

# SDSU Office of AANHPISI Affairs & APIDA Center

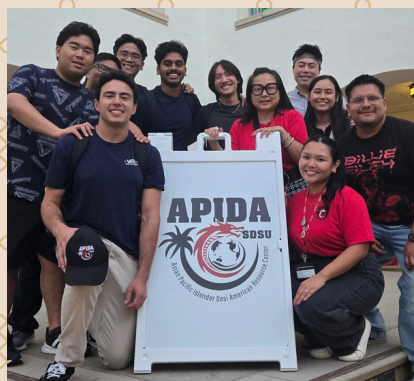


**Stay informed! Stay connected!**

**Check your email! Newsletter #172 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](mailto:apida@sdsu.edu)

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

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



**@sdsuapidacenter**



**SDSU APIDA  
Resource Center**

**SA+CD**

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

May 1, 2026



SDSU Asian Pacific Islander Desi American Center

## May 2026 APIDA Heritage & History Month



### From Dr. Loh-Hagan: May is APIDA Month!

This month, we are celebrating our 6th annual campus-wide Asian Pacific Islander Desi American (APIDA) Heritage and History Month. Since the late 1970s, May has been recognized as a time to celebrate and learn about the experiences, contributions, and achievements of APIDA communities.

The month of May was chosen because it commemorates the arrival of the first Japanese immigrant to the United States on May 7, 1843, and the completion of the Transcontinental Railroad on May 10, 1869, which was made possible by the critical contributions of Chinese laborers.

For the full list of events and up-to-date information about APIDA Heritage and History Month events, follow the APIDA Center on Instagram [@sdsuapidacenter](#), check out the [APIDA Heritage and History Month](#) page or refer to the [2026 APIDA Month Google folder](#). Email [apida@sdsu.edu](mailto:apida@sdsu.edu) if you have any questions.

SDSU Office of AANHPI Affairs & APIDA Center


**2026 APIDA EXCELLENCE CELEBRATION**  
GRADUATION & END-OF-YEAR PARTY

**Date: Thursday, May 7, 2026 from 5-9pm**  
**Location: Student Union Courtyard**  
**RSVP by May 4th: <https://bit.ly/APIDAGrad2026>**

We will be recognizing our December 2025, May 2026, and August 2026 Graduates. All are welcome but you must RSVP in order to be admitted!

**Grads must attend from 5-7pm in order to get an APIDA grad cord and charm!**  
**RSVP REQUIRED: <https://bit.ly/APIDAGrad2026>**

All students (regardless of race, sex, ethnicity or national origin) who are interested in AANHPI/APIDA Center programming and services are welcome.





SDSU Asian Pacific Islander Desi American Center

**FIELD TRIP TO CALIFORNIA SURF MUSEUM & OCEANSIDE MUSEUM OF ARTS**

**Date: Saturday, May 9, 2026**  
**Time: 12:00pm - 9:30pm**  
**Location: Oceanside, California**

**RSVP by 5pm on May 5, 2026.**

Email [apida@sdsu.edu](mailto:apida@sdsu.edu) with your commitment to attend and a well-written paragraph explaining why you want to attend this trip.

Take a break from finals and catch a wave with the APIDA Center on a fun local field trip to Oceanside! We will visit the California Surf Museum to see the "Surfriding: Hawaiian Royalty's Gift to the World" exhibit, explore the Oceanside Museum of Art, and attend the Mālama Pono event hosted by 'Umeke. Program fees, transportation to/from SDSU, and dinner will be included. All you need to do is commit!





SDSU Office of AANHPI Affairs & APIDA Center

**WE'RE HIRING!**

**Administrative Support & Budget Coordinator (ASCI)**





**For priority consideration, please apply asap!**

**Apply Here: <https://careers.sdsu.edu/en-us/job/554974/administrative-support-and-budget-coordinator-administrative-support-coordinator-ii>**



## Announcements and Reminders!

Don't forget to **RSVP** for our APIDA Excellence Celebration on May 8th. The RSVP deadline is May 4th. The event is open to all but only folks who RSVP will be admitted. Additionally, only graduates who RSVP and attend from 5-7pm will be recognized and receive a cord. No exceptions.

We are hosting our last field trip of the year on May 9th to the **California Surf Museum and the Oceanside Museum of Arts** to learn more about Pacific Islander history and culture. RSVP by May 5th.

We are still hiring for an **Administrative Support & Budget Coordinator** position. **Apply asap!** Please make sure to submit complete applications with cover letter, resumes, etc.

