**Board Meeting Minutes**

Saturday, March 15, 2025 | 10:00 AM – 1:30 PM

Asia Pacific Cultural Center

3513 East Portland Avenue

Tacoma, WA 98404

1. **Call to Order and Roll Call**

Quorum reached at 10:03 AM. The meeting was called to order by Chair Faitalia at 10:12 AM.

*Present:* Chair Lydia Faitalia, 1st Vice Chair Lalita Uppala, 2nd Vice Chair Kendall Kosai, Cmmr. Carrie Huie, Cmmr. Scott Lehrman, Cmmr. Sam Cho, Cmmr. Anna Lising, Cmmr. David Phongsa, and Cmmr. Ping

*Absent:*  Cmmr. Kiana McKenna, and Cmmr. Ekkarath Sisavatdy

*Staff:* Executive Director Nam Nguyen, Project Manager Negheen Kamkar, and Project Coordinator Brenda O’Brien

**II. Welcoming Remarks**

[**Councilmember Sandesh Sadalge**](https://www.cityoftacoma.org/government/city_council/council_member_sandesh_sadalge),forthe City of Tacoma**,** gave opening remarks and welcomed the Commission to Tacoma at 10:17 AM. Proudly representing District 4, he is the first person of South Asian descent to serve on the City Council.

Recently, **CM Sadalge** was honored to write a resolution that aligned the City of Tacoma’s policy with state policy. [Resolution 41627](https://www.cityoftacoma.org/in_the_news/at-_large_council_member_olgy_diaz_and_district_4_council_member_sandesh_sadalge_on_the_adoption_of_resolution_41627_and_substitute_resolution_41628) restricts state agencies, from using agency funds or facilities, to investigate, enforce, cooperate with, or assist in the investigation or enforcement of any federal registration or surveillance programs that target individuals on the basis of race, religion, immigration, or citizenship status, except as is required by law.

[**Cmmr. Emeritus Lua Pritchard**](https://www.asiapacificculturalcenter.org/staffleaders)**,** ED of Asia Pacific Cultural Center**,** also welcomed the Commission to APCC and provided the latest updates on their building project and highlights from their New Year Celebration. The building is slated to open on August 29th, and they have an ask for $2 million to close the gap on this capital project. Video presentations for both can be accessed here: [Asia Pacific Cultural Center Building](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mD1XtQjIY2A)

[27th Lunar New Year Celebration](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=koO0opXipWM)

Also of note is that their senior housing project, [Patsy Surh Place](https://www.weberthompson.com/project/patsy-surh-place/), opens on May 21st. [Applications](https://www.asiapacificculturalcenter.org/post/public-announcement-application-intakes-for-patsy-surh-place-senior-housing-mark-your-calendars) are now being taken.

**III. Approval of Agenda**

Motion to approve: Cmmr. Lising

Seconded by: Cmmr. Kosai

*No abstentions or objections. Motion carried unanimously.*

**IV. Approval of Minutes**

Motion to approve: Cmmr. Lehrman

Seconded by: Cmmr. Phongsa

*No abstentions or objections. Motion carried unanimously.*

**V. Staff Report**

**ED Nguyen** gave a verbal overview of the Staff Report at 10:36 AM. Full report can be accessed below.



**VI. Legislative Updates**

**PM Kamkar** provided a legislative update to the Commission at 10:46 AM. Full report can be accessed below.



**Cmmr. Huie** expressed her concern about the change in structure in the Health Disparities bill. It was meant to be more inclusive of marginalized communities and to provide better representation for them, but it did not adequately highlight the importance of including them. She hopes we can elevate expanding membership in the future.

***Action:* Cmmr. Lising** suggested we reach out to Rep. Santos to clarify if the bill needed more floor time or did not have enough votes. If it just needs more time, there might be an opportunity to tack it on as necessary in order to implement the budget.

**2nd VC Kosai** also expressed concerns about Make Us Visible’s 5574 bill, which was killed in committee because Senator Wellman didn’t bring it up for a vote. Is there anything CAPAA can do to be supportive in trying to access those meetings, or help to navigate the political climate?

