

Clockwise from top: Art by Lilian Ongelungel, A'misa Chiu, Kathy Delumpa Allegri, Masayo Simon, and Violet Dillard.

All our families have the rights, recognition and resources they need to thrive, and their life outcomes are not tied to identity or social determinants of health. // **Everyone** has the social, economic and political power and resources to make healthy decisions for themselves about their bodies, genders, sexualities and families, in all areas of their lives, without fear of discrimination, exclusion or harm. This includes the ability to have children, not have children, and/or parent the children we have in safe and healthy environments. // **The health**, well-being and survival of our communities and the natural world are understood as more important than individual profit, and supported through equitable distribution of wealth and resources. // **Institutions** are built around the inherent worth and dignity of all people and are designed and function as systems of care and support, not systems of criminalization and control. // **Communities** have the skills, capacity and resources to organize themselves for change, collectively self-determine their needs and solutions, and control their own destinies. // **We act** in solidarity with communities who experience oppression and recognize that our liberation is directly linked to theirs.

On Listening To, and Nourishing Ourselves

by Joseph Santos-Lyons, Executive Director

Sometimes it is hard for me to listen to my body, and I'm sure it wasn't always that way. Yet I was reminded recently that at APANO we do "movement work" and am appreciating how having a stronger consciousness about how we are physically can make our collective work more powerful. I've come to accept a high degree of intensity and immersion in my vocation, that occasionally veers into stress; however this year feels different. I can honestly say that my body has felt so tense this year, like I'm in a perpetual state of being just about to flinch.



With the sun coming out for the summer and enriching my body, I am finally sensing more relaxation. It makes me think about how we care for ourselves, amidst the rising intimidation and violence in our communities. *How do we hold precious our bodies, not only for their well-being, including our mental and spiritual well-being, but also for the self-determination and resources we offer to neighbors and loved ones around us to ensure they also may thrive?*

For many of us, we are reeling from a profound political period that reeks of chaos and oppression. We are struggling to find our footing with wave after wave of attacks at the local and national level being waged against us and our families. Within APANO, while we celebrate our significant progress and positive impacts since formally becoming independent in 2010, we also are experiencing growing pains. When I take a minute to step back, I have compassion for myself and my body. And with this awareness, I am both inspired by moments of resistance and wish to express my gratitude for all who strive to do the best they can with what they have.

Over the coming year, I hope you will be present with us, sharing your story, connecting with other Asians and Pacific Islanders, and being a part of our movement work. Join us as we center and expand our organizing, raise up a new Cultural Center on 82nd Ave, and prepare our communities to be fully engaged in the elections of 2018. I encourage members, especially new members, to connect with us, and look for ways to grow and lead together.

Happy Summer,



ALLY: Asian Leaders for the Liberation of Youth

by Cindy Wu, ALLY member

As I get older, I have been seeing the problems our communities face. Whether it's homelessness, our education system, or other social issues, I came to realize that I wanted to be able to do something about these issues. That is when I discovered ALLY- Asian Leaders for the Liberation of Youth. I remember my first time attending a meeting; it was awkward, and I didn't know anyone there. As time went on and I attended more meetings, the awkwardness dissipated. Although I haven't known everyone for very long, sometimes it really feels like I do. Maybe it's because I've known them in my past life. Maybe.

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ALLY: Asian Leaders for the Liberation of Youth *continued from Page 2*

But in all seriousness, I do think we work together so well as ALLY because we face similar problems, can relate to one another, and put in hard work toward shared goals. Ethnic studies is a great example. Although I wasn't a member of ALLY during the Ethnic Studies campaign, hearing members' stories about it shows that "teamwork really actually does make the dream work."

At ALLY, that's what it's all about: working together, encouraging each other, and bringing the best out of each other and ourselves. Through ALLY, we get to build our leadership skills, expand our knowledge, work on public speaking, and most importantly we work together identify issues we face and create solutions we want to see. It's hard work, but we also have a lot of fun and great food. ALLY really helped me bring out my inner self and gave me opportunities that I would have never had if I hadn't joined.



