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m COUNCIL ON
ASIAN PACIFIC MINNESOTANS
A STATE AGENCY SINCE 1985

ANOTHER DECADE OF LEADERSHIP FOR THE COMMON GOOD

2019 Annual Report

A report to the Legislature as requested by Minn. Stat. § 15.0145, Subd. 8

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Welcome Letter from the 2019 Chair



Dear Community Members,

During my time as Chair of the Board of the Council on Asian Pacific Minnesotans (the Council), I have seen community members rise to do great work on behalf of the vibrant, diverse Asian Pacific Minnesotan communities in our state. We are encouraged to see Asian Pacific Minnesotans increasingly engaged in state-level public policy making.

In 2019, the Council worked across the partisan aisle and built coalitions to achieve its statutory duties. We advocated for empathetic, impactful policies to address the unique realities of Asian Pacific Minnesotan families; facilitated relationships between community leaders and government; and engaged with our diverse communities as a strategic means to better gauge how state-level decisions are impacting them.

In fulfilling our statutory duties to the Minnesota Legislature and our community, I believe our staff, Board, and advocates have responded to a multitude of challenges and opportunities. From partnering with statewide and community-based organizations in order to secure funding for domestic violence and sexual assault prevention, to ensuring our communities participate in the 2020 Census, I am proud of the creativity, effort, and steadfastness with which the Council faces each new challenge that arises.

It is also with a heavy heart that I share with you that this is my last year as Chair of the Council Board. That said, I am confident in the commitment, vision, and leadership of my successor, Dave Hoang, as well as the dedication and expertise of the staff of the Council.

With that, I am pleased and proud to present you with this impressive record of our work at the Council in 2019.

Warmly,

David Maeda



LEGISLATIVE ACHIEVEMENTS

The breadth and depth of the Council’s work is guided by our legislative agenda. Updated each biennium, this agenda is informed directly by our community via a legislative priorities survey, as well as year-round, intensive, and intentional community-building efforts.

Based on the findings of our most recent Legislative Priorities Survey, the Council has identified five high-priority issues on which to focus our legislative agenda this biennium: higher education, education data disaggregation, access to healthcare, equity and social justice, and immigration rights. Equally important, the Council’s work in our communities informs our ongoing positions on the following key issues: programs and services that are respectful of and responsive to the linguistically and culturally diverse communities of Minnesota, including Asian Pacific communities; continued collection of more nuanced data, such as data being collected by the Department of Education pursuant to the All Kids Count Act, to better inform policy making on issues of importance to Asian Pacific Minnesotans; and increased understanding of the causes and prevention of violence against Minnesota’s Asian Pacific women and children.

The following are the key legislative achievements of the Council in 2019.

Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Prevention Program Bill – H.F. 479/S.F. 608

At least 1 in 5 women of Asian or Pacific Islander (API) descent experience violence in their lifetime, and in some API ethnic groups, the number is as high as 4 out of 5 women. Culture is a critical factor in the decisions made by individuals experiencing violence. Fear of retaliation, marginalization, or other internal community pressures frame individuals’ choices and constrain their options.

We are proud to share the passage and signing into law of the Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Prevention Program bill in the 2019 session. This success comes after two years of legislative discussions, with the support of a coalition of more than 200 statewide member organizations, and in consultation with the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) and the Minnesota Department of Public Safety (DPS). The program, housed within MDH, appropriates grants to qualifying nonprofit organizations across the state to fund initiatives that incorporate community-driven

and culturally relevant practices for historically underserved communities to prevent domestic violence and sexual assault.

The Council will continue to work closely with MDH and other partners to ensure the legislative intent remains intact during the design and implementation phases of this program.

Spoken Language Health Care Interpreting Registry Bill – H.F. 1400/S.F. 875

Over 30% of Asian Pacific Minnesotans have limited proficiency in English. Populations that rely on interpreters within our community—particularly for healthcare purposes—are some of our most vulnerable constituents. To ensure all Minnesotans have access to safe and equitable health care, S.F. 875 requests a minimum standard for medical interpreters in basic medical terminology, standards of practice, and interpreter ethics.

We believe S.F. 875 is an important step in ensuring all Minnesotans receive the same quality of care. This legislation provides a transparent training and support mechanism, which is critical to addressing the health care

interpreting needs of Limited English Proficient Minnesotans.

An amended version of S.F. 875 was passed in the Senate Health and Human Services Finance and Policy Committee and referred to the Senate Judiciary and Public Safety Finance and Policy Committee. The legislation did not move in the House. During the interim, the Council continued to activate and mobilize stakeholders in preparation for reintroduction of this legislative proposal in the 2020 legislative session.

Southeast Asian Equity Grants Program

The Council is pleased to report that the 2019 Legislature fully restored the Southeast Asian Equity Grants Program, one of six competitive state equity grants administered by the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED), to its 2016 level of funding. The program enables grantees to address economic disparities in the Southeast Asian community through workforce recruitment, development, job creation, organizational capacity-building, and outreach.

The model minority myth obscures the experiences of Minnesota’s refugee-experienced communities, many of whom came to the United States after decades of

violence and political persecution in their native countries. In recognition of this reality, the Southeast Asian Equity Grants Program is an essential component of the state’s effort to address economic challenges faced by these populations that are currently overlooked in other programs within DEED.

At the Council, we believe the Southeast Asian Equity Grants Program is a more targeted, and therefore more likely to succeed strategy given what we know about the barriers Southeast Asian Minnesotans are experiencing as they strive to achieve economic stability.

