



OFFICE OF COMMUNITY ADVOCACY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
ASIAN AMERICAN ADVISORY BOARD



MINUTES, Monthly Board Meeting

6:00 P.M., Tuesday, February 11, 2025

Stephen P. Clark Center, 18-4 Conference Room, Miami, FL 33128

Ref: 02-11-2025

Present: Luna Adachi; Sadrul Fasihi; Eugene Fu; Smita Kulkarni; Anjana Mishra; Stephen Lian Thang; Adrienne Aiko Thompson; Tai Vaz; Nick Vicera; Jim Yu; Preeya Disyanan (ITC)

Excused: Hoda Askari; Vinita Chakravarty; Sharon Fine; Christina Fuentes; Jose Keichi Fuentes; Josephine Gordy; Li Gurau; Subbarayan Pochi; Mehmet Ulutas

Absent:

Staff: Joshua Ho; Griselle Marino; Vanessa Azzam

Guest: Leandro Lintile; Leonard Alarcon; Miachael Chen; John Leon; Taylor Haas; Chavanol Phivnil; Sasipa Ponlapak; Winnie Tang; Brandy Conway; Carlos Castillo; Latoya Allen; Pamela Berkowsky; Michael Teichberg0

At 7:00 PM., Ms. Tai Vaz, Chairwoman, called the meeting to order; she welcomed the members and guests. Ms. Vaz asked the Program Director to verify the quorum. Quorum was established.

MINUTES: Ms. Vaz, Chairwoman, asked the members to review the Minutes for January 2025 and requested a motion to approve the Minutes. Dr. Adrienne Thompson moved to approve the January Minutes, Dr. Anjana Mishra seconded, the Board unanimously approved the January Minutes.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Mr. Ho welcomed the Board and the guests and thanked all for attending AAAB January General Board meeting after a break in the month of December. He reminded the Board to update their calendar for 2025 AAAB General Board Meetings and stressed having a quorum as it is very important for our communities. He proceeded to inform the Board that he is working on reappointments and appointments to AAAB and the board members' patience are very welcomed and appreciated.

Mr. Ho introduced the Miami-Dade County elected officials including the newly elected Constitutional Officers.

Mr. Ho reminded to those board members who have not fulfilled the requirement to complete the County's mandatory Sexual Harassment Prevention training course to do so online as the reports for non-compliant board members will be reported to the Board of County Commissioners. Board Members can now take the course at their leisure with our web-based video and complete the acknowledgment form and submit to our office at

Woody.Remy@miamidade.gov.

PSH Video: http://miamidade.granicus.com/player/clip/6171?publish_id=b96c9797-b24e-11ea-888f-0050569183fa&redirect=true&h=fd3e7c3b157b789011de620d1cd37cab

Acknowledgment Form: <https://www.miamidade.gov/humanresources/library/sexual-harassment-prevention-training-acknowledgment-form.pdf>

He once again asked the Board members to sign up for any of the three Board committees, after careful consideration of time and dedication, to actively engage our communities: Cultural Advancement Committee, Education/Civic Engagement Committee, and Economic Development Committee. Additionally, to inform any events and activities that we may as a board member can support and promote Asian American communities.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:

*Jenni Person, Community Relations Manager, Greater Miami Jewish Federation

*Naoko Komura, Teaching Professor of Japanese, Department of Modern Languages, Florida International University

*Athanasia Fitos, Library Operations Manager, Community Engagement, Miami-Dade Public Library System

SPECIAL PRESENTATION:

- **American Jewish Committee: History of Asian-Jewish relations in America** – Michael Teichberg, Director of Strategic Partnerships, Miami & Broward Regional Office, American Jewish Committee; and Pamela Berkowsky
 - AJC, a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization advocating for the Jewish people, globally. Top Roots Advocacy working with leaders at the highest levels to stand up for Israel's right to exist in peace and security; confront antisemitism, no matter the source; and uphold the democratic values that unite us.
 - Policy and Advocacy
 - Share policy perspectives with opinion leaders
 - Conduct targeted advocacy with diplomats & politicians
 - Promote Israel-Asia relations, emphasizing Israel's innovation
 - Historical Collaborations
 - Supported Japanese American reparations (1988)
 - Advocated against Chinese exclusion laws (2011-2012)
 - Collaborated with Indian American groups post-9/11 to combat racism
 - Supported the Jabara-Heyer No Hate Act (2021)
 - AJC's Work in Asian-Jewish Relations
 - Expands relationships with global Jewish community and Asian Americans and Asian countries
 - Works to initiate and strengthen ties with Asian and Asian American opinion leaders and decision-makers
 - Foster strategic alliances with governments, civil society, media, and business leaders throughout Asia
 - Raise awareness about Israel
 - Collaboration Goals
 - MD-AAAB & AJC Intergroup Task Force Joint Programming
 - Social Gatherings
 - Business Networking
 - Advocacy meetings & campaigns
 - Asian American community leaders invited to AJC signature events
 - Community Leadership Luncheon (October)
 - Community Leadership Model Passover Seder (March)
 - Gala Dinners (December & May)
 - AJC leaders to engage in Asian American events

