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“Our society would be better if we all were just given the opportunity to dream, to believe, and to pursue the things that make our heart sing.” —Kelly Marie Tran, actor

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PARTICIPANT SPOTLIGHT

DR SUNEJ HANS

Dr. Sunej Hans is a Full Professor of Chemistry who earned her Ph.D. in Organic Chemistry from the City University of New York. Following her graduation, she undertook a postdoctoral fellowship at Brookhaven National Lab (BNL) and worked as a Research Scientist at BNL for two years. Since 2014, she has been mentoring students under the CUNY Research Scholar Program (CRSP). In 2020, Dr. Hans joined P-CoC, serving as the Committee Officer of the Education Program Committee. Currently, she was asked to take a role of the board member as “Treasurer”. She joined P-CoC to continue empowering persons of color in their educational endeavors.



AMERICAN ASIAN & PACIFIC ISLANDERS HERITAGE MONTH

Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders have contributed significantly to many facets of American culture and society, including science and medicine, literature and art, sports and recreation, government and politics, and activism and law.

In 2021, Kamala Harris became the first Asian American Vice President of the United States. In film history, AANHPI people, stories, and traditions have become more visible with South Korean director Bong Joon Ho’s Parasite winning the Academy Award for Best Picture in 2019 and the release of Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings in 2021, debuting Marvel’s first Asian superhero.

AANHPI people have a long history in the United States, despite the stereotype that they are “perpetual foreigners,” the idea that Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders are inherently foreign, other and not truly American. According to the Bering Land Bridge Theory, Asians first migrated to what is now known as North America over 15,000 years ago through a land bridge between Asia and North America.

In the 16th century, Filipinos who were escaping forced labor and enslavement during the Spanish galleon trade immigrated to North America, eventually establishing a settlement in St. Malo, Louisiana in 1763. During the California Gold Rush of the 1850s, a wave of Asian immigrants came to the West Coast and provided labor for gold mines, factories and the transcontinental railroad. In 1882, Congress enacted the Chinese Exclusion Act, which banned Chinese immigration for 20 years.

Japanese and Koreans began immigrating to the United States by 1885 to replace Chinese labor in railroad construction, farming and fishing. However, in 1907, Japanese immigration was restricted by a “Gentlemen’s Agreement” between the United States and Japan.

The civil rights movement assisted the liberalization of immigration laws. The 1965 Immigration and Nationality Act changed restrictive national origin quotas and allowed for the large numbers of Asians and Pacific Islanders to come to the United States with their families. In the mid-1970s, refugees from Southeast Asia like Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos came to the United States to flee war, violence, and hardship.

Prominent Asian American & Pacific Islanders

1. Dwayne Johnson

Dwayne “The Rock” Johnson, who is of Samoan descent, has captured the world’s attention since his early days as one of the greatest professional wrestlers. He then pivoted into acting, starring in films such as The Scorpion King, Moana, and various films in The Fast and the Furious franchise. He is now one of the highest-grossing actors in Hollywood and was even named one of the world’s most influential people by Time magazine.



2. Ann Curry

American journalist Ann Curry worked as an anchor for NBC News, Dateline NBC, and the Today show. Her reporting on wars and natural disasters, such as the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami and the 2010 Haiti earthquake, was vital to the process of gathering information and bringing aid to the areas. Curry, whose mother is Japanese, has won seven Emmy Awards in her career for her important and heroic coverage.



3. Anna May Wong

Born in Los Angeles in 1905, Anna May Wong is considered by many to be the first Chinese American movie star. During her long career, she appeared in over 60 films including Shanghai Express (alongside star Marlene Dietrich), Piccadilly, and The Thief of Bagdad. Despite her success, Wong faced horrific racism in Hollywood, to the point where she transitioned to European films in the hopes of greater acceptance.



4. George Takei

American actor and activist George Takei rose to fame in his role as Hikaru Sulu in the television show Star Trek. The son of Japanese American parents, he has spoken openly about how he and his family lived in a U.S. internment camp during WWII. His story even inspired a Broadway musical that Takei starred in called Allegiance. In addition to his work as a voice actor, Takei is also a vocal activist who advocates for LGBTQ+ and immigrant rights.



Sources

- <https://www.history.com/articles/asian-american-pacific-islander-heritage-month>
- <https://guideposts.org/inspiring-stories/18-inspiring-asian-americans-and-pacific-islanders/>

UPCOMING EVENT

PUBLIC INVITATION TO ALL

SUNDAY JUNE 1st, 2025
From 1pm -5pm

P-CoC Inc. extends a warm invitation to join our Juneteenth celebration, featuring

- Live Music!
- Delicious Food!
- All-Ages Fun Fair!

P-CoC Inc. annually recognizes and commemorates its Juneteenth Food and Fun Fair to infuse humanness into our humanity by marking a unique and solely dedicated observance to honor impacted individuals, families, allies, sympathizers, friends, and supporters in our collective uphill struggle in the intersectionality work exclusively dedicated to race, color, and ethnicity.



HAILS AND WAILS

CELEBRATING JOHN PATITUCCI

John Patitucci is a true powerhouse for P-CoC Inc., serving as a Professional Asset and generously volunteering his expertise to support our programming needs.

He has been instrumental to our success.

A legend whose talents are recognized both nationally and internationally.

John was recently honored with “John Patitucci Day” on April 15, 2025, and received the prestigious ArtsWestchester Artist Award for his outstanding impact on the cultural world.

We are proud and grateful to have John as part of our community!



Support those who support us!

Patronize the businesses of our sponsors and partners—find details on our website.

Meet us at our Tabling!

Meet some of our participants at our Tabling Events around town, and reach out to see if we can bring a table to your event—email us at info@p-coc.org.

Join the P-CoC Team!

Looking to get involved? Join or volunteer with P-CoC and make a difference! Visit <https://www.p-coc.org/join> to learn more.

Stay engaged!

Follow us on our social platforms for updates, events, and more ways to get involved.



WHO We Are!

We are a collective that cultivates a culture of support, embracing the ideology of one human race while celebrating ethnic uniqueness and the diverse skin tones that enrich our shared humanity.



WHAT We Do!

Through our race, color, and ethnicity-centered initiatives to address marginalization, we create dynamic spaces for service, networking, collaboration, and leadership development, empowering everyone to embrace fair and equitable coexistence.



HOW We Do It!

Our outreach includes cultural exchange events that celebrate ethnic heritage, positive public messaging to combat stereotypes, and our local social circle hubs for collaborative solution-oriented approaches to societal challenges, all aimed at fostering equitable coexistence.