



# BICULTURAL ACTIVE LIVING LIFESTYLE E-MAGAZINE

APRIL, 2024 | VOLUME 1 | ISSUE 4



## Features:

**Adult Vaccination:  
Interview with Ms. Kelly  
Robinson for Black Nurses  
Rock**



# Project SUPPORT

## Table of Contents

02~03	Introduction
04~05	Nutrition
06~08	Physical Activity
09~11	Tobacco Control
12~15	Vaccination for Adults
16~21	Project SUPPORT Events
22~24	Understanding and Stopping Anti-Asian Hate
25	Resources
26~27	Upcoming Events
28	Contact



# INTRODUCTION



Project SUPPORT is led by Asian Media Access (AMA), collaborated with Multi Cultural Community Alliance (MCCA), Project SUPPORT is a cross-cultural, cross-generational, and cross-sectoral initiative, aims to improve health, prevent chronic disease, and reduce health disparities among Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOCs) who face the highest risk, and bear the highest burden of chronic disease, named: African American/Black, Asian American and will put a special focus on young people from the two poorest but most diverse neighborhoods in MN – North Minneapolis, and Midway St. Paul.

Supported by CDC's REACH funding, AMA will leverage our extensive network of trusted community partners who provide subject matter expertise and have a history of successful engagement with the respective cultural and geographic communities. All partners have been involved in co-designing this Initiative - Project SUPPORT (Supporting Under-served through Produce/Park Prescription, and Opportunities to Recreation-activity & Tobacco-control), through below 4 culturally tailored strategies:

- **Nutrition:** Increase healthy cultural food access by implementing Food Service Guidelines (FSG) at least one Asian Temple, establishing Produce Rx at three clinics/hospitals.
- **Physical Activity:** Increase policies, plans and community design changes through China Garden, Minneapolis Open Streets and St. Paul Sears Redevelopment to better connect residents to everyday destination for live/work/play, and provide safe, culturally based places for increasing physical activities.

- **Tobacco Control:** Support a Media Campaign to educate BIPOC communities about the proposed statewide tobacco flavor ban, and work with area sports teams to find out what people/youth know and feel about flavored tobacco products. Focus groups and media message testing will be done to determine what the community needs to know and what messages related to flavor bans would appeal to which cultural groups. We will focus on young athletes from pan-Asian and pan-African communities, and a media campaign featured the young athletes based on what the message testing reveals.
- **Vaccination for Adults:** Increase demand for, and access to, flu, COVID-19, and other adult vaccinations via 40 pop-up community clinics at the places that cultural groups feel comfortable and connected, and increase regularity of vaccine promotion in priority communities; and increase the percentage of pan-Asian and pan-African seniors who are up-to-date with recommended adult vaccinations.

Please check out the website – <https://ballequity.amamedia.org/> for strategies and updates.





# NUTRITION



**STRATEGY INTRO:** Increase healthy cultural food access by implementing Food Service Guidelines (FSG) at least one Asian Temple, establishing Produce Rx at three clinics/hospitals.

## **BLOG DISCUSSION #4**

# **ENHANCING NUTRITION AND WELLNESS: AMA PARTNERS WITH ASIAN TEMPLES TO IMPLEMENT FEDERAL FOOD SERVICE GUIDELINES**

## **COLLABORATING AND ENHANCING CONGREGATE MEAL DESIGN WITH ASIAN TEMPLES**

Asian Media Access (AMA) has initiated a partnership with neighboring Asian Temples to enhance the structure of the congregate meal, aligning it with the Federal Food Service Guidelines. In this article, we delve into the significance of these guidelines in promoting balanced nutrition, their crucial role in community health, and AMA's strategies for leveraging them to enhance culinary offerings and policies.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has developed comprehensive Food Service Guidelines (FSG) aimed at promoting healthful eating in various settings, ranging from schools to workplaces. These guidelines serve as a cornerstone in the battle against diet-related diseases and aim to improve the overall health of individuals and communities.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control, provides the Food Service Guidelines Organizational Assessment Tool to assess the

current status of food service guidelines and nutrition standards. The assessment evaluates information based on “Agency background”, “Setting and food service venues”, “Nutrition policies, standards, and practices in place”, “Authority”, “Contracting process”, and “Environment and capacity”.

