



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts Asian American and Pacific Islanders Commission

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Executive Director

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DRAFT Meeting Minutes

Dec 10, 2024, 6:30 PM to 8:00 PM

Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83421971270>

**Please note that this meeting will be recorded. The meeting will be held via teleconference in compliance with the Governor's Executive Order on the Open Meeting Law and COVID-19.*

Commissioners in Attendance: Saatvik Ahluwalia, Meena Bharath, Emma Chen-Banas, Danielle Kim, Tuyet Tran, Jennifer Rubin, Moana Bentin, Amy Goh, Gary Yu

Staff in Attendance: Jennifer Best, Lizette Sta. Maria, Yasmin Padamsee Forbes, Shubhecchha Dhaurali

Youth Council in Attendance: Ying Kay Leung, Elianna Umana Kimura, Aden Huang

1. Call to Order

Commissioner Amy Goh makes a motion to begin the meeting at 6:35 PM. Commissioner Moana Bentin seconds.

Yes: Moana Bentin, Meena Bharath, Danielle Kim, Tuyet Tran, Jennifer Rubin, Amy Goh
Did not vote: Saatvik Ahluwalia

The motion passes. The meeting is called to order at 6:36 PM.

2. Commissioners Check In

3. Approval of Draft Meeting Minutes – Nov 19 (VOTE)

Commissioner Tuyet Tran makes a motion to approve the November 19, 2024 Meeting Minutes. Commissioner Meena Bharath seconds.

Yes: Meena Bharath, Danielle Kim, Tuyet Tran, Jennifer Rubin, Amy Goh, Saatvik Ahluwalia
Abstain: Moana Bentin

The motion passes.

4. Adoption of the following for the Commission's Key Issue Area through 2026, per the Strategic Plan: Access to rights and resources: anti-AAPI hate, language access, mental health, and youth empowerment. (VOTE)

Emma Chen-Banas joins at 6:37 PM.

Jennifer Best provides an update on the Key Issue Area Determination process. After the full Commission discussion at the November Commission Meeting, very minor wording edits were made to the Key Issue Area Report. That report is now finalized and recommends that the following be the Commission's Key Issue Area through 2026: Access to rights and resources: anti-AAPI hate, language access, mental health, and youth empowerment.



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Commissioner Meena Bharath makes a motion to adopt the following for Commission's Key Issue Area through 2026, per the Strategic Plan: Access to rights and resources: anti-AAPI hate, language access, mental health, and youth empowerment. Commissioner Tuyet Tran seconds.

Yes: Saatvik Ahluwalia, Moana Bentin, Meena Bharath, Danielle Kim, Tuyet Tran, Jennifer Rubin, Amy Goh, Emma Chen-Banas

The motion passes unanimously.

5. Small grants (VOTE)

Jennifer Best provides an update on the Small Grants Fund process. 42 total applications were received, and this was ultimately narrowed down to nine \$5,000 awards and two \$2,500 awards by the subcommittee. The applications recommended by the subcommittee were chosen based primarily off of their project description and how that aligned with the goals of the Small Grants Fund, which this year is to serve refugees. Other factors included, but were not limited to, the applicant's track record, outside funding, demographics, and target audience. Jennifer provides descriptions of each organization and their project.

Commissioner Gary Yu joins at 6:40 PM.

Commissioner Meena Bharath makes a motion to award Advocacy for Refugee & Immigrant Services for Empowerment (ARISE) \$5,000 from the Small Grants Fund. Commissioner Danielle Kim seconds.

Yes: Saatvik Ahluwalia, Moana Bentin, Meena Bharath, Danielle Kim, Tuyet Tran, Jennifer Rubin, Amy Goh, Emma Chen-Banas

The motion passes unanimously.

Commissioner Moana Bentin makes a motion to award Asian American Resource Workshop (AARW) \$5,000 from the Small Grants Fund. Commissioner Meena Bharath seconds.

Yes: Saatvik Ahluwalia, Moana Bentin, Meena Bharath, Tuyet Tran, Jennifer Rubin, Amy Goh, Emma Chen-Banas

Abstain: Danielle Kim

Did not vote: Gary Yu

The motion passes.

Commissioner Meena Bharath discusses IINE's additional funding, which may include federal funds, as well as track record visibility.

Commissioner Meena Bharath makes a motion to award International Institute of New England \$5,000 from the Small Grants Fund. Commissioner Gary Yu seconds.



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No: Saatvik Ahluwalia, Moana Bentin, Meena Bharath, Tuyet Tran, Emma Chen-Banas, Gary Yu

Abstain: Danielle Kim, Jennifer Rubin, Amy Goh

The motion does not pass.

Commissioner Moana Bentin makes a motion to award Massachusetts Baptist Multicultural Ministries Inc. \$5,000 from the Small Grants Fund. Commissioner Tuyet Tran seconds.

