

SDSU Office of AANHPISI Affairs & APIDA Center

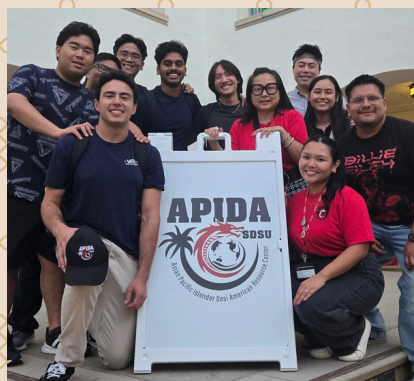


Stay informed! Stay connected!

Check your email! Newsletter #170 is out!

Subscribe to the newsletter: <https://bit.ly/SDSUAPIDA>

Read previous newsletters: <https://apida.sdsu.edu/archives/newsletters>



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

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

Executive Director: Dr. Loh-Hagan at vloh-hagan@sdsu.edu



@sdsuapidacenter



**SDSU APIDA
Resource Center**

SA+CD

SDSU Office of AANHPI Affairs & APIDA Center Executive Director's Message

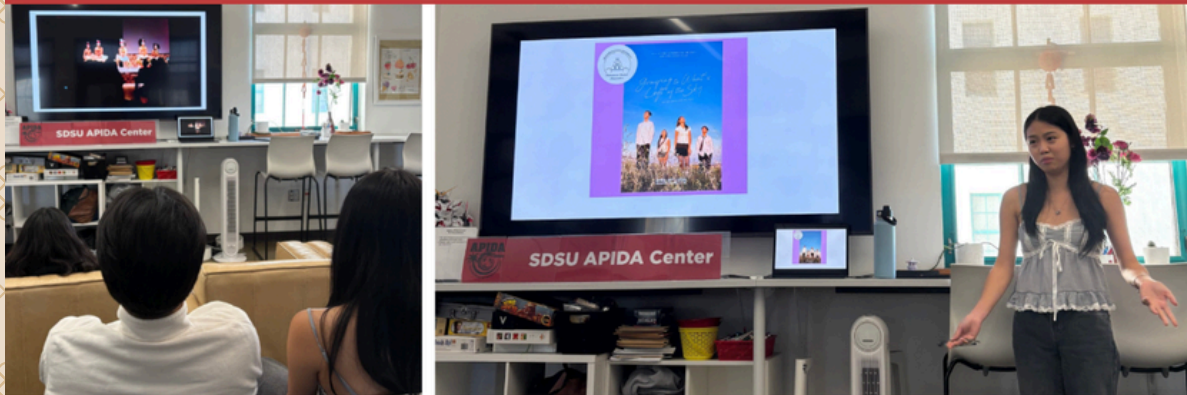
April 17, 2026



From Dr. Loh-Hagan: 2026 APAHE Conference!

For close to ten years, I have been presenting and attending the Asian Pacific Americans in Higher Education (APAHE) conference. This is a great opportunity to brag about all that we are doing at SDSU and to connect with other leaders across the CSU and the nation. I always enjoy meeting up with colleagues and learning about all the terrific things folks are doing to advance AANHPI efforts. I was proud to represent SDSU and to affirm that we are doing great work.

Know APIDA History!



APIDA Center amplifies Culture Nights!

On Thursday, April 16th, we hosted a workshop about the significance of Culture Nights. Culture Nights emerged in the late 1960s and 1970s alongside the formation of cultural student organizations and Ethnic Studies programs - which were a result of student activism (known as the Third World Liberation Front or TWLF). APIDA cultural student organizations used Culture Nights to create student-led spaces in response to limited institutional support and representation. Over time, these events have become established practices and have continued across generations.

SDSU has a long history of APIDA Culture Nights:

- AB Samahan has hosted Filipino American Culture Night (FACN) since 1985. FACN has been part of a broader tradition across California since the mid-1980s.
- Asian Pacific Student Alliance (APSA) has hosted their Fashion and Talent Show (FTS) since 1996.
- Starting in 1997, Pacific Islander Student Association (PISA) has hosted its annual lū'au.
- Vietnamese Student Association (VSA) has hosted Vietnamese Culture Night (VCN) since 2007. VCN is part of a nationwide tradition led by Vietnamese Student Associations for over 40 years.
- Korean American Student Association (KASA) has historically hosted Korean Culture Night (KCN). The first one was in 2008.
- Japanese Student Alliance (JSA) hosts Matsuri, an annual spring Japanese cultural festival that recreates traditional community fairs through games, food, traditional dress, and dance performances. It is now in its 6th year.

