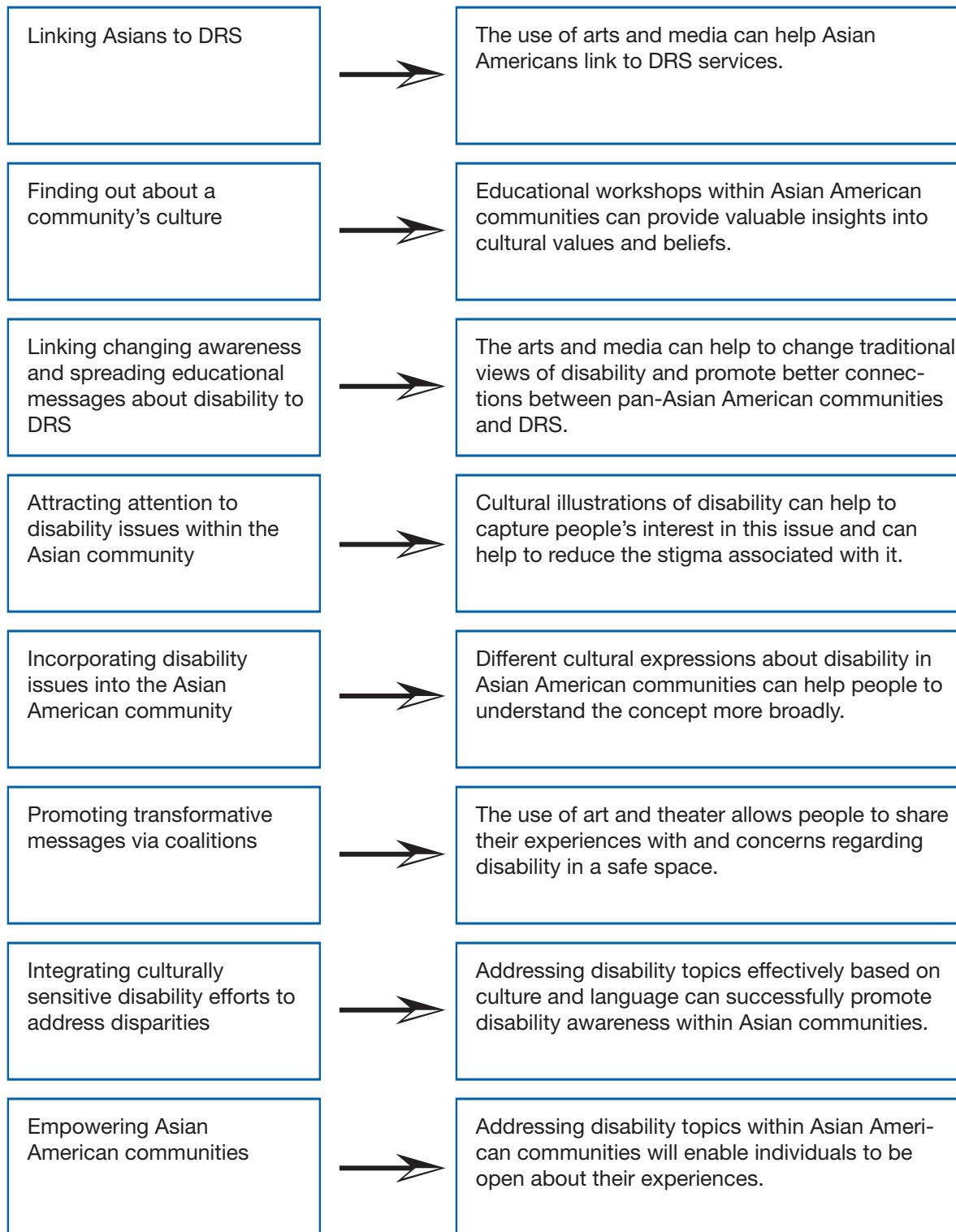
This painting reflects how sometimes the simplest of things, like a friendly smile, is all it takes to change the mood of the day from despair to elation and puts life into perspective.

Another type of media outreach involves cultural outlets. These include visual arts, such as painting, graphic design, photography, theater, and street performances. These types of resources are powerful tools for promoting any type of social change. Media and arts outreach efforts can increase awareness of disability and other health care issues, which are usually not well known in the Asian community (Pelto & Singh, 2010). Because much political and social change has had its beginnings in arts and literature throughout history, these avenues can and should be used as a vehicle for social change (McDonald, Antunez, & Gottemoeller, 1999). When used effectively, the arts and media can promote much social change in many ways, as illustrated in Figure 12.2.

### **Suggestions for Using Arts Effectively in Outreach to Asian American Communities**

- Seek new and more effective ways to address complex topics by beginning with values that are culturally central (McDonald et al., 1999).
- Create linkages with Asian American community members to find strong voices to break the silence about disability in Asian societies (McDonald et al., 1999).

**Figure 12.2. How Media and Arts Facilitate Change**



**Note:** These suggestions are adapted from McDonald et al. (2005), "Using the arts and literature in health education," and Wallack (2005), "Media advocacy: A strategy for empowering people and communities."

## Raising Awareness through Theater

In rural India, street performances are highly effective ways to communicate about health issues because they attract audiences from lower-income communities and can be watched by many people at once (Pelto & Singh, 2010). These performances can touch on many other topics besides health awareness. They have had a strong effect on community members, who have reported that they incorporated these messages into their lives (Pelto & Singh, 2010). Soap operas, one of the most popular genres of television in Latin America and India, have also been incorporating education about health issues into their plotlines (Brown, Singhal, & Rogers, 1989). Outreach through theater can increase the number of people who actively seek out medical care (Lam et al., 2003) and education, such as literacy classes (Brown et al., 1989).

### *Falling Petals*



Funded by ADOPT and the Asian American Studies Department at the University of Illinois at Chicago and a professional acting group called Erasing the Distance, *Falling Petals* was a theatrical event created to promote awareness about disability. For three months, the three groups planned a theatrical outreach event that would facilitate discussion and awareness of cross-cultural disability and mental health issues in pan-Asian American communities. (Please see Appendix S for the program brochure and Appendix T for the flyer.)

The Chicago-based event, which was performed three times for community members, DRS officials, and students/faculty, chronicled the experience of five Asian adults in the Chicago area who had to deal with difficulties stemming from their disabilities and their communities. Each story presented one person's battles with problems ranging from depression to stroke, including dealing with family, community, and personal reactions. A local Asian American artist whose work has been displayed prominently in Chicago also showed work to promote awareness about disability (Please see Appendix S for the program and Appendix U for the program insert with Alfred's work). The event stepped well beyond traditional boundaries for the Asian American community by promoting greater awareness of disability and reducing stigma around disability.

## **The Young Performers of Jamghat**

Other countries, especially in Asia, have utilized street performances to spread messages about health awareness and other issues that many rural residents may not be aware of. In India, street children and former child laborers have come together at Jamghat to use theater for social awareness. Jamghat, which means "gathering," is a Delhi-based NGO that has worked for the welfare of homeless children in and around the capital city since 2003. It provides opportunities for street kids to become self-reliant by giving them vocational training through theater. It builds self-confidence in the children and makes the society aware of key social issues related to their lives. The children have written a play for the World Health Organization on HIV/AIDS awareness (Lal, 2007).

