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**THROUGH THE EYES OF  
PHILADELPHIA'S NEW AMERICANS:  
ART, RESILIENCE, AND COMMUNITY**



MARCH 26, 2025- JUNE 8, 2025

**Community Art at ASHM!**  
*Through the Eyes of Philadelphia's  
New Americans:  
Art, Resilience, and Community*  
March 26, 2025 to June 8, 2025

Philadelphia, PA- Beginning in March, SEAMAAC and the American Swedish Historical Museum (ASHM) invite you to experience culture through art at the exhibition *Through the Eyes of Philadelphia's New Americans: Art, Resilience, and Community*. This exhibition, curated by SEAMAAC staff from art created in their classes, will be the first in a series of

community exhibitions at ASHM highlighting stories of other Philadelphia immigrant groups.

*Through the Eyes of Philadelphia's New Americans: Art, Resilience, and Community* celebrates the strength and courage of immigrants and refugees who have faced unimaginable challenges and found healing through art. For many, the act of creating is not only a form of expression but also a vital tool for recovery. In a supportive community, they learn new skills, share their stories, and gain the confidence to envision a brighter future.

Both ASHM and SEAMAAC are excited to showcase the incredible work created in SEAMAAC's workshops, including collaborative pieces in painting and Shibori textile art, as well as individual works in batik, mosaic, and ceramic tableware. For many of these artists, this exhibition marks their first opportunity to share their work publicly. Thank you for joining us in celebrating resilience through art!

SEAMAAC CEO, Thoai Nguyen says of the upcoming exhibit,

*"Through the Eyes of Philadelphia's New Americans: Art, Resilience, and Community* is a project highlighting the stories and experiences of our newest Americans. In the creative tradition and the long history of immigrants in America, from Swedish immigrants in the 1640s, to Irish and Italian Immigrants in the 1800s, this project aims to honor perspectives from Philadelphia's newest denizens. SEAMAAC is honored to partner with ASHM in presenting these fresh perspectives, adding to our rich tapestry and the true ideals of America."

For ASHM, this exhibit begins a new and important initiative for the Museum. ASHM Executive Director, Tracey Beck says,

“As a place that has been devoted to sharing cultural experiences for almost 100 years, we are thrilled to partner with SEAMAAC to highlight stories of recent immigrants who have made Philadelphia home. This project is a pilot for a series of annual exhibitions which give many different cultural groups in our community the opportunity to share their stories with the public in our beautiful building in FDR Park.”

*Through the Eyes of Philadelphia's New Americans: Art, Resilience, and Community* will be on view at ASHM from March 26, 2025 to June 8, 2025. Admission is included with ASHM general tickets. ASHM is open Tuesday through Friday 10:00 am – 4:00 pm and weekends 12:00 - 4:00 pm.

*Through the Eyes of Philadelphia's New Americans: Art Resilience, and Community* was curated by SEAMAAC.

*This exhibition at ASHM is supported by a planning grant from the Philadelphia Funders Collaborative for the Semiquincentennial. We are grateful for support from the ASHM Auxiliary, Barbro Osher Pro Suecia Foundation, Midsommarklubben, Red Moose Charitable Trust, and an anonymous foundation. Funding for the American Swedish Historical Museum is supported by grants from the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, a state agency funded by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and the Philadelphia Cultural Fund.*

#### **Exhibition Event:**

**Free Community Day: Art, Resilience, and Community**

**Sunday, May 11th**

**12:00 – 4:00 pm**

Join us for a free community day in partnership with SEAMAAC. Learn about this Philadelphia organization and take the opportunity to view the community exhibit *Through the Eyes of Philadelphia's New Americans: Art, Resilience, and Community*.

Images:



Elders Batiking together



An elder showing off her lino block print.



"From Broken to Beautiful" mosaic class



A mixed media collage created by an elder



## About SEAMAAC:



Founded in 1984 by Cambodian, Chinese, Laotian, Hmong, and Vietnamese refugees from Southeast Asia, SEAMAAC's founding vision was to unite Philadelphia's Southeast Asian communities into a dynamic refugee-led coalition. Over the last four decades, SEAMAAC expanded its services to other immigrants/refugees as well as to native-born Philadelphians of every race and ethnicity. Today, the organization works on local, regional, and national levels, united by a shared commitment to "Build Better Communities" and a mission to support and serve all communities as they seek to advance the condition of their lives in the United States. Their commitment to serving people regardless of race or national origins has inspired our mission and vision in building a stronger society based on the principles of justice and equity for all.

## About ASHM:



Visit the American Swedish Historical Museum to learn the forgotten history of Swedes in Philadelphia. Built in 1926 during the Sesquicentennial, the Museum has a unique interior divided into a dozen galleries designed to highlight Scandinavian influences in America. The galleries explore a range of topics including the New Sweden Colony, women's history, scientific innovations, and Swedish craft arts. ASHM hosts a variety of programs from Swedish holiday celebrations to history lectures to family programs.

The American Swedish Historical Museum welcomes everyone to explore cultural identity through stories of Swedes and all Scandinavians and to connect with a vibrant community dedicated to preserving and interpreting culture through celebrations, exhibitions, and opportunities to learn, experience, and grow. No matter your age or interests, ASHM has something for you! Visit our website [www.americanswedish.org](http://www.americanswedish.org) to learn more.

The American Swedish Historical Museum is located in scenic FDR Park at 1900 Pattison Avenue in South Philadelphia near the Sports Complex. Plenty of free parking is available. For those taking public transportation, the Broad Street Subway's NRG/Pattison Avenue stop is within walking distance or SEPTA's Bus Route 17 (to Pattison) can bring you right to the Museum.