

ASHM Contact:

Ellie Gorman

Public Relations & Education Manager

1900 Pattison Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19145

Tel: 215-389-1776, Fax: 215-389-7701

Email: egorman@americanswedish.org**SEAMAAC Contact:**

Thi Quang Lam

Deputy Director

1711 S. Broad St., Philadelphia, PA 19148

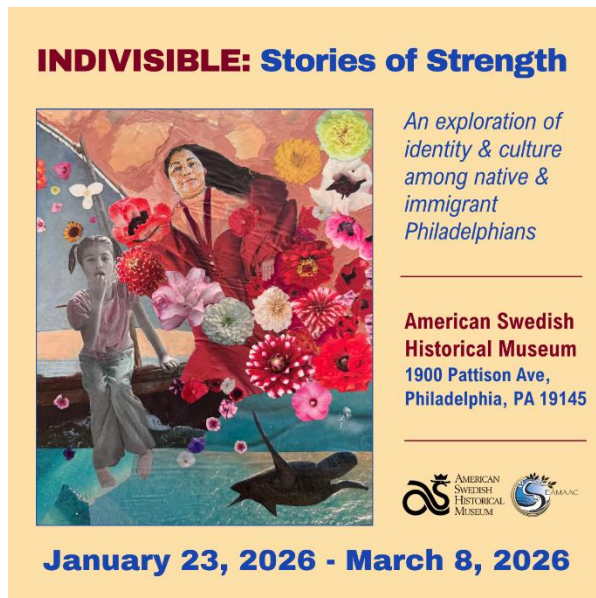
Office: 215.467.0690 ext.141 | Fax: 215.467.5301

Email: tlam@seamaac.org*-- FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE --*

Community Art at ASHM!

Indivisible: Stories of Strength

January 23, 2026 to March 8, 2026



Philadelphia, PA- Beginning in January, SEAMAAC and the American Swedish Historical Museum (ASHM) invite the Philadelphia community to join us for the exhibition *Indivisible: Stories of Strength*, an exhibition exploring identity and culture among native and immigrant Philadelphians. This exhibition will feature a video series, collaborative art pieces, and new artwork in collage, ceramics, and photography created by artists from SEAMAAC's art resiliency workshops led by artists Shira Walinsky, Marguerita Hagan, Eugenio Salas, Rena Fruchter, and Donna Backues. This is the second exhibition collaboration between ASHM and SEAMAAC, building on the Spring 2025 exhibition *Through the Eyes of Philadelphia's New Americans: Art, Resilience, and Community*.

Resilience, and Community.

SEAMAAC's video series for this exhibition will incorporate clips of interviews with new immigrants and descendants of immigrants who chose Philadelphia as their home. As attendees move through the exhibition and explore the artwork, they can listen and watch the interviews to deepen the artwork's impact and significance. The interviewees, who may or may not be one of the artists themselves, are fellow Philadelphians who will share their stories of their identity, culture, and lived experiences in Philadelphia, whether they are recent immigrants or 2nd, 3rd, and 4th generation descendants of immigrants. The full-length interviews will also be available online.

In addition to the video series, the exhibition will feature collaborative art pieces and new artwork created by artists from SEAMAAC's art resiliency workshops. Creating art within a community is a powerful act. It allows us to collectively envision a better future, build connections across diverse backgrounds, and cultivate empathy and understanding. SEAMAAC's resiliency art programming brings together people from around the world, offering them a space to learn new skills, create art, and connect on a personal level. Through this shared creative process, participants not only enjoy the act of making but

also build meaningful relationships. Creativity becomes a bridge between cultures and experiences, ultimately fostering resilience and strengthening community bonds.

Indivisible: Stories of Strength will be on view at ASHM from January 23, 2026 to March 8, 2026. Admission is included with ASHM general admission tickets. ASHM is open Tuesday through Thursday 10:00 am – 4:00 pm and Friday through Sunday 10:00 - 6:00 pm.

Indivisible: Stories of Strength was curated by SEAMAAC.

Lead support for this project is provided by the **WilliamPennFoundation**

This exhibit is also supported by a grant from the Philadelphia Funders Collaborative for the Semiquincentennial. Funding for ASHM is supported by grants from Barbro Osher Pro Suecia Foundation; the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, a state agency funded by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; and the Philadelphia Cultural Fund.

Exhibition Events at ASHM:

***Indivisible: Stories of Strength* Exhibit Opening**

Thursday, January 22nd

5:00-7:30 pm

Join us for the opening of *Indivisible: Stories of Strength*. The evening will include a panel discussion with artists and teaching artists who created pieces for this powerful exhibition. Free and open to the public, light refreshments served.

Free Community Day

Sunday, March 8th

12:00 – 4:00 pm

Together with SEAMAAC, spend the afternoon at ASHM for a community celebration on the closing day of the *Indivisible* exhibition. The event will include food and beverage vendors and family-friendly art and culture activities inside and outside the Museum.

Art Creation Day

Date TBD

Become part of the art as ASHM hosts a community art creation day. SEAMAAC teaching artists will facilitate a group art project that will be included in the third exhibit collaboration between ASHM and SEAMAAC on display in 2027. The event will also include other cultural activities, performances, and vendors.

Images:



SEAMAAC clients practice cell phone photography at a summer workshop taught by instructor Eugenio Salas.



An artist at work in a mosaic glass workshop



A collage workshop creating art for *Indivisible: Stories of Strength*



Mixed media collage, Marta Cruz, Mexican

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 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 and SEPTA Bus #4 are within walking distance or SEPTA's Bus #17 (to Pattison) can bring you right to the Museum.