## **Stories of Asians with Disabilities on YouTube**

A collection of short documentaries on YouTube describes various Asians and AAWDs and the difficulties they face. All of these people overcome their obstacles and become independent and self-sufficient. Many of these films also reveal cultural and ethnic values that are sometimes higher hurdles than the disabilities themselves. (Please see Appendix X for a list and description of these documentaries.)

## Photovoice, Photo Novella, and Digital Stories

Useful resources for investigating and assessing the needs of Asian American groups in various communities have been photographed and videotaped. One important method is photovoice, a means by which people can identify, represent, and enhance their community (Wang & Burris, 1997). Through photovoice, community members are given cameras; they use these cameras to document their lives and thereby promote understanding that can result in policy changes.

Photovoice has three main goals:

- Enable people to record and reflect their community's strengths and concerns
- Promote critical dialogue and knowledge about important community issues through large and small-group discussion of photographs
- Reach policy makers



**Falling Petals Tree.**

Photovoice can give disability researchers, professionals and, most importantly, policy makers a look into the lives of Asian American community members, which are different from the lives of those who are usually in control of major policy-making situations (Wang & Burris, 1997). The most important step is to engage community members in their own photographs. In rural China, women were given cameras to document their lives and encouraged to talk about how they were treated as women, wives, and mothers. This project helped to initiate the Ford Foundation- supported Women's Reproductive Health and Development Program, which was conducted among rural women in two counties in the Yunnan Province (Wang & Burris, 1994). Photovoice projects have been shared with many other sectors of the Chinese government to improve health, education, and literacy, as well as to promote many other policy changes (Wang & Burris, 1994).

Photovoice has also been used to address disparities in health promotion among people with intellectual disabilities (Jurkowski & Paul-Ward, 2007). Normally, addressing disparities within this population is difficult because its members are often poor and marginalized (Jurkowski & Paul-Ward, 2007). Using photovoice allows this population to be heard and can increase policy makers' awareness of and actions that concern this community.

Certain guidelines have been suggested for photovoice, photo novella, and video (Chávez et al., 2004). The process of using them should follow a community-based participatory research approach (CBPR) by engaging the community and its members in all aspects of production. The following is a guideline offered by Chavez et al. for implementing this suggestion.

## Suggestions for Creating Effective Photovoice, Photo Novella, and Video Segments within Vocational Rehabilitation

### **Step 1: Engage Stakeholders**

Before making the video, two questions must be asked: (1) Is the video something members of the community support? and (2) Are there community members interested in working actively on video production or in advisory capacities? Initially, when engaging CBPR partners in a video project, the emphasis should not be the video but on the issues the video is intended to document.

### **Step 2: Solicit Funding and Gather Informed Consent**

When making a document, it is important to include both paid and volunteer time for everyone involved. Some of the costs that must be considered are: (a) production equipment, including cameras; (b) mini DVD and VHS cassettes, (c) extension cords, lighting, and microphones, (d) time and technical expertise in film editing, which can be provided by arts academies, schools, local universities, etc., and (e) a final round of professional editing, which can be negotiated at an hourly rate. Informed consent must be obtained from every participant who is interviewed on camera.

### **Step 3: Create Shared Ownership**

Community members should be involved in discussions about document creation and the submission of articles and other publications that they should be invited to coauthor.

### **Step 4: Build Cross-Cultural Collaborations**

Some of the document-making principles of community-based participatory research emphasize local relevance, and much attention is paid to the social, economic, and cultural conditions that influence health. For diverse communities, the video or other visual record will contain multicultural perspectives.

### **Step 5: Write the Script Together**

The video or other document must equally reflect the perspectives of everyone involved in the project.

### **Step 6: Put It All Together (Editing and Music Selection)**

The final project should be smooth, captivating, professional, and enjoyable to watch.



## Fanlight Productions: <http://www.fanlight.com/>

Fanlight Productions is a film distributor that focuses on social issues, especially healthcare, mental health, professional ethics, aging and gerontology, disabilities, the workplace, and gender and family issues. Fanlight Productions creates documentaries that highlight the importance of advocating for people who have chronic illnesses, disabilities, and other life issues. Here are a few examples of Fanlight documentaries about Asian Americans and other minorities with disabilities that can be used in cross-cultural training workshops at DRS.

## **Worlds Apart: A Four-Part Series on Cross-Cultural Healthcare**

This documentary focuses on patients and families faced with critical medical decisions that can drastically alter patients' lives (<http://www.commonwealth-fund.org/Resources/2004/Feb/Worlds-Apart---A-Film-Series-on-Cross-Cultural-Health-Care.aspx>).

Mohammad Kochi had surgery for stomach cancer, but refuses to undergo the chemotherapy recommended by his physician. As a devout Muslim, Mohammad fears that chemotherapy will interfere with his ability to pray.

Justine Chitsena needs surgery for a congenital heart defect, but her mother and grandmother, both refugees from Laos, fear that the scar left by the operation will damage her in her next reincarnation.

Robert Phillips is an African-American who believes that he is likely to wait twice as long as a White patient for the kidney transplant he needs.

Alicia Mercado suffers from diabetes, hypertension, asthma, and depression that have worsened after her recent eviction from her home of 18 years. The eviction has also disrupted the continuity of her care. Her son worries about the "assembly line" care he feels she is receiving.

The interactions between these patients and their healthcare providers reveal much about the problems and the opportunities in cross-cultural healthcare.

### ***Raymond's Portrait***

Raymond Hu is a very talented and prolific painter. He also has Down syndrome. By the age of 19, he had won numerous awards for his work ([http://www.fan-light.com/catalog/films/267\\_rp.php](http://www.fan-light.com/catalog/films/267_rp.php)). He was recently named one of "25 Role Models for the Next 25 Years" by Exceptional Parent magazine.

This documentary shows Raymond's challenges growing up with Down syndrome through his Chinese brush paintings of animals. Raymond is a powerful example of what can happen when a child is encouraged to develop to his full potential, regardless of others' preconceptions about his abilities.

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### **Free Community Event – THREE PERFORMANCES OF “FALLING PETALS” a theatrical event exploring mental health and disability from Asian American perspectives**

Chicago, IL – What if you were blind and didn’t tell anyone due to the stigma? What if you were shunned by your own family or community for having a child with a disability? How would you deal with a father’s raging alcohol addiction?

Join us on March 2, 3, and 4<sup>th</sup> for FALLING PETALS, a 75-minute theatrical event sharing the true stories of Asian American Chicagoans as they answer these questions. They also ask and answer, “How does our community’s response to the curveballs of life surprise, strengthen, or harm us?”

#### **FALLING PETALS Performances:**

Wed, March 2nd at 4:00pm

Thurs, March 3rd at 4:00pm

Fri, March 4<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm

All performances at James Stukel Towers Event Center at UIC, 718 W. Rochford Street (near Rochford and Halsted), Chicago.

