

Asian-American and Pacific Islander Community Summit to take place

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It has been 10 years since the first Asian-American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Community Summit hosted by the City of Minneapolis on Oct. 23, 2003.

At that landmark session 250-plus AAPI community members met to map out a detailed plan and made strong requests for support. The plan focused on how to improve the AAPIs' well-being in Minneapolis.

Ten years later, a second AAPI Community Summit will be held on Oct. 29 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the University of Minnesota Urban Research and Outreach-Engagement Center (UROC), 2001 Plymouth Ave. N., Minneapolis. The summit examines the progress made over these 10 years, with a special focus on Transit Oriented Development (TOD), educational and health disparities and proposed Minneapolis Public School's 5-year plans.

The Twin Cities Regional Center will lead the event and the center collaborated with Asian Media Access, Hawman and Co., Project Sweetie Pie, Strategies and UROC on the summit.

At the initial summit, the city initiated outreach to its four major minority groups – African-American, Asian-American, Hispanic/Latino-American and Native-American. The AAPI Community Summit held at the Harrison Community Center in north Minneapolis was attended by 250 people consisting of youth, elders, businesses, community-based organizations, private and public organizations serving AAPI citizens and the community at large.

The summit addressed various topics including domestic violence, gambling, addiction, racism, issues regarding police, language and cultural competency. Some of the groups of people represented came from Asian and Pacific countries such as Laos, Korea and Cambodia.

The upcoming AAPI Community Summit will recreate the AAPI vision and dreams to bring the city officials and AAPI communities together to have the face-to-face discussion and share resources, with a special emphasis on the TOD. Besides the TOD resources, the summit will also feature the most updated information for health and educational disparities.

Twin Cities Regional Center (TCRC), a new community development based non-profit agency

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in Minnesota, will present findings on the economic development for people of color in both north Minneapolis and Frogtown (St. Paul) neighborhoods. Through a special immigration program called – EB5, the center will bring in a minimum \$500,000 in foreign capital that creates 10-sustained jobs to support the neighborhoods. TCRC venture capital representatives will be on site to listen to AAPI business development ideas.

Registration is free and open to the public. Those who pre-register will receive a half-hour free consultation with the venture capital team. For more information and registration for the event, call (612) 376-7715, email amamedia@amamedia.org or go to www.tcrc-mn.org.