

Organization Updates

Past Events

Bayanihan Association

- Valentine's Day Event
- Christmas Party in December
- February 17 fundraiser for motorcycles and basketball courts

Chinese Association of Western Massachusetts

- Lunar New Year Event (Most volunteers this year, participation from community)
- Library Program New Year in West Springfield
- Seniors Give Back Night at Senior Center in Agawam

Upcoming Events/Updates

Bayanihan Association

- June 2nd, attending Filipino Independence Parade in NYC
- July 20th, picnic at Heritage Park in Isla Meadow
- No date yet Queen of Bayanihan 2024, raising money for schools in Philippines
- September 20th, coronation night (potentially at White Cliffs Country Club)
- December 14th, Christmas party (raising money for cancer patients)

CAWM

- March 30th: tabling at Africa Unlimited International Women's Day Event
- April 14th, collaboration with Thunderbird hockey team (tabling at colosseum)
- April 27th, Amherst Regional Schools Multilingual Heritage Month
- May 4th, presenting at AAPI Sunderland Library Program
- May (no day yet), West Springfield Inc. Multicultural Parade
- July 27th, Dragon Boat Festival in Springfield

Bhutanese Society Oral History Project Updates (no events)

- Dr. Richard Chu has taken over leading the project, after some members have left
- Proceeding with only six oral histories instead of 12 (many Bhutanese people have moved away)
- Transcribing each video with help from a Bhutanese student from Cornell University
- Hari and Richard will edit and compile into a one hour documentary
- Project was supposed to end April 15th, but has been extended for a third time
- Funded by Mass Humanities and the AAPIC, going to be presented around West Mass and Boston

Other Organizations

- Mid-April, Amherst Historical Society Cambodian New Year at Wat Kiry Vongsa Bopharam
- May 11th, Amherst Historical Society presenting Cambodian history in library
- May 19th, Town of Amherst AAPI Heritage Month
- June 22nd, potential date for Asian Cultural Festival collaboration
- Choosing location
- September-October, Soul Art Gallery in Springfield presenting AAPI art

Improving Events

Some events were collaborations, others were independent

CAWM Lunar New Year event was their biggest event ever for Chinese New Year

Asian Community Fund was super helpful

Also the most organized, and most engaging for families

Improved/reduced time for people to seat for dinner

Came up with a better plan for next year already

Marketing and promoting the event on both Facebook and V-Chat

Growing team very organically, members and volunteers get benefits for joining

First year appreciation barbecue, event to get to know each other and learn how to give back more

Most volunteers are Chinese or knowledgeable of Chinese Culture, mostly through Chinese community (wanting to pull in second gen immigrants and mixed families)
But also welcoming of non-Chinese volunteers

Western Mass Advisory Council

Council would meet twice a year

Declare where we want to steer the community for the next year.

Help steer the direction of where the Commission can go to be relevant to Western Mass

Attendees thoughts on formation

1. Dr. Hill says no: "We're all the advisory council right now"
2. Dr. Chu wants to formalize and structure it more
3. Dr. Hill "Well maybe if there was some money..."
4. Dr. Hwang proposed an alternative model that would result in more involvement and people from different organizations
5. End question: How do we raise the profile of our organization so that people reach out to us for support? Who do you turn to to find support?

Asian Community Culture Fair

Vietnamese Association created a framework that will be used for training volunteers

Potential date: Saturday, June 22nd,

Still need to find a location

Might change to September 14th?

Resource list from AAPI (what organizations would benefit as being a non-profit vendor at the event?)

Finding vendors who are for-profit and nonprofit

Ask Yasmin about September activities (for funding purposes)

Biggest issue/priority is getting other cultures/organizations involved