

SUMMER 2019



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**APANO**   
ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN NETWORK OF OREGON

# Welcome new staff at APANO!



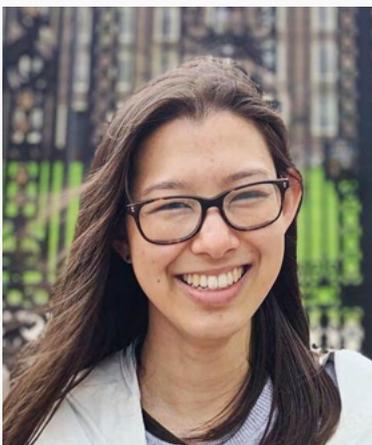
## **JENNY LEE, ADVOCACY DIRECTOR**

Jenny comes to APANO after working as the Advocacy Director at the Coalition of Communities of Color, a cross-cultural alliance of culturally specific organizations engaged in collective action for racial justice. Previously she was the Housing Policy Director at Neighborhood Partnerships where she helped convene the Oregon Housing Alliance. She spent time away from her home state of Oregon working as the public policy director for Hawai'i Appleseed in Honolulu, where she engaged in legislative advocacy, coalition-building, litigation, and policy research on a wide range of social and economic justice issues, including public assistance, tax policy, and homelessness. Jenny grew up in Washington County and her background includes work in disability rights, domestic violence, and mediation as well as a year serving as an AmeriCorps member at a SUN School in Southeast Portland. Jenny holds a J.D. from Harvard Law and a B.A. in philosophy, French, and political science from the University of Oregon.



## **BEA YEH OGDEN, EVENT AND COMMUNITY SPACE MANAGER**

Bea Yeh Ogden moved to Portland, Oregon from San Francisco, CA in 1999 to attend Reed College. She graduated in 2003 with a BA in English after completing her thesis exploring poetry written by Chinese immigrants while detained at the Angel Island Immigration Station from 1910 - 1940. After pursuing educational and professional experiences in Medical Anthropology and Veterinary Medicine, Bea decided to found a non-profit art organization called Cloud.Break. The mission of Cloud.Break is to curate sanctuary: to create unique art worlds in unexpected places where healing and dialogue can occur. Bea is an artist, environmentalist, non-profit administrator, curator, and event producer: she has worked for the Portland Institute of Contemporary Art, the Lake Oswego Festival of the Arts, and, most recently, the Pacific Northwest College of Art. Bea completed her MS in Arts Administration and Museum Studies from the University of Oregon after completing her thesis exploring how museum exhibitions can create transformative educational experiences for visitors.



## **ALLIE YEE, MANAGER OF STRATEGIC INITIATIVES**

Allie is a Chinese-Japanese-American who grew up in the U.S. South and recently relocated to the Pacific Northwest. Previously, Allie was based in North Carolina where she served as the Associate Director of the Institute for Southern Studies, a civil rights media nonprofit, where she researched voting and civic engagement among growing Latinx and Asian communities across the South. Prior to that, she supported grantmaking at the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation around issues of education, the environment, community economic development, democratic reform, and social justice. Allie believes that all people should have a voice in the decisions that affect their lives and is passionate about supporting the capacity of organizations working to create a more inclusive democracy. She holds a BA in Public Policy Studies from Duke University and an MBA from the Yale School of Management.

# Meet the APANO Summer Interns!



## **MICHELLE HICKS, CENSUS INTERN**

Michelle Hicks is a Census Intern at APANO. She is originally from San Jose, CA and is the child of a Korean immigrant. She is a senior at Willamette University and upon graduation will receive a Bachelors of Arts in Politics with minors in American Ethnic Studies and Spanish.

Michelle's upbringing in the Bay Area and abrupt entry into Oregon life influences her political work.

Michelle is passionate about political engagement, civil rights, and human rights and hopes to cultivate a more equitable Oregon.



## **VAL LIM, POLICY INTERN**

Born in New Jersey, Val is a Cantonese-Malay-American who grew up in Texas before moving to Oregon. They are finishing up their BA in Political Science at Reed College, where they also engage in harm reduction and community outreach.

