



Commonwealth  
of Massachusetts

**Asian American and  
Pacific Islanders  
Commission**

**Annual  
Report  
2022**

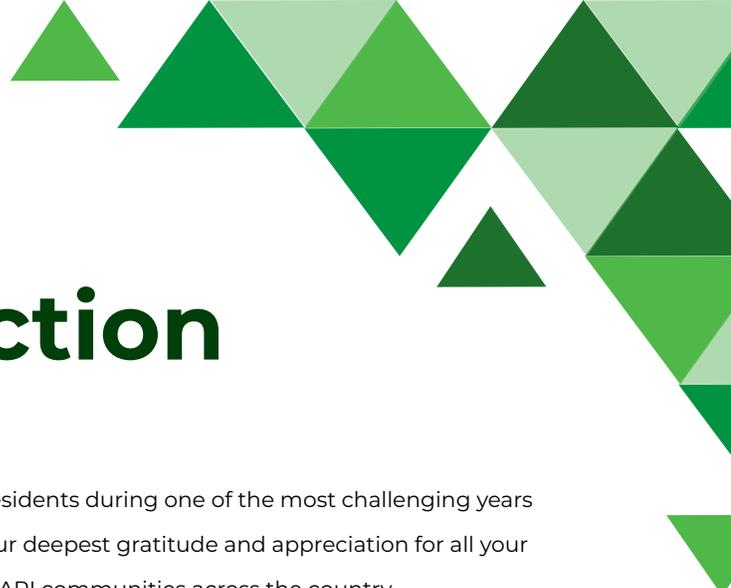


# Table of Contents

Written by Jennifer Best and Bonnie Chen

<b>Introduction</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>About the Commission</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>AAPI in Massachusetts</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Commission Meetings 2022</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Programming</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Small Grants Fund</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>Subcommittees</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>Policy</b>	<b>33</b>
<b>2022 Inaugural Youth Council</b>	<b>36</b>
<b>Budget and Spending</b>	<b>39</b>
<b>Communications</b>	<b>40</b>
<b>Looking Ahead</b>	<b>42</b>





# Introduction

Dear Colleagues and Partners,

Thank you for your efforts to support Massachusetts residents during one of the most challenging years of our lifetimes. The Commissioners, staff, and interns extend our deepest gratitude and appreciation for all your support for the AAPIC's work and the work you do to support AAPI communities across the country.

Many legislators from across the state supported the Commission. Thank you to the Asian Caucus and MA legislators who supported our work and successfully lobbied to increase the budget of the AAPIC. Thanks to them, the Commission was able to expand our work exponentially.

Our Commissioners and the Executive Committee, led by Chair Meena Bharath, Vice Chair Nate Bae Kupel, Treasurer Megha Prasad, and Secretary Ekta Saksena, played an instrumental role in expanding our work, budget, and programs. We thank them for their selfless service to our community, state, and country.

In 2022, the [AAPIC provided grants to 41 different community organizations](#) (double the amount from the previous year) and inaugurated and ran a successful [Youth Council](#), which was honored to meet the Asian Caucus to discuss youth empowerment and legislation in the MA State House. The AAPIC also [tracked and promoted AAPI-friendly legislation](#).

The Commission organized a successful [Unity Dinner](#) with a welcome message from the White House and, working with partners, organized a session with Assistant Speaker Katherine Clark. Due to the appeal of the Commission, [Governor Charles Baker proclaimed May 2022 to be Asian American Pacific Islander Month](#) and sent the Commission a signed proclamation.

We held a critical [listening session in Western Massachusetts](#), connected and strengthened partnerships with AAPICs across the US, hired new staff ([Esther Kim and Jennifer Best](#)) and interns ([Siale Vaitohi Teauapa, Benjamin Wang, and Ashley Shan](#)), and expanded the number of external partners.

Additionally, in 2022, four [Commissioners](#) were reappointed for an additional three-year term: Meena Bharath, Nate Bae Kupel, Danielle Kim, and Philjay Solar, and two new Commissioners were appointed to serve on the Commission, Dr. Leo L. Hwang, and Dr. Richard Chu.

Our Executive Director, Yasmin Padamsee Forbes, served as a member of the [State Treasurer's Baby Bond Taskforce](#) and the [American Rescue Plan \(ARPA\) fund Federal Funds Equity and Accountability Panel](#) set up by the Office of the Governor. As a member, she could ensure that the challenges and needs expressed by the AAPI community were represented on the task forces.



We also would like to thank the AAPIC's first Youth Coordinator, Abdul Haseeb Hamza, who, over the past year, worked, nurtured, mentored, and expanded our Youth Council program. We also thank all the Youth Council members for their amazing dedication to ensuring the voices of AAPI youth are heard across the Commonwealth. We are most honored that Maria-Isabela, one of our Youth Council members, chose the Youth Council as a vehicle to fearlessly advance AAPI rights and causes and thank her for her commitment and dedication!

In a year with joyous highs and difficult lows experienced by the AAPI community in Massachusetts and around the country, we are proud of the work we have done, and continue to do. From Stop AAPI Hate finding that at least 340 reported hate crimes against AAPI occurred in Massachusetts from March 2020-March 2022, to AAPI representation in the hit movie Everything, Everywhere, All At Once, which the Commission was lucky to be invited to a preview of, the AAPI community experienced a rollercoaster of events.

We hope you read this Annual Report and connect with us, particularly as we expand our programs and priorities over the next few years. We want your ideas for programs, legislation, partnership opportunities, and more. As always, please get in touch with the Executive Director, Yasmin Padamsee Forbes.

We look forward to reconnecting with you in 2023 and expanding our program and the impact that we make on AAPI communities throughout Massachusetts!

**Sincerely,**

Yasmin Padamsee Forbes  
Executive Director

Executive Committee 2022

Meenakshi Bharath  
Chairperson



Nate Bae Kupel  
Vice Chairperson



Megha Prasad  
Treasurer



Ekta Saksena  
Secretary



# About the Commission

Established on October 29, 2006, the Massachusetts Asian American Commission (AAC) was a permanent statewide body dedicated to advocating for Asian Americans. With the name change to Asian American and Pacific Islander Commission, the Commission's goal is to recognize and highlight the vital contributions of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders to the social, cultural, economic, and political life of the Commonwealth; to identify and address the needs and challenges facing residents of Asian and Pacific Islander ancestry; and to promote the well-being of this dynamic and diverse community, thereby advancing the interests of all who call Massachusetts home.

The AAPIC is composed of 21 Commissioners appointed by the Governor, Senate President, Treasurer, Secretary of State, House Speaker, Attorney General, and State Auditor.

The Massachusetts Asian American Commission formally rebranded its name to the Massachusetts Asian American and Pacific Islander Commission (AAPIC) to reflect the communities' diversity and celebrate the vibrant history and culture of Pacific Islanders across the Commonwealth. Governor Charlie Baker signed the name change into law on July 16, 2021, as part of the FY22 enacted state budget.

[AAPIC Statute \(M.G.L. c.3 § 68\)](#)

[AAPIC Bylaws \(updated October 18, 2022\)](#)

The mission of the AAPIC is to be the only permanent state body dedicated to addressing the needs and challenges of the AAPI community.





## 2022 Commissioners

Meenakshi Bharath, 2022 Chairperson

Nate Bae Kupel, 2022 Vice Chairperson

Ekta Saksena, 2022 Secretary

Megha Prasad, 2022 Treasurer

Jonjy Ananth

Mary Chin

Gary Y. Chu

Richard T. Chu

Cinda Danh

Leo L. Hwang

Samuel Hyun

Pralhad KC

Danielle Kim

Betty King

Mary K.Y. Lee

Nina Liang

Dimple Rana

Philjay Solar

Haniya Syeda

You can learn more about the Commissioners on [our website](#).

# 2022 Youth Council



2022 brought the successful inaugural Youth Council! The intent of the Youth Council is to elevate young people's voices and promote leadership values among AAPI youth across Massachusetts. As part of the program, AAPIC selected a diverse group of seven AAPI high school students interested in influencing social change and policy. These young people were given training, mentorship, and opportunities to exercise their voice.

