

SDSU Office of AANHPISI Affairs & APIDA Center



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Subscribe to the newsletter: <https://bit.ly/SDSUAPIDA>
Read previous newsletters: <https://apida.sdsu.edu/archives/newsletters>



Location: 2nd floor of Student Union
Rooms #210A-K (directly above Starbucks)

APIDA Center Hours:
Monday-Thursday:
10:00-7:00pm
Friday: 10:00-4:30pm

Connect with us!

APIDA Center Website: <https://apida.sdsu.edu>
APIDA Center Email: apida@sdsu.edu
Office of AANHPISI Affairs: <https://aanhpisi.sdsu.edu>
Executive Director: Dr. Loh-Hagan at vloh-hagan@sdsu.edu



@sdsuapidacenter

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

August 21, 2026



From Dr. Loh-Hagan: New School Year! New Dream Team!

Well, summer is gone and school has begun! We are definitely in the swing of things. This summer break is one for the books - After several months of interviewing, we are finally fully staffed! Thanks to the CSU AANHPI Student Achievement Program (ASAP), we have been able to hire three additional positions to enhance and expand our programs and services. I'm thrilled to announce that we have an absolute dream of a team:

- Dr. Virginia Loh-Hagan, Executive Director
- Matthew H Garcia, Associate Director
- Dr. Jerald L. Adamos, Associate Director
- Gi Gonzales Vargas, Coordinator
- Kirstin Curtis, Coordinator
- Thomas Rogers, Admin Support & Budget Coordinator

In the short amount of time together, we already have so much lore (i.e., inside jokes) and tons of plans. The future is bright!

Announcements

APIDA SDSU Asian Pacific Islander Desi American Center

APIDA Center Drop-In Advising

Location: APIDA Center OR
ZOOM LINK: <https://SDSU.zoom.us/my/mhgarcia25>

Monday, August 24, 2026 from 2-4pm
Tuesday, August 25, 2026 from 10-12pm
Wednesday, August 26, 2026 from 1-3pm
Thursday, August 27, 2026 from 10-12pm
Monday, August 31, 2026 from 10-12pm
Wednesday, September 2, 2026 from 10-12pm
Friday, September 4, 2026 from 10-12pm

SDSU APIDA Center Website: <https://sacd.sdsu.edu/apida>
SDSU Office of AANHPI Affairs: <https://aanhpsi.sdsu.edu>
Email: apida@sdsu.edu

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Drop-In Advising

Get support this week! The APIDA Center is offering drop-in advising to help you navigate the first few weeks of the semester. It is important to get connected, ask for help, and start strong. In general, feel free to drop in to hang out, meet friends, and more! We are here for you!

Decorate Your Dorm!

Get crafty with us! We are kicking off our HAPI Hours (Mondays-Thursdays from 5-7pm) with a special DIY dorm decor theme. All week long, we are hosting various events to help you decorate your room. This is also an opportunity to de-stress and meet friends.

APIDA SDSU Asian Pacific Islander Desi American Center

Decorate Your Dorm With APIDA!

Join the APIDA Center during our HAPI Hours this week to craft your own dorm decor. As a bonus, you can meet new friends!

Visit the APIDA Center from 5-7pm!

- Mon, August 24, 2026: Loom Coasters
- Tues, August 25, 2026: Popsicle Stick Photoframes
- Wed, August 26, 2026: Bunting Banners
- Thurs, August 27, 2026: T-Shirt Rugs

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APIDA Center Highlights: News to Know!



APIDA Center attends Filipino American Friendship Festival!

This summer, we launched a new initiative: the student-led [APIDA Social Club](#). We encourage students to meet-up and attend fun events around the city. On July 18th, the APIDA Social Club hosted a meet-up at the 6th annual Filipino American Friendship Festival at Liberty Station.



APIDA Center visits the SEAA Archives!

On July 21-22, we hosted a staff retreat. As part of our professional learning we visited the [Southeast Asian Archive](#) at UC Irvine. In addition to learning about the archives, we also learned more about oral history methodology and zine-making. We are so thankful to our friends at the OC & SEAA Center for hosting us. (We will be embarking on some archival work for our history so standby!)



APIDA Center visits the CSUSM Wayfinding exhibit!

On July 21st, we also visited the "[Wayfinding Community-Campus Vā](#)" exhibit at CSU San Marcos. This mixed-media collection features traditional wooden instruments, murals, maps, cultural videos, and more. It was a great representation of the Pacific Islander community in North County.



APIDA Center attends AMLA!

In late July, four staff members represented SDSU at the second annual CSU AANHPI Middle Leadership Academy in Winters, California. This retreat is a requirement of the CSU ASAP funding. We got an opportunity to convene and connect with APIDA leaders from across the CSU.



APIDA Center tables at various events!

This summer, we tabled for new student orientations and met a ton of freshmen, transfers, and families. We also tabled at the Bridge the Gap summit, our campus job fair, and more. We love meeting new people!

Know APIDA History!



APIDA Center learns about Winters' Japantown!

APIDA history can be found in the small agricultural town of Winters located in Yolo County, California. Thanks to the efforts of local historians and APIDA community members, the legacy of one of California's first Japanese communities has been preserved.

