



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Asian American and Pacific Islanders Commission

COMMISSIONERS

Chairperson

Saatvik Ahluwalia

Vice Chairperson

Gary Yu

Moana Bentin

Rakashi Chand

Karen Y. Chen

Emma Chen-Banas

Gary Chu

Richard Chu

Amy Goh

Christopher Huang

Bahara Hussaini

Danielle Kim

Bethany Li

Li Morrison

Marilyn Park

Jennifer Rubin

Ekta Srinivasa

Philjay Solar

Tuyet Tran

Executive Director

Yasmin Padamsee

Forbes

One Ashburton Place

12th Floor

Boston, MA 02108

aapicommission.org

Meeting Minutes

Unity Dinner Subcommittee Meeting

Thursday, May 22, 2025, 6:00 - 7:00 PM

Zoom link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83578167556?pwd=nNL eid8bfvHC2H47tMmd8h6zyiqYyt.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.



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Asian American and Pacific Islanders Commission