

## Table of Contents

|   |    |
|---|----|
| Introduction/Commission History   | 2  |
| Executive Summary   | 4  |
| Message from the Administrative Director of the Governor’s Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs | 10 |
| Message from the 2024 Chair of the Governor’s Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs              | 11 |
| Section 1: About the Governor’s Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs                            | 13 |
| Governor’s Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs Staff   | 13 |
| Director of Ethnic Commissions  | 13 |
| Administrative Director   | 13 |
| Fiscal Administrator & Ethnic Project Coordinator   | 14 |
| Members of the Governor’s Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs                                  | 15 |
| Commissioners and Officers (Ethnicity and county of residence in parentheses)                           |    |
|   | 21 |
| About the Governor’s Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs                                       |    |
| Commission Meetings   |    |
| Commission Committees   |    |
| Section 2: Challenges Facing Asian Pacific American Communities in Maryland                             | 22 |
| National Data   |    |
| State Data  |    |
| Local Data (Counties)   |    |
| Section 3: Policy Priorities, Recommendations, and Best Practices                                       | 27 |
| 2024 Legislative Policy Priorities  |    |
| Section 4: Events & Outreach  | 29 |
| 2024 Events & Outreach  |    |
| Activities  |    |
| By the Numbers  |    |
| Events and Outreach Highlights  | 30 |
| Key Partnership profiles – organizations, legislators, agencies that have supported endeavors           | 39 |
| Section 5: Key Resources for more information about the community, bibliography, etc.                   | 43 |
| Ratification of this annual report – Commission resolution  |    |

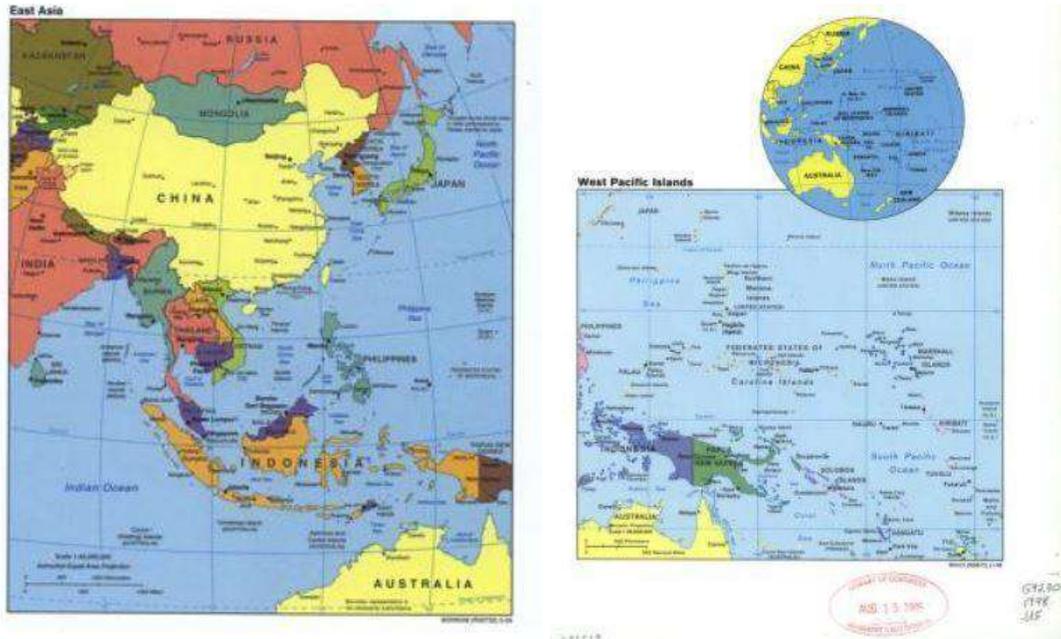
## Introduction/Commission History

### 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, the Governor created the Governor's Commission on South Asian American Affairs (GCSAAA) 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 GCSAAA 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 Governor's Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs (GCAPAA) serves as a vital link between Maryland's Asian Pacific American Communities and state government. Established in 1992, the Commission advocates for the interests of Asian Pacific American residents by advising the Governor on key issues affecting the community and promoting the civic engagement, cultural recognition, and fostering partnerships with educational institutions, cultural organizations, and local leaders to celebrate heritage, elevate community voices, and support the well-being of Asian Pacific Americans across the state.

The 2024 Annual Report of the Governor's Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs (GCAPAA) provides an overview of dedicated efforts towards engaging and establishing relationships with chambers of commerce, non-profit and faith-based organizations, learning about community healthcare programs, and continuing the educational awareness of this community's diverse cultures, religions, resources and contributions with Marylanders through organizational support.