Roots to Rise Building Momentum, On Track



As we near the midpoint of our Roots to Rise campaign, we're happy to report that we are on track to reach our \$2 million goal to bring a vibrant community space to the Jade District! Building on our kickoff Indiegogo campaign, which raised \$26,000 from 441 backers in a few short weeks, we've continued to build momentum in generating community support for this project. We're thankful for the strong support of the many individuals who have given to the campaign so far. **Here are a few more highlights:**

In celebration of AAPI Heritage Month at our annual Voices of Change fundraiser on May 4th, 2017 we raised nearly \$60,000 from individual donors and sponsors. This memorable night celebrated the contributions of our members and offered optimism despite difficult times facing many in our community. Additionally, our months-long major donor effort raised another \$30,000 for the campaign. Roots to Rise has not only raised funds for this capital project but has also cultivated a strong network of major donors, which strengthens APANO for the long term. As all donations over \$250 are matched dollar for dollar from a matching grant from the Coulter Foundation, major donor gifts have been extremely impactful.

Thanks to such strong community support, our requests for support from government and foundations have also begun to bear fruit. Led by approval of a \$75,000 contribution from the Oregon Community Foundation, we're beginning to receive additional pledges from health care providers, local government, and other foundations. **As of mid-May, Roots to Rise is crossed the \$1,000,000 mark in donations and pledges.** A big thank you to all our early supporters who have contributed thus far - this vision would not be possible your excitement for this project. Keep up with the campaign progress or learn more: visit rootstorise.org



Introducing Oregon Nesian Youth for Change in Society (ONYCS)

By Justin Sipoloo, PI Youth Organizer

A year ago, APANO's Pacific Islander Youth Program didn't exist. When I started at APANO last year, it was explained that I would get to create a program for Pacific Islander (PI) youth geared towards social justice. However, when I was first introduced to the ALLY youth, it was apparent that the "PI" in the API Leaders for the Liberation of Youth lacked representation. Let's be clear: this isn't just a youth issue.

The label API gets used to label events, workshops, spaces, or when we simply think, "it's the proper term." My community has attended API labeled events where a lack of PI representation existed both in content and speakers. The erasure and invisibility of PI's in the term API came to shape the early phase of my program: find PI youth and be recognized.



"Being a part of my Pacific Island Club is important to me and the others because it's a space where all of us use to trust people, get a break from problems, and depend on each other. Oregon's Nesian Youth for Change in Society (ONYCS) exists because we all have different problems, yet similar situations. It's important to all of us not only because of our personal problems, but because we want to change how Pacific Islanders are seen and recognized. That is why the group ONYCS is important to all of us PI youth." - Brionna Jack, Centennial High School

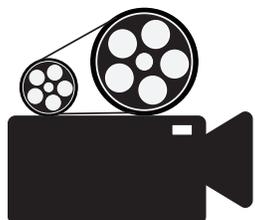
Brionna's statement reflects why I believe in the importance of having PI club within schools. I use this strategy because I want to provide my youth a space that wasn't available for me growing up. I have interacted and/or checked-in with over 100 youth this school year, with 65 of them identifying as Pacific Islander from nine different schools. Fifty of those PI youth are a part of a high school PI club and 35 of them have attended the ONYCS meeting. I'm excited to see this grow as I plan to be in David Douglas and Parkrose High School fall 2017.



Climate, Health, and Housing Film Series with APANO

Asians and Pacific Islanders are among the communities hit first and hardest by climate disruption, and climate change threatens all of organized human life within the next 50-80 years. APANO is organizing with partners to transform Oregon's economy to fight and be resilient to climate change—while also creating a more equitable and healthy society.

We invite you to join APANO and our Climate, Health, and Housing Institute (CHHI) Fellows for monthly film screenings and community discussions happening between July and October. This film series is an opportunity for APANO members to come together to build a shared analysis about the intersecting root causes of our current climate, health, and housing crises.



All films will be screened at the APANO office (2788 SE 82nd Ave, Suite 203, Portland, OR) on the **first Thursday** of every month from **6PM to 8:30PM**. Light refreshments and childcare provided upon request. Contact Khanh Pham at khanh@apano.org for questions or more information.