**Angelie Chong**, from Make Us Visible,stressed the continued need to raise the importance of inclusive history towards our lawmakers. They were able to secure enough votes to obtain the majority, but for unknown reasons Sen. Wellman decided not to put it to a vote. It would be helpful to understand what those reasons were, because it certainly wasn’t because of a lack of support from the community.

In some ways, it did feel as if we were being silenced. We were only given 24 minutes of testimonial time, despite having so many across the state that traveled long distances, eager to testify.

**1st VC Uppala** has received some feedback from the South Asian lawmakers on things they would like to see included in HB 5574 before it goes into the next session. She requested setting up a meeting with those electeds to generate more support for the bill.

**CE Pritchard** inquired about the list of bill priorities that APIC are supporting. What is CAPAA doing to support those bills and how are they being tracked? **ED Nguyen** explained that while the Legislative Committee does its best to track all the bills that APIC has prioritized, due to the number of bills and time constraints we are under, CAPAA prioritizes tracking the bills that the Commission has voted on specifically.

A meeting with APDC did take place on March 12 to discuss the bills APIC was prioritizing. An update of the status of those bills were conveyed at that time. We are also facing budget restrictions across the state which has played some part in how many of the bills have fared during session.

**CE Pritchard** wondered what CAPAA’s role has been in pushing back on some of the cuts. Naturalization is an example of something we’d love to see CAPAA stand by as a funding cut that should not happen. **Second VC Kosai** agreed that once the final budget has been finalized, CAPAA will look to see if there are cuts affecting our communities that we can advocate for and be their voice on.

**Maricres Castro**, from APCC, commented on how discouraging it was that not everyone was allowed to share their testimonies for the Make Us Visible bill. Many of their elders traveled far and

wide to participate and it was hard watching the doors closed on them after only a limited time of hearing testimonies and not hearing from everyone who had prepared to testify. They never even read the final count on how many of our elders had shown up.

**Cmmr. Lising** asked whether everyone leading the effort on this bill communicated their disappointment in how our communities were treated. The disrespect they felt should definitely be made aware of to Sen. Peterson and the members of the Color Caucus. They are owed a response as to why Sen. Wellman did not at least consider it for legislative session.

**Cmmr. Cho** addressed the comment made by 2nd VC Kosai, as it is an important one. As a state agency under the governor, we are in a tough position when it comes to these situations. There is a distinction however between CAPAA advocating for ourselves as an agency in regards to the budget, and us advocating for the community.

Our job as a commission is to represent the community and to be their voice. We should not be constrained to voice these issues to them when it comes to legislation and the budget. I encourage the Commission and my colleagues to be courageous to speak up on behalf of the community, because if we don’t as an agency, there is no other agency that has a direct line to these legislators the way we can. We shouldn’t tiptoe around this. Advocating for community is a completely different issue we should be standing up for.

**First VC Uppala** reiterated Cmmr. Cho’s comments and addressed CE Pritchard’s comment. APIC had a meeting with the governor last week to bring up the Legal Defense Fund support, Naturalization funding, health equity for immigrants, and wage replacement for undocumented workers. I am hopeful that as a commission we can support APIC on this. Would there ever be a time when CAPAA can meet with the governor to communicate these issues?

**ED Nguyen** can request a meeting with the governor to either meet with APIC or with CAPAA. We work mostly with his policy staff and they will certainly meet with us. I will reach out to our policy advisor on how we should approach the budget portion.

***Action:* Chair Faitalia** assigned PM Kamkar to host a town hall with Cmmr. Lising. Please include CE Pritchard and Maricres to gather feedback from the community. Also a separate meeting should be held with the Education Committee to get feedback regarding the Make Us Visible bill.

*The Commission broke briefly at 11:19 AM and resumed the meeting at 11:30 AM.*

**VII. Commissioner Roundtable**

Due to time constraints, the roundtable was shelved for this meeting.