## Members

- Akshay Dhavala (he/him) - Ashland, Indian, 11th Grade
- Sea Kay Leung (she/her) - Belchertown, Chinese, 11th Grade
- Lillyanna Yim (she/her) - Lowell, Cambodian, 11th Grade
- Deekshita Madharam (she/her) - Quincy, Indian, 11th Grade
- Lila Yoon (she/they) - Brookline, Chinese/Korean, 11th Grade
- Maria-Isabela Campos (she/her) - Salem, Filipino, 12th Grade
- Samaga Pokharel (she/her) - Everett, Nepali, 12th Grade



## Staff

Yasmin Padamsee Forbes, Executive Director

Esther Hwi-Young Kim, Program and Research Director

Jennifer Best, Communications and Outreach Manager

Bonnie Chen, Development and Communications Coordinator

Abdul Haseeb Hamza, Youth Coordinator (until Dec 2022)

Ashely Shan, Youth Coordinator (2023 onwards)

Billy Zang (until August 2022)

Benjamin Wang, Policy Coordinator (2023 onwards)

Siale Teaupā, Health and Pacific Islanders Coordinator



# AAPI in Massachusetts

The Asian American and Pacific Islander community in Massachusetts is vast and diverse. While it is not possible to know exactly how many AAPIs live in Massachusetts, it is estimated that AAPIs make up between 7.29%-8.4% of the Commonwealth's total population, or between 494,682 and 592,922 people. The most recent statistic from the US Census' says that [people with Asian ancestry make up 7.5% of the state's population and people with Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander ancestry make up 0.1% of the state's population, for a total of 7.6%](#). These statistics do not include those of mixed ancestry.

The three counties with the [largest AAPI communities](#) are Middlesex County, Norfolk County, and Suffolk County, where AAPIs make up 14.5%, 13.5%, and 11.4% of the county's population, respectively. Between 2010 and 2020 the Asian population of Massachusetts grew 47.8%, whereas the Pacific Islander population grew by 1.7%. Braintree and Hopkinton were the towns that saw the largest increase in AAPI residents.

AAPI communities throughout Massachusetts face individual and collective hardships, many of which will be covered in this report. Two of these issues are income inequality and language access. Around twice as many AAPIs live in poverty compared to white people in the Greater Boston area, and that disparity grows to three times in the city of Boston. Additionally, many AAPI have trouble speaking English. 50% of Chinese (Mandarin and Cantonese) and Khmer speakers and 60% of Vietnamese speakers reported speaking English less than "very well". The AAPIC works with the diverse AAPI communities throughout the Commonwealth to help address the issues that they are facing by connecting them with legislators and services provided by the government.

As the Pacific Islander population in Massachusetts makes up only 0.1% of the state, the commission has had limited ability to locate and contact Pacific Islander individuals and organizations in the state. Health and Pacific Islander Coordinator, Siale Teaupā, has been working with various Pacific Islander organizations and individuals across the U.S. to identify Pacific Islander individuals, organizations and businesses in Massachusetts. Siale will continue to work with the community to connect with Pacific Islanders and plans to organize future listening sessions, update the commission's directory, and conduct a needs-assessment report for the Pacific Islanders in Massachusetts.





# Commission Meetings 2022

February 15: [Meeting Notes](#)

March 15: [Meeting Notes](#)

April 19: [Meeting Notes](#)

June 6: [Meeting Notes](#)

June 28: [Meeting Notes](#)

July 19: [Meeting Notes](#)

August 16: [Meeting Notes](#)

September 20: [Meeting Notes](#)

October 18: [Meeting Notes](#)

November 15: [Meeting Notes](#)

December 12: [Meeting Notes](#)





# Programming

## 2022 Annual Unity Dinner, May 2022

The AAPI Commission celebrated Asian Pacific American Heritage Month at our annual Unity Dinner event on Friday May 6th, 2022. The Unity Dinner was held to highlight the tremendous contributions and achievements the community has collectively achieved together, despite many tribulations and obstacles.

The Unity Dinner highlighted the extraordinary work of AAPI individuals and organizations in the Commonwealth and provided an opportunity for the community to come together and celebrate the accomplishments of the Asian American & Pacific Islander community.

The Unity Dinner was held on May 6th from 6:00 pm - 9:30 PM at the UMass Lowell Inn & Conference Center. There were over 270 attendees registered to join this special evening program. The Unity Dinner Planning Subcommittee consisted of Unity Dinner Chair, Commissioner Philjay Solar, Commissioner Richard Chu, and all staff members. Commissioner Samuel Hyun and Commissioner Megha Prasad served as the emcees for this program.

Performances included Indra's Artistic Creations, Maria-Isabela Campos, and DJ Melody of Love. Members of the Indras Artistic Creation performed several traditional Cambodian dances, and Maria-Isabella Campos, a member of the AAPIC Youth Council, performed a ballet routine.

The Chair of the Unity Dinner Committee, Philjay Solar, and AAPIC Chair, Meena Bharath, gave welcoming remarks. Other speakers included [Erika Moritsugu of the White House Initiative for Asian American and Native Hawaiian Pacific Islanders \(WHINHAAPI\)](#), who serves as Senior Liaison to the President from the White House Initiative, and [Keynote Speaker Dr. Sue J. Kim](#), the Associate Dean for Undergraduate Studies, College of Fine Arts, Humanities, & Social Science, Co-Director of the Center for Asian American Studies, and Professor of English at the University of Massachusetts Lowell.

The Unity Dinner celebrated the remarkable work individuals and organizations have done to strengthen Asian American and Pacific Islander communities throughout the Commonwealth. The AAPIC presented three awards to highlight the extraordinary work of individuals and organizations: Community Hero Award - Heang Leung Rubin, EdD, MA, who has displayed selfless commitment to the issues and events affecting the AAPI community; Leadership for Inclusion and Diversity Award - Yuri Kochiyama Cultural Center, an organization at UMass Amherst that has pioneered efforts in promoting and celebrating AAPIs through workforce development, mentoring, and collaborations; and last, but not least, Lifetime Achievement - Michael Liu, who has shown longstanding and exemplary dedication to supporting the AAPI community.



AAPIC's Executive Director, Yasmin Padamsee Forbes, said in her closing remarks that the AAPI community is stronger due to working together and by supporting minority communities across the Commonwealth. On behalf of the Commission, she thanked the Asian Caucus, Lowell City Councillor Vesna Nuon, and Lowell Mayor Sokhary Chau for their advocacy on behalf of Massachusetts residents.

The AAPIC is grateful for the wonderful community of supporters, and looks forward to continuing and building more partnerships and collaborations in forthcoming months to advocate for AAPI communities.

### **AAPIC Supporters at the Unity Dinner**

- Indra Dance Group
- UMass Dartmouth
- Organization of Chinese Americans
- Project Citizenship
- NEBAG for Burma and YOMA
- UMass Amherst
- New England College of Optometry (NECO)
- The Chinatown Project
- Boston Asian American Film Festival
- Bhutanese Society of Western MA
- Bayanihan Association of America, Inc.
- Chinese Association of Western Massachusetts
- Yuri Kochiyama Cultural Center
- Lowell Community Health Center
- National Asian American Association of Professionals
- Dot Health
- Institute for Asian American Studies - UMB
- Enterprise Bank
- Lowell Telemedia Center
- Asian Community Development Corporation
- Boston Chinatown Neighborhood Center
- Asian Task Force Against Domestic Violence
- Lowell Public Schools
- Middlesex Community College
- Angkor Dance Troupe
- Cambodian Mutual Assistance Association

## Western Mass Listening Session, October 2022



*"I see my story built into every one of you all, but it's disconnected."*

*"How do we leverage each other's culture and identities to build?"*

The Western Massachusetts Listening Session, held at the UMass Amherst Center at Springfield, had a far reaching impact, with the Commission planning to expand on the work initiated by the attending community members. Building off of two virtual listening sessions in the spring, this listening session provided a voice to AAPIs in Western Massachusetts, connecting AAPI communities in Western Massachusetts to resources and with each other.





There were three main takeaways from the listening session. You can read the full notes from the listening session [here](#).

1. Many people do not know what resources exist for AAPI communities and organizations in Western Massachusetts.
2. Representation in schools and curriculums is incredibly important for students and parents.
  - There is a strong desire for mandated AAPI ethnic studies courses/curriculum throughout the Commonwealth.
  - Several of the youth spoke about the need to create structural changes to protect and support AAPI students and staff.
3. Most people reported experiencing anti-AAPI discrimination in schools, work, government, and other public spaces.

