



# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

## Asian American and Pacific Islanders Commission

### COMMISSIONERS

#### Chairperson

Gary Chu

#### Vice Chairperson

Saatvik Ahluwalia

#### Treasurer

Tuyet Tran

Moana Bentin  
Meenakshi Bharath  
Rakashi Chand  
Karen Y. Chen  
Emma Chen-Banas  
Richard Chu  
Amy Goh  
Christopher Huang  
Leo L. Hwang  
Danielle Kim  
Bethany Li  
Marilyn Park  
Jennifer Rubin  
Ekta Srinivasa  
Philjay Solar  
Gary Yu

#### Executive Director

Yasmin Padamsee  
Forbes

One Ashburton  
Place

12th Floor  
Boston, MA 02108  
aapicommission.org

### Notes

Monthly AAPIC Program & Research Subcommittee Meetings

Meeting Link: Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/6603360175>

Meeting ID: 660 336 0175

December 16th, 2024 - 1 to 2 PM EST

The meeting will be held via teleconference in compliance with the  
Governor's Executive Order on the Open Meeting Law

Program & Research Subcommittee Team Members	<b><u>AAPIC</u></b> Commissioner Saatvik Ahluwalia (Chair) Commissioner Amy Goh Commissioner Karen Chen Commissioner Moana Bentin Commissioner Jennifer Rubin Commissioner Dr. Marilyn Park Yasmin Padamsee Forbes Shubhecchha Dhaurali
Aim	Spearhead our community engagement and research efforts, ensuring we stay connected and informed about the community's needs. The tag, "Engage & Insight," highlights our commitment to engaging with our community and gaining insights through research.
Focus Areas	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Health, Education</li><li>2. Youth Council</li><li>3. Pacific Islanders</li><li>4. Western Mass</li><li>5. Listening Sessions</li><li>6. Tracking impact of programs</li><li>7. Conducting Surveys</li></ol>

**In Attendance:** Commissioner Saatvik Ahluwalia (Chair), Commissioner Moana Bentin, Shubhecchha Dhaurali

### **Agenda**



# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

## Asian American and Pacific Islanders Commission

### 1. Call to Order

Commissioner Saatvik calls the meeting to order at 1:04 PM.

### 2. Updates on Programs & Research

- a. Survey
- b. Youth Council
- c. Pacific Islanders
  - i. MANAGING PERSONAL FINANCES
  - ii. RESOURCES TO BETTER ACCESS LOANS
  - iii. FIRST HOME BUYERS HOME BUYING - SPECIFIC
- d. Western Mass

### 3. Small Grants - added responsibility to this subcommittee

- a. Grants subcommittee have selected recipients
- b. Before Feb. 2024's AAPIC meeting, will have analysis finished

### Fall 2024 Grants Applications

### 4. Expanding public comment at commission meetings to gather more community input

- a. Last meeting, Jennifer Best confirmed that government relations is aware of this issue and plans to expand public comment sections at commission meetings for broader input.
- b. Commission members discuss incorporating hybrid format for public hearings to increase accessibility.
- c. Any other ideas or comments from this subcommittee?
- d. **May Governor's Reception AAPI - Can AAPI Commission collaborate on this event? Maybe ask the Governor to tell people who attend this event about the work of the AAPI and let them know of our monthly meetings!**
  - i. Opportunity for AAPIC and Governor's office to do it together!
- e. Lunar New year? Wed, Jan 29, 2025 (follow-up)
- f. Diwali
- g. Ramadan? (MAPS)
- h. Pacific Island holidays?



# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

## Asian American and Pacific Islanders Commission

### 5. Discuss the OWL camera device used at the retreat and how it could facilitate hybrid meetings.

- a. More accessibility - OWL conferencing camera  
<https://owllabs.com/products/meeting-owl-3>

### 6. Future Agenda Items

Commissioner Moana Bentin makes a motion to adjourn the meeting.  
Commissioner Saatvik Aluwalhia seconds.

*The motion passes unanimously. The meeting is adjourned at 1:30 PM.*

The Program & Research Subcommittee Meeting covered several key updates and plans. Shubhecchha Dhaurali announced the selection of Mass Inc Polling Group as the survey vendor, aiming for 1,500 respondents. The Youth Council is working on community projects, with commissioners potentially mentoring them. Pacific Islander outreach efforts are ongoing, including planning a hybrid event and collaborating with MAP on health inequities. The Western Mass coordinator position has been filled, and events are planned for early 2025. The committee discussed co-hosting events with the Governor's office to increase visibility and engagement, particularly for AAPI month.

## Transcript

[https://otter.ai/u/iCCVeuLbi8qERbo4HZmyy\\_IDI-Q?view=transcript](https://otter.ai/u/iCCVeuLbi8qERbo4HZmyy_IDI-Q?view=transcript)

## Action Items

- [ ] @Shubhecchha Dhaurali - Reach out to the Governor's office to explore co-hosting or participating in the AAPI month reception event.
- [ ] @Shubhecchha Dhaurali - Look into opportunities for the commission to be involved in Lunar New Year celebrations at the State House.
- [ ] @Shubhecchha Dhaurali - Create a document with a tentative schedule of events planned for the year.
- [ ] Follow up on potential collaboration with the Muslim Association of



# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

## Asian American and Pacific Islanders Commission

Public Servants (MAPS) event.

