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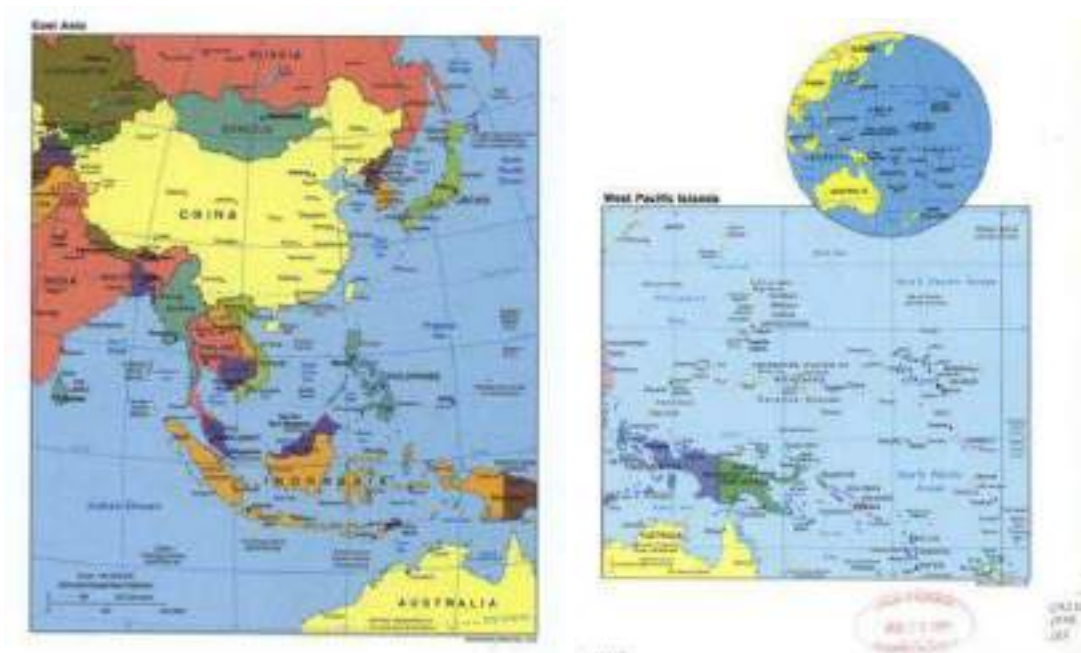
Introduction/Commission History

OFFICE OF ASIAN-PACIFIC AMERICAN AFFAIRS

In 1992, at the request of the General Assembly, Governor Schaeffer established the Office of Asian-Pacific American Affairs to assist and promote the interests of Maryland's Asian-Pacific American community (Chapter 397, Acts of 1991). Asian-Pacific Americans came originally from Burma, Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapore, Brunei, Japan, China, Taiwan, Laos, Cambodia, Vietnam, Korea, the Philippines, U.S. Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, Samoa, Macao, Hong Kong, Fiji, Tonga, Kiribati, Tuvalu, Nauru, India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Bhutan, Maldives, or Nepal.

The Governor's Commission on Asian-Pacific American Affairs was created by the Governor in June 1992 as the Governor's Advisory Committee on Asian-Pacific American Affairs (Executive Order 01.01.1992.14) with Delegate David Valderrama (elected in 1991 – the first Asian American elected to the Maryland General Assembly) sponsoring the legislation. In July 1999, it received its present name (Executive Order 01.01.1999.21). The Commission advises the Governor and the Office of Asian-Pacific American Affairs on issues which affect Maryland's Asian-Pacific Americans.

In 2012, Governor O'Malley created the Governor's Commission on South Asian American Affairs (GCSAA) separate from the Governor's Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs (GCAPAA) to have a distinct voice in the administration based on the rapidly growing population of the South Asian American community in Maryland. The GCAPAA includes representatives of the communities of East Asian, Southeast Asian, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander descent. Both the GCAPAA and the GCSAA each have 21 commissioners, who serve as a conduit between Maryland's Asian Pacific American and South Asian American populations and Maryland's State agencies and departments.



Today, the Governor's Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs serves in an important advisory role to the governor on issues of importance and concern to the Asian Pacific American community. The Governor's Office of Community Initiatives (GOCI), the GCAPAA, nonprofits and community organizations work together to identify the needs and challenges in order to connect the community with resources, to expand opportunities for the benefit of the Asian Pacific American community and to better connect all Marylanders with each other.



GOCI Onboarding of the GCAPAA Commissioners on December 9, 2023

Executive Summary

The 2023 Annual Report of the Governor’s Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs (GCOAPAA) reflects a year of dedicated efforts towards providing business development opportunities, sharing social workforce training, supporting community healthcare programs and continuing the educational awareness of this community’s diverse cultures, religions, resources and contributions with Marylanders during the shift from virtual meetings and events back to smaller in-person gatherings to the hybrid of virtual and in-person activities.

Today, the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI), or also known as Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders (AANHPI) community is the fastest-growing racial or ethnic group in Maryland.

Although nationally and locally, the government and general populace include South Asians as part of the collective terms for AANHPI and AAPI, the Governor’s Commission on South Asian American Affairs (GCSAAA) was created in 2012 to have a voice for rapidly increasing ethnic populations in Maryland originating from countries including Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Republic of Maldives and Sri Lanka.

According to a Pew Research Center analysis of the U.S. Census Bureau population estimates, the Asian population expanded 81% between 2000 and 2019 (approximately 10.5 million to 18.9 million) becoming the fastest-growing minority in the United States; and Native Hawaiians Pacific Islanders are the third fastest at 61%. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the estimated number of Asian alone-or-in-combination residents in the United States in 2022 was 24.7 million and the estimated number of Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone-or-in-combination residents was 1.8 million.

Based on the data collected from the 2019 American Community Survey, the population estimates of AANHPIs tally more than 463,200 Asian Americans (7.7%) and over 12,000 (0.2%) Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders (single and multi-races) are Maryland residents. Combined, the total number of reported AANHPIs is 475,297 – that’s almost 8% of Maryland’s total population.

This rapid growth of the AANHPI community is trending nationwide with Maryland clearly reflecting this. Its growing diversity is most evident in Howard and Montgomery counties. Per the latest Census estimates, the AANHPI population in Howard County has increased from 14% in 2010 to about 20% in 2021.

In Howard County’s Demographic Overview:

Of all races, Howard County’s Asian population has increased the most significantly since 2010, growing by 63% over the last 11 years. During this same period the White population in Howard County has decreased by 4%. Asian Indians make up the greatest number of Asians in Howard County, followed by Korean, other Asians, Chinese and then Vietnamese, Filipino and Japanese. (Howard County Demographic Overview|Howard County Department of Planning and Zoning, Research Division, 2022)

Howard County Population by Select Minority Race Detailed Breakdown - 2021

Race	Estimate	Margin of Error		
		Margin of Error	% Margin of Error	
Asian	66,297	+/-1,771	19.8%	+/-0.5
Asian Indian	23,313	+/-3,521	7.0%	+/-1.1
Korean	15,183	+/-2,937	4.5%	+/-0.9
Other Asian	11,388	+/-3,018	3.4%	+/-0.9
Chinese	9,435	+/-2,193	2.8%	+/-0.7
Vietnamese	3,031	+/-1,489	0.9%	+/-0.4
Filipino	2,957	+/-1,221	0.9%	+/-0.4
Japanese	990	+/-718	0.3%	+/-0.2
Hispanic or Latino	25,589	*****	7.6%	****
Other Hispanic or Latino	16,241	+/-2,337	4.9%	+/-0.1
Mexican	5,955	+/-2,227	1.8%	+/-0.7
Puerto Rican	2,729	+/-1,337	0.8%	+/-0.4
Cuban	664	+/-413	0.2%	+/-0.1

