

# SDSU Office of AANHPISI Affairs & APIDA Center



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**APIDA Center Hours:**

**Monday-Thursday 10:00-7:00pm**

**Friday 10:00-4:30pm**

**Location: 2nd floor of Student Union**

**Rooms #210A-K (directly above Starbucks)**

***Connect with us!***

**APIDA Center Website: <https://apida.sdsu.edu>**

**APIDA Center Email: [apida@sdsu.edu](mailto:apida@sdsu.edu)**

**Office of AANHPISI Affairs: <https://aanhpisi.sdsu.edu>**

**Executive Director: Dr. Loh-Hagan at [vloh-hagan@sdsu.edu](mailto:vloh-hagan@sdsu.edu)**



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**SDSU APIDA  
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# SDSU Office of AANHPISI Affairs & APIDA Center Executive Director's Message

October 17, 2025



## From Dr. Loh-Hagan: Connecting with CAPIAA!

On Friday, October 10th, some students and I attended the AAPI Economic Policy Summit hosted by the California Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander American Studies. The theme was "California Grown, Globally Known" and featured many local and state policy-makers, legislators, executives, and more. Our students got an opportunity to table and network and help with the event logistics.

One of the consistent messages of the summit was the importance of leveraging our collective power as Californians - as California is the fourth largest economy in the world - and as Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders - as we are the fastest-growing racial group in the United States. In addition, industry leaders mentioned that the most marketable skill young professionals can have is "attention to detail." As such, the APIDA Center will be focusing on providing support to grow this skill.



## Testimonial from Adridge Chua:

"The AAPI Economic Summit was a really awesome opportunity to learn from highly influential people of our state and to look forward to how California and San Diego continue to serve and support me as part of the AAPI community. It was inspiring seeing people of my community play integral roles in California and it excites me that I can potentially be a part of that in the future."



# Know APIDA History!



## APIDA Center learns about Diwali state holiday!

Diwali, also called Deepavali (meaning “row of lights” in Sanskrit), is a celebration of light over darkness and good over evil. This five-day festival typically takes place in October or November; this year, it falls on October 20th.

On October 7, 2025, Governor Gavin Newsom (born 1967) signed legislation (AB 268) establishing Diwali as an official statewide holiday. California is the third U.S. state to designate Diwali as a public holiday; the first two states are Pennsylvania and Connecticut, respectively. This new law, which will take effect on January 1, 2026, recognizes the importance of Diwali to Hindu, Jain, Sikh, and Buddhist communities. It allows state employees and public school students to choose to observe the holiday and permits public schools and community colleges to close in observance if local school boards and employee unions agree. The bill was co-authored by San Diego Assemblymember Dr. Darshana Patel (born 1974) and State Assemblymember Ash Kalra (born 1972). Their ultimate goal was to ensure accessibility and recognition for all who celebrate. This legislation has been hailed as a “historic moment” for Indian Americans, especially in California.

Making Diwali a state holiday in California required a significant legislative process, including bipartisan backing, grassroots advocacy from groups like the Coalition of Hindus of North America and the Hindu American Foundation as well as sponsorship from legislators such as Kalra and Patel - who played key roles in the bill’s passing. Kalra is the first Indian American and Hindu in the California legislature. He has represented Assembly District 25 (i.e., San Jose) since 2016 and was re-elected in 2022. Patel, a research scientist and school board president, was elected in 2024 to represent Assembly District 76 (i.e., northern San Diego county).

Celebrate Diwali with the APIDA Center! Join us to learn about and create your own [Shisha mirror embroidery on Monday, October 20th](#), and then learn how poker is connected to Diwali and test your luck at [Poker Night on Tuesday, October 21st](#). Also, learn about the historical, cultural, and religious significance of rangoli and make your own [rangoli coaster on Thursday, October 23rd](#).



