



CITY EXPERIENCE
Mayor's Office of Resilience and Equity

Asian Affairs Commission 2024 Annual Report

2024 marked the inaugural year for the City of Tulsa's Asian Affairs Commission (AAC). Our primary goal in this inaugural year was to raise awareness within the community about the representation of our AAPI (Asian American Pacific Islander) citizens at the municipal level. We aimed to foster meaningful connections within the AAPI community, build bridges, and maximize our outreach efforts.

To achieve these objectives, we established three distinct committees, each focused on different aspects of community engagement:

- **Data and Research Committee**
- **Education and Workforce Committee**
- **Cultural Committee**

Each committee is composed of a chairperson, commissioners, and community members. Together, they work toward fulfilling the Commission's primary mission of awareness-building and outreach.

Key Activities and Achievements

In 2024, the Asian Affairs Commission participated in over **25 events**, established vital relationships with numerous organizations, and contributed to voter registration efforts within the Asian community in Tulsa.

Committee Accomplishments

Workforce and Education Committee

- **First Luminary Awards Ceremony:** Hosted at City Hall, the event recognized outstanding achievements of Asian individuals and businesses in Tulsa. The following awards were presented:
 - **Tulsa Golden Dragon Award to Nam Hai Market** for excellence in business.
 - **Tulsa Jade Educator Award to John Thao** for dedication to education.
 - **Champion of Workforce Development Award to Dr. Dayal T. Meshri** for leadership and advocacy in workforce development.



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Data and Research Committee

- **Community Data Review:** Conducted a thorough review of existing data to better understand the strengths, needs, and gaps within Tulsa's Asian community.
- **Network Mapping:** Mapped the network of our commissioners to identify strengths and areas where additional perspectives were needed.
- **One-Pager Creation:** Developed a clear statement on who we represent to ensure transparency and inclusivity for all Tulsans.
- **Partnerships:** Engaged with organizations like **Tulsa Public Schools** to deepen our understanding of the needs of Asian Tulsans.

Cultural Committee

- **Event Participation:** Attended 25+ events throughout the year
- **Lunar New Year Celebration:** Organized the City of Tulsa's first-ever Lunar New Year celebration, which will be held on **February 1, 2025** at the 101 Archer Building.

2024 Event Participation

- **March 14:** Naturalization Ceremony, City of Tulsa
- **April 10:** Eid Prayer, Union High School
- **May 10:** Global Gatherings (Southeast Asia), Gathering Place
- **May 17:** AAPI Night Market, Global District/APIIDA Tulsa
- **June 9:** Cricket Watch Party, Indian/Pakistan Association
- **June 13:** Children's Naturalization Ceremony, City of Tulsa
- **June 14:** Global Gatherings (East Asia), Gathering Place
- **June 15:** Community Day, OKC Asian Chamber of Commerce
- **June 28:** Asian American Night, Tulsa Drillers
- **July 16:** Community Listening Session, Together OK
- **July 25:** Asian Affairs Commission Retreat
- **August 10:** Global Gatherings World Festival
- **August 13:** MPACC Meeting, City of Tulsa
- **August 24:** Pakistan Day Celebration, APPNA Oklahoma & Pakistan American Society Tulsa
- **August 31:** Voter Registration (1), TYPROS 918 Vote
- **September 19:** Empower Tulsa, AAC
- **September 21:** Hispanic Festival, Hispanic Chamber of Commerce



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- **September 28:** Voter Registration (2), TYPROS 918 Vote
- **October 5:** Voter Registration (3), TYPROS 918 Vote
- **October 11:** Moon Festival @ TU, The University of Tulsa
- **October 21:** Ice Cream Social, APIDA Tulsa
- **October 22:** Entrepreneurial Show, Global District + Kitchen 66
- **October 23:** Diwali @ Williams, Williams AAPI ERG
- **October 26:** Oklahoma Hmong New Year, OKHMAAO
- **November 5:** Asian Affairs Luminary Awards, AAC

Looking Ahead: Key Initiatives for 2025

- **Lunar New Year 2025:** Continuing the momentum from 2024, we will host an expanded Lunar New Year celebration in February 2025.
- **Mental Health Access:** Collaborating with Dr. Hubbard and other community leaders to address mental health challenges faced by the AAPI communities in Tulsa.

We are excited about the progress made in 2024 and are committed to further strengthening our efforts in the coming year. The AAC remains dedicated to fostering an inclusive and connected community for Tulsa's AAPI residents.