Finals week is May 8-14. The APIDA Center will be offering quiet spaces to study and fun activities during the evenings to unwind. Join us!

## Know APIDA History!



### APIDA Center learns about Little Saigon mural!

On Friday, April 24th, we hosted a field trip to learn about the history of Southeast Asian American communities in San Diego. We visited the "Across the Waves" exhibit at Southwestern College to learn more about the histories of Lao, Cambodian, and Vietnamese refugee communities in San Diego. Then, we took a mural walk and a tour of Little Saigon to learn more the establishment of our local Vietnamese American ethnic enclave. Lastly, we visited the *USS Midway* museum to learn more about Operation Frequent Wind, which was one of the largest helicopter evacuations in U.S. history that took place after the Fall of Saigon (April 30, 1975).

Beginning in the 1970's, Vietnamese businesses began to populate storefronts along El Cajon Boulevard, clustering in the six-block stretch between Highland Avenue and Euclid Avenue in City Heights. Today, a majority of the businesses within the boundaries of the Little Saigon District are owned and operated by Vietnamese Americans. Defining the area as a "Little Saigon Cultural and Commercial District" validates the incredible amount of perseverance, hard work, and dedication the residents of the district have shown over the past 30 years.

The *Little Saigon Greetings* mural spans from Highland Avenue to Euclid Avenue in El Cajon. It is located on the side of Sin Lee Foods. It was created by artists Victor Ving and Lisa Beggs from The Greetings Tour who specialize in "vintage large-letter postcard-inspired murals" painted in cities across the United States. It's one of three in San Diego. Commissioned by the Boulevard Business Improvement Association and local community members, the mural serves as a landmark celebrating the cultural and commercial significance of Little Saigon. In general, murals are important place-making tools that beautify neighborhoods, preserve history, make art accessible, and instill cultural pride.

## APIDA Center Highlights: News to Know!



### APIDA Center learns about *Gidra*!

On Friday, April 24th, we learned about *Gidra*, a UCLA student-run monthly newspaper that ran from 1969 to 1974. It is considered to be the "voice of the Asian American movement." We learned about *Gidra*'s lasting impacts on Asian American media portrayals and its influences on the modern activist media and zine movements. We also discussed how we can find inspiration from *Gidra* to create our own literary magazine (more info coming).



### APIDA Center hosts Alijah Jacob Buada!

On Friday, April 24th, we featured Alijah Jacob Buada, the final filmmaker in our Asian American Short Films Fest! We watched and discussed Buada's film entitled, "Adrift." We learned more about his journey as an Asian American filmmaker. (Many thanks to Student Success Fee and Diego Del Mundo.)



### APIDA Center hosts So Yun Um!

On Monday, April 27th, we met So Yun Um, a Korean American filmmaker based in Los Angeles. We learned more about her work in making the documentary entitled, "Liquor Store Dreams." We also learned about the significance of storytelling in film. Then, we watched her short narrative film entitled, "In Bloom." (Many thanks to Student Success Fee.)



### APIDA Center hosts "Toxic Threads" workshop!

On Monday, April 27th, we learned about the history and impacts of T-shirt manufacturing and production in Asia (which is outsourced by many "western" nations). We learned about the environmental impacts and discussed ways to minimize our carbon footprint. Then, we made sustainable crafts out of recycled t-shirts.



### APIDA Center makes tangrams!

On Tuesday, April 28th, we learned about the history of tangrams, a traditional Chinese dissection puzzle that includes seven flat geometric pieces called "tans." We also learned about the STEM principles behind tangrams. Then, we made tangram stamps and used them to decorate greeting cards.



### APIDA Center hosts Dr. Tom K. Wong!

On Wednesday, April 29th, we hosted a very special guest speaker: Dr. Tom K. Wong, a leading expert on immigration and citizenship. We learned about the data on undocumented Asian immigrants and Pacific Islanders. We learned about the nuances and complexities of "illegality" and about ways to support the undocumented community. (Many thanks to Student Success Fee.)



### APIDA Center eats Thai papaya salad!

On Wednesday, April 29th, we learned about the historical and cultural significance of papaya salad. We learned about its significance during the Thai, Lao, and Cambodian New Year. We also learned about the variations of the dish across Southeast Asia as well as its health benefits. Then, we enjoyed some Thai papaya salad with rice.



