

AAPI HISTORY IMPLEMENTATION PROPOSAL



HISTORY OF THE AAPI COMMUNITY IN NEVADA

AAPI Community Commission

2023

Proposal Introduction



The AAPI Commission would like to introduce our research breakdown to propose the possibility of implementing AAPI history into the mainstream of Clark County.

As of May 2022, Illinois and New Jersey have mandated an AAPI history requirement for K-12 students. Illinois' curriculum requirement will include one unit of Asian American history in each public elementary and high school starting in the 2022-2023 school year. The unit will focus on AAPI contributions to science, government, economics, arts, culture etc., and tie in how members of the AAPI community have contributed to Illinois and Midwest history.

New Jersey's curriculum will also start in the 2022-2023 school year and will include the history and heritage of the AAPI community. The governor of New Jersey will establish the Commission for Asian Heritage within the Department of Education to provide guidance to New Jersey schools in the "implementation of historical, cultural and educational programs concerning people of Asian and Asian American descent," and help develop curriculum guidelines.

Proposal For Clark County



Clark County School District:

Proposal of new curriculum: Asian/AAPI Studies

1: Curriculum of history and culture.

2: Per Clark County School District Requirements, Proposal must be submitted through approval Process.

3: CCSD Implementation Proposal. (Attached)

Language Studies:

Proposal of new curriculum of various Asian languages in schools. UNLV Filipinx American Student Association (FASA) Petition Effort to get Tagalog instated to UNLV's Course catalog as a foreign language eligible to be taken for credit.

The initial reach out to the World Languages and Cultures department had resulted in a denial of request due to the university's lack of funding and resources for the course.

Petition

Museums:

Display cultural arts and artifacts within museums.



Proposal For Clark County

~Continuation 1 of 2



Recognition Documentation:

Include biographies of key player first settlers who contributed to the beginnings and growth of their communities.

The Smithsonian Asian Pacific American Center
(The Neon Museum by Sue Fawn Chung, Professor Emerta
UNLV)

CSN:

*CSN currently does offer various AAPI Studies and language studies

Proposal of additional electives or extracurricular to the existing: CSN Asian/AAPI Studies

1: Send proposal to Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Committee

2: CSN Implementation Proposal. (Attached)

Proposal For Clark County ~Continuation 2 of 2



RNCAAPI Community Center:

Opened on Wednesday May 4, 2022

At: 5420 SPRING MOUNTAIN RD # 106B

LAS VEGAS NV 89146-8732

- 1: Propose this center offer various language classes
- 2: Offer to submit historical information to be available at this center

UNLV:

- 1: Proposal of additional curriculum: Asian/AAPI Studies
- 2: UNLV lacks funds for these programs
- A: Include a list of suggested sponsors and funding for these programs

Propose Inclusion of the NH (Native Hawaiian) into AAPI to become AANHPI from hereon.

Key Facts



I. The NH (Native Hawaiian in AANHPI)

a) We are NOT separating Native Hawaiian (NH) to merely be separate from Pacific Islanders (PI) in the acronym. We are simply identifying Native Hawaiians for who they are as a distinct group with its own unique identity. Native Hawaiians are NOT Pacific Islanders. Although we are connected to our Pacific Island cousins through genealogy, Hawaii is the most isolated islands in the World, located in the far Northern Pacific Ocean. We are not what many identify as part of the South Pacific where our Pacific Islanders reside. For years Native Hawaiian have been consolidated into the Pacific Islanders databases or analytics and even at times included in our Asian American databases inappropriately. Databases and analytics which disparage our own NH community regarding health, education and economics. Native Hawaiian have their own analytics and MUST be recognized for such, in order to be recognized at a federal, state and local level for who we are, in order to apply for opportunities including funding in all the various areas of concern and need.

Key Facts

~Continuation 1 of 3



b) If a search is done on AAPI organizations, you will generally find that these organizations discuss and describe their missions to assist Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Island communities. However, the currently most commonly used acronym AAPI does not recognize Native Hawaiian (NH). This is the need for the acronym to be AANHPI

II. History of APPI

a) On October 14, 2009, President Obama signed an executive order that restores the White House Initiative and President's Advisory Commission on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders to address issues concerning the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community.

b) President's Advisory Commission on AAPIs: President Obama established the President's Advisory Commission to work with all the agencies of the federal government to improve the health, education and economic status of Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) communities. Hailing from all over the nation and from a wide range of disciplines, the Commission members represent the diverse AAPI community.

Key Facts

~Continuation 2 of 3



III. White House recognizes and identifies NH within AANHPI.

a) White House Initiative on Asian American, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders (WHIAANHPI): When President Biden signed Executive Order 14031 on May 28, 2021, the President's Advisory Commission on Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders and the White House Initiative on Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders were established at the Department of Health and Human Services. Each entity of the Initiative works to "advance equity, justice, and opportunity for AA and NHPI communities in the United States."

1. The White House Initiative on Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders (WHIAANHPI) is charged with driving an ambitious, whole-of-government agenda to advance equity, justice, and opportunity for AA and NHPI communities.

2. President's Advisory Commission on Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders: The Commission advises the President on ways the public, private, and non-profit sectors can work together to advance equity, justice, and opportunity for AA and NHPI communities.

Key Facts

~Continuation 3 of 3



IV. AANHPI - Advancement of the NH in AANHPI under current President Biden Administration:

a) On May 28, 2021, President Biden signed Executive Order 14031, reestablishing the Initiative at the Department of Health and Human Services and renaming it the White House Initiative on Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders (WHIAANHPI).

b) On December 9, 2021, the Department of Health and Human Services announced that U.S. Trade Representative Ambassador Katherine Tai would become a Co-Chair of the Initiative alongside Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra.

c) On May 28, 2021, Biden appointed Krystal Ka'ai to be Executive Director of the Initiative. Ka'ai previously served as Executive Director of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus and is the first Native Hawaiian to lead the Initiative.

