



# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

## Asian American and Pacific Islanders Commission

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Philjay Solar

Ekta Srinivasa

Tuyet Tran

**Executive Director**

Vacant

One Ashburton

Place

12th Floor

Boston, MA 02108

aapicommission.org

### Meeting Minutes

AAPIC Program & Research Subcommittee Meeting

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/6603360175>

**Monday, November 3 · 6:00 – 6:45pm EST**

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

*Meetings on Regular Basis (Bi-Monthly)- Mondays at 6:00 PM- Every 8 weeks*

*Meeting Recording:*

[https://otter.ai/u/2\\_pDOncs9GGsGBpTsLlvjet2h0?utm\\_source=copy\\_url](https://otter.ai/u/2_pDOncs9GGsGBpTsLlvjet2h0?utm_source=copy_url)

**In Attendance:** Li Morrison (Chair), Moana Bentin, Amy Goh, Shubhechha Dhaurali (staff)

#### 1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Li Morrison at 6:04 PM EST. Moana Bentin seconds.

#### 2. Quick Ice-breaker:

- a. With the American flagship holidays coming up (Thanksgiving, Christmas), how do you incorporate your cultural heritage or customs in these holidays if you celebrate them? Via Food? Via decorations?
  - i. Commissioners and staff share their respective celebrations.
  - ii. Li shares her American traditions for Thanksgiving and Christmas, while also celebrating Chinese New Year with friends.
  - iii. Moana discusses her connection to Native Americans and the indigenous community, as well as her plans for a family reunion over Christmas.
  - iv. Shubhechha and Amy share their experiences, with Amy mentioning her family's Korean food for Thanksgiving and her upcoming first official Christmas.

#### 3. Updates on Programs & Research

##### a. Pacific Islander Community



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### Brissa & Shubhechha's Weekly Meeting Notes

- i. Saturday, October 11, 2025 - 2nd Pasifika Gathering of 2025 - networking and community gathering event; trying to figure out how to sustain community engagement from residents of MA
  1. Native Hawaiian who was present at the gathering, Moana is very excited, hopeful they might get involved in the Commission as a Native Hawaiian
  2. Samoan identifying MA resident living in Worcester with their family also came, trying to get them to be involved in Western MA programming if possible as we have no PI in Western MA
  3. Idea from Brissa Hunter, current Coordinator, is she'd like to shift focus to AAPIC's comms + marketing as coordinator, and open her current position to a full time PI-identifying resident of MA who's connected to the community

#### ii. [Photos](#)

### b. Youth Council Ashley + Shubhechha YC Meeting Notes

- i. Sunday, October 19th - Youth Council Orientation and brainstorming for what this program year looks like in regards to youth impact
  1. [Photos + Notes](#)
  2. Updated 25-26 Programming Plan
- ii. Shubhechha shares updates from the youth council meeting, noting the diverse projects planned by the 14 members, including AAPI veterans and sports for AAPI youth.
- iii. Li and Moana express excitement about the youth council's diverse projects and the potential for future programming.



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### c. Western MA Community ☰ Cha & Shubhechha Meeting Notes

- i. Saturday, October 25th - Last 2025 Quarterly Meeting

- 1. [Notes](#)

- ii. [Future](#): Community Retreat + Strategic Plan/Goals

- iii. Shubhechha provides updates on the Western Mass community, including a recent quarterly meeting and discussions about a potential retreat and upcoming events, and the importance of the Commission's role in supporting small businesses and addressing community concerns.

### d. Survey & Research

- i. From Data to Dialogue: Listening, Learning, and Leading to Strengthen AAPI Voices Across Massachusetts -

- ☰ Statewide Community Listening Sessions and Engag...