### APIDA Center teams up with JMS to share K-pop love!

We love collaborating with Journalism and Media Studies, led by Dr. Temple Northup. On Friday, April 24th, we hosted a workshop about the "Power of K-pop." We discussed its history, global influence, role as soft power, and more. In addition, on Wednesday, April 29th, we provided an opening introduction to JMS' screening of "K-Pop Demon Hunters." We gave a brief history of K-pop and shared the Korean mythology behind the movie. We were also thrilled to see KASA Ignite perform!



### **APIDA Center learns about refugee camps!**

On Thursday, April 30th, we learned about the histories and experiences of Southeast Asian refugees during their time in refugee camps around the world. We learned about the different camps that were established in Asia, the Pacific, and the United States. We discussed the various factors that impact refugee camp experiences. Then, we analyzed multiple sources of literature and media and discussed how they represented refugee camp experiences (i.e., family separation, statelessness, survival, resilience, etc.).



### **APIDA Center plays Pokemon TCG!**

On Thursday, April 30th, we learned about the history of Pokémon and its global impacts. We also learned about the significance of Pokémon in the United States, especially in the commercialization of Pokémon. More specifically, we learned about the history and spread of the Pokémon Trading Card Game and then battled for victory.



### **APIDA Center partners with ACSO, APIDA ERG, & CPHD!**

This past week, we were thrilled to partner with several campus orgs. On Monday, April 27th our APIDA Council of Student Organizations (ACSO) hosted their last meeting of the year. On Tuesday, April 28th, we hosted our monthly [APIDA ERG](#) lunch gathering. We also collaborated with the Center for the Prevention of Harassment and Discrimination to host a discussion support group about combatting APIDA cultural silence and stigma about sexual assault.

# Upcoming APIDA Center Events

## Thai Soap Carving\*

**Location: APIDA Center**

**Date: Monday, May 4, 2026 from 5-7pm**

Thai soap carving is a traditional, intricate craft often featuring delicate flowers, lotus blossoms, and elephants. Learn more and carve some soap with us!

## Japanese Children's Day & Koinobori\*

**Location: APIDA Center**

**Date: Tuesday, May 5, 2026 from 1-2pm**

Children's Day is a Japanese national holiday celebrated on May 5th. A tradition is to fly carp streamers or koinobori. Learn more about the history and customs. Then, make koinobori!

## 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.

## APIDA Hometown Hero: Paz Gomez\*

**Location: APIDA Center**

**Date: Tuesday, May 5, 2026 from 5-7pm**

Meet Paz Gomez, Deputy City Manager of Public Works for the City of Carlsbad. She is a SDSU alumna, a registered civil engineer, and a retired Captain in the U.S. Navy Civil Engineer Corps. Learn about her story!

## ACSO Ice Cream Social

**Location: APIDA Center**

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

Join the APIDA Center and APIDA Council of Student Organizations (ACSO) for our end-of-year social. Take a break from studying for finals and eat some ice cream with a DIY toppings bar!

## 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!

## Filipino Dance Halls\*

**Location: APIDA Center**

**Date: Friday, May 8, 2026 from 1-2pm**

In the 1920-30s, Filipino male immigrants paid to socialize and dance. Filipino dance halls became social hubs and centers of resistance against racism. Learn more about this history and their contemporary evolutions.

## Field Trip to CA Surf Museum & Oceanside Museum of Art

**Location: Oceanside, CA**

**Date: Saturday, May 9, 2026**

We will visit the California Surf Museum to see the "Surfriding: Hawaiian Royalty's Gift to the World" exhibit, explore the Oceanside Museum of Art, and attend the Mālama Pono event hosted by 'Umeke. Program fees, transportation to/from SDSU, and dinner will be included.

## Kalamkari\*

**Location: APIDA Center**

**Date: Monday, May 11, 2026 from 5-7pm**

Learn more about its historical and cultural significance of Kalamkari, ancient Indian style of hand-painting or block-printing on cotton textiles. Then, make Kalamkari-inspired tote bags!

## Southeast Asian American RPG\*

**Location: APIDA Center**

**Date: Tuesday, May 12, 2026 from 5-7pm**

Be a monk, monster, or more! We are hosting a Southeast Asian American-themed Role-Playing Game.

## Militarization of the Philippines: Subic Bay\*

**Location: APIDA Center**

**Date: Wednesday, May 13, 2026 from 5-7pm**

Learn about the significance and impacts of the Subic Bay Naval Base, its role in U.S. militarization, and its current revival.