The Japanese American community of Winters dates back to 1888 when some of the first Japanese immigrants to work in agriculture in California took jobs in Winters. Some of these workers chose to remain and start families and by the 1940s, the Japanese community of Winters had grown to over 300 individuals. The town segregated Japanese Americans to a district known as Block 4, which became the site of the Winters Japantown.

As with many Japanese communities in the United States, Japantown in Winters was subsequently torn apart by Executive Order 9066 (1942) which forcibly removed those of Japanese heritage from their homes. Most of the Japanese residents from Winters were incarcerated at the Gila River and Granada (Amache) camps in Arizona. During celebrations of the end of World War II (1939-1945), a mysterious fire started in Japantown and subsequently destroyed it. Due to the destruction of Japantown and increased anti-Japanese sentiments, only 15% of Winters' Japanese residents returned to the town.

San Diego has a similar history. For example, San Diego's Chinatown once occupied the area between Market and J street, from 6th to 2nd Ave. This community, which had existed since the 1860s, would slowly be eroded due to exclusion laws and gentrification.

Today, community museums like the Winters Museum and the San Diego Chinese Historical Museum preserve these histories.

*We were fortunate to be able to visit the Winters Museum "Lost Japantown" exhibit and met Floyd Shimomura (born 1948), who shared his story with us. In 1982, Shimomura was elected president of the National Japanese American Citizens League as its youngest president. During his tenure, he oversaw the lobbying efforts for the passage of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988.

Upcoming APIDA Center Events

Popsicle Stick Photoframes*

Location: APIDA Center

Date: Tuesday, August 25, 2026 from 5-7pm

Decorate your dorm with APIDA! From 5-7pm all this week, we are hosting craft nights to help you decorate your room. We got you covered, floor to ceiling! Join us!

Bunting Banners*

Location: APIDA Center

Date: Tuesday, August 25, 2026 from 5-7pm

Decorate your dorm with APIDA! We got you covered, floor to ceiling! Make bunting banners to hang on your walls, doors, beds, and desks.

T-Shirt Rugs*

Location: APIDA Center

Date: Tuesday, August 25, 2026 from 5-7pm

Decorate your dorm with APIDA! We got you covered, floor to ceiling! Make rugs out of old t-shirts. Be sustainable and stylish.

APIDA Makerspace*

Location: APIDA Center

Date: Friday, August 28, 2026 from 1-4pm

Wind down with us after the first week of the Fall 2026 semester! Make t-shirt tote bags, rags, and other sustainable crafts! This event is a craft social. Come and go as you please.

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 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. In general, 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.*



APIDA "HAPI" Hours! (HAPI = Happy + Asian Pacific Islander)

There's always something to do at the APIDA Center. Take a break, meet new friends, and learn something. On Monday through Thursday nights, we will be hosting themed programs. Join us.

Contact apida@sdsu.edu if you are interested in hosting a Thursday Takeover.

Student-Led Workshops & Student-Created Social Media Campaigns

APIDA Center is hosting Student-Led Workshops and Student-Created Social Media Campaigns. This is a great opportunity to share your passion with others. It's also an opportunity to learn how to plan an event or prepare a campaign with our support. We are interested in any and all APIDA-related topics! If you are interested, email apida@sdsu.edu.

Research Opportunities

- **NEW!** Submit an article to the American Journal of Student Research, an open-access scientific journal publishing high-quality scholarly work by high school and undergraduate students. [Submit](#) soon!
- Monarch Unity Resource Center and School of Art and Design are calling for creative submissions for the upcoming SDSU Student Gallery exhibit entitled, "Our Stories in Motion: Movement, Memory, Transformation." [Submit](#) by Sept 13.
- International Teaching Learning Cooperative Lilly Conferences are calling for proposals for 2027. [Submit](#) by Oct 1.

Jobs & Paid Internships

- **NEW!** San Diego Zoo is hiring seasonal part-time food service clerks. [Apply now.](#)
- **NEW!** Monart School of Art is looking for a part-time afterschool art teacher. [Apply now.](#)
- **NEW!** Michael Baker International is seeking a detail-oriented Planning Intern to support housing, environmental, and community planning projects. [Apply now.](#)
- **NEW!** The City of San Diego is hiring a Student Engineer. These part-time positions are ideal for students in a college engineering program. [Apply](#) by Sept 28.

Scholarships

- **NEW!** The Asian American & Pacific Islander Legislative Caucus Foundation is awarding scholarships to AANHPI students. [Apply](#) by Sept 1.
- Aztec Scholarships are now open! [Apply](#) by Sept 4.
- **NEW!** The Doan Foundation is launching the Roots & Resilience Artist Grant. Six grants of \$1,000 will be awarded to Southern California artists or organizations. [Apply](#) by Nov 1.
- **NEW!** The Faatuai and Fatilua Memorial Scholarship is offering \$1000 to Pacific Islander students with a 3.0 GPA. Candidates must write an essay about what it means to be a Pacific Islander. [Apply](#) by Nov 25.
- **NEW!** The Hue Ta Asian American Scholarship is offering \$1000 to Asian American students with volunteering experience who are pursuing a career in a mental health field. [Apply](#) by Dec 7.
- **NEW!** The Dr. Shuqiao Yao Memorial Scholarship is offering \$2000 to a graduate students of Asian descent pursuing psychology or psychiatry with at least a 3.0 GPA. [Apply](#) by Dec 19.