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Get a glimpse of Asia without leaving home at the Asian Festival

INDIANAPOLIS – More than 20,000 people of Asian descent call Indianapolis home according to the last U.S. Census Bureau report. To celebrate this rich cultural tapestry, Asian American Alliance, Inc. (AAAI) and Indy Parks & Recreation are partnering to present the second annual *Asian Festival* on Saturday, May 9th from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Garfield Park Arts Center, 2432 Conservatory Drive, Indianapolis, IN 46203. Admission is free.

Indianapolis Mayor Greg Ballard will officially kick off the 2009 *Asian Festival* on May 9th at noon. Festival highlights include:

- Cultural entertainment throughout the day at the Asian-Inspired Garfield Park Pagoda
- Fashion show featuring costumes from represented Asian countries
- Art exhibit at the Garfield Arts Center, April 24th to May 29th, featuring fine artwork, cultural regalia from Asian artists and artwork from Asian children in Central Indiana
- Free health screenings – blood pressure, cholesterol, blood sugar levels, body mass index and dental hygiene education
- Food available for purchase from local Asian restaurants
- Asian merchandise vendors

"Asian American Alliance (AAAI), in partnership with Indy Parks, is proud to present the *Asian Festival* which highlights the rich cultural heritage of Asia that can be found in Central Indiana that makes it a more vibrant, interesting place to live. Instead of flying 18 hours to travel to Asia, this family-friendly event allows Central Indiana residents to experience a bit of Asia in their own backyard," said AAAI President Vince Wong.

The *Asian Festival* is held in conjunction with the Asian Pacific-American Heritage Month (May) as designated by Congress. During the festival, Asian American Alliance (AAAI) will award scholarships to deserving IPS students and Asian American leadership students.

Asian American Alliance (AAAI) is a local, non-profit organization with a mission to inspire Asian Americans to lead and serve. The *Asian Festival* is a collaborative effort between AAAI, Indy Parks, the Garfield Arts Center and its Advisory Council. It is made possible by these generous sponsors: American Family Insurance, National City Bank/PNC, Western Union, and Asian Services of Indiana.