FSG Assessment tool includes questions regarding:

- Type of organization and number of employees or patrons
- Food service venues where food is prepared, served, or sold
- Existing policies, standards, and practices that affect food purchasing and nutrition
- Contracting process and procedures for buying foods and food services
- Capacity to implement food service guidelines

### **APPROACH TO INTEGRATING CULTURAL ELEMENTS TO DIETS USING FEDERAL SERVICE GUIDELINES (FSG)**

AMA's nutrition strategy will utilize the Federal Service Guideline assessment tool to improve not only the nutrition environment but also the integration of cultural diets into congregate meals. The initiative begins by assessing the meal plans and food operation policies of Asian Temples using the Federal Service Guideline (FSG). Then, the project aims to support the adaptation of cultural diets in response to FSG guidelines. By incorporating cultural dish recipes and fermented foods, the goal is to foster greater interest and explore ways to integrate cultural elements into FSG policies, as well as improving the policies supporting the balanced meals

The congregate dining in various temple settings, provide a good bridge to enhance the cultural factors in FSG, and we love to have more Temples, Churches, and Mosques to connect with us to have more cultural diet cases to further improve internal policies to improve nutrition, as well as improving the FSG Assessment Tools to better integrate with cultural factors. For more Information, please send an email to: [info@amamedia.org](mailto:info@amamedia.org) or call us at 612-376-7715.





## PHYSICAL ACTIVITY



**STRATEGY INTRO:** Increase policies, plans and community design changes through China Garden, Minneapolis Open Streets and St. Paul Sears Redevelopment to better connect residents to everyday destination to live/work/play, and provide safe, culturally based places for increasing physical activities.

### **BLOG DISCUSSION #4**

## **FOSTERING INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT: SOMALI COMMUNITY PERSPECTIVES ON SEARS REDEVELOPMENT**

### **BUILDING COMMUNITY VOICES: INSIGHTS FROM SEARS REDEVELOPMENT SOMALI COMMUNITY MEETING**

The Sears St. Paul Redevelopment Somali community meeting was hosted by the Asian American Business Resilience Network (AABRN) and Asian Media Access (AMA) on March 29, 2024. The Somali community meeting convened a diverse array of speakers to address critical aspects of the redevelopment project. Among the speakers were Imam Yusuf Abdulle, Executive Director of the Islamic Association of North America; Jamal Osman, City Council Member; Amina Aden, Director at the Minnesota Minority Child Care Association; and Abdullahi Farah, Director of the Muslim Coalition. They engaged in discussions highlighting the role of religious institutions in urban redevelopment efforts, emphasizing the significance of civic participation in such projects, and addressing child care needs within redevelopment plans. Key suggestions emerged from the meeting, including the desire from the Somali community to have a dedicated prayer room incorporated into the redevelopment plans. Additionally, there was a call to restore women's and seniors' rights for physical well-being, proposing the establishment of dedicated gym time for women, particularly within the Muslim community, to ensure inclusivity and

accessibility for all residents.

In response to the physical wellness, we have introduced the Pedestrian-Oriented Districts (POD) Vision for the Sears Site, with:

### **1. Project's Potential Vision for Mixed-Use Housing Solutions**

The Sears redevelopment project is guided by a comprehensive yet evolving land use plan aimed at benefiting the community in multifaceted ways. As part of our temporary strategy, the project is focusing on creating connected communities through the development of affordable housing options. One of the project's goals is to construct affordable housing units to address the community's pressing needs. Our potential plans include the introduction of diverse lifestyle housing options, including senior housing and mixed-use residential complexes, ensuring accessibility across income levels. Furthermore, our vision potentially extends beyond housing to encompass the creation of proximity to essential destinations like stores, childcare facilities, sound stages, and public green spaces. These potential developments aim to foster a dynamic and inclusive urban environment tailored to the community's needs.

