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*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*

## **SAN FRANCISCO HOSTS AMERICA'S LARGEST CELEBRATION OF ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN HERITAGE**

*“Asian Pacific” American Idols from Fox television show to perform:  
Jasmine Trias, finalist from Season Three  
and Sway (Jose Penala) from current season!*

**Presented by Comcast and California Pacific Medical Center**

*Saturday May 20, 2006  
Irving Street from 20<sup>th</sup> Ave to 25<sup>th</sup> Ave*

San Francisco, CA (May 16, 2006) – AsianWeek Foundation presents the 2nd Annual Heritage Street Celebration on Saturday May 20, 2006 from 11 am to 6pm. It will take place on Irving Street from 20th Ave to 25th Ave. The Street Fair has rapidly grown to become the nation's largest gathering of the diverse communities that make up Asian and Pacific Islander America.

There will be some 200 booths, over twenty performances and great prize drawings.

The AsianWeek Foundation, is a non-profit 501(c) 3 committed to developing the voices of Asian America. The Asian Heritage Street Celebration was started as a way of

assembling the Asian Pacific American identity in a celebration of differences and shared heritage. All proceeds will be donated to local and national charities, including twenty San Francisco public schools.

“The growth of this festival, like the growth of the Asian Pacific American community, has just been phenomenal,” said James Fang, President, AsianWeek. “This is a month for us to celebrate. But it is also a time for us to mark the lasting social, cultural and economic contributions that the APA community makes to our nation.”

Here are some highlights of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Asian Heritage Street Celebration, presented by Comcast and California Pacific Medical Center:

### **45 Asian Pacific American School Coaches to Receive Honors**

From 10:15 am to 11:30 am, there will be a youth rally and awards ceremonies to recognize the contributions of 45 Asian Pacific American coaches from over two dozen San Francisco public schools. Sportscaster Rick Quan will share emcee duties with Warriors voice Franco Finn and Fire Commissioner Steve Nakajo. Board of Education members Norman Yee, Eric Mar and Eddie Chin will be present for some of the awards. Additional information available from Wilson Ng at the San Francisco Unified School District 415.241-6565, [wng@muse.sfusd.edu](mailto:wng@muse.sfusd.edu)

### **Free Hepatitis B Screenings**

Over half of those diagnosed with Hepatitis B are of Asian Pacific descent. Free Hepatitis B screenings will be provided by the Asian Liver Center at Stanford University at the Street Celebration from 11 am to 4pm. Among those scheduled to be tested are Mayor Gavin Newsom, Congressman Mike Honda and American Idol Stars Jasmine Trias and Jose “Sway” Penala. Dr. Samuel So, Director, Asian Liver Center will also be available for comment. For more information Grace Niwa (646) 644-5799.

### **Jasmine Trias, American Idol 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Finalist**

#### **Sings on Main Stage**

### **American Idol contestant Jose “Sway” Penala’s**

#### **First Local Performance Since being on Fox Television Show**

From 12:00 noon to 2:00 pm, the Asian Pacific American community’s own American Idols, Jasmine Trias and Sway (Jose Penala) will attend the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Asian Heritage Street Celebration. Each will perform on stage during that time. Local favorite Sway is from South San Francisco. This will be his first hometown appearance since last appearing on the hit Fox television show in March. Trias appeared in the best-selling nationwide Idol tour of 2004. For more information contact Jodi Jackson, [joddith@aol.com](mailto:joddith@aol.com) 323-653-5438

### **Comcast Karaoke Competition**

The Comcast Karaoke Competition will be held from 1:15 pm to 3:30 pm on the 22<sup>nd</sup> Ave platform. Prior to that there will be open Mic and tryouts. A panel of five judges will award a pair of round trip airline tickets from Southwest airlines to the winner. Other top finishers will win cash prizes or dinner for two from Silver Cloud Restaurant and Karaoke Bar. The competition will be taped, and portions televised locally. For more information contact Angela Pang 415.321.5865 or Ed Carlos 609-0714.

### **Cosplay Anime Costume Contest**

From 3:30 pm to 5pm on the 22<sup>nd</sup> Ave platform, there will be a costume contest of anime characters. Contestants will be judged on how creative and accurate their costumes are as well as how in character they can be. Prizes include airline tickets and much more. Contestants are also welcome to perform skits. For more information contact Angela Pang or Ray Nagar.

### **Mayor Gavin Newsom to speak at AHSC**

#### **Congressman Mike Honda, APA Caucus Chair, will join festivities**

#### **All SF Asian Pacific American officials expected to attend**

Mayor Gavin Newsom, Congressman Mike Honda and virtually all of San Francisco's election Asian Pacific American officials are expected to attend the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Asian Heritage Street Celebration presented by Comcast and California Pacific Medical Center. They are expected between 2pm and 4pm and will speak on the main stage as well as browse the various booths, and enjoy the performances. They will also be available for interview. For more information contact Angela Pang.