# APIDA Center Highlights: News to Know!



## APIDA Center acknowledges 1935 & 1965 Acts!

For many of us, U.S. laws and policies have shaped our family histories. For FAHM, we hosted two workshops in support of the Filipino American National Historical Society (FANHS) theme of "From Quotas to Communities: Filipino American Migration and Movement." On October 9th, we learned about the 1935 Filipino Repatriation Act and recognized its 90th anniversary this year. On October 10th, we learned about the 1965 Immigration and Nationality Act and recognized its 60th anniversary this year. We followed up with a workshop where participants shared their own migration/immigration stories.



## APIDA Center makes art inspired by Pacita Abad!

On October 13th, we hosted one of our most popular cultural crafting workshops. First, we learned about Pacita Abad (1946-2004), a Filipina American visual artist who excelled in mixed media. Then, we made art inspired by her work. This workshop brings out the creativity in everybody.





## APIDA Center gets personal on game night!

On October 14th, we played conversation starters and learned personal facts about each other. Such games are a fun way to make friends and practice socializing. Join us for our game nights on Tuesdays and build community.



## APIDA Center learns about Hinduism!

Did you know that Hinduism is at least 5000 years old and is one of the few ancient religions to survive into modern times? On October 15th, we hosted a student-led workshop about Hinduism in observance of Hindu American Awareness and Appreciation Month (HAAAM). The workshop was taught by **Alisha Sukhu**.



## APIDA Center hosts a Manny Jacinto Fan Club

On October 15th, we hosted a Manny Jacinto Fan Club for our Watch Party. Manny Jacinto (born 1987) is most famous for playing Jason Mendoza in "The Good Place." He had the funniest lines like this one: "I'm too young to die and too old to eat off the kids' menu! What a stupid age I am!" Although, this line is great too: "Everyone thinks I'm Taiwanese. I'm Filipino. That's racist. Heaven is so racist."





## APIDA Center hosts FAHM Club Karaoke!

Our popular Club Karaoke night is back! On October 16th, we hosted a fun night of singing, dancing, and more. First, we hosted a workshop about Filipino karaoke culture in which we discussed the Filipino roots of karaoke sing-along and the Filipino culture's nurturing of public singing practices. We ended the night with a good ole karaoke party! Join us for the next one....coming soon!



# Upcoming APIDA Center Events

## Diwali Cultural Crafting Night: Shisha\*

**Location: APIDA Center**

**Date: Monday, Oct 20 from 5-7pm**

Learn about Shisha, a traditional Indian embroidery technique involving stitching small, reflective mirrors or metal pieces onto fabric. This is a student-led workshop hosted by Alisha Sukhu.

## Diwali Game Night: Poker\*

**Location: APIDA Center**

**Date: Tuesday, Oct 21 from 5-7pm**

Card-playing invokes Lakshmi, the Goddess of Wealth, who showers blessings on the players' households for the rest of the year. Play poker with us!

## Asian American Children's Book Authors in Conversation\*

**Location: SSW 1560**

**Date: Tuesday, Oct 21 from 1-2pm**

Asian American Studies is hosting a panel about Asian American children's book authors featuring Dr. Radhika Natarajan and Dr. Loh-Hagan and moderated by Dr. Alvin Henry.

## Diwali Game Night: Poker\*

**Location: APIDA Center**

**Date: Tuesday, Oct 21 from 5-7pm**

Card-playing invokes Lakshmi, the Goddess of Wealth, who showers blessings on the players' households for the rest of the year. Play poker with us!

## APIDA x LGBTQ+ History Month\*

**Location: APIDA Center**

**Date: Wednesday, Oct 22 from 5-7pm**

October is LGBTQ+ History Month. Learn about APIDA LGBTQ+ contributions to history.

## Takeover Thursday: Make Rangoli Coasters!\*

**Location: APIDA Center**

**Date: Thursday, Oct 23 from 5-7pm**

Learn about the historical, cultural, and religious significance of Rangoli and then make your own Rangoli coaster. Takeover Host: SDSU CHAI Club

## Merienda & Mancala\*

**Location: APIDA Center**

**Date: Friday, Oct 24 from 1-3pm**

The APIDA Center and Andrés Bonifacio Samahan are hosting an afternoon of "merienda" which is Filipino for snack and "sungka" which is a Filipino variant of the mancala game.