Make sure to attend this year's Culture Nights!

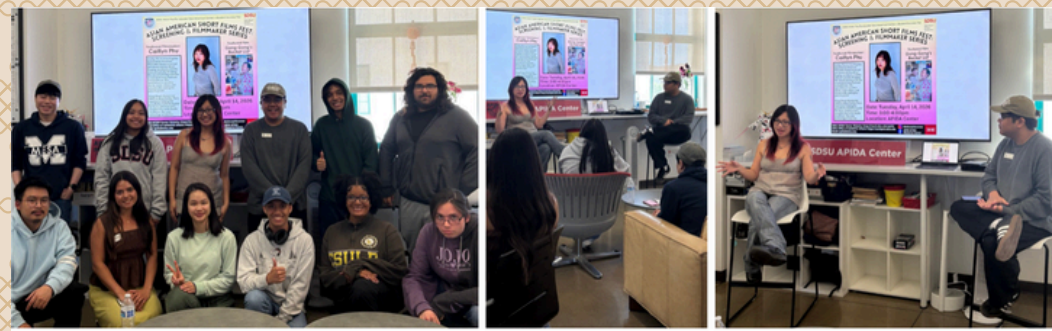


APIDA Center Highlights: News to Know!



APIDA Center meets students at Explore SDSU!

On Saturday, April 11th, we tabled and hosted an open house at Explore SDSU. We engaged with about 650 admitted students and their family members. We were so excited to share all the great things about SDSU.



APIDA Center features Caitlyn Phu!

On Tuesday, April 14th, we featured another filmmaker as part of our Asian American Short Films Fest (led by **Diego Del Mundo**). We met Caitlyn Phu, an award-winning Asian American filmmaker based in Los Angeles. We watched her short film entitled, "Gong Gong's Bucket List" and learned more about the craft of filmmaking. (Many thanks to Student Success Fee!)



APIDA Center makes Tung Sai Moo!

On Monday, April 13th, we learned about the cultural significance of Tung Sai Moo, a northern Thai paper garland. We celebrated Songkran, or Thai New Year, by learning about its history and traditions. Then, we made our own Tung Sai Moo!



APIDA Center makes paper speakers!

On Tuesday, April 14th, we learned how to make paper speakers. In partnership with the SDSU chapter of the Society of Asian Scientists and Engineers (SASE), we learned about the history and STEM mechanics of speakers and about Asian American contributions to speaker technology. Then, we made our own speakers using paper, magnets, and wires.



APIDA Center hosts an international resume workshop!

On Tuesday, April 14th, we hosted a workshop about how to include international experiences on resumes to be competitive in a global market. This workshop was in partnership with SDSU Phi Beta Delta Honor Society for International Scholars and SDSU Career Services. Career Management Lead **Vivian Jin** shared some strategies and tips for resumes, cover letters, and interviews.



APIDA Center screens "Standing Above the Clouds."

On Wednesday, April 15th, we watched several short films about the Mauna Kea telescope controversy. The event was mainly based around "Standing Above the Clouds" (2020). In partnership with the Asian American Studies department and the Pacific Islander Student Association (PISA), we learned about the legacy of Mauna Kea protectors by discussing the significance of generational activism among the Kanaka Maoli (Native Hawaiian) people and the importance of storytelling from multiple perspectives, especially from those of historically marginalized voices.



APIDA Center features Jessica Liu!

On Thursday, April 16th, we featured another filmmaker as part of our Asian American Short Films Fest (led by **Diego Del Mundo**). We met Jessica Liu and watched her short film entitled, "Better Life" - which is set to be a feature-length dark comedy featuring Randall Park and Ming-Na Wen. (Many thanks to Student Success Fee!)