## The Palau Pledge & Sustainable Crafting\*

**Location: APIDA Center**

**Date: Thursday, May 14, 2026 from 5-7pm**

The Palau Pledge is a mandatory eco-initiative visitors must sign to protect Palau's environment and culture for future generations. Learn more about it and then make sustainable crafts with us!

# Opportunities & Events

## APIDA Student Organizations:

- AB Samahan is hosting a [Labora Fundraiser](#) on Sat, May 2.
- Pacific Islander Student Association is hosting the [29th Annual Lu'au](#) on Sat, May 2 from 3-7pm at the Parma Payne Goodall Alumni Center.
- Badminton at SDSU is hosting an [End-of-Year Banquet](#) on Sat, May 2 at 5pm in Metzli Suite.
- Vietnamese Student Association is hosting an [End-of-Year Banquet](#) on Sat, May 2 from 5:00-7:30pm at the Parma Payne Goodall Alumni Center.
- Japanese Student Association is hosting a [Finals Recharge Picnic](#) on Tues, May 5 from 1-2pm in the Engineering Quad.
- Korean American Association is accepting applications for the 2026-2027 Executive Board. [Apply](#) by May 12.

## Community Center Partners:

- Black Resource Center is hosting [Wellness Wednesday](#) on May 6 from 12-1pm.
- Latinx Resource Center is looking for volunteers to support La Despedida on Fri, May 8 from 2-5pm in Montezuma Hall. [Sign up](#) today!

## Campus Partners:

- Esports Engagement Center is hosting a CAL 100 Guest Speaker Event on Game Development & Industry Insights on Wed, May 6 from 10:00-11:30am. [RSVP](#) today!
- Office of Graduate Life & Diversity is hosting a [Graduate Bowling Night](#) on Wednesday, May 6 from 5:30-7:30pm at Aztec Lanes. [RSVP](#) today!
- Center for Student Organizations & Activities is hosting the Spring 2026 Midnight Study Break entitled, "Ready, Set, Glow!" on Wed, May 6 from 9pm-1am in Montezuma Hall.
- SDSU Well-being & Health Promotion is hosting a [Recovery Safe Space](#) on Thurs, May 7 from 11-2pm in the Lipinsky Hospitality Center.
- Struggling with basic needs? Need resources? Connect with the [Economic Crisis Resource Team](#).

## Community Partners:

- Golden Guide is hosting the Golden Makers Market on Sun, May 3 from 11-4pm at the Brick in Liberty Station. Regular admission is free! [RSVP](#) today!
- The Asian American Education Project offers free APIDA resources on their [website](#) and [Instagram](#).

## Research Opportunities

- Student applications for the 2026 SDSU Undergraduate Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activities (RSCA) Program (SURP) are now open! [Apply](#) by May 3!
- **NEW!** The Division of Research, Innovations, & System Information of the California Department of Transportation is calling for submissions for 2026-2027. [Apply](#) by May 14!
- **NEW!** The Restore America's Estuaries is calling for poster presentation proposals for the 2026 RAE Coastal and Estuarine Summit. [Apply](#) by July 13!

## Jobs & Paid Internships

- **NEW!** Pacific Software Publishing, Inc. is looking for a Japanese Contents Creator. [Apply](#) today!
- **NEW!** Harmonium, Inc. is looking for a part-time Youth Leader for PrimeTime. [Apply](#) today!
- **NEW!** Applications for the United Nations Fellows Internship hosted in Tokyo, Japan are now open! [Apply](#) by May 8!
- 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.
- SDSU Glazer Center for Leadership & Service is hiring a Content Creator and Marketing Student Assistant for the 2026-2027 academic year. [Apply](#) by May 4!

## Scholarships

- Gordon Clanton Award in Oral History offers \$1,000 to a history or sociology major at SDSU. [Apply](#) by May 6!
- Dr. Gabriel and Christine Chiu "Review It" Scholarship offers \$1,000 to college students in any major. [Apply](#) by May 15!
- **NEW!** The Minerva Scholarship offers \$3,000 to eligible California resident college students who identify as female. [Apply](#) by May 31.
- Asian American Architects/Engineers Association is offering scholarships to current students pursuing careers in architecture, engineering, or construction. [Apply](#) by May 31.
- Lily Pabilona Emerging Entrepreneur Scholarship is offering up to \$5,000 to full-time college students in all majors. [Apply](#) by May 31.
- 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 Korean American Scholarship Foundation is offering support for college undergraduate and graduate students of Korean descent. [Apply](#) by June 30!
- 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.