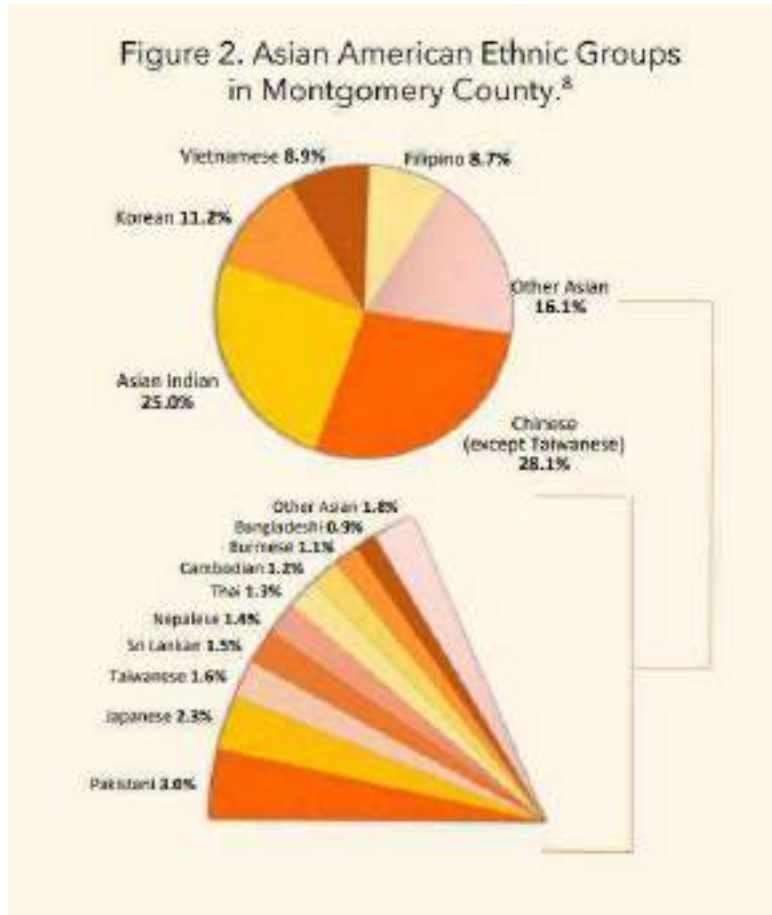
Source: 2021 American Community Survey, US Census Bureau

Note that percents are percent of total Howard County population

**** No sample observation, controlled to annual Population Division estimate

And according to the Maryland Department of Labor, Montgomery currently has the highest number of AANHPIs (over 182,000) in Maryland with it being 16% of the county's population. Other counties of rapid growth include Baltimore County, Prince Georges, and Anne Arundel.

Stated in the 2020-2030 Blueprint for the Asian American Health Initiative, Chinese (except Taiwanese) are 28.1%, Koreans are 11.2%, Vietnamese are 8.9%, Filipino are 8.7.4%, Taiwanese are 1.6%, Thai are 1.3%, and Cambodia are 1.2% of Montgomery County's Asian American population.



Blueprint for the Asian American Health Initiative (Montgomery County AAHI, 2020)

These demographic numbers are changing the face of the U.S. because they affect federal funding of state and local programs, political influence at elections, representation in health studies, etc. Lt. Governor Aruna Miller holds the title of many firsts, including the first South Asian woman elected lieutenant governor in the U.S., the first immigrant to hold statewide office in Maryland and the first Asian American lieutenant governor, but she does not want to be the first and only. She and Governor Moore have kept a promise to make their cabinet the most diverse and inclusive cabinet in America with Susan Lee as Maryland's first Asian American secretary of state, Secretary of Labor Portia Wu, Secretary of the Department of General Services Atif Chaudhry, and Secretary Sanjay Rai of Maryland Higher Education Commission. Maryland has only eight Asian American Pacific Islander legislators: Senator Clarence Lam (Chinese), Delegate Harry Bhandhari (Nepalese) who serves as chair of the AAPI Legislative Caucus, Delegate Mark Chang (Korean), Delegate David Moon (Korean), Delegate Lily Qi (Chinese), Delegate Kriselda Valderrama (Filipino), Delegate Sarah Siddique Wolek (Pakistani) and Delegate Chao Wu (Chinese). Kumar Barve, the first Indian-American elected to a state legislature in the United State, left his seat as a delegate upon Governor Moore's appointment of him as a commissioner on the Public Service Commission. With proximity to the Nation's Capital, Maryland is on the forefront of change, but there's more to be accomplished. And at the end of 2023, Governor Moore appointed new GCAPAA commissioners from seven different counties plus the City of Baltimore. Governor Moore's vision of "Leaving No One Behind" is

reflected by his strong support of all ethnic commissions and the Governor's Office of Community Initiatives to continue the great work they do every day.



One of the significant acknowledgements from the Moore-Miller Administration was a joint video message from Governor Wes Moore and Lt. Governor Aruna Miller played with Secretary of State Susan Lee and Secretary of the Department of General Services Atif Chaudhry as the featured in-person speakers on May 18th at the annual Asian Pacific American Heritage Month Celebration organized by the Governor's Office of Community Initiatives with the Governor's Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs and the Governor's Commission on South Asian American Affairs.

Additionally on May 24th, Governor and First Lady Moore hosted an Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage Month Happy Hour at Government House for commissioners, members of the Maryland Legislative Asian American and Pacific Islander Caucus and community leaders to meet the administration's cabinet members of Asian and Pacific Islander descent.





Community Profile

- Maryland is home for more than 475,000 Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders.
- 61.6% are employed in management, business, science, and arts occupations.
- 15.8% are sales and office occupations.
- 14.9% are service occupations.
- 5.3% are production, transportation, and material moving occupations.
- 2.3% are natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupations.
- 62% of Maryland's AAPIs aged 25 and older have received a bachelor's or higher level of education – a well-educated workforce.

(Source: Maryland Department of Labor, 2021)

2022 AAPI VOTER DEMOGRAPHICS BY STATE

Maryland

POPULATION FACTS

- Largest Asian American ethnic groups in Maryland include: Asian Indian (110,630), Chinese, except Taiwanese (96,388), Filipino (71,044), Korean (60,400), Vietnamese (31,778) and Pakistani (21,309)
- Largest NHPI ethnic groups in Maryland include: Native Hawaiian (3,768), Guamanian or Chamorro (1,434) and Samoan (1,148)
- From 2010 to 2020, the number of eligible AAPI voters in Maryland grew by 53%
 - This compares to a 9% change for the statewide eligible voting population over the same period.
- AAPI youth (ages 18-29) comprise 20% of the AAPI Citizen Voting Age Population (CVAP) in Maryland
- AAPIs age 50 and up comprise 42% of the AAPI CVAP.

260,905
ELIGIBLE AAPI VOTERS
(INCLUDES MULTI-RACIAL POPULATION)

6.0%
AAPI SHARE OF ELECTORATE
IN THE STATE

510,227
AAPI POPULATION SIZE
(INCLUDES MULTI-RACIAL POPULATION)

110%
AAPI POPULATION GROWTH
RATE SINCE 2000

35%
AAPI POPULATION GROWTH
RATE SINCE 2010

COUNTIES WITH HIGHEST AAPI POPULATIONS (INCLUDES MULTI-RACIAL POPULATION)

	% of AAPIs in County	Size of AAPI Population	% of AAPI CVAP in County	Size of AAPI CVAP
Montgomery	17%	180,345	16%	104,869
Howard	21%	66,936	16%	35,361
Baltimore	7%	60,966	5%	29,621

3 KEY THINGS TO KNOW:

- Growth of AAPI residents 2010-2020: 35%
- Growth of eligible AAPI voters 2010-2020: 53%
- Share of Asian American adults who are Limited English Proficient: 32%

(Source: AAPI Vote|AAPI Data Voter Maryland-State-Fact-Sheet, 2022)

Message from the Administrative Director of the Governor's Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs

Dear Friends,

I'm pleased to present the 2023 Annual Report of the Governor's Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs (GCAPAA) showcasing our shared efforts and accomplishments during a year of transitions coming out of the pandemic and a change of administrations. This report outlines the history, accomplishments, and activities of the Commission in the past year, and provides valuable information and resources for the Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) community in Maryland.