The performance is accompanied by visual art by Alfred Li Tsao, and is followed by a discussion moderated by Brighid O’Shaughnessy. Complimentary refreshments included.

**To reserve FREE tickets, visit [www.BrownPaperTickets.com](http://www.BrownPaperTickets.com).**

\*\*For disability-related accommodations, please also contact the Disability Resource Center at UIC two weeks in advance by email: [drc@uic.edu](mailto:drc@uic.edu) or by phone: 312-413-2183

#### **More about the people and organizations behind FALLING PETALS:**

Founded in 2005 and seen by over 25,000 people, **Erasing the Distance** uses theatre to shed light on mental illness. The company is thrilled to be presenting FALLING PETALS, as part of the company’s mission to generate awareness, disarms stigma, and spark dialogue by creating professional theatrical productions based on the real people’s experiences with mental illness and mental health challenges. Erasing the Distance

## Appendix R.

- continues -

- page 2 of 2, contact [Oriana@ErasingTheDistance.org](mailto:Oriana@ErasingTheDistance.org) -

recently presented WILL YOU STAND UP?, a show and workshop series exploring how violence affects our lives, presented in partnership with Affinity Community Services.

**Alfred Li Tsao** is an painter and visual artist whose work will be on display and for sale at FALLING PETALS. Tsao is a graduate of the School of the Art Institute, and his work has been displayed in downtown Chicago at locations such as The Chicago Cultural Center, the James R. Thompson Center, Harold Washington Library, and more.

**Brigid O'Shaughnessy** is the director for the performances of FALLING PETALS. She is the Founder and Executive Artistic Director of Erasing the Distance. O'Shaughnessy was recently granted DePaul University's prestigious David O. Justice Award for her use of theatre to educate communities about mental health in non-traditional and creative ways. Erasing the Distance received a 3Arts Vision Award in 2010 to support O'Shaughnessy's work of shedding light on mental illness.

**Actors for FALLING PETALS** include Phil de Guzman, Wannapa Eubanks, Anish Jethmalani, and Dwight Sora.

The March 2nd-4th performances of FALLING PETALS are sponsored by **ADOPT** (Asian Americans with Disabilities Outreach Project) and The Asian American Studies Department at UIC.

ADOPT is funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). The Asians with Disabilities Outreach Project Think-Tank (ADOPT) was awarded to the Center for Capacity Building on Minorities with Disabilities Research (CCBMDR) at University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC), which is collaborating with the Division of Rehabilitation Services (DRS) of the Illinois Human Services Department.

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Don't miss this moving event, sharing a variety of Asian American perspectives on mental illness, disability, challenges, resiliency, and community. Join us for FALLING PETALS, March 2-4th, 2011.

[www.ErasingTheDistance.org](http://www.ErasingTheDistance.org)

## Appendix S. - Falling Petals Flyer



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the DISTANCE

presents

# Falling Petals

This theatrical event will explore mental illness and disability from a variety of Asian American perspectives, sharing real people's stories of challenges, resiliency, and community. With visual art by Alfred Li Tsao.

**WED/TH MARCH 2+3** at 4:00 PM

**FRI MARCH 4** at 7:00 PM

At the James Stukel Event Center at UIC  
Entrance is at 718 W Rochford Street, Chicago

**Tickets are free.** Refreshments will be served.

**Reservations recommended:** RSVP at [BrownPaperTickets.com](http://BrownPaperTickets.com)

For disability-related accommodations, please contact the Disability Resource Center at UIC two weeks ahead of time by e-mail [drcc@uic.edu](mailto:drcc@uic.edu) or by phone: 312-413-2183.

Falling Petals originally premiered in October 2010.

Two of the five stories are new—don't miss this moving event!

[www.ErasingTheDistance.org](http://www.ErasingTheDistance.org)



# UIC

Sponsored by ADOPT and The Asian American Studies Dept at UIC  
ADOPT is supported by funds provided by the Illinois Division of Rehabilitation Services (DRS)

*A Sincere Thank You to the following:*

To our partners at ADOPT and UIC - Jae Jin, Mark, Mary Anne, and Nil for your willingness to dive in and to Rooshey especially for your thoughtful care of this project; to Anish, Wannapa, Dwight, Christine, and Phil for giving your time and your heart to this endeavor; to our storytellers - thank you for being a beacon of hope and bravery for the world; to Alfred, for your beautiful and compelling art work - you are a reminder of precision and grace; to Meredith Siemsen (tree artist and curator) for making the space visually sing again; and to all those behind the scenes who make everything come together -- to Oriana Fowler, for your graceful commitment to spreading the word about this production; to Diana at ETD for your diligence and organizational savvy; to Jessica for your generous story collection; to the James Stukel Center for your gracious donation of the space; and to all who helped create the tree "installation" in the lobby--Shiva Anand, Amira Sabbagh, Howard Vu, Won M. Kang, Riaz and Nayer Hasnain, Wannapa Pimtong-Eubanks, Chitra Gurang, Navroz Dabu, Dwight Sora and Cher Tse Hilgardner--thank you for bringing to life the words and thoughts of the community around us.

*Get involved...*

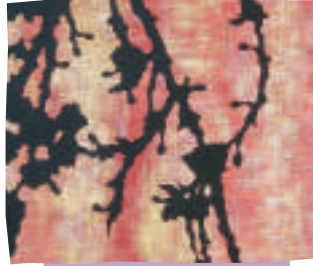
**Ways to get involved with Erasing the Distance:**

- Share your story with us.
- Donate or volunteer your time.
- Become an ETD Ambassador.
- Wear a free ETD button and let your community know you are willing to talk about mental illness.

**Ways to get involved with ADOPT:**

- If you are interested in helping out with ADOPT, please contact:

Rooshey Hasnain, Ed.D.  
 Visiting Research Assistant Professor and Project Director  
 Center for Capacity Building on Minorities with Disabilities Research  
 University of Illinois at Chicago  
[roosheyh@uic.edu](mailto:roosheyh@uic.edu)  
 (312) 413-0416 (phone)  
 (312) 413-0416 (tdd)



*Falling Petals*

A multi-media arts experience sharing the true stories of Asian Americans impacted by disability, mental illness and suicide.

For Mental Health support, resources and information, contact the following organizations:

- Apna Ghar  
 (773) 334-0173  
 AASPI  
<http://aaspi.blogspot.com/>  
 Asian Human Services  
 (773) 293-8437  
 Chinese American Service League  
 (312) 791-0418  
 Chicago Domestic Violence Help Line  
 (877) 863-6338 (877-TO-END-DV)

presented by



**UIC**



## *A word about this collaboration*

Falling Petals debuted in October 2010 at Theatre 773, thanks to the gracious sponsorship and trust of the Asian American Suicide Prevention Initiative. The show had such a positive impact that people in the audience that day sought to bring it to life again. One of those people was Rooshey Hasnain. Rooshey felt strongly that the production should be brought to the campus of UIC and through her diligence and unwavering focus, she's made it happen. Rooshey leads an exciting initiative on campus called ADOPT, which works with Asian Americans with disabilities in the process of vocational rehabilitation. ADOPT links these individuals with community resources and in doing so, helps to bring them out of the shadows. She asked if Falling Petals #2 could include some of their stories.

