



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Asian American and Pacific Islanders Commission

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Li Morrison

Beth Pioscos

Jennifer Rubin

Ekta Srinivasa

Gary Yu

One Ashburton Place
12th Floor
Boston, MA 02108
aapicommission.org

Agenda

Wednesday, June 24, 2026, 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm

Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85794609215>

*Please note that this meeting will be recorded. The meeting will be held via teleconference in compliance with the Governor's Executive Order on the Open Meeting Law and COVID-19. This meeting notice is posted pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30A, §§18–25.

Attachments:

- Draft Meeting Minutes – May 19, 2026
- Budget Reallocation
- Subcommittee members and chairs

1. Attendance

- Tuyet Tran (Chair)
- Rajashree Ghosh
- Rakashi Chand
- Moana E. Bentin
- Vaishali Gade
- Bahara Hussaini
- Beth Pioscos
- Li Morrison
- Jennifer
- Gary Yu
- Amy Goh
- Christopher Huang (joined at 6:49 PM)
- Leo — excused absence
- Bethany — excused absence
- Richard — excused (traveling)
- Gary Chu — excused absence

Staff / Other Participants

- Yasmin (Senior Technical Consultant, AAPIC)
- Pranim Magar (Staff)



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2. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:42 PM by Chair Tuyet Tran. A quorum of 11 commissioners was confirmed. Commissioners were asked to turn on cameras during discussion and voting.

Motion to open: Rakashi Chand. Second: Rajashree Ghosh. Approved unanimously.

3. Public Comment

No members of the public were present.

4. Approval of Draft Meeting Minutes — May 19, 2026

Motion: Vaishali Gade. Second: Moana E. Bentin.

Discussion: The content was agreed to be accurate.

Vote: All commissioners present voted yes. Motion passed.

5. Budget Discussion & Votes

5a. Extension of Senior Technical Consultant Contract — Yasmin Padamsee Forbes

Background: Yasmin's current contract was set to expire June 30, 2026. The new Executive Director (Amihan) is scheduled to begin July 27, 2026. A bridge period was deemed necessary to ensure continuity and onboarding support.

Proposed terms: Extension through end of August 2026, at up to 5 hours per week from July 6 to Aug 31 (reduced from prior arrangement at Yasmin's request due to family reasons).

Discussion highlights:

- Commissioners noted the importance of overlap for a smooth handover to the incoming ED.

Motion: Moana E. Bentin. Second: Rajashree Ghosh.

Vote: All commissioners present voted yes. Motion passed unanimously.

5b. Unspent FY2026 Budget — General Discussion

Chair Tran noted that unspent appropriated funds must be encumbered (i.e., orders placed or services rendered) by June 30, 2026, or they revert to the State Treasury. Several ideas were raised.

Context: Moana E. Bentin clarified that Treasury is aware the Commission



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operated with only one staff member for an extended period, which explains the underspend. This is not expected to impact future budget allocations negatively.

5c. Sponsorship — Harvard Business School Asia Pacific Conference

Request received: May 2026 (delayed to this meeting due to lack of quorum at prior meetings).

Event details: Annual Harvard Business School Asia Pacific Conference; theme “Global by Design: The Dual Fluency Advantage.” The conference is student-run and student-fundraised; Harvard University itself does not fund the event.

Proposed sponsorship amount: \$5,000 to be used for planning the conference to be spent by June 30, 2026.

Discussion highlights:

- Sponsorship would be conditional on the Commission organizing a community panel at the conference, giving local AAPI voices a platform at a high-profile event attended by senior government officials (including Mayor Michelle Wu as a prospective speaker).
- Rajashree Ghosh noted the panel would serve AAPIC’s outreach and visibility goals.
- Christopher Huang confirmed the value of local representation at the conference.

Motion: Rajashree Ghosh. Second: Vaishali Gade.

Vote: All commissioners present voted yes. Motion passed unanimously.

5d. Sponsorship — AAPI Civic Action Network (AAPI CAN) 10th Anniversary

Request received: May 6, 2026 (delayed due to lack of quorum).

Event details: AAPI CAN “Voice Rising” 10th Anniversary celebration; a free community event and fundraiser on July 18, 2026. AAPI CAN is a statewide coalition doing civic engagement, advocacy training, and voter education work across Massachusetts AAPI communities.

Sponsorship levels available: \$500 / \$2,500 / \$5,000 / \$10,000.

Benefits at \$5,000: Table recognition, logo placement, visibility throughout the event.

Discussion highlights:

- Rakashi Chand endorsed AAPI CAN, describing it as a grassroots organization providing critical advocacy voice for all AAPI communities statewide.



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- Moana E. Bentin noted that the event is free to attendees and entirely funded through sponsorships.
- A motion to increase the sponsorship to \$10,000 was separately voted on and failed (7 no, 1 abstain, 2 yes).

