

## **Introduction/Executive Summary**

Today, the Asian American 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. 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%.

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 8% of Maryland's total population.

This rapid growth of the AANHPI community is trending nationwide, but Maryland's 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; and according to the Maryland Department of Labor, Montgomery currently has the highest amount 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.

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. Governor Hogan’s vision of “Changing Maryland for the Better” 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 who received a bachelor's or higher level of education – a well-educated workforce.

(Source: Maryland Department of Labor, 2021)

## **Activities**

### **Highlights**

147 events attended and/or hosted by the Commissioners, as well as by Director Poy on behalf of the Commission.

· Although COVID-19 variants surged during some weeks in 2022 (despite readily available vaccinations), the commissioners and the director attended and/or hosted 147 events including:

- o 14 Lunar New Year's events at which 7 Governor's Proclamations were presented.
- o 11 events during the Asian Pacific American Heritage Month (May) with 9 Governor's Proclamations presented.

After the first two weeks of the year, the Pandemic with the unpredictable COVID-19 variants left its indelible mark in early 2022. Across Maryland, participation numbers of community events and activities compared to years 2019 and 2018 were much lower, and cancellations higher, due to COVID-19 variant 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 Hogan-Rutherford administration, were affected. Some of the AANHPI community's largest events were postponed and ultimately canceled. This includes the Governor's Annual Lunar New Year Reception at Government House and GOCI's Joint Ethnic Commissions Legislative Reception. Two of the largest Chinese American organizations in the Metro area are the Chinese Alumni Associations of Greater Washington (CAAGW) and the Coordination Council of Chinese American Associations (CCCAA), each with thousands of members. Both CAAGW's annual Lunar New Year's Food Festival and CCCAA's Lantern Food Festival that feature foods from different regions of China were absent in 2020-2022.

The Lunar Year of the Tiger, an animal admired for its courage, strength, and helping others, roared virtually through livestreams and pre-recorded messages, and sometimes at in-person events with limited attendance. However, the resilience of the community is evident in the creativity and ingenuity of organizing virtual and hybrid (limited in-person and online viewership) event programs with celebratory performances and cultural demonstrations. Howard County Chinese School, CCCAA, the Asian American Center of Frederick (AACF), and the Chinese American Museum in DC (CAMDC), observed the Year of the Tiger virtually via Zoom, YouTube, and Facebook. Sometimes with technical hiccups, but still appreciated by viewers at home as evident in the Likes and Chat comments. Other organizations, such as the Korean American Association of the State of Maryland (KAASM), Vietnamese American Senior Association (VASA), City of Rockville's Asian Pacific American Task Force, and the Asian Real Estate Association of America (AREAA) celebrated Lunar New Year later in March and/or with more intimate numbers. Smaller scale than pre-pandemic, but each a wonderful in-person festivity.

### **Chinese Culture and Community Service Center 2022 Lunar New Year Celebration**

The Chinese Culture and Community Service Center (CCACC) continued their annual tradition to celebrate Lunar New Year with the community. The Year of the Tiger was celebrated virtually on February 5, 2022, with special remarks and cultural performances. First Lady Yumi Hogan provided a greetings video. Director Christina Poy made remarks and presented the Governor's Proclamation for Lunar New Year via pre-recorded video.



As the vaccines for COVID-19 became more readily available, in-person events and activities were happily attended by GOCI staff, the ethnic commissioners, and the overall population.

#### **Cambodian New Year**

In mid-April, the Cambodian Buddhist Society Inc. held its annual Cambodian New Year's Ceremonies and Festival at the temple in Silver Spring with beautiful music and dance performances enjoyed by hundreds of attendees. Director Christina Poy recognized the loss of former Commissioner Dr. Sovan Tun's service on the Governor's Commission and in the Cambodian community. After making New Year's greetings in Khmer, Poy presented the Governor's Proclamation. Commissioner Beth Wong attended.



### **May is Asian Pacific American Heritage Month (APAHM)**

The month of May brought numerous activities, programs, and events related to Asian Pacific American Heritage Month. Starting on May 1<sup>st</sup>, County Executive Calvin Ball and the Howard County Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) Workgroup organized an AAPI Festival at The Chrysalis, Merriweather Park to celebrate the diversity of the AANHPI community. It showcased cultural performances, food vendors, activities, and community organizations. Commissioner Bob Zhang was a member of the AAPI Workgroup and invited GOCl to support this effort. Commissioner Hyunsook Choi and Commissioner Mi Schill attended the festival.