Therefore, the performance you will see here at the James Stukel Center does just that. 3 of the 5 stories will be from our original performance in October and cover Erasing the Distance's traditional topics of mental health and the impacts of suicide, though in this case, specifically from the Asian American community. The 2 new stories bring to life the unique experiences of those with physical disabilities and draw links between the personal and universal challenges that both groups face.

We are honored to give voice to the stories in Falling Petals and to partner with both ADOPT and UIC's Asian American Studies Program on this important project. It is by coming together that our voices are stronger and that we can respond more effectively to the challenges and dreams of our communities. We are glad you are here.

Brigid O'Shaughnessy

Executive Artistic Director, Erasing the Distance

## *A word about our sponsors*

### **ADOPT**

Housed at the University of Illinois Chicago, the Asians with Disabilities Outreach Project Think-Tank (ADOPT), an 18-month initiative funded by the Division of Rehabilitation Services (DRS), attempts to develop a strategy for increasing vocational rehabilitation agencies' capacity to reach out to Asian American with disabilities. With nearly 30 community partners involved, the information collected during this project will be used to develop a toolkit highlighting culturally relevant outreach strategies that can help promote service access and opportunities for and with Chicago-based Asians with disabilities and their families and communities.

### **The Asian American Studies Program at University of Illinois Chicago**

Recently established in the fall of 2010, the Asian American Studies Program is committed to the study of Asian American communities, cultures and politics in Chicago and beyond. We strive to develop mutually beneficial collaborations with community partners in order to make knowledge accessible and relevant. For further information, please contact Prof. Mark Chiang at (312) 413-0463, or email [mchiang@uic.edu](mailto:mchiang@uic.edu).

## *The Artists*

**Brigid O'Shaughnessy (Director)** is the Founder and Executive Artistic Director of Erasing the Distance. Since 2005, she has reached over 25,000 people with theatrical performances about mental illness that she has acted in, directed, devised and/or produced. She was recently granted DePaul University's David O. Justice Award for using theatre to educate communities about mental illness in non-traditional ways. Her experience as a director, actor and teacher committed to social change has spanned 15 years, including time with the Theatres Theatre Arts Project and Redmoon's Dramagists, and with teens at Chicago Public Schools. Brigid is a mental health educator with NAMI and the artist and advocates who have made today possible.

**Phil de Guzman (Ryan's story)** is thrilled to be working once again with Erasing the Distance on this beautiful show. Originally from New Jersey, Philip recently graduated from Northwestern University with a theatre degree. He would like to thank everyone at Erasing the Distance, his friends, and his family.

**Wannapa Pimtung-Eubanks (Wannapa's story)** is a Thailand Native. She is a butoh performer, choreographer, actor, and the devoted mother of two children. She has performed both her own choreography and with many great artists at venues throughout Chicago, including Goodman Theatre, the Chicago Cultural Center, the Athenaeum Theatre, MCA and Ruth Page Center for the Arts. Wannapa recently debuted her premiere Butoh Dance Theatre production COIN STORY in July, 2010 at Lincoln Square Theatre. She is very grateful for the support from her family and friends, and would like to thank ETD for having her be part of this "unique and intriguing" work.

**Christine Bunuan (Pamela's story)** recently performed in the national touring production of The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee (David Stone Productions). Chicago credits include The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee, Kafka on the Shore (Steppenwolf Theatre Company), A Christmas Carol (Goodman Theatre), Jade Heart (Chicago Dramatists), The Mistress Cycle (Apple Tree Theatre), Beauty and the Beast and Aladdin (Marrionett Theatre in Lincolnshire), and Peter Pan The Musical (Chicago Shakespeare Theatre). She is a graduate of The Theater School, DePaul University and a proud member of AEA. Special thanks to her husband, the love of her life, Sean, for EVERYTHING.

**Anish Jethmalani (Suresh's story)** has worked in the Chicago Theatre scene for several years. Some of his stage credits include Wit and A Christmas Carol at the Goodman Theatre; Romeo and Juliet at Chicago Shakespeare Theatre; Titus Andronicus at The Court Theatre; Homeland Security at Victory Gardens Theater; Citizens of the World at Steppenwolf Theatre; Sita Ram and Around the World in 80 Days at The Lookingglass Theatre; To the Greenfields Beyond at Writers' Theatre; Indian Ink at Apple Tree Theatre; Merchant on Venice at Silk Road Theatre Project; and Orpheus, Watch on the Rhine, The Lark and Childe Byron all at the Eclipse Theatre Company where he is currently an ensemble member. Anish is a graduate of Loyola University and also attended The Oxford School of Drama in England.

**Dwight Sora (Jae Jin's story)** is very excited to be in FALLING PETALS. He has been with ETD since 2009, starting with its teen ensemble. Acting work includes Chicago Dramatists, Raven Theatre, Silk Road Theatre Project, Steppenwolf Theatre and Victory Gardens Theatre. He is also involved with Imagination Theater and Fight Jam Chicago (providing free stage combat workshops), and recently filmed scenes for the films Red Dawn and Real Steel. Dwight also manages a club at the Japanese American Service Committee that studies the martial art of Aikido, and runs a newsgroup for local APA actors (<http://groups.google.com/group/bubble-tee>). All the best to his lovely wife.

**Alfred Li Tsao (Featured Artist)** is a graduate of the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. His passion is painting, and the style of his work is modern contemporary Asian with Chinoiserie/Japonaiserie influences. His paintings (displayed in the lobby and on stage) have also been exhibited at the James R. Thompson Center in downtown Chicago, Harold Washington Library, The Chicago Cultural Center, Gallery 2, and Sullivan Galleries. The work on display--most of which was created for this collaborative project--is for sale.



