

## Chairman's Message



My tenure as the Chair of MAPAAC over the past six years has been very rewarding. I am very grateful to the commissioners, the APA community leaders and organizations and LARA for their support in carrying out the mission and vision of MAPAAC. As of August

11, 2019, MAPAAC has moved to a new state department, Labor and Economic Opportunity (LEO) in the division of the Office of Global Michigan (OGM). I look forward to the support and advice of LEO and OGM in our mission and services to APA community.

I admire the talent, passion and experience of each commissioner brings to the commission. Their dedication in servicing the APA community and representing the community to the State of Michigan, makes MAPAAC a valuable contributor to both the APA community and the state.

MAPAAC have successfully developed the four strategic initiatives groups (SIGs) and produced programs to fulfill the initiatives essential to the well beings of APAs. The four SIGs focuses on collaborating with policy makers to educate and support programs and policies impacting the APA communities in Michigan; Listen to the voices and concerns of APAs and develop action plans to address the concerns; Address issues of discriminations and equality and recommend methods to overcome discrimination against APAs in the state; and Promote and recognize APA contributions and achievements to the State of Michigan.

In this issue, we will showcase the SIG's activities to address the concerns of the APA community and explain our role as a commission.

One of the highlights is the APA Day at the Capitol on May 9<sup>th</sup>. A special thank you to the 200 APAs from West Michigan and Southeast Michigan, who gathered at the state capitol to show our presence and share our voices to the legislators and Governor Gretchen Whitmer.

Another initiative that we are participating as a member of the Nonprofit Complete Count Committee for the 2020 Census. MAPAAC has hosted two census forums with APAs community leaders and hosted a census training with APIA Vote-National and APIA Vote-Michigan. Our goal is to educate the importance of being counted as APAs in the State of Michigan.

It's been a pleasure and honor to serve as the chair of MAPAAC. I feel that it's time for me to hand over the responsibility to a new leader so I can pursue my other interests. I'll do my best to help with the transition and will continue to support MAPAAC in other ways. Thank you for your support, partnership and friendship! Best wishes to you all.

To learn more about MAPAAC, please visit us at [www.michigan.gov/mapaac](http://www.michigan.gov/mapaac).

To contact us, please send an email to [mapaac@michigan.gov](mailto:mapaac@michigan.gov) or call 517-648-4942.

-Jamie Hsu, Ph.D.

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## APA Day at the Capitol

### APA Voices and Presence at the State Capitol

Over 200 APAs from SE-MI and West MI attended MAPAAC, APIA Vote-MI and CAPA's APA Day at the Capitol on May 9, 2019. We began by showing our presence at the Senate session where Sen. Stephanie Chang recognized us in the gallery. In addition, many of our participants met with legislators to share their concerns of the APA communities. Our presentation in the Capitol rotunda began with remarks by Kaushik Nag, MAPAAC Vice-chair and Yasir Muhammad, APIA Vote-MI Chair, a resolution presentation with Reps. Julie Brixie and Padma Kuppa to MAPAAC and APIA Vote- MI. We were honored to have Governor Whitmer as our keynote speaker along with LARA Director Orlene Hawks, and Sen. Stephanie Chang. The program concluded with dance performances by the Vietnamese Amer. Assoc. of MI and CAPA. We end the day with a networking lunch with legislators.



APA representatives at Senate Gallery



Governor Gretchen Whitmer



APAs in the Capitol rotunda

## Immigration General Information Educational Seminar

On August 24th at the Kent ISD in Grand Rapids, over 50 APAs attended the Immigration General Information Seminar. Reginald Pacis of Butzel Long-Detroit, Susan Im of ImLaw and Susan Reed of the Michigan Immigration Rights Center presented general Information about immigration law and processes followed by a Q & A session.



Attendees of the Seminar



MAPAAC Commissioners with speakers

# MAPAAC joins the 2020 Census Michigan Nonprofit Complete Count Campaign

In the effort of educate and inform what is at stake for an accurate census data collection and how it may affect the APA communities, MAPAAC hosted two census forum in partnership with the 2020 Census Michigan Nonprofit Complete Count Campaign for APA community leaders in Southfield on March 14<sup>th</sup> and in Grand Rapids on June 8<sup>th</sup>. The forum provided the opportunity for the community leaders to learn about how the census is essential for the fair distribution of country's congressional seats and for fair allocation of government resources and funds. Ms. Joan Gustafson, External Affairs Officers of the MI Non-profit Assoc. represented the campaign and the attendees had the opportunity to ask questions about the 2020 census.