Data Disaggregation – H.F. 1639/S.F. 709

For the second year, legislators introduced amendments to repeal the All Kids Count law, which requires the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) to collect and report ethnicity and race data pertaining to student performance. In direct response to these repeal efforts, led by some members of our Chinese Minnesotan community, the Council worked with a diverse coalition to help policy makers understand why data disaggregation benefits all Minnesotans.

Asian Pacific Minnesotans are arguably the most linguistically, culturally, and socioeconomically diverse cultural community

in the state. However, this diversity is overshadowed by the model minority myth, which obscures the reality of the struggles many in our community face. The Council supports measures to counter the myth of the homogenous model minority through a more accurate understanding of our diverse communities. For this reason, the Council maintains its stance that the All Kids Count law is a move in the right direction and should be left in place.

Increase Teachers of Color Act – H.F. 824/S.F. 1012

In the last decade, the percentage of Minnesota’s K-12 students of color has increased from 24% to 34%. Despite this, the percent of teachers of color has remained only 4%, and only 1.6% are of API heritage. To address the severe shortage of teachers of color, the Legislature successfully passed several sections of the Increase Teachers of Color Act with some new funding, including \$750,000 per fiscal year for grants for student teachers of color and \$750,000 per fiscal year for teacher mentorship and retention grants.

Additionally, the Council is pleased to report that the legislation received bipartisan support and was the top joint priority in education for Minnesota’s three ethnic councils.



Research Achievements

Asian Pacific Islander Complete Count Committee

In September of 2019, the Council announced the formation of the Asian and Pacific Islander Complete Count Committee (API CCC). This committee aims to identify a statewide coalition of geographically and ethnically diverse API community leaders in order to raise awareness of the importance of the 2020 Census in Minnesota. The API CCC will facilitate the design and implementation of culturally responsive strategies to reach our API communities in Minnesota and ensure their participation in the 2020 Census.

Asians are the fastest-growing minority population in Minnesota and across the nation. In order to ensure an accurate and complete understanding of the reality of Minnesota's API population, an exhaustive count of all individuals in the 2020 Census is crucial. Establishing a statewide coalition of community leaders will serve to further the involvement, recognition, and relevance of Minnesota's API residents regarding statewide policies and future population counts.

Emerging Communities Report

The Council has undertaken groundbreaking work to compile a first-of-its-kind Emerging Communities Report (ECR), focusing on five emerging API communities in Minnesota. These communities are the Karen, Karenni, Bhutanese Lhotshampa, Guyanese Indians, and Chuukese peoples. This is an ongoing study encompassing the resettlement history, an assessment of current population in Minnesota, and an analysis of trending issues among each of these unique communities.

As these emerging communities grow, it is critical that policy makers, school districts, and community organizations have a basic understanding of each group's unique attributes and needs. By conducting primary qualitative data collection, we hope to shed light on the unique experiences of these communities, and in doing so, provide critical information on relatively small communities that are vulnerable to being overlooked and underserved by policy makers.

The ECR will be completed in 2020.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



Asian Pacific Islander Day at the Capitol

Asian Pacific Islander (API) Day at the Capitol is an annual Council event designed to help community members learn about the state policy making process. On March 19, 2019, the Council facilitated 16 legislative visits attended by 100 community members. More than a dozen members of the Legislature participated in the visits, including Representatives Her, Lesch, Mariani, and Noor, and Senators Gazelka, Hawj, Limmer, and Pratt.

This year, Governor Tim Walz attended API Day at the Capitol, marking the first time Minnesota's governor has attended since 2013. The Governor's attendance at this important event was deeply meaningful regarding the Council's work—it served to remind our communities that the Capitol is truly the People's House, because it is here that state government undertakes the work of the people. When public officials have more personal and frequent interactions with community members, it is more likely the community's needs will be understood, considered, and reflected in state-level decisions.

Land of 10,000 APIs

In May of 2019, the Council honored Asian Pacific American Heritage Month (APAHM) by celebrating the "Land of 10,000 API," a visual series of engaging snapshots emblematic of the thriving API communities that make up our diverse state. The social media campaign provided glimpses into some of the vibrant stories and lives within our communities. With this project, the Council honored a cohort of community members for



their contributions to our state and nation.

Posts from the month-long celebration can be found on Facebook and Twitter by searching for the hashtags #APAHM2019 and #Landof10000API.

Legislative Session Recap

In 2019, the Council took a new approach to informing Asian Pacific Minnesotans of key legislative decisions: it summarized the 2019 legislative session in five short, animated, and informational videos. Because the realm of public policy is confusing to many outsiders, the Council strives to find creative and enticing ways to communicate important policy decisions to its communities after each session. The videos summarized legislation in the following areas:

Health & Human Services:

- Established the Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Prevention Program to fund community-driven and culturally relevant prevention programs;
- Established the Skin Lightening Products Public Awareness and Education Grant Program to fund awareness of the dangers of mercury exposure to pregnant women; and
- Increased funding for school-linked mental health grants to support student mental health counseling.

E-12 Education:

- Passed a 2% increase in basic education funding to address educational achievement gaps;
- Renewed base funding of more than \$8 million with a net increase of approximately \$133,000 over the biennium for E-12 and Higher Ed programs intended to address the shortage of teachers of color as well as licensure shortage areas;
- Established the Community Solutions for Healthy Child Development Grant Program to increase racial equity, promote healthy child development, and reduce health disparities.

Higher Education:

- Appropriated \$400,000 to fund a qualified student debt loan counseling organization;
- Invested \$2.9 million in teacher grants and teacher loan forgiveness programs to help reduce barriers faced by upcoming teachers of color; and
- Imposed a 3% cap on tuition increases at Minnesota state colleges and universities and the University of Minnesota.