APIDA Center learns about APIDA in Hip Hop!

On Thursday, April 16th in collaboration with Asian American Studies, we hosted a workshop about APIDA contributions to Hip Hop including Fil-Am mobile DJs in the Bay area, Hmong breakers in Fresno, Boo-Yaa T.R.I.B.E., and more. Then, we practiced chest pops and rapped a little. (It's important to acknowledge that Hip Hop originated from Black and Brown youth communities in the Bronx.)

APIDA Flex Alerts!

On March 10th, **Alisha Sukhu** (APIDA Center Student Assistant) spoke on behalf of the SDSU APIDA Center and the CSU AANHPI Student Achievement Program (ASAP) in support of the CSU ASAP funding and summit at the CSU Board of Trustees meeting.

Ten SDSU students have received the 2026 Quest for the Best award, which recognizes high-achieving SDSU students for outstanding performance in academics and community service. We are especially proud of APIDA Center regulars: **Naomi Chuang** and **Ethan Van Boerum**.

On March 13th, Dr. **Loh-Hagan** presented a panel about what employers look for in college graduates at the California Counseling & Academic Advising Network (CAL-CAAN) 2026 Conference, hosted by the CSU Chancellor's Office. She featured two SDSU alumni: **Paz Gomez** (Deputy City Manager, Public Works for City of Carlsbad) and **Claire LaFaro** (Senior Director of Engineering, BAE Systems).

Dr. **Amy Wong**, a Lecturer in the Department of Sociology and Asian American Studies, was featured in *The Daily Aztec* article entitled, "[Women's History Month: How Lecturer Amy Wong tackles mental health stigma through her teaching.](#)"

Dr. **William Tong**, SDSU Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs, is representing the California State University system on the Board of the [California Council on Science and Technology \(CCST\)](#).



Kudos to Campus Partner!

SDSU Office of AANHPI Affairs & APIDA Center is a proud campus partner of [SDSU's National Center for the Study of Children's Literature](#), directed by Dr. **Lashon Daley** (one of my favorite people on campus!). On Thursday, April 16th, Dr. Daley invited me to speak in one of her English classes in which I got to talk about my children's books and the process of writing for young readers. Dr. Daley is doing amazing work at the Center to amplify children's books!



Upcoming APIDA Center Events

APIDA Center Drop-in Advising*

Location: APIDA Center or Zoom

Date: Monday, April 20 to Friday, April 24, 2026

The APIDA Center is here to support you. Drop-in hours will be first come, first served and each session will only be 15 minutes to accommodate as many students as possible. For specific times, check the [APIDA Center Instagram](#).

UndocuAPIDA Support Group*

Location: APIDA Center

Date: Monday, April 20, 2026 from 2-3pm

Join us to learn more about UndocuAPIDA activists and activism. We will discuss ways to support the UndocuAPIDA community. Asian snacks would be provided.

Guest Speaker: Dr. Sarin*

Location: APIDA Center

Date: Monday, April 20, 2026 from 3-4pm

Meet Dr. Sarin, a tech and policy leader with expertise in data and Artificial Intelligence. Shaped by his experiences growing up in post-genocide Cambodia, his work is dedicated to leveraging technology for social good. (Co-Host: Charles Wei-Hsun Fu Center for Asian and Pacific Studies)

Paj Ntaub (Hmong Embroidery)*

Location: APIDA Center

Date: Monday, April 20, 2026 from 5:30-7:00pm

Paj Ntaub (/pahn-dow/) is a traditional form of Hmong embroidery used to decorate clothing and home textiles. Learn more about the Hmong and Paj Ntaub and then, stitch with us.

Screening of "Liquor Store Dreams"

Location: APIDA Center

Date: Monday, April 20, 2026 from 4:00-5:30pm

This film is about two Korean American children of liquor store owners who set out to bridge generational divides with their immigrant parents in Los Angeles.

Makruk (Thai Chess)*

Location: APIDA Center

Date: Tuesday, April 21, 2026 from 5:00-7:00pm

Makruk, also known as Thai Chess, is a traditional board game popular in Thailand and Cambodia. Learn more about its historical and cultural significance; then, play with us.