### Speakers

- Vira Cage, former Commissioner
- Amherst Regional High School AAPI Club
- Bayanihan Association of Western Massachusetts
- AAPI Alliance of Western MA
- Nam's Taekwondo School
- UMass Amherst Asian American Student Association (AASA)
- Western New England University APALSA

### Attending Officials

- Catherine Ratte, Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC)
- State Rep. Jacob Oliviera (7th Hampden District, Springfield)
- Lily Stowe-Alekman, Legislative Aide for State Rep. Mindy Domb (3rd Hampshire District, Amherst)
- Representatives for State Rep. Bud Williams (11th Hampden District, Springfield)
- Other members of the public

### Next Steps

There were four primary next steps agreed upon at the listening session and supported by the Commission.

1. Creation of a staff position based in Western Massachusetts.
  2. Commissioners will work with the Education Subcommittee on diversity in K-12 education initiatives.
  3. There will be quarterly, in-person meetings of local organizations to create opportunities for organizations to connect and work together.
  4. The Commission will support research initiatives in order to create a better understanding of AAPI communities living in Western Massachusetts and rural areas.
- 

## Other Events

### February: Building Allyship Between Black and AAPI

#### Communities

The Commission held a virtual discussion to mark Black History Month. During this workshop, Dr. Gloria Ayee, Lecturer at Harvard University, spoke about the importance of building coalitions, allyship between AAPI and Black communities in America, highlighted the shared history of struggle, and the effects of the civil rights protests over the previous year. This event was moderated by AAPIC Executive Director, Yasmin Padamsee Forbes. [WATCH HERE.](#)



### March: Exploring an Intersectional Approach to Violence Against Asian Women

To celebrate Women's History Month, AAPIC held a panel discussion to explore the historical context of the Asian American women experience in the U.S. and the impact of rising violence, xenophobia, hypersexualization, and anti-Asian sentiment. The goal of the panel was to seek systemic solutions to end gender-based violence. Speakers: Miliann Kang, UMass Amherst; Monica Khant, API Gender-Based Violence; Simone Bui, formerly Managing Attorney of ATASK Legal Advocacy and Representation Program, Incoming Office of Violence Against Women at the Department of Justice; Julie Kim, Asian American Women Feminist Collective.

[WATCH HERE.](#)



### **April: AAPIC Annual Retreat**

On April 9th, 2022, the AAPIC held its Annual Retreat in Boston at the Pao Arts Center. It was led by Ruby Reyes to create group norms, build partnerships, and to begin developing a plan for the Commission's work. Due to the retreat, the Commission hired staff to study policy and program needs of the AAPI communities. Looking ahead, the Commission will continue providing small grants, convening listening sessions, strengthening and expanding the youth council, researching policy needs, and expanding partnerships with legislators and officials.



### **April: TAAF and AAPIC**

The Asian American Foundation (TAAF) Director of Strategic Alliances Karim Farishta and AAPIC's Executive Director Yasmin Padamsee Forbes held a student briefing at Harvard Kennedy School on emergent issues impacting the AAPI community including anti-Asian hate prevention, the national movement for inclusive AAPI education, cross-racial solidarity, and belonging.

### **May: AAPI Heritage & Small Business Week Celebration with U.S. Assistant Speaker Katherine Clark**

On May 5th, 2022, the AAPIC's Executive Director, in collaboration with several community groups, organized and participated in an event with U.S. Representative Katherine Clark to celebrate AAPI Heritage Month in Malden, Massachusetts. Topics of discussion included language access, data equity, affordable housing, youth mental health, and inclusive education. Those involved in the organizing of this event and in attendance included the AAPIC, the Asian Community Fund, the Commonwealth Seminar, the Greater Malden Asian American Community Coalition (GMAACC), the South Cove Community Health Center, the Asian Community Development Corporation (ACDC), the Chinese Culture Connection (CCC), and the Chinese Association of Lexington (CALex).

**May: Boston Red Sox AAPI Heritage Night**

Commissioner Solar organized for the Commission and staff to attend the Boston Red Sox's AAPI Heritage Night on Tuesday, May 3rd. The Boston Red Sox played against the Anaheim Angels, and there were AAPI performances throughout Fenway Park before the game started to celebrate AAPI culture.

**May: AAPI Heritage Month Rally**

On May 16th, 2022, Commissioners, staff members, and Youth Councilors attended a rally celebrating AAPI Heritage Month at Boston Common, which aimed to advance unity, solidarity, and belonging. Commissioner Danielle Kim, from the Asian Community Fund at the Boston Foundation, organized this event with participation from the New England Chinese American Association and the Coalition for Anti-Racism and Equity. AAPI Youth Councilors Maria-Isabel and Sea Kay spoke powerfully about their own experiences and struggles growing up as Asian Americans.



### May: Together Against Anti-Asian Racism



Members of the House Asian Caucus and allies gathered on the front steps of the Massachusetts State House to hold a public moment of silence for victims of anti-Asian violence. The event, organized by the House Asian Caucus, was also attended by Commissioners, the Executive Director, and the Youth Council. Meena Bharath, the Chair of the AAPIC was invited to say a few words, along with members of the House Asian Caucus, who said “combating anti-Asian violence and harassment is a priority for the House Asian Caucus and we stand in solidarity with other people of color to condemn racially motivated attacks.” See the Asian Caucus’s [Press Release](#) for more information.

### May: Youth Council Massachusetts Statehouse Visit

The AAPIC organized an in-person meeting with the House Asian Caucus members Rep. Tackey Chan and Rep. Vanna Howard for the AAPI Youth Council at the MA Statehouse. The formation of a diverse AAPIC Youth Council with the willingness to show up, speak up, and elevate varied AAPI Youth voices is crucial for the US. The AAPIC is grateful to Rep. Tackey Chan and Rep. Vanna Howard for their generous time, candid stories, and insights.



### **May: AAPIC Listening Session, Springfield**

AAPIC Commissioners Dr. Chu and Dr. Hwang held a smaller listening session in Springfield to brainstorm the planning of the larger Western Massachusetts Listening Session held in October. Organizations in attendance included the Chinese Association of Western MA, the Bhutanese Society of Western MA, the Springfield Chinese Christian Church, the Springfield Vietnamese Cultural Association, the Bayanihan Association of American, and Nam's Taekwondo School.

### **May: AAPIC Listening Session, Amherst**

AAPIC Commissioners Dr. Chu and Dr. Hwang held another smaller session in Amherst attended by a paraeducator for Amherst Public Schools, a Youth Council member, an Amherst-Pelham Regional High School student, a Bement School student, a UMass employee and Khmer community leader, and a Khmer community liaison.

### **September: Volunteering for Seniors:**

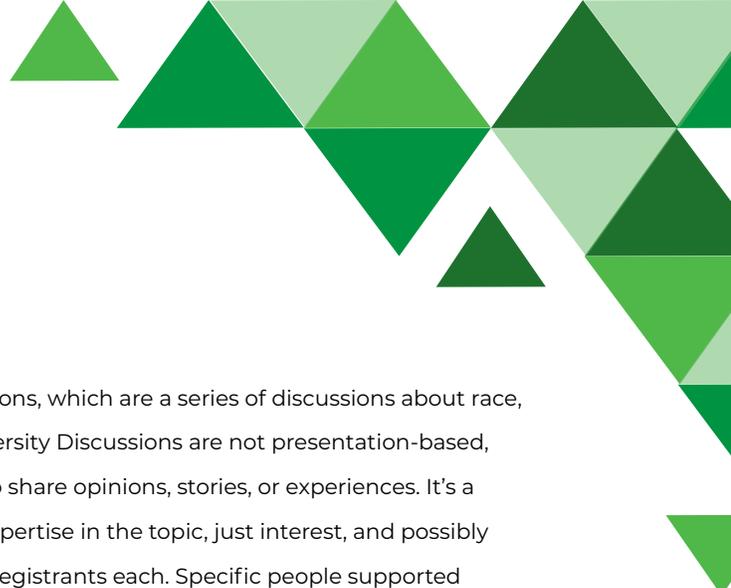
#### **Seniors Karaoke with Sonali Doshi**

AAPIC Chair Meena Bharath was the guest speaker for an event organized by Volunteering for Seniors, who held a karaoke night for seniors. VFS received a grant from the AAPIC's Small Grant Fund in 2022, and used part of the funds to support this event.



