



2015 Michigan Asian Pacific American Affairs Commission Annual Report

The core vision of the Michigan Asian Pacific American Affairs Commission (MAPAAC) is *“To be an exemplary commission by adding public value to the State of Michigan and the Asian Pacific American (APA) community, and by fully engaging APAs across the state.”* To accomplish this, under the leadership of Chair, Dr. Jamie Hsu, the commissioners collectively convened three Strategic Initiative Groups (SIG) during our annual Strategic Planning Retreat. This new structure helps guide the priorities and work of the Commission, and serve as a dashboard to report and assess measurable outcomes.

With the support of the Governor and Michigan Department of Civil Rights, MAPAAC is pleased to submit the following concrete accomplishments and outcomes for the 2015 year. The matrix below outlines an overview of the SIGs’ undertakings.

SIG #1 Committee
<p style="text-align: center;">Members: Mahima Mahadevan-leader, Connie Dang, Scott T. Ayotte, David Long and Toshiki Masaki</p>
<p><u>Initiative:</u></p> <p>To promote civic participation and communication by AND within APA communities on shared concerns to the Governor and the Legislators</p> <p><u>Goals:</u></p> <p>To make recommendations regarding changes in state programs, statutes, and policies</p> <p>To advise the nature, magnitude, and priorities of the problems of Asian Pacific Americans in this state</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Outcomes</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Liaison to the newly formed APA Legislative Caucus to share community input from MAPAAC’s outreach efforts and to develop joint strategies in addressing the needs of Asian Americans. 2. Contributing member and sponsor of the Asian American Engagement Coalition (AAEC), a six-member coalition of Asian American organizations developing an Asian American policy platform based off of the collective needs within the Asian American community. The focus of the state policy agenda includes passing and signing the Korematsu Day Bill, supporting immigrant access to health and social services, and supporting election administration reforms that increase access to the polls. 3. Sponsor of a full-day advocacy and leadership training for Asian Americans on March 28, 2015, where 90 participants learned how to be more civically engaged and advocate on their community’s behalf to their state representatives. Elected officials Debbie Dingell and Stephanie Chang presented at the event.

4. Sponsor of the Asian American Engagement Coalition strategy roundtable on July 12, 2015, a convening of the AAEC member leadership to design campaign plans to achieve the objectives of the state policy agenda.

5. Strategic partner to APIAVote-MI and Michigan Department of New Americans (MONA)

SIG #2 Committee

Members: Ryan Rosario – leader, Tsu-Yin Wu, Hannah Feikema, Anand Kumar, and Grace Lee

Initiative:

Communicating & Soliciting APA’s Voices and Concerns of APAs by conducting surveys and community town halls and sharing the results with the state departments.

Goals:

1. Conduct Five Community Town Hall Meetings in APA Communities
2. Compile reports & surveys of town hall meetings and share with SIG 1

Outcomes

1. **Conducted 11 Town Hall Meetings reaching the following APA communities:** Chinese, Korean, Japanese, Filipino, Indian, SE Asian, Vietnamese, Laos, Thai, Burmese, Hmong & Taiwanese.
2. **MAPAAC Survey Results**
 - 185 respondents
 - Majority age groups 40-59
 - 40% Male / 57% Female / 3% no comment
 - 69% immigrant / 25% US born / 6% no comment / 4% Work Visa

Five Major APA Concerns

- Proper training and education for international students and new immigrants of the American culture.
- Bullying in school
- Lack of awareness of public services - benefits and programs
- Non awareness of the MI State Departments and their services
- Education on elderly and disabled services and home care benefits

SIG #3 Committee

Members: Roland Hwang-leader, Asim Alavi, Nasim Ansari, and Jeffrey Vang

Initiative:

Addressing issues of discrimination and equality of access. Recommend methods of overcoming discrimination against APAs; Promote methods to ensure equal access to state services for APAs.

Objectives:

1. Hold Anti-bullying workshops to address APA student survey results establishing bullying as a top issue.
2. Hold Fred T. Korematsu recognition events

Goals:

1. Hold one anti-bullying workshop in calendar year 2015. Begin planning for second workshop for 2016.
2. Hold Korematsu events around the state.
 - o Plan for 2016 events – to be held at Northville High School (Auditorium) January 13, 2016, 7:30 am;
 - o University of Michigan Law School (1225 South Hall), co-hosted by U-M APALSA January 28, 2016, 11:45 am; and at
 - o GVSU Allendale (Cook DeWitt Auditorium) co-hosted by GVSU Office of Multicultural Affairs, January 28, 4 pm.

Outcomes

1. Held anti-bullying panel and student/parent forum on November 7, 2015 at Chinese Community Center. Panel included: Ron Aramaki, psychotherapist and psychologist; Dr. Gail Parker, psychologist and yoga teacher; Melissa Kiesewetter, Michigan Department of Civil Rights bullying specialist, and Mary Cooper, principal of Martin Luther King, Jr. Elementary School, Ann Arbor.

Session was attended by about 70 people.

Disseminate PowerPoint Presentations to attendees. Evaluations distributed and returned.

Begin planning for second workshop, for Ann Arbor, tentatively at Ann Arbor Public Library, Mar-Apr, 2016.

