



# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

## Asian American and Pacific Islanders Commission

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#### Executive Director

Yasmin Padamsee Forbes

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aapicommission.org

### Notes

Saturday, January 27, 2024

10 AM - 2 PM

UMass Amherst Center at Springfield, 1500 Main St. Springfield, MA, 01115

### Updates

#### **AAPI Commission**

- The AAPI Commission's Unity Dinner will be held on April 20th, 2024 at UMass Boston! Invitations/ticket registration will be sent out soon
- The Commission recently voted on a three-year strategic plan, which includes prioritizing Western Massachusetts. The plan will be released publicly soon
- The new Western Mass Coordinator, Evan Owens, has just started! You can reach him at the same email Hannah used to have (regional.coordinator@aapicommission.org).

#### **Chinese Association of Western Mass**

- Lunar New Year Event: February 17th, Northampton
  - Vendors, Interactive cultural education, Sit-down dinner
  - [Registration](#) deadline: a week before or when capacity is reached
- Thunderbirds Hockey Game Appearance: April 21st, Springfield
- Did 15 free programs last year, and have done multiple so far this year!
- Hopes to sponsor a youth team for the Dragon Boat Festival

#### **AI Academi**

- Created programs introducing middle and high school students to programming and STEM, including engineering lab tours
- Used AAPIC grant funding to buy arduino kits for students participating in programming
- Worked with Western New England University on programs

#### **Bayanihan**

- [Valentine's Day Party](#): February 10th, Springfield
- Have raised money for various causes, including a sick child and a family whose house burned down

### Key Issue Area Discussion

- The Commission will be determining 2-3 Key Issue Areas over the next six months based on community input, as per the three-year Strategic Plan. This conversation is a jumping point for some of the key issues people are interested in the Commission pursuing



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- Education
  - AAPI history and culture
  - “Asian being the forgotten ethnic group”
  - Want to educate children and promote anti-discrimination amongst AAPI communities
    - CARE Bill: Requires schools to teach accurate histories for all racial and ethnic groups—large AAPI coalition behind the Bill
- Anti-AAPI, Anti-Chinese Sentiment
  - Rise in Asian Hate due to COVID
  - “In-your face racism, racial profiling”
  - Education is an incredibly important factor in this
- Immigration
  - Immigration is an important issue, though there weren’t specific asks of the Commission in terms of more specific immigration issues
- Grants, Funding
  - Desire for more funding for grants, especially for Western Mass

### **2024 Goals and Priorities**

- There is great interest in hosting an Asian Culture Fair in May!
- Linda, Olive, and Trinh will meet in February and will debrief everyone else at the March 9th Western Mass Meeting

### **Debrief and planning for the next meeting**

- Next meeting is on Saturday, March 9th, 2024 10AM - 2PM at the UMass Amherst Center @ Springfield
- Have a calendar of community events



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