



AAANM Bulletin Spring 2019

Asian American Association of New Mexico

SPRING 2019

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Festival of Asian Cultures moves to Biennial Schedule



Instead of holding the Festival of Asian Cultures this year, we have decided to focus our attention on Asian American Day 2019 at the Legislature. It was a successful event in collaboration with New Mexico Asian Family Center, Asian Pacific American Caucus in New Mexico, and Young Asian Americans of Albuquerque. We plan to have an event in May that celebrates Asian & Pacific Islander Heritage Month, but it will be smaller in scale. So please stay tuned! For now, expect odd years to focus on Asian American Day at the Legislature and even years to focus on the Festival of Asian Cultures.

This year, we have more time to coordinate a spectacular festival for all of you in 2020. Please contact us with any questions, and thank you for your understanding.

Having its humble beginnings in the gymnasium of the Cesar Chavez Community Center, the Festival of Asian Cultures blossomed as an event that was held on the Civic Plaza for a few years. But after the city first wanted to charge for the venue and then shifted management of the plaza to an outside non-governmental entity, the same group that manages the balloon park, and convention center, the cost for producing the event at that location became cost prohibitive. The Association sought alternative spaces and was

lucky to find its current venue, the Veterans Memorial Park on Louisiana Blvd just north of Gibson.

It's hoped that taking the year to focus on the Legislative Day at the Long Legislative session and focusing on other projects, such as the Asian American Legacy Stories Project to name one, the process for producing the Festival can also be revamped.



Hello! When I became President of Asian American Association of NM (AAANM), we faced some tough challenges as an organization. We needed a new direction and new volunteers to resurrect it. We took last year to figure out

Message from the Robert Nelson, President AAANM

what direction we needed to take, revised our mission statement, started new committees, and began building the foundation for our future.

After Asian American Day at the Legislature in January, we entered 2019 with renewed excitement. In partnership with NM Asian Family Center and Asian Pacific American Caucus, we organized and brought over 50 community members to the legislature to advocate for our com-

munity's issues and speak to our new Governor.

This year, we're looking at how we engage our members (past and current) and the broader Asian Pacific American community even more. We want to hear from you.

So stay tuned and we'll be reaching out to you soon!

Robert Blanquera Nelson



Las Cruces Mayor
Ken Miyagishima



Bernalillo County Treasurer
Nancy Bearce



NM State Senator
Mimi Stewart



Anni Leming &
Mina Sharifi with
the NM Senate
Memorial for Asian
American Day
2019 sponsored by
NM Senator Mimi
Stewart
(photo provided by
Nancy Bearce)



Robert Nelson
Kristelle Siarza
Co Founder Young
Asians of Albuquerque



Elder Homestead
Marian Jordan



Women's Global Path-
ways Babsy Sinandile



New Mexico Asian Family
Center Community Mem-
ber Siriwan Pitayasak

COOPERATION

LEGISLATIVE SESSION 2019 ASIAN AMERICAN DAY at the ROUND- HOUSE

Photos provided by Rusty Chan except where other-
wise noted.



S San Pedro & Bernalillo
County Health Council
Enrique Cardiel



New Mexico Asian Family Center
Youth Zoe Hughes



NM Asian Family Center
Huong Nguyen

Community Speaks Out



Medicaid Buy-In (House Bill 416, Senate Bill 405)

"Establishes a state public option through Medicaid to provide residents with a choice of high-quality, low-cost health insurance using a state administered buy-in plan; creates the Health Care Affordability and Access Improvement Fund; establishes an advisory council; appropriates \$12 million of General Funds to Health and Human Service Department for use in Fiscal Year 2020 for implementation and administration of the plan and to conduct an expansion study,

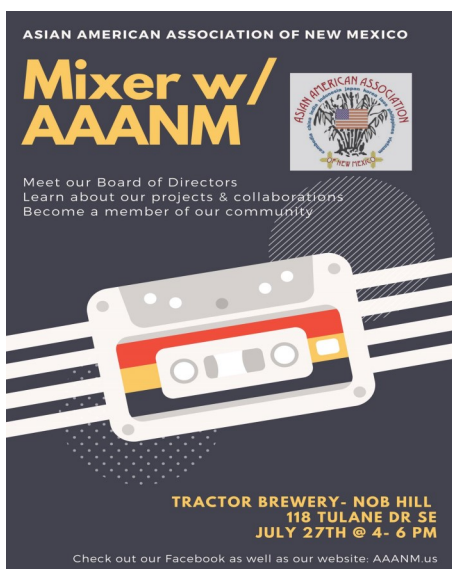
and \$12 million to the fund for use in FY 2020 and subsequent years to ensure affordability for enrollees in the plan" -Strong Families Health Equity Bill Summary

