



# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

## Asian American and Pacific Islanders Commission

### COMMISSIONERS

#### Chairperson

Vacant

#### Vice Chairperson

Gary Yu

#### Treasurer

Vacant

#### Secretary

Rakashi Chand

Moana Bentin

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

Philjay Solar

Ekta Srinivasa

Tuyet Tran

One Ashburton  
Place

12th Floor

### Meeting Notes

Tuesday, November 4th · 6:30 PM – 8:00 PM EST

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

\*Please note this meeting will be recorded and held via zoom & teleconference in compliance with the Governor's Executive Order on the Open Meeting Law

Meeting recording:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/15KA9QHlzGgyqrk9LnsECi3ihq-KEHtNr/view?usp=sharing>

### Attachments:

- Updated FY2026 AAPIC Budget.xlsx
- [July meeting minutes](#)
- Item3\_Tuyet Tran for Chair
- Item 5\_MoanaBentin.pdf
- Item3\_Moana Bentin for Treasurer.docx
- Item9\_NonprofitCD\_CheckingSplit.jpg
- Item9\_NonprofitChecksDeposit\_Signatories.jpg
- Meeting Minutes - AAPIC August 19, 2025 .docx
- Item11b\_Meeting Minutes\_September 16, 2025 .docx
- Item7a\_CPA\_AAPIC Amendment 1 - Nonprofit Support.pdf
- [Diwali 2025 at State House Recap](#)
- November 2025 - Updates on Programs & Research

**Attendees:** Rakashi Chand, Moana Bentin, Tuyet Tran, Richard Chu, Bahara Hussaini, Gary Yu, Li Morrison, Leela Ramachandran, Shubhecchha Dhaurali, Christopher Huang, Danielle Kim, Philjar Solar

### Agenda Items:

- Call to Order

Moana Bentin moved to start the meeting. Gary Yu seconded.

**Yes:** Rakashi Chand, Moana Bentin, Tuyet Tran, Richard Chu, Bahara Hussaini, Gary Yu, Li Morrison



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Boston, MA 02108  
aapicommission.org

The meeting is called to order at 6:38 pm.

- Public Comment
- Meeting minutes approval:
  - [August 19, 2025](#)
  - [September 16, 2025](#)

Moana moves to approve the minutes of Aug. 19 and Sept. 16, 2025 meetings. Tuyet seconds.

Yes: Tuyet, Li, Bahara, Moana, Richard, Gary, Rakashi

Approved by roll call vote (7-0-0)

- Executive Committee Elections
  - Commission Vote for Chair - Tuyet Tran ([statement](#))
  - Commission Vote for Treasurer - Moana Bentin ([profile](#), [statement](#))

*Moana Bentin moves to approve Tuyet Tran as Chair of the Commission until December 2026. Li Morrison seconds.*

*Yes: Li Morrison, Moana Bentin, Bahara Hussani, Richard Chu, Gary Yu, Danielle Kim, Philjay Solar, Christopher Huang, Rakashi Chand*

*Motion approved unanimously (9-0-0).*

*Danielle Kim joins at 6:41 pm.*

*Philjay Solar joins at 6:43 PM.*

*Christopher Huang joins 6:44 pm.*

*Danielle Kim moves to appoint Moana Bentin as Treasurer through December 2026. Seconded by Tuyet Tran.*

*Yes: Li Morrison, Moana Bentin, Bahara Hussani, Richard Chu, Gary Yu, Danielle Kim, Philjay Solar, Christopher Huang, Rakashi Chand*

*Motion approved unanimously (9-0-0).*

- Danielle suggests November 18th meeting to include candidates who are interested in serving as Vice Chair and Secretary from December 2025 - December 2026

*Commissioner Tuyet takes over chairing the meeting at 6:50 pm.*



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*Commissioner Richard leaves at 6:53 pm.*

- Executive Director Search Updates
  - a. Leela Ramachandran
    - i. Hiring Consultant + Interviews
    - ii. Leela R. provides an overview of the hiring process of the external consultant, and an overview of the timeline for hiring the consultant as well as the Executive Director role.
- Budget Discussion and Voting for Budget w/ Updated Line Items (VOTE)
  - a.  Updated FY2026 AAPIC Budget.xlsx

*Rakashi Chand makes a motion to approve the linked budget. Bahara Hussani seconds.*

- Commissioner Chris Huang asks why the budget approval was pushed to the November meeting. Commissioner Philjay speaks to PTO paid out for staff that left.
- Commissioner Bahara Hussaini asks what the process is for her to do work on behalf of the Commission. Commissioner Philjay Solar says that there is up to \$500 for the Executive Committee to allocate.
- Commissioner Danielle Kim clarifies that the Commission itself has not voted on the full budget to date.