## Game Night: Tong-its\*

**Location: APIDA Center**

**Date: Tuesday, Oct 28 from 5-7pm**

Tong-its is a popular three-player rummy card game from the Philippines. Learn more about its history and then play. This is a student-led workshop hosted by Patricia Alfonso.

## Dr. Rey Monzon Data Lecture: Filipinx Student Success Data Story\*

**Location: APIDA Center**

**Date: Wednesday, Oct 29, 2025 from 1-2pm**

Hear from Christine V. Molina, Associate Dean of Students, as she shares how we use data to determine and inform Filipinx student success.

## Watch Party: Asian Horror\*

**Location: APIDA Center**

**Date: Wednesday, Oct 29, 2025 from 5-7pm**

Dare to be scared? Join us for our Asian horror watch party. Grab your friends, settle in, and prepare to scream (just a little)!

## Makers' Market

**Location: Student Union Courtyard**

**Date: Thursday, Oct 30, 2025 from 1-6pm**

The APIDA Center's 6th annual Makers' Market is here! Calling all Makers, DIYers, and Entrepreneurs! [Sign up](#) by Oct 13 for priority consideration - open until filled. All are welcome to shop on October 30th!

## FAHM Field Trip\*

**Location: APIDA Center**

**Date: Friday, Oct 31, 2025 from 10-6pm**

Join the APIDA Center on a field trip to the "Filipinos of South Bay" (FoSBE) exhibit at the Chula Vista Library and other Filipinx American historic sites in San Diego. [Sign up](#) today!

## Craft for a Cause

**Location: APIDA Center**

**Dates: All Semester Long!**

Crochet, knit, and loom hats, scarves, blankets, etc. with us. We will donate our hand/heart-made goods to local communities in need! Come to the APIDA Center and craft away. Instructions and supplies will be provided.

*\*NOTE: In order to participate in the workshop (i.e., crafts, food, etc.) and/or earn [APIDA SWAG](#), course extra credit, etc., you must attend events on time and in their entirety and be engaged for the entire event. For events marked with an asterisk (\*), we will not permit attendees after the indicated start time. We don't want you to miss out on anything and we want to be courteous to the presenters.*



# Opportunities & Events

## APIDA Student Organizations:

- The [Japanese Student Association](#) is hosting a [Big/Little Sports Day](#) on Fri, Oct 17 from 6-8pm on ENS Field.
- The [Vietnamese Student Association](#) is rolling out to the [UVSA SoCal Social](#) on Sat, Oct 18 at 2pm at Huntington Beach.
- The [Korean American Student Association](#) is accepting applications for the Big/Little program. [Sign up](#) by Oct 24.

## Community Center Partners:

- The [Black Resource Center](#) is recruiting a BRC Ambassador. [Apply](#) by Oct 20.
- The [Women's Resource Center](#) is hosting a [Caregiver Resource Fair](#) on Mon, Oct 20 from 11-1pm in the Student Union Courtyard.
- The [Pride Center](#) is hosting [Free HIV Testing](#) on Wed, Oct 22 from 11-4pm.
- The [Center for Intercultural Relations](#) and Office of Graduate Life and Diversity are hosting the Young Men of Color's "Mindset Matters" discussion on Tues, Oct 21 from 12:00-1:30pm.

## Campus Partners:

- Student Health Services is hosting [walk-in flu vaccine clinics](#) throughout October. The next clinic will be on Tues, Oct 21 from 11-3pm at Huaxyacac/Chapultepec.
- SDSU Dining and Associated Students are hosting [Cooking with Chefs: Mediterranean Delights](#) on Tues, Oct 21 from 2-3pm in the Student Union Courtyard.
- SDSU Educational Opportunity Programs, Outreach & Success is hosting [Día de los Muertos](#) on Wed, Oct 22 from 1-4pm at Scripps Cottage.
- Struggling with basic needs? Need resources? Connect with the [Economic Crisis Resource Team](#).