The Medicaid Buy-In bill is currently being heard in the Senate Finance Committee for consideration. After the bill clears through the committees, it will go to the Senate floor for a vote. The bill has already made it through the House and its committees. Medicaid Buy-In has gained national attention in providing a solution to access to quality affordable healthcare to those that currently do not qualify for Medicaid because they are just above the threshold or are underinsured. This would allow for all New Mexicans to gain access to a system that has already proven its success in giving access to great health coverage.

As an Asian American and daughter of refugees, Medicaid Buy-In would provide an avenue for families such as ours to gain access to health care. My grandfather was sponsored by my father and shortly after arriving, he was diagnosed with Kidney Cancer. As a green card holder, my grandfather

could not access health care coverage. Rather than putting our family in financial peril, my grandfather did not continue care and died at the young age of 64. If the Medicaid Buy-In bill were implemented when my grandfather was going through his cancer diagnosis, he possibly would be alive today. Our family would have been able to purchase a plan through Medicaid to keep my grandfather in treatment and our family would not have had to consider bankruptcy to keep him alive. Now as I battle my own cancer diagnosis and our family has yet again question bankruptcy to keep me alive; it is imperative for our State to consider such a plan to prevent other families from questioning the worth of their loved ones.

Lan Sena
Asian Pacific American Caucus
NM Together for Healthcare



Our first mixer ever was held on July 27, 2018 at the Tractor Brewery in Nob Hill. Folks from the community had an opportunity to meet some members of the board. (Photos provided by Sradha Patel)

It was great to meet you and we look forward to having more of these events to better serve you.

Thanks to everyone who was able to make it out to our first mixer.



We are actively working on ideas to engage our community in our projects and collaborations as well as learn what projects you are working on and how we could support you. We look forward to hosting more of these and gathering as community. Be sure to follow us on Facebook! - Membership / Outreach Committee



We are proud to announce that Dr. Dely Alcantara was awarded the "Dolores Huerta Si Se Puede Award," presented at the 25th Annual Cesar Chavez Celebration on April 7, 2018. The celebration took place at the National Hispanic Cultural Center with a march, and guest speaker Dolores Huerta was there to present the award. Dr. Alcantara is a tremendous champion for the Filipino community, and the first Asian woman to receive this award. She reminds us that Filipinos were key contributors in the Farm Labor Movement, marching alongside their Mexican sisters and brothers and that we should work in solidarity to uplift all voices of the oppressed and disenfranchised. (photo provided by Enrique Cardiel)



Original committee outside the Hibben Center. (L to R): Rusty Chan, Nina Stephenson, Nikki Louis, Herb Tsuchiya (Guest), Victor Yamada, Past President AAANM Dely Alcantara, Siu Wong, Carolyn Chan.

Asian American Legacy Stories Returns 2019

Made possible with a grant from the NM Humanities Council, the Asian American Association of New Mexico has had as one of its projects, "the Asian American Legacy Stories: The New Mexico Experience." Chaired by AAANM board director Siu Wong, former AAANM board director Carolyn Chan, the committee also included AAANM board directors Rusty Chan and Victor Yamada. Also serving on the committee were members at large Nikki Louis, and Nina Stephenson. The primary phase

covered many elders within the Organizational Members, notably the Albuquerque Chapter of the Chinese American Citizens Alliance, New Mexico Japanese American Citizens League and The Filipino Historical Society's leadership. Once completed the interviews were presented to the community at the Hibben Center at UNM. After renewed interest, it's been put on the schedule for 2019.

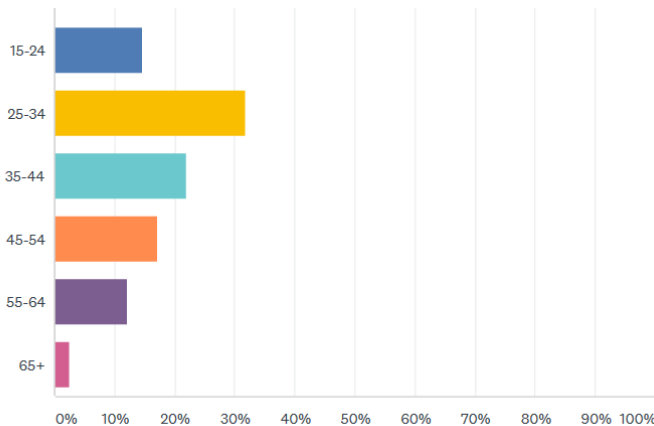
The secondary phase seeks to cover other contemporary lead-

ers within the Asian American Community of New Mexico. And once completed, they too will be presented at a showing and copies will be given to the Albuquerque Public Library Special Collections as well as the Center for Southwest Research and Special Collections at UNM.

