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Helping People,
Building Community

STILL FIGHTING FOR A REC CENTER: 10 YEARS OF “TAKIN’ IT TO THE STREETS”

LOS ANGELES, CA (May 17, 2008) - “Til’ there’s a rec center, we’re takin’ it to the streets!” says the 10-year-old motto of the San Tai San basketball tournament, part of a 15-year-old campaign to build a recreation center in Little Tokyo. Hosting the event and leading the campaign is the Little Tokyo Service Center Community Development Corporation (LTSC CDC).

Part of the 25th Annual Nikkei Community Day, San Tai San (Japanese for “3 on 3”) will have over 100 participants in this friendly but competitive all-day event that will feature mini-clinics with current and former college basketball players.

The tournament has been the main vehicle for the rec center’s campaign to reach out for visibility for the need for more recreational facilities in downtown. “A rec center would provide a safe and accessible multi-use gym for youth in the Downtown Los Angeles area. Additionally, it would attract Japanese American families throughout Southern California back to Little Tokyo, namely those involved with the over 300 Japanese American basketball teams here,” says Thomas Yee, project manager at LTSC CDC.

Little Tokyo is one of the three last Japantowns in California and historically has been a place that many Japanese Americans associate as a home away from home. A rec center would be an enhancement as it would serve a diverse population not limited to the Japanese American community, but people of all ethnic backgrounds and all ages that participate in basketball, volleyball, martial arts and other sports.

“Fortunately, the campaign for a rec center has garnered widespread community and political support but since land is scarce for open community space such as a rec center, it has prolonged the campaign beyond what its original visionaries expected,” states Yee.

The event will be held on May 17th from 9am – 3pm and will be located in Little Tokyo on San Pedro St. between 2nd and 3rd St. in front of the Japanese American Cultural and Community Center. Final deadline to register is May 5th. For online registration and more information about San tai San, visit reccenter.ltsc.org or contact Thomas Yee at (213) 473-1670.

LTSC Community Development Corporation is a non-profit community-based organization, which has been providing services for over 29 years to the greater Los Angeles community. Programs include but are not limited to: assistance for victims of domestic violence, support groups, child abuse and neglect outreach, emergency food and shelter assistance, affordable housing, and community redevelopment.

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