V. DESIRE/INTENT: As the White House at a Federal level recognizes the NH (Native Hawaiian) in AANHPI, it is important that we nationally at all levels recognize this acronym appropriately with hope it is also recognized internationally to continue to collect the proper and justified database and analytics to garner the success for all AANHPI communities.

History Of Individual AAPI Communities



Each Asian Pacific Islander community in Clark County began with a story.

These are stories of immigrants who journeyed into a foreign land and had the courage to build new lives, businesses, and contribute to the growth their communities.

These stories deserve to be told and preserved. We would not have what we have today, without the past history.

The content of the history is shared by people who lived the events, have first hand knowledge, or the information was provided by previous records.

The original content is preserved with minimal edits in the effort to maintain the authenticity of events.

Afghan History:

The first Afghan to come to Las Vegas, Nevada was on February 10, 1973. His name was Nesar Beria (he died in 2019) and his wife's name was Shukria Beria. In 2017, the Afghan population was about 8,000 people and over 500 families have lived in Las Vegas, Nevada. In the past two years, there has been an increased amount of refugees who came to the United States from the country of Afghanistan while some Green Card holder refugees came from Turkey. There are currently two Afghan organizations in Las Vegas, Nevada - The American Afghan South Asian Middle Eastern Chamber of Commerce and the Nevada Peacemakers Lions Club – both of whom are presided by Sharifa Wahab, a very active Afghan community leader in Clark County. There are several Afghan-owned businesses in Las Vegas, Nevada such as restaurants, dental offices, doctors' offices, smoke shops, car dealerships, gas stations, real estate agencies, boutiques, wholesale stores, fast food restaurants, mechanic shops, Adult Day Care and other home health care facilities.

Asian Indian History:

Arrived in Nevada during the late 1960s. In the 1970s, several bachelors that were in careers of physicians, professors, architects, motel owners, engineers, and two students at UNLV. 20 to 25 families moved to Nevada. 1970s to 1980s more vigorous migrations when 5 PhD's join the UNLV faculty 4,800 Indians and 2,100 Pakistani and Bangladeshi combined during this move.

Bangladesh History:

The first person from Bangladesh to come to Las Vegas, Nevada was Mir Sha Fajir. Mir Sha came to Las Vegas, Nevada in 1970 and died in 2017. He worked in the casino as an executive. Another, Bangladeshi who came to Las Vegas, Nevada after Mir Sha was Dr. Chawdary. Dr. Chawdary came to the United States in 1978 and retired as a heart surgeon a few years ago. There have been over 250 families from Bangladesh who have come to Las Vegas, Nevada. There may be no organization in Las Vegas for this community but there are a great number of businesses run by them such as doctors' offices, computer science offices, and engineer offices. One of the businesses that is run by one of those families is called American Soils Engineering. The owner of this company is Qamruzzaman Babul, Pe.

Bhutanese History:

A total of 316 refugees from Bhutan resettled in Nevada from 2008 to 2018.

Before 2008 there were no recordings.

There are NO Bhutanese organizations established in Clark County to date.

Burmese History:

The Burmese community in Nevada is exceptionally small, there are approximately 20 families residing in the Clark County area to date. There is no other information on record.

Cambodian History:

No information is recorded, published, or collected at this time that is specific to the Clark County area.

Chinese History:

The Chinese originally immigrated from Guangdong and, to a lesser extent, Fujian provinces and were attracted by occupations like mining, railroad construction, logging, irrigation work, and the service industry. Chinese miners wandered into northern Nevada in the 1850s and established Chinatowns in Dayton, Genoa, Gold Canyon, Virginia City, and elsewhere. A small group worked in wood charcoal making in the Mount Charleston area in the 1870s. The charcoal was used as fuel in mining and later in train engines.

The three trades they primarily took up in Nevada were mining, railroad construction and woodcutting. By the time the California Pacific Railroad began construction in Reno around 1885, Chinese immigrants started to set up their settlements. Beyond these industries, Chinese immigrants branched out into a number of services, opening restaurants and laundries, Chung said. The restaurants proved particularly popular.

Chinese History:

-Continuation 1 of 2

The 1930s saw the legalization of gambling in Nevada. Las Vegas soon became known as Sin City to some and gained international fame as the world's entertainment capital. Chinese Americans and Chinese from abroad were so numerous that many casinos featured Chinese restaurants. Beginning in the 1970s there was an increase in population and the growth of Chinese American businesses. Caesar's Palace and other major casinos hired Asian entertainers, especially from Hong Kong and Taiwan, for a brief appearance during Chinese New Year's as an enticement to the Asian gamblers. By the 1980s all of the major Las Vegas Strip casinos had fantastic Chinese New Year decorations and attractions. Chinese games were adapted and adopted in major casinos. Keno, pai gow, a type of domino game, and "high-low," a dice game, all could be found in major casinos.

Chinese History:

-Continuation 2 of 2

To preserve their history and culture, migrants and their American descendants established Chinatowns in cities throughout Nevada. Around the 1970s, the Las Vegas community sought to have a centralized location, but it wasn't until the 1990s that something stable was developed. James Chen, a Taiwanese-born immigrant, decided to open the Las Vegas Chinatown Plaza in 1995. From there, more and more Asian-owned businesses began to sprout up. Chinatown now stretches well beyond the original plaza, forming a commercial hub of markets, restaurants and other cultural amenities that reflect various Asian cultures.