**VIII. Rapid Response Hub**

**ED Maria Siguenza and Nancy Rocha Aguilar**, from the Commission on Hispanic Affairs, shared a hub they created for communities to access [resources, tools, and information](https://www.cha.wa.gov/rapid-response-hub). Full presentation can be accessed below.



**IX. Lunch and Local Hero Award to Art Wang**

A ceremony to recognize **Art Wang** as the recipient of the **Local Hero Award** commenced at noon. [**Mayor Victoria Woodards**](https://www.cityoftacoma.org/government/city_council/office_of_mayor_victoria_woodards)gave a speech honoring Mr. Wang and presented him with the award. The Commission then broke for lunch at 12:17 and resumed the Board meeting at 1:01 pm.





**X. Public Comment**

**Maricres Castro**,Program Manager – Mental Health at APCC,is bringing awareness to a bill she is passionate about. [SB 5104](https://app.leg.wa.gov/billsummary?billnumber=5104&year=2025) made it out of the Senate and is being considered in the House under

the Labor and Workforce Committee. It will be the first bill that protects immigrants from coercion by their employers. Amongst the protections are situations such as being forced to work in unsafe conditions, and wages being withheld from undocumented workers.

A confidential pathway to be able to report what’s happening to L&I would also be created under this bill. Currently, we have state protections from retaliation but none to address the coercion beforehand. During testimony I shared that Filipinos make up roughly 4% of the nursing workforce in the US, but while the pandemic was happening, 1 out of 3 nurses who died were Filipino.

Why was that? Reports exist that these nurses were afraid of saying no to working in unsafe conditions where inadequate PPE existed during the long hours of their shifts. Employers were threatening to take away their visas if they declined to work in such conditions

Our next Philippine Consulate outreach will take place on April 5-7 in Bellevue. It will be the last one before the reopening of the Consulate here in the state. I’m sharing this with the community for anyone needing a passport or dual citizenship support.

**Cmmr. Emeritus Reynaldo Pascua** reported on events that he represented CAPAA on. As stated previously, I was able to travel to Washington DC in November and attend the induction of Larry Itliong, Philip Vera Cruz, and Pete Velasco into the Department of Labor’s [Hall of Honor](https://www.dol.gov/general/aboutdol/hallofhonor/2024-filipino-farm-workers). They were recognized posthumously for their incredible leadership in uniting 1500 Filipino farmworkers to strike against ten vineyards in 1965.

On March 26th, [House Resolution 4644](https://app.leg.wa.gov/billsummary?BillNumber=4644&Year=2025&Initiative=False) will be reviewed and adopted. It is a resolution that I wrote along with Maricres Castro, that [celebrates and honors Filipino American educators](https://www.fox28spokane.com/wapato-lawmaker-honors-filipino-american-educators-in-washington-with-house-resolution/). It specifically recognizes 20 educators, past and present, who have made significant contributions to public education, and it’s being sponsored by Sen. King in Yakima.

Lastly, there are two upcoming events I want to invite you to taking place in the Yakima Valley. One is the 73rd anniversary of the Filipino American Community Hall on Saturday, March 29th.

There will be a dinner and a program celebrating its anniversary that evening. The other event is the annual Japanese sukiyaki dinner taking place in April.

**Lupe Talimoni,** Asst. Manager of Community Business Services at APCC, more than 235 AANHPI seniors come to APCC on Monday to Friday to participate in crafts, dancing, arts, meet-and-greets, cultural performances and highlights. The seniors attending today’s meeting are excited to be here and want to extend their thanks for the invitation to learn more about what we do.

**Alice Fong,** CEO ofthe [Center for Ethical Leadership](https://www.ethicalleadership.org/)**,** exists to cultivate leaders that put their heart and soul into how they lead. What can we do to uphold and lift the voices of our community? Our program is developed through research and from a human moral leadership lens, that also

encompasses ancestral wisdom from countries around the world. There are leadership programs for all ages and we look at leadership as transformational as opposed to transactional, striving to foster a space that discusses difficult questions and challenges with grace and thoughtful engagement.

