



May 29, 2020

Celebrate Asian Pacific American Heritage Month



May is Asian Pacific American Heritage Month. This is a time to celebrate the many ways that Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) communities enrich our culture, strengthen our economy, and improve the American quality of life.

This celebration comes at an apt time. Because the coronavirus has been dubbed a “Chinese virus,” AAPI communities are facing heightened discrimination and acts of hate both nationally and globally. Systemic racism has built a wall of barriers for AAPI communities seeking the health care and business opportunities they need to stay physically and financially healthy and eventually recover from this crisis.

Sadly, this isn’t the first time that these communities have faced structural racism and egregious discrimination in this country. From the incarceration and relocation of Japanese Americans during World War II to the Muslim Ban of 2017, people from these communities have been targets and scapegoats. We need to stand in solidarity to stop racism in its tracks. Below, you can read how the Port of Seattle is speaking out against racism and taking action to bring about transformational change.

This pandemic has devastated our economy and exposed our most inequitable systems. But now that these inequities are exposed, our way forward is clear. We cannot only address the immediate needs of this crisis. It is up to us to build a better community, region, and nation by ensuring the most marginalized people are not left behind in our recovery.

We need all of you to join us.

Sincerely,

Bookda Gheisar

Senior Director, Office of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion

Speak Out against Racism

The Port of Seattle recently adopted a proclamation against anti-Asian racism and we are raising these issues in prominent publications like the *Puget Sound Business Journal*.

- Read [the proclamation](#)
- Read the [opinion piece](#) "We Need to Reverse Institutional Racism" in the *Puget Sound Business Journal* by Commissioner Sam Cho and Senior Director Bookda Gheisar

ANTI-ASIAN RACISM AND COVID-19

**SAM CHO**

Commissioner, Port of Seattle

**MICHAEL BYUN**Executive Director, Asian
Counseling and Referral Service**TOSHIKO HASEGAWA**Executive Director, Washington
State Commission on Asian Pacific
American Affairs (CAPAA)**SAMETH MELL**Community Response
Alliance

In May, we hosted a webinar entitled [Anti-Asian Racism and COVID-19](#) that was loaded with information and helpful resources

- Watch the [recorded webinar](#) and read the [blog post recap](#)
- View [anti-racism artwork](#)
- Learn how to file an anonymous [hate crime report](#) and see where incidents are occurring

- Get an intervention [toolkit for bystanders](#)
- And read an [in-depth look at API history in the U.S.](#) for a fresh and inspiring perspective

Take Action

In addition to raising our voices, the Port has prioritized equity in our COVID-19 response by:

- Adopting a [motion to center equity](#) in the Port's COVID-19 relief and response
- Providing an [emergency relief fund for airport tenants](#)
- Doubling down on the South King County Fund by investing in programs that promote economic development and support environmental health and sustainability in the region. These investments will support near-airport communities, which are home to many members of the AAPI community.

Copyright © 2020 All rights reserved | Port of Seattle | 2711 Alaskan Way | Seattle, WA 98121

Port of Seattle Commission

Stephanie Bowman | Ryan Calkins | Sam Cho | Fred Felleman | Peter Steinbrueck

Executive Director: Stephen P. Metruck

[unsubscribe from this list](#) | [update subscription preferences](#)

[Contact us](#) | [Visit our website](#)

