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EXPLORE ASIA EXHIBITION GRAND OPENING JULY 21-23 AT ASIA SOCIETY TEXAS

\$4.6 Million Project Brings New Interactive Experience to the Architecturally Stunning Center



HOUSTON, July 5, 2023 — [Asia Society Texas](#) (AST) enthusiastically announces the grand opening of [Explore Asia](#) — an immersive exhibition highlighting five Asian countries across six unique experiences — on July 21–23. The new \$4.6 million permanent exhibition — the only interactive learning exhibition in Texas focused specifically on Asia — focuses on Asian art and culture and transforms the experience of visiting AST’s **Yoshio Taniguchi**-designed Center. The [grand opening weekend](#) will include FREE access to the new exhibition, made possible by generous funding from the Ling and George Yang family, along with lion dances and a variety of family-friendly activities. Asia Society Texas members receive early access through a Member Preview slated for July 12–20.

Through an immersive journey to China, India, Japan, South Korea, and Vietnam, guests of all ages can magically travel across time and space on a virtual bullet train, learn about delicious meals and treats (and where to find them in Houston), take our stage by participating in a drumming experience, and more! “It’s thrilling to finally share this joyful experience with our community,” says **Bonna Kol**, AST President. “We hope guests from all backgrounds will have fun exploring the exhibition and find connectivity to our shared lives and experiences. Houston is one of the most diverse metropolitan areas in the U.S. and we are honored to uplift the cultural significance and people who have helped shaped our city.”

Gordon Quan, chair of the exhibition’s Advisory Council, shares, “As an Asian American who grew up in Texas, providing opportunities to foster curiosity and build human connectivity by elevating AAPI perspectives is deeply meaningful to me. I know how impactful it is for a child to see their own story and identity reflected — reinforcing the idea that everyone’s life experience and cultural history are valued and important.”

Informed by several years of research and in consultation with an extensive group of scholars and community partners, *Explore Asia* is designed to spark curiosity and highlight the interconnectedness between the peoples of Asia, Houston, and the United States, building on AST’s belief in the power of art, dialogue, and ideas to combat bias and build a more inclusive society. According to **Jennifer Kapral**, AST Director of Education and Outreach, “inspiring empathy and fostering a better understanding of our interconnected world is our passion, and the *Explore Asia* exhibition provides an accessible and entertaining celebration of the diverse perspectives and vibrant cultures of Asia.”



EXPLORE ASIA GRAND OPENING WEEKEND DETAILS

When: Friday, July 21, 12 – 7 p.m.; Saturday, July 22 – Sunday, July 23, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Where: Asia Society Texas, 1370 Southmore Blvd, Houston, TX, 77004 (in the Museum District)

Admission: General admission is FREE all weekend; timed tickets for *Performances Across Asia* Drumming Experience: \$6

More information: asiasociety.org/texas/events/explore-asia-grand-opening-weekend

Schedule:

Friday, July 21, 12 – 7 p.m.

- Be one of the first to experience the *Explore Asia* exhibition.
- 12:30 p.m. Lion dance starts the day.
- 1-6 p.m. Paid entry to *Performances Across Asia* Drumming Experience (\$6 per guest).
- Locally-owned, Asian-focused food trucks providing tasty treats.

Saturday, July 22, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

- 10:30 p.m. Lion dance starts the day.
- 11 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Paid entry to *Performances Across Asia* Drumming Experience (\$6 per guest).
- Enjoy additional creative activities and games provided by community partners from across Houston.
- Locally-owned, Asian-focused food trucks providing tasty treats.

Sunday, July 23, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

- 10:30 p.m. Lion dance starts the day.
- 11 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Paid entry to *Performances Across Asia* Drumming Experience (\$6 per guest).
- Enjoy hourly story times highlighting stories from China, India, Japan, South Korea, and Vietnam.
- Locally-owned, Asian-focused food trucks providing tasty treats.

ABOUT ASIA SOCIETY TEXAS

Asia Society Texas believes in the strength and beauty of diverse perspectives and people. As an educational institution, we advance cultural exchange by celebrating the vibrant diversity of Asia, inspiring empathy, and fostering a better understanding of our interconnected world. Spanning the fields of arts, business, culture, education, and policy, our programming is rooted in the educational and cultural development of our community — trusting in the power of art, dialogue, and ideas to combat bias and build a more inclusive society.

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SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR SCHOLARS CIRCLE AND COMMUNITY PARTNERS:

SCHOLARS CIRCLE

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