2. Held three Korematsu events in 2015
 - o Held at Troy High School on January 29, 2015. Attended by students of Troy High School, Athens High School, and Niles High School. About 500 students in attendance. Co-hosted by Troy High School.
 - o Held Korematsu event at Grand Valley State University, Grand Rapids on January 30, 2015. About 70 people in attendance. Co-hosted by GVSU Office of Multicultural Affairs.
 - o Held Korematsu event at Michigan State University Mosaic Center, MSU Union on January 30, 2015. About 30 people in attendance. Co-hosted by MSU Asian American Studies.

SIG #4 Committee

Members: Soraya Kim–leader, Jamie Hsu, Willie Dechavez, Jin-Kyu Koh, Guozhen Lu, and Joseph Tasma

Initiatives/Objectives:

Per HB6172 subsection (o) to promote the public awareness of Asian and Pacific Islander culture, MAPAAC organized and held its annual APA Heritage Day Celebration at the State Capitol in Lansing on May 6, 2015. MAPAAC collaborated with APIAVote-Michigan to transport three busloads of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders from the greater Detroit area to meet with legislatures at the State Capitol. MAPAAC and APIAVote-Michigan hosted a networking lunch and the APA Legislative Caucus and state legislators attended to network with the APA community leaders and members. The lunch followed by a program that

included keynote speakers such as the Dick Posthumus, Senior Advisor to Governor Rick Snyder, House Representative Stephanie Chang, Matt Wesaw, Executive Director of MDCR and concluded with a cultural performance by a Pacific Island Dance group.

A new initiative this year was to “secure appropriate recognition of Asian Pacific American accomplishments and contributions to this state” per subsection (g) of HB6172 by hosting a Recognition and Appreciation Dinner which was held at Schoolcraft College’s VisTaTech Center on Wednesday September 23, 2015. At this dinner, the following strategic partners were recognized:

1. The Asian Pacific American Chamber of Commerce (“APACC”) for its mission to facilitate business relationships among Asian and U.S. based companies and to promote the economic advancement of Asian Pacific Americans.
2. The Asian and Pacific Islander American Vote Michigan (“APIAVote-Michigan”). APIAVote – Michigan is committed to justice and equality for the Asian American community through grassroots mobilization, civic engagement, leadership development, and coalition building.
3. The Asian Center of Southeast Michigan. The Asian Center’s mission is to overcome social barriers, improve health and reduce health disparity for Asian Americans in Michigan.
4. The Burma Center of Battle Creek. Burma Center is a community center that serves as a place for immigrants from Burma & Myanmar to learn English, congregate with friends and host playgroups for children.
5. The Council of Asian Pacific Americans (“CAPA”). CAPA unites Asian Pacific Americans and the community at-large through culture, education, and community service.
6. Mai Family Services. Mai Family Services’ mission is to provide confidential and professional services and promote awareness of mental health problems, domestic violence and other issues through community education and outreach.
7. West Michigan Asian American Association. Their mission is to establish connections, enrich lives, and make a difference in the Asian American community in West Michigan.

MAPAAC also awarded the following centers for their services to their respective communities:

1. The Association of Chinese Americans Chinese Community Center;
2. The Korean American Cultural Center of Michigan; and
3. The Philippine American Cultural Center of Michigan.

And the following individuals who were former MAPAAC commissioners were recognized for their valuable contribution, dedication and passion for the causes of Asian Pacific Americans in Michigan:

1. Dr. Sook Wilkinson;
2. Henry Tanaka;
3. Ehsan Taqbeem;
4. Ramesh Verma; and
5. Peter Wong

Goals:

In hosting these two events, MAPAAC has been able to raise awareness of Asian Pacific American cultures as well as to recognize the accomplishments of strategic partners and centers that offer valuable services to its communities.

2015 MAPAAC’s Co-Sponsorships and Meetings with APA Leadership Groups and State Initiative Committees

The sponsorships are intended to promote MAPAAC’s mission and to communicate the State initiatives, which impact the APA communities. Through such sponsorship and collaboration, MAPAAC is fulfilling its role as an effective conduit between the State of Michigan and the APA communities.

March 28 th ,	Asian Pacific Islanders Americans Vote-Michigan’s (APIAVote-MI) Asian American Civic Leadership Conference
April 2 nd ,	Asian Pacific American Chamber of Commerce’s (APACC) Annual Dinner Celebration
April 25 th ,	Vietnamese American Community of Grand Rapids and Surroundings Commendation of Black April & 40 Years of Vietnamese Americans’ Journey to Freedom
May 2 nd ,	Asian Center Southeast Michigan’s Asian American Health Expo at Henry Ford West Bloomfield Hospital
July 12 th ,	Asian American Engagement Coalition (AAEC) strategy roundtable
October 10 th ,	Council of Asian Pacific Americans (CAPA) Leadership Summit
October 17 th ,	Health Fair with Vietnamese American Association of MI and Asian Center Southeast Michigan
October 24 th ,	West Michigan Asian Pacific American Association’s (WMAAA)

MAPAAC hosted and participated in meetings to create synergy among state agencies, APA community leaders and other ethnic community leaders.

March 13 th ,	MAPAAC Networking Lunch at the Lansing Governor’s Residence with Lt. Governor Brian Calley, APA Community Leaders, State Department Directors, and Legislators
Quarterly Meetings Michigan	Member of Michigan Office of New Americans’ (MONA) Global
Quarterly Meetings	Member of LARA’s Ethnic Cabinet
	Member of the Asian American Engagement Coalition (AAEC) on developing APA policy platforms and working with the Asian Pacific American Legislative Caucus of state related policies affecting Asian Pacific Americans in Michigan.