## Community Partners:

- The California Asian American and Pacific Islander Legislative Caucus is hosting "Employ, Engage, and Empower: AAPILC Small Business and workforce Development Townhall" on Sat, Oct 18 from 1:30-3:30pm. [Register](#) today!
- The Filipino American National Historical Society of San Diego is celebrating the [3rd Anniversary of the Filipinos of South Bay Exhibit](#) on Sat, Oct 18 from 2:30-4:30pm at the Chula Vista Public Library Main Branch.
- The Asian American Education Project offers free APIDA resources on their [website](#) and [Instagram](#).



# Research Opportunities

- **NEW!** ZIP Launchpad and the SDSU Division of Research and Innovation are hosting a "Discovery to Impact" workshop on Thurs, Oct 23 from 9-2pm in Extended Studies Center 206. [Register](#) today!
- The RE:BORDER Conference is on Wed, Oct 29 at Universidad Autónoma de Baja California (UABC) in Mexicali, Mexico. Students can [register for free](#) and sign up for [SDSU's bus transportation](#) to the event.
- Sacramento State's Japanese American Archival Collection is offering an undergraduate research travel grant for 2026-2027. [Apply](#) by Nov 7.
- The *Journal of the American Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry* is looking for [research proposals](#) on the impacts of structural and social determinants of health, including multiple forms of racism and minoritization, in child and adolescent mental health. Submit a proposal by Dec 1.
- The [2026 SDSU Student Symposium](#) is on Feb 27. [Register](#) to present by Dec 11. The APIDA Center and Office of AANHPISI Affairs is hosting a [Special Session](#).

## Jobs & Paid Internships

- **NEW!** Gallery Ethan BLU is looking for an Art Gallery Intern. [Apply](#) today!
- **NEW!** CW Driver Companies is looking for a Construction Intern. [Apply](#) today!
- DreamWorks is looking for a Music Intern. [Apply](#) by Oct 23.
- **NEW!** KPBS is looking for a part-time a Student Assistant. [Apply](#) by Oct 29.
- Center for California Studies is looking for paid fellows for their Capital Fellowship Programs. [Apply](#) by Dec. 8.
- Google is looking for a Research Intern for Summer 2026. [Apply](#) by Feb 27.



# Scholarships

- **NEW!** The Virgil Yalong-Larry Itliong Memorial Essay contest is offering \$25-\$100 to students in San Diego County. [Apply](#) by Oct 20.
- The Paul & Daisy Soros Fellowship offers up to \$90,000 to 30 graduate students. [Apply](#) by Oct 30.
- **NEW!** The ACES Scholarship is offering \$1500 to students pursuing a career in editing. [Apply](#) by Nov 15.
- The DP Law Encouraging Diversity Scholarship is offering \$1000 to a minority law or pre-law student. [Apply](#) by Nov 20.
- The Law Office of Jae Lee is offering the Immigrant Student Scholarship. [Apply](#) by Nov 3.
- The Beverly Murphy MLA Scholarship for Underrepresented Students is offering \$5000 to eligible college students. [Apply](#) by Nov 15.
- The Balance Mental Health Group is offering \$500 to a student pursuing a career in mental health. [Apply](#) by Nov 30.
- The It Takes a Village "Bayanihan" Scholarship by Tinidor Foods is offering \$500 to a Filipino immigrant undergraduate or graduate student. [Apply](#) by Dec 5.

## SHOP AT MAKERS' MARKET!

Our 6th annual [Makers' Market](#) is happening on Thursday, October 30th from 1-6pm in the Student Union Courtyard! We will be announcing the vendors soon so stay connected to our [Instagram](#). Save the date and come shop! Support the SDSU maker community and buy local!