First vote — whether to sponsor at all:

Motion: Moana E. Bentin. Second: Rakashi Chand. All commissioners voted yes. Motion passed.

Second vote — sponsorship at \$5,000:

Motion: Vaishali Gade. Second: Amy Goh. All commissioners voted yes. Motion passed.

Third vote — increase sponsorship to \$10,000 (additional \$5,000):

Motion: Jennifer. Second: Bahara Hussaini. Failed (7 no, 1 abstain, 2 yes). Motion did not pass.

5e. Communications Equipment Purchase

Background: A camera and accessories had been budgeted years previously but never purchased. Anita (Communications staff) conducted research and identified the required equipment.

Items: Camera, Bluetooth microphone, memory cards, stand/tripod, casing, and related accessories. In addition, a photographer for the upcoming grantees' event (\$800, separately approved) was noted as already covered.

Amount: Up to \$5,000 for the equipment package.

Note: Equipment must be ordered and received (or invoice submitted) by June 30, 2026.

Motion: Rajashree Ghosh. Second: Vaishali Gade.

Vote: 10 yes, 1 no (Amy Goh). Motion passed.

Budget Vote Summary

Item	Result
Extend Yasmin's contract through August 2026 (up to 5	Passed



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hrs/wk)	
HBS Asia Pacific Conference sponsorship — \$5,000	Passed
AAPI CAN 10th Anniversary sponsorship — \$5,000	Passed
AAPI CAN sponsorship increase to \$10,000 (additional \$5,000)	Failed
Communications equipment purchase — up to \$5,000	Passed

6. Rescheduling of Next Commission Meeting

The regularly scheduled July meeting is on July 15, 2026 (the third Tuesday), one week before the new Executive Director's start date of July 23, 2026. To accommodate the incoming ED, the Chair proposed rescheduling to July 28, 2026.

Motion: Rajashree Ghosh. Second: Vaishali Gade.

Vote: All commissioners present voted yes. Motion passed.

7. Subcommittee Updates

Executive Committee

Active. Chaired by Tuyet Tran.

Governance & Finance

Has been meeting. Will convene with new ED in the new fiscal year to develop and present a revised budget to the full Commission.

Small Grants Subcommittee

Completed. Held grantees' event on June 30. Very successful event where grantees spoke about the results of their work, the challenges they faced, and the outcomes achieved.

Programs & Research Subcommittee

Chair: Li Morrison. Working with staff liaison shubhecchha.dhaurali@aapicommission.org. Program and Research subcommittee meeting was held back in [April 2026](#), and the next one will most likely be held once the new ED joins and priorities are set (August/September). Amy Goh and Beth Piocos signed up to join this committee. Moana E. Bentin was excused from the committee (currently serving on four committees).

Community Engagement & Visibility Subcommittee

Chair: Rakashi Chand. New commissioners have joined. Staff liaison Anita will send a scheduling survey. First meeting expected toward end of July 2026.

Western Massachusetts Task Force

No update provided at this meeting.



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General Note on Subcommittee Participation

Not all commissioners have joined a subcommittee. Commissioners are requested to sign up. The Secretary (Bahara Hussaini) will send formal letters to commissioners regarding attendance requirements, noting that quorum challenges have significantly impacted the Commission's ability to conduct business.

8. Grantees Forum Update

Pranim Magar provided a brief update:

- 40 attendees confirmed to date.
- Anita is managing food arrangements.
- Pranim and Yasmin are finalizing the program agenda and run-of-show, with minor updates in progress.

9. New Business / Future Agenda Items

Christopher Huang inquired about inviting 2024 arts grant recipients to a networking event. Yasmin explained this was not feasible for the current grantees' event due to capacity (50-person max), new staff bandwidth, and short lead time. The idea was noted for future consideration, potentially in connection with the Commission's 20th anniversary.

10. Announcements

- Tuyet Tran: Commissioners are encouraged to review and, if needed, revise the bylaws in the coming period, including quorum requirements and which items require a full Commission vote vs. EC approval.
- Rakashi Chand: Astronaut Sunita Williams will serve as Grand Marshal for the Needham Fourth of July Parade — commissioners welcome to attend in support of an AAPI honoree.
- Tuyet Tran: Asian Festival (held at Mechanics Hall, Worcester) was a success — 43 performances by Bhutanese, Nepali, Bangladeshi, Mongolian, and other Asian cultural groups. Free and open to the public.

11. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn: Rajashree Ghosh. Second: Bahara Hussaini. All voted yes. Meeting adjourned at approximately 7:57 PM.

Next Scheduled Meeting: Tuesday, July 28, 2026 • 6:30 pm



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