Although nationally and locally, the government and general populace include South Asians as part of the collective term AANHPI, this commission represents the East Asian, Southeast Asian, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islander diaspora, while the Governor's Commission on South Asian American Affairs (GCSAAA) was created to have a voice for ethnic populations originating from countries like Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

The AANHPI community is not a monolithic society. Languages, religions, foods, cultures, holidays, geopolitical views and generational perspectives in these communities are varied and diverse, so the GCAPAA commissioners promote education and cultural exchange through organizing and supporting traditional observances (i.e., Korean American Day, Lunar New Year, Songkran, Khmer New Year, Moon Festival, etc.), business and career training, and health fairs.

Maryland is the only state that has two separate commissions to identify and address the different concerns that are unique to these communities within the larger AANHPI population. However, at the end of the day, there is still a need to have a collective voice and representation when addressing issues of the "Model Minority" myth, health disparities, education, anti-Asian hate and breaking through the Bamboo Ceiling. Because we consider ourselves "cousins of the one family," both commissions support one another and jointly organize events like our annual Asian Pacific American Heritage Month Celebration in May and at community-led activities.

Please read this report and let us know how the GCAPAA can better connect and serve Maryland's vulnerable, under-served and under-utilized citizens in the AANHPI community through programs and partnerships.

Thank you,

Christina Wong Poy

Christina Wong Poy, Administrative Director
Governor's Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs
Governor's Commission on South Asian American Affairs

Message from the 2023 Chair of the Governor's Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs

Greetings!

This comprehensive report highlights the achievements and initiatives of the APA Commission and sheds light on the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) communities in Maryland over the past 12 months. The Commission extends its deepest gratitude to its dedicated members for their tireless efforts and unwavering commitment. Their hard work and dedication have been instrumental in advancing the Commission's mission and ensuring the well-being of the Asian Pacific American community in Maryland. Key highlights of this report include:

1. **Initiatives and Achievements:** The report details the APA Commission's key initiatives and accomplishments during 2023. It provides an overview of efforts made to promote cultural awareness, foster economic development, enhance educational opportunities, and ensure equitable access to healthcare services for the Asian Pacific American population. The report underscores the Commission's commitment to advocating for the community's interests and amplifying their voices within the state.
2. **Community Resources:** Recognizing the importance of providing necessary resources to the Asian Pacific American community, the report includes a comprehensive list of valuable resources. These resources cover a wide range of areas, such as legal assistance, language interpretation services, educational scholarships, employment opportunities, cultural organizations, and health clinics. By compiling this information, the report serves as a reference guide for individuals and organizations seeking support and guidance.
3. **Demographic Data:** To gain a deeper understanding of the Asian Pacific American population in Maryland, the report offers demographic data and statistics. It presents information on population size, ethnic diversity, and language proficiency. This data is essential for policymakers, researchers, and community leaders to make informed decisions and develop targeted strategies to address the unique needs and challenges faced by this community.

The 2023 Annual Report of the Governor's Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs represents a milestone in recognizing and addressing the needs of the Asian Pacific American community in Maryland. The Commission extends its gratitude to the Governor and his staff for their unwavering leadership and continuous support. We are also grateful for the support of community and business organizations. They are major contributors and collaborators in our collective efforts to build a diverse and prosperous home for all Marylanders.

Sincerely,



Hung-bin Ding
Chairman, Governor's Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs

Section 1: About the Governor’s Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs

Governor’s Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs Staff

Keith Colston

Director of Ethnic Commissions



Mr. Colston is Tuscarora and enrolled member of the Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina. He serves as the Director, Ethnic Commissions for the Governor’s Office of Community Initiatives (GOCI) and Administrative Director of the Maryland Commission on Indian Affairs (MCIA). The MCIA initiates and supports a wide range of activities that promote the welfare of Maryland’s Indian people and furthers the understanding of American Indian history and culture. The MCIA provides a forum for the concerns of Maryland’s American Indian communities and serves as a vital liaison between state and federal entities. Mr. Colston is the Point of Contact for the Maryland Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) for Governor’s Office on Community Initiatives (GOCI), which coordinates the Donations and Volunteers during “State of Emergency.” During

COVID-19, Mr. Colston supervised the distribution of personal protective equipment (PPE) to ethnic communities for GOCI.

Christina W. Poy

Administrative Director



Christina Wong Poy (王佩蓮) was appointed by Governor Larry Hogan in September 2015 as the first Asian American woman director in the Governor’s Office of Community Initiatives and she continues to proudly serve as the Administrative Director of Governor Wes Moore’s Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs and Commission on South Asian American Affairs.

She is a fourth generation Marylander and a strong advocate for her communities, as well as a conduit to the State of Maryland’s resources and services. Her interests include promoting academic excellence, intercultural respect, healthcare access, and business opportunities for marginalized communities. She previously worked at the Gates Millennium Scholars Program, NBC4/WRC-TV and for the federal government. Christina received her B.A. in East Asian

Languages/Literature, as well as certificates in East Asian Studies and Business, from the University of Maryland.

Cheryl Madigan

Fiscal Administrator & Ethnic Project Coordinator



Cheryl Madigan was appointed by Governor Martin O'Malley in 2012 with the Governor's Office of Finance Administration. During her six years there, she served as an administrator for human resources, payroll, accounts payables and receivables. In July of 2018, she transferred to the Governor's Coordinating Offices in Crownsville as an administrator for the senior executive director. In April of 2020, she transferred to the Governor's Office of Community Initiatives to her current position as a fiscal administrator and project coordinator for the governor's seven ethnic and cultural commissions.

Before joining the Governor's Offices, she was employed with the Central Payroll Bureau through the Comptroller of Maryland

for fifteen and a half years.

Cheryl is a proud native Marylander. She grew up and still resides in Anne Arundel County. She studied at Anne Arundel Community College.

Members of the Governor’s Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs

Commissioners and Officers (Ethnicity and county of residence in parentheses) as of November 2023

Chair: Yang Yu, Ph.D. (Chinese, Howard County)



Dr. Yang Yu is the associate dean of the Liberal Studies Division at Howard Community College (HCC) and was appointed to represent HCC in Howard County’s Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Commission. She previously served as the acting associate dean of the Social Sciences and Teacher Education Division and the chair of the Social and Cultural Sciences Department at HCC. She holds a Ph.D. in geography from the University of Sheffield, UK, and BA degree in environmental management with environmental science at the University of Leeds, UK. Dr. Yang Yu is a published author, with 11 journal articles and one co-authored book.

Vice Chair: Siu Cheung Rossmark (Chinese, Baltimore County)



Siu immigrated to the United States from China when she was six years old, growing up in Southeast Washington, DC, and Prince George’s County, MD. In a 35-year career as an entrepreneur and restaurateur, Siu has owned several Chinese restaurants, as well as real estate brokerage, financial services, and residential mortgage companies in the Washington metropolitan area. In March 2023, she retired from the restaurant industry by selling her last restaurant, Siu’s Asian Bistro. Siu is currently the executive director at Asian American LEAD, a nonprofit that serves Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) youth with educational empowerment, identity development, and leadership opportunities through after-school programs, mentoring, and summer programs in the Washington, DC metropolitan area.

Commission Members:**Isabelle Balakit** (Filipino, Charles County)

Isabelle Balakit is a former board member of the Department of Justice Asian Pacific American Employees Association. She also served as an outreach coordinator for the Center for Abused Persons for Charles County, providing interviews with victims of domestic violence. She serves as an active member of the Filipino-American Association of Southern Maryland to organize community events and to promote Filipino culture and its heritage.

**Julia Chang** (South Korean, Harford County)

Julia Chang is a two-time Mrs. Maryland titleholder, 5th degree Taekwondo master and mind + body transformation coach. She empowers women to bust through fears to set and achieve their goals. Julia has appeared in STRONG Fitness Magazine, The Tamron Hall Show, and The Korea Times. She aspires to motivate Asian Americans to engage within their communities to foster awareness, promote understanding, and champion inclusivity.