Val is passionate about addressing API issues and facilitating community engagement and believes in striving towards a more equitable and inclusive future.

Their previous experience includes working in Senator Jeff Merkley's constituent office as well as on Governor Kate Brown's 2018 campaign. In their spare time, they enjoy theater, making desserts, and listening to music.



## **ARTTHEW NG, CRIMINAL JUSTICE INTERN**

Artthew Ng is a Criminal Justice Intern at APANO. He is a Chinese American and both of his parents immigrated here from Hong Kong. He was born in Clackamas, Oregon and he graduated from Clackamas High School. He is now a Sophomore at Portland State University with a double major in Sociology and Music Production.

While in high school, Artthew started his school's first Asian Student Union. He is also an officer in Portland State University's Hong Kong Student Association.

His passion is in politics, law, organizing, and music. He spends his free time writing music, making beats, working out, breakdancing, and playing Apex Legends.



## Eat Up! Series Finale Will Feature Chef Carlo Lamagna

APANO Communications Coordinator, Jeanette Li, sits down for an interview with acclaimed Chef Carlo Lamagna to talk Eat Up!, food, and community. More info at [EatUp2019.eventbrite.com](http://EatUp2019.eventbrite.com).

This year we introduced a new series as part of the 6th annual Jade International Night Market focused on food and entrepreneurship. The Eat Up! series launched in June and will culminate on August 11 with Chef Carlo's cooking demo and event.

**JL: Welcome, Chef Carlo! Let's start with a little background, tell me about yourself! When did you first start cooking?**

CL: When I was 11 we all moved back to the Philippines because my parents wanted us to be a little closer to our culture. It was over in the Philippines that I really got serious about cooking. My sister used to experiment a lot with baking, she used to watch all the cooking shows, she was always reading cookbooks, and I was always her little helper and taste tester. That really took, and I kind of got the culinary bite early on. She was actually the first person to teach me how to use a knife!

**JL: I love that this all started in such a meaningful way, through that connection to your culture and to family.**

CL: Yes, the thing that I've realized brings me the most joy is my family, and not just my blood related family, but my *family*. And to be able to laugh, to cook, to cry, to eat, to do all these fun things together. The best memories are created around food. You laugh around the dinner table, you catch up around the dinner table, you cry around the dinner table. Everything is around food, especially in my family, no one hangs out anywhere but the kitchen!

**JL: Haha same! So you went on to attend the Culinary Institute of America before cooking all over the world, and I recently saw an article where your soon-to-be-open restaurant Magna was listed as one of the most anticipated restaurant openings of the year. What influenced you to open Magna?**

CL: I'd just gotten promoted to sous chef when my dad passed away in October of 2009. I remember it because I was so excited to be able to show him the progress of what I was doing because he always questioned why I wanted to cook. My dad was a doctor in the Philippines

and being the black sheep of the family he was always like, "Why do you wanna cook?" And when he passed away, one of my final conversations with him, was he wasn't worried about me, he was very proud of me. He did make me promise to pursue, or at least introduce, Filipino cuisine or Filipino food. He said just cook your culture, and that stuck with me for a long time.





# Reflections from the Building: On the 2019 Legislative Session

BY JENNY LEE, ADVOCACY DIRECTOR

As we look back on this session, we are inspired by the passage of policies that affirm and advance the health and prosperity of API families and communities. We believe that all families deserve the rights, recognition, and resources they need to thrive.

In stark contrast to national events - families torn apart at the border, children detained in devastatingly inhumane conditions, and reproductive justice under unprecedented attack - we have worked to secure policies that uplift and empower families and caregivers, particularly keeping the voices and experiences of API women central to our advocacy because we recognize that women are disproportionately tasked with caregiving responsibilities.

Policies passed this session will empower folks of color, particularly women, to care for and support their families. After our win in 2017 for reproductive health equity, both at the legislature and the ballot; paid family and medical leave was the next major step toward ensuring all workers have time to care for each other. With the passage of this policy, we are excited to discuss and act on new ideas to advance economic justice and prosperity for the API

community. As income inequality and federal tax cuts for the wealthy increase, the gap between the haves and the have nots continues to widen. It's up to us in Oregon to take action on inequality.