- **Americas Linkage Mission to Thailand - Business Opportunities in Thailand: Explore THAIFEX, B2B Networking, Meet & Greet Director General of Department of International Trade Promotion, Ministry of Commerce, Thailand** – Chavanol Phivnil, Director, Thai Trade Center of Miami
 - Business Opportunities in Thailand, May 20th thru May 29th, organized by Thai Trade Center - Miami
 - Exhibition : THAIFEX – Anuga Asia 2025 (The largest F&B Show in Asia!)
 - 3133 exhibitors from 52 countries and regions
 - More than 85,000 visitors
 - \$2.6 billion in transactions
 - Company visits and Networking ; Bangkok Steel Industry Public Co. Ltd., Star (Thailand) Co. Ltd. & Siam Cement Group (Thailand) Co. Ltd.
 - Meet Director General of Department of International Trade Promotion, Ministry of Commerce, Thailand
 - Visit the Federation of Thai Industries & Chamber of Commerce and Board of Trade of Thailand
 - Registration \$800

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

AAAB Executive Committee – Tai Vaz, Chairwoman

AAAB Cultural Advancement Committee – Li Gurau, Chairwoman

- Asian Cultural Series Sub-committee: Chair, Tai Vaz
 - Saturday, Feb. 15 – Thailand, Miami Beach Branch
 - March – Japan?
 - April – Pakistan?
 - May – Israel?
 - September - China
 - October - Korea
 - India, Iran, Philippines, Myanmar, Taiwan, Türkiye, Cambodia, Bangladesh, Israel

AAAB Economic Development Committee – Sharon Fine, Chairwoman

- Report: MDC International Trade Consortium – Preeya Disyanan, ITC Board Member
 - Currently working with Director Chavanol Phivnil at Thai Trade Center Miami, to prepare a trip to Thailand for THAIFEX, Asia's most influential F&B arena, where visionaries, disruptors, and market leaders converge to redefine the industry; and business partnership opportunities for South Florida business organizations and entrepreneurs in May of 2025.
 - Mom & Pop Grants

AAAB Education/Civic Engagement Committee - Tai Vaz, Chairwoman

- Health/Wellness Sub-committee: Chair: Sadrul Fasihi

CURRENT BUSINESS:

- **34th Annual Asian Culture Festival** – Updates & Requests
 - Saturday, March 1st & Sunday, March 2nd, 11am – 5pm
 - www.asianculturefestival.net
 - Confirmed Elected Officials

- **Updates from Miami-Dade Sheriff Office** –Detective Brandy Conway
- **Nova Exhibition at Greenwich Studios with Greater Miami Jewish Council** – Thursday, February 13th at North Miami Greenwich Studios (12100 NE 16th Ave)
 - Email with your confirmation by 12 noon, Wednesday, February 12th