### **2. Preserving Community Heritage: Direct growth to areas with existing infrastructure**

As part of our temporary plan, the Sears redevelopment project strategically directs growth to areas with existing infrastructure, aiming to maximize efficiency and community integration. Instead of demolishing the current Sears building, which holds significant memories for community members, our potential plan focuses on revamping the site into a vibrant community hub. During meeting, community members have emphasized the sentimental value attached to Sears. As we explore potential avenues, the redevelopment project not only seeks to transform physical spaces but also aims to preserve and build upon the emotional connections and heritage ingrained within the community.

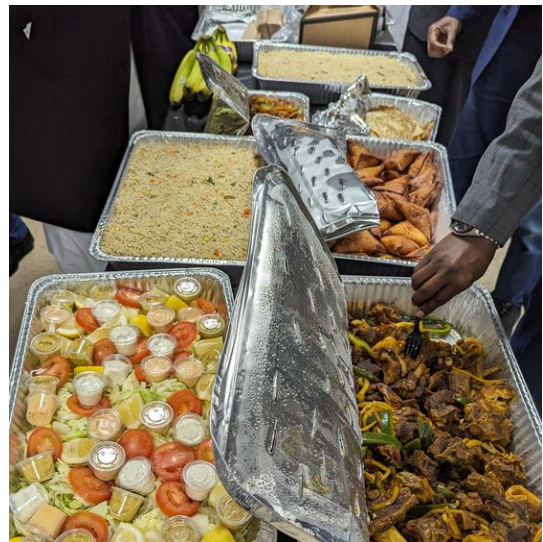
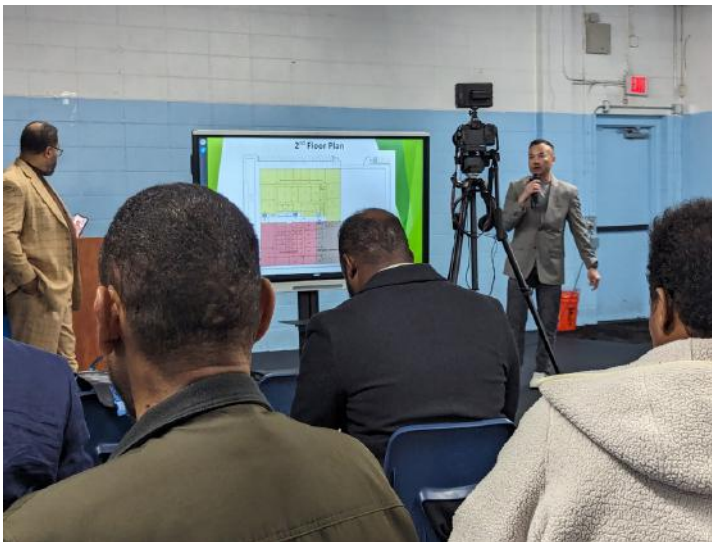




### 3. Vision on Fostering Pedestrian-Oriented Districts (POD)

As part of our potential plan, the Sears redevelopment project is dedicated to fostering Pedestrian-oriented districts (POD) within the community. According to The Active Communities Tool Assessment Module provided by CDC Active People, Healthy Nation, POD is defined as *"A distinct designation that preserves and encourages the pedestrian character of commercial areas and promotes street life and activity by regulating building orientation and design and accessory parking facilities, focusing on pedestrian-friendly uses."*

Our focus on Pedestrian-friendly streets aligns with this vision, aiming to create vibrant and accessible urban environments for the community. By prioritizing pedestrian-friendly infrastructure, the Sears redevelopment project seeks to create a more walkable, inclusive, and engaging community environment for all residents. We will consistently refine and update this plan by examining the community's subdivision regulations and zoning codes to improve connectivity and accessibility.





# TOBACCO CONTROL



**STRATEGY INTRO:** Support a Media Campaign to educate BIPOC communities about the proposed statewide tobacco flavor ban, and work with area sports teams to find out what people/youth know and feel about flavored tobacco products. Focus groups and media message testing will be done to determine what the community needs to know and what messages related to flavor bans would appeal to which cultural groups. We will focus on young athletes from pan-Asian and pan-African communities, and a media campaign featured the young athletes based on what the message testing reveals.