### **October: The White House Initiative on AANHPI Connecticut Regional Summit on Innovation and Inclusion Through the AA and NHPI Lens**

The White House Initiative on Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders (WHIAANHPI) and the Connecticut Commission on Women, Children, Seniors, Equity and Opportunity (CWCSEO) held a regional summit to discuss and evaluate what more can be done in the work of inclusion, collaboration, and opportunity on federal, state, and community levels. The three panels included: An Overview of Federal Resources and the White House Initiative for Asian American, Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander (WHIAANHPI) Northeast Regional Network, Collaboration and Model Sharing at the State Level, and Community Perspectives. The AAPIC's Executive Director, Yasmin Padamsee Forbes, spoke on the Collaboration and Model Sharing at the State Level panel noting that more needs to be done at the state level to share best practices regarding opportunities for all minorities.



### **Monthly: Harvard Diversity Discussions**

The AAPIC is a proud supporter of the Harvard Diversity Discussions, which are a series of discussions about race, intersectionality, and inclusivity, and are open to all. Harvard Diversity Discussions are not presentation-based, panel-based, or speaker-based: they are an hour for attendees to share opinions, stories, or experiences. It's a discussion for and by the attendees, who do not need to have expertise in the topic, just interest, and possibly experience. These discussions have drawn between 60 and 100 registrants each. Specific people supported individual discussions, in addition to the following groups who sponsored some or all discussions: Harvard Asian American Alumni Alliance (H4A), Harvard Alumni in IMPACT, Harvard Kennedy School Women's Network (HKS WN), Harvard Kennedy School New England Alumni Association (HKSNEAA), Massachusetts AAPIC (AAPIC), Harvard Women in Defense, Diplomacy, and Development (W3D), Native American Alumni of Harvard University (NAAHU), and Harvard Latino Alumni Alliance (HLAA).

Discussion topics included:

- Preserving Cultures: How do we maintain ethnic identity in current and future generations?: September 15, 2022
- Race, Gender, and Identity: Intersections of race with gender: September 22, 2022
- Race and Technology: Biases and Implications: October 6, 2022
- Race and Health: Equity and Justice: October 20, 2022
- Cultural Pedagogy: How race matters in a classroom: November 1, 2022
- To Test or Not to Test?: Race and Examination High Schools: December 6, 2022
- Watching Us: Recommended media with cultural perspectives: December 13, 2022

### **Monthly: National Coalition of AANHPI Commissions**

The AAPIC is a member of the National Coalition of AANHPI Commissions representing Commissions across the US including Massachusetts, DC, California, NY, Washington, among others. The group meets monthly to share ideas and plans.



## Commissioner Spotlights

Every one of our distinguished Commissioners have made important contributions and impacts to the work of the Commission this year. Commissioners all have different focuses, backgrounds, and passions, and have thus led and participated in different events throughout the year. It would be impossible to share everything done by all Commissioners, but we hope to highlight just some of the work undertaken by five of our Commissioners.

### Philjay Solar



Commissioner Philjay Solar was the Chair of the 2022 Annual Unity Dinner. Commissioner Solar, subcommittee members, and AAPIC staff spent time on every aspect of the first Annual Unity Dinner held in-person since 2019. Being the Chair of the Unity Dinner is one of the most time-intensive positions a Commissioner can hold, and Commission Solar and the entire Commission's dedication led to an unprecedented and successful return to in-person Unity Dinners.

In addition to Chairing the Unity Dinner, Commissioner Solar attended the Philippine Independence Day Festival and numerous events for Filipinx-American History Month held through the Philippine American Mainstream Advocacy for Non-partisan Associations, Inc. (PAMANA).

## Danielle Kim



Commissioner Danielle Kim organized three virtual bystander intervention trainings to combat Anti-Asian harassment in May and June of 2022. Hosted in partnership with the AAPIC and the Asian Caucus, these trainings reached 500 local residents, empowering them with the skills to respond the next time they witness incidents of in-person or virtual harassment.

Commissioner Kim, in her capacity as Director of the Asian Community Fund at the Boston Foundation, organized and co-moderated an AAPI rally with the AAPIC on Boston Common on May 15th. Hosted in partnership with the New England Chinese American Alliance (NECAA) and the Coalition for Anti-Racism in Education (CARE), the purpose of the rally was to celebrate AAPI Heritage Month and advance the campaign for anti-racist curriculum across Massachusetts. The rally was attended by AAPIC Youth Council members Sea Kay Leung and Maria Isabela Campos, and Billy Zeng, AAPIC's former Policy Coordinator.

Commissioner Kim was a member of the Government Relations, Advocacy, and Civil Rights Subcommittee and the Governance, Finance, and Communications Subcommittee. She also attended the Essex County Commission on the Status of Women's AAPI event, where she represented the AAPIC.

## Gary Chu



One of Commissioner Gary Chu's primary responsibilities with the Commission this year was as a member of the Hiring Subcommittee. Both the subcommittee and the Executive Director played a role in the recruitment, screening of applications, interviewing, and decision-making, of two new full-time staff members. Hiring new staff members is a time-intensive process, but Commissioner Chu's work has allowed the Commission to connect with new communities, develop new programming, and advocate better for AAPI communities throughout Massachusetts through the new staff members.

Commissioner Chu was also very involved in advocacy around topics of healthcare, anti-racism, and abortion access, with a special focus on Chinese and Vietnamese communities. Additionally, he was involved with the Unity Dinner and the Health Subcommittee.

## Richard Chu



Commissioner Richard Chu was one of the leaders within the Commission advocating for Western Massachusetts, in large part by spearheading the Western Massachusetts Listening Session with Commissioner Hwang and the AAPIC staff. The in-person listening session emerged from preliminary, virtual listening sessions which Commissioner Chu and Commissioner Hwang facilitated in the spring.

Through his work as a history professor at UMass Amherst, Commissioner Chu worked with students to explore oral history project videos documenting the lives of Asian American communities in Western Massachusetts. His in-person event, where his students were able to showcase and celebrate their oral history projects, held in December, was held in collaboration with the AAPIC.

As a member of the Unity Dinner subcommittee, Commissioner Chu worked with AAPIC staff to help plan the first in-person Annual Unity Dinner since 2019. Other events he attended included a refugee advocacy workshop held by Advocacy for Refugees and Immigrant Services and Empowerment (ARISE), held in November. He also gave lectures on Filipino-American history, attended an International Society for the Study of Chinese Overseas Conference, and participated in an event held by the Asian American Students Association at UMass Amherst with Commissioner Hwang, where they talked about their work as Commissioners.

## Leo Hwang



Commissioner Leo Hwang was the co-facilitator of the October Western Massachusetts Listening Session in Springfield, alongside Commissioner Richard Chu and AAPIC staff. Through leading preliminary listening sessions based in both Springfield and Amherst in the spring, Commissioner Hwang and staff were able to design a listening session that convened AAPI communities and elected officials in Western Massachusetts. The outcome of the Listening Session was increased collaboration among community organizations, many of which did not know that the others existed. Additionally, community organizations were able to connect with elected officials to obtain legal resources and advocate for their needs.

Besides advocating for Western Massachusetts AAPI communities, Commissioner Hwang also advocated for anti-hate and anti-racism policies, as well as focusing on AAPI community building, especially among Bhutanese, Cambodian, Chinese, Filipino, Korean, Laotian, and Vietnamese communities. He is also a member of the Grants Subcommittee.

# Small Grants Fund

The Small Grants Fund is one of the most successful initiatives run by the Commission, and is very much needed by the community. The AAPIC held two rounds of funding in 2022. The first was held in May/June and the second round of funding was completed in November/December.

The AAPIC Small Grants Fund provides quick and much needed support for organizations and local businesses based in Massachusetts. After organizations apply for grants, the Commissioners on the Grants Subcommittee determine which organizations should receive funding, and how much. The Commission receives many more proposals than there is funding available, and will keep working to increase the amount of funding. Grantees are selected by program plan, locations, and demographic served.

## Round One

In the first round of funding, AAPIC gave a total of \$16,000 to 18 organizations and businesses, with the grants ranging from \$250 to \$1,000.