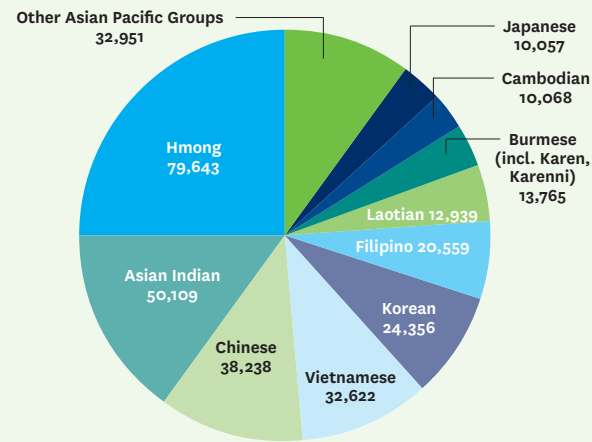
Jobs & Economic Development:

- Cut Minnesota's second-tier income tax rate by 0.25%;
- Dedicated \$2 million to the Southeast Asian Economic Disparities Relief Competitive Grant Program; and

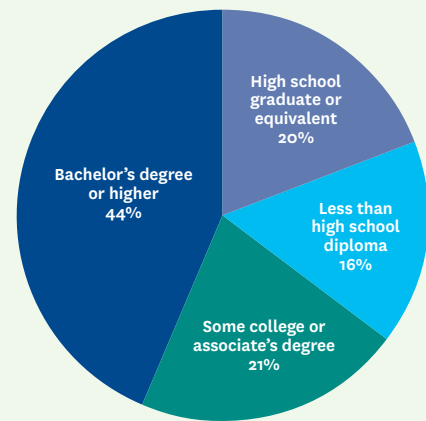
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Total Population of Asian Pacific Minnesotans: 325,207¹

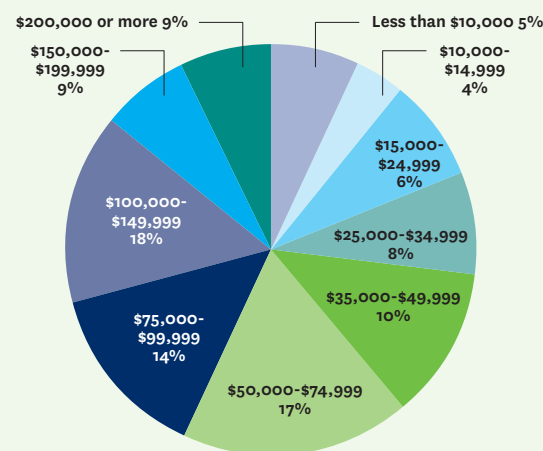
I. POPULATION, BY COMMUNITY.¹



II. EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT, ADULTS OVER AGE 25.¹



III. HOUSEHOLD INCOME, IN 2018 DOLLARS.¹



¹ Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2014-2018 American Community Survey.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

- Implemented a new law that makes wage theft a felony and punishes employers who retaliate against employees who report wage theft.

Judiciary & Public Safety:

- Passed Minnesota's first hands-free cellphone law;
- Repealed the state's marital rape exception statute; and
- Considered a bill to extend the timeline to petition conviction decisions for individuals faced with threats of deportation, barriers to naturalization, or travel limitations.

The five videos, each one to two minutes long, are available on the Council's website.

Census 2020: Community Mobilization

To determine how the Council should assist with the state's effort to ensure Asian Pacific Minnesotans participate fully in the 2020 Census, we sought the advice of key community leaders throughout the metro area and in greater Minnesota. These consultations occurred over the phone and in one-on-one meetings, during which the Council debriefed community leaders about modes of community mobilization during the 2010 Census—what worked, what did not work, what could be done to improve participation, and how the Council can help.

Participation in the 2020 Census is one of the many ways Asian Pacific Minnesotans can continue to model civic engagement for future generations. In full recognition of the fact that many, if not most, of our communities are relatively new to American democracy, the Council works to help community members understand what "democracy in action" means—via the decennial Census. As the political power of some of our ethnic communities have outpaced others', the need for our varied and diverse ethnic groups to be engaged, informed, and collaborative is clear.