*Yes: Li Morrison, Moana Bentin, Bahara Hussani, Gary Yu, Danielle Kim, Philjay Solar, Christopher Huang, Rakashi Chand, Tuyet Tran*

*Motion approved unanimously (9-0-0).*

Commissioner Chris Huang notes that the budget previously allocated funds for artist small grants and there is now one singular line item for all small grants. The Executive Committee will discuss further in future.

- Update & further information: Non-profit Bank Account, Signatories ([link 1](#), [link 2](#))
- Discussion related to Interim ED
  - a. Interim Executive Director
    - i. Meenakshi Bharath did not renew contract as Interim Executive Director, ended on the Oct. 30th
    - ii. Next steps on Interim ED



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1. Commissioner Philjay Solar says he's open to the Executive Committee reaching out to the other Interim ED candidate from earlier this year.

Commissioner Christopher Huang asks about why the former Interim Executive left; Tuyet Tran outlines that they would need to conduct an Executive Session to discuss particular staff performance. Tuyet Tran notes that in the next November meeting, we need to figure out the following 1) Do we need to hire an interim ED and a potential budget, 2) if an Executive session needs to be called next time during the November 18th Commission meeting.

Moana Bentin also notes that she would like to hold a meeting with staff and the Executive Committee to see what occurred for background information.

- b. Vote to Renew CPA Contract Renewal (VOTE)
  - i. [Nonprofit support](#)
  - ii. [State budget support](#)

*Moana Bentin moves to renew CPA contract. Rakashi Chand seconds.*

Discussion: Philjay Solar asks about staff and EC experience working with the CPA.

- c. Vote to Renew Law Firm Contract Renewal - work due in March 2025, still not completed ([link](#))

*Moana Bentin moves to renew law firm contract. Rakashi Chand seconds.*

- Commissioner Li says she doesn't think the Commission should renew if they didn't finish the last batch of work under the contract from last time.
- Staff member Shubhecchha D. attempts to provide links to the Scope of Work ([link](#)) and Comptroller's public data on how much the firm was paid. Commission Chair Tuyet Tran asks Shubhecchha D. to let the Commission's commissioners talk about this.
- Commissioner Danielle Kim asks about their experience with a focus on this area of law, and asks for a memo in the future to explain context/background.



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*Yes: Moana Bentin, Gary Yu, Rakashi Chand, Tuyet Tran.*

*No: Li Morrison, Danielle Kim, Philjay Solar, Christopher Huang*

*Abstain: Bahara Hussani*

*Motion fails.*

- Diwali at the State House
  - a. Updates: Commissioner Rakashi Chand ([link](#))
- Programs & Research work
  - a. Updates: Shubhecchha Dhaurali ([link](#))
- Policy work
  - a. Updates: Leela Ramachandra
- Any other items need to be discussed
  - a. Bahara Hussani thanks Rakashi Chand for her updates on Diwali, and Shubhecchha D. and Leela R. on their respective updates.
- Future agenda items
  - a. AAPIC Bylaws compliance
  - b. Open Meeting Law regulations
  - c. Commissioner compliance and conflict of interest paperwork
- Meeting Adjournment

*Commissioner Rakashi Chand moves to adjourn. Commissioner Bahara Hussaini seconds.*

*Yes: Li Morrison, Moana Bentin, Bahara Hussani, Christopher Huang, Rakashi Chand, Tuyet Tran*

*Abstain: Philjay Solar*

*Motion approved unanimously (7-0-1).*

*Meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm.*

*Agenda & Meeting Notes prepared by:*

*Shubhecchha Dhaurali & Leela Ramachandran*

*The next AAPIC meeting is Tuesday, November 18th at 6:30 pm EST.*

Recording: Otter

Agenda Compiled by: Shubhecchha Dhaurali & Executive Committee (Tuyet Tran, Moana Bentin)



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Minutes Compiled by: Shubhecchha Dhaurali & Leela Ramachandran



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