FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
San Francisco, CA - 4/5/2016

19TH UNITED STATES OF ASIAN AMERICA FESTIVAL:
CIVIL DIS(PLACE)MENT

An artistic showcase of San Francisco’s Pacific Islander and Asian American communities during Asian Pacific Heritage Month in SF

SAN FRANCISCO, April 5, 2016 - Asian Pacific Islander Cultural Center (APICC) is proud to present 20 multidisciplinary arts programs and events throughout San Francisco from April 29 through June 30, showcasing the dynamic experiences of the contemporary Pacific Islander and Asian American arts community as part of the annual United States of Asian America Festival (USAAF).

This year’s theme, Civil Dis(place)ment, references a recently published study by the San Francisco Arts Commission that alarmingly found more than 70% of surveyed artists in San Francisco are experiencing displacement. A variation on civil disobedience, with the city’s rapidly shifting demographics, artists participating in the festival will explore the issues and narratives that speak to the arts and Asian Pacific Islander (API) communities - specifically how art, culture, and placemaking have subsisted historically and what art, culture, and placemaking look like for these communities today. USAAF will highlight how artists are presently resisting the causes and consequences of displacement and how collective community members can ensure a future where arts and culture in San Francisco will thrive.

Investigate themes of gentrification, displacement, placemaking, and the artist’s role in the community via installation, performance, video, sculpture, painting and drawings with Resistance. Preview how filmmakers will tell untold stories from San Francisco’s underprivileged neighborhoods most affected by displacement in Cinematic SF. With performance, art, and storytelling, find the connections between the struggles of working class Filipinos and people of color in San Francisco to that of indigenous people in the southern Philippines in San Francisco to Salupongan and URBAN x INDIGENOUS. Uncover Fillmore and Japantown’s neighborhood history of evictions through art, poetry, and music with Still Standing! Check out these events and the entire festival lineup at www.apiculturalcenter.org.

FEATURED FESTIVAL EVENTS

SAN FRANCISCO TO SALUPONGAN - J.Theo
African American Art and Culture Complex on April 29 - In partnership with Salupongan International and International Coalition for Human Rights in the Philippines. An evening showcase of multi-disciplinary art drawing the parallels between the displacement and resilience of working-class families in San Francisco to the displacement and resistance of the indigenous communities in Mindanao. This event will also feature a talk and a cultural offering by leaders from the Salupongan schools of Mindanao.

RESISTANCE EXHIBITION
SOMArts Cultural Center on May 6 - API Cultural Center’s annual group exhibition featuring multidisciplinary works of 11 Asian and Pacific Islander artists from the San Francisco Bay Area and beyond
exploring themes of gentrification, displacement, placemaking, and the artist's role in the community through installation, performance, video, and more. Curated by Pamela Ybañez. Special Opening Performances: HuiMeng Wang as part of her installation piece The Reason We Dine Tonight will be doing a live one-hour long dinner party performance. Bonnie Wai-Lee Kwong, author of book of poetry ravel, will also be doing a live reading of new work accompanied by movement. Other featured artists include: Rea de Guzman, Taro Hattori, Viêt Lê, Eliza Barrios, Carlo Rificort, Janna Añonuevo Langhol, Eryn Kimura, Marcius Noceda, and Pallavi Sharma.

CINEMATIC SF: COMMUNITY PREVIEW
9th Street Independent Film Center on May 12 - A preview and talk with filmmakers who highlight the Bay Areas most underserved and underrepresented communities as part of API Cultural Center's premiere film program. Featured filmmakers include: Elizabeth Lo, RJ Lozada, Abhi Singh, and Jimmy Zhang.

LEGIONS OF BOOM - Oliver Wang
Bindlestiff Studio on May 13-14 - Celebrating the Fil-Am mobile DJ crews of the Bay Area, co-presented by Bindlestiff Studio. Featuring a panel moderated by author Oliver Wang with live demos from DJ luminaries and an interactive theater experience and party, true to the era. Featuring music, food, and dancing.

A PLACE OF HER OWN EXHIBITION - Cynthia Tom
I-Hotel Manilatown Center from May 19-June 30 - Co-presented by Asian American Women Artists Association. A group visual art exhibition featuring 20 assemblage artworks that showcase the vibrant dreams and hopes of women. Curator Cynthia Tom with co-curator Maggie Yee, driven by an abiding passion to spotlight issues facing Asian American women, has developed an artistic forum to heal, transform, and inform. The product of a series of workshops based on intuitive art practices and meditation that inspired the art. Audiences have the opportunity to tap into their inner wisdom and personal strengths through hands-on art-making with three intuitive, self-guided art-making workstations.