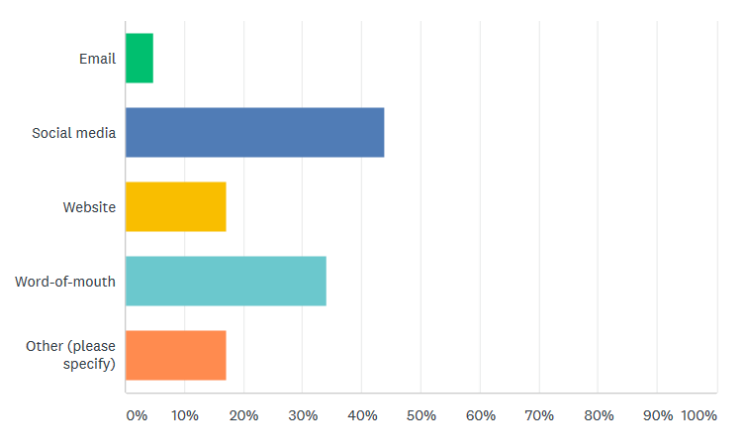
More information on Phase Two will be forth coming on our website, Facebook page and newsletter.

Snapshot of our community survey and perspectives of Asian & Pacific Islanders around the state

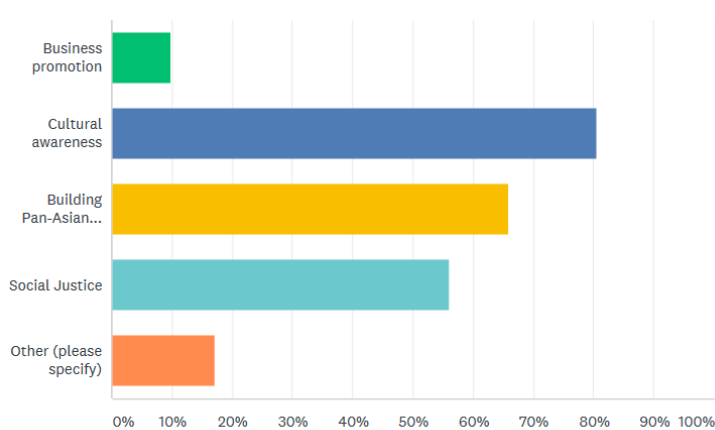
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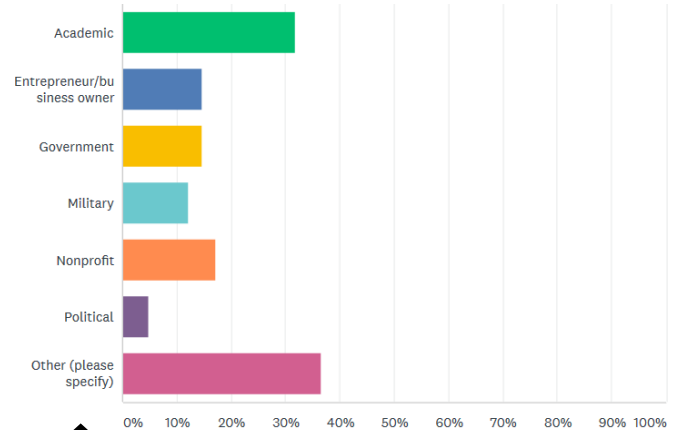
HOW DID YOU HEAR OF US?



WHAT INTERESTS YOU ABOUT AAANM?

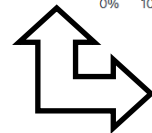


PROFESSION:



HOBBIES & INTERESTS:

arts people music gardening hiking cooking dance community
reading climbing travel history sports Food volunteering
games



OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)

- CPA
- IT
- Engineering
- nothing entered
- Student
- Unemployed
- Finance (currently studying for Conservation Biology)
- For profit small business
- Healthcare