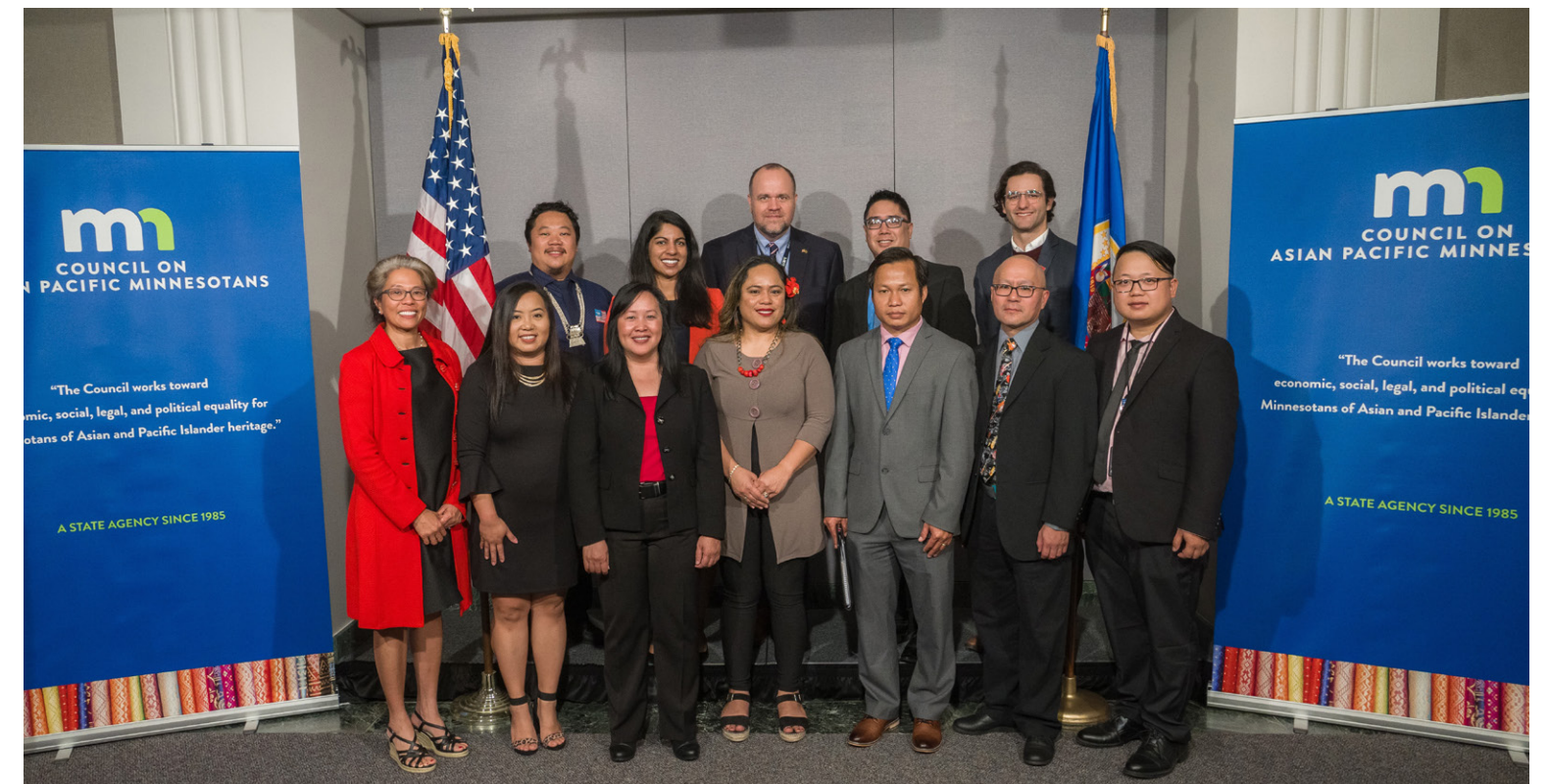
Community Events

At the Council, we strive to be present for our communities year-round. By being present, the Council demonstrates to its many communities that they matter. Being an active part of our many ethnic communities allows us to continually learn about their unique needs and emerging issues while building and maintaining relationships. This relationship building is key to our success.

In 2019, the Council actively participated in dozens of community events, including: Tibetan, Cambodian, Hmong, and Karen new year celebrations; Asian Women United of Minnesota "From the Heart" Gala; IndiaFest; Loy Kratong, the Thai festival of lights; VIIVNCAUS-Aurora workshop on sexual assault; "Because Tomorrow Matters" youth suicide awareness event; the United Cambodian Association of Minnesota (UCAM) gala; and many others.

Some notable events the Council participated in this year include:

- Teachers of Color and American Indian Teachers (TOCAIT) Policy Forum, hosted by the three ethnic councils and a coalition of other organizations. More than 80 educators and community leaders gathered



to discuss the following: (1) the progress we have made with respect to increasing teachers of color in Minnesota; and (2) the amended 2019 Increase Teachers of Color Act (ITCA) which the coalition (including our Council) plans to bring to the Legislature in 2020.

- An extensive interview with the California-based national organization Hmong Women Today on public policy and gender-based violence, and leadership that affects change at the policy level as well as challenges and signs of progress for newer American communities.
- Loy Kratong, hosted by the Thai Cultural Council of Minnesota and Wat Thai of Minnesota. Also known as the festival of lights, this

event brought together leaders from the various Southeast Asian Minnesotan communities, Deputy Consul-General Khun Siripon of the Royal Thai Consulate General, and Commissioner John Harrington of the Minnesota Department of Public Safety to celebrate the contributions these Southeast Asian communities have made to the state of Minnesota.

- "Bridges to China," hosted by the Diversity Council of Rochester. This event focused on the need for ongoing cooperation and collaboration between cities like Rochester, home of the Mayo Clinic, and China, and the implications and applications of technology on health and wellness.



Letter from the Executive Director



Dear Community Members,

With every step forward, with each new year, we find ourselves in new legislative territory facing the priorities of our ever-evolving communities and state. Propelled by our conviction that we are much more likely to succeed in our individual and collective pursuits when government and the people work together, we welcome the future with hope and enduring enthusiasm.

In our role as the chief advocate for Asian Pacific Minnesotans within state government, our Council looks forward to 2020—both the challenges and opportunities unique to Minnesotans. Two of our top priorities include mobilizing our community to be fully counted in the 2020 Census and encouraging participation in the November general election. Legislatively, our Council sees opportunities this year to close the diversity gap in teaching, ensure that Asian Pacific Minnesotans have access to quality medical interpreters, and assist the Governor and the Legislature with their shared priorities for the state. Additionally, 2020 marks the 45th anniversary of the Southeast Asian American diaspora; our Council will make this an area of focus as well.

With appropriate support from the Legislature and the Governor, we believe our Council has and will continue to strategically contribute to our state government’s capacity to enact good policies and practice good politics. This is an ambitious and worthy goal for our state. Successfully meeting these goals with you will generate more opportunities for prosperity, economic growth, and social achievement, for all Minnesotans across many generations and walks of life. You have my personal thanks for all that you have done to support these efforts and make your voices heard. As the executive director, my personal goal in the year ahead is to continue expanding my time with all our communities so that we build a fuller understanding of who makes up our Asian Pacific Minnesotan community.