In 2015 Vida Lin founded the Asian Community Development Council, the largest non-profit to provide resources to the underserved Asian population in Nevada.

Filipino History:

According to the 2021 Pew Research Center Report, Filipino Americans account for the three largest Asian origin groups in the U.S.. In Nevada, Filipinos are the largest and fastest growing AAPI community. Furthermore, the Las Vegas Asian Chamber of Commerce says that more than 200,000 Filipinos make up the AAPI community.

1920 Based on the Fourteenth Census of the United States, total number of Filipinos reported were 5. During this period, Filipinos occupied jobs within the tourism industry as employees in the hotel, casino and food industry.

1930 Rudy Roque Legaspi Oquendo is one of the first Filipinos to settle in the Las Vegas valley. In the article, "Growing Pinoy clout in Las Vegas", it was written that he worked as deputy sheriff during the day and as a bartender at night.

1952 Before the advent of computer animation, Rudy Crisostomo hand-rendered early designs drafts for the signs as the Sands, Dunes, Circus Circus, Binions, Luxor, Whiskey Petes, and Rio.

1990 Nevada faces a shortage of registered nurses. Direct recruitment from the Philippines addresses demand for registered nurses (RNs) to provide direct patient care.

Filipino History:

-Continuation 1 of 1

2005 There was a significant number of Filipino migration in Clark County in this year. The other three counties that many Filipinos are settling in are Los Angeles, San Diego, and Honolulu. Filipinos immigrate to the Nevada area due to the low cost of living, business-friendly tax climate, casino and health care industry. These industries provide both recreation and employment opportunities.

1997 Judge Cedric Kerns was the first and youngest Filipino-American to be elected in the Las Vegas Municipal Court. He is credited for starting the Youth Offender Court, where drug addicts undergo a year-long program of drug treatment, training and counseling under the supervision of the court and requires the involvement of the defendants and their loved ones in the recovery process.

2001-2021 Honorable Cheryl Moss (Ret.) served on the bench for 20 years. She was the first Judge to preside over Nevada's First Gambling Court.

Did you know? Filipino American History Month is celebrated annually in October to celebrate Filipino legacies.

Hmong History:

No information is recorded, published, or collected at this time that is specific to the Clark County area.

Japanese History:

1890s Modest migration of people who worked as houseboys (domestic workers to study English), cooks, and few mine workers. Inherited strong anti-Chinese sentiment. Built San Pedro, Los Angeles, and Salt Lake Railroad. Japanese were seen as trustworthy, ambitious, and offered long employment with the railroad industry. Promoted to skilled labor that was normally reserved for white laborers (machinists, boilermakers, paint, and mechanics). They lived on railroad property called Japanese Colony

In 1940, 49 Japanese resided in Clark. 1942 Internment was felt by smaller Nevada counties, but Clark County/Las Vegas Japanese were respected and protected by County Sheriff Gene Ward. Famous Tomiyasu Ranch was chief supporter of feeding thousands of employees of the Hoover Dam.

1952 Senator Patrick McCarran was a long time supporter of Japanese farm families in Nevada, cosponsored legislation that finally granted citizenship to the Issei, reopened the door to immigration with the quote of 185 per year.

Japanese American Citizens League established in Nevada and recent settlers from Hawaii and California found community.

Japanese Americans residents of the valley after the 1960s are of mixed race and heritage.

Korean History:

Famous early Koreans include: Frank Kim & Juanita Sanchez owning and operating vegetable farm called Kim Produce Farm. Kim Sisters in nightly entertainment.

First wave of migration 1903-1924 went to Honolulu Harbor to work in sugar cane fields in Hawaii and orchards in California.

Second wave of migration 1950-1953 Korean War and Korean Picture Brides marrying and settling in Nellis Air Force Base.

Third Wave of migration 1965 Immigration and Nationality Act attracted educated and skilled workers along family reunification.

1980s Handful of small Korean Grocery Stores and restaurants emerged.

Laotian History:

No information is recorded, published, or collected at this time that is specific to the Clark County area.

Malaysian History:

No information is recorded, published, and collected at this time that is specific to the Clark County area.

Though there is a Census record, there are no Malaysian organizations or Malaysian leaders.

Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander History:

Vegas, the Ninth Island, has been a keystone place for people from Hawaii to both visit and migrate to for a long time, most notably in the 70s with the opening of the California Hotel and Sam Boyd's marketing tactics, and in the 90s/00s with the opening of much of the casinos on the strip today (moving here promised an abundance of jobs, more affordable homes, and lower taxes).

In September of 2002, 'Ohana Magazine: the Aloha Connection, "Uncle Mel" Ozeki, editor and publisher of 'Ohana Magazine: The Aloha Connection coined Las Vegas as the Ninth Island:

When 'Ohana (family) published its premier issue in 1966, the tremendous growth in islanders moving to Las Vegas gave us the notion of coining "Ninth Island." Hawaii is composed of eight islands, when combined with many expatriated islanders moving to Las Vegas, made it a natural".

Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander History:

-Continuation 1 of 5

However, the comparatively high out migration from Paradise because of prolonged economic slump has caused residents to begin new lives through-out the continental U.S.

Accordingly, the term Ninth Island now refers to the United States.

It was his 40th publication having his first issue in August 1996. Through the years "Uncle" Mel captured the goings and comings of Hawaiians to Las Vegas and having witnessed the explosion of Hawaiians arriving in Las Vegas beginning in 1999 – 2004.