Organization	Grant	Organization	Grant
Boston Hurricanes Athletic Club, Inc.	\$1,000	CommonWealth Seminar	\$1,000
Ashland Indians	\$1,000	JB Line, Inc.	\$1,000
SEACMA	\$1,000	PAMANA	\$1,000
Multidisciplinary Institute of Training and Learning (MITL)	\$1,000	Project Citizenship	\$1,000
Asian Women for Health	\$1,000	Springfield Vietnamese Cultural Community	\$1,000
Massachusetts Baptist Multicultural Ministries	\$1,000	The Islander's Creamery	\$500
Cadence Process Consulting	\$500	UMass Amherst Asian American Student Association (AASA)	\$1,000
Chinese Americans of Lexington (CALex)	\$750	Volunteering for Seniors	\$1,000
CharmPI LLC	\$250	Voice at the Table	\$1,000
		<b>Total</b>	<b>\$16,000</b>

## Round Two

In the second round of funding, the AAPIC received 36 applications and funded 26 of those organizations. Grants ranged from \$500-\$2,000 in the November round.

Organization	Grant	Organization	Grant
Advocacy for Refugee and Immigrant Services for Empowerment (ARISE), Inc.	\$2,000	New England Hindi Manch	\$1,000
AI Academy	\$1,000	Newton Cantonese School	\$1,000
American Chinese United Association MA Chapter Incorporated (ACUA)	\$750	Ryukyukoku Matsuri Daiko Massachusetts (RMD MA)	\$1,000
Asian Task Force Against Domestic Violence Inc. (ATASK)	\$2,000	Saheli, Inc	\$2,000
Boston Fujianese Association, Inc.	\$750	Sharon Chinese Association	\$1,000
Boston Little Saigon	\$1,000	TEAM Aid, Inc.	\$1,000
Chinese Association of Western Massachusetts	\$1,968	The Network for Social Justice	\$500
Community City Covenant Church	\$1,000	UMass Amherst AASA	\$1,000
Dream Connection	\$500	Vietnamese American initiative for Development, Inc. (VietAID)	\$2,000
Greater Malden Asian American Community Coalition, Inc	\$1,000	Volunteering for Seniors	\$1,000
India Association of Greater Boston	\$1,000	Wah Lum Kung Fu & Tai Chi Academy	\$1,500
Mountain River Taiko, Inc.	\$1,000	Western New England University APALSA	\$1,000
		Women Who Win	\$1,000
		Yoma Myanmar Tea Cafe	\$1,000

## Grantee Narratives

### Cadence Process Consulting

Cadence Process Consulting helps clients bring innovative technologies from the laboratory bench to the manufacturing floor. They help tech company leaders grow by guiding them through process development, scale-up, and building a team culture focused on continuous improvement. Their mission



is to propel value creation and delivery through realizing human, technical, and operational potentials.

They used the grant to provide free consulting services to an AAPI-owned cleantech startup company. They worked with the CTO and VP of Engineering to identify and implement tools and methods that support the startup's process and technology growth.

**Philippine American Mainstream Advocacy For Non-partisan Associations, Inc. (PAMANA.)**

PAMANA's mission is to foster and strengthen cooperation among Filipino-American organizations in New England, promoting mutual understanding, humility, and equality. Additionally, they aim to encourage active participation of all Filipino American organizations in New England in the commemoration of Philippine Independence Day, and to coordinate timely and effective mobilization of all Filipino American organizations in New England to respond and render assistance to victims of calamities in the Philippines.



They used their grant to fund their PAMANA Cares program, which creates care packages for Filipinos in need, while also supporting local Filipino businesses.

**Southeast Asian Coalition of Central Massachusetts, Inc. (SEACMA)**

Founded in 1999, the mission of the Southeast Asian Coalition of Central Massachusetts (SEACMA) is to assist the Southeast Asian population of Central and Western Massachusetts to successfully integrate, thrive, and become contributing citizens while maintaining their unique cultural heritage. As a cultural steward, an essential part of their mission is leveraging SEACMA's values-driven influence and cultural expertise to advance social justice, equity, and understanding to shape the American narrative through the Southeast Asian immigrant and refugee experience.



Through the grant, SEACMA was able to provide professional development training to staff, which gave them an opportunity to expand their professional capacity. SEACMA has worked with the AAPIC for a number of years, and wrote that "SEACMA remains grateful to the AAPIC for its ongoing support of SEACMA's mission."

### **UMass Amherst Asian American Student Association (AASA)**

Founded in 1975, the UMass Amherst Asian American Students Association's goal is to advocate for unity among Asians and Asian Americans. In so doing, AASA promotes the views, voices, and experiences of Asian and Asian American students; it provides Asian and Asian American students with a concrete political, educational, and social foundations, and promotes the understanding and awareness of Asian and Asian American cultures on the UMass Amherst campus and the surrounding Amherst area.



AASA was very appreciative of receiving the grant, writing, "it was a great honor to be one of the recipients of the grant, as this year we had been struggling financially after returning to in-person from COVID. We were able to use the grant to help fund our advocacy initiatives by inviting guest speakers to collaborate for us on our events. We were able to bring Eugene Lee Yang from the Try Guys to speak at Asian Night, and are currently in the process of inviting an Asian American author to come and speak about her book and experiences. None of this would've been possible if we did not receive the grant."

### **Volunteering for Seniors, Inc.**

The mission at Volunteering for Seniors is to reduce loneliness and feelings of isolation among senior citizens, helping them feel vivacious and energetic during their golden years. Vfs's goal for seniors is for them to be a part of, involved in, and included in their communities. In this way, the elderly are able to live healthier, happier, and more active lives, and with as much independence as possible.



Volunteering for Seniors hosts many events throughout the year, and used the grant for their Senior Karaoke party, where they hosted close to 150 seniors and their caregivers. The funds were used for space rental, catering costs, decorative materials, and checks for renowned speakers.

### **Chinese Americans of Lexington (CALex)**

CALex (Chinese Americans of Lexington) is a nonprofit and nonpartisan organization based in Lexington, Massachusetts. Their mission is to promote participation in public services, including education, culture, and other town/community affairs; to promote civic engagement; and to help address concerns from the Chinese American community.

CALex plans and participates in many events each year, and they used the grant funding for a number of their programs. Part of the grant was used to pay for the lion dance and car decorations for the Greater Boston



car parade celebrating Chinese/Lunar New Year. Additionally, it helped sponsor the WuShu performance in the Patriots Day parade and funded the Second Annual My American Story.

### **JB Line, Inc.**

The mission of JB Line, Inc. is to support people in, but not limited to, the Japanese community of New England by providing consultation, giving needed information, offering direct support services, and connecting them with other social resources. Their programming includes a bilingual support line, case management, support with domestic violence issues, senior support, and more. Through the grant, they were able to provide the Japanese and Japanese American community free case management and mental health support during the COVID-19 pandemic. The CEO of JB Line, Inc. wrote that they “were so motivated by this grant and [it] renewed our determination to offer our support to the community.”



### **Planned Expansion of the Small Grants Fund**

The Small Grants Fund was an absolute success in 2022. In total, over \$45,000 was given out to organizations and local businesses based in Massachusetts and led by AAPI Bay Staters. In 2023, the AAPIC hopes to continue growing the Small Grants Fund, including the number of applicants received, the number of organizations grants are given to, and the amount of funding awarded. The AAPIC also hopes to work more directly with the grantees throughout the year on programming, support, and events to further connect and build AAPI communities in the Commonwealth.



# Subcommittees

The subcommittees and/or advisory committees bring forth recommendations to the entire Commission for information and action. In 2022, there were seven subcommittees and two advisory groups, composed of a Chair and 2-3 Commissioners.

## 2022 Subcommittees:

- Anti-Asian Research and Response Advisory Committee
- Arts & Culture
- Development and Unity Dinner
- Education and Leadership Development
- Governance, Finance, and Communications
- Government Relations, Advocacy, and Civil Rights
- Health and Human Services

## 2022 Advisory Groups

- New Employee Advisory Group
- Western Massachusetts Advisory Group

### Anti-Asian Research and Response

The goal of the Anti-Asian Research and Response Advisory Committee is to work with community partners to create tangible solutions to combat anti-Asian violence. During the summer of 2022, Commissioners developed an anti-racism resources document for the AAPI community in MA.