**Tim Chng** (Taiwanese, Baltimore City)

Tim Chng is a principal software developer for Yahoo inc. Throughout his life, he has been active in building the Taiwanese American community as well as Asian American networking and advocacy. Since 1999, Tim has lived and raised his family in Baltimore city. He currently serves on the Board of Trustees for the Baltimore School for the Arts and has participated in advocacy for education of Baltimore city youths.

**Amy Jean Chung Fry** (South Korean, Prince George's County)

Amy Jean Chung Fry (정애미), Esq. is a second generation Korean American. With a passion for serving her community, Amy has served in an elected role in the Town of Cheverly, Maryland, since 2019 as the council member for Ward 6 and current vice mayor. She is the co-founder and president of the AAPI Democratic Club of Prince George's County, an at-large board member for the Prince George's County Municipal Association (PGCMA), co-founder and chair of the Maryland Municipal League (MML) Asian Pacific American Caucus, and recently appointed to the New American Leader's Elected Advisory Council. In her day job, she is the chief of staff for the Prince George's County Council Chair Jolene Ivey.



Brian Gerardo (Filipino, Baltimore City)

Brian Gerardo is senior associate of learning and capacity building at The Annie E. Casey Foundation. He is founder and president of the Baltimore chapter of the National Association of Asian American Professionals, a founding member of the Baltimore City Mayor's AAPI Advisory Committee and is a Teach for America alumnus.



Eugenia Henry, PhD (Taiwanese, Baltimore County)

Dr. Eugene Henry is the founder and president of H2O Clinical, LLC, a company that performs data management for clinical trials. Dr. Henry has worked in the health industry for more than 30 years. Under her direction, her company submitted 52 New Drug Applications or equivalents on behalf of her pharmaceutical company clients. 49 of these have been approved by regulatory agencies, including FDA, EMA and CFDA. She is also the founder of the Global Federation of Chinese Business Women Baltimore Chapter and a former commissioner on the Maryland Commission for Women.



Larry La (Vietnamese, Montgomery County)

Larry La is the founder and chief executive officer of Meiwah Restaurant Group, a founding member of the Asian Pacific American Chamber of Commerce for the Capital City Area, as well as the founder and vice president of Business Development of the U.S.-Asia Links, LLC, an international trading company that promotes trade between the U.S., China and Vietnam.



Alanna Lee (South Korean, Montgomery County)

Alanna Lee is currently a vice president of the Peaceful Unification Advisory Council of Washington, DC, deputy secretary general of the Federation of Korean American Associations of USA, and a board member of the Coalition of Asian Pacific American Democrats of Maryland. Alanna immigrated to the United States from South Korea in 1976 and has worked in the retail industry for over 30 years. For the past several years, she has dedicated her time to working with Maryland's government officials to help better the community.



Kuan Lee, JD (Taiwanese, Anne Arundel County)

Kuan Lee is a Taiwanese American. He considers himself a champion and an advocate for democracy. When he was four years old, back when Taiwan was still an authoritarian society, he escaped the social injustice occurring in Taiwan with his grandparents. He feels blessed to have been raised in our democratic society under American values. To give back to our great nation that protects the fundamental freedom and the basic human rights for all, he passionately shares and defends our principles of democracy both domestically and internationally. He is a founding/board member of an international non-profit organization, Taiwan Sister Cities, that strengthens America's community relations with Taiwanese society. This includes the encouragement of people-to-people exchanges and the exploration of international business and trade opportunities.



Ping Lu, MD (Chinese, Montgomery County)

Dr. Ping Lu, a retired cardiologist, has dedicated 18 years to social service, showcasing her leadership in various organizations in Pennsylvania and Maryland. As the first female president of the Chinese Alumni Associations of Greater Washington (CAAGW), she has been instrumental in advancing its mission. Her tireless efforts have earned her prestigious awards, including the President's Lifetime Achievement Award and the Governor's Volunteer Award in Maryland, recognizing her unwavering commitment to volunteerism. Currently, she provides invaluable guidance as an advisor in multiple positions, continuing to make a positive impact on her community.



Thai Nguyen (Vietnamese, Montgomery County)

For 25 years Thai Nguyen was a former social worker for the Department of Health and Human Services and served as President of the Vietnamese Community of Maryland for 6 years. Thai Nguyen currently owns a car wash business that he has operated for the last 15 years.



Sirikarn "Sarah" Prammawat (Thai, Baltimore City)

Sirikarn "Sarah" Prammawat is a former high school counselor in Montgomery County and a college access program specialist. She currently runs her own clinic focused on academic improvement, helping families understand 504s and the IEP process. Her community activities include organizing the annual Thai Water (Songkran) Festival in Frederick.



Young Ran Smith (South Korean, Howard County)

Young Smith is the president of the League of Korean Americans, a non-profit organization focused on empowering the voices of Maryland citizens through programs and services that bridge the gap between the government and the people. She continues her work by acting as the commissioner for Asian American Pacific Islander Commission for Howard County. With a focus on civic engagement, Young hopes to engage citizens in dialogue, promoting community vibrancy.



Jarrett Stoltzfus (Chinese, from Hong Kong, Prince George's County)

Jarrett Stoltzfus was vice mayor of Mt. Rainier and has served as a city council member of Ward 2 since 2021. He is the co-founder of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in Clean Energy, a professional group to support Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders and allies that work in clean energy, clean transportation and climate solutions; and is one of the founding members of the Asian American and Pacific Islander Democratic Club of Prince George's County.



Jessie Su (Chinese, Baltimore County)

Jessie Su is an associate director of Alumni Relations at Johns Hopkins Carey Business School by day. She is also one of the AAPI Advisory Council members of the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra and serves as a board member for Art with a Heart, a non-profit organization in Baltimore that enhances the lives of people in need through visual art programs. She has been involved in Baltimore Sister City Committee since 2015 and co-started Chinese American Parents Association Baltimore Area with several local Chinese American parents since 2023. Jessie lives in Baltimore County with her husband and two daughters.



Tho Tran (Vietnamese, Montgomery County)

Tho Tran is the founder and executive director of Vietnamese American Services, Inc., a nonprofit organization that helps Vietnamese immigrants with advocacy, health care, senior programs, English as a Second Language and workforce training.



Cecilia Vergara (Filipino, Frederick County)

Cecilia Vergara is chief financial officer at both the Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce and the Montgomery County Chamber Community Foundation. She has worked as a finance leader for several nonprofit organizations focused on business advocacy, Veteran's training, youth empowerment and social service organizations. She also volunteers with an orphanage and health center.



Roxanne Yamashita, PhD (Polynesian/Chinese/Japanese, Montgomery County)

Dr. Roxanne Yamashita is a bioinformatics scientist with the National Center for Biotechnology Information at the National Institutes of Health. She is the executive director of the nonprofit Small Things Matter, which provides supplemental food to more than 7,000 food insecure individuals in Montgomery County and Prince George's County.

Lili Zhang (Chinese, Howard County)

Lili Zhang is senior advisor of the U.S.-China Chamber of Commerce and has served as president of America Mazu Cultural Exchange Association, president of American Li Yun Foundation and president of The Union of Chinese American Professional Organization.

Commissioners and Officers (Ethnicity and county of residence in parentheses) as of January 2023 – November 2023

Chair: Hung-bin Ding, PhD (Taiwanese, Howard County)

Members:

May Chan Anderson (Chinese, Montgomery)

Kyong “Ken” Yol Baik (Korean, Baltimore)

Hyunsook Choi, DMA (Korean, Montgomery)

Mitsuhiro “Micky” Saito Choi (Korean/Japanese, Anne Arundel)

Elizabeth L. Chung (Chinese, Frederick)

George P. Dang (Vietnamese/Chinese, Montgomery)

Hyun S. “Helen” Han (Korean, Montgomery)

Dottie Tiejun Li (Chinese, Prince George’s)

Robert Manankil (Filipino, Baltimore)

Chau Nguyen (Vietnamese, Montgomery)

Mi Schill (Korean, Howard)

Mie Mie Strickler (Chinese/Indonesian, Cecil County)

Meki To’alepai (Pacific Islander, Anne Arundel County)

Chiling Tong (Chinese, Montgomery)

Edward Wan, PhD (Chinese, Montgomery)

Beth Wong (Filipino, Montgomery)

Bob Zhang (Chinese, Howard)

Lili Zhang (Chinese, Howard)

Acknowledging the Contributions of Past Commissioners

Background

The Governor's Office of Community Initiatives and the Governor's Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs went through a period of transition this year while continuing to further the mission of serving the needs of the Asian Pacific American community. The term limit for the majority of the commission seats expired during the pandemic and during Governor Larry Hogan's administration, but these commissioners continued to serve until Governor Wes Moore's appointment of new commissioners in November.