The work also looked different this year. Both in the Capitol and outside of it, our coalitions have emerged stronger than ever, with an increasing emphasis on racial equity.

We are grateful to the many incredible organizations and community members who moved these policies forward. The ongoing impact of a more representative legislature was on display this session, with the passage of bills explicitly impacting racial justice, as well as the centering of equity in legislation like the Student Success Act.

With so many long-awaited progressive priorities passing this session, we are excited to see what priorities emerge next from our members and partners. We envision a world where families are not just able to make ends meet, but to prosper and thrive, despite the systemic inequities they face. This session, we saw meaningful progress toward this goal.



# APANO Launches Pilot Program to Combat Chronic Absenteeism

## A Q&A WITH YOUTH ORGANIZER SIMEON JACOB

### Hi Simeon! Tell us about the new pilot program that you're leading!

The past year we have been working in partnership with Multnomah Education Service District (MESD) on a pilot program that addresses the increasing rate of chronic absenteeism for Pacific Islander students. Chronic absenteeism is when all absences are equal to or greater than 10 percent of the school year. This includes both excused and unexcused absences. For a 180 day school year this breaks down as 18 days and an average of 2 absences a month. Nationally, Oregon consistently ranks within the bottom 20 percent of states for absenteeism. Chronic absenteeism in Oregon also disproportionately impacts specific populations - Oregon's American Indian and Alaska Native students, students with disabilities, students of color, students experiencing economic disadvantage and students who have received at least one out-of-school suspension. Once disaggregating the data of API students, MESD found that the Pacific Islander student population was impacted at a significantly higher rate than other populations.

### Why did you want to create this program?

Often we only see the numbers but that does not capture the full story of what students who experience chronic absenteeism face. Many of our students face a lot of different challenges whether they have to stay home to take care of a family member or are grieving the loss of loved ones.

It is common that many of our Pacific Islander families value education and desire for their students to be successful at school. I wanted to launch this pilot to uncover what the barriers are that prevent students from attending school and to see what areas of support can be provided for families so that students can be in school and so they can be successful. We recognize that when home is the place of safety it takes a lot for families, especially immigrant families, to send their students off to an unknown place. When it comes to school and our project, our goal is to establish a second home that the students feel excited to come to and a home that parents can trust. With the Gresham High School SUN School, we started by creating a Pacific Islander after school club so our Pacific Islander students could come learn about their islands and take a deeper dive into a curriculum that was not being offered in the schools and share any of the challenges that they were facing in school.

### What are some of the benefits you are seeing so far?

We have seen momentum with the students and had some meaningful conversations about what has been making it tough for students to be in school. The students are getting familiar with us and we are excited to bring the families and their supporters into the conversation to have both students and parents be on the same page and working together on building out opportunities for the students to finish high school so they'll have more options for what they can do afterwards.



### Tell us more about yourself, how long have you been with APANO and what motivates you to do the work that you do?

I have been with the organization for over 3 years but I just started earlier in March in my role as a Community Organizer. Since joining the organization in 2016, I have always been committed to making resources available to our communities so they can thrive and that's how I felt grounded in the work of Operations. I was leveraging the Jade APANO Multicultural Space to be as accessible as possible. Since then, I wanted to play more of an active role in helping bring Pacific Islanders together to build power and felt that the best way to do so was with the youth.

### What do you hope to see happen with this program in the future?

My hope for this program is that it grows and builds excitement for students to be in school and for them to be empowered to know what they want to get out of their schooling.

*For more info on our Youth Organizing, visit us at [apano.org](http://apano.org)*

## Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon

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## Upcoming Events

**AUGUST-OCTOBER** | AMP SUMMER SERIES

**AUGUST 11** | EAT UP! A NIGHT WITH CHEF CARLO

**AUGUST 24, 31** | JADE INTERNATIONAL NIGHT MARKET

**OCTOBER 4, 5** | EAST PORTLAND ARTS & LITERARY FESTIVAL

**NOVEMBER 9** | ROLLING TIDES CONVENTION



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