



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Asian American and Pacific Islanders Commission

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Meeting Minutes

Unity Dinner Subcommittee Meeting
Thursday, May 22, 2025, 6:00 - 7:00 PM

Zoom link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83578167556?pwd=nNLeid8bfvHC2H47tMmd8h6zyigYyt.1>

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

In attendance: Rakashi Chand, Moana Bentin, Jennifer Rubin, Christopher Huang, Lizette Sta. Maria

1. Call to Order

CE&V Subcommittee Chair Rakashi Chand calls the meeting to order 6:18 PM.

2. Discuss AAPI Heritage Month 2025 Events & Activities

- Governor's AANHPI Heritage Month Celebration
 - Miscommunication/short notice
 - The Commission had originally reached out to their office asking to partner in this year's celebration. The Commission was told there wouldn't be a celebration.
 - Then a celebration was announced with little time to plan and the planning meeting was canceled last minute
 - How it went
 - Rakashi, Yasmin, Leela, Karen, Tuyet in attendance
 - SEACMA dance group performed
 - Art display and gave citations to artists
 - Good group, opportunities to network
 - Emcee announced the presence of the AAPI Commission in MA
 - Commissioner feedback
 - "a lot of us don't have that luxury of jumping in at the last minute"
 - "would like the government to understand that we are not an afterthought"
 - Not all community leaders were invited
 - Some award recipients from last year were also not included in the invitations/outreach
 - Subcommittee would like to have a written letter from the Commission to express these concerns
- Lizette Sta. Maria shows running list [spreadsheet of AAPI Heritage Month events](#) and activities that Commissioners and staff have attended so far in May 2025.



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Asian American and Pacific Islanders Commission

- Commissioners express wanting to uplift more events more regularly (not just during AAPI Heritage Month)
- Perhaps a spreadsheet or call to action is brought to the full Commission meeting at regular intervals

Christopher Huang joins at 6:22 PM.

3. Activity Ideas for FY26 Budget Cycle

- Discussion is tabled until Commissioners know the exact amount they can account for in the budget

4. Additional Topics/Open Discussion

5. Next Steps

- Solidify meeting times every 2 months
 - Potential next meeting date: Beginning of July
 - July 7 at lunchtime (July 8 backup)
 - Come with potential ideas for the letter to the Governor's office expressing concerns about AANHPI Heritage Month celebration
 - Come prepared with potential event and activity ideas once we know the budget

The meeting is adjourned at 6:59 PM.



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