But the handshake between Hawaii and Las Vegas began with the Showroom. In the late 1950's, The Mary Kaye Trio is credited with founding the Las Vegas "lounge" phenomenon at the New Frontier (1955-1965). Mary Kaye aka Maia Ka'aihue, brother Norman and Frank Ross composed the Trio. The group had just finished a tour of the east Coast, one of which was a performance at the Lexington Hotel in New York. Through their popularity the owner of the New Frontier signed the trio up for the first engagement in the main showroom of the Last Frontier on what would become the Las Vegas Strip, and the owner wanted to keep them performing at the hotel at the New Frontier.

"Without a room to go to, I suggested a stage be built in the bar area, and it could be called a 'lounge,' " Mary Kaye told Vintage Guitar magazine in 2003.

It was the beginnings of the Vegas showroom with many other "Hawaiian" entertainers from Waikiki to follow.

Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander History:

-Continuation 2 of 5

Part of the magical growth in entertainment were famous entertainers from Hawai'i: Don Ho at the Hilton, Mahi Beamer at the Stardust, Alfred Apaka and many more who played the shows across the Strip and Downtown not only drawing the local tours but the now planted Hawaiians in other states.

Another component enticing Hawaiians to Las Vegas, can be accredited to Sam Boyd of Boyd Gaming. Having ran a "bingo" establishment in Hawai'i. The Boyd family fell comfortably in to the Hawaiian way of life and hospitality. When moving to Las Vegas to open his first gambling establishment, Sam Boyd created the \$ 99 Hawaiian junkets: Flight, 3 Days/2 Nights Hotel and Meals included. He was able to capture a lot of Hawaiians to the Mainland and keeping them returning by creating a place of Aloha: hiring people from Hawaii and making sure there was Island food on the menu. That Aloha continues today at the downtown establishments of Boyd Gaming including The California Hote, Main Street Casino and Freemont Hotel & Casino. In addition, Casino magnate Steve Wynn also found ways to cater to the ever growing influx of Hawaiians who he had seen visiting in droves his friend Sam Boyd's establishments. Special deals and junket travel packages were revealed at The Golden Nugget where Steve Wynn and his team were more than willing to share their Aloha.

Native Hawaiian History: History:

-Continuation 3 of 5

Today, many Hawaiians populate the 9th Island - Las Vegas and Henderson in Southern Nevada and according to the last Census in 2020 is the largest and quickest growing community of what is considered Polynesians (despite that Hawaii is not geographically a part of Polynesia as it is the most isolated islands in the World, located in the far Northern Pacific, but a member of the Polynesian family in dna and genealogy). With the average medium home price as of September of 2022 in Hawaii at 1.2 million dollars, it is understandable why Hawaiians continue to move to Southern Nevada. A better cost of living, opportunity to purchase a home and live the middle class lifestyle that most residents of Hawaii can't afford back in their native homeland or must work 2-3 jobs to make ends meet and still only rent a residence and never own it, Hawaiians continue to seek out Nevada as a better opportunity.

There are so many Hawaiians and expatriates from Hawaii, that Hawaiian organizations flourish such as the Las Vegas Hawaiian Civic Club, Kamehameha Alumni & Friends Intermountain Chapter (an alumni club of the famous Kamehameha Schools), Aloha Lions Club, Office of Living Arts and numerous Halau Hula (Hula Schools/Academies) scattered throughout the Las Vegas Valley. Hawaiian concerts and festivals flourish like the oldest Hawaiian festival in Nevada, the Prince Jonah Kuhio Kalaniana'ole Ho'olaule'a (Celebration), operated by the Las Vegas Hawaiian Civic Club which just celebrated 30 years in September of 2022 and the Club itself a mainstay since its inception in 1989.

Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander History:

-Continuation 4 of 5

Nevada also has numerous Hawaii island food eateries and establishments like 2 Scoops of Aloha, Pacific Island Taste, Island Sushi and the soon to open in Summer of 2023 famous Zippy's, a local Hawaiian style diner/take-out food place popular in the islands of Hawaii since the 1960's.

Hawaii businesses abound that cater to the Hawaiian and make available delicacies found back home in Hawaii like poke (Hawaiian raw fish marinated in various sauces and condiments of seaweed and spices), poi (taro root main staple), malasadas (Portuguese style sugar donuts found in Hawaii and not even in Portugal), Aloha Shoyu (Hawaii soy sauce favorite that is now produced in Las Vegas and supplied to many restaurants including non Hawaiian establishments as well as Casinos) and too many other familiar food favorites from Hawaii to mention and include here.

Hawaii and Hawaiians have truly made their mark in Nevada, more specifically Southern Nevada since that very first entertainment trio comprised of Native Hawaiians and known as the Mary Kaye Trio made their home here in the 1950's. The Mary Kaye Trio will forever and historically be known as the very first lounge show in Las Vegas on the Strip. And Hawaiians will continue to migrate to the Silver State in waves calling it their home away from their island home Hawaii...and for now Hawaiians are comfortable with this place affectionately referred to as the 9th Island...ALOHA from the Silver State!

Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander History:

-Continuation 5 of 5

About 1 in 10 Hawaiian residents visit Las Vegas every year, and roughly 40 Hawaiian high school reunions are held at the California Hotel per year. There are travel packages offered to Hawaiian residents that include a very cheap plane fare, a stay at the Cal, and meal tickets to eat there

There were a couple hundred former Hawaiian residents living here in 1986 when the population in LV was around 600,000, and now more than 15,000 live and work in Las Vegas (19,000 in Nevada).