In 2024, the Governor's Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs (GCAPAA) remained committed to strengthening civic engagement, cultural preservation, and community empowerment for Maryland's Asian Pacific American (APA) population. As one of the most diverse and fast-growing communities in the state, APA communities encompass a wide range of ethnicities, language, histories, and traditions. The Commission's work in 2024 centered on celebrating this diversity while also addressing shared challenges through strategic partnerships, culturally relevant programming, and policy dialogue.

A key priority this year was deepening collaboration with the Governor's Commission on South Asian American Affairs (GCSAAA) to promote collective impact. Together, the commissions jointly planned and executed major cultural celebrations and community engagement events that showcased the contributions of Maryland's Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander communities. This partnership allowed for greater cross-cultural representation, shared resources, and wider reach throughout the state.

GCAPAA's efforts in 2024 also emphasized increasing representation in public leadership, supporting immigrant and small business communities, and fostering intergenerational leadership development. Through strategic partnerships with local government agencies, community colleges, and grassroots organizations, the Commission worked to ensure that APA Marylanders are seen, heard, and served. From hosting statewide cultural heritage events to building bridges with state agencies, GCAPAA continues to play a critical role in creating an inclusive Maryland that values the voices of all its communities.

## Community Demographics

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                      | Margin of     |                 | % Margin     |               |
|---------------------------|---------------|-----------------|--------------|---------------|
|                           | Estimate      | Error           | %            | of Error      |
| <b>Asian</b>              | <b>66,297</b> | <b>+/-1,771</b> | <b>19.8%</b> | <b>+/-0.5</b> |
| 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        |
| <b>Hispanic or Latino</b> | <b>25,589</b> | <b>*****</b>    | <b>7.6%</b>  | <b>****</b>   |
| 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        |

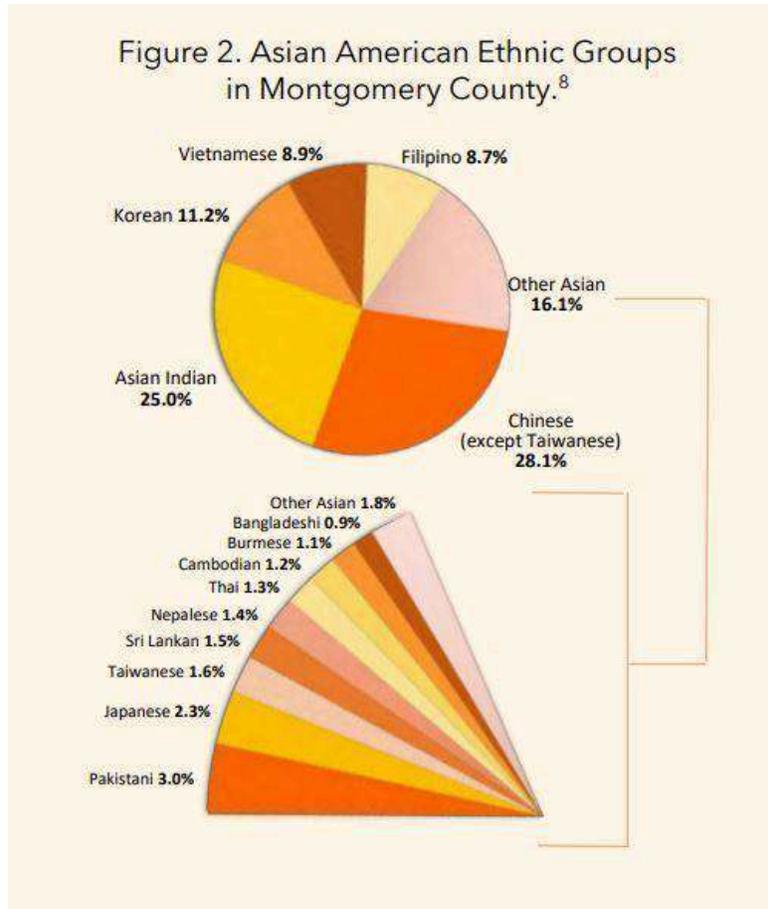
Source: 2021 American Community Survey, US Census Bureau

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). 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.



