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CHINESE CULTURE CENTER  
OF SAN FRANCISCO

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

*This summer, in conjunction with the Beijing Olympics 2008, the Chinese Culture Center of San Francisco is proud to present:*

### **Chinese Puzzles: Games for the Hands and Mind**

*From the Yi Zhi Tang Collection*

*Ongoing through October 11<sup>th</sup>, 2008*

*750 Kearny Street, Third Floor (inside the Hilton Hotel)*

*Gallery Hours: Tue.- Sat., 10-4.*

*Admission to the exhibition and related activities: Free*

*For more information: [www.c-c-c.org](http://www.c-c-c.org) or call (415) 986-1822*

While the entire world is celebrating the spirit of sports, demonstrated through physical competition, the Chinese Culture Center is presenting *Games for the Hands and Mind*, an exhibition and workshop series devoted to the art of Chinese puzzles.

Along with its history of art, culture and science, China also has a rich tradition of crafting and enjoying puzzles, or *yizhi youxi* (intelligence games). Many traditional Chinese puzzles are creations that reflect classical art forms and display extraordinary craftsmanship. For many generations they have challenged the minds of young and old and tested the ingenuity of rich and poor alike. Even members of the royal family enjoyed playing with puzzles!

*Chinese Puzzles* is an exhibition of antique Chinese puzzles from the *Yi Zhi Tang* collection and will include traditional puzzles, such as *qiqiaoban* (tangram), *jiulianhuan* (nine rings puzzle), and *Huarong Dao* (sliding block puzzle). Examples of puzzling objects, visual puzzles, and cleverly designed practical objects, such as puzzle rings, secret-opening boxes, and multi-step padlocks, are also on display. An important part of the Chinese Puzzles exhibition is its hands-on component. While the antique puzzles on display please the eye, visitors also have a chance to challenge their hands and minds by playing with and solving an assortment of newly made Chinese puzzles

*Chinese Puzzles* is the first exhibition anywhere devoted exclusively to the subject of Chinese puzzles. This exhibition showcases the *Yi Zhi Tang* Collection, which was formed by Bay Area residents Wei Zhang and Peter Rasmussen, who spent twelve years crisscrossing China and exploring Western antique markets to collect these rapidly disappearing handcrafted puzzles.

*This exhibition is funded by Walter & Elise Haas Fund, Vincent Woo Foundation, The San Francisco Foundation, Union Bank of California, and Grants for the Arts.*