



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Asian American and Pacific Islanders Commission

Description: These notes highlight the most important takeaways from the Massachusetts AAPI Commission's Western Mass Listening Session, which was held Saturday, November 18, 2023 in Springfield, MA.

Contact: If you have any questions about these notes, the AAPI Commission, or want to work with us, please contact Hannah Ku, our Regional Coordinator, at regional.coordinator@aapicommission.org

Goals of the Meeting: We asked community members to provide the commission with updates. Moreover, we discussed the logistics of establishing the Western Mass Advisory Council.

Main Takeaways:

1. Continue regular meetings - Community members enjoy having these quarterly meetings to remain in touch with each other along with forming a stronger network in Western Massachusetts
2. Establishing the goals of the Western Mass Advisory Council
 - a. Wanting to ensure that there is a diversity of groups and issues represented in the Western Mass Advisory Council
 - b. Wanting to ensure that AAPI populations in Western Mass are heard from the larger commission

Community Report Backs:

- Chinese Association of Western Massachusetts
 - Conducted cultural programs in three different places for the Moon festival
 - Dragon Boat Festival was incredibly successful
 - The next Dragon Boat Festival will be held tentatively on July 20th, 2024
 - Conducting cultural programs at schools around the area in addition to community programs
 - On February 7th, they will host a Chinese New Year festival
- Bayanihan
 - Have an event coming up on December 9th - This event will benefit the Filipino American community in Western Massachusetts
- UMass AASA
 - Winter Ball sold out in 30 minutes
 - Asian night is scheduled for April 13th
 - Trying to establish a Pan Asian Association between the Five Colleges
- Bhutanese Community



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Asian American and Pacific Islanders Commission

- Got funding from Mass Humanities to conduct oral history projects with elderly Bhutanese members