Among forthcoming transitions in 2020, one of our Council’s most dedicated and effective legislative supporters, State Senator Carolyn Laine, will step down from our Council and the Minnesota Legislature at the end of the year. We will miss her leadership, her advocacy, and most importantly, her friendship.

Throughout 2019, we enjoyed many successes fulfilling our statutory duties. In 2020, we look forward to continuing these vital roles in Minnesota—to working with our communities in Minnesota wherever they may be emotionally, geographically, and linguistically. In doing so, we hope our work helps to dismantle any barriers that stand in the way of your full participation.

Sincerely,

Sia Her

“As a co-chair of the API Complete Count Committee and a member of the Hmong Outreach Network, I am excited to engage our API communities in civic life through Census engagement in 2020. Through outreach to different API organizations, relationship-building, and community engagement, representative participation in the 2020 Census today will see our diverse communities reflected in state policies tomorrow.”

BAI VUE, CO-CHAIR OF THE API COMPLETE COUNT COMMITTEE AND A MEMBER OF THE HMONG OUTREACH NETWORK

COUNCIL BOARD MEMBERS

Minn. Stat. § 15.0145, Subd. 8

Subd. 2. Membership.

- (a) Each council has 15 voting members. Eleven members of each council are public members appointed by the governor. Four members of each council are legislators.
- (b) The governor shall appoint 11 members of each council as follows:

(c) The Council on Asian-Pacific Minnesotans must include one member from each of the five ancestries with the state's highest percentages of Asian-Pacific populations, as determined by the state demographer. The other six members must be broadly representative of the rest of the Asian-Pacific population, with no more than one council member from any one

ancestry. The council must include at least five women. For purposes of this clause, ancestry refers to heritage that is commonly accepted in Minnesota as a unique population.

(d) Four legislators are voting members of each council. The speaker of the house and the house minority leader shall each appoint one member to each council. The

Subcommittee on Committees of the senate Committee on Rules and Administration shall appoint one member of the majority caucus and one member of the minority caucus to each council.

Subd. 7. Duties of council members.

A council member shall:

- (1) attend and participate in scheduled meetings and be

- prepared by reviewing meeting notes;
- (2) maintain and build communication with the community represented;
- (3) collaborate with the council and executive director in carrying out the council's duties; and
- (4) participate in activities the council or executive director deem appropriate and necessary to facilitate the goals and duties of the council.



DAVID MAEDA,
Chair
Term start: 7/1/2018
Term expire: 1/3/2022
Ancestry representing: Japanese



DAI HOANG,
Vice-Chair
Term start: 2/2017
Term expire: 1/6/2020
Ancestry representing: Vietnamese



GRACE LEE,
Treasurer
Term start: 7/2/2019
Term expire: 1/2/2023
Ancestry representing: Korean



ZOE ZHI
Term start: 2/2017
Term expire: 1/4/2021
Ancestry representing: Chinese



ANIL HURKADLI
Term start: 3/5/2016
Term expire: 1/6/2020
Ancestry representing: Asian Indian



BRYAN THAO WORRA
Term start: 7/1/2018
Term expire: 1/3/2022
Ancestry representing: Lao



SHARON LIM
Term start: 2/2017
Term expire: 1/4/2021
Ancestry representing: Malaysian



HAFIZ MUNIR
Term start: 2/2017
Term expire: 1/04/2021
Ancestry representing: Pakistani



TSEWANG NGODUP
Term start: 2/2017
Term expire: 1/4/2021
Ancestry representing: Tibetan



PAVOUA LEE
Term start: 9/15/2018
Term expire: 1/6/2020
Ancestry representing: Hmong



FAAMATI WINEY
Term start: 7/2/2019
Term expire: 1/2/2023
Ancestry representing: Polynesian/Samoan



SENATOR CAROLYN LAINE (D)
Term start: 2/2017
Term expire: N/A



SENATOR ERIC PRATT (R)
Term start: 2/2019
Term expire: N/A



REPRESENTATIVE ROD HAMILTON (R)
Term start: 2/2017
Term expire: N/A



REPRESENTATIVE KAO HLY HER (D)
Term start: 2/2019
Term expire: N/A



Council Staff Members



Sia Her, Executive Director

Sia has been executive director of the Council since 2013. Before joining the Council, Sia served as campaign manager for the successful Saint Paul Public Schools' "Strong Schools, Strong Communities" levy referendum. She has a master's degree in public policy from the Hubert H. Humphrey School of Public Affairs and a bachelor's degree in political science from Macalester College. *Sia manages all operations and projects, and develops and implements strategic and well-informed plans to ensure that the Council delivers on its statutory duties. Contact: sia.her@state.mn.us*



Anjali Mishra Cameron, Research Director

Anjali joined the Council in 2016. Prior to her work at the Council, Anjali conducted public health research at the University of Minnesota and the University of Chicago, and worked with community-based organizations in Minnesota on advancing health equity. She has a master's degree in biomedical sciences from Rosalind Franklin University and a bachelor's degree in neuroscience from Carleton College. *Anjali conducts original research, assists the executive director with advancing the Council's major initiatives, and produces research reports to inform the Council's key constituencies about the state of Asian Pacific Minnesotan communities. Contact: anjali.cameron@state.mn.us*



Virakcheath Hing, Office Manager/Executive Assistant

Virakcheath (Virak) joined the Council in September 2019. Prior to his work at the Council, Virak served as a public servant at the City of Saint Paul, Ramsey County, and most recently, at the Department of Public Safety for more than two decades. He has a degree from the Center for Criminal Justice and Law Enforcement. *Virak manages the office of the Council, administers and monitors the Council budget, assists with supervision of the Council's staff, and performs and coordinates numerous administrative functions as the assistant to the executive director. Contact: virakcheath.hing@state.mn.us.*