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- **Mission Partner:** Thai Trade Center of Miami to Promote Americas Linkage Mission to Thailand - Business Opportunities in Thailand; May 20 to May 29, 2025.
Ms. Vaz, requested a motion to approve to support the Americas Linkage Mission to Thailand with Thai Trade Center Miami. Dr. Adrienne Thompson moved to approve to support, Dr. Anjana Mishra seconded, the Board unanimously approved to support the Americas Linkage Mission to Thailand with Thai Trade Center Miami.
- **Miami In-service on Access to Legal Services Presented by: FIU College of Law Experiential Program, Legal Services of Greater Miami, and Catholic Legal Services**
 - Friday, February 14th, 10am -4pm
 - FIU College of Law, Large Courtroom, 11200 SW 8th Street, Rafael Diaz Balart Hall
 - Contact: Jordan Dollar, jdollar@fiu.edu
- **Protecting Places of Worship Forum: Facilitated virtually by: United States Department of Justice Community Relations Service (CRS) & Hosted By U.S. Attorney’s Office, Southern District of Florida**
 - Wednesday, February 19th, 2pm – 5pm
 - Zoom: To Register: PPOW 02192025
- **2nd Annual Asian Community Tour with Greater Miami Convention and Visitors Bureau**
 - Possible Date: Saturday, April 5th
 - Possible Places:
 - Our Lady of Lebanon
 - On Leong Chinese Merchants Association
 - Ichimura Japan Garden Miami
 - Representing Israel
 - Representing India
 - Possible Date: Saturday, November 1st
 - Miami-Dade Farmers Month: Honoring the heart of South Dade’s Agriculture (District 8 and District 9)
 - Thai Temple Miami, Cambodian Temple Miami, Vietnamese Temple Miami
 - Hindu Temple Miami, Ikebana

Ms. Vaz, requested a motion to approve to organize and support the on-going collaboration with the Greater Miami Convention and Visitors Bureau for the Asian Community Tour. Dr. Anjana Mishra moved to approve to organize and support, Dr. Adrienne Thompson seconded, the Board unanimously approved to organize and support the on-going collaboration with the Greater Miami Convention and Visitors Bureau for the Asian Community Tour.

- **Asian American, Native Hawaiian & Pacific Islander Heritage Month (May)**
 - AANHPI Heritage Month Celebration Kickoff Presentation at SPCC Government Center
 - AANHPI Heritage Celebration with Miami Marlins
 - NAMIWALK 2025, May 10th, loanDepot Park

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Calendar of Events:

- February 12, Wednesday: **Lunar New Year Celebration with Taiwanese Chamber of Commerce Miami**; Tower Club, Ft. Lauderdale, 100 SE 3rd Ave, 28th Floor; 6PM; \$25; [Lunar Celebration TCCM](#)
- February 14, Friday: **Miami In-service on Access to Legal Services Presented by: FIU College of Law Experiential Program, Legal Services of Greater Miami, and Catholic Legal Services**; FIU College of Law, Large Courtroom, 11200 SW 8th Street, Rafael Diaz Balart Hall
- February 20, Thursday: **2025 Annual Meeting & Walk for Mental Health Awareness Kickoff**; The PNC Club at loanDepot Park, 501 Marlins Way, Miami; 6:30pm; To register: [NAMIWalk 2025 Kickoff](#)
- February 21, Friday: **Lunar New Year Festival at UM with Asian American Student Association**; UM Lakeside Patio and Stage; 6:30pm-10pm
- February 22, Saturday: **Coalition of South Florida Muslim Organizations (COSMOS) Annual Community Appreciation Dinner**; Hilton Miami Airport-5101 Blue Lagoon Road, Miami; \$75; www.cosmosbanquet2025.eventbrite.com
- February 24, Monday: **Japan Immersion Day at Florida International University**; FIU Modesto Maidique Campus, 11200 S.W. 8th Street, Miami; 9AM -1PM; Info komuran@fiu.edu
- February 26, Wednesday: **Black Affairs Advisory Board Family Night with the Miami Heat vs Atlanta Hawks**; 7:30PM; \$24 and up; <https://fevo-enterprise.com/event/baabHEAT>
- March 1 & 2, Saturday, Sunday: **34th Annual Asian Culture Festival**; Tropical Park, 7900 SW 40th Street, Miami; www.asianculturefestival.net
- March 16, Sunday: **Miami Association of Indian Americans for Culture and Arts (MAIACA) Holi – Festival of Colors**; Kendall Hammocks Park, 11395 SW 79th Street, Miami; \$15 Adults / \$10 Children; [MAIACA HOLI](#)
- Sundays: **ACE Talk** Show with Winnie Tang, Josephine Gordy & Joshua Ho on WAVS 1170AM & 107.9 FM, Sunday evening from 9PM – 10PM www.ACE-Talk.com

Adjournment: At 8:03PM, Dr. Adrienne Thompson moved to adjourn; Dr. Anjana Mishra seconded; Board unanimously approved to adjourn.

Next Board Meeting: Tuesday, March 11, 2025 at 6PM – SPCC 18-4 Conference Room