**XI.**  **Good of order**

**Cmmr. Lehrman** gave a plug for communicating within our communities. Recently, I was contacted for help by an educator teaching Japanese at the local high school. The district made the decision to transfer the program to another school. Despite concerns that the program would die at the new school, she found the situation taking a toll on her mental health, because she felt her fears were being unheard and dismissed.

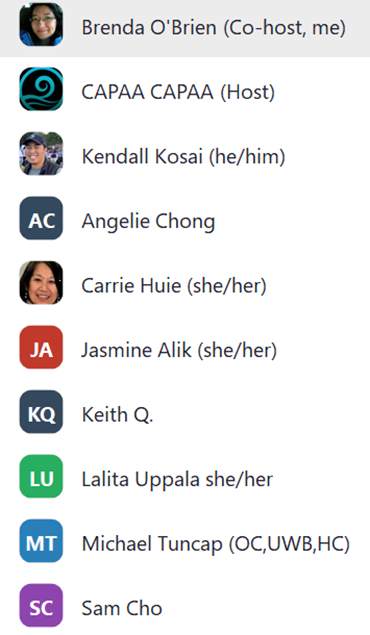
We were able to put together a plan where the board could hear from community, and she invited 15 students of different racial and cultural backgrounds to share their perspectives on removing the program from their school. In an area where roughly only 5% of the population was comprised of API communities, these students conveyed how removing the language program from their school would impact them.

It is not just a different language they are learning, but a differing culture. They don’t have access to this experience apart from these classes, and they pleaded with the district to not remove that opportunity from them. After following up with the superintendent a few days later, she admitted that she had no idea how their decision would impact the students and the district ultimately decided to not only continue the language program, but to expand it.

**XII. Adjournment**

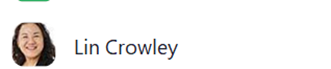
The meeting was officially adjourned at 1:31 PM.

**Zoom Attendees and Chat:**

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AI-generated content may be incorrect.**

Good Morning! Welcome to the Board meeting. If you are a guest joining us today, please give us your name, email and organization.

Our meeting will be starting in 10 minutes.

Sam Cho joined as a guest

Jasmine Alik (she/her) joined as a guest

Angelie Chong joined as a guest

Sam Cho 10:09 AM

Have we started?

CAPAA 10:12 AM

Our apologies but we are experiencing technical difficulties with the OWL. Audio issues may be present for those on Zoom.

CAPAA 10:13 AM

Please let us know if you can hear Chair Faitalia.

Kendall Kosai joined as a guest

Keith Q. to CAPAA (direct message) 10:14 AM

I can hear Chair Faitalia!

Michael Tuncap joined as a guest

Angelie Chong left

Angelie Chong joined as a guest

Michael Tuncap (OC,UWB,HC) left

Sam Cho (Port of Seattle) joined as a guest

Sam Cho left

Ping Ping joined as a guest

Briana Tamaki joined as a guest

Michael Tuncap joined as a guest

Lalita Uppala she/her 10:33 AM

yes we can

Michael Tuncap (OC, UWB, HC) 10:34 AM

Aunty Lua’s leadership and service is truly remarkable! Malo Fa’afetai lava

Angelie Chong left

Make Us Visible Washington joined as a guest

Ping Ping left

Michael Tuncap (OC, UWB, HC) 11:03 AM

1. Racial equity is the condition that would be achieved if one's racial identity no longer predicted, in a statistical sense, how one fares. When we use the term, we are thinking about racial equity as one part of racial justice, and thus we also include work to address root causes of inequities, not just their manifestation. This includes elimination of policies, practices, attitudes, and cultural messages that reinforce differential outcomes by race or that fail to eliminate them.

