

APANO

ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN NETWORK OF OREGON



Spring
2015

We the People: Lobby Day Recap

Over the last decade, APANO has worked hard to make the Oregon Capitol the People's Capitol. The great marble halls have historically not been welcoming to Asian and Pacific Islanders, where our elected leaders more often made decisions for our community, instead of with our communities. APANO organizes our members to advocate and win the rights, resources and recognition our communities need to thrive.



Early on Monday morning April 13th, dozens of members in the APANO red t-shirts arrived in Salem to speakout for social justice. We met with 30 Republican and Democratic legislators, including champions like Rep. Alissa Keny-Guyer, Speaker Tina Kotek, Sen. Michael Dembrow and Rep. Joe Gallegos who are fighting for policies that serve our diverse, immigrant communities of color. We focused on the following priorities from APANO's 2015 Legislative Agenda:

- HB 3499 ELL Statewide Reform that increases urgency and focus to improve ESL programs.
- HB 2934 Basic Health Program to expand health insurance for working families and immigrants who face Medicaid exclusions.
- SB 894 Comprehensive Women's Health to ensure all women and transgender persons have access to all reproductive healthcare in Oregon.
- SB 454 Paid Sick Leave providing all workers the ability to care for their loved ones.

Thanks to all who attended, and all who have helped build our legislative agenda. Appreciations to our partners including the Oregon Commission on Asian Pacific Islander Affairs, our keynote speaker Chi K. Nguyen-Ventura, and all our members who served as legislative captains whose leadership is central to our grassroots advocacy. To keep updated on our advocacy and for future opportunities to engage, please contact Kathy Wai, Policy Advocacy Coordinator kathy@apano.org and learn more at <http://www.apano.org/programs/policy/>.

Save the Date for Jade Night Market



The Jade International District is looking forward to the second year of our International Night Markets! As the pilot project last year, our team was unsure of how the first weekend would unfold. Our target goal for all four weekends was 2000 people. After 20,000 people visited the night markets last year, we're looking forward to the community that gathers for this summer's night markets! Our night market committee team is hard at work preparing for the 2015 Jade International Night Market, which we will host at Portland Community College Southeast Campus on Southeast 82nd and Division. There are two events on August 15th and August 22nd, with twice as many vendors and an even more rich cultural experience! Save the date, and we look forward to seeing you there!

For vendor and volunteer information, contact todd@apano.org or call 971-340-4861

Advocacy Wins New APANO/Jade District Community Space



The APANO office has officially moved into the Jade District neighborhood, where a high concentration of APIs reside and work. The communities in the neighborhood have slowly been growing, and the need for a community space is crucial. For the next year and a half or so, we'll have our very own 8,200 square foot community space opening up at the intersection of SE 82nd and Division. As a result of the Jade District visioning process and the upcoming Powell Division High Capacity Transit project, Metro, our regional planning authority, purchased the building last December to increase ridership on the future transit route.

This development is a major win for the community as it provides space for neighbors to come together. This will be the site for Voices of Change, center our creative placemaking project, and be part of the Jade District International Night Market. We will also be sharing the space with a Taiko group, Chinese cultural performers, and a social justice theater group. Other programming may include regular Tai Chi classes and ping pong tournaments. We hope that this energy and excitement around the space helps us continue to build a more connected Jade District community.



In the long term, our community leaders are helping shape the future development of the site. As the site is redeveloped, the community has high hopes for community serving projects to be built into that key location including housing and for it to serve as a transportation hub.

Share Your Strong Families Story



What messages have you received about bodies and reproduction? How did these messages impact you?

What experiences have you had accessing reproductive health services?

Have you had or supported someone in having an abortion and are willing to share your story?

What does your family need to thrive?

Our voices and stories are powerful, but too often, they are silenced or go unheard. To remedy this, APANO's Strong Families Team is conducting an anonymous story collection project to hear and highlight messages, beliefs, and experiences in our Asian and Pacific Islander communities connected to families, bodies, gender and reproduction. This story collection project includes a focus on abortion, and what does it mean for all our communities to have equal access, as well as the cultural messages and shifts APANO can promote to ensure all families have the rights, resources and recognition to thrive. This story collection project includes a focus on abortion, particularly what it means for all of our communities to have equal access and to highlight the decisions that people make about their bodies and health. The Strong Families work overall focuses on the broad spectrum of rights, resources and recognition that everyone needs to thrive, and the ways our society needs to change to reflect that.