Between 1995 and 2000, about 12,079 people moved here from Hawaii, which is more than the combined number of Hawaiian residents on Lana'i and Molokai combined.

Pakistani History:

No information is recorded, published, or collected at this time that is specific to the Clark County area.

Samoan History:

No information is recorded, published, or collected at this time that is specific to the Clark County area.

Sri Lankan History :

No information is recorded, published, or collected at this time that is specific to the Clark County area.

Taiwanese History:

No information is recorded, published, or collected at this time that is specific to the Clark County area.

Thai History :

Records from the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services reveal that only 458 Thais registered as immigrants from 1951 to 1960.

Thai immigration to Nevada did not begin until the late 1960s. There are virtually no records on Thai immigrants in Nevada prior to this. The first Thai immigrants in Nevada were women who had married American soldiers stationed in or visiting Thailand for rest and recreation during the Vietnam War. These women arrived to Las Vegas when their husbands were reassigned to Nellis Air Force Base. In the 1960s and 1970s, this gendered immigration pattern prevailed in other states as well. During this time, the families resided in the Nellis, and Northeast area.

As times progressed with the growth of Southern Nevada, and families becoming more successful, they began moving around to different areas such as Summerlin and Henderson. The more affluent families and second generations favored the Southwest parts of town. (South Rainbow Blvd between West Warm Springs Road and Windmill has often been referred to as "Asian District" due to the multi-cultural shops and restaurants.)

Thai History:

-Continuation 1 of 4

During the progression of the Thai population, Tippy Meevasin opened the first Thai market called International Market in 1974 inside the Commercial Center, then in 1988 moved to a spot on Main Street and Oakey Blvd near Odyssey Records before she closed the store and retired in the early 2000s. Oywan Sawyer was one of the original settlers, She and her husband David made Las Vegas their permanent home approximately during the year 1975, after traveling around the world. Oywan was one of the first Thai settlers who helped grow the Las Vegas Thai community into what it is today, she is a fixture of Thai history.

There was still no Thai community in the early 1970s; much of Las Vegas still had not even been developed yet. Oywan began to meet other Thai friends at Nellis Air Force Base, and at The International Market. A small community began to develop; the new arrivals from Thailand introduced their culture, and food. They opened restaurants and shops to make a way of life. In those times there was no social media; it wasn't as easy to connect with other Thai's. Oywan Sawyer recognized the need for a means to connect other Thai people to one another and help promote their businesses, so In 1999, Oywan founded and remained Editor-In-Chief of the very first Thai Newspaper called: *Las Vegas News*, which remains the largest and most recognized Thai publication in Nevada to date, and has evolved with the times advancing to online technology at: <https://lasvegasnews.media/>.

Thai History:

-Continuation 2 of 4

These pioneers were instrumental in the development of the Thai Community and the preservation of the culture. Oywan Sawyer was instrumental in highlighting new Thai businesses, community events and community achievements. Oywan quickly rose to fame and became a highly regarded leader in the Thai Community, often referred to as “The Thai Mother of Las Vegas”. It is often said that no one could have done this the way Oywan did. In addition to her success with *Las Vegas News*, she also played a major role in developing the first Thai Temples in Las Vegas. First, Wat Buddha Pavana was created during the early 1980’s. Then after, Oywan helped the community with the development of Watpa Buddhaya Nandharam in 1999. In 2007 Bhichai and Pratharm Tongsir, Oywan Sawyer, along with several other community members contributed to building the third Thai temple called Wat Sricharoendham in the Northwest part of town. By this time in 2007, the Thai community had grown, more people had united to enrich the Las Vegas Thai community.

During the late 1970’s Golf Samerthai opened one of the first Thai Restaurants called Sawadee. She later moved to a new location on W. Sahara and renamed that restaurant Tanya, after her youngest daughter.

In the mid 1990s Lawan Pongpan opened Ocha Thai Cuisine in Downtown Las Vegas, she cooked and ran the restaurant until she sold it to the Nasompong family in 2016.

Thai History:

-Continuation 3 of 4

In 1999 Saipin Chutima brought Lotus of Siam to Las Vegas inside the Commercial Center on the east side of town. Saipin and her family opened a second location on E. Flamingo near UNLV, then on November 15, 2022 Lotus of Siam opened their 3rd location inside the Red Rock Casino Resort and Spa. This is the second Thai restaurant located inside a major casino. The other one is Lemongrass Thai Restaurant inside the Aria Hotel at 3730 S. Las Vegas Blvd, Las Vegas, NV 89158. Kung Fu Thai Restaurant was the very first; it was located inside the Union Plaza Hotel in Downtown Las Vegas during the early 1980's before they moved to Chinatown in 1995 and have been at that same location on Valley View Blvd since.

John and Pagachat Zeigler opened the first Thai owned jewelry store called Gem's Etc. in 1999 and were successful, then retired during the year 2011. Prior to opening the Jewelry Store, John Zeigler was the first Thai American to obtain an executive position, as a director of marketing for the Riviera Hotel during the 1980's. He was responsible for casino promotions that aimed to keep the casino filled during the weekdays.

Bangkok Market opened between 2004-2005. At the end of 2006, First Asian Bank was formed by John Zeigler, Nuchanart Dee Mallas, and several partners from various Asian communities, shortly after, the bank was acquired by another banking institution continuing to operate under the same name.

Thai History:

-Continuation 4 of 4

From early on, the Thai community did not rely on an association, but rather helped each other individually, the community strongly united through their Buddhist religion at the Thai temples. The Thai Culture Foundation has provided community services and cultural arts. There are six Thai temples around Clark County; the Thai Culture Foundation links the communities within these temples to available community resources and assistance.

