



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Asian American and Pacific Islanders Commission

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Gary Yu

One Ashburton Place
12th Floor

Boston, MA 02108

aapicommission.org

Date: April 21, 2026

Time: 6:42 PM – 7:59 PM

Location: Virtual Meeting (Held in accordance with the Massachusetts Open Meeting Law)

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Chair Tuyet Tran called the meeting to order at 6:42 PM. Roll call was conducted to establish a quorum.

- **Commissioners Present:** Rajashree Ghosh, Leo Blandford, Gary Chu, Moana Bentin, Beth Piosos, Vaishali Gade, Richard Chu, Bahara Hussaini, Jennifer Rubin, Rakashi Chand, and Tuyet Tran.
- **Staff Present:** Yasmin Padamsee Forbes (former Executive Director), Shubhecchha Dhaurali.

2. Public Comment

There were no members of the public present for comment.

3. Approval of Minutes

The commission reviewed the minutes from the March 17th meeting.

- **Motion:** Moana Bentin moved to approve the minutes.
- **Second:** Vaishali Gade seconded the motion.
- **Voting Record:**
 - **Yes:** Rajashree Ghosh, Leo Blandford, Moana Bentin, Bahara Hussaini, Vaishali Gade, Jennifer Rubin, Rakashi Chand, Tuyet Tran.
 - **Abstain:** Gary Chu and Richard Chu (due to absence from the March meeting).
- **Total:** 8-0-2 (Motion passed).

4. Small Grants Approval

Gary Chu provided an overview of the small grant process, noting 142 applications were received. The committee recommended awarding \$102,650 to 27 grantees.

- **Motion:** To approve the small grants as presented.
- **Voting Record:** Unanimous approval from all present commissioners.
- **Total:** 11-0-0 (Motion passed).

5. Hiring Decisions & Process Overview

Yasmin Padamsee Forbes provided a detailed explanation of the hiring process for the new staff positions. She outlined the following steps taken by the search committee:



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Asian American and Pacific Islanders Commission

- **Sourcing:** A robust volume of applications was received for both roles.
- **Screening & Interviews:** A rigorous selection process was followed, involving the initial screening of resumes and multiple rounds of interviews for the top candidates.
- **Evaluation:** Candidates were required to submit work products for assessment.
- **Due Diligence:** Thorough reference checks were conducted on the final selected candidates to ensure fit and performance history.

Communications and Social Media Manager:

- **Selected Candidate:** Anita Yep.
- **Salary:** \$70,000.
- **Motion:** To hire Anita Yep.
- **Voting Record:** Unanimous approval.

Policy and Advocacy Director:

- **Selected Candidate:** Pranip Maghar.
- **Salary:** \$71,000.
- **Motion:** To hire Pranip Maghar.
- **Voting Record:** Unanimous approval.

6. Subcommittee Updates

- **Program and Research:** Reported on the Youth Council showcase (June 23) and the recruitment of a new Youth Council Coordinator.
- **Western Mass Task Force:** A meeting is being held to discuss.
- **Community Engagement:** Rakashi Chand highlighted the New England Revolution event on May 2 and requested volunteers for tabling.

7. New Business & Future Agenda

- **Social Media Policy** questions regarding the approval process for social media posts.
- **Executive Director Hiring:** The commission plans to interview finalists and ideally vote on a new Executive Director in May.

8. Adjournment

- **Motion:** Gary Chu moved to adjourn.
- **Second:** Moana Bentin seconded the motion.
- **Voting Record:** Unanimous approval via roll call (Rajashree Ghosh, Leo Blandford, Moana Bentin, Bahara Hussaini, Gary Chu, Richard Chu, Vaishali Gade, Rakashi Chand, Jennifer Rubin, Tuyet Tran).
- **Adjourned:** 7:59 PM.

The next AAPIC meeting is on Tuesday, May 19, 2026, at 6:30 pm.



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Asian American and Pacific Islanders Commission

