

NANAY Hosts Successful Festival

North Miami- May 2001

Sunday, May 6 was a memorable day for the City of North Miami, as more than 2500 spectators came to Griffing Park to watch colorful performances on stage, learn about Asian and Caribbean cultures, and witness how diverse cultures could blend together in harmony.



The First Asian Caribbean Heritage Festival certainly paved the way for a strong and meaningful alliance between the different Asian Pacific American organizations and the Caribbean communities. Sponsored by the City of North Miami and Dade Community Foundation through Miamians Working Together, the whole-day Festival started with a colorful Dragon/Lion Dance, followed by a Taekwando demonstration and a heart-throbbing, lively rendition by the Japanese Drummers. The Jamaican Steel Band, Salsa Band, Silliman Choristers from the Philippines and Dinggin Singers provided musical entertainment.



The crowd enjoyed lunch at the multicultural food booths while looking at the various arts and crafts, orchids, and fruit carvings. The Centro Cultural de Puerto Rico, Ismaili Muslims, Chinese Cultural Dancers, Korean dancers, Thai American dancers, NANAY's Filipino youth dancers and the Polynesian dancers entertained the crowd with their colorful and graceful cultural performances. Enthusiastic ASPIRA youth danced to the tune of modern music, and were joined by NANAY's elders on stage.

"It was a true merging of divergent and intergenerational cultures," says Bennie Trinidad, administrator of NANAY, the lead organization that coordinated the event.