Schedule: **September 7:** Land of Opportunity
 October 5: Time to Choose
 August 3: A Village Called Versailles

中国家长团

by Wanna Lei, Chinese Parent Organizer



第三个中英文双语学校在Harrison Park九月份新学期正式开始是中国家长团从2015年-2017年经过不懈努力，取得有重要意义的胜利！这个新的中英文双语项目只收本社区的学生。先从学前班和一年级各开一个班开始。六月份录取名额已经公布。学前班和一年级各录取了24名新生来自中国家庭。APANO坚持组织中国家长团在 Harrison Park召开家长会显示我们中国社区对第三个中英文双语学校的支持；2016年十二月我们带领家长团参加三次的波特兰公立学校校董会的会议，

家长领导代表发言争取我们中国社区的愿望；中国家长团收集了近五百名家长的签名以示支持。中国家长自发成功争取的第三个中英文双语学校是一个很好的示范给家长。我们要积极参与，争取我们自己想要的平等权益。六月十九号中国家长将在Zenger Farm组织第三个中英文双语学校成功的庆祝活动。六月家长义工做社区调查；参与翡翠区绿化设计的活动。从六月到十二月家长团每个月都有关于气候大环境变化和房屋变化的课程。家长团让家长们互相建立起很好的关系。家长团是一个很安全的地方让家长了解社区，了解国家大事，分享生活，交流亲子心得。



The Absence of a Childhood Hero

by Darlene Nguyen, ALLY member

When I was younger, I thought being blonde was the ideal embodiment of beauty. For the longest time, I resented my black hair, wide nose, and “almond” shaped eyes, because growing up, I had nothing but fair, yellow haired idols who looked nothing like me. When they did look like me, their roles were minor, or worse, the characters were portrayed as weak and submissive, had broken english for a “comedic” effect, or inappropriately played by a white actor. The lack of Asian representation wounded me because like the minor Asian roles, I felt small.

Childhood is supposed to be magical time where we could be anything we imagined. For me, because I could not see a bit of myself in favorite characters in our media, I felt disconnected. We are lucky to even be the sidekick. As Chimamanda Adichie puts it, *“I had been convinced that books by their very nature had to have foreigners in them and had to be about things which I could not personally identify.”*

For the sake of our future’s youth, just like we must not cast white actors to play characters of color, we must not Whitewash or minimize non-White history. On a larger scale, we can make sure children do not fall into the belief that they are any lesser than others by giving them tools to learn about their culture, their roots, and build community.

The power of the representation is undeniably influential. When we unintentionally or intentionally exclude a minority group, its effects are colossal. Our target for the next upcoming years should be to ensure that our children do not feel mimized despite what they see, or do not see, in the media, and more importantly, in our textbooks.

Understanding Identity Through API-CLI

by Sheena Ino, API-CLI Year 5 Fellow



Growing up as a mixed-race kid in San Jose, CA, I was always aware of two things: my “mixed-ness” and that I was part of the umbrella of being Asian. People would always ask not knowing where to place me, “Oh, what are you?” or “Where are you from?” and on cue at an early age I would ramble off “my mom is white and my dad is Japanese.” When I would say this around my Grandma Masako, she would often indirectly say, “We are Okinawan.” I never thought twice about this distinct significance until my first term in college, as a first generation student in Corvallis, OR.

My college success instructor, “Auntie Sandy” had us do a project on where our family was from in the Pacific. I remember feeling so embarrassed telling her that I wasn’t from the Pacific—She laughed and told me that I needed to understand my family history. It was there did I embark on learning the history of my family as Japanese-Americans in internment, my grandma surviving the Battle of Okinawa, and the lived experience of assimilating within the myth of the model minority.

After moving to Portland, I became involved with APANO and was a fellow in the Asian and Pacific Islander Community Leadership Institute (API-CLI) 2017! Being part of API-CLI, with 20 fellows, I learned about the importance of our unique identities and needs as API through the disruption of the model minority rooted in anti-blackness. We worked to de-center Whiteness as a community of APIs through understanding the urgency of community organizing and legislative advocacy to push areas like ethnic studies in schools. Through this, we acknowledged the importance of community informed ethnic studies in our education system.



Because of college and my API-CLI fellowship, I had the opportunity to begin unlearning my US history courses from elementary. This process of learning about our historical trauma, it has instilled a deep rooted sense of compassion and empathy with our Muslim, Latinx, Black, Native, refugee and immigrant communities out there facing systemic violence today. Through learning about each other’s communities and history, we are able to share understanding. I am so grateful for the APANO community and important work that they do each day.