The Thai population tends to socialize within their own community, particularly within the temples. Thai food and restaurants was the way of life for Thai immigrants when they first arrived in the United States, this tradition still strongly remains, even in these current times, the younger generations continue to open new Thai Restaurants around Clark County, creating fusions of Thai dishes mixed with old world recipes and altered Americanized favorites such as Pad Thai, fried rice and Thai beef noodle soup. The Thai community has remained resilient, and adaptive to life in America while maintaining very close connections to their families in Thailand. Large numbers reveal the majority of Thai immigrants, and Thai Americans continue to work in America to send money back to Thailand.

Vietnamese History:

The Vietnamese community established its presence here in Las Vegas in 1972 when a few Vietnamese families immigrated to the U.S., with their spouses working at the Nellis Air Force Base. In 1975 after the fall of Saigon, a significant number of Vietnamese chose Las Vegas to re-establish their permanent home in the U.S. The population of the Vietnamese community has continued to grow steadily from 1975 until today.

Vietnamese Americans' income and social classes are diverse in Clark County. Older Vietnamese often have a lower socioeconomic standing and more difficulty integrating into the mainstream due to greater linguistic and cultural barriers.

The economic difference can be seen in Vietnamese-American neighborhoods throughout the county. We have seen substantial growth in the number of Vietnamese-owned businesses. Throughout the county, many Vietnamese (especially first or second-generation immigrants) have opened supermarkets, restaurants, bánh mì bakeries, beauty salons, nail salons, real estate, and auto-repair businesses. Restaurants owned by Vietnamese Americans tend to serve Vietnamese cuisine, Vietnamized Chinese cuisine, or both and have popularized pho and spring rolls. Vietnamese people in Clark County hold diverse employment from professionals like attorneys, physicians, dentists, and pharmacists, to casino dealers, laborers, and nail technicians, among others.

Vietnamese History:

-Continuation 1 of 1

The Vietnamese dominate three industries in Clark County: the nail industry, pharmacy, and dentistry. You will find dentist offices and nail salons owned by Vietnamese on four corners of most intersections, and you may pleasantly surprise to find a Vietnamese Pharmacist when visiting any pharmacy throughout the county. Young Vietnamese Americans adults are well educated and often provide professional services. Since older Vietnamese Americans have difficulty interacting with the non-Vietnamese professional class, many Vietnamese Americans provide specialized professional services to fellow immigrants. Vietnamese Americans are an upwardly-mobile group; their economic status has improved substantially in recent years.

Vietnamese Americans have tried to preserve their traditional culture by teaching their children the Vietnamese language, wearing traditional dress (áo dài) for special occasions, and showcasing their cuisine in restaurants throughout the county. Family loyalty is the most important Vietnamese cultural characteristic, and more than two generations traditionally lived under one roof. The Vietnamese view a family as including maternal and paternal grandparents, uncles, aunts, and cousins. In adapting to American culture, most Vietnamese American families have adopted the nuclear pattern while trying to maintain close ties with their extended families.

1 Yen Regan who came to Las Vegas since 1972

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Commissioner

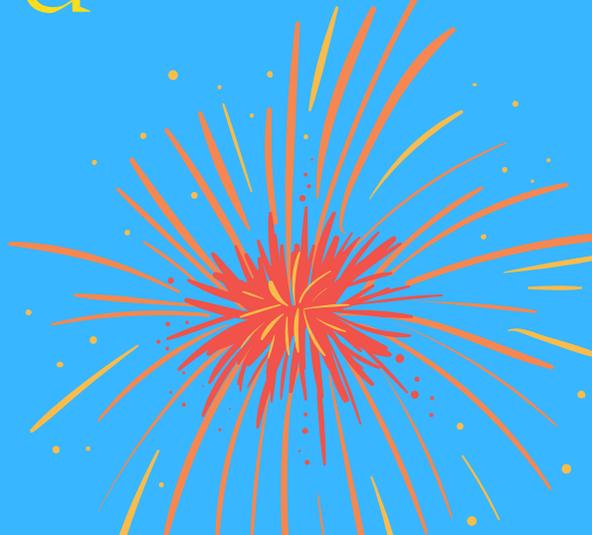
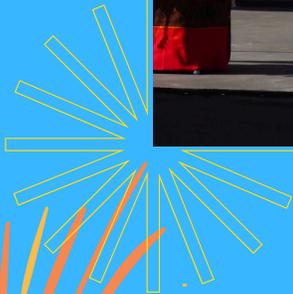
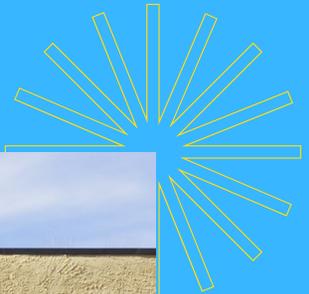
Kumu Vincent Souza