Nellie Tsai and Joan Gustafson, MNA

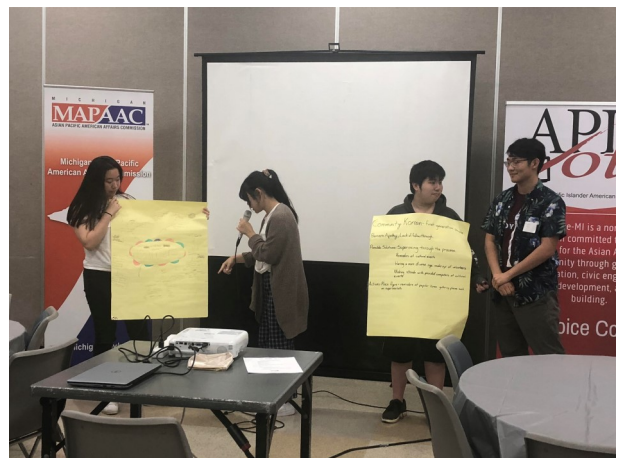


Forum attendees in Southfield, MI

On June 22<sup>nd</sup>, MAPAAC, APIA Vote -National and APIA Vote- Michigan co-hosted the Norman Mineta Leadership Institute Census Training in Novi. Eighty-two community leaders and high school students attended this training to learn about the census and created a plan to engage their community in participating in the 2020 census. Special thanks to Christine Chen, APIA Vote National Executive Director, for facilitating the training.



Participants of this Census Training Workshop



Attendees presenting the local plan

## MAPAAC Third Annual Leaders' Forum & Appreciation Dinner

MAPAAC hosted their annual gathering on September 20, 2018 of APA community leaders, state legislators, county and municipalities public officials to get to know each other better, share ideas and practices to serve the APA community at large. Dr. Jamie Hsu presented the State of APAs in Michigan and our keynote speaker was Bing Goei, CEO of Eastern Floral in Grand Rapids and the former director of the Michigan Office of New Americans.



Dr. Jamie Hsu, MAPAAC Chair.



Keynote speaker, Bing Goei, CEO, Eastern Floral, Grand Rapids.



### Mission

To advance the full and equal participation of Asian Pacific Americans (APAs) in the building of a greater Michigan.

### Commissioners

- Jamie Hsu, Ph.D., Chairman - Oakland County
- Kaushik Nag, Vice-Chair - Kent County
- Grace Lee, Secretary - Oakland County
- Poowanat Joseph Tasma, Trustee - Wayne County
- Chandragupta Acharya - Wayne County
- Asim Alavi - Washtenaw County
- Anthony Chang, Ph.D. - Kent County
- Dinh Thai Hoa - Macomb County
- Mi Kyung Dong - Wayne County
- Sharon Dow - Oakland County
- Lisa Gray - Wayne County
- David Han - Wayne County
- Kavy Lenon - Ottawa County
- Leena Mangrulkar - Washtenaw County
- Toshiki Masaki - Wayne County
- Suchiraphon McKeithen-Polish, Ph.D. - Macomb County
- Reginald Pacis - Oakland County
- Ryan Rosario - Macomb County
- Aditya Sathi - Oakland County
- Jenny Wang - Washtenaw County
- Angela Wang-Beasinger - Oakland County

### Join us on Facebook

[www.facebook.com/miapaac](http://www.facebook.com/miapaac)

## APA Legislative Caucus

The Asian Pacific American (APA) Legislative Caucus was formed in January 2015 as a bicameral, bipartisan group of members of the Michigan Legislature who identify as an APA and members who represent districts with large concentrations of APA residents. The Caucus will work to advance policies and initiatives to provide for the full participation of APAs and to address the needs and concerns of the community. In addition, the Caucus will work to educate other members of the legislature about the contributions and concerns of the APA community in Michigan.

The 2019 APA Caucus members are:

- Co-chair: Sen. Stephanie Chang - District 1
- Co-chair: Rep. Padma Kuppa - District 41
- Rep. Julie Brixie - District 69
- Rep. Kathy Crawford - District 38
- Rep. Jim Ellison - District 26
- Rep. Christine Greig - District 37
- Rep. Curtis Hertel Jr. - District 23
- Sen. Jeff Irwin - District 18
- Sen. Mallory McMorrow - District 13
- Sen. Jeremy Moss - District 11
- Rep. Kristy Pagan - District 21
- Sen. Dayna Polehanki - District 7
- Rep. Yousef Rabhi - District 53
- Sen. Jim Runestad - District 15
- Rep. Rebekah Warren - District 55

Michigan Dept. of Labor and Economic Opportunity—  
Office of Global Michigan

### Visit LEO's Web site

[www.michigan.gov/leo](http://www.michigan.gov/leo)

LEO is an equal opportunity employer/program.