Watch Party: K-Pop Fan Club*

Location: Templo Mayor

Date: Wednesday, April 22, 2026 from 5:00-7:00pm

Do you like K-pop? Do you have a favorite K-pop group or bias? Join us to learn more about Korean popular music, or K-pop. Then watch K-pop media with us!

Kanaka Maoli (Native Hawaiian) Lei-Making Workshop*

Location: Templo Mayor

Date: Thursday, April 23, 2026 from 12:00-2:00pm

Join us to learn about the history of Kanaka Maoli (Native Hawaiian) lei making, different lei making styles, and the significance of this cultural practice. This event will feature an interactive & hands-on lei making tutorial with Kanaka Maoli scholar, Haley Kanoelani Okamoto.

The Secret War in Laos*

Location: APIDA Center

Date: Thursday, April 23, 2026 from 4:00-5:00pm

Learn about the often-overlooked history and legacy of the Secret War in Laos (1964-1973). This was a covert CIA-led operation in which the United States recruited Hmong soldiers and dropped bombs in neutral Laos to combat North Vietnamese communist forces.

Strategies for Dis/Engaging with Parents about Politics*

Location: APIDA Center

Date: Thursday, April 23, 2026 from 5:00-6:00pm

Learn how to effectively engage (or disengage) with parents about politics by learning about assertive communication tools and setting health boundaries. (Takeover: Counseling & Psychological Services)

APIDA Field Trip: Southeast Asian American Sites in San Diego

Location: Various Sites in San Diego

Date: Friday, April 24, 2026 from 10:00-5:00pm

Join us on a local field trip to learn more about Southeast Asian American history in San Diego. We will be visiting various sites including the "Across the Waves" exhibit at Southwestern College, Little Saigon San Diego, and the USS Midway Museum. [RSVP](#) by 5pm on Sunday, April 19.

Power of K-Pop*

Location: Zoom

Date: Friday, April 24, 2026 from 12:00-1:00pm

Korean popular music, or K-Pop, is a global music genre and cultural phenomena. This webinar explores how K-pop evolved from a regional genre into a global cultural force, examining its history, spread, fandom, impacts, and more! [Register](#) today!

Gidra*

Location: APIDA Center

Date: Friday, April 24, 2026 from 1:00-2:00pm

"Gidra" (1969-1974) was a UCLA student-run monthly newspaper known as the "voice of the Asian American movement." It combined grassroots activism and artistic expression. Learn more about the power of community-based media. (Takeover: AAJA SDSU)

Meet Alijah Jacob Buada & Screening of "Adrift"*

Location: APIDA Center

Date: Friday, April 24, 2026 from 2:00-3:00pm

Alijah Jacob Buada is a Filipino American filmmaker and published author known for *Awaken* and *Adrift*. *Adrift* is about an astral projector in search of his grandma's wisdom.

Meet So Yun Um & Screening of "In Bloom"*

Location: APIDA Center

Date: Monday, April 27, 2026 from 4:00-5:30pm

So Yun Um is a Korean American filmmaker with works including "Liquor Store Dreams," "The Rose: Come Back to Me," and "In Bloom," a short film.

Toxic Threads: T-Shirt Production in Asia*

Location: APIDA Center

Date: Monday, April 27, 2026 from 5:30-7:00pm

Driven by U.S. consumerism and capitalism via fast-fashion, mass t-shirt production in Asia has significant negative local and global impacts on the environment. Learn more and make crafts from recycled t-shirts.

Papaya Salad*

Location: APIDA Center

Date: Wednesday, April 29, 2026 from 12:00-1:00pm

Papaya Salad, or Som Tam, is a spicy, sweet, sour, and salty salad with Thai and Lao variations that uses shredded unripe green papaya as its main ingredient. Learn and eat with us.

Dr. Tom K. Wong: What does it mean to be UndocuAPIDA?*

Location: APIDA Center

Date: Wednesday, April 29, 2026 from 1:00-2:00pm

Dr. Tom K. Wong is a leading expert on immigration, citizenship, and migrant illegality. He will share the unique experiences of undocumented APIDA communities, especially in our border town of San Diego.