Commissioner





THANK YOU



END OF PROPOSAL

ADDENDUMS

SOUTHERN NEVADA AANHPI RESOURCES



Community

CONTACTS

Southern Nevada AANHPI Resources

Organization	Website	Email	Phone	Contact	Description
American Afghan South Asian Middle Eastern Chamber of Commerce	https://www.facebook.com/AASAM Ecc/	aasamcc@gmail.com	702-955-8345	Sharifa Wahab	Support group for American Afghan South Asian Middle Eastern single moms.
American Vietnamese Chamber of Commerce	http://avcclv.org/	Info@AVCCLV.org	702-761-6524	Pam Phan	AVCCL is a non-profit corporation with a Mission ... Support AVCC members' initiatives in business and education while working hand-in-hand with community partners for stable economic growth and well-being.
Arab American Ladies League of Las Vegas	http://aall-lv.org/	info@aall-lv.org			The Arab American Ladies League of Las Vegas is a charitable group which offers a helping hand to various organizations, provides services to centers, and assists various charities such as Assistance League of Las Vegas, The Blind Center of Nevada and Safe Nest.
Asian American Group	https://asianamericangroup.org/		702-339-9004	Rita Vaswani	To emphasize the importance of integration & cooperation of all different Asian communities under one strong & cohesive entity.
Asian Chamber of Commerce	https://lvacc.org/	info@lvacc.org	702-737-4300	Robert Young	Established in 1986, The Asian Chamber of Commerce (ACC), formerly known as the Pacific and Asian Chamber of Commerce of Nevada was formed to serve and represent the professional and business interests of Nevada's growing Asian Pacific Americans.
Asian Community Development Council	https://acdcnv.org/	info@acdcnv.org	702-489-8866	Vida Lin	he mission of the Asian Community Development Council (ACDC) is to improve the general well-being and education of the Asian, Pacific Islander and other ethnic communities in Nevada. The ACDC will promote, foster, champion and advocate for Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in the greater Nevada community.
Asian Community Resource Center	https://www.lvaccrc.org/	info@lvaccrc.org	725-205-1205		The mission of the Asian Community Resource Center is to provide necessary services, tool, and information; to improve the experience of health, happiness, and prosperity in the great Asian American, Pacific Islander and other ethnic communities in Southern Nevada.
Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance	https://www.apalanel.org/nevada	info@apala.org	202-800-5811	Gloria Caoile	Founded in 1992, the Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance (APALA), AFL-CIO, is the first and only national organization of Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) workers, most of whom are union members and our allies, building power for AAPI workers and communities.
Asian American Pacific Islander Democratic Caucus	https://sites.google.com/view/aapidcnv/about-us	aapidcnv@gmail.com		Angelyn Tabalba	The Asian American and Pacific Islander Democratic Caucus of Nevada (AAPIDC) seek to maximize the participation of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in the Democratic Party as a powerful force in determining elections at all levels of the political process.
Asian Real Estate Association of America	https://areaa.org/lasvegas	lasvegasareaa@gmail.com	702-600-6883	Rebecca Moreno	AREAA is dedicated to promoting sustainable homeownership opportunities in Asian American communities by creating a powerful national voice for housing and real estate professionals that serve this dynamic market.
Bamboo Bridges	https://www.bamboobridges.org/	BambooBridges@gmail.com	702-527-2533	Minddie Lloyd	Bamboo Bridges is a non-profit organization which bridges the multi-ethnic, multilingual, and multi-generational Asian Pacific American community by developing collaborations and building awareness of the issues that APA women confront in their lives, families, and communities.
Chinese American Citizens Alliance	https://www.cacalvodge.org/	info@cacalvodge.org		Mack Miller	To empower Chinese Americans by promoting the highest ethics and morals, by practicing and defending American citizenship in its fullest rights and responsibilities, by observing respectfully American patriotism, by preserving historical and cultural traditions, and by providing youth leadership and community learning through education.
Cultural Arts Foundation	https://CulturalArtsFoundation.org	info@CulturalArtsFoundation.org			The mission of the Cultural Arts Foundation is to provide support services to underserved families, Improve the well being and quality of life for Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders by educating, inspiring higher learning, assisting with available resources, and providing a sense of community & unity through cultural arts, and preservation of Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander history in Nevada.
Fil-Am Civic Action International	https://www.facebook.com/groups/FACAI/		702-487-0345	Tom Tagacay	Fil-Am Civic Action International, Inc. (FACAI) is a domestic non-profit, community service organization, dedicated to advancing and supporting Filipino and Filipino-American interests in the areas of culture, education, and humanitarian (medical missions) needs here in NV and PH.
Filipino American Chamber of Commerce of Greater Nevada	https://www.faccgn.org/	info@faccgn.org		Joel Enriquez	The Filipino American Chamber of Commerce of Greater Nevada believes in the synergistic community of businesses committed to creating and providing viable economic opportunities which shall benefit all members of society.
Filipino Veterans Group	https://www.usfilveterans.org/	info@usfilveterans.org	702-332-2292	Ronnie Delos Santos	We are an organization of US Veterans who volunteer to collect, disseminate informations and advocate for veteran issues to policy makers and elected officials.
Friends of India	https://foilv.com/new/	foilv501@gmail.com	702-733-2982	Dr. Ram Kumar Singh	We are a non-profit charitable organization (501(c)(3)) serving the Las Vegas population. Our mission is to promote the Indian culture within the community, to promote events and activities that help maintain the cultural heritage of India. We also invest back in the community by hosting various cultural and charity events.
Honorary Consul General of Japan for Nevada	https://www.sf.us.emb-japan.go.jp/it_pr_en/e_m14_01_01.html	hcgilasvegas@gmail.com	702-280-4858	Kathleen Blakely	There is an Honorary Consul posted in Las Vegas who tends the wellbeing of Japanese nationals living in Nevada and supports various cultural exchange activities that are related to Japan in the area.
Japan American Society of Nevada	https://jasnlv.org/	team@jasnlv.org			The Japan America Society of Nevada (JASN) is a non-profit, non-partisan organization dedicated to enhancing the relationship between the people of Japan and the people of Nevada.