BAD ASIANS
Mission Cultural Center for Latino Arts on May 20 - A thematic storytelling show featuring local Asian and Asian American raconteurs, performers, and comedians who will unfold narratives based on a theme! Listen in as storytellers of diverse backgrounds and upbringings find cultural commonality on stage.

BLACK GEOMANCY & LIMINAL SPACE - Genny Lim
Fort Mason Firehouse on May 20 - With Marshall Trammell and Lama Pema Tenzin. A sonogram is a graph representing a sound, which shows the distribution of energy at different frequencies or a visual image produced from an ultrasound, as routinely used to monitor fetuses in pregnancies. Taking this science into the realm of music and voice, Black Geomancy and Tantric (G)hosts, explores the interaction of space and energy through the synergy of sound: music, poetry, voice, Buddhist chants and prayers in synchronicity.

CAN'T STOP CRYIN' FOR AMERICA: BLACK LIVES MATTER! - Jon Jang Quintet
Southside Theater, Fort Mason from May 21 - A music work in progress by Jon Jang in collaboration with poet performer Amanda Kemp. Organized into seven vignettes named after each black victim group killed by the police and/or white supremacists this past year: Eric Garner, John Crawford III, Michael Brown, Tamir Rice, Freddie Gray, nine victims of the Emmanuel AME Church, and Sandra Bland. The final vignette, Five Young Black Men, will memorialize Emmett Till, Oscar Grant, Trayvon Martin, John Powell, and Mario Woods.

STILL STANDING! FILLMORE & JAPANTOWN THEN & NOW - Shizue Seigel
Latino Room, San Francisco Public Library on May 22 - Celebrating the enduring spirit of the African American and Japanese American communities in the face of racial discrimination, segregation, redevelopment, and gentrification in San Francisco. Featuring readings, music, and visual art by community writers, performers, and artists exploring the overlapping history of two communities in neighborhoods deeply eroded by the displacements of WWII, urban renewal, and gentrification.

LOCUS OF CONTROL - Jason Bayani
Bindlestiff Studio from May 27-28 - Internationally touring author and spoken word artist, Jason Bayani, explores the narrative of the fourth-wave Filipino immigrant through poetry, storytelling, and performance. Drawing upon nearly twenty years of work, Bayani pieces together the story of the latest and most robust
wave of migrants to come from the Philippines and contemplates what this identity has become in America and what it will become in the future.

**QUEER AS FUCK - Judith Ferrer**

*Bindlestiff Studio from June 11-25* - A variety show series, kicked off by a night featuring queer API artists and co-presented by *Bindlestiff Studio.* Artists will explore the shifting boundaries of gender, sexuality, love, and culture - utilizing art to cope with forced transitions such as gentrification, migration, and loss.

**URBAN X INDIGENOUS - Sammay Dizon**

*SOMArts Cultural Center on June 12* - A multi-disciplinary, inter-generational convening of artists, activists, incubators, scholars, and community members to honor our ancestors and celebrate the indigenous spirit. Through performance activation, visual arts exhibition, critical cyphers, and the world premiere of *"Remember Our Place?"* by Sammay Dizon - UxI will uncover the state of the Pilipin@ community's displacement in San Francisco and draw parallels to the home-based struggle of the Lumads in Mindanao, Philippines.

**OTHER PARTICIPATING ARTISTS/ORGANIZATIONS**

| Asian American Photographic Explorations | Krystle Ahmadyar |
| Asian American Women Artists Association | Nancy Wang of Eth-Noh-Tec |
| Eugenie Theater Projects | Queer Women of Color Media Arts Project |
| Kearny Street Workshop | Roots in Resilience |

**WHAT/WHO**

**19TH UNITED STATES OF ASIAN AMERICA FESTIVAL: CIVIL DIS(PLACE)MENT**

Presented by Asian Pacific Islander Cultural Center as part of Asian Pacific Heritage Month 2016. Featuring 20 events in theater, music, dance, film, literature, visual arts, and more showcasing Asian and Pacific Islander artists.