Yes: Saatvik Ahluwalia, Moana Bentin, Danielle Kim, Tuyet Tran, Amy Goh, Emma Chen-Banas, Gary Yu

Abstain: Meena Bharath, Jennifer Rubin

The motion passes.

Commissioner Moana Bentin makes a motion to award Massachusetts Afghan Alliance \$5,000 from the Small Grants Fund. Commissioner Gary Yu seconds.

Yes: Saatvik Ahluwalia, Moana Bentin, Danielle Kim, Tuyet Tran, Jennifer Rubin, Amy Goh, Emma Chen-Banas, Gary Yu

Abstain: Meena Bharath

The motion passes.

Commissioner Moana Bentin makes a motion to award Political Asylum Immigration Representation (PAIR) Project \$5,000 from the Small Grants Fund. Commissioner Tuyet Tran seconds.

Yes: Saatvik Ahluwalia, Moana Bentin, Meena Bharath, Danielle Kim, Tuyet Tran, Emma Chen-Banas, Gary Yu

Abstain: Jennifer Rubin, Amy Goh

The motion passes.

Commissioner Moana Bentin makes a motion to award Boston New Hope Academy \$5,000 from the Small Grants Fund. Commissioner Tuyet Tran seconds.

Yes: Saatvik Ahluwalia, Moana Bentin, Meena Bharath, Danielle Kim, Tuyet Tran, Jennifer Rubin, Emma Chen-Banas, Gary Yu

Abstain: Amy Goh

The motion passes.

Commissioner Moana Bentin makes a motion to award Boston Refugee Youth Enrichment Program \$5,000 from the Small Grants Fund. Commissioner Tuyet Tran seconds.



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Yes: Saatvik Ahluwalia, Moana Bentin, Meena Bharath, Tuyet Tran, Jennifer Rubin, Emma Chen-Banas, Danielle Kim, Gary Yu

Abstain: Amy Goh

The motion passes.

Commissioner Tuyet Tran makes a motion to award Proleung Khmer: A 50-year Journey of Remembrance and Resilience \$2,500 from the Small Grants Fund. Commissioner Moana Bentin seconds.

Yes: Saatvik Ahluwalia, Moana Bentin, Meena Bhrath, Tuyet Tran, Jennifer Rubin, Amy Goh, Emma Chen-Banas, Gary Yu

Abstain: Danielle Kim

The motion passes.

Commissioner Amy Goh makes a motion to award Vong Tay Cha Me Viet / The Circle of Vietnamese Parents \$2,500 from the Small Grants Fund. Commissioner Moana Bentin seconds.

Yes: Saatvik Ahluwalia, Moana Bentin, Meena Bharath, Danielle Kim, Tuyet Tran, Jennifer Rubin, Amy Goh, Emma Chen-Banas, Gary Yu

The motion passes unanimously.

6. Executive Committee Elections: Voting for Vice Chair, Treasurer, and Secretary Positions. (VOTE POSITIONS WITH CANDIDATES)

Commissioner Meena Bharath makes a motion to elect Saatvik Ahluwalia as Chairperson of the AAPI Commission for 2025. Commissioner Amy Goh seconds.

Yes: Meena Bharath, Moana Bentin, Danielle Kim, Jennifer Rubin, Amy Goh, Emma Chen-Banas, Tuyet Tran, Gary Yu

The motion passes unanimously.

Commissioner Meena Bharath makes a motion to elect Gary Yu as Vice Chairperson of the AAPI Commission for 2025. Commissioner Moana Bentin seconds.

Yes: Moana Bentin, Meena Bharath, Danielle Kim, Jennifer Rubin, Amy Goh, Emma Chen-Banas, Saatvik Ahluwalia, Tuyet Tran

The motion passes unanimously.

Old Business

7. Reports

a. Sub-Committee Reports: Updates from each sub-committee on current



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initiatives.

For the Unity Dinner, Subcommittee Chair Moana Bentin gives the update that work is still ongoing according to the timeline, there have been challenges with securing a keynote speaker, the awards group will be meeting next week to discuss awards nominations. Commissioner Bentin also encourages Commissioners to support the fundraising efforts.

Shubhechha Dhaurali provides an update on the survey, which is likely to be finalized by January 2025.

Governance & Finance is looking at holding an in-person meeting for the full Commission to discuss priorities for the upcoming year in February 2025.

b. Staff Report: Review of staff activities and updates

8. Future Agenda Items Suggestions

Commissioner Meena Bharath makes a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Moana Bentin seconds.

Yes: Saatvik Ahluwalia, Moana Bentin, Tuyet Tran, Meena Bharath, Jennifer Rubin, Amy Goh, Emma Chen-Banas, Danielle Kim, Gary Yu

The motion passes unanimously. The meeting is adjourned at 7:26 PM.



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