Under the guidance and leadership of Chairman Hung-bin Ding, the Commission was active in areas that concern the daily lives of Asian Pacific American Marylanders. Chairman Ding impelled Commissioners to continue active participation and advocacy for the community; and serve as a resource for Governor Moore, Lt. Governor Miller, and administration officials. To this end, the Governor's Commission cultivated and renewed working relationships and strategic partnerships with key state agencies such as the Department of Commerce, Governor's Office on Labor, Maryland Department of Transportation, and Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development.

About the Governor's Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs

Commission Meetings

The Commission held two quarterly meetings in 2023. The last two were postponed due to the transition of commission seat term limits and the appointment of new commissioners. Within the two meetings held, the commissioners discussed who would serve on the event planning committee with the South Asian American commissioners for the annual Asian Pacific American Heritage Celebration in May. The Art, Culture & Interfaith subcommittee took the lead on the program agenda, cultural performances, artifacts and heritage display tables. The Health subcommittee members reported on their continued efforts in the community by organizing and supporting free health and wellness fairs, vaccination clinics and delivering personal protection equipment (PPE) to food distribution sites.

Commission Committees

- Art, Culture & Interfaith
- Business/Economic Development
- Education/Workforce Development
- Health

Section 2: Challenges Facing Asian Pacific American Communities in Maryland

National Data

The U.S. Department of Commerce posted Key Stats Released by the U.S. Census Bureau in honor of 2023 Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander Heritage Month including:

Asian Population

24.0 million - The estimated number of Asian alone or in combination residents in the United States in 2021.

5.2 million - The estimated number of people of Chinese (except Taiwanese) descent in the United States in 2021. The Chinese (except Taiwanese) population was the largest Asian group, followed by Indian (4.8 million), Filipino (4.4 million), Vietnamese (2.3 million), Korean (2.0 million), and Japanese (1.6 million). These estimates represent individuals who reported a specific detailed Asian group alone as well as those who reported that detailed Asian group in combination with one or more other detailed Asian groups or another race(s).

2.4% - The percentage of the Asian alone-or-in-combination military veterans in 2021.

55.1% - The percentage of the Asian alone-or-in-combination population age 25 and older who had a bachelor's degree or higher level of education in 2021.

88.5% - The percentage of the Asian alone-or-in-combination population age 25 and older who had at least a high school diploma or equivalency in 2021.

612,194 - The estimated number of Asian-owned employer firms in the United States in 2020.

Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander Population

1.7 million - The estimated number of Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone-or-in-combination residents of the United States in 2021.

680,353 - The number of Native Hawaiian residents of the United States in 2021. The Native Hawaiian population was the largest detailed Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander (NHPI) group, followed by Samoan (243,682) and Chamorro (142,516). These estimates represent the number of people who reported a specific detailed NHPI group alone as well as those who reported that detailed NHPI group in combination with one or more other detailed NHPI groups or another race(s).

6.8% - The percentage of Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone-or-in-combination military veterans in 2021.

25.0% - The percentage of the Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone-or-in-combination population age 25 and older who had a bachelor's degree or higher in 2021.

89.9% - The percentage of the Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone-or-in-combination population age 25 and older with at least a high school diploma or equivalency in 2021.

8,822 - The estimated number of Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander-owned employer firms in the United States in 2020.

With a surge in reported incidents during the COVID-19 Pandemic, Anti-Asian Hate continues to be a concern nationally and locally. The nonprofit organization AAPI Hate commissioned NORC at the University of Chicago to conduct a research survey of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders about their experiences with hate. The key findings from the report include:

1. Nearly half (49%) of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders nationwide have experienced discrimination or unfair treatment that may be illegal.
2. Discrimination negatively affects the mental health and well-being of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.
3. Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders know they have rights and want accountability for unlawful discrimination, yet few who experienced what they believed to be a civil rights violation report it.
4. Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders want a better understanding of how to enforce their rights and want new laws to protect their civil rights.

State Data

Based on the data collected from the 2019 American Community Survey, the population estimates of AANHPIs tally more than 463,200 Asian Americans (7.7%) and over 12,000 (0.2%) Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders (single and multi-races) are Maryland residents. Combined, the total number of reported AANHPIs is 475,297 – that’s almost 8% of Maryland’s total population.

According to the APIA Vote and AAPI Data state fact sheet for Maryland in 2022, key takeaways from their 2022 Asian American Voter Survey of Maryland residents include:

- Voter engagement
- Importance of language access
- Socioeconomic challenges

VOTER ENGAGEMENT AND IDENTIFICATION (NATIONAL-LEVEL DATA)

- Voter contact continues to be an unmet need for AAPIs. In the 2022 Asian American Voter Survey, 56% of Asian Americans received no contact or were unsure if they received contact about the election from the Democratic party and 66% reported the same from the GOP.
- Among contacted Asian American registered voters, 44% reported contact by the Democratic Party from the same survey, 35% by the Republican Party, and 39% by community organizations. In comparison, the 2016 National Asian American Post-Election Survey shows 48% of AAPI voters reported contact from the Democratic party and 16% by the Republican party.
- There is also an opportunity for voter education through contact. In the 2022 survey of registered voters, 37% of Asian Americans did not declare an identification with either political party.

IMPORTANCE OF LANGUAGE ACCESS*

- 80% of Asian American adults in Maryland speak a language other than English at home, and 32% are Limited English Proficient (speak English less than "very well")
- The top 5 Asian languages spoken in Maryland are Chinese (71,817), Korean (37,369), Tagalog (33,694), Urdu (20,596) and Vietnamese (18,370)
- In the 2022 Asian American Voter Survey, among Asian Americans that spoke a language other than English at home, 11% said that language has been a barrier in voting in previous elections and 42% said they would make use of voting assistance in their language (national-level data)
- The top NHPi languages with more than 100 estimated speakers in Maryland are Chamorro (130) and Samoan (117)

SOCIOECONOMIC CHALLENGES*

- About 20,731 Asian Americans in Maryland (5%) lack health insurance
- About 27,304 Asian Americans in Maryland (7%) live in poverty
- About 8,153 Asian Americans in Maryland (2%) lack broadband access
- About 285 NHPis in Maryland (12%) lack health insurance
- About 198 NHPis in Maryland (8%) live in poverty
- About 256 NHPis in Maryland (8%) lack broadband access.

(Source: APIA Vote|AAPI Data Voter Maryland-State-Fact-Sheet, 2022)

Local Data (Counties)

With an overall growth of Maryland's Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander population increasing from five percent (5%) in 2010 to almost eight percent (8%) in 2020, these numbers are most evident in Howard and Montgomery counties, where health care disparities, English proficiency, poverty rates and the "model minority myth" are concerns.