### Outline

#### **Holiday plans, survey updates, youth council, and Pacific Islander community outreach.**

- Saatvik Ahluwalia and Shubhecchha Dhaurali discuss their birthdays and holiday plans.
- They share memories of Anna's Tacos, a popular restaurant in the Boston area.
- Saatvik Ahluwalia and Shubhecchha Dhaurali discuss the survey for the general programs and research.
- They aim to have 1500 respondents and hope to get more information from Steve and Masha from mass polling.
- Shubhecchha and Saatvik discuss ways to support youth council members, including mentorship and guidance.
- Saatvik suggests surveying listeners to find mentors who can dedicate time each month.
- Shubhecchha Dhaurali discusses outreach efforts with Pacific Islander students at Harvard and beyond.

#### **Planning events, small grants, and community engagement for the Asian Commission.**

- Moana E Bentin: Pacific Islanders resist being lumped into Asian American community due to colonization history.
- Shubhecchha Dhaurali: Community members have different needs and preferences, and some are hesitant to join organizations without their consent.
- Planning workshops for Pacific Islander community on personal finance and home buying.
- Shubhecchha Dhaurali and Saatvik Ahluwalia discuss upcoming events for Western Mass, including three events planned by Commissioner Richard Chu.
- Leaders discuss planning and grants, with Shubhecchha Dhaurali handling small grants analysis and Jennifer handling next cycle.

#### **API events and outreach opportunities with the governor's office.**



# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

## Asian American and Pacific Islanders Commission

- Moana E Bentin suggests co-hosting a reception with the governor's office to educate 600 attendees about AAPI and its importance.
- Saatvik Ahluwalia agrees, noting that the state-sanctioned AAPI event could be an opportunity for the governor to showcase the commission's work.
- Moana and Shubhecchha discuss ways to make AAPI events more inclusive and appreciated by the community.
- Discussion on potential cultural events to collaborate with API communities, including Lunar New Year and Ramadan.

### **Strategic Priorities & Programs and Research**

Current programs/research

Youth Council

Survey

Small Grants

Listening sessions/potential of hearings

Pacific Islander programming

Western Mass programming

1. Strategic Plan Updates [AAPI Strategic Priorities 2024-2026 FINAL DRAFT.docx](#)
  - a. Health, Education
    - i. Past focus: mental health [2 Health & Human Services Subcommittee](#)
  - b. Youth Council [Drive](#)
    - i. Addresses **Strategic Priority 1**: Elevate the voices of AAPI individuals who call Massachusetts home by building clear accountability and the fair distribution of resources to achieve equitable outcomes.
      1. Elevating Youth Voice through the Youth Council - By **December 2024**, re-think how to meaningfully integrate Youth Council members into Commission activities, such as participating in annual in-person meetings with Asian Caucus members.
        - a. New program
          - i. [YC Manual](#)
          - ii. [AAPIC Youth Council Manual Fall 2024 - Spring 2025](#)



# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

## Asian American and Pacific Islanders Commission

- iii. [Ashley + Shubhecchha YC Meeting Notes](#)
- c. Addresses **Strategic Priority 3**- Build strategic partnerships and be a bridge to state-level agencies and institutions - Increase connections in all regions of the state - By **June 2025** and ongoing, develop a long-term plan to strengthen partnerships with Cape and Islands, Northshore, Southshore, and Central MA
  - i. Pacific Islanders
    - 1. [Brissa & Shubhecchha Meetings](#)
- d. Addresses **Strategic Priority 3**- Build strategic partnerships and be a bridge to state-level agencies and institutions - Increase connections in all regions of the state - By December 2024 and ongoing strengthen partnerships with communities in Western MA.
  - i. Western Mass [Drive](#)
    - 1. [Shubhecchha & Evan Meetings](#)
    - 2. [AAPIC Western Mass Meetings Qualitative/Thematic Analysis](#)
- e. **Strategic Priority 2** - Increase visibility of AAPIC Commission and its work by giving a public voice to issues the community cares about
  - i. Listening Sessions
    - 1. [AAPIC Listening Sessions Toolkit](#)
    - 2. [AAPIC Listening Session Qualitative Analysis 2024](#)
- f. Conducting Surveys
  - i. Addresses **Strategic Priority 3**- Build strategic partnerships and be a bridge to state-level agencies and institutions - Build partnerships with research institutions (e.g. University of Massachusetts Boston, state agencies) to gather annual data on the Massachusetts AAPIC community
  - ii. UMass Boston x AAPIC Survey
    - 1. [Survey AAPIC x UMB](#)
- g. Tracking impact of programs
  - i. Addresses **Strategic Priority 3**- Build strategic partnerships and be a bridge to state-level agencies and institutions - Strengthen partnerships with community organizations
    - 1. **Deadline:** By **June 2024**, complete an analysis of which groups have applied for small grants in the past and make an outreach plan.
      - a. Small Grants
        - i. [2023 AAPIC Small Grant](#)



# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

## Asian American and Pacific Islanders Commission

- ii. [Outcomes.pptx](#)  
[2022 AAPI Small Grant](#)  
[Outcomes..pptx](#)

b. [Measuring Small Grants Outcomes](#)

c. EC Funding

- i. [EC & Subcommittees Funding Log](#)  
[2023-2024](#)



# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

## Asian American and Pacific Islanders Commission







# **The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

## Asian American and Pacific Islanders Commission