### 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 2024 Annual Report of the Governor's Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs (GCAPAA). With a majority of the commissioners serving for the first time, they planned on immersing themselves in the Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) community to establish fresh relationships across Maryland. This report provides a reflection of the commission's awareness of community concerns, the priorities of the Moore-Miller administration, and the focused development of initiatives to address the top prioritized needs. It outlines the Commission's accomplishments and activities over the past year, and provides valuable information and resources for Maryland's AANHPI community.

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

## Message from the 2024 Chair of the Governor's Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs

Dear Community Members, Partners, and Friends,

It is my honor to present the 2024 Annual Report on behalf of the Governor's Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs.

This past year has been one of listening, collaborating, and acting, with a shared vision at the heart of our work: *One day, all Asian Pacific Americans in Maryland will be celebrated and welcomed with equitable access to economic, educational, and other resources that empower them to embrace their unique identities and reach their full potential.*

Our mission, to ensure that APA communities flourish by building relationships, advising policy, and promoting support for an inclusive and growing Maryland, has guided everything we do. Informed by extensive community engagement and our 2024 Strategic Planning Sessions, we advanced priorities rooted in the values we hold dear: Community, Empathy, Inclusion, Resourcefulness, and Teamwork.

In response to rising concerns about discrimination and community safety, we prioritized initiatives that promote safety, civic engagement and a culture of inclusion. We deepened partnerships with state agencies, facilitated dialogues on hate crime prevention, and advocated for inclusive public safety practices.

Maryland's AAPI entrepreneurs are vital to our state's economy. This year, we focused on building small business networks and advocating for equitable access to capital. Through collaboration with agencies such as the MBDA and SBA, we identified key challenges and began laying the groundwork for policy recommendations and networking opportunities to help AAPI businesses thrive.

We also began addressing disparities in health outcomes by collaborating with community health leaders, advancing culturally competent care strategies, and preparing for a statewide AAPI Health Fair.

We are especially proud to start the groundwork for the APAA Youth Fellow Program, a new initiative to recognize, empower, and mentor young AAPI leaders across Maryland. Through leadership training and community-driven projects, we are building pathways for civic engagement and ensuring that our youth are seen, supported, and equipped to lead.

As Chair, I am deeply grateful for the dedication of my fellow Commissioners, the support of the Governor and Lieutenant Governor, the guidance of the Governor's Office of Community Initiatives, and the tireless work of our partners across state agencies and community organizations. Together, we are making real progress toward a Maryland where every Asian Pacific American has the opportunity to thrive.

We look forward to continuing this important work with you in 2025.

With appreciation,

Dr. Yang Yu  
Chair, 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 in 2015 as the first woman director of Asian descent 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, who serves 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.

## Lisa Woodfolk

### Operations Coordinator



Lisa Woodfolk was appointed by Governor Wes Moore in 2023 to the Office of Appointments. She transitioned to administratively support the Governor's Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs, the Governor's Commission on South Asian American Affairs, and the Maryland Commission on Indian Affairs in October 2024.

Prior to joining the Governor's Office of Community Initiatives, her career was in property management. She is passionate about community service and spending quality time with her family.

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

### Commissioners and Officers (Ethnicity and county of residence in parentheses)

**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 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.

## **About the Governor's Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs**

### **Commission Meetings**

The Commission held two strategic planning sessions (SPS) and four quarterly meetings in 2024. The two SPS reviewed the executive order, bylaws, and established the commission's mission, vision statement, and four subcommittees. The commissioners initiated a planning committee to organize a Lunar New Year Celebration and 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 Community subcommittee took the lead for both events resulting in many weekly meetings between January and May, planning the program agenda, cultural performances, artifacts and heritage display tables. Chair Yang Yu and Health Subcommittee Chair Brian Gerardo participated in meetings with Lt. Governor Aruna Miller and Comptroller Brooke Lierman to strengthen collaboration and explore opportunities to support AAPI communities.

### **Commission Committees**

- Community (includes 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                      | Margin of     |                 | % Margin     |               |
|---------------------------|---------------|-----------------|--------------|---------------|
|                           | Estimate      | Error           | %            | of Error      |
| <b>Asian</b>              | <b>66,297</b> | <b>+/-1,771</b> | <b>19.8%</b> | <b>+/-0.5</b> |
| 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        |
| <b>Hispanic or Latino</b> | <b>25,589</b> | <b>*****</b>    | <b>7.6%</b>  | <b>****</b>   |
| 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       | Margin of      |                 | % Margin     |               |
|--------------------------------------|----------------|-----------------|--------------|---------------|
|                                      | Estimate       | Error           | %            | of Error      |
| English Only                         | 225,962        | +/-5,453        | 71.4%        | +/-1.7        |
| <b>Language other than English</b>   | <b>90,333</b>  | <b>+/-5,453</b> | <b>28.6%</b> | <b>+/-1.7</b> |
| Speak English less than "very well"  | 26,020         | +/-3,227        | 8.2%         | +/-1          |
| Spanish                              | 18,698         | +/-2,298        | 5.9%         | +/-0.7        |
| Speak English less than "very well"  | 7,365          | +/-1,765        | 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"  | 1,920          | +/-987          | 0.6%         | +/-0.3        |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                         | <b>316,295</b> | <b>+/-4</b>     | <b>100%</b>  |               |