## BLOG DISCUSSION #4

# YOU'RE INVITED: PARTICIPATE IN A LISTENING SESSION WITH ASIAN MEDIA ACCESS

As part of the Minnesotans for a Smoke Free Generation (MSFG)'s Racial & Health Equity (RHE) Committee, Asian Media Access is actively involved in a State-wide Assessment about the BIPOC communities' experience with commercial tobacco and vaping, along with potential policy changes. If you are interested in being part of a listening session to share your experiences, please send an email to Asian Media Access at [info@amamedia.org](mailto:info@amamedia.org). AMA will reach out to you to get it scheduled.





Two years ago, we conducted a series of listening sessions with coalition and community members. The purpose of the listening sessions was to hear about and understand the experiences that members have had in the Coalition to prevent harmful tobacco impacts, from an inclusion and engagement perspective, with the goal of setting the table strongly for all voices to be heard and for people to optimally contribute what they bring to our shared work to support a Smoke Free Generation. The initial round of listening sessions was insightful and we learned a lot from them. Findings are like bulletin points listed below about the Community Organizing experience – how to include diverse voices:

**1. Adopt and operationalize a mission statement for the coalition that centers racial and health equity into its core purpose**

- Review and update all coalition communications.
- Define and revise our coalition's strategic plans and actions in ways that recognize the intersectionality of how systemic and structural inequities and racism permeate many of the issues we address in the tobacco control works.
- Explore and recognize the specific strengths and contributions that each organization is poised to bring to maximize the impact of the full coalition to deeply engage in tobacco control works.

**2. Increase engagement of organizations that represent and /or work most directly with communities experiencing racial and /or health inequities**

- Increase the number of coalition member organizations and individuals across race, approaches, and types of organizations.
- Use feedback from listening sessions to make changes that will ensure that all coalition members experience inclusion.
- Incorporate channels into coalition meetings to share and learn from diverse community representatives.
- Create a recruitment plan that identifies organizations to approach, engage with, and invite to join the coalition.
- Provide a stipend for individuals who are not actively affiliated with and aid by an organizational member for their participation in coalition activities



### **3. Increase representation of Black, Indigenous, Asian, Latinx, Immigrant and refugee community, LGBTQ25+, and rural coalition members in coalition leadership position roles**

- Connect with and learn from ClearWay Minnesota’s Leadership and Advocacy Institute to Advance Minnesota’s Parity for Priority Populations (LAAMPP) program staff and alumni
- Based on feedback from listening sessions, develop mentorship and leadership opportunities
- Based on feedback from listening sessions, develop and nurture a pipeline of emerging leaders
- Based on feedback from listening sessions, create a list of leadership role opportunities and actively invite participation from new and renewing member organizations and individuals
- Assess interest in and willingness to engage participate in leadership roles, as part of the onboarding process for new members. Follow-up directly and in a timely manner on with those who express interests in an intentional way.

### **4. Adopt a racial and health equity policy analysis framework for development, review , and prioritization of all policies**

- Assess existing racial and health equity frameworks and choose one for the coalition to use
- Use the selected racial and health equity framework to develop, review, and prioritize all coalition policies and guide decision making
- Continue to revise and refine the tool as needed
- Continue to share the tool with others internally and externally as a way to collaborate, share perspectives, and learn from one another.

We want to build a practice of doing listening sessions periodically, and are putting wheels in motion right now to conduct another round of lessoning sessions in April and May. For additional information about the purpose of the listening sessions or to learn more, feel free to reach out to Asian Media Access’ Program Manager Donnell Bratton ([donnell.bratton@amamedia.org](mailto:donnell.bratton@amamedia.org))





# VACCINATION FOR ADULTS



**STRATEGY INTRO:** Increase demand for, and access to flu, COVID-19, and other adult vaccinations via 40 pop-up community clinics at the places that cultural groups feel comfortable and connected, and increase regularity of vaccine promotion in priority communities; and increase the percentage of pan-Asian and pan-African seniors who are up-to-date with recommended adult vaccinations.

## BLOG DISCUSSION #4

### INTERVIEW WITH MS. KELLY ROBINSON FOR BLACK NURSES ROCK

*Interviewed by Ange Hwang and written by Erin Uy*

**PREFACE:** Since late last year, Asian Media Access has been actively interviewed BIPOC members for issues related to vaccination hesitancy, in order to better design our vaccination mobilization effort. Please follow up us, with a new story every month.