## ADOPT Partners

1. **Access Living**  
Tel: (312) 640-2100 [www.accessliving.org](http://www.accessliving.org)
2. **Arab American Family Services**  
Tel: (708) 599-2237  
[www.arabamericanfamilyservices.org](http://www.arabamericanfamilyservices.org)
3. **Asian American Institute**  
Tel: (773) 271-0899 [www.aaichicago.org](http://www.aaichicago.org)
4. **Asian American Small Business Association**  
Tel: (773) 545-0600 [aasba5000@msn.com](mailto:aasba5000@msn.com)
5. **Asian Health Coalition of Illinois**  
Tel: (312) 372-7070 [www.asianhealth.org](http://www.asianhealth.org)
6. **Asian Human Services**  
Tel: (773) 728-2235 [www.ahsichicago.org](http://www.ahsichicago.org)
7. **Asian Metropolitan Family Services**  
Tel: (773) 465-3105 [www.mafsinc.com](http://www.mafsinc.com)
8. **Asian Business Owner**  
Tel: (847) 982-0899
9. **Cambodian Association of Illinois**  
Tel: (773) 878-7090 [www.cambodian-association.org](http://www.cambodian-association.org)
10. **Chicago Regional Office Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA)**  
Tel: (312) 353-0189 [www.mbda.gov](http://www.mbda.gov) or [www.commerce.gov](http://www.commerce.gov)
11. **Chinese American Service League (CASL)**  
Tel: (312) 791-0418 [www.caslservice.org](http://www.caslservice.org)
12. **Chinese Mutual Aid Association**  
Tel: (773) 784-2900 [www.chinesemutualaid.org](http://www.chinesemutualaid.org)
13. **Coalition of African, Arab, Asian, European, and Latino Immigrants of Illinois**  
Tel: (773) 248-1019 [www.caaaili.org](http://www.caaaili.org)
14. **Coalition of Limited English Speaking Elderly**  
Tel: (312) 461-0812 [www.clese.org](http://www.clese.org)
15. **Community Counseling Centers of Chicago Quetzal Center**  
Tel: (773) 765-0614 [www.c4chicago.org](http://www.c4chicago.org)
16. **Chicago's Commission on Human Relations Council on Asian Affairs**  
Tel: (312) 744-4479 [www.cityofchicago.org/city/en/depts/cchr/provdrs/asian\\_aff.html](http://www.cityofchicago.org/city/en/depts/cchr/provdrs/asian_aff.html)
17. **El Valor** - Tel: (312) 666-4511 [www.elvalor.org](http://www.elvalor.org)
18. **Heartland Alliance Refugee Health Programs**  
Tel: (773) 751-4166 [www.heartlandalliance.org](http://www.heartlandalliance.org)
19. **Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights (ICIRR)**  
Tel: (312) 332-7360 <http://icirr.org/>
20. **Refugee One**  
Tel: (773) 989-5647 [www.irim.org](http://www.irim.org)
21. **Korean American Community Services**  
Tel: (773) 583-5501 [www.kacschgo.org](http://www.kacschgo.org)
22. **Lao American Community Services**  
Tel: (312) 271-0004 [www.lacschicago.org](http://www.lacschicago.org)
23. **Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities**  
Tel: (312) 744-4964 [www.cityofchicago.org/city/en/depts/mopd.html](http://www.cityofchicago.org/city/en/depts/mopd.html)
24. **Midwest Asian American Center Association**  
Tel: (773) 262-8650
25. **Midwest Asian Health Coalition**  
Tel: (312) 225-8659 [www.asianhealth.org](http://www.asianhealth.org)
26. **Muslim Women Resource Center**  
Tel: (773) 764-1686 [www.mwrcnfp.org](http://www.mwrcnfp.org)
27. **Nepali American Center**  
Tel: (773) 469-0684 [www.nepaliamericancenter.org](http://www.nepaliamericancenter.org)
28. **United African Organization**  
Tel: (312) 949-9980 [www.uniteafricans.org](http://www.uniteafricans.org)
29. **Vietnamese American Community of Illinois**  
Tel: (773) 629-4394
30. **Vietnamese Association of Illinois**  
Tel: (773) 728-3700 [www.hnvi.org](http://www.hnvi.org)
31. **Grace Tsao** - Board Member, and Partner of ADOPT
32. **Alfred Tsao** - Visual Arts Advisor to ADOPT, designer of ADOPT LOGO  
[alitsao@gmail.com](mailto:alitsao@gmail.com)
33. **Division of Rehabilitation Services/DHS**  
Tel: (800) 843-6154 [www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?item=32131](http://www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?item=32131)
34. **Center for Capacity Building on Minorities with Disabilities Research, Department of Disability and Human Development (CCBMDR)**  
Tel: 312-413-0416 [www.disabilityempowerment.org](http://www.disabilityempowerment.org) and [www.idhd.org](http://www.idhd.org)



### **MEDIA ADVISORY**

For Immediate Release  
April 1, 2011

Contacts: Rooshey Hasnain, (312) 413-0416, [roosheyh@uic.edu](mailto:roosheyh@uic.edu)  
Kripal (Chris) Zala, (312) 744-4479, [kripal.zala@cityofchicago.org](mailto:kripal.zala@cityofchicago.org)  
Christine Hammond, (312) 793, 7281, [christine.hammond@illinois.gov](mailto:christine.hammond@illinois.gov)  
Bhuttu Mathews, (312) 640-2115, TTY:(312) 640-2172, [bmathews@accessliving.org](mailto:bmathews@accessliving.org)

#### **First ever Asian American Disabilities Business Forum**

*Event offers vital workforce integration information for businesses and service organizations*

**(Chicago)** - On April 7, 2011, the Asians with Disabilities Outreach Project Think-Tank (ADOPT), housed at the University of Illinois Chicago, in conjunction with a wide range of public, private, and community agencies, will host Chicago's first Business Forum for Asian Americans with disabilities. This full-day forum will provide critical information on expanding employment opportunities for Asian American job seekers with disabilities. The forum will detail the inclusive work of ADOPT and the services and programs of city, state, and federal agencies to help improve the lives and workforce participation of people with disabilities, especially Asian Americans.

**Guest speakers**, including Michelle Saddler and Grace Hou of the Illinois Department of Human Services, Marca Bristo of Access Living, Michelle Lee of Aon Corporation, Karen Tamley of the Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities, Tuyet Le of the Asian American Institute, Dana V. Starks of the Chicago's Commission of Human Relations/Council on Asian Affairs, Eric Dobyne of the US Department of Commerce's Minority Business Development Agency, Robin Jones of the Great Lakes ADA Center, and Daphne Kwok, Chair of the President's Advisory Commission on AAPIs, will address a variety of key topics, including:

- How local businesses can comply with rules/standards on disability access and public accommodations
- How Asian American employers, employees and jobseekers can use employment-based rehabilitation services to help others find jobs or to get back to work themselves;
- Grants, incentives and other resources that the City of Chicago and IDRS makes available for small businesses to provide better accommodations to people with disabilities; and
- Referral information and training for local Asian American community service providers, businesses, and chambers of commerce whose clients need information on public accessibility and employment oriented services for Asian American jobseekers with disabilities.

**When:** Thursday, April 7, 2011 at 8:30am to 3:30pm

**Where:** Access Living – Chicago, 115 W. Chicago Avenue, Chicago

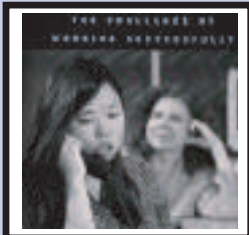
**Who:** Asian American businesses, community-based organizations, chambers of commerce serving the Asian American community, Asian Americans with disabilities and ADOPT partners.

Participating agencies include: the City of Chicago's Commission on Human Relations (CCHR) Advisory Council on Asian Affairs, the Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities (MOPD), the Chicago Department of Housing & Economic Development (HED), the US Dept. of Commerce's Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA), the Organization of Chinese Americans-Chicago (OCA), the Great Lakes ADA Center (DBTAC) and ADOPT's primary funder- the Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS) and it's Division of Rehabilitation Services (DRS).