### Arts & Culture



The purpose of the Arts & Culture Subcommittee is to uplift and support AAPI creatives in Massachusetts. In early 2022, the AAPI Artist Feature Campaign was launched on the AAPI's Instagram aimed at spotlighting AAPI artists living in MA. The four part campaign featured artists: [Asiyah Herrera](#): poet; [Sungchul Takahashi](#): photographer and videographer; [Jillian Lu](#): illustrator and graphic designer; and [Jeryl Palana](#): choreographer, dancer and educator.



### **Development and Unity Dinner**

The goal of the Development and Unity Dinner Subcommittee is to fundraise and mobilize efforts in forming the annual Unity Dinner, including identifying keynote speakers, honorees, co-chairs, sponsors, a venue, and pooling resources from all Commissioners. All staff members are involved in supporting and organizing the Unity Dinner. The Unity Dinner Subcommittee met from February 2022 to May 2022. More information about the Unity Dinner can be found in the Programming section.

### **Education and Leadership Development**

The Education and Leadership Development Subcommittee is tasked with establishing a regular program that cultivates the next generation of leaders, identifying funding sources for the Young Leaders Symposium, supporting AAPI leadership development opportunities, and working with education leaders to establish and advocate for AAPI studies in schools. While the Education and Leadership Development Subcommittee did not meet in 2022, the Youth Council, which was established in 2022, was developed in partnership with the Education and Leadership Development Subcommittee in 2021.

### **Governance, Finance, and Communications**

The purpose of the Governance, Finance, and Communications Subcommittee is to make recommendations concerning finance and the budget; internal policies; protocols and bylaws; strategic planning; and communication, media, and public relations. The 2022 goal of the subcommittee was to build more accountability and seek ways to engage and empower both Commissioners and staff effectively. This included training for Commissioners and orientation for new Executive Committee members. Other focuses have included improving attendance among Commissioners, developing a more robust internship program performance assessment, developing work and norms around mentorship for the Youth Council, and initiating an annual program aligned with goals and themes for the year. All of these programs are currently ongoing.





### **Government Relations, Advocacy, and Civil Rights**

The goal of the Government Relations, Advocacy, and Civil Rights Subcommittee is to monitor legislative activities and organize the Commission's annual advocacy day. The subcommittee identified four pieces of legislation for the Commission to support:

- An Act relative to the Commission on the Status of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders
- An Act relative to anti-racism, equity and justice in education
- An Act Ensuring Equitable Representation in the Commonwealth
- An Act Relative to Work and Family Mobility

### **Grants**

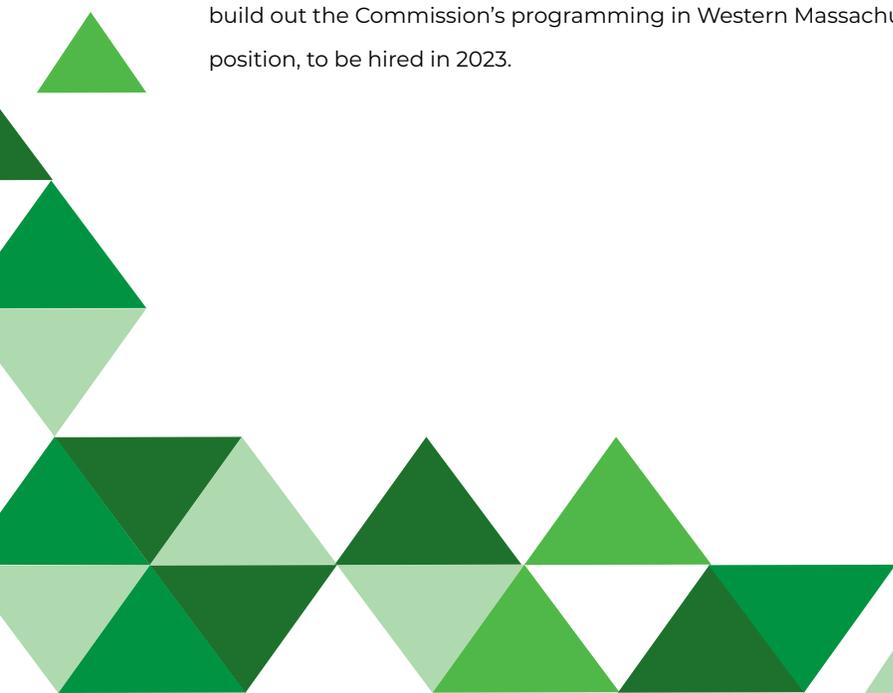
The Grants Subcommittee is tasked with determining what community organizations and businesses are awarded through the Small Grants Fund. There were two rounds of grants in 2022, and is covered in its own section of this report.

### **Health and Human Services**

The goal of the Health and Human Services Subcommittee is to advance programming and advocacy efforts to address healthcare disparities affecting AAPI communities. Additionally, it monitors the activities of public and private healthcare sectors and seeks out opportunities to partner in health discussions. The Health and Human Services Subcommittee did not meet in 2022.

### **Western Massachusetts Advisory Group**

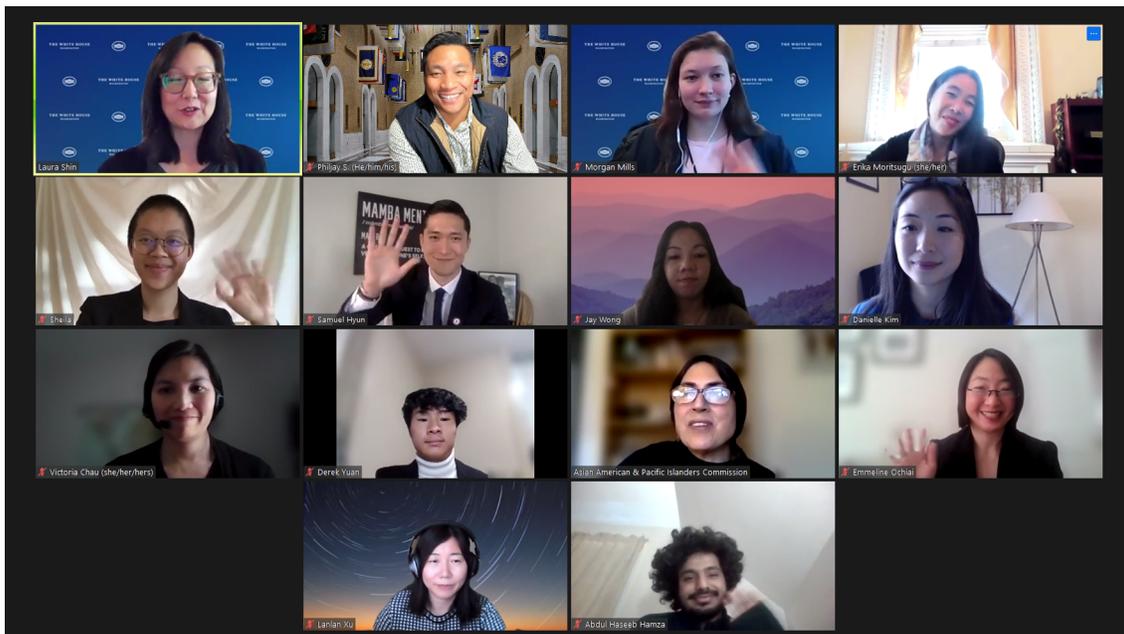
The Western Massachusetts Advisory Group is a recently created group in order to advocate for Western Massachusetts and AAPI communities there. It is currently working with staff and community organizations to build out the Commission's programming in Western Massachusetts, including through a Regional Coordinator position, to be hired in 2023.



# Policy

The AAPIC works with other organizations, state and federal agencies, and legislators to advocate for AAPI communities in Massachusetts through policy.

## White House Initiative on AANHPI



In 2021, the Commission met with the White House Initiative on AANHPI delegation to discuss the health-policy needs of AAPI communities in Massachusetts. Discussions during the meeting included Massachusetts AA and NHPI demographics, organization structure, specific asks from the AAPIC, and agreement on next steps. The Commission's asks were: for White House Office representatives to speak at an AAPIC meeting with key AAPI leaders and community members from across Massachusetts, for the White House to attend and speak at the Unity Dinner, to connect with Youth Council members, and for all agencies to advocate for increased funding for regional Bystander Intervention Training to combat anti-AAPI racism and violence. Next steps focused on methods of engagement between WHIAANHPI and the Commission.