**Kelly Robinson** began her career 27 years ago in Atlanta, Georgia where she worked in Post-Op Orthopedics, Oncology, Pain Management, Operating Room, Psychiatry, and Research. She relocated to Minneapolis in 2009 to work as a Corporate supporting the implant of medical devices for Pain Management. In the Twin Cities, she served as Health Care Coordinator for her place of worship, collaborating with the American Heart Association, the American Cancer Society, Minnesota Diabetes Association, and the Stairstep Foundation. She is currently on the board of Second Chance Outreach, which provides healthcare awareness during sponsored plays, gospel concerts at Bethel University, and community events, collaborating with KMOJ and the Herman Melville YMCA Youth Enrichment Center. As president of the Black Nurses Rock Twin Cities Chapter, Kelly's work is grounded in the national organization's vision of inspiring and empowering innovative leaders that will serve and educate vulnerable communities. The local chapter does this by engaging black nurses to provide health education, screenings, and access to health care in underserved communities. Kelly is an inspirational leader and a credible voice in decision making, finding strategic partners to provide resources while establishing black nurses as "trusted messengers" in the community.



**Kelly Robinson, RN**

Nurse and Founder of the Black Nurses Rock - Twin Cities Chapter, Minneapolis, MN



Black Nurses lead and empower communities through respect and connection.

During the COVID pandemic, the Minnesotan Black community had a distinct experience with multiple crises colliding. Black community leaders recognized the need to connect with people deeply impacted by the pandemic and who were hesitant to trust US healthcare systems that had reinforced and perpetuated inequities. The community needed a healthcare response that recognized them and their circumstances and cared for their wellbeing.

The efforts that showed to be effective during the pandemic also proved to be best practices that can help close the gaps between communities of color and healthcare systems. The height of the pandemic has passed but healthcare providers still apply those solutions to repairing healthcare supports for communities of color.

### **ENGAGE WITH RESPECT AND CARE**

Many communities have preexisting experiences with governmental and medical institutions that affect their access to and relationships with health care. Community influencers felt it was very important to inform COVID outreach efforts with this background. They saw they had an important role as trusted messengers.

In Minnesota, various challenges swirled during the pandemic, said Kelly Robinson, founder of the Minnesota chapter of Black Nurses Rock, Inc. a national organization. Black Nurses Rock jumped in on multiple fronts to try and reduce the impact of COVID in which Black Minnesotans died from COVID at more than twice the rate of white Minnesotans.

The nurses sought to prevent the spread in the community, many of which gathered amid the social unrest around George Floyd's murder. Black Nurses Rock distributed masks and sanitizer, and across communities, and served as temperature checkers at his funeral. "It was a time to show up and listen. There was a deficit in so many people's lives," Robinson said.

Core in its mission to inspire, empower and educate the community, Black Nurses Rock focused on connection through listening and respect. As trusted messengers, nurses sought to inspire people to value their health and themselves. That often started with health care professionals demonstrating that they value people they are serving, Robinson noted. "Nurses will have to say and show 'I think you are important so I will take the time to talk to you and answer your questions. Now you know you are important and now I'm going to encourage you to do things.'"





### **GO FORTH BY ANY MEANS NECESSARY**

To connect with people, health care professionals must meet them where they are. During COVID Black Nurses Rock engaged with the community in their gathering spots outside of health institutions and facilities and during nontraditional service hours. This required providers and partners to step outside of their comfort zones, expanding their resources and responding to community needs. “We’ve gone places others will not go. Most importantly, we show up. When you commit you have got to go all the way,” Robinson said.

To engage with hard-to-reach Black communities, Black Nurses Rock collaborated with a variety of partners including the Minnesota Health Department, grassroots organizations and community based providers to bring services and resources directly to community. In Northern Minneapolis, the organization brought nurses and vaccine facilities to local barber shops on buses. Culturally, Black men would socialize while waiting for their barber chair in what they affectionately call the situation room. The men caught up and talked about issues in the community. Nurses met with them inside and outside of the shop to answer questions and educate the patrons about COVID prevention.

