The National Queer Asian Pacific Islander Alliance (NQAPIA) is a federation of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) Asian American, South Asian, Southeast Asian, and Pacific Islander (AAPI) organizations. We seek to build the organizational capacity of local LGBT AAPI groups, develop leadership, promote visibility, educate our community, enhance grassroots organizing, expand collaborations, and challenge homophobia and racism. NQAPIA is a project of the Tides Center in San Francisco, CA.

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A copy of NQAPIA's annual report is available for public inspection upon request. Email us.

Photo Credit: Corky Lee, NQAPIA Conference Attendees

Graphic Designer: Meek Espino
In the hazy July heat, 350 AAPI LGBT people and our closest friends came to the nation’s capital for the 2012 NQAPIA Conference: Presence, Power, Progress. Over 80 sessions covered a wide array of topics, from personal and professional development to the arts, to political and policy issues.

Building off of the success of the last conference held in Seattle, WA in 2009, the NQAPIA Board, Staff, and Conference Planning Committee put together an ambitious slate of programming.

**THURSDAY**

**Special Pre-Conference Convenings**

NQAPIA hosted three special convenings where specific constituencies were able to meet to share information, connect, and identify potential projects for ongoing work: (1) **Queer Desi Community Building, Organizing & Planning Roundtable**; (2) **Faith-Based Leaders Convening**; and (3) **AAPI Parents of LGBT Children**.

**White House AAPI LGBT Briefing**

Over 120 NQAPIA Conference participants were invited to the White House to meet with high level government officials. Participants spoke on bullying, immigration and HIV/AIDS. Cabinet Secretary and Co-Chair of the White House Advisory Commission on AAPIs Chris Lu addressed the audience, and Trikone from San Francisco presented a special quilt for the President in recognition of his support for LGBT equality.

**Welcome Reception**

Hawai’i Supreme Court Justice Sabrina McKenna kicked off the conference at a posh reception hosted by the Hogan Lovells law firm. Congressman Mike Honda (D-CA) made a surprise appearance when he “crashed” the party.

**CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT:** 1. MANDY HU, NQAPIA BOARD MEMBER 2. (SECOND FROM LEFT) HAWAI’I SUPREME COURT JUSTICE SABRINA MCKENNA 3. TRIKONE PRESENTS QUILT 4. CONGRESSMAN MIKE HONDA (D-CA) (THIRD FROM LEFT) WITH OPENING RECEPTION ATTENDEES
FRIDAY

Opening Plenary

Pulitzer Prize winning journalist and Founder of “Define American” Jose Antonio Vargas moderated the opening plenary, an in-depth discussion of the historical arc of AAPI LGBT organizing with Deen, Rev. Trinity Ordonia, Ignatius Bau, and Eileen Ma. Congresswoman Judy Chu gave a welcome address, and a “flash mob” helped set a tone that was serious but did not take itself too seriously.

Ignition

Queer Asian American Performance Showcase: NQAPIA teamed up with Sulu DC to host an unprecedented evening of queer AAPI artists and performers. A lineup of noted artists included Kay Ulanday Barrett, Diana Bui, Deen, Moana Love, and Daniel Phoenix Singh.

SATURDAY

Keynote Plenary

A panel of national leaders working in AAPI and LGBT communities gave participants an insiders’ perspective on Washington, DC. Queer Justice Fund Director Alice Y. Hom moderated the session, which included Kiran Ahuja, Executive Director of the White House Initiative on AAPIs, Lisa Hasegawa, Executive Director of the National Coalition on Asian Pacific American Community Development, and Harper Jean Tobin, Policy Counsel at the National Center for Transgender Equality.
2012 Community Catalyst Awards
NQAPIA recognized three outstanding honorees for their service to AAPI LGBT communities: Congressman Mike Honda (D-CA), the Asian American Justice Center, and Urooj Arshad with the Queer Muslim Working Group. Noted actor and activist Tamlyn Tomita (Glee, Joy Luck Club, Karate Kid II) emceed the event, which also featured a performance by Yalini Dream and Jendog with an after-party deejayed by the PinStriped Rebel.

Closing Brunch
Kit Yan, award winning slam poet and former NQAPIA Board member, emceed the activities as NQAPIA closed out the conference with regional breakout groups and discussions about ongoing work together.

Bex Ahuja, NQAPIA Board member, challenged us to continue “showing up” for each other— a real testament to being Present, showing and sharing our Power, and making Progress on behalf of our communities.