Andrew Morris, Legislative and Public Affairs Liaison

Andrew (Andy) Morris joined the Council in December 2019. A native of Minneapolis, Andy has lived and worked in Minneapolis; Washington, DC; and Tokyo, Japan across the non-profit, higher education, government, and private sectors in international exchange, government affairs, and policy analysis roles prior to joining the Council. He has a master's degree in Asian Studies from Georgetown University's Graduate School of Foreign Service and a bachelor's degree in Asian Studies from Saint John's University. *Andrew educates, informs, and engages Asian Pacific Minnesotans on issues of importance to these communities; assists in developing the Council's policy positions and legislative initiatives; and maintains close connection between the Council and its stakeholders. Contact: andrew.morris@mn.state.us*



Daniel Yang, Research Assistant

Daniel joined the Council in December of 2019 after completing a year of work and studies as a Fulbright scholar in Thailand. During his undergraduate years, Daniel co-founded the JUSTICE mentoring program, which serves students from underrepresented and under-resourced communities. Daniel has also worked with multiple organizations through the Minneapolis Urban Scholars program, including Minnesota Management and Budget and the Minneapolis Parks and Recreation Board. He has a bachelor's degree in political science from Saint John's University. *Daniel assists with research projects and community outreach; drafts social media content, graphic content, and the Council's community newsletter; and assists with support tasks as necessary. Contact: daniel.y.yang@state.mn.us*

Letter from the 2020 Chair



Dear Community Members,

As the incoming Chair of the Council, I am honored and excited to engage and advocate on your behalf, and the behalf of the many diverse communities our Council represents.

We are living in a time when our leaders recognize that a more representative government is in the interest of the common good.

We are living in a time of unprecedented progress; but also, unprecedented challenges facing America's democratic institutions.

We are living with the echoes of our many histories—seeing the reverberations of the decisions of our friends, family, and loved ones, and seeing how those ripples have played out over time.

In 2020, Minnesota's Southeast Asian communities, specifically the Cambodian, Lao, Vietnamese, and Hmong will observe the 45th anniversary of the end of the Vietnam War. The end of one series of events serves as the beginning for another; in this case, the beginning of the stories of our Southeast Asian Minnesotan communities.

Minnesota is home to some of the largest urban concentrations of newer Americans in the country. While many of our more established Asian Pacific Minnesotan communities are reveling in the opportunities available in America, our refugee-experienced and emerging communities are still facing complex challenges that require government to act in a way that recognizes fast-changing demographics and their respective realities. It is our statutory charge to serve all these Americans, bring their voices to the level of leadership, and break down the barriers that stand in the way of their success.

People thrive when they have a sense of community. It is my hope that the Council's work will continue to foster and strengthen this feeling of statewide community in the coming year.

Respectfully yours,

Dave Hoang
Dave (Dai) Hoang

FY19 EXPENDITURES	
General Fund	\$ 480,774.23
Revenue Funds	
(Annual Dinner Registration Fees)	\$ 0.00
	\$ 480,774.23
Expenditures	
Full-Time	\$ 306,624.04
Part-Time	\$ 31,194.65
Over-Time and Premium Pay	\$ 13,507.39
Other Employee Cost	\$ 4,315.94
Space Rental, Maintenance, and Utility	\$ 23,511.71
Repairs, Alterations, and Maintenance	\$ 3,893.89
Printing and Advertising	\$ 4,497.72
Prof/Tech Services Outside Vendor	\$ 37,962
Communications	\$ 199.00
Travel and Subsistence-In State	\$ 2,894.84
Travel and Subsistence-Out of State	\$ 5,264.38
Supplies	\$ 6,634.72
Employee Development	\$ 4,489.56
Other Operating Costs	\$ 6,481.95
Equipment-Non Capital	\$ 0.00
Equipment	\$ 1,987.80
Centralized IT Services	\$ 16,278.27
State Agency Other Services	\$ 0.00
Annual Dinner Expenses	\$ 0.00
Total Expenditures	\$ 469,737.86
Net Balance	\$ 11,036.37




“By meeting with API community leaders to build a plan by the community, for the community, we are helping to galvanize sustained engagement in the 2020 Census. As co-chair of both the API and Filipino American Complete Count Committees, I will see to this coalition-building to ensure under-counted and under-represented communities understand the importance of the 2020 Census.”

ALLEN MALICSI, CO-CHAIR OF BOTH THE API AND FILIPINO AMERICAN COMPLETE COUNT COMMITTEES

STATUTORY PURPOSE

The Council on Asian Pacific Minnesotans was created by the Minnesota State Legislature in 1985 to advise the Governor and the Legislature on issues pertaining to Asian Pacific Minnesotans; to advocate on behalf of this community on these issues; and to act as a broker between the Asian Pacific community and the rest of Minnesota. The Council, an executive branch office, represents Minnesotans descended from more than 40 nations.



“The API Complete Count Committee is tasked with dismantling any barriers that stand in the way of full participation in the 2020 Census by Minnesota’s API community. The importance of our task is impossible to overstate—this is democracy in action. This is civic engagement. This is the American dream.”