To reach unhoused families, Robinson organized nurses at rest stops and food shelves. Families stopped at those locations to clean up, rest and restock their goods. She also met unhoused women at their ritual Sunday dinner gatherings.

Places and events of celebration are also effective access points to reach communities. Black Nurses Rock met families in parks and set up a booth at as

steppers ball on a Saturday night. Wherever the event, the key is to connect with a meaningful, initial engagement to establish trust and relationships. From there, health care professionals can reach the community on many platforms.



## **LEAD AND EMPOWER**

To have a meaningful impact and improve public health for all communities, leaders must collaborate to remove boundaries that limit people's access to services and resources. This requires systems and organizations to create bridges, expand services and meet communities where they are and when they are there. This applies to all aspects of health supports including preventive care, insurance coverage, direct services and more.

Robinson is committed to empowering more health care leaders and providers to making an impact in systems and community. *"How do I succeed in the mission that I've been granted because everybody doesn't walk in this path. I want to empower people; as I am walking through it and taking folks with me because if they don't share and empower others, then you have to think, why are you doing what you are doing. It is not for us to keep. It is there for us to share our knowledge and help others."*



# PROJECT SUPPORT EVENTS

March 23

## UROC YOUTH SUMMER FAIR VACCINATION

Joined UROC with an engaging day filled with door prizes, youth performances, and a diverse array of programs designed to keep youth actively involved throughout the summer. We've also set up a vaccination booth where participants can receive vaccinations along with incentives.





March 28

# BLOOMINGTON HOLIDAY INN VACCINATION EVENT

Teamed up with other community organizations to offer COVID-19 vaccinations along with wellness check-ups, immunizations, and lead and hemoglobin screenings by PICA.





March 28

# CREEKSIDE GABLES SENIOR VACCINATION EVENT

Hosted a COVID-19 vaccination event at Creekside Gables in the Brooklyn Park area, aimed at seniors, and provided incentives to encourage vaccination among residents.

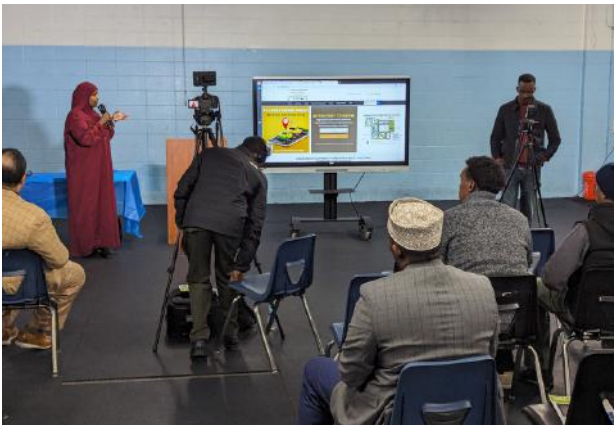




March 29

## SEARS ST. PAUL SITE WITH SOMALI COMMUNITY MEETING

John B Yang (Program Manager for Asian Media Access) and Abdirahman Abdulle (ED of Skyline Math and Science Academy) hosted a SEARS St. Paul Roadway Planning community meeting at Skyline Math & Science Academy. They have provided updates, gathered insights, and hosted a FAQ session to address local communities' concerns about the SEARS St. Paul Site, and how can it better connect the neighborhoods..





April 02~03

## VACCINATION HESITANCY INTERVIEWS

The Asian Media Access Team has conducted interviews addressing vaccination hesitancy.





April 13

# CAMBODIAN NEW YEAR CELEBRATION VACCINATION EVENT

Hosted a COVID-19 vaccination event at Watt Munisotaram as part of the Cambodian New Year Celebration, aiming to vaccinate adults and seniors while celebrating the festival.





# Understanding and Stopping Anti-Asian Hate



## PREFACE

Anti-Asian hate is a serious problem that needs to be resolved quickly. Our Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) communities, families, and individuals have tragically been victims of targeted hate crimes. AAPI communities should not have to worry about safety, safety is a human right. More needs to be done in combating anti-Asian hate so that our communities are safer, this starts with education and communication. With the surge of hate towards AAPI individuals after the Covid-19 pandemic, we can clearly see what issues need to be addressed when it comes to ending hate.

