ACCESSIBLE VOTING FOR EVERYONE

King County Elections • Outreach Team • 500 Fourth Ave Rm. 553 • Seattle, WA 98104
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International District Summer Festival

Chinatown • Seattle, WA • July 8-9, 2006

King County Elections

Partnering with the Organization of Chinese Americans and King County Voter Services, the King County Elections Outreach Team participated in the 2006 International District Summer Festival.

During the two-day festival, attendees were given demonstrations of the Accessible Voting Unit (AVU) and had the opportunity to cast a practice ballot and familiarize themselves with the machine.

Partnering with a Chinese speaking member of King County Voter Services for the first time, the Outreach team was able to explain the machine and general voting processes in both Chinese and English.

Utilizing both the Chinese and English language audio and visual ballots, 11 votes were cast on the AVU. Six Chinese speaking citizens registered or updated their voter registration materials during the event. Nineteen English speaking voters also updated their registration.

Many visitors to the booth mentioned their preference to cast their ballot by mail rather than at the polls. They were impressed with the benefits and opportunity for independence that this machine would provide for voters with disabilities.

King County Voter Services employees Sylvia Ma and Crystal Besmer explain the AVU to a voter.

Audience:

About 2,500 fair attendees

The Chinatown-International District Business Improvement Area

http://www.internationaldistrict.org/

Summer Festival History

The International District Summer Festival began in 1975 as a two-day community celebration to showcase traditional dancing and food.

Thirty-one years later, the International District Summer Festival is the largest Asian-American street fair in Washington and continues to entertain both young and old; drawing thousands each year.

The festival continues to highlight entertainment; such as Chinese dancing, Lion and Dragon dances, Japanese drumming, magic shows, and live musicians catering to a wide variety of musical tastes.

Vendor booths are also set up, offering authentic Chinese cuisine and other Asian inspired toys and items.

A vendor displays Asian inspired toys for sale.

A Japanese sword fighter performs for a large crowd at one of the many entertainment stages.

Current Traditions

Over the past few years, one of the most popular events has been the Karaoke stage.

This crowd favorite allows pre-registered contestants to sing on stage and try to win over the crowd with their renditions of popular music.

The competition is narrowed down to the top five singers and once in the finals, these contestants compete for great prizes and the honor of first, second, and third place.

The festival ends each year with a ceremonial dance and celebration in Hing Hay Park.