Japanese American Citizens League	https://lasvegasjapaneseamericancitizenize1.godaddy.com/	lasvegasjad@gmail.com	702-623-3648		The Las Vegas Chapter of the JAACL has been in existence since 1968. It was originally named the "Japanese American Club" and became part of National JAACL several years later. At one time we had approximately 200 local members here in the valley.
Korean American Chamber of Commerce - Las Vegas	https://www.kaccnv.org/	info@kaccnv.org	702-417-5813	Jeannie Kim	Formed in 2005, the Korean American Chamber of Commerce is a non-profit organization that supports, promotes and fosters business, educational and cultural relationships within the Southern Nevada community.
Las Vegas Asian Bar Association	https://www.abalasvegas.com/	info@abalasvegas.com		Nancy Snow	The Asian Bar of Las Vegas is the oldest and largest non-profit association of attorneys who are passionate about serving the Asian community in the Las Vegas, Nevada area.
Las Vegas Chinese Daily News	https://lvcnd.com/	lvcnd@yahoo.com	702-312-3998	Helen Hsueh	It is a news-oriented newspaper and the largest Chinese-language newspaper in Southern Nevada. Since its establishment, Las Vegas Daily News has served local Chinese compatriots with fast news information and rich and detailed content, and has established a good reputation and reputation in the Chinese community in Nevada.
Las Vegas Hawaiian Civic Club	https://www.lasvegashawaiiancivicclub.net/	lasvegashcc@gmail.com	702-907-3667	Doreen Hall	As a non-profit organization, our primary objective is to practice and perpetuate the traditions, beliefs, language and arts of the indigenous people of Hawai'i.
Las Vegas Okinawan Club	https://nlvoc.org/	lasvegaskinawakeninkai@gmail.com	702-350-2689		The purpose of the Las Vegas Okinawan Club is to improve the well-being, health and quality of life of Asian Americans, Pacific Islanders, immigrant families and other community members by advocating for social-economic equity, sharing resources and empowering individuals through education, training and public awareness campaigns to create vibrant multicultural community by promoting Okinawan culture.
Las Vegas Indian Chamber of Commerce	https://lvicc.org/	info@lvicc.org	702-339-9004	Rita Vaswani	Our Mission is to coalesce Indian businesses and Indian serving businesses into a dynamic force that creates an identifiable business community and promotes its economic growth while nurturing cultural interests.
Las Vegas News	https://lasvegasnews.media/	LVN@LasVegasNews.media	702-721-7979	Dr. Christian Giovanni	Las Vegas News is Distributed Nationwide and Internationally. The First and Largest Thai publication in Nevada, Consistently recognized among the top leading Thai Publications since 1999.
NV AAPI Chamber of Commerce	https://www.aapinevada.org/		702-583-5717	Catherine Francisco	NV AAPI Chamber of Commerce is the only inclusive, statewide Asian chamber in the state of Nevada. Our mission is to grow and strengthen the AAPI business community.
OCA Las Vegas	https://ocalasvegas.org/	info@ocalasvegas.org			Founded in 1973, OCA is a national organization dedicated to advancing the social, political, and economic well-being of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in the United States.
OneAPIA Nevada	https://www.oneapianevada.org/	info@oneapianevada.org	702-286-9678	Duy Nguyen	Founded in June 2018, One APIA Nevada is a grassroots nonprofit advocating for policies empowering everyday Asian American, Native Hawaiian & Pacific Islander (AANHPI) Nevadans.
Philippine Nurses Association of Nevada	https://www.pnanv.org/	info@pnanv.org	702-409-1077	Elizabeth de Leon-Gambo	The Philippine Nurses Association of Nevada (PNANV) is a non-profit professional organization dedicated to upholding the image, fostering the welfare and unifying Filipino nurses in Nevada.
Southern Nevada Asian Pacific Islander Queer Society	https://www.snapiqs.org/	SNAPIQS@GMAIL.COM	833-447-0415		The Southern Nevada Asian Pacific Islander Queer Society (SNAPIQS) serves all Asian, Pacific Islander, and Desi American of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions (SOGIE or LGBT*) in the Southern Nevada region. Through social and cultural activities, education, mentorship, awareness, and advocacy, we aim to create an inclusive, affirming, and empowering community.
Sri Lanka America Association of Las Vegas	http://slaalv.com/	slaalasvegas@gmail.com	702-910-7643		We are an assembly for Sri Lankans domiciled in the Cities of Las Vegas and Henderson in particular and in the State of Nevada in general to further their collective interests.
Thai Consulate - Los Angeles	https://thaiconsulate.la.thaibass.org	info@thaiconsulate.la	323-962-9574		Passport services, ID card services and visas for Thai Nationals and citizens of Thailand.
Thai Culture Foundation	https://thaiculturefoundation.com/	info@ThaiCultureFoundation.com	702-746-9595		The Thai Culture Foundation is a 501c3 nonprofit which provides a sense of community, and a safe haven to explore Thai heritage and learn about old historical cultural traditions through classes, activities, and cultural arts and festivities. T.C.F. also works Government Agencies and Officials to ensure that the Thai People receive the appropriate care and resources that are available to them. T.C.F. is The Voice For The Thai Community.
Vietnamese American Community of Las Vegas	https://vaclv.org/	VACL.Vegas@gmail.com	702-907-0946	Kim Le	To connect the community with others, promote cultural preservation, enrich social and economic well-being, and encourage civic engagement, to improve the lives of the Vietnamese American in Las Vegas.
VegasDesi	https://www.vegasdesi.com/	vegasdesi@gmail.com		Paul Padda	For the past 15 years, vegasdesi has been the pulse of the Las Vegas South Asian community.