- PDF purpose and future coordinator plans.pdf

- 1. Saturday, September 27th - first Data to Dialogue event held for Hampden + Hampshire counties at Springfield City libraries

- a. [Photos + Notes + 1 page summary](#)

- b. [Setbacks:](#)

- i. Interim leadership and Executive Committee members made the decision to pause all programming planned to shift and reprioritize other aspects of AAPIC - suggested instead 4 regional, large sessions instead, unsure of next steps. **Will take a pause until next steps on leadership are figured out, focusing**



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*on current programs. Policy impact necessary and work with Leela on this.*

### e. P&R Budget + Budget Overall

- i. **Small Grants** - past 2 years, I've held the responsibility analyzing the data of the small grants applications and recipients (from 2022 grant apps onwards), previously the selection process led by Jennifer Best, former Policy & Communications Director, shifted to me once Jennifer left in Jan. 2025; unsure of next steps.
  - 1. Will take a pause until next steps on leadership are figured out, focusing on current programs.*
- ii. Shubhechha mentions the pause in Data to Dialogue programming until the budget is finalized and the next steps for the program.
- iii. Li acknowledges the transitional period and the need for clear direction from the interim executive director.
- iv. Shubhechha provides an update on the budget, noting the differences between the submitted budget and the one used for the meeting.
- v. Moana clarifies that the budget discussed is outdated and will be presented for approval at the upcoming Commission meeting.
- vi. Shubhechha discusses the uncertainty around the small grants program, noting the need for clear next steps and the potential impact of the budget on the program.
- vii. Attendees discuss the challenges of managing subcommittees with limited staff and the need for clear communication and collaboration.

### Adjourn

The meeting was called to be adjourned by Li Morrison at 6:26 PM, Moana seconded motion.

The meeting adjourned at 6:27 PM.



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### Subcommittee Members

Program & Research Subcommittee Team Members	<p><b><u>AAPIC</u></b></p> <p><b><i>Staff Lead</i></b> Shubhechha Dhaurali, Program &amp; Research Director</p> <p><b><i>Coordinators</i></b> Ashley Shan, Youth Council Coordinator Brissa Hunter, Pacific Islander Community Coordinator; Interim Communications Coordinator Cha Lor, Western MA Community Coordinator</p> <p><b><i>Commissioners</i></b> <b><u>P&amp;R Subcommittee</u></b> Li Morrison (Chair) Amy Goh Ekta Srinivasa</p> <p><b><u>Survey</u></b> Karen Chen Saatvik Ahluwalia Danielle Kim Moana Bentin Rakashi Chand</p> <p><b><u>Small Grants</u></b> Moana Bentin Gary Yu Emma Chen-Banas</p> <p><b><u>Western MA</u></b> Richard Chu Emma Chen-Banas</p> <p><b><u>Pacific Islanders</u></b> Moana Bentin</p>
Aim	The aim of the Program & Research Subcommittee is



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	<p>to “Engage &amp; Insight”; The subcommittee drives <b>AAPIC’s community engagement and research efforts</b>, ensuring that programs remain responsive to the evolving needs of AAPI communities across Massachusetts. Through intentional outreach, strategic partnerships, and data-driven analysis, we aim to amplify AAPI voices, foster meaningful connections, and inform policy and resource allocation.</p>
Strategic Priorities Alignment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Elevating AAPI Voices (<b>Strategic Priority 1</b>)<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Strengthening youth engagement through the Youth Council and integrating their perspectives into policy advocacy.</li></ul></li><li>● Increasing AAPIC Visibility (<b>Strategic Priority 2</b>)<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Amplifying the Commission’s work through public discussions, listening sessions, and regional programming.</li></ul></li><li>● Building Strategic Partnerships (<b>Strategic Priority 3</b>)<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Expanding collaborations with community organizations, research institutions, and state agencies to enhance outreach, data collection, and resource distribution.</li></ul></li></ul>
Focus Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>★ Youth Council</li><li>★ Survey Research</li><li>★ Western Mass Community</li><li>★ Pacific Islander Community</li><li>★ Community Programming Needs</li><li>★ Listening Sessions</li><li>★ Annual Community Grants</li><li>◆ Tracking Impact of All Programs</li></ul>



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