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**NORTH SUBURBAN
YMCA**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

“Taste of Asia” Festival Celebrates Asian American Heritage

Northbrook, IL: May 2013 – The second annual “Taste of Asia,” held on Sunday, May 5th, drew over 1,100 people to the North Suburban YMCA with its rich selection of Asian culture. The festival was presented by the Northbrook Community Relations Commission in honor of Asian American Heritage Month.

The event included art exhibitions and demonstrations, music and dance performances, and a wide selection of cuisines. Taste of Asia beautifully reflected the diverse Asian-American population from the northern suburbs of Chicago. Participating ethnic groups included: Bangladeshi, Chinese, Filipino, Indian, Japanese, Korean, Thai and Russian.

“I am extremely happy about the turnout. It was amazing that we doubled the number of attendees from last year,” said Northbrook Community Relations Commission Board Member Sue Huang. “It’s a wonderful feeling seeing little girls performing their traditional dances on the stage and watching everyone have a great time.”

The two-hour schedule of performances included a Chinese Fan Dance by the Niles West High School Chinese Club, Indian Bollywood Remix by Culture in Motion, Filipino music from Sama Sama Project, Thai Dance from the Thai Culture and Fine Arts Institute of Chicago, Russian music by Campanella Children’s Choir and much more.

Arts and artifacts available for purchase included pottery, henna hand art, jewelry, calligraphy and painting. In addition, a hands-on creative arts area allowed guests of all ages to create their own works of art to take home. A film also played throughout the afternoon titled “Becoming American – The Chinese Experience.”

A reception was held during the event in the Y’s Community Gallery for their May exhibit, which open

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during the month of May, features three types of Asian art. The work of Tsun-Chiang Liu (Agnes) Tsou showcases traditional Chinese brush painting. Vance Wan shows his boldly graphic paintings featuring Chinese calligraphy. And Jan Keller Schultz shares an ancient form of East Asian ink wash painting, known in Japanese as sumi-e. The gallery is free and open to the public.

“We were so pleased to welcome Taste of Asia back to the Y this year,” commented Howard Schultz, NSYMCA Executive Director/CEO. “We are fortunate to have a thriving relationship with the Asian-American community in the towns served by the Y.”

About the Northbrook Community Relations Commission

The Northbrook Community Relations Commission was established by the Village of Northbrook to foster and promote understanding, mutual respect, cooperation and positive relations between and among all residents of Northbrook, to the end that a sense of shared community among residents is strengthened, the value of each individual is affirmed and the constitutional rights of all are realized. The Commission sponsors a wide range of public events throughout the year. Monthly meetings are held at the Northbrook Public Library. For more information, contact Kendal Maltas, Village Staff Liaison, at 847 272 5050 x. 4032, or visit <http://www.northbrook.il.us/CRC>.

About the North Suburban YMCA

The YMCA is a not-for-profit entity and relies on donations to fund capital improvements and keep its programs available to all, including those facing financial hardship. All board members are volunteers, who donate their time, talents and financial resources. Located at 2705 Techny Road in Northbrook, the YMCA has served area families in its twelve-city region for over 40 years. The Y is about youth development, healthy living, and social responsibility, providing programs and services that meet the needs of our community and are accessible to all. For more information or to make a donation call Howard Schultz at 847-272-7250, hschultz@nsymca.org, or visit www.nsymca.org.

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Photo Caption: The Taste of Asia Festival at the North Suburban YMCA included music and dance from a wide variety of Asian cultures.