**WHEN**

April 29-June 30

**WHERE**

Various venues throughout San Francisco

**FOR MORE INFO**

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

**FEATURED ARTISTS/ORGANIZATIONS BIOS**

**J.Theo**

Jean Teodoro a.k.a. J.Theo is a community organizer and cultural worker for third-world liberation. He is a member of the grassroots youth organization ALAY, based in San Francisco. In 2015, he competed with Team Oakland in the National Poetry Slam. In 2014, he founded the Versus Odds production group. He is a co-founding member of the band Boondock Squad. He has released several music projects, including "Flea Market of Freaks" in 2013. His latest work is a book titled *Verses of FREEDOM*, which is scheduled to release in November 2016. J.Theo dedicates his life to serving the people.

**Oliver Wang**

Dr. Oliver S. Wang is an Associate Professor of Sociology at California State University, Long Beach. His research focuses on different forms of popular culture and their role in identity/community formations and social relations. Besides *Legions of Boom*, he has also written on Asian Americans and hip-hop, the social geography of mobile food trucks, the retro-soul music community, and the “Linsanity” phenomenon. Dr. Wang also contributes regularly on arts, music, and culture to National Public Radio, KCET’s Artbound, Medium.com, and other outlets. He is the creator and writer of the audioblog, Soul Sides.
Shizue Seigel
Shizue Seigel moved to San Francisco in the late 1950s, as the Western Addition came under threat of the wrecking ball. For over twenty years, she been actively involved in the Asian American, African American, and homeless communities as a writer, magazine editor, visual artist, health educator, and activist.

Cynthia Tom
Cynthia Tom is a visual mixed-media artist and painter, a cultural arts and community partnership consultant and Board President of Asian American Women Artists Association (AAWAA), who likes to play with accepted norms. As the founder and director of A Place of Her Own, an arts based remedial program for women’s transformation, her art is known as a source of inspiration for healing, empowerment and change, fostering dialog and building community in innovative ways. Often described in terms such as cultural and social surrealism, her work has been exhibited at the Legion of Honor in San Francisco, SOMArts Cultural Center, California Institute of Integral Studies, Yerba Buena Center for the Arts and the Chinese Culture Center. Her art process and pro bono curatorial work with AAWAA have cemented her passion and processes for holding the artistic space for women to heal and transform.

Genny Lim
Genny Lim's presence in the Bay Area arts community spans several decades with powerful poetry and jazz collaborations that include Max Roach, Herbie Lewis, John Santos, Jon Jang and Anthony Brown. She has toured in World Poetry Festivals throughout the world, including Sarajevo, Naples, and throughout Venezuela. This new collaboration with the dynamic, conceptual approach to space and percussion with Marshall Trammell, whose work with Black Spirituals defies categorization, marks an evolving poetics in Lim's work. A recognized playwright as well as poet performer her play, Paper Angels, has been broadcast on PBS and produced throughout the U.S. and in Canada. Lim co-authored ISLAND: Poetry and History of Chinese Immigrants on Angel Island, with the late acclaimed historian Him Mark Lai and Judy Yung.

Jon Jang
Jon Jang has broken barriers and genres as a composer, pianist, and artistic director of ensembles in developing original works noted for their compelling mix of different influences and sounds. As a composer, Jang has received commissions from the NEA, Rockefeller Foundation, The Library of Congress, Chanticleer, Cal Performances, Berkeley Repertory Theatre, and the Kronos Quartet.

Jason Bayani
Jason Bayani is a graduate of Saint Mary’s MFA program in Creative Writing. He is a Kundiman fellow and a veteran of the National Poetry Slam scene whose work has been published in Fourteen Hills, Muzzle Magazine, Mascara Review, the National Poetry Slam anthology, Rattapallax, Write Bloody’s classroom anthology—Learn Then Burn, and other publications. As a member of 7 National Poetry Slam teams, he’s been a National Poetry Slam finalist and represented Oakland at the International World Poetry Slam. He is also one of the founding members of the Filipino American Spoken Word troupe, Proletariat Bronze, and has been an organizer for the Asian and Pacific Islander Poetry and Spoken Word Summit. His first book, Amulet was published in 2013 through Write Bloody Press and has garnered acclaim in literary magazines such as Zyzyva and Glint.