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

#### Identifying Community Priorities:

A 2024 GOCl survey polled each commissioner’s opinion of their geographic and demographic community’s concerns, resulting in these top Moore-Miller Administration priorities to address: “Creating a safer Maryland by interrupting violence, preventing crime, and protecting the state,” “Connecting Marylanders to jobs,” “Increasing Maryland’s economic competitiveness,” “Making the State of Maryland a desirable and affordable home for residents of all demographics” and “Setting Maryland’s students up for success.”

1. It came as no surprise to most of the commissioners that “Safety, interrupting violence, preventing crime, and protecting the state” is the top concern with the increase of Anti-Asian Hate incidents and bias during and after the pandemic. Lt. Governor Miller stated, “Asian Hate has risen almost 150% in the State of Maryland.”
  1. The goal of the GCAPAA Community Development Subcommittee is to address issues of discrimination, disadvantage or harm against Asian Pacific American Marylanders and work with institutions, organizations, and communities to advance equity and support constructive actions. Their objectives are:
    1. Promote community safety and a culture of inclusion, tolerance and fairness against acts of discrimination, hate and violence.
    2. Increase engagement of APA community members in the Maryland state government. This includes elections and interaction with law enforcement and other agencies.
  2. The GCAPAA Education Subcommittee’s approach includes these goals:
    1. Cultivate Cultural Awareness and Sensitivity
      - a) Develop culturally responsive training programs for educators, administrators, and students
      - b) integrate AANHPI history, contributions, and cultural perspectives into the curriculum
      - c) Organize cultural events and celebrations to foster understanding and appreciation.
    2. Promote safety for students and educators
      - a) Enhance reporting and intervention systems
      - b) Implement a confidential reporting system for bullying incidents
      - c) Train school staff to recognize and respond to bullying promptly
      - d) Establish clear protocols for intervention and support

### 3. Empower Advocacy and Leadership

- a) Create AAPI student-led anti-bullying clubs or peer mentorship programs
- b) Provide leadership training to AANHPI students to address bullying within their schools
- c) Encourage student-driven initiatives to promote kindness and empathy

#### 4. Improve adult learning and workforce development

3. **Outcome:** In the GCAPAA's December meeting, Maxwell Uy, Montgomery County's first Asian American sheriff, provided a presentation of his job, the role and responsibilities of his office, and how to work together to ensure a safer environment.

2. Following the survey assessment, the GCAPAA and the Governor's Commission on South Asian American Affairs (GCSAAA) agreed to collaborate and jointly organize the Maryland Asian American Business Conference (MAABC) to occur in 2025 as an initiative to address connecting Marylanders to jobs and increasing Maryland's economic competitiveness. The goal of this collaborative effort is to connect AANHPI entrepreneurs with vital resources, mentorship, and funding opportunities.
3. The GCAPAA Education Subcommittee began development to launch the AAPI Youth Leadership Fellowship Program with its focus to cultivate the next generation of civic-minded leaders through mentorship, community engagement, and policy education.
4. The Health Subcommittee plans to address the health disparities faced by the AANHPI community by identifying solutions that enhance the quality and affordability of culturally appropriate services that improve their health and wellness. The Health Subcommittee started plans to create a database of Asian Pacific American health and wellness leaders and stakeholders; host a Maryland Asian Pacific American Health Forum; and pilot a Maryland Asian Pacific American Health Learning Network.

### **Conclusion:**

In conclusion, the GCAPAA recognizes the importance of representation, having a seat at the decision-making table, having a voice listened to during the legislative process, and serving as a helping hand to make positive changes for future generations to know that they, as their authentic self, belong in the room too. The commissioners feel the time spent in 2024 creating and charting these initiatives to address the AANHPI community's top concerns will produce positive outcomes in 2025 and following years.