Representations of Southeast Asian Refugee Camp Experiences in

Literature & Media*

Location: APIDA Center

Date: Thursday, April 30, 2026 from 3:00-4:00pm

Learn more about the histories and lived experiences of Southeast Asian refugees. We will discuss how these experiences are represented in literature and media.

Screening of "Free Chol Soo Lee"

Location: APIDA Center

Date: Tuesday, May 5, 2026 from 2:00-3:30pm

Sentenced to life for murder, Korean immigrant Chol Soo Lee was set free after a pan-Asian solidarity movement helped to overturn his conviction. This film is about his struggle fighting for his life inside California state prisons.

Screening of "The Rose: Come Back to Me"*

Location: APIDA Center

Date: Wednesday, May 6, 2026 from 2:00-3:30pm

This film showcases the rise of The Rose, the Korean indie rock band with roots in the K-pop training system. After cultivating a millions-strong global fanbase, a label dispute forces them into a years-long hiatus.

Meet Eugene Yi*

Location: APIDA Center

Date: Wednesday, May 6, 2026 from 5-7pm

Meet Korean American Emmy award-winning filmmaker & SDSU Asian American Studies lecturer, Eugene Yi! His works include "Free Chol Soo Lee," "The Rose: Come Back to Me," and more.

2026 APIDA Excellence Celebration*

Location: Student Union Courtyard

Date: Thursday, May 7, 2026 from 5:00-9:00pm

Join us for cake, food, dancing, fun activity booths, karaoke, and more! We will be celebrating our December 2025, May 2026, and August 2026 graduates! We will also be celebrating the end of year so come one, come all! [RSVP](#) by May 4th!

Opportunities & Events

APIDA Student Organizations:

- AB Samahan is hosting their [41st Annual Filipino American Culture Night](#) on Fri, April 17 at 5:30pm and Sun, April 19 at 1pm in Montezuma Hall.
- Asian American InterVarsity is hosting a Potluck Picnic with UCSD on Sat, April 18 from 1-4pm at 10500 Spring Canyon Rd. [Sign up](#) today!
- Asian Pacific Student Alliance (APSA) is hosting their 28th Annual Fashion Talent Show on Sat, April 18 from 6:00-9:30pm in Montezuma Hall. [Register](#) today!
- Japanese Student Association (JSA) is participating at [APICAL SoCal](#) on Sun, April 19 from 9-6pm at Bolsa Chica State Beach.
- Taiwanese Student Association (TSA) is accepting applications for open 2026-2027 Executive Board positions! [Apply](#) by Fri, April 24.
- Vietnamese Student Association (VSA) is hosting the 17th annual Vietnamese Culture Night on Fri, April 24 from 6-9pm at Grossmont College.

Community Center Partners:

- Center for Intercultural Relations (CIR) is hosting a [SWANA Karaoke and Dabke](#) on Tues, April 21 from 5-7pm.
- Pride Center needs volunteers for the 17th Annual Lavender Graduation. [Sign up](#) by Wed, April 22 at 4pm.
- Gus & Emma Thompson Black Resource Center is hosting the [Black Legacy Ball](#) with the Afrikan Student Union on Thurs, April 23 at 7pm in Montezuma Hall.
- Women's Resource Center is hosting [Swap Shop](#) on Fri, April 24 from 12-3pm.

Campus Partners:

- Associated Student Union Board is hosting "Make Waves: Dip Into Sustainability" on Mon, April 20 from 6-8pm in the Student Union Courtyard.
- Charles Wei-hsun Fu Center for Asian & Pacific Studies is hosting the ["AI in China & Southeast Asia" Guest Speaker Series](#) on Tues, April 21. Check their [Instagram](#) for specific times and locations.
- Center for Commuter Life is hosting "Build-A-Bag Charm" workshop on Wed, April 22 from 1-2pm.
- Office for Graduate Life & Diversity is hosting "Connecting the Dots: Public Speaking for Grad Students" on Wed, April 22 from 6-7pm on Zoom. [Register](#) today!
- Office of Educational Opportunity Programs, Outreach & Success is hosting a [Lunch & Learn about Web Presence and LinkedIn](#) on Thurs, April 23 from 12-1pm in SSE 2109.
- Struggling with basic needs? Need resources? Connect with the [Economic Crisis Resource Team](#).