## **Baby Bonds**

As a Cambridge Human Rights Commissioner and AAPIC's Executive Director, Yasmin Padamsee Forbes applied through an independent call for candidates to be a member of a Task Force to explore the creation of Baby Bonds in Massachusetts. The Baby Bonds Task Force was a diverse cross-sector collaboration with members who have work, research, or volunteer experience in racial wealth equity, child welfare, public policy, community engagement, and asset-building initiatives. The Task Force also served as an instrument to engage with impacted communities to allow community participation in the design of the program.

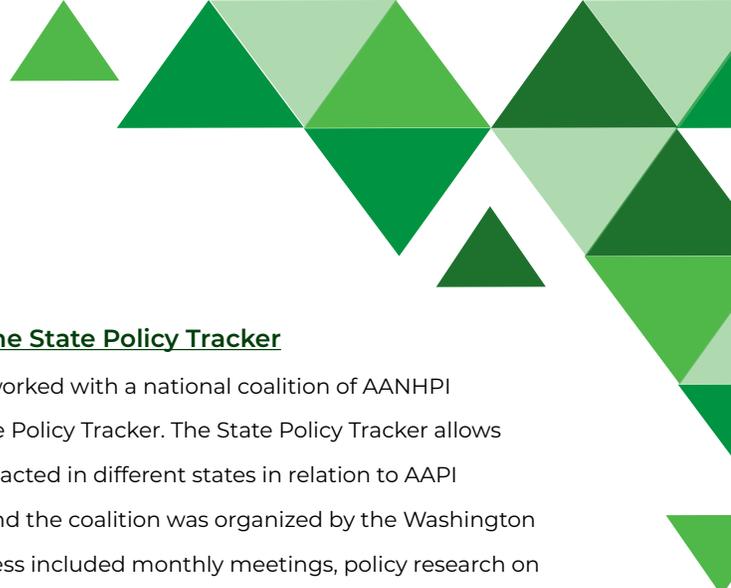
Baby Bonds is a term used to describe trust funds set up by governments intended to build assets for low-to-moderate income residents and narrow the racial wealth gap. These trust funds are established at birth and grow until recipients reach adulthood. Account holders can then access their funds for asset-building activities such as post-secondary education, homebuying, or investing in a business.

The Massachusetts Baby Bonds Task Force released its findings report detailing its recommendations on establishing an at-birth Baby Bonds program on December 12th, 2022. You can read the report [here](#) and the press release [here](#).

## **American Rescue Plan Act**

Executive Director Yasmin Padamsee Forbes joined the Massachusetts-based Federal Funds Equity & Accountability Review Panel, which sought public comment on draft allocation goals proposed for federal funding received in the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). This independent panel was created by legislation enacted in December 2021, which authorized spending of ARPA funds, and included a wide range of stakeholders from communities across the Commonwealth. The ARPA Equity Panel created draft allocation goals to assess how ARPA funds are appropriated in communities that were disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Additionally, the panel was tasked with creating a public tracking system and website of federal funds to track how ARPA funds are appropriated in communities that were disproportionately impacted by the 2019 novel coronavirus pandemic. Padamsee Forbes served to advocate for ARPA funds being allocated towards AAPI communities throughout Massachusetts. Findings from ARPA can be [read here](#).





### **Massachusetts Legislation and the State Policy Tracker**

Policy and Communications Manager, Jennifer Best, worked with a national coalition of AANHPI Commissions and AAPI Data to influence the creation of a State Policy Tracker. The State Policy Tracker allows anyone to compare what legislation has been proposed and enacted in different states in relation to AAPI communities. AAPI Data is a nongovernmental organization, and the coalition was organized by the Washington DC Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs. This process included monthly meetings, policy research on bills in Massachusetts, providing feedback, and beta testing the portal. Jennifer continues to be in contact with AAPI Data and the national coalition of AANHPI Commissions to ensure that all policy proposals in Massachusetts affecting AAPI communities are reflected in the portal. You can explore the portal [here](#).

The Government Relations, Advocacy, & Civil Rights Subcommittee also did research into certain bills going through the Massachusetts State Legislature. You can read more about their work in the Subcommittees section of this Annual Report.

### **AAPI and Ethnic Studies**

Staff, Commissioners, and Youth Council members met with the Massachusetts Asian Caucus in November 2022 to advocate for AAPI studies. The meeting was organized by Commissioner Danielle Kim. AAPI studies is an issue that has come up in many discussions with community organizations and community members, and is therefore a priority of the Commission's advocacy work. The Commission has also endorsed the bill Asian Caucus member State Rep. Erika Uytterhoeven (Middlesex 27th District) submitted for the 192nd Massachusetts Legislative Session: H.584, An Act Relative to Anti-Racism, Equity and Justice in Education.



# 2022 Inaugural Youth Council



One of the most exciting developments within the Commission in 2022 was the creation of the very first Youth Council! This program was envisioned by Education Committee Chair Meena Bharath, with support from various Commissioners and staff, including Yasmin Padamsee Forbes and Lily Tang, amidst others, based on the concerns heard from AAPI students related to racism and lack of concrete actions in their school districts. The Commission received 35 applicants for only 7 spots. The young people selected were given training, mentorship, and opportunities to exercise their voice, while also being paid for their time and work. Youth Council members had the opportunity to explore their interests and how they can make an impact, with the end goal of creating a program specific to their advocacy interests.

Whether it was at their orientation, an event with other AAPI organizations, or meeting with Asian Caucus members, the Youth Council members have found unique and meaningful ways to uplift AAPI voices for youth and everyone else in their community. Their work has shown itself to be loud and infectious, as many Commissioners and staff, as well as outside leaders, have paid attention to our Youth Council and have been delighted to work with them.



## Events

In addition to participating in Commission-wide events, such as the Unity Dinner and the AAPI Heritage Month Rally, there were a number of Youth Council-specific events held for and by Youth Council members.

- Youth Council Orientation featuring Representative Vanna Howard as keynote speaker
- [Ethnic studies panel led by the Coalition for Anti-Racism & Equity in Education \(CARE\)](#)
- AAPIC Black History Month Event with Dr. Gloria Ayee
- Bridging Cultural Gaps: Solidarity and Allyship for API and Black Communities led by Leadership for Asian Pacifics (LEAP)
- Asian American History is American History led by North Carolina Asian Americans Together (NCAAT)
- MA Statehouse visit and meeting to connect the Youth Council with AAPI caucus members Rep. Tackey Chan and Rep. Vanna Howard
- AAPI artists social media campaign
- Presentation at the Western Mass Listening Session by Sea Kay Leung (YC member)
- South Asian LGBTQ+ History Workshop led by Deekshita Madhalam (YC member)
- Ignite Activate Your Advocacy Bootcamp - 5 week boot camp that provides legislative training for young women at no cost
- Leaders for an Equitable Tomorrow (LET) - Virtual Career Panel of Nonprofit Professionals and Local Organizers
- Combatting Asian Hate Discussion by White House and WHIAANHPI
- Training on MA Open Meeting Law
- Youth Council Mentor-Mentee Program Orientation with the AAPIC Commissioners and Youth Council members

## Impact on Youth Council Members

### **Deekshita**

“Be the change you want to see. You have to be willing to fight the fight to make a difference. With this amazing group of people, I hope to continue this and soon make a difference and it wouldn’t have been possible without the people and resources offered by the Commission.”



**Lila**

“I am honored to have been a part of 2022’s Youth Council, and I will carry on advocating for AAPI representation in education armed with the connections and skills I’ve gained through my time here.”

**Lillyanna**

“I realized that the greatness as a Youth Council can make immense change with the measure of passion and commitment of its members.”

**Samaga**

“The Youth Council has taught me meaningful skills I will take on everyday with me, as I continue to pave my path in life!”

**Sea Kay**

“I am always staring at this Dr. Seuss quote ever since I was little. It goes, “Today you are You, that is truer than true. There is no one alive who is Youer than You.” Joining the Youth Council made me understand what it means to be “you” as an Asian American.” You can read more about Sea Kay’s work to uplift AAPI communities in Western Massachusetts, which was covered in her [local newspaper](#).