Racial Reconciliation involves three ideas. First, it recognizes that racism in America is both systemic and institutionalized, with far–reaching effects on both political engagement and economic opportunities for minorities. Second, reconciliation is engendered by empowering local communities through relationship-building and truth-telling. Lastly, justice is the essential component of the conciliatory process—justice that is best termed as restorative rather than retributive, while still maintaining its vital punitive character.

CAPAA to Michael Tuncap (OC, UWB, HC) (direct message) 11:04 AM

Hi Michael, can you provide your email and phone number so we can follow up with you?

Michael Tuncap (OC, UWB, HC) 11:04 AM

Racial Reparations

States have a legal duty to acknowledge and address widespread or systematic human rights violations, in cases where the state caused the violations or did not seriously try to prevent them. Reparations initiatives seek to address the harms caused by these violations. They can take the form of compensating for the losses suffered, which helps overcome some of the consequences of abuse. They can also be future oriented—providing rehabilitation and a better life to victims—and help to change the underlying causes of abuse. Reparations publicly affirm that victims are rights-holders entitled to redress.

SOURCE: International Center for Transitional Justice.

CAPAA to Michael Tuncap (OC, UWB, HC) (direct message) 11:06 AM

Hello, Michael! Can you provide your email and phone number?

Michael Tuncap (OC, UWB, HC) to You (direct message) 11:07 AM

pacificislandersnetwork@gmail.com

(Grass roots network)

mtuncap@olympic.edu

(PIAA Studies)

mtuncap@highline.edu

(Oceania & PI Studies)

206-214-8969

Michael Tuncap (OC, UWB, HC) 11:08 AM

In the context of racial equity work, accountability refers to the ways in which individuals and communities hold themselves to their goals and actions, and acknowledge the values and groups to which they are responsible.

To be accountable, one must be visible, with a transparent agenda and process. Invisibility defies examination; it is, in fact, employed in order to avoid detection and examination. Accountability demands commitment. It might be defined as “what kicks in when convenience runs out.” Accountability requires some sense of urgency and becoming a true stakeholder in the outcome. Accountability can be externally imposed (legal or organizational requirements),

or internally applied (moral, relational, faith-based, or recognized as some combination of the two) on a continuum from the institutional and organizational level to the individual level. From a relational point of view, accountability is not always doing it right. Sometimes it’s really about what happens after it’s done wrong.

Anti-Racism is defined as the work of actively opposing racism by advocating for changes in political, economic, and social life.

Anti-racism tends to be an individualized approach, and set up in opposition to individual racist behaviors and impacts.

SOURCE: Race Forward, “Race Reporting Guide” (2015).

Structural White Privilege: A system of white domination that creates and maintains belief systems that make current racial advantages and disadvantages seem normal. The system includes powerful incentives for maintaining white privilege and its consequences, and powerful negative consequences for trying to interrupt white privilege or reduce its consequences in meaningful ways. The system includes internal and external manifestations at the individual, interpersonal, cultural and institutional levels.

The accumulated and interrelated advantages and disadvantages of white privilege that are reflected in racial/ethnic inequities in life-expectancy and other health outcomes, income and wealth, and other outcomes, in part through different access to opportunities and resources. These differences are maintained in part by denying that these advantages and disadvantages exist at the structural, institutional, cultural, interpersonal, and individual levels and by refusing to redress them or eliminate the systems, policies, practices, cultural norms, and other behaviors and assumptions that maintain them.

Interpersonal White Privilege: Behavior between people that consciously or unconsciously reflects white superiority or entitlement.

Cultural White Privilege: A set of dominant cultural assumptions about what is good, normal or appropriate that reflects Western European white world views and dismisses or demonizes other world views.

Institutional White Privilege: Policies, practices and behaviors of institutions—such as schools, banks, non-profits or the Supreme Court—that have the effect of maintaining or increasing accumulated advantages for those groups currently defined as white, and maintaining or increasing disadvantages for those racial or ethnic groups not defined as white. The ability of institutions to survive and thrive even when their policies, practices and behaviors maintain, expand or fail to redress accumulated disadvantages and/or inequitable outcomes for people of color.