THANK YOU
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GENERAL
Asian American Bar Association of New York
Ignatius Bau
Ken Ohashi
Parents, Families and Friends for Lesbians and Gays
Shelley & Donald Rubin Foundation
Tom Hayashi

AIRLINE
United Airlines

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Open Society Foundations
It seems like yesterday when a group of API LGBTQ activists gathered in an overcrowded conference room in the Oakland and decided that it was finally time to start an organization that dedicated to the needs of the LGBTQ API community. That was in 2005!

The conference and NQAPIA are major sources of empowerment for API LGBTQs. The energy from the younger generation touched me, especially their courage to come out and be proud of themselves, their willingness to learn about the accomplishments from the past, and the challenges that we all face in the future. There are important issues that we must work on, such as bridging the gap between the older and newer generation of activists, the clash between American born and foreign born APIs, and the continuous under-representation of South Asians and our bisexual and transgender communities.

Adrian Leung
Los Angeles, CA

**Facebook Posting**

NQAPIA has given me the inspiration and courage to do what I am doing now, to finally come out to everyone on here and finally be able to be myself among people in my life. You may have noticed the name change on my facebook. I identify as transgender, meaning I identify not as a woman but as man. I am currently transitioning from Jenn to Jayden. I have been going through these feelings all of my life and only now do have the courage and strength to be out and talk about it.

For the first time in my life, I am starting to be comfortable with who I really am. For the first time in my life, I am starting to feel like the real me. And hopefully in time, I will be the real me.

The problem with Asian circles is that I don’t feel like fit in with them. I’m the different one. It’s times like this that I miss the space that NQAPIA provides.

Jayden Thai
Louisville, KY
adoptee workshop
hapa, mestiza, mixed race. queer. life in borderlands. fit in nowhere.
not white enough. not asian enough. asian heart. white face. who decides?
grounded to find coalition with qapi adoptee to white family.
dear white family, please do not deny asian baby's asian-ness.
filipin@ caucus
the american dream versus the filipin@ dream. generation/immigration gap. not the direction some think.
reproductive justice workshop
please create timeline number-line for years of age sexual/reproductive development suggestion: try it
and the not scheduled, other poly. swimming. knit. community. salads. friend-crushes. good night sleep.
~kb
Philadelphia, PA
“WE LOVE OUR LGBT KIDS!”
NQAPIA PARENTS CONVENING
BY MARSHA IZUMI, PFLAG NATIONAL BOARD MEMBER AND AUTHOR OF TWO SPIRITS, ONE HEART, LOS ANGELES, CA

NQAPIA sponsored a historic convening of AAPI parents of LGBT children in Washington DC. About a dozen parents from various Asian backgrounds which included Korean, Chinese, Filipino, Indonesian, and Japanese parents, attended. What we all had in common was a love for our LGBT children and our hope that they would live in a safer, more accepting world.

The meeting was facilitated by Belinda Dronkers-Laureta, executive director of API Family Pride and activist for over twenty years, and Marsha Aizumi, PFLAG National Board Member and author of Two Spirits, One Heart, a memoir about her journey with her transgender son.

The two objectives for the meeting were to bring parents from different parts of the United States to meet each other and talk about what would have been the greatest support as their children came out to them. In addition, we had hoped to select some goals to work on as a group, but with so many ideas being introduced, time fell short and this will become an action item for a future meeting.

The day unfolded with parents sharing their stories and making heart connections. They thanked NQAPIA for creating the beautiful space for them. And they wish to continue growing a parent base that will help other parents when their children turn to them with hope in their eyes and say, “This is who I am. . . . I need your love and support.”

QUEER AAPIS OF FAITH: BRIDGING RACE, SEXUALITY, AND SPIRIT
BY REV. PATRICK S. CHENG, PROFESSOR OF THEOLOGY AT THE EPISCOPAL DIVINITY SCHOOL IN CAMBRIDGE, MA

NQAPIA sponsored a groundbreaking faith-based gathering of nine LGBTIQ AAPI activists from different religious traditions, including Hinduism, Islam, and Christianity. This interfaith gathering occurred, immediately prior to the national NQAPIA conference.

The gathering was facilitated by Hussain Turk, the Program Coordinator for the Arcus Center for Social Justice Leadership. During the course of the three-hour meeting, the participants discussed key recent developments with respect queer AAPI spirituality. They also discussed important needs and issues that are faced by queer AAPI people of faith.

One issue highlighted by the group is the need for their voices to be heard by the broader queer AAPI community. That is, there was a widespread recognition that queer AAPI people of faith often feel alienated not just by their religious communities, but also by the broader queer API community. That is, it is often difficult to “come out” as being religious or spiritual within a secular activist context.