All stories collected will be shared anonymously. If you are willing to do an interview with a Strong Families group member to tell your story, or if you have any questions about the process, please contact Kara Carmosino at kara@apano.org. We would love to hear from you!

Building Leadership for Systems Change

Congratulations to the 17 graduates of the 2014-2015 cohort of Asian Pacific Islander Community Leadership Institute (API-CLI). API-CLI is led by Immigrant and Refugee Community/Asian Family Center (IRCO/Asian Family Center) in partnership with the Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon (APANO). It is one of six culturally-specific leadership programs funded by the Meyer Memorial Trust through the Coalition of Communities of Color. APANO is excited to build with over 53 API-CLI Senior Fellows to win equity and systems change that meets the needs of our communities. Applications for 2015-2016 will be available soon. For more information, please contact Training Manager, Kara Carmosino at kara@apano.org.



Welcome New Staff



Melissa Magana: Office and Events Manager

Although I was active member for only a brief time, I was constantly impressed by the professionalism and drive of all the APANO staff and members with whom I interacted. I find it inspiring to work amongst people who think & feel similarly to how I do, and who challenge me to strive for change in our lives, communities, society, and the greater world. I believe in organizing communities to build stronger voices to enact change that will benefit all.

I hope to make this a lifelong endeavor, growing and adapting as the organization grows and adapts. I bring years of event planning experience, and office support knowledge to APANO. As a highly organized individual, I hope to be able to build systems and practices that lead to a smoother experience for staff & members alike. I also hope to be able to expand the work that APANO does around arts, events, and fundraising.



Kara Carmosino: Training Manager

After volunteering with APANO for a year, I was drawn to APANO's intersectional approach to social justice and model of organizing grounded in all communities' liberation. In particular, I was excited about joining an API organization and bringing my background in facilitation and training to culturally specific work.

I hope to help create spaces, tools, and trainings that give our members opportunities to share their stories, analyze systems of oppression, mobilize their communities and work for justice in ways that build their own leadership and the leadership of the people around them, shift the balance of power and create lasting institutional change.

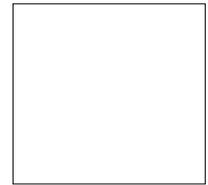
Profile Board Member: Jessie Domingo-Salu

I first got involved with APANO when the Health Equity and Reform Team (HEART) first started. Since then I've seen the growth of APANO and decided that being part of the board, would enable me to stay involved and be part of the decision-making of the organization, specifically with how we are continuing to best serve our communities. I also wanted to be in a position where I can support APANO staff so that they can do the work that best serves the community.



Based on my experience, I mainly work with girls and young women who have experienced trauma. I would want to bring that lens into APANO's work. My experience of being on other boards, and also being from the nonprofit world, I hope to sustain the operations of the organization so that it continues to support the community and addresses the community's issues.

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Volunteer to support our Voices of Change Celebration



Our volunteers are at the core of the work we do. Volunteers support APANO's programming, ensure the success of major events, and they help foster community building. As May approaches, we hope you'll consider celebrating our volunteers, members, and the API community as a whole through the Asian Pacific American Heritage Month. We plan on kicking-off the month on the evening of May 7, 2015 with our annual Voices of Change Celebration. To make this event a success, we will be needing a dedicated team of volunteers for the afternoon and evening of May 7th. We invite you to support us in whatever capacity you're able, as a sponsor, as a volunteer, or as an attendee at Voices of Change. If you're able to volunteer, please contact Office and Events Manager, Melissa Magana, at (melissa@apano.org). Mahalo, and we look forward to seeing you there!

Save the Date

- May 7 **Voices of Change**
- May 14 **Monthly Membership Meeting**
- Aug. 15 & 22 **Jade International Night Markets**

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