**MONTHA CHUM, CO-CHAIR OF THE
API COMPLETE COUNT COMMITTEE AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF RELEASE MN8**



m COUNCIL ON
ASIAN PACIFIC MINNESOTANS

A STATE AGENCY SINCE 1985

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2019-2020 Biennial Legislative Agenda

The Council works toward economic, social, legal, and political equality for Minnesotans of Asian and Pacific Islander heritage (Minn. Stat. § 15.0145)

Priority Issues*

The Council will actively track and pursue legislation in the following areas:

- Higher education affordability and access
- Data disaggregation
- Healthcare access
- Equity and social justice
- Immigration rights

Ongoing Positions

The Council will actively advocate for legislation that achieves the following:

- Programs and services that are respectful of and responsive to the linguistically and culturally diverse communities of Minnesota, including Asian Pacific communities
- Continued collection of more nuanced data, such as data being collected by the Department of Education pursuant to the All Kids Count Act, to better inform policy-making on issues of importance to Asian Pacific Minnesotans
- Increased understanding of the causes and prevention of violence against Minnesota's Asian Pacific women and children

*These issues were self-identified by respondents as high priority in the 2019 Legislative Priorities Survey

Approved by the Board on November 15, 2018

1 OF 5 Communities in the “MINNESOTA’S EMERGING ASIAN PACIFIC COMMUNITIES” Report

Who are the Bhutanese?

The Nepali-speaking Bhutanese families in Minnesota are Bhutanese citizens of Nepalese origin. Beginning in the late nineteenth-century, large groups of Nepali migrants came to southern Bhutan for work and economic opportunities, eventually staying to raise families. These families became known as the “Lhotshampas,” which translates to the phrase “people from the south.” The Lhotshampas integrated into Bhutan and attained citizenship following the Citizenship Act of 1958, and by the 1988 census the Lhotshampas made up over 1/6th of the total population of Bhutan.

Estimated Population in Minnesota – 1,142

Major Religions – Hinduism, Buddhism, Kirat, and Christianity

Why did they leave Bhutan?

Beginning in 1985, the Buddhist Drukpa majority became concerned about the growing economic power of the Lhotshampas, who were majority Hindu. By the late 1980’s, the government census branded the Lhotshampa population as illegal immigrants, despite their ability to demonstrate citizenship and land ownership. The Bhutanese government adopted a “One Bhutan, One People” policy, mandating uniform language, clothing, and cultural practices. Individuals who were unwilling, or unable, to comply with new laws to match the culture and language of the North Bhutanese, were severely punished. The Lhotshampas protested, and in response, the government further restricted resistant efforts. As a result, many Bhutanese were arrested, detained, and tortured. In 1992, the UNHCR built camps in Eastern Nepal that housed more than 105,000 refugees, while others fled to the neighboring India and other regions of Nepal.

The Bhutanese in Minnesota.

In 2008, approximately 6,000 Bhutanese refugees arrived in the United States, scattered through a number of different states. Ninety-eight percent of Bhutanese refugees in Minnesota are of Lhotshampa ethnicity. Bhutanese refugees tend to have higher English proficiency rates compared to other new refugee groups, because of higher quality language classes taught in Nepali refugee camp schools. It is estimated that thirty-five percent of Bhutanese refugees speak English upon arrival to Minnesota.

Many of Minnesota’s Bhutanese population are clustered in the suburbs of Roseville, Lauderdale, and East Saint Paul. Unlike other new immigrant communities, many Bhutanese are vegetarians, and therefore do not seek employment in the meat packing industry. Instead, community members rely on English proficient community leaders for assistance with job placement opportunities.



Minn. Stat. § 15.0145 — Ethnic Councils.

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The Emerging Communities Report focuses on five emerging Asian Pacific communities in Minnesota, including the Karen, Karenni, Bhutanese Lhotshampa, Guyanese, and Chuukese peoples. The report's findings will feature an overview of each community's resettlement history; an assessment of each community's current population in Minnesota; and an analysis of each community's trending issues. As the demographic numbers for these communities grow, it is critical that policy makers, school districts, and community organizations have a broad understanding of each group's communal history. The Emerging Communities Report will shape our efforts to support these growing populations as they build communities in Minnesota.

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2 OF 5 Communities in the “MINNESOTA’S EMERGING ASIAN PACIFIC COMMUNITIES” Report

Who are the Chuukese?

The Chuukese population come from the Chuuk Islands located in the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), a nation composed of 607 islands located in the Pacific Ocean. While Chuuk is one of four states within FSM, the Chuukese constitute almost fifty-percent of the total national population of Micronesia. The Chuuk language is primarily an oral traditional that is heavily rooted in music.

Estimated Population in Minnesota – 1,003

Major Religions – Christianity, specifically Catholic and Protestant

Why did they leave Micronesia?

Many Chuukese are practitioners of the traditional trades on the island, surviving on subsistence farming and fishing for their extended families. There are limited opportunities for higher education and employment on the Chuuk islands. In addition, the agricultural environment on their native islands is being compromised by increasing ocean water levels, which has led to island erosion, flooding, and crop degradation.

Immigration to the United States from the Federated States of Micronesia began in 1986, when the Pacific Island state signed a Compact of Free Association. Provisions in the Compact included aid for economic development, and the ability for citizens of Micronesia to freely move between the United States and their native islands. Under the Free Association Compact, Micronesians may work and reside within the United States, but are limited in options to attain citizenship, leaving them unable to fully integrate into a community. Without a pathway to citizenship, most do not qualify for federal loan programs or other federal support services.

The Chuukese in Minnesota.

The Chuukese migrated to Milan, Minnesota, in Chippewa County, after a local Minnesota banker lived with a host family on the Romanum Island of the Federate States of Micronesia. He helped this first family migrate to Milan, and many more families have come since that time. Religious service attendance is generally very high, and congregations support their churches, and are majority Christian.

Today, Micronesians are estimated to makeup over seventy-five percent of the Milan population. Approximately, 420 Chuukese reside in Chippewa County and the surrounding areas, working in poultry production facilities.