Sharing the academic explanations for the mistreatment of our people

Michael Tuncap (OC, UWB, HC) 11:14 AM

There is scholarship that locates the precise mechanism and language of racism that continues to tokenize our more than 50 communities

Xenophobia

Any attitude, behavior, practice, or policy that explicitly or implicitly reflects the belief that immigrants are inferior to the dominant group of people. Xenophobia is reflected in interpersonal, institutional, and systemic levels oppression and is a function of White supremacy.

SOURCE: Lee Cokorinos, “The Racist Roots of the Anti-Immigration Movement,” The Black Agenda Report (2007).

Lin Crowley joined as a guest

Lalita Uppala she/her 11:18 AM

APIC Prioritiy Asks include Legal defense fund support; naturalization funding; health equity for immigrants; wage replacement for undocumented workers. It is important for CAPAA to address these.

Angelie Chong 11:19 AM

Would love to continue the conversation - makeusvisiblewa@gmail.com

Lalita Uppala she/her 11:19 AM

I would be very willing to host a townhall in King County too

Angelie Chong left

Keith Q. left

Michael Tuncap (OC, UWB, HC) 11:21 AM

Olympic College PIAA Studies would be honored to host a student centered forum in 2025

Sam Cho (Port of Seattle) 11:22 AM

For the newer commissioners, CAPAA used to not have legislative authority to lobby the legislature while the other commissions did. We worked to get changes made to get that right. We should exercise it.

Sam Cho (Port of Seattle) 11:22 AM

Worked hard\*

Briana Tamaki left

Carrie Huie to CAPAA (direct message) 11:28 AM

I am not able to stay for the entire meeting. I will need to leave at noon for a memorial service.

APCC Online joined as a guest

Carrie Huie to CAPAA (direct message) 11:30 AM

here is my Commissioner roundtable report out:

Carrie Huie to CAPAA (direct message) 11:33 AM

· FACYV New president and new Board of Directors – 73rd anniversary celebration on Saturday, March 29th.

· Sukiyaki Dinner . Theme is Children’s Day with koinobori --- koi kites, taiko drummers from Seattle (taiko drum school), craft table for kids, and of course sukiyaki meal. April 27th 10 am to 4 pm located in the gymnasium Yakima Buddhist, 212 W Second St., Wapato, WA 98951. Tickets can be purchased online

(bit.ly/62nd\_SUKIYAKI) or in person at Dunbar Jewelers, Yakima Valley Museum, and Yakima Visitor’s Center with cash

· Senate Resolutions –

o 8630 Recognizing Sikh American community contributions, sponsors Dhingra, Hasegawa et al, Friday, March 14, 2025

o 8629 – Honoring and congratulating Ichiro Suzuki on being elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame

o 8608 – Celebrating Lunar New Year January 29, 2025

· Child Wellness Survey – DOH, targeted outreach to NHPI families, deadline is March 31, 2025. Thanks

APCC Online left

Zipporah Ty (She/Her) joined as a guest

Michael Tuncap (OC, UWB, HC) left

Michael Tuncap joined as a guest

Michael Tuncap left

Michael Tuncap joined as a guest

Carrie Huie 12:02 PM

Congratulations Art Wang!

Lalita Uppala she/her 12:02 PM

Congratulations Art - we are so grateful for your leadership and wisdom.

Lin Crowley 12:02 PM

Congratulations, Art!

Carrie Huie 12:04 PM

Have a great meeting all. I am sorry that I must leave.

Carrie Huie left

Lin Crowley left

CAPAA 12:18 PM (Edited)

We will be breaking for lunch and reconvening at about 1:00.

Michael Tuncap left

Zipporah Ty (She/Her) left

Ping Ping (she/her) joined as a guest

Kendall Kosai left

Sam Cho (Port of Seattle) left

CAPAA 1:01 PM

Welcome back, everyone!

Kendall Kosai joined as a guest

Kendall Kosai left

Lalita Uppala she/her left

Jasmine Alik (she/her) left