The event is free and open to the public. Free parking is available to the first 50 people who request it.  
<http://aabf04072011.eventbrite.com>

# Asian American Disabilities Business Forum

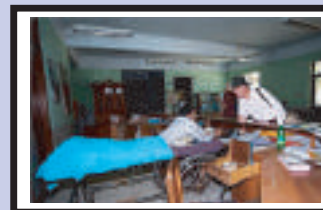
Accessibility, Employment and Workforce Integration Information for Local Businesses & Community Service Organizations



Thursday, April 7, 2011  
8:30am - 3:30pm

@

Access Living Chicago  
115 W. Chicago Avenue  
Chicago, IL 60654



Forum is **FREE** and registration includes lite breakfast & lunch

### Special Guests

**Grace Hou**, Assistant Secretary, Illinois Department of Human Services  
**Karen Tamley**, Commissioner, City of Chicago, Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities  
**Dana V. Starks**, Commissioner & Chairman, City of Chicago Commission on Human Relations  
**Robert Kilbury**, Director, Illinois Department of Rehabilitation Services  
**Marca Bristo**, President and CEO, Access Living, Chicago  
**Eric Dobyne**, Regional Director, U.S. Department of Commerce, Minority Business Development Agency  
**Mark Williams**, Director of disabilityworks within Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce

### Forum Presenters

**ADOPT** - Asians with Disabilities Outreach Project Think-Tank, UIC Dept. of Disability & Human Development to present the state of disability awareness specific to vocational rehabilitation and employment services available for Chicago's Asian Americans;

**DRS/IDHS** - Division of Rehabilitation Services of Illinois of Department of Human Services to present information on employment training programs available to rehabilitate and return people back to work in Illinois;

**DBTAC - Great Lakes ADA Center** - presenting information to assist businesses and organizations to meet their obligations under the ADA. The Great Lakes Center is recognized as a key resource regarding ADA compliance and the interface with other federal legislation;  
**CCHR** - Chicago's Commission on Human Relations and its Advisory Council on Asian Affairs to present information on Chicago's Human Rights & Fair Housing Ordinances, prohibiting discrimination in Public Accommodation, Employment, Housing, Credit and Bonding, based on 14 protected classes in City of Chicago;

**MOPD** - Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities to present information on disability awareness and etiquette, which will provide guidance on how to appropriately interact with individuals with all types of disabilities in order to provide equal access, while avoiding discriminatory behavior;

**HED** - Chicago Department of Housing and Economic Development to present information on small business improvement fund (SBIF) grants, the façade rebate program and other resources for small businesses and organizations in the City of Chicago;

**ACCESS LIVING OF Metropolitan Chicago** - Nonresidential Center for Independent Living for people with disabilities, presenting on programs and services to promote the empowerment, independence and inclusion of people with disabilities in all areas of community life.

### Registration

- Registration deadline is April 5, 2011 (<http://aabf04072011.eventbrite.com/>)
- Free parking available for first 50 spots at Interpark-750 North Dearborn, Corner of Chicago and Dearborn (reservations required)
- Accessible via CTA Red, Purple, & Brown line stops nearby
- For ASL interpreters and PA services, please contact Bhuttu Mathews at Access Living: (312) 640-2115/tty (312) 640-2172 by March 24 2011

### Forum Partners



### ADOPT Community Partners

Arab American Family Services, Asian American Institute, Asian American Small Business Association, Asian Health Coalition of Illinois, Asian Human Services, Asian Metropolitan Family Services, Cambodian Association of Illinois, Chinese American Service League, Chinese Mutual Aid Association, Coalition of African, Arab, Asian, European, and Latino Immigrants of Illinois, Coalition of Limited English Speaking Elderly, Community Counseling Centers of Chicago, El Valor, Heartland Alliance Refugee Health Program, Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights, Indo-American Center, Refugee One, Korean American Community Services, Lao American Community Services, Midwest Asian American Center, Midwest Asian Health Association, Muslim Women Resource Center, Nepali American Center, Skokie Garden Cleaners, United African Organization, UIC's Disability Resource Center, Vietnamese American Community of Illinois, Vietnamese Association of Illinois

## Appendix X. - Links to Videos on Asian Americans and Disabilities

### [www.wecarefest.info](http://www.wecarefest.info)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2ewSghENP54>

A young man named Wahongbam Ranondra was born with an intellectual disability. He feels inferior to his peers. Wahongbam is sent to a special school where he receives a variety of training, including playing games and sports. His training allowed Wahongbam to represent India in the Special Olympics World Games where his team finished in third place.

### Valuing Employment Now – Shamima’s Story

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M9McDwPGL4s>

Leicester City Council launched a program called Valuing Employment Now, which provides real jobs for people with learning disabilities. The council had employed 17 people with disabilities at the time of this video’s filming, and it plans on increasing that number significantly. This video tells the story of Shamima, a young Asian woman with learning disabilities, who is a successful employee and outcome of the program.

### [ROP '09] "Normal"

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=siyS\\_CZGIEI](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=siyS_CZGIEI)

This documentary explores the life of Matthew Rasmussen, a Korean adoptee, trying to live a normal life with the condition called tuberous sclerosis. Matthew’s original adopted family lost hope in him when he was an infant because of his condition and gave him back to the agency. The agency planned to send him back to Korea to die in one of the foster homes. Just before that could happen, a new family adopted him and gave him the proper care for him to develop into a self-sufficient individual.

### Right to Development - A Home for the Young at Heart

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JLOvf-Wc-k4>

As medical science enables people to live longer everywhere in the world, many Asian societies are faced with the dilemma of how to care for the elderly. For the most part, homes for the elderly offer little more than board and lodging. The St. Joseph's Home, featured here, is a unique place where the social and emotional well-being of its older people are given just as much attention as their physical needs.

### Should an Autistic Child Be Allowed to Practice His Religion?

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9rNoSAYqUy0>

The expulsion of Jibby (and his brother Sameer) from the Islamic Center of San Antonio is the focus of this short film. Jibby's crime was to quietly repeat the Adhan after the muezzin had recited the prayer. Jibby and his brother were physically thrown out of the men's prayer area. Jibby cannot return unless the center’s staff can be assured that he will be completely quiet. The tics that are part of Jibby’s autism makes it impossible to guarantee that he will remain quiet.

### **She without Arm, He without Leg - Hand in Hand Ballet**

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LnLVRQCjh8c>

A young woman without an arm and a young man without a leg (both Asians) perform a ballet routine.

### **Wheelchair Dancing Competition**

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uKEsYkme79w>

Fourteen disabled contestants competed for a prize and a chance to compete abroad. The finalists included amputees and paraplegics who maximized the use of their arms and upper bodies to execute difficult dance moves. Polio survivor Juanito Mingarine is a gold medal-winning pentathlete from the Southeast Asian Paralympics and a four-time MVP in national wheelchair basketball. His wife Elkie, who lost a limb participated in wheelchair dancing as well. A gold medalist herself, for table tennis in the Southeast Asian Paralympics, Elkie saw her dreams come true.

### **Ignorance of Ability Brings Disability**

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=30KjrLAaTSg>

(Video is blocked on YouTube due to copyright)

While at a stop a disabled man approaches a taxi and asks for money. The passenger gives the man some money, while the taxi driver does not. The passenger questions the taxi driver as to why he did not give the man money. The taxi driver does not respond, but his actions speak louder than words when he gets out of the cab: he must use a cane to walk. Even though he was disabled, the driver was working.