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3 OF 5 Communities in the “MINNESOTA’S EMERGING ASIAN PACIFIC COMMUNITIES” Report

Who are the Guyanese?

The Indo-Guyanese population come from the nation of Guyana, located between Venezuela and Suriname. Guyana is a small nation in South America, covered with dense jungle on its southern border. As a result most Guyanese citizens live in settlements along the coast, and are heavily influenced by Caribbean culture. The population of Guyana is approximately fifty-percent Indian ancestry (Indo-Guyanese) and thirty-percent African (Afro-Guyanese). Guyana’s official language is English, but residents also speak a creolized version of English which heavily mixes in African languages and Hindi.

Estimated Population in Minnesota – 1,939

Major Religions – Hinduism and Christianity

Why did they leave Guyana?

From 1840 to 1920, the British government brought about 250,000 Asian Indians from northern India to Guyana to become indentured servants on the colony’s sugar plantations. Unlike indentured servants migrating from Western Europe, these Indian indentured servants were treated brutally by land-owners. The Indian populations were used to replace the African slave labor force, which had been outlawed within the British Empire.

In the late 1960’s, the People’s Progressive Party took control of the country for 20 years after independence. Guyana became a soviet, socialist state with 75% of businesses under government control. Indo-Guyanese residents were discriminated against under the People’s Progressive Party. An estimated 500,000 Guyanese have immigrated to the United States in the past 40 years, to escape Guyana’s corrupted government control.

The Guyanese in Minnesota.

The Indo-Guyanese have immigrated to the United States since the passage of the Immigration and Naturalization Act of 1965, searching for better economic prospects and a safer standard of life. The largest population resides in New York where they make-up the third largest minority group.

The majority of Minnesota’s Indo-Guyanese population reside in Hennepin County. Many are devout Hindus and attend regular temple service at Guyanese temples in Minneapolis and Farmington. The first wave of Guyanese Minnesota residents came from New York state, however, more populations are arriving to Minnesota directly from Guyana.



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4 OF 5 Communities in the “MINNESOTA’S EMERGING ASIAN PACIFIC COMMUNITIES” Report

Who are the Karen?

The Karen are the second largest ethnic nationality group from Burma. In 2011, estimates for the worldwide population ranged from five to ten million. “Karen” is an English pronunciation of the Burmese word “Kayin”. While the Karen people may speak one of at least 12 different dialects, the Karen language has three main branches: Sgaw, Pwo, and Pa’o.

Estimated Total Population in Minnesota - 12,000

Major Religions - Christians, Buddhists, Animists, and very few Muslims

Why did they leave Burma?

Since 1949, many Karen populated areas have been subject to government insurgency and often persecution. Tens of thousands of Karen villagers have been forcibly relocated from their homes and many have fled to the neighboring nation of Thailand. In their native Burma, the Karen have suffered executions, forced labor, forced relocation, confiscation of land, human minesweeping, sexual violence and the burning of entire villages, in addition to open discrimination.

Nearly all Karen fled from the fighting and oppression, beginning in 1996. The United States made an open-ended offer in 2005 to resettle those Karen refugees residing in camps in Thailand.

The Karen in Minnesota.

An estimated twelve thousand Karen refugees and immigrants live in Minnesota. Most families reside in Ramsey County, with Saint Paul having the highest and fastest-growing Karen population in the state. In Greater Minnesota, there are smaller populations of the Karen community in Marshall, Worthington, Austin, Albert Lea, and Faribault.

Secondary migration from other states is growing as families reunite with relatives who have already settled in Minnesota. Many Karen refugees choose Minnesota as their new home because of the social services and support infrastructure offered to refugees exceeds those offered in other parts of the country. The Karen are quickly replacing other immigrants in meat processing centers in Worthington, Albert Lea, and Austin.



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5 OF 5 Communities in the “MINNESOTA’S EMERGING ASIAN PACIFIC COMMUNITIES” Report

Who are the Karenni?

Karenni (-ni means “red”) refers to approximately 9 different ethnic groups, speaking many different languages and dialects, all residing in the Kayah state of Myanmar (Burma). The largest group in the Kayah state are the Kayah Li Phu people. The major language spoken by the Karenni people is Kayah Li. The Kayah state is also frequently referred to as the “Karenni” state.

Estimated Population in Minnesota - over 2,000

Major Religions - Mostly Christians, Buddhists, and Animists

Why did they leave Burma?

The Karenni are the ethnic majority from the Karenni state, a mountainous region in Burma, bordering Thailand to the east, Shan state to the north, and the Karen state to the south. There are an estimated 250,000 people living in the state. The Karenni state is one of Burma’s poorest, with weak infrastructure, poor healthcare, malnutrition, few educational opportunities, and very little economic development.

Like the Karen and other Burmese minority ethnic groups, the Karenni allied with the British forces during World War II. Upon the independence of Burma in 1948, the Karenni did not agree to sign the Panglong Agreement, which would have acceded their state to form the Union of Burma. Since that time, the Karenni population has experience Burmese occupation and suppression.

The humanitarian situation in the Karenni state has continued to deteriorate. The Burmese government does not permit foreign individuals to travel into the Karenni state. Therefore no access is granted to any third party impartial observers or humanitarian aid organizations. Suspected human rights violations include forced labor, land confiscation, torture, arbitrary executions, and sexual violence.

The Karenni in Minnesota.

Due to their small numbers, it is uncertain exactly how many Karenni live in Minnesota at this time. Based on aggregate data from community organizations, an estimated one to two thousand Karenni individuals reside in Ramsey County, and other areas of the state with high Karen populations. Many Karenni refugees find work in the meat processing industry or work in agriculture and manufacturing in Southwestern Minnesota.



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