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Mixed Martial Arts Exhibition at the AHSC

SAN FRANCISCO (May 13, 2008) For the second year in a row, this year's Asian Heritage Street Celebration promises an action-packed, in-your-face, Bay Area martial arts round-up featuring students of all backgrounds. The free exhibition, put together in part by San Francisco's World Team USA, is expecting a turnout of more than 100 participants and hundreds of spectators. The event will take place Saturday May 17 in San Francisco's Japantown from Fillmore and Post Streets from noon to 5 p.m.

"The event will feature students who wish to exhibit their striking skills in the ring," said Kru Sam (Chilaphanh) Phimsoutham, the chief instructor and owner of World Team USA, who organized the exhibition in last year's 3rd annual AHSC in the South of Market Area. Participants will be matched up with other students of the same skill level, age, weight and experience. Various styles of martial arts also will be featured, including *san shou*, *kung fu*, MMA (for mixed martial arts), *karate* and *jiu-jitsu*.

The event organizers are planning at least 25 bouts, using *muay thai* (Thai Boxing) rules: two 2-minute rounds, with a 1-minute break in-between. Participants will dress in full gear — shin guards, gloves, body gear, head guards, and mouthpieces. "We've invited people from all around the Bay Area — some as far as Fresno and even Los Angeles," said Kenneth Giang, a staff member at World Team USA. "This is going to allow the crowd to just see a little bit of what martial arts is all about."

What: Mixed Martial Arts Exhibition at the Asian Heritage Street Celebration

Where: San Francisco's Japantown, Fillmore and Post Streets

When: Noon to 5 p.m.

<http://www.worldteamusa.com/>

About the Asian Heritage Street Celebration

The Asian Heritage Street Celebration is organized in cooperation with over 150 organizations in the local and Asian American community. It is the largest gathering of Asians/Pacific Islanders in America. It includes two live stages, arts & crafts section, j-car gathering, food, Thai kick boxing ring and children's area. California Pacific Medical Center will also conduct free hepatitis B screenings. This year's sponsors include California Pacific Medical Center, Subaru, Brown and Toland Medical Group, Wells Fargo Bank, AT&T, PG&E, California Lottery, Golden Gate

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