The API Community Leadership Institute (APICLI) is a culturally specific leadership development program run by IRCO Asian Family Center in partnership with APANO, and has graduated 87 fellows over five years. APICLI will not be accepting new fellows in 2017-2018 in order to focus on support for alumni and, pending funding, will be open to new applicants in spring 2018.

What is Cultural Work?

by Candace Kita, Cultural Work & Development Coordinator

As the Cultural Work & Development Coordinator at APANO, I use the term “cultural work” on a daily basis. What does it really mean, though? At APANO, we define cultural work the use of arts and culture to “center the voices and experiences of marginalized Asian and Pacific Islanders, shift harmful narratives, envision alternatives, and foster movement building.” Ultimately, we seek to change the stories that are told about Asians and Pacific Islanders and other communities of color in ways that promote our health, success, and wellness.

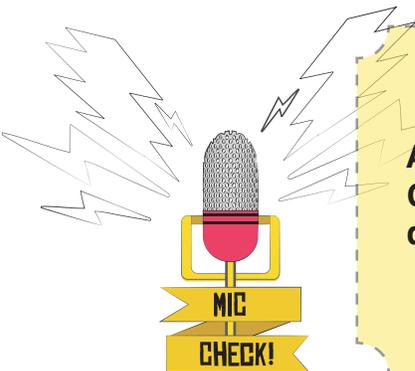
Shifting cultural narratives may seem like a broad goal that is difficult to measure. Generally speaking, culture and values change slowly, with many factors at play. However, the cultural work strategies that we use are tangible and continued efforts to tell unheard stories and bring people together. We employ API artists to use visual art, music, dance, theatre, and more as mediums to illustrate what justice looks, feels, and sounds like for our communities. Most recently, we hired six API artists to create original visual artworks inspired by APANO’s six core values, ranging from gender justice to environmental health among communities of color.



Art by Ameya Okamoto

Currently, we are in the midst of planning our annual cultural event series, MicCheck!, which brings community members together for art, performance, and storytelling that opens our eyes to issues and ideas that we might not have considered before. Featuring events such as a free screening of *American Revolutionary: The Evolution of Grace Lee Boggs* and a person of color-centered arts and literary festival, MicCheck! this year will focus on solidarity-building between APIs and multiracial communities of color.

Cultural work opens doors to conversations that can change hearts, minds, beliefs, and values. And revolutions in values refuse to stay quiet--they reverberate into revolutions in policy, revolutions in practices, and revolutions in how we envision a just and beautiful world.



Save the Date for MicCheck! 2017

American Revolutionary: Free Community Film Screening in Solidarity of Black Lives

// Tuesday, July 25, 2017, 5:30-8pm
// North Portland Library

East Portland Arts & Literary Festival

// Saturday, September 23, all day
// Jade/APANO Multicultural Space (JAMS)

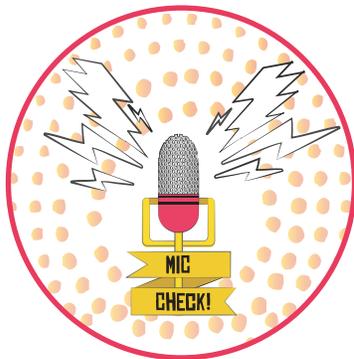
Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon

2788 SE 82nd Ave, Suite 203

Portland, OR 97266

www.apano.org

Join Us



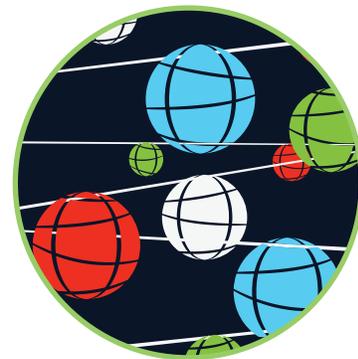
MicCheck!

A summer cultural event series

July - October 2017

Throughout Portland, OR

www.apano.org/mic-check



Jade International Night Market

Unique cultural event reflecting the diversity of the Jade District Communities

Saturday, August 19 and 26, 2017

PCC SE Campus, 2305 SE 82nd Ave, Portland

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