## Section 4: Events & Outreach

### 2024 Events & Outreach

#### Activities

With the majority of commissioners starting their first time serving on the Governor's Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs (GCAPAA), they aimed to connect with the local AANHPI business and community leaders in their own counties and develop relationships through support and engagement.

#### By the Numbers

The commissioners and the administrative director attended and/or hosted 140 events and meetings throughout the year including:

- Over 140 community events/celebrations, in-person and virtual meetings, and business development activities
- 22 Lunar New Year's events
  - 16 Governor's Proclamations were presented
  - 1 community event where Governor Moore and Lt. Governor Miller provided remarks, presented the Governor's Proclamation, and celebrated by feeding lettuce and Chinese traditional red envelopes to the dancing lions for good luck
    - Over 160 attendees
- 14 Asian Pacific American Heritage Month (APAHM) events in the month of May
  - 12 Governor's Proclamations presented including:
    - The annual APAHM Celebration jointly organized by GOCI, the Governor's Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs and the Governor's Commission on South Asian American Affairs at Montgomery College Rockville on May 22nd
      - Over 270 participants
      - Over 10 distinct AANHPI ethnicities represented
    - "Harford County's First Asian American Heritage Celebration" in Bel Air organized by Commissioner Julia Chang with support from Chair Yang Yu, Commissioner Isabelle Balakit, and Administrative Director Christina Poy who provided keynote remarks and presented the Governor's Proclamation on May 4th.
    - "Charles County and La Plata's First Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month (AAPIHM) Celebration" organized by Commissioner Isabelle Balakit with support and remarks by Chair Yang Yu and Administrative Director Christina Poy on May 18th.
  - The Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) observed Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month with a hybrid in-person and virtual event with Chair Yang Yu providing remarks and presenting the Governor's Proclamation.

## Events and Outreach Highlights

### Lunar New Year at Howard Community College - Columbia

Lunar New Year Proclaimed: Governor Wes Moore officially proclaimed February 10<sup>th</sup> as the start of the Lunar New Year (of the Dragon) in Maryland.

The Governor's Office of Community Initiatives and the Governor's Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs (GCAPAA) in partnership with Howard Community College hosted [Lunar New Year](#) to celebrate the cultural diversity that brings Marylanders together. Over 160 attendees listened to the remarks of Governor Wes Moore, Lt. Governor Aruna Miller, and Howard College President Dr. Daria Willis, enjoyed cultural performances, authentic cuisine and decorations representative of Maryland's Chinese, Filipino, Korean, Taiwanese, Thai and Vietnamese communities on March 8th.





## Lunar New Year Celebration at the Clarksburg Mall - Clarksburg

On February 24th, Chair Yang Yu on behalf of the Commission joined The Coordination Council of Chinese American Associations (CCCAA) to deliver the Governor's Lunar New Year Proclamation at the Clarksburg Mall. This moment honored the cultural contributions of Maryland's Chinese and broader AAPI communities while reaffirming the state's commitment to inclusion, heritage, and community unity. It was a meaningful opportunity to celebrate traditions and best wishes of the new year.



**Japan-Maryland Night** - Washington, DC On March 6th, Commissioner Roxanne Yamashita and Administrative Director Christina Poy joined Governor Wes Moore and several cabinet members (including Secretary of State Susan Lee, Secretary Portia Wu, Secretary Kevin Anderson, Secretary Atif Chaudhry and Secretary of Kevin Atticks) at the residence of Ambassador Shigeo Yamada in celebration of Japan-Maryland relationship with Maryland. Maryland and Japan enjoy deep historic ties rooted in shared economic and cultural exchange. Japan-Maryland Night was an exciting opportunity to strengthen and expand the partnership between the two communities. The program included remarks, cultural performances, dinner reception of Japanese food with some ingredients sourced in Maryland (i.e., oysters and crabs), and display tables.



## GOCI Maryland Legislative Night - Annapolis



On March 12th, the Commissioners attended the Maryland Legislative Night organized by GOCI at the Goldstein Treasury Building in Annapolis. This gathering brought together legislators and commissioners to advocate for meaningful exchange. Commissioners used the opportunity to engage with policymakers on key priorities including language access, support for small businesses, culturally competent services, and anti-Asian hate initiatives—ensuring that the needs of Maryland’s diverse AAPI communities remain central to the legislative conversation.

## **Maryland Celebrates Asian Pacific American Heritage Month - Rockville**

### **Asian Pacific American Heritage Month (APAHM / AAPIHM / AANHPIHM)**

Proclaimed: In alignment with the nationally recognized observance, Governor Wes Moore officially proclaimed May as Asian Pacific American Heritage Month in Maryland.