In early 2020 Asian Media Access (AMA) engaged the community by raising awareness on anti-Asian hate and racism. In 2021, AMA taught the youth how to make anti-Asian hate postcards, which were also shared on social media to raise awareness. AMA delivered a poem by Taiwanese poet, Xi Murong which expresses the "sentiment of immigration and displacement." Later, AMA led the forces with the community for a rally at the Minnesota state capitol to commemorate the victims of the Atlanta Georgia shooting.

Since then, AMA has published an on-going series of "Stop Anti-Asian Hate" educational materials, and joined the 2023 online commemoration of the 40 year anniversary of the Murder of Vincent Chin. On June 1st of 2023 AMA presented the dance drama "Between the Water and Cloud", this was a Multidisciplinary Arts Showcase which strived to share Chinese culture and arts with an environmental justice message. It is crucial we continually make our voices heard so that change can be made.

In celebrating the new year of 2024, AMA will publicize a series of articles that will highlight issues that need to be discussed, shed light on historical systematic racism, and create an opportunity to share the perspectives of those impacted by anti-Asian hate. As editor of this series "Understanding and Stop the Anti-Asian Hate," I hope that our works can encourage readers to join forces, embody love, promote and protect culture, and be a vehicle for justice and equity for AAPIs. Let's stand in solidarity with AAPI communities.

Asian Media Access  
Jarrelle Barton  
He\him



#### Understanding and Stopping Anti-Asian Hate: Article #4

## **ANTI-ASIAN HATE DURING THE PANDEMIC**

*Janie Ye - Wayzata High School*

The COVID-19 pandemic was a global health crisis that resulted in over 3 million deaths and shutdowns of entire industries. The first reported case was in Wuhan, China, at the end of 2019 and US lockdowns began in 2020 to prevent the spread of the disease. The emergence of COVID-19 and its contagious spread throughout the globe brought extreme changes to modern society. Among these changes included increased discrimination towards Asian Americans. Racially motivated hate crimes spiked in America because of the supposed origin of the disease in China. This and other social, physical, and economic consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic are still felt today and will continue to affect future developments in the United States.

A significant increase in the amount of hate crimes and violence towards Asian Americans was a change brought to the United States by COVID-19. According to Pew Research Center, "about one-third of Asian adults (32%) say they personally know an Asian person in the U.S. who has been threatened or attacked because of their race or ethnicity since the COVID-19 pandemic began in 2020". Other surveys also reveal a surge in the amount of violence directed towards Asian Americans because of the pandemic. The fact that hate incidents are more than likely underreported exposes the true magnitude of the problem.



During the pandemic, Asian Americans experienced a multitude of hate crimes and discrimination. Students faced hostility in school and adults faced violence in public. Many changed their daily routines to avoid discrimination or violence in public. Prejudice towards Asian Americans, which was already a problem in the US before COVID, increased substantially during the pandemic. Racist attitudes towards the Asian American community intensified and despite numerous media reports, anti-Asian hate crimes did not lower until after the pandemic.

Long term effects of the hate towards Asian Americans during COVID include impacts on mental health and lasting fear of discrimination in the future. Although these hate crimes are becoming more publicized and less frequent, the toll of racism during the pandemic towards Asian Americans has been high. Thanks to various organizations and activists, discrimination towards the Asian American community has become less common, but the public should not forget how Asian Americans were treated during the pandemic. It can serve as a valuable lesson on the development and effects of racism in society.



## Resources



### **HENNEPIN COUNTY'S DOWNPAYMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM BEGINS!**

Homebuyers can now qualify for assistance to make a down payment on their first home in Hennepin County.

In collaboration with Hennepin County, NeighborWorks Home Partners launched a down payment assistance program for residents buying homes in Hennepin County. This program started on March 4, and is estimated to be available through 2025.

The Hennepin County Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HCHRA) created and designed the Homebuyer Assistance Program to reduce racial disparities in homeownership. As the program administrator, NeighborWorks Home Partners will provide down payment financing to assist buyers interested in purchasing a home to have as their principal place of residence in Hennepin County.