Looking Ahead: 2023

The inaugural 2022 Youth Council was a success, and has inspired even larger plans for the 2023 Youth Council. The Commission received 45 applications for the 2023 Youth Council, and the staff is currently working to finalize our new 2023 Youth Council. The AAPIC is also hoping to build out more robust training and mentorship opportunities for Youth Council members, and to increase collaboration and community among the Youth Councilors. [Follow their Instagram](#) to keep up to date with everything the Youth Council is doing!

# Budget and Spending

The AAPIC receives funding from two sources: Massachusetts government appropriations and our non-profit. The non-profit is used to support our Annual Unity Dinners.

The AAPIC's state appropriations come from budget line item 0950-0080. In FY 2022, the AAPIC received \$250,400, and in FY 2023, the budget was expanded to \$456,053. This allowed the Commission to hire more staff and interns, all paid a living wage. Additionally, the AAPIC was able to expand programming, such as renting space for in-person listening sessions, rather than needing to hold programming primarily online. The process of advocating for the increased budget included working with the Asian Caucus and the Joint Committee on Ways and Means, starting in late winter all the way through the final budget approvals in the summer.

All of the money earned by the non-profit in 2022 was used for the 2022 Unity Dinner.

In calendar year 2022, the Commission spent a total of \$261,290.65. The Commission spent \$163,935.48 January-June 2022 (FY 2022), and \$97,355.48 July-December 2022 (FY 2023). The decrease in spending in the second half of the year was due to having fewer employees until October.

Category	Spending
Regular Employees	\$150,563.91
Intern Stipends	\$38,803.75
Employee/Intern Travel	\$5,032.70
Professional Development	\$367.42
Commissioner Reimbursements	\$1,168.82
Administrative Expenses	\$10,071.00
Consulting and IT Services	\$10,483.87
Small Grants Fund	\$45,968.00

# Communications

Much of the Commission's work is to communicate and work with AAPI communities throughout the Commonwealth. While the majority of work done by the Commission is with specific communities and organizations, digital and mass communications is still an important part of spreading our message.



## News and Media Outreach

- Commissioners featured in the Lunch Break Series by The Chinatown Project
- [Nate Bae Kupel Talks Wings and Discovering Identity](#)
- [Pho and Politics: How Nina Liang Became Quincy's First Chinese American City Councilor](#)
- [Eating Chinese Food and Chatting with Sam Hyun](#)
- [The Future of Chinatown featuring AAPIC Executive Director, Yasmin Padamsee Forbes](#)
- Commissioner Megha Prasad on the Atlanta Shootings, [WBUR, April 2022](#)
- Yasmin Padamsee Forbes on Mayor Wu, [Guardian, Nov 2021](#)
- Commissioner Richard Chu's Oral history presentation Hi 253 "Asian American History" honors course, Dec 2022

## Digital Media

Over the past year, the Commission has increased its reach and engagement on social media and other digital platforms, including the website and quarterly newsletter. This section will cover statistics of the Commission's social media accounts, website, and newsletter.

The four social media platforms used by the Commission are Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and LinkedIn. Kinds of posts include giving updates about Commission programs and events, sharing important news



related to the AAPI community, uplifting community organizations, and much more. The number of followers grew on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter. We do not have the number of followers from the beginning of the year on LinkedIn. From January to December, followers on Facebook grew 5.16% from 2,209 to 2,323. Instagram followers grew 10.63% from 1,628 to 1,801. Twitter followers grew 8.21% from 694 to 751.

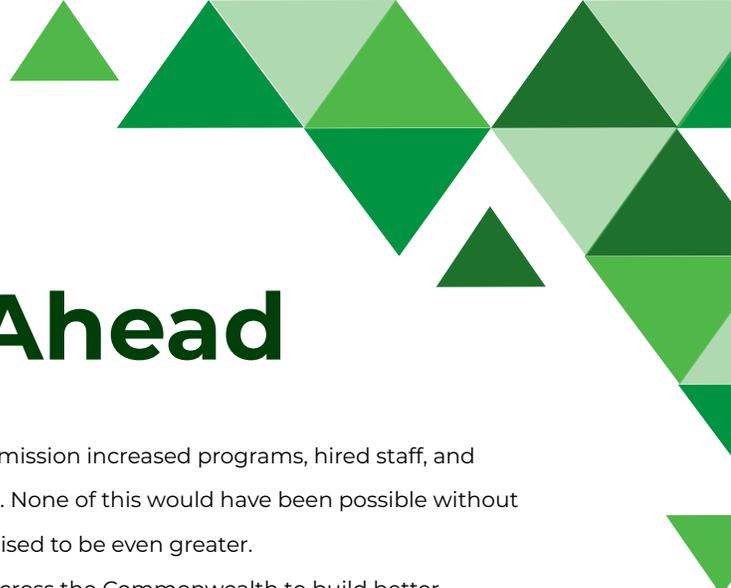
The Commission also saw strong engagement on its social media, primarily in the last quarter of the year. Facebook averaged 222 monthly profile visits October through December, and had a 90 day post reach of 5,400 and 271 engagement interactions over 90 days. From October to December, Instagram averaged 1,346 accounts reached, 7,580 impressions, and 532 content interactions per month. Twitter averaged 3,355 impressions and 39 likes per month from October through December, and LinkedIn averaged 1,177 post impressions and 78 page views over the same period.

The Commission also connected with elected officials and community organizations throughout Massachusetts and the country through social media. Two elected officials which have frequently interacted with the Commission's social medias are State Representative Mindy Domb (Third Hampshire District) and State Senator Jake Oliveira (Hampden, Hampshire & Worcester District).

The Commission sends a quarterly newsletter, in addition to special newsletters for specific announcements. The Commission sent three newsletters between October and December, with topics including new Commissioners, the grants program, and the Western Massachusetts Listening Session. The three newsletters averaged 1350 recipients and 406 unique opens.

Between October and December, the AAPIC's website averaged between 1714 and 1760 monthly user sessions and between 2761 and 2805 page views per month. There is a range in these statistics due to how different analytics services report these statistics.

In 2023, the Commission hopes to grow its reach and engagement on social media, through the newsletter, and on the website.



# Looking Ahead

2022 was an important year for the AAPIC, as the Commission increased programs, hired staff, and provided additional funds to support community organizations. None of this would have been possible without increased budget appropriations. As big as 2022 was, 2023 is poised to be even greater.

In 2022, the AAPIC worked closely with communities across the Commonwealth to build better connections. With an 82.4% budget increase between FY 2022 and FY 2023, from \$250,000 to \$356,053, the AAPIC was able to reach more communities, expand the existing small grants fund, and support the work of numerous community organizations across Massachusetts. With an expanded budget, the AAPIC funded 26 community groups and provided \$29,968 to support community efforts in the FY 2023 round of funding, conducted in December 2022, almost doubling the amount from the FY 2022 round of funding, conducted in June 2022. In total, the AAPIC funded 41 different organizations and businesses, awarding \$45,968 in grants.

Commissioners and staff worked collaboratively to design listening sessions, with the first occurring in Western Massachusetts, as well as a January 2023 session in Lowell with the Burmese, Cambodian, Karenni, Karen, Kachin, and Bamar Muslim groups. These listening sessions provide a valuable opportunity for community members and organizations to connect and collaborate with each other. The AAPIC is aiming to hold listening sessions across the Commonwealth every three months to ensure that all AAPI communities are provided an opportunity to discuss directly with legislators and state officials about their communities' opportunities and needs.

In 2023, the Commission aims to continue creating new programs in Western Massachusetts and other underserved parts of the Commonwealth, host several listening sessions to learn about the communities' concerns and to connect them with legislators, and connect Pacific Islanders, new immigrants, and seniors to targeted programs.

The AAPIC aims to effectively use state appropriations to maintain strong connections with community organizations on the ground. It works to ensure that Massachusetts AAPI communities are provided a venue to air their grievances and to share their success, that Pacific Islanders are provided with much needed resources, and that policies address the needs of minorities across the state.

The AAPIC also plans to increase the number of youth joining the Youth Council to reach even more students. The AAPIC aims to continue providing AAPI community grants, bringing support, and discussing policy ideas to improve people's lives in 2023 and beyond.