### **Chinese American Museum DC Gold Lantern Awards Gala**

On May 3<sup>rd</sup>, the Chinese American Museum DC (CAMDC) celebrated outstanding individuals for their excellence, leadership, and service to the community during Asian Pacific American Heritage Month. The theme of the Gala was "Shining A Light." The attendees included leaders in the Chinese/Asian American, corporate, and cultural community. The president and members of the Committee of 100 distinguished Chinese Americans, Ambassadors, and Maryland State officials were among the attendees. Director Christina Poy made remarks and served as one of the awards presenters. Commissioner Elizabeth Chung was one of the award recipients.



**Chinese Culture and Community Service Center's AAPI Heritage Month Celebration (APA)**

The Chinese Culture and Community Service Center Inc. (CCACC) launched the celebration of Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month on May 7<sup>th</sup>, by hosting a special exhibition from the artist Yoshiko Ratliff. Multicultural performances and a reception followed remarks by state, county, and city officials.



**Maryland Celebrates Asian Pacific American Heritage Month**

On May 18, 2022, 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 signature Celebration of Asian Pacific American Heritage Month with cultural performances and demonstrations, display tables from Maryland’s communities of different countries and regions of Asia and the Pacific, as well as ethnic cuisine. First Lady Yumi Hogan was the featured speaker. Secretary of State John Wobensmith and Executive Director Steve McAdams made remarks. Director Christina Poy, Project Coordinator Cheryl Madigan, commissioners of the Asian Pacific American Affairs and South Asian American Affairs commissions were the organizers. Director Jennifer Gray, Director Lorena Rivera, and Director Kevin Craft provided onsite support. Deputy Secretary Earl Lewis and Chief Information Officer James Hu of the Maryland Department of Transportation, Chief Administrative Judge Chung Pak, Senator Clarence Lam, Delegate Mark Chang, and Vice Mayor of Cheverly Amy Chung Fry attended.



### **AAPI Business Resource Session**

In celebration of Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage Month, the Maryland Innovation Center (MIC), the Maryland Small, Minority & Women Business Affairs, and the Small Business Development Center teamed up to host the AAPI Business Resource Session on Wednesday, May 25<sup>th</sup> at the MIC. Members from the AAPI business community including Chinese, Indian, and Korean communities attended this session. This session offered a great opportunity to learn, network, and celebrate the important contributions Asian American and Pacific Islander businesses have brought to Howard County and to Maryland. Speakers included: Jimmy Rhee, Special Secretary of Small, Minority, & Women Business Affairs; Brandon Mason, Business Consultant, Maryland Small Business Development Center; and Vance MacEwen, Entrepreneur in Residence, Maryland Innovation Center. Director Christina Poy presented the Governor's Proclamation for Asian Pacific American Heritage Month. APA Commissioner Bob Zhang was one of the organizers.



### **Universal Peace Federation Peace Initiative Japanese Tea Ceremony and Lunch**

In June, the Universal Peace Federation (UPF) hosted a Japanese tea ceremony and lunch as a part of its Peace Initiative in promoting peace and understanding. Director Christina Poy made remarks and presented the Governor's Service Award Certificates to UPF members who volunteered at Maryland's Asian Pacific American Heritage Month Celebration. In addition, Director Christina Poy was appointed by the UPF as an "Ambassador for Peace" during this event.

### **Global Federation of Chinese Business Women, DC Chapter Gala**

The Global Federation of Chinese Business Women, Greater Washington, DC Chapter (GFCBW) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. GFCBW is headquartered in Taiwan, ROC, and its mission is to combine the wisdom of global Chinese business women; strengthen international information exchange; promote industrial and commercial economic development and diplomacy. GFCBW was founded in 1994 and it has established 77 chapters around the world. The Greater DC Chapter was established in 1998 and it consists of 100 members, Boards of Directors, and Advisors. On June 14<sup>th</sup>, this gala marked the transition from President Jeanny Ho to the incoming 11th president, Chiayee Mao. Special Secretary Jimmy Rhee made remarks. Director Christina Poy presented the Governor's Citation. Commissioner Chiling Tong was a featured speaker. Vice Chairman Hung-bin Ding attended.



### **2nd Annual EquestrAsian AAPI Community Day at the Maryland 5 Star at Fair Hill**

The EquestrAsian Sports Association of Maryland (EASA-MD) is a newly formed non-profit that encourages the Asian community to ride and participate in horse sports through education programs, events etc. that promote Maryland's world-class horse industry. On October 15<sup>th</sup>, EquestrAsian hosted its second annual EquestrAsian AAPI Community Day with a tailgate tent on the special cross-country day at the Maryland 5 Star, one of the seventh CCI5\* equestrian eventing competitions in the world. This competition is considered more challenging than the Olympics! Director Christina Poy made remarks. Commissioner Bob Zhang, Commissioner Hyunsook Choi, and Maryland-Anhui Sister State Committee Chair Mark Xu were the organizers.