Interested homebuyers can find more information at [NeighborWorks](#), or by contacting NeighborWorks at [hello@nwhomepartners.org](mailto:hello@nwhomepartners.org) or 651-292-8710.

The HCHRA is funding the downpayment assistance program through its first designated fund for homeownership assistance. Find more information at the [Homeownership Assistance Program page](#).



# UPCOMING EVENTS



## HMONG HEALTH FAIR 2024

**DATE/TIME:** Saturday, April 20, 2024, 9:00am-3:00pm

**PLACE:** Hmong Community School of Excellence, 270 Larpenleur Ave W, St Paul, MN 55113

Join us for free blood pressure checks, blood sugar checks, promotional gifts, food and raffle prizes

Learn more about diabetes, hypertension, kidney failure, high cholesterol, preventative health, stroke, surgery, asthma & COPD, Women's health, basic life support, and careers in medicine

## LAO NEW YEAR

**DATE/TIME:** Saturday, April 20, 2024, 10:30am and 11:30am

**PLACE:** Wat Lao Xayabhoummaram - East Bethel of Minnesota, 4904 217th Ave NE, East Bethel, MN 55011



## DRUG TAKE BACK

**DATE/TIME:** Saturday, April 20, 2024,  
10:00am-2:00pm

**PLACE:** Cub Foods-St Paul Midway,  
1440 University Ave W, St Paul, MN  
55104

Clinic 555 Care Van will be onsite  
offering different testing

Unwanted Medicine Examples

- Blister packs, capsules, pills
- Cream, gels, & epinephrine injections
- Inhalers, Iv bags, Liquids
- Needles and syringes
- Patches and powders
- Sprays and vials

RAMSEY COUNTY  
Saint Paul - Ramsey County Public Health

### April 20th, 2024

Join Clinic 555 and the Ramsey County Opioid Prevention & Unified Services (OPUS) Coalition on April 20th from 10AM-2PM for Drug Take Back Day. Bring any unused, expired or unwanted medication to safely dispose of, no questions asked.

clinic 555  
cedar street

Clinic 555 Care Van will be onsite offering:

- STI/HIV/HEP C Testing
- Pregnancy Testing
- Syringe Exchange
- Safer Sex Supplies
- Sharps Disposal
- Drug Paraphernalia Take Back

RAMSEY COUNTY  
OPUS COALITION  
Opioid Prevention & Unified Services

Unwanted Medicines Examples:

- Blister packs, Capsules, and Pills
- Creams, Gels & Epinephrine Injections
- Inhalers, IV bags, Liquids
- Needles and Syringes
- Patches and Powders
- Sprays and Vials

Scan for More Information!



## MINNESOTA SONGKRAN FESTIVAL

**DATE/TIME:** May 18, 2024, 11:00am-9:00pm and May 19, 2024, 11:00am-6:00pm

**PLACE:** Minnesota State Capitol, 75 Rev Dr Martin Luther King Jr Boulevard Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155

The Minnesota Songkran Festival is a FREE event to experience the excitement of the new year and celebrate the beauty of cultural diversity. The event highlights authentic food vendors and souvenir boutiques that will keep everyone in the family AND our furry friends busy for hours! Visitors are more than welcome to wear traditional clothes at the event!







## ASIAN STREET FOOD NIGHT MARKET

**DATE/TIME:** June 8-9, 2024

June 8, 3:00pm-11:00pm

June 9, 3:00pm-10:00pm

**PLACE:** 425 Rice St Saint Paul MN 55103

Talent show, food, arts, beer garden, lion dance

For vendor, volunteers, and artist application, please contact Ka Vang at 651-302-6218

## DRAGON FESTIVAL

**DATE/TIME:** Saturday, July 13, 2024,  
9:00am-7:00pm

**PLACE:** Phalen Park, St Paul, Minnesota

To bring together the Greater Twin Cities diverse communities in celebration of the diverse Asian Pacific cultures through an annual dragon festival.

Event website: <https://dragonfestival.org/>





## Contact Us

### Email

ball@amamedia.org

### Telephone

612-376-7715

### Address

2418 Plymouth Ave N  
Minneapolis, MN 55411



## Partnering with