To better connect all Marylanders to opportunities and each other, the Governor’s Office of Community Initiatives with the Governor’s Commissions on Asian Pacific American Affairs (GCAPAA) and South Asian American Affairs (GCSAAA) in partnership with Montgomery College organized [Maryland’s Asian Pacific American Heritage Month Celebration](#) at the Long Nguyen and Kimmy Duong Building with over 270 participants

on May 19th. And for the first time, the [program was live streamed](#) to ensure that Marylanders everywhere could virtually celebrate the culture and contributions of the AAPI community. Over 10 distinct AANHPI ethnicities were represented in the program including remarks by Lt. Governor Aruna Miller, Cabinet Secretaries Portia Wu and Sanjay Rai, diverse authentic cuisine and cultural performances. Additionally, the sponsor and heritage display tables provided interaction with local AANHPI businesses and community organizations.







### **WHIAANHPI Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Heritage Month - Washington, DC**

The White House Initiative on Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders (WHIAANHPI) hosted a historic, community-wide celebration of Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Heritage Month (AANHPIHM) in Washington, DC to commemorate 25 years since the creation of the White House Initiative and the President's Advisory Commission on Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders. Over a thousand attendees participated in interactive activities, fireside chats, panels, cultural performances, and community networking. Administrative Director Christina Poy, Chair Yang Yu, Commissioner Julia Chang, Commissioner Ping Lu, and Commissioner Jessie Su of GCAPAA and Commissioner Aman Shergill of GCSAAA participated in developing relationships with AANHPI commissioners and communities from around the country.



**DEVCOM Asian American Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander Heritage Month - Aberdeen**

The U.S. Combat Capabilities Development Command (DEVCOM) hosted Asian American and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander Heritage Month on May 29th featuring Commissioner Julia Chang of Harford County who spoke about the importance of cultural heritage events, "Participating in events like today is an act of acceptance, appreciation, and open-mindedness to learn." At the Aberdeen Proving Grounds, she demonstrated her black belt skills in Taekwondo.



**Asian American Center of Frederick Asia on the Creek Festival - Frederick**

On June 1, 2024, GCAPAA Administrative Director and Commissioners Isabelle Balakit, Tho Tran, Cecilia Vergara, Roxanne

Yamashita and Yang Yu joined the Asian American Center of Frederick to celebrate Asian Pacific American Heritage Month. The event highlighted the rich cultural diversity and contributions of AAPI communities in Western Maryland through performances, food, and community engagement. Commissioners connected with local leaders and residents to honor heritage. Administrative Director Christina Poy conveyed greetings on behalf of Governor Moore and Lt. Governor Miller; and Chair Yang Yu presented the Governor's Proclamation.

### White House Initiative on Asian American, Native Hawaiian & Pacific Islanders Engagement - Rockville



On November 1st, Administrative Director and Commissioners attended the WHIAANHPI Region 3 Engagement Event: Stories of Inclusion and Belonging, hosted by the White House Initiative on Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders (WHIAANHPI). The event brought together federal, state, and community leaders to share lived experiences and highlight efforts to advance equity, representation, and belonging for AANHPI communities. Commissioners participated in meaningful dialogue and

strengthened cross-sector partnerships to amplify Maryland's commitment to inclusive policies and community-driven solutions.

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

### Maryland Legislative Asian American & Pacific Islander Caucus

#### **Harry (H. B.) Bhandari (Chair)**

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### **Partnerships**

[1882 Foundation](#)

[AARP Maryland AAPI Consortium](#)

[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.

United States Central Intelligence Agency. (2004) East Asia. [Washington, D.C.: Central Intelligence Agency] [Map] Retrieved from the Library of Congress, <https://www.loc.gov/item/2004627975/>.

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Howard County Demographic Overview|Howard County Department of Planning and Zoning, Research Division (2022), pages 6-7. <https://www.howardcountymd.gov/sites/default/files/2022-10/Howard%20County%20Demographic%20Overview%20-%202022.pdf>

APIA Vote|AAPI Data Voter Maryland-State-Fact-Sheet, 2022. Retrieved from APIA Vote|AAPI Data Survey <https://apiavote.org/wp-content/uploads/Maryland.pdf>

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<https://www.commerce.gov/news/blog/2023/05/us-census-bureau-releases-key-stats-honor-2023-asian-american-native-hawaiian-and#:~:text=6.8%25.the%20United%20States%20in%202020.>

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