In Howard County's Demographic Overview:

Of all races, Howard County's Asian population has increased the most significantly since 2010, growing by 63% over the last 11 years. During this same period the White population in Howard County has decreased by 4%. Asian Indians make up the greatest number of Asians in Howard County, followed by Korean, other Asians, Chinese and then Vietnamese, Filipino and Japanese. (Howard County Demographic Overview|Howard County Department of Planning and Zoning, Research Division, 2022)

Howard County Population by Select Minority Race Detailed Breakdown - 2021

Race	Estimate	Margin of		% Margin	
		Estimate	Error	%	of Error
Asian	66,297		+/-1,771	19.8%	+/-0.5
Asian Indian	23,313		+/-3,521	7.0%	+/-1.1
Korean	15,183		+/-2,937	4.5%	+/-0.9
Other Asian	11,388		+/-3,018	3.4%	+/-0.9
Chinese	9,435		+/-2,193	2.8%	+/-0.7
Vietnamese	3,031		+/-1,489	0.9%	+/-0.4
Filipino	2,957		+/-1,221	0.9%	+/-0.4
Japanese	990		+/-718	0.3%	+/-0.2
Hispanic or Latino	25,589		*****	7.6%	****
Other Hispanic or Latino	16,241		+/-2,337	4.9%	+/-0.1
Mexican	5,955		+/-2,227	1.8%	+/-0.7
Puerto Rican	2,729		+/-1,337	0.8%	+/-0.4
Cuban	664		+/-413	0.2%	+/-0.1

Source: 2021 American Community Survey, US Census Bureau

Note that percents are percent of total Howard County population

**** No sample observation, controlled to annual Population Division estimate

Language Spoken at Home & English Proficiency In Howard County - 2021
(Population 5 years and over)

Language & English Proficiency	Estimate	Margin of		% Margin	
		Estimate	Error	%	of Error
English Only	225,962		+/-5,453	71.4%	+/-1.7
Language other than English	90,333		+/-3,453	28.6%	+/-1.7
Speak English less than "very well"	26,030		+/-3,227	8.2%	+/-1
Spanish	18,698		+/-2,298	5.9%	+/-0.7
Speak English less than "very well"	7,365		+/-1,365	2.3%	+/-0.6
Other Indo-European languages	24,461		+/-4,432	7.7%	+/-1.4
Speak English less than "very well"	5,159		+/-1,394	1.6%	+/-0.4
Asian and Pacific Islander languages	33,733		+/-3,571	10.7%	+/-1.1
Speak English less than "very well"	11,576		+/-2,116	3.7%	+/-0.7
Other languages	13,441		+/-3,187	4.2%	+/-1
Speak English less than "very well"	3,520		+/-987	0.6%	+/-0.3
TOTAL	316,295		+/-4	100%	

Source: 2021 American Community Survey, US Census Bureau

Note that percents are percent of total Howard County population 5 years and over

And according to the Maryland Department of Labor, Montgomery currently has the highest number of AANHPIs (over 182,000) in Maryland with it being 16% of the county's population. Other counties of rapid growth include Baltimore County, Prince Georges, and Anne Arundel.

Stated in the 2020-2030 Blueprint for the Asian American Health Initiative, Chinese (except Taiwanese) are 28.1%, Koreans are 11.2%, Vietnamese are 8.9%, Filipino are 8.7.4%, Taiwanese are 1.6%, Thai are 1.3%, and Cambodia are 1.2% of Montgomery County's Asian American population.

Underscored in memorandum to the Montgomery County Health and Human Services Committee, the Blueprint for the Asian American Health Initiative (AAHI) 2020-2030 reported:

- Asian American Ethnic Groups in Montgomery County include Chinese (28.1%; excludes Taiwanese), Asian Indian (25%), Korean (11.2%), Vietnamese (8.9%), Filipino (8.7%), and Other (16% from nine other groups).
- 19.8% of Asian Americans in the County are under 18 years old and 14.6% are over 65 years old.
- In Montgomery County, it is estimated that 112,604, or 69.8%, of Asians are foreign born. About one-third of the foreign-born population are not U.S. citizens.
- 79.3% of Asians in Montgomery County report speaking a language other than English and about 30% reported speaking English less than "very well."
- About 5.8% of Asian American County residents surveyed by AAHI reported income in the previous 12 months that was below the poverty level. Of those below the poverty level, 48% are over the age of 55.
- Of Asian residents in the County who rent (25%), over 42% are rent burdened and paying more than 30% of income on rent.
- The "model minority myth" is a narrative that all Asian Americans are wealthy, healthy, acculturated, have high educational attainment, and do not have the challenges of other minorities.
- Asian Americans have high prevalence of specific diseases including Hepatitis B, HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, and liver disease and it is estimated that Asian Americans have the highest rate of undiagnosed diabetes.
- Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) is prevalent among Southeast Asian refugees from trauma before and after emigration to the U.S.

Section 3: Policy Priorities, Recommendations, and Best Practices

2024 Legislative Policy Priorities

Looking ahead to 2024, these are concerns affecting the South Asian American community for the Commission to focus.

- 1) Increase voter registration and engagement.
- 2) Advocate for holidays in public schools that are not recognized: Lunar New Year.
- 3) Address healthcare disparities including in areas of cancer, mental illness, diabetes, osteoporosis, hepatitis B.
- 4) Combat racial bias in areas of scientific research at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and University of Maryland Baltimore.

Section 4: Events & Outreach

2023 Events & Outreach

Activities

Carrying over from 2022, the Pandemic with the unpredictable COVID-19 variants left its indelible mark in early 2023. A key component of the Governor's Executive Order is for the Governor's Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs (GCAPAA) "to continue and expand outreach that will engage individuals and organizations in the Asian Pacific American community in partnerships with State government in promoting their social, cultural, and business interests, with a particular focus on community development."

Across Maryland, participation numbers of community events and activities compared to the years 2019 and 2018 were much lower, and cancellations higher, due to COVID-19 variants outbreaks and physical distancing limitations. All staff and ethnic commissioners of the Governor's Office of Community Initiatives (GOCI), who serve as the outreach arm of the Administration, were affected. Some of the AANHPI community's largest events were postponed or held in hybrid virtual participation with limited in-person attendance.

There were hundred thirty-seven events and activities hosted, organized and/or attended by the Commissioners and Administrative Director Poy (on behalf of the Commission) in support of the Asian Pacific American community. These events included business seminars about the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP), online training webinars on dealing with Anti-Asian American Hate, COVID-19 vaccination sites, essay and art contests to promote education during a return to in-person classes, as well as numerous cultural and religious observances and events celebrating the diversity of Maryland's Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander communities.

By the Numbers

Although COVID-19 variants surged during some weeks in 2023, the community offered vaccination fairs to increase a return to in-person or hybrid activities. The commissioners and the administrative director attended and/or hosted 137 events including:

- 137 community events/celebrations and business workshop/activities
- 22 Lunar New Year's events
 - 7 Governor's Proclamations were presented
- 1 community event Governor and First Lady Hogan hosted at Government House:
 - Governor's Lunar Reception
- 15 Asian Pacific American Heritage Month (APAHM) events in the month of May with six Governor's Proclamations presented including:
 - The annual APAHM Celebration jointly organized by GOCI, Governor's Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs and Governor's Commission on South Asian American Affairs at the Center for Social Change on May 18th;
 - The Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) observed Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month on May 23rd with a hybrid in-person and virtual event featuring Lt. Governor Aruna Miller and Administrative Director Christina Poy as the keynote speakers.
- Governor and First Lady Moore hosted an Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month Happy Hour at Government House on May 24th.

Events and Outreach Highlights

Lunar New Year at Government House - Annapolis

On January 12th, Governor Larry Hogan and First Lady Yumi Hogan hosted a reception at Government House celebrating Lunar New Year of the Rabbit with the Asian Pacific American Affairs Commissioners, cabinet members, legislators, and community leaders. Governor Hogan presented GCAPAA Chair Hung-bin Ding with the Governor's Proclamation for Lunar New Year.



Korean American Association of the State of Maryland's Full Moon - Rockville

On February 18th, Lt. Governor Aruna Miller made remarks and presented the Governor's Proclamation for Lunar New Year with Secretary of State Susan Lee and Administrative Director Christina Poy at the Korean American Association of the State of Maryland's Full Moon celebration. As chair of the GCAPAA Education Subcommittee and as the 17th president of the KAAMD, Commissioner Hyunsook Choi led the organization of this community event with traditional and contemporary cultural performances. Chairman Hung-bin Ding, Commissioner Elizabeth Chung and Commissioner Bob Zhang attended.