Community Partners:

- Bridge the Gap San Diego is hosting "Sarap Sounds" on Sat, April 18 from 3-10pm at [1985 National Ave, Unit 1115](#).
- The Asian American Education Project offers free APIDA resources on their [website](#) and [Instagram](#). The next free webinar is entitled, "Teaching AAPI Studies K-12" on Wed, April 22 from 4:30-5:30pm. [Register](#) today!
- Asian Business Association San Diego is hosting a Mandarin-speaking community focus group on Thurs, April 23 from 12:00-1:30pm. [Sign up](#) today!

Research Opportunities

- **NEW!** The Center for Monster Studies at the University of California Santa Cruz is calling for proposals for the 2026 Festival of Monsters. [Submit](#) by April 20.
- Pacific Arts Movement is now accepting film submissions for the 27th San Diego Asian Film Festival. [Apply](#) by April 20.
- **NEW!** The Czung Institute for Contemporary Art (CICA) Museum is calling for artist submissions for the "Doers Do" International Exhibition. [Submit](#) by April 28!
- *Piano Magazine* is hosting a Collegiate Writing Contest about piano pedagogy for their upcoming issue. [Submit](#) by May 1.

Jobs & Paid Internships

- **NEW!** California Fashion Week is looking for a Graphic Design Intern. [Apply](#) today!
- The Department of Asian American Studies is hiring two students or recent grads for a paid summer internship to help work on mobile apps. Duties includes completing feature builds, connecting AWS backend services, handling basic security and testing, and publishing to the Google Play Store. Mobile development experience in React Native, Flutter, or native Android preferred. Applications are reviewed on a rolling basis, so early submissions are encouraged. [Apply](#) today.
- **NEW!** The SDSU Native Resource Center is hiring various [Student Assistant](#) positions! [Apply](#) by May 1!
- The Frances Clark Center is seeking 2026-2027 Interns. [Apply](#) by May 1.

Scholarships

- The AAPI Arts & Media Scholarship is offering \$3,500 to five undergraduate students. [Apply](#) by April 20.
- The Empowering Future Female Leaders Scholarship is offering \$5,000 to ten first- and second-year female students pursuing careers in business, economics, or STEM. [Apply](#) by April 20.
- The Matt Fong Asian Americans in Public Finance Scholarship is offering four \$5,000 awards to Asian American undergraduate students majoring in Social Science, Accounting, Business Administration, or related fields. [Apply](#) by April 20.
- The Brave of Heart Scholarship is offering up to \$50,000 to undergraduate and graduate students who are children, spouses or domestic partners of a frontline healthcare worker who lost their life to a COVID-19-related cause. [Apply](#) by April 22.
- The CrowdStrike scholarship offers up to \$10,000 to current students pursuing a career in Cyber Security. [Apply](#) by April 27.
- The American Bus Association Diversity Scholarship is offering \$5,000 to undergraduate and graduate students pursuing a career in tourism. [Apply](#) by April 30.
- The Jimmye & Suey Fong Yee Grants are offering two \$2,000 grants to students or recent graduates pursuing careers in sports journalism. [Apply](#) by April 30!
- The Stanford Chen Internship Grant is offering \$1,500 to college juniors, seniors, or graduate students who have secured a summer internship at a news outlet. [Apply](#) by April 30.
- **NEW!** The Asian American Architects/Engineers Association is offering scholarships to current students pursuing careers in architecture, engineering, or construction. [Apply](#) by May 31.
- The Lily Pabilona Emerging Entrepreneur Scholarship is offering up to \$5,000 to full-time college students in all majors. [Apply](#) by May 31.
- The Against the Grain Artistic Scholarship is offering \$1,000 to Asian American college students majoring in performing, visual arts, journalism and/or mass communications. [Apply](#) by May 31.
- **NEW!** The Hyundai Women in STEM Scholarship is offering \$10,000 to five college undergraduates who identify as female and wish to pursue a STEM-related field. [Apply](#) by June 30.
- Aztec Scholarships are now open! [Apply](#) today. Final deadline is Sept 4.