



Asian/Pacific Islander/American
Association of Greater Rochester

P.O. Box 10503, Rochester, NY 14610

www.apaaroc.org

2002-2022: Celebrating our 20th Anniversary!

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Amy Hsi, Randy B. Kaplan,

Debora McDell-Hernandez, Honorary Advisors

For Immediate Release

Contact: Lily Lee, APAA, info@apaaroc.org

Rochester, NY: April 3, 2022 -- APAA (Asian/Pacific Islander/American Association of Greater Rochester) proudly presents "Through and Beyond the Pandemic" exhibit at the Link Gallery in City Hall – how the Rochester Area AAPI community is striving and thriving on this 20th anniversary year of solidarity and service in our community.

Exhibit opens April 12th and closes June 6, 2022

Opening Reception & Celebration: Friday, May 6, 2022: 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., (in person)

After two years of dormancy due to Covid-19, Mimi Lee, APAA president curates an unprecedented exhibit in recognizing the resiliency of the AAPI community through and beyond the pandemic. Returning to City Hall for the fourth time, APAA celebrates 20 years of service to the Greater Rochester Area.

The pandemic outbreak in March 2020 has, and continues, to impact AAPI (Asian American Pacific Islander) lives locally and worldwide. The exhibit will highlight both individual and organizational frames that reflect cross-generations by age, gender, ethnicity, culture and profession. Visitors will be able to browse through the collection and engage in ways to experience the powerful emotions of the artists' fear, anxieties, panic, anger as well as love, hope, strength and tenacity.

Individual frames include a Gen Z, talented high-school student who created, "The Fiery Skies" depicting a man wearing a hazmat suit; his mask broken revealing a crying face...to a Baby Boomer, a retired bioscience researcher and amateur artist's oil canvas of "A Chinese Woman Warrior" whose facial determination and steady eyes fight injustice with a quiet dignity. Other works include: "No Greater Love," a photographic tribute to honor thy father and mother; a shameful, self portrait, on acrylic oil canvas, of "Being Too Asian"; and Jean's Jewels, a Shell Tribal Necklace piece inspired by her Filipino-Ifugao heritage and her "Superheroes" photographic tribute to the 30.1% of Filipino registered nurses, nationally, who lost their lives to Covid-19 in their line of duty.

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Organizational frames include:

- The Chinese School of Rochester highly engaging in loving a community back despite being in a most vulnerable state;
- Members of the India Heritage Museum spun into action by creating nine exhibits during the pandemic and a poster collage depicting their good works.
- GENseng, SUNY Geneseo's Asian American Performance Ensemble presses on with two plays while exploring and utilizing zoom technology during the pandemic shutdown.

APAA celebrates 20 years of milestones with four collages depicting the following:

- First Five Years: "The APA-HiP Story 2002-2006";
- Ten Years Later: "See Us Now" exhibit at Link Gallery in 2013;
- Towards 15 Years: "Creating our Legacy" exhibit in 2018 and "Embracing our Heritage" exhibit in 2019 at Link Gallery;
- The Final Stretch: 2022 -- *20th Year Anniversary* "Through and Beyond the Pandemic" exhibit at the Link Gallery, April 12 to June 6, 2022.

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APAA is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization committed to a stronger Greater Rochester Area community where diverse Asian/ Pacific Islander American (APA) peoples are valued; and our heritages and histories are preserved and celebrated. www.apaaroc.org

The City of Rochester values the visual arts as an educational and aesthetic experience. More importantly, the City sees local art as part of the culture of this region. With this in mind, the Link Gallery, established 1981, promotes the art and art culture of the area. The Gallery is located at 30 Church Street, on the first floor of City Hall in the corridor that connects Building A to Building B. It is opened Monday through Friday, 9 am to 5 pm. Free, handicapped accessible and open to the public. www.cityofrochester.gov/linkgallery

Legally known as APA-HiP (Asian Pacific-Islander American History Project)