U.S. Asia Institute organized an Asian Diplomatic Corps Visit with Maryland Officials

Organized by the U.S. Asian Institute (USAI), a diplomatic delegation of representatives from 10 Asian embassies and the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office met with Secretary of State Susan Lee, Deputy Secretary of Agriculture Steve Connelly, Senior Counsel Joseph Gebhardt, Director of International Relations Mary Nitsch, Administrative Director of the Governor's Asian Pacific American Commission Christina Poy, and the Maryland General Assembly Asian American Pacific Islander Caucus (including Delegate Harry Bhandari, Senator Clarence Lam, Delegate Lily Qi, and Delegate Chao Wu) in the Old Post Office on March 10th. The delegation then moved to the Governor's Reception Room to meet with Lt. Governor Aruna Miller with a photo opportunity in the State House, before moving to the legislative galleries to view legislators with Session Recognition from the Floor by legislative leaders. The diplomatic visit ended with a tour of the State House.

1. Embassy of Cambodia
2. Embassy of the People's Republic of China
3. Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia
4. Embassy of the Republic of Korea
5. Embassy of Lao People's Democratic Republic
6. Embassy of Malaysia
7. Embassy of Myanmar
8. Embassy of Mongolia
9. Embassy of the Republic of Philippines
10. Embassy of the Republic of Singapore
11. Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office



International Women's Day Gala - Silver Spring

Continuum Healthcare organized their first International Women's Day Gala with the support of Commissioners Hyunsook Choi and Elizabeth Chung to honor women making a difference in as volunteers and leaders of local nonprofit organizations, elected officials and those who serve as civil servants. GOCI Administrative Director Kevin Craft, GCSAAA Commissioner Gurpreet Kaur, Commissioners Beth Wong and Bob Zhang helped as volunteers. Administrative Director Christina Poy presented Governor Moore's Proclamation and Delegate Harry Bhandari presented citations on behalf of the Legislative Assembly on March 25th.



National Asian/Pacific Islander American Chamber of Commerce & Entrepreneurship (National ACE) Maryland Small Business Roundtable - Rockville



On April 12th, the National Asian/Pacific Islander American Chamber of Commerce & Entrepreneurship (National ACE) hosted a small business roundtable with panels including Senator Clarence Lam, Secretary of State Susan Lee, Commissioner Chiling Tong (National ACE CEO), County Executive Marc Elrich, Delegate Lily Qi and Asian American Chamber of Commerce Cindy Shao reporting on the status and

how to help Asian American and Pacific Islander small to medium businesses coming out of the pandemic. Chief Administrative Judge Chung Pak, Administrative Director Christina Poy and Commissioner Beth Wong also served as speaker participants.

Maryland Celebrates Asian Pacific American Heritage Month - Elkridge

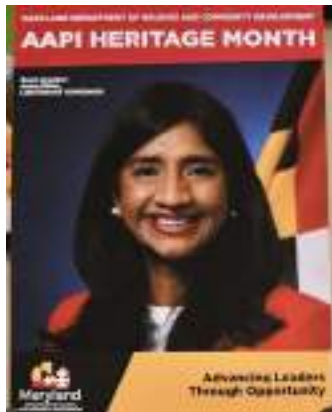
On May 18th, the Governor's Office of Community Initiatives (GOCI) with the Governor's Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs and the Governor's Commission on South Asian American Affairs hosted Maryland's Celebration of Asian Pacific American Heritage Month featuring remarks by two of Maryland's Asian American cabinet members appointed by Governor Moore—Secretary of State Susan C. Lee and Secretary Atif Chaudhry of the Department of General Services—followed by a special greetings video from Governor Wes Moore and Lt. Governor Aruna Miller, cultural performances and demonstrations, a variety of ethnic cuisine, and display tables from Maryland's Asian American and Pacific Islander communities.





Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month at Dept. of Housing & Community Development (DHCD) - Lanham

Lt. Governor Aruna Miller and Administrative Director Christina Poy were the guest speakers and presented the Governor's Proclamation to Secretary Jake Day on May 23rd during the Department of Housing and Community Development's observance of Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month. They both spoke about the importance of honoring their heritage, having mentors on their journey as Asian American women in their career path and becoming role models of minority representation for others in civil service.



Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month Happy Hour at Government House

Governor and First Lady Moore brought business and community leaders together with GCSAAA and GCAPAA commissioners and the AAPI Legislative Caucus for Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month Happy Hour at Government House. Governor Moore presented his proclamation with Lt. Governor Aruna Miller and Secretary of State Susan Lee.



Thai New Year's Water Songkran Festival - Frederick

With participation of the Embassy of Thailand on June 3rd, the Asian American Center of Frederick (AACF) and Thai community leaders organized and celebrated Songkran—the Thai New Year—at Carroll Creek Park with cultural dance and musical performances, food, Muay Thai boxing demonstrations and water to splash! Commissioner Elizabeth Chung was one of the lead organizers. Administrative Director Christina Poy conveyed Thai New Year's greetings.



U.S. International Kuo Shu (Kung Fu) Championship Tournament - Hunt Valley



The United States Chinese Kuo Shu Federation hosted its International Championship Tournament with thousands of competitors, judges and spectators from around the world and across the United States on July 28-30. Besides showcasing the martial arts competition, this tournament promotes friendship, physical fitness, peace, and character through the principles of Chinese Kuo Shu, also known as Kung Fu. Administrative Director Christina Poy provided special guest remarks during the opening ceremony and presented the Governor's Citation to Grandmaster Chien Liang Huang on July 29th for his lifelong commitment to teaching Kuo Shu for 50 years in the United States.

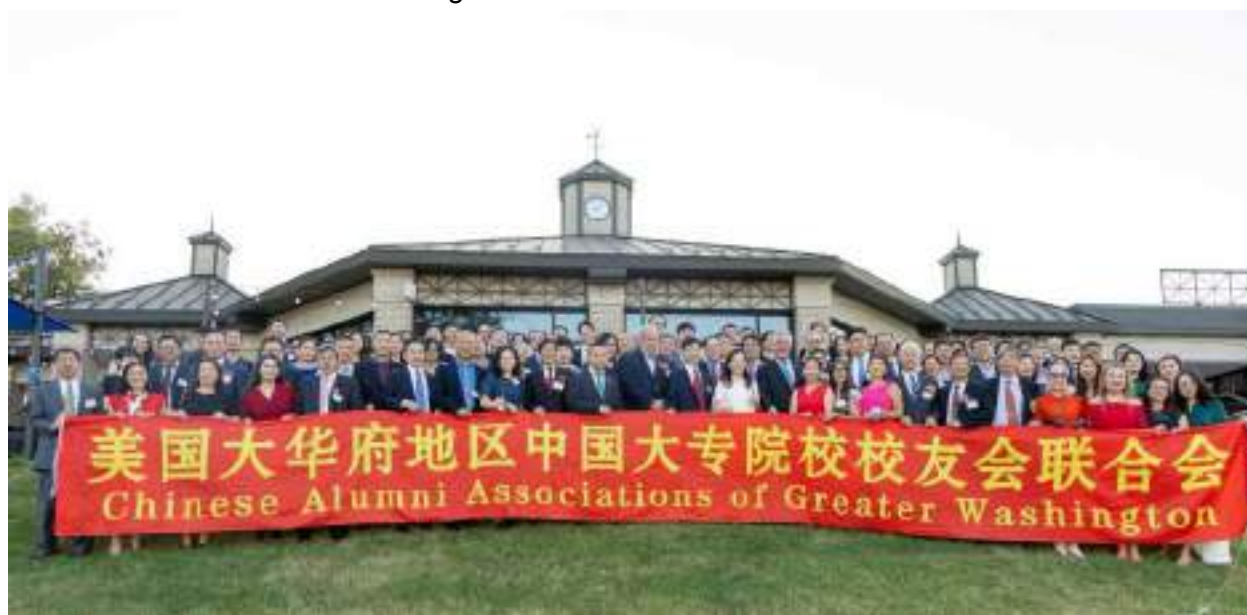
Happy Life Vietnam Seniors (HLVS) One-Year Anniversary - Silver Spring

On August 3, the Happy Life Vietnam Seniors (HLVS) gathered to celebrate their on-year anniversary. This is a group of Vietnamese American seniors who participate in adult programs and activities "to keep them mentally, physically and emotionally active in a happy life." They also helped share resources and information for their community, but also started reaching out to other Asian American communities to join them realizing that immobility and isolation does not affect only their community.