Bad Asians
Imran G, a Seattle native, hits the stage with intensity and clever quips that keep his coast to coast audiences enthralled and roaring with laughter with his honed act, entertaining audiences of all sizes, shapes, and tastes. Currently based in the Bay Area, he has performed around the country at comedy clubs, theaters, festivals and has been featured on NBC Standup for Diversity Showcase. Winner of the 2011 Walk the Plank Comedy Competition, Imran has worked with acts like Sean Patton, Kyle Kinane, Fortune Feimster, Sugar Sammy, Joe DeRosa, and Robin Williams. When not doing comedy he enjoys doing cartwheels and acting like he knows how to breakdance.

David Nguyen
David Nguyen is a writer and comedian currently writing and comedianing in California’s Bay Area. One half of The Colossal Show, San Jose's premier independent comedy showcase, he is a mainstay in the local scene and comedy clubs across the state. As a refreshingly positive voice in stand up, he prefers a gentler approach to social commentary than the foot-stomping, chest-pounding norm, his criticism is always funny and usually constructive, which gives him an immediately likable demeanor and a deep bag of topics from which to draw material, cementing him as one of the most dynamic young comics working today. David was
a finalist in the 2012 Battle of the Bay comedy competitions, and has worked with Carly Aquilino, Pete Davidson, Dat Phan, and Robin Williams.

Judith Ferrer
Judith Ferrer has been a resident artist of Bindlestiff Studio since 2003. As a Queer Pinay artist, Judith has spent most of her creative life telling stories that provoke thought through the use of theater. Her resume include co-producing the original "Bakla Show" (2006) and directing "An Isa Makes 3" (2010) - a short play about queer parenting. More recently she wrote "two-twenty-one" (2014) which examined police brutality and gentrification, and directed "The Gardner" (2015) for Stories High XV that explored friendships that form when familial bonds break down because of homophobia. Judith is dedicated to creating space for artists to share their work and strives to develop audiences hungry to consume art made from the hearts and minds of people of color.

Sammay Dizon
A Bay Area-based creator, artistivist, and educator, whose roots stem from Carson, California; Gerona, Tarlac (Kapampangan/Ilokano); and Guinobatan, Albay (Bikol). As an interdisciplinary performing artist—she extends her advocacy for cross-cultural understanding and making progressive social impact through the arts. Holding a B.A. in Media Studies and Sociology and two minors in Dance and Performance Studies and Global Poverty and Practice from UC Berkeley, Sammay leads the first-ever Performing Arts program for Boys & Girls Clubs of San Francisco where she encourages her students to use art as a vessel for healing, understanding, and remembering. Her style is a fusion of her urban upbringing and personal journey to find meaningful movement that speaks to the soul; her work has been featured at SOMArts Bay Gallery, Kearny Street Workshop and Kularts. In 2015, she was a featured artist for the 18th Annual United States of Asian America Festival where she produced, curated, and created for URBAN x INDIGENOUS: Spirits of the Streets - a two-day, multi-disciplinary, inter-generational community arts event that gathered 40+ artists to explore the indigenous spirit in the urban jungle of our present day. In 2016, Sammay will be a featured choreographer at Dance Mission Theater presents D.I.R.T. - Dance In Revolt(ing) Times Festival where she will premier her latest multimedia dance theatre work: RECLAIM BAE.

PHOTOS
Excellent large, high-resolution (300dpi photos) available at:
https://www.flickr.com/photos/127752973@N08/albums/72157666747206776

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ABOUT THE FESTIVAL
Each year, the United States of Asian America Festival (USAAF) presents between 20 to 30 different programs reflecting the artistic accomplishments and cultural diversity of San Francisco’s Pacific Islander and Asian American communities. USAAF showcases artists representing a diverse range of ethnic and cultural groups and aims to heighten the visibility of Asian and Pacific Islander (API) artists working in all disciplines — theater, music, dance, film, literature, visual arts and more. Our goal is to nurture and empower these groups to be self-sufficient while providing the support they need to grow. USAAF is funded by the San Francisco Arts Commission and San Francisco Grants for the Arts.

ABOUT APICC
The Asian Pacific Islander Cultural Center’s (APICC) mission is to support and produce multidisciplinary art reflective of the unique experiences of Asian Pacific Islanders living in the United States. APICC was founded in 1996 by representatives of five nonprofit arts groups in San Francisco. Since 1998, the center has promoted the artistic and organizational growth of San Francisco’s API arts community by organizing and presenting the annual United States of Asian America Festival, as well as commissioning contemporary art for and by the Asian American and Pacific Islander community.