The participants suggested that NQAPIA create an interfaith working group and to designate a board member as a point person to raise awareness about religion and faith issues in future NQAPIA publications and gatherings. The group closed by expressing its gratitude to NQAPIA for providing a safe space to meet and talk about these issues.
BUILDING RESEARCH ON QUEER AAPI COMMUNITY

One of the challenges facing AAPI LGBT communities is the lack of data about our needs and concerns. Historically, both AAPI and the LGBT community have been difficult to study in larger national surveys because of small sample sizes. At the intersection of both of these communities, we become a community that requires even more intentionality to study.

IN RESPONSE, NQAPIA HAS PARTNERED WITH A NUMBER OF ORGANIZATIONS TO INCREASE THE BODY OF RESEARCH.

In January, NQAPIA joined a number of LGBT organizations to launch LGBT Families of Color: Facts at a Glance, a special analysis of the data on people of color from the larger report, All Children Matter: How Legal and Social Inequalities Hurt LGBT Families.

In July, NQAPIA released two additional reports in partnership with other organizations. “A Census of Our Own: The State of Queer Southeast Asian America” was launched at a special reception hosted by the Queer Southeast Asian Network, which includes Providence Youth Student Movement (PrYSM) in Rhode Island, Shades of Yellow (SOY) in St. Paul, MN, and Freedom, Inc. in Madison, WI. The “QSEA Census” is the first of its kind to focus specifically on LGBTQ Southeast Asian communities, identify a range of needs and concerns, and generate specific policy recommendations.

NQAPIA also partnered with the National Center for Transgender Equality (NCTE) and the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force to release a special report on AAPI respondents to the broader “Injustice At Every Turn: The National Transgender Discrimination Survey.” This report focused on AAPI communities as reflected by the survey, and was translated into six Asian languages—Chinese, Hindi, Korean, Tagalog, Tamil, and Vietnamese.

SAVE THE DATE / JULY 25 - 28, 2013

NQAPIA ANNUAL LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

HONOLULU, HAWAI'I

A training and issue-briefing for leaders of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender Asian American, South Asian, Southeast Asian, and Pacific Islander organizations.
A coalition of South Asian lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer organizations and individuals in the US launched DEQH, the Desi Queer Helpline on Coming Out Day, October 11, 2012.

The helpline offers free, confidential, culturally sensitive peer support, information and resources by telephone for queer South Asian individuals, families and friends around the globe. The intent is to provide a safe and supportive ear for callers to share their concerns, questions, struggles or hopes through conversations with trained South Asian Peer Support Volunteers.

The project developed from a critical need in the South Asian queer community for culturally sensitive and confidential support, and is modeled after the former SALGA hotline operating out of New York City. The first round of volunteers for the Desi Queer Helpline attended a 6-hour intensive training at the NQAPIA conference, and future trainings will continue to be offered around the country in various locations.

Members of the South Asian community interested in becoming trained as peer support volunteers can contact deqh.info@gmail.com for more information.

The helpline will be available from 8pm-10pm on Wednesdays and 5pm to 7pm on Sundays, Eastern Standard Time. Callers can reach the helpline at (908) 367-3374. For general information, contact deqh.info@gmail.com.
A new report from the Queer Justice Fund, a project of AAPIP (Asian Americans/Pacific Islanders in Philanthropy) found deep disparities in funding to LGBTQ AAPI communities, despite rapid growth of both communities. The report, Missed Opportunities: How Organized Philanthropy Can Help Meet the Needs of LGBTQ AAPI Communities, found that funding in 2009 to LGBTQ AAPI communities amounted to barely 0.7 percent of the total amount granted to all LGBTQ communities and organizations that year. In 2009 funding to all LGBTQ organizations in 2009 amounted to barely 0.2 percent of all foundation giving in the United States.

The report is the first of its kind and a critical component of the Queer Justice Fund’s philanthropic advocacy strategy to bridge AAPI and LGBTQ communities, and to help redefine/reframe issues by directing funding to (1) autonomous LGBTQ AAPI organizations, (2) allied organizations, but that may not be necessarily LGBTQ-focused, and (3) faith-based institutions that support LGBTQ rights.

“We are at a moment where LGBTQ AAPIs are no longer viewed as belonging to single and separate communities; and this report disrupts that misperception,” stated Alice Y. Hom, Director of AAPIP’s Queer Justice Fund, and author of the report. She added, “The organizations that serve these communities play an important, bridging role in connecting overlapping issues and concerns that affect them in a larger framework.”

The report outlines five specific recommendations for organized philanthropy to increase funding to LGBTQ AAPI communities, including emphasis on capacity-building support, developing stronger links to allied communities as well as mainstream LGBTQ organizations, and strengthening relationships between secular and interfaith organizations. It also calls for increased support for community-based and quantitative research.

On April 5, The White House honored Terisa Siagatonu (who had been part of NQAPIA’s AAPI LGBT Youth Briefing