Chinese Alumni Associations of Greater Washington 30th Anniversary - Rockville

The Chinese Alumni Associations of Greater Washington (CAAGW) celebrated its 30-year anniversary since its establishment in 1993. This remarkable milestone represents three decades of fostering meaningful connections, promoting cultural exchange, and empowering the Chinese alumni community in the Greater Washington DC area. On September 6th, Administrative Director Christina Poy and Special Assistant Alexandria Liu of the Secretary of State made remarks. They presented the Governor's Citation with Chief Judge Chung Pak of the Office of Administrative Hearings.



EquestrAsian Embassy Night at the Washington International Horse Show - Upper Marlboro



On October 28, EquestrAsian Sports Association of Maryland, with the Maryland Office of the Secretary of State, hosted Embassy Night at the Washington International Horse Show. A special acknowledgement program and reception helped educate the Asian American and the diplomatic communities about the Maryland horse industry and sports. Embassy

representatives from China, Vietnam, Canada, Estonia, and Ireland attended. Deputy Secretary of State Michael Lore made remarks. Administrative Director Christina Poy and APA Commissioner Hyunsook Choi attended. APA Commissioner Bob Zhang was the lead organizer.

Pictured: Commissioner Bob Zhang, Administrative Director Christina Poy, Madame Van Tran and Ambassador of Vietnam Nguyen Quoc Dzung, Commissioner Hyunsook Choi, Deputy Secretary of State Michael Lore



EquestrAsian Sports Association of Maryland Inc. or EASA-MD is non-profit organization for charitable, educational, and fostering of national or international equestrian sports by promoting and encouraging the local Asian American Community to participate in equestrian sports.

Small Things Matter Gala - Takoma Park



On November 11th, Small Things Matter (SMT) acknowledged its army of volunteers and celebrated their accomplishments in the communities that need them. The nonprofit organization was founded by Lana Anderson, whose family hails from Hawaii. She named their food distribution program Kokua Foods based on the Hawaiian word *Kokua* for "to give selflessly without any expectation of anything in return."

SMT believes that providing school supplies, crafts and supplemental food to food insecure children and their families, as well as individuals

including the homeless, elderly and disabled in Maryland is one way to help improve lives through their Kokua Foods, Books for Bedtime Literacy program and Crafting for Charity programs.

Srikandi Indonesian Cultural Holiday Festival - Baltimore

Srikandi Baltimore is a registered nonprofit organization in Maryland, committed to empowering women and creating networking opportunities.

They held a cultural festival featuring a fashion show, dance performances, arts and crafts, traditional foods, and more on December 2nd.

Madame Ayu Menik Heni of the Embassy of Indonesia and Administrative Director Christina Poy made remarks. In support of the Indonesian American community, former GCAPAA Commissioners Mie Mie Strickler, Elizabeth Chung and Hyunsook Choi attended.



Pictured: Administrative Director Christina Poy next to Madame Ayu Menik Heni (wife of Ambassador of Indonesia Rosan Perkasa Roeslani) with Indonesian dancers.

Key Partnership profiles – organizations, legislators, agencies that have supported endeavors

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e-mail: sarah.wolek@house.state.md.usweb: <https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebsite/Members/Details/wolek01>**Partnerships**[1882 Foundation](#)[Asian American Center of Frederick \(AACF\)](#)[Asian American Chamber of Commerce \(AACC\)](#)[Asian Americans Advancing Justice \(AAJC\)](#)[Asian Pacific American Bar Association – Maryland \(APABA-MD\)](#)[Asian/Pacific Islander American Chamber of Commerce and Entrepreneurship \(National ACE\)](#)[Asian Pacific Island American Public Affairs \(APAPA\)](#)

[A&D Stars](#)

[American Diversity Group \(ADG\)](#)

Amer-Indo Organization, Inc.

[Ashiyanaa](#)

[Asian Arts & Culture Center at Towson University](#)

[Asian Indians for Community Service](#)

[Baltimore Changwon Sister City Committee](#)

[Baltimore Kawasaki Sister City Committee](#)

[Baltimore Xiamen Sister City Committee](#)

[Calvin J. Li Memorial Foundation](#)

Cambodian Buddhist Society Cultural Committee (CBSCC)

[Chinese American Museum DC \(CAMDC\)](#)

[Chinese American Parents Association of Howard County \(CAPA-HC\)](#)

[Chinese American Parent Association of Montgomery County \(CAPA-MC\)](#)

[Chinese American Real Estate Association \(CAREA\)](#)

[Chinese Alumni Associations of Greater Washington \(CAAGW\)](#)

[Chinese Biopharmaceutical Association](#)

[Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association \(CCBA\)](#)

[Chinese Culture and Community Service Center \(CCACC\)](#)

[CCACC Pan Asian Volunteer Health Clinic \(PAVHC\)](#)

Chinese Freemasons of Baltimore

[Chinese Language School of Columbia](#)

[Chinese Youth Club \(CYC\)](#)

[Continuum Healthcare Network](#)

[Coordination Council of Chinese American Associations \(CCCAA\)](#)

[DC Beauty of Beijing Opera \(DCBBO\)](#)

[Domestic Violence Resource Project \(DVRP\)](#)

[EquestrAsian Sports Association of Maryland \(EASA\)](#)

Filipino American Young Professionals (FAYP) Maryland Chapter

[Global Federation of Chinese Business Women, Baltimore Chapter \(GFCBC\)](#)

[Global Federation of Chinese Business Women, Greater Washington Chapter \(GFCGW\)](#)

Han Pan Korean American Cultural Center

[Howard County Chinese School](#)

[International Leadership Foundation \(ILF\)](#)

[Japanese American Citizens League \(JAACL\)](#)

[Jayamangala](#)

[Jing Ying Institute](#)

Joy Arts Club (JAC)

[Katipunan \(Filipino Organization of Maryland\)](#)

[Korean American Association of the State of Maryland](#)

[Korean American Senior Citizens Association \(KASCA\)](#)

[KoBE Government Contracting Alliance](#)

[Korean Society of Maryland \(KSM\)](#)

[League of Korean Americans \(LOKA\)](#)

[Maryland Anhui Sister State Committee](#)

[Maryland Jeollanam-do Sister State Committee](#)

[Maryland Kanagawa Sister State Committee](#)

[Maryland Kendo Club](#)

Maryland Gyeongsangnam-Do Sister State Committee

[Maryland Ninh Thuan Sister State Committee](#)

Mid Atlantic Foundation for Asian Artists (MAFFAA)

[Misako Ballet Company](#)

[Montgomery Community Media \(MCM\)](#)

Montgomery County - Korean American Association (KAAMC)

[Moy Family Association](#)

[OCA - Asian Pacific American Advocates](#)

[Organization of Chinese Americans Greater DC Chapter \(OCA-DC\)](#)

[Organization of Chinese American Women Maryland Chapter \(OCAW-Maryland\)](#)

[Peiyong Chinese School](#)

[Pacific Culture International \(PCI\) Pacific Miss Asian American](#)

[Taiwanese American Diversity Associates \(TADA\)](#)

Taiwanese Association of America Greater Baltimore & Columbia Chapter (TAA-GBC)

[Taiwanese Association of America Greater Washington Chapter \(TAA-GWC\)](#)

[Taiwan Culture Center](#)

[The United States Kuo Shu Federation](#)

[United States China Association of Commerce \(USCAC\)](#)

[Universal Peace Federation](#)

[Washington Guzheng Society](#)

[Xa Loi Temple](#)

Section 5: Key Resources for more information about the community, bibliography, etc.

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Ratification of this annual report – Commission resolution