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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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**ASIAN AMERICANS UNITED HOSTS:  
13<sup>th</sup> Annual Chinatown Mid-Autumn Festival**

**Saturday, September 13, 2008  
10<sup>th</sup> Street between Arch & Race**

**1-5 p.m. street fair • 4 p.m. martial arts demonstration • 6 p.m. lantern parade  
and lion dance through Chinatown • 6:45-10 p.m. stage performances**

On Saturday, Sept. 13<sup>th</sup>, Chinatown celebrates one of the most important holidays in Asia with one of the largest community celebrations of its own. For 13 years, Asian Americans United has hosted the Chinatown Mid-Autumn Festival as a community building event to celebrate culture and arts and to highlight the vibrant 140+-year-old community of Chinatown. The event draws thousands of people from across the Delaware Valley in a day-long celebration of Asian arts, culture and festivities.

“This is a testament to the strength and resources of this neighborhood,” said Ellen Somekawa, executive director of Asian Americans United. “We wanted a space where people come together and share the resources and wealth of community and culture.”

Asian Americans United is a 20+-year-old community organization that has worked to highlight the voices of Asian American and immigrant communities across Philadelphia. Mid-Autumn Festival was originally founded by a group of middle schoolers in AAU’s youth program who expressed concern about the loneliness faced by many immigrant elders during the holidays.

In particular, the youth knew that the Harvest Moon, which is often dubbed as an Asian Thanksgiving, often went overlooked in the U.S. They put on the first Mid-Autumn Festival themselves for their grandparents.

Since then, Mid-Autumn Festival has grown into Chinatown’s largest community celebration – not only drawing thousands of visitors but also engaging hundreds of volunteers and artists for the day-long event. It has also become a popular stop for politicians and community leaders.

Mid-Autumn Festival opens from 1-5 p.m. with a street festival featuring games and a 4 p.m. martial arts performance by Cheung’s Hung Gar Kung Fu Academy. At 6 p.m., the evening kicks off with an open lantern parade and lion dance through Chinatown, and culminates in a night of cultural performances ranging from martial arts to Chinese opera.

For more information, contact Asian Americans United at 215-925-1538 or visit [www.aaunited.org](http://www.aaunited.org).