### **Campaign for Disability Employment "I Can" Public Service Announcement**

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BG\\_W7wAe1kw](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BG_W7wAe1kw)

The Campaign for Disability Employment presents an ad that promotes positive employment outcomes for people with disabilities and encourages employers and others to recognize the value and talent they bring to the work-place.

### **What Is It Like to Have a Disability?**

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P6PGcfUCZ\\_M](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P6PGcfUCZ_M)

This short film attempts to help people understand how children with disabilities struggle on a daily basis. A series of pictures show how people with disabilities go about their daily lives.

### **Borderline Personality Disorder Documentary**

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4-rwiM\\_x3Yw](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4-rwiM_x3Yw)

In this clip, Amanda Wang struggles to overcome her disability and becomes a boxer. After two months on the psychiatric floor of New York Presbyterian Hospital, she was diagnosed with borderline personality disorder. Wang had no experience in the ring, but she tried to prove her own talent by working toward becoming a Golden Gloves boxer.

### **"Asians Rock" - What's Your Story?**

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hWey0hhi3Dw>

Sandra Oh, Kal Penn, George Takei, and other celebrities share their stories of what being Asian American means to them.

### **What Does It Mean to Be Asian American?**

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ykawff5\\_XTc](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ykawff5_XTc)

Like the clip above, this video documents the personal stories of some Asian Americans.

### **CNN Asian and Pacific Islander Heritage Month (Glass Ceiling)**

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cmymZlzWYgQ>

According to the census, 50% of Asian Americans hold college degrees, yet Asian Americans hold less than 1% of senior executive positions. One reason for this, according to a study done at the Harvard Business School, is the clash between Asian values and corporate success. In Asian countries if you do a good job, your bosses will come to you asking if you would like a promotion. In America, even if you excel in your job, you usually have to approach your boss for a promotion, which may strongly conflict with Asian values.

### **Thu's American Dream**

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EZucOI2Jn7M>

Thu has been diagnosed with a condition known as osteogenesis, a genetic bone disorder. People with this condition are born with defective connective tissue, or without the ability to make the tissue, usually because of a deficiency of Type I collagen. Despite this disease, Thu managed to get an education, participated in a sailing event, and is now striving to be an independent young person.

### **National Disability Employment Awareness Month Quang**

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HPIx\\_YJ7Vlk&feature=player\\_embedded](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HPIx_YJ7Vlk&feature=player_embedded)

Quang, who suffers from a mental disability, has been working at Walgreens as a service clerk. He discusses his job and what his employment means to him. The manager of the store also notes what a good worker Quang is and how Walgreens is a strong advocate for hiring people with disabilities.

## Appendix Y. – Asian Media Organizations

### Air India

33 North Dearborn,  
Suite 2425  
Chicago, IL 60602

**Website:**

[www.airindia.com](http://www.airindia.com)

**Contact:** Mr Aspi Irani

**Tel:** (312)-782-8761

**Email:**

[airani@airindiausa.com](mailto:airani@airindiausa.com)

**Services:** Airline,  
international flights,  
India's national flag  
carrier

**Language(s):** English,  
Hindi (languages vary  
with destination)

### Asian Tribune

2400 E. Devon Avenue,  
Suite 305  
Des Plaines, IL 60018

**Website:** Contact via  
phone/email

**Contact:** Sue Hidalgo

**Tel:** (847)-803-8811

**Email:**

[Shildalgo.asian.tribune@gmail.com](mailto:Shildalgo.asian.tribune@gmail.com)

**Services:** Print

**Language(s):** English

### Asian American Institute

4753 N. Broadway, Suite  
502 Chicago, IL 60640

**Website:**

[www.aaichicago.org](http://www.aaichicago.org)

**Contact:** Tuyet Le

**Tel:** (773)-271-0899

**Email:**

[aai@aaichicago.org](mailto:aai@aaichicago.org)

**Services:** Legal  
advocacy, community  
organizing, leadership  
development, and  
education & research

**Language(s):** Pan-Asian,  
English

### Asian Improv Arts Midwest (AIRMW)

4427 N. Clark St.  
Chicago, IL 60640

**Website:** [www.airmw.org](http://www.airmw.org)

**Contact:** Tatsu Aoki

**Tel:** (708)-386 9349

**Email:**

[infoairmw@airmw.org](mailto:infoairmw@airmw.org)

**Services:** Theater arts  
and performances

**Language(s):** Japanese,  
English

### Center for Asian Arts and Media at Columbia

218 S. Wabash Avenue,  
7th Floor Chicago, IL  
60604

**Website:**

[www.colum.edu/asianart-sandmedia](http://www.colum.edu/asianart-sandmedia)

**Contact:** Nancy Tom

**Tel:** (312)-369-7870

**Email:** [ntom@colum.edu](mailto:ntom@colum.edu)

**Services:** Historical and  
contemporary  
contributions by Asian  
Americans to art, history,  
and  
culture

**Language(s):** English

### Chicago Chinese News

424 Fort Hill Building  
Naperville, IL 60540

**Website:**

[www.chicagochinese-news.com](http://www.chicagochinese-news.com)

**Contact:** Dany Lee

**Tel:** (630)-717-4567

**Email:**

[Newsiee100@gmail.com](mailto:Newsiee100@gmail.com)

**Services:** Chinese print

**Language(s):** Chinese



### **Chicago Shimpo**

4670 N. Manor Avenue  
Chicago, IL 60625

**Website:** Contact via  
email/phone

**Contact:** Yoshiko  
Urayama

**Tel:** (773)-478-6170

**Email:** shimpo@mc.net

**Services:** Japanese print

**Language(s):** Japanese

### **Chinese American News**

733 W. 26th Street  
Chicago, IL 60616

**Website:**

[www.canews.com](http://www.canews.com)

**Contact:** James Chang

**Tel:** (312)-225-3929

**Email:**

[editor@canews.com](mailto:editor@canews.com)

**Services:** Chinese print

**Language(s):** Chinese

### **China Journal**

2146 S. Archer Avenue  
Chicago, IL 60616

**Website:**

[www.chinajournalus.com](http://www.chinajournalus.com)

**Contact:** See Website

**Tel:** (312)-326-3228

**Email:** [chinajournal@sbc-global.net](mailto:chinajournal@sbc-global.net)

**Services:** Newspaper

**Language(s):** Chinese

### **Chinese-American Museum of Chicago**

238 W. 23rd Street  
Chicago, IL 60616

**Website:**

[www.ccamuseum.org](http://www.ccamuseum.org)

**Contact:** Museum Office

**Tel:** (312)-949-1000

**Email:** [office@ccamuseum.org](mailto:office@ccamuseum.org)

**Services:** Exhibitions,  
education, and research  
relating to Chinese-

American culture

**Language(s):** Chinese,  
English

### **Chitrahhar Broadcasting**

220 S. State Street,  
Suite 1410

Chicago, IL 60604

**Website:**

[www.chitrahhar.com](http://www.chitrahhar.com)

**Contact:** Producer

**Tel:** (312)-986-9000

**Email:** [producer@chitrahhar.com](mailto:producer@chitrahhar.com)

**Services:** Television  
broadcasting

**Language(s):** Indo-Pak,  
English

### **Desi Talk Chicago**

**Address:** Not Available

**Website:**

[www.desitalk.com](http://www.desitalk.com)

**Contact:** Sunil Adam

**Tel:** (773)-338-0222

**Email:**

[desitalkchicago@gmail.com](mailto:desitalkchicago@gmail.com)

**Services:** Indian print

**Language(s):** English

### **Epoch Time**

P.O. Box 168011  
Chicago, IL 60616

**Website:**

[www.epochtimes.com](http://www.epochtimes.com)

**Contact:** Stacey Pang

**Tel:** (312)-808-9410

**Email:**

[Midwest@epochtimes.com](mailto:Midwest@epochtimes.com)

**Services:** Chinese print

**Language(s):** Chinese

### **Filipino American News Magazine**

5323 Wright Terrace  
Skokie, IL 60077

**Website:**

[www.pinoynews-magazine.com](http://www.pinoynews-magazine.com)

**Contact:** Mariano Santos

**Tel:** (847)-329-1073

**Email:**

[pinoynewsmagazine@yahoo.com](mailto:pinoynewsmagazine@yahoo.com)

**Services:** Filipino print

**Language(s):** English

### **Hataw Pinoy**

5657 W. Howard Avenue  
Niles, IL 60714

**Website:**

[www.hatawpinoy.com](http://www.hatawpinoy.com)

**Contact:** Alpha R.

Nicolasin

**Tel:** (773)-275-4540

**Email:**

[communitybuilder@sbc-global.net](mailto:communitybuilder@sbc-global.net)

**Services:** Filipino  
television

**Language(s):** English

### **Hi India**

2544 W. Devon Avenue,  
2nd Floor Chicago, IL  
60659

**Website:**

[www.hiindiaweekly.com](http://www.hiindiaweekly.com)

**Contact:** Ashok,  
Easwaran

**Tel:** (773)-338-0222

**Email:**

Ashok3185@yahoo.com

**Services:** Indian print

**Language(s):** English

### **India Tribune**

#### **Publications**

3302 W Peterson Avenue  
Chicago, IL 60659

**Website:**

[www.indiatribune.com](http://www.indiatribune.com)

**Contact:** Eric Shah

**Tel:** (773)-588-5077

**Email:**

erin@indiatribune.com

**Services:** Weekly  
newspaper

**Language(s):** English

### **Japanese American Service Committee**

4427 N. Clark Street  
Chicago, IL 60640

**Website:**

[www.jasc-chicago.org](http://www.jasc-chicago.org)

**Contact:** Frances  
Chikahisa

**Tel:** (773)-275-7212

**Email:**

council@jasc-chicago.org

**Services:** Individual,  
couple, family, and group  
therapy

**Language(s):** Japanese

### **Korean Christian Journal**

5235 N. Elston Avenue  
Chicago, IL 60630

**Website:**

[www.kcj777.com](http://www.kcj777.com)

**Contact:** Samuel Park

**Tel:** (773)-777-7779

**Email:**

samdwpark@kcj777.com

**Services:** Korean print

**Language(s):** Korean,  
English

### **Korean News**

3520 Milwaukee Avenue,  
2nd Floor  
Northbrook, IL 60062

**Website:**

[www.joinchicago.com](http://www.joinchicago.com)

**Contact:** Kim Nam

**Tel:** (847)-391-4112

**Email:**

koreannewsusa@yahoo.c  
om

**Services:** Korean print

**Language(s):** Korean,  
English

### **New Chinese Media Inc**

232 W. Cermak Rd Suite  
232B Chicago, IL 60616

**Website:** [www.ncmtv.org](http://www.ncmtv.org)

**Contact:** The Office

**Tel:** (312)-791-9645

**Email:** newchineseme-  
dia@gmail.com

**Services:** Chinese print

**Language(s):** Chinese

### **Sandesh**

2544 W. Devon Avenue,  
2nd Floor Chicago, IL  
60659

**Website:**

[www.sandesh.com](http://www.sandesh.com)

**Contact:** Hemant  
Cranbhatt

**Tel:** (773)-552-6083

**Email:**

sandeshusa@aol.com

**Services:** Indian print

**Language(s):** Bengali:  
Shôndesh, Hindi

### **Silk Road Theatre Project**

680 S. Federal Street,  
Suite 301

Chicago, IL 60605

**Website:** [www.srtp.org](http://www.srtp.org)

**Contact:** Malik Gillani

**Tel:** (312)-857-1234

**Email:** info@srtp.org

**Services:** Silk Road

Theatre Project  
showcases playwrights of  
Asian, Middle Eastern,  
and Mediterranean

backgrounds, whose  
works address themes  
relevant to the peoples of  
the Silk Road and their  
diaspora communities

**Language(s):** English

### **Sing Tao Daily**

2109-B S. China Place  
Chicago, IL 60616

**Website:**

[www.nysingtao.com](http://www.nysingtao.com)

**Contact:** Michelle Teo

**Tel:** (312)-842-3958

**Email:**

Chicago@nysingtao.com

**Services:** Chinese print

**Language(s):** Chinese

### **Urdu Times**

3924 W. Devon Avenue,  
Suite 100A Lincolnwood,  
IL 60712

**Website:** [www.urdutimes-  
usa.com/chicago](http://www.urdutimesusa.com/chicago)

**Contact:** Masroor

Qureshi

**Tel:** (773)-274-3100

**Email:**

urdutimes@hotmail.com

**Services:** Indian/Pakistani  
print

**Language(s):** Urdu

### **The Vietnamese**

#### **Association of Illinois**

5110 N. Broadway Street  
Chicago, IL 60640-3004

**Website:** [www.hnvi.org](http://www.hnvi.org)

**Contact:** Lhakpa Tsering

**Tel:** (773)-728-3700

**Email:** infovai@hnvi.org

**Services:** To strengthen  
the unity and solidarity of  
the Vietnamese residing  
in the state of Illinois

**Language(s):**

Vietnamese, English

### **VIA Times**

3108 W. Belmont Avenue  
Chicago, IL 60618

**Website:**

[www.viatimes.com](http://www.viatimes.com)

**Contact:** Veronica

Leighton

**Tel:** (773)-866-0811

**Email:**

viatimes@sbcglobal.net

**Services:** Filipino print

**Language(s):** English

### **Weekly**

415 E. Golf Road,  
Suite 101  
Arlington Heights, IL  
60005

**Website:**

[www.anglepress.com](http://www.anglepress.com)

**Contact:** Yoshio Ishida

**Tel:** (847)-439-6388

**Email:**

y-ishida@anglepress.com

**Services:** Japanese print

**Language(s):** Japanese

### **The World Journal**

1334 Enterprise Drive  
Romeoville, IL 60446

**Website:**

[www.worldjournal.com](http://www.worldjournal.com)

**Contact:** Katie Chang

**Tel:** (312)-759-9880

**Email:**

katiechang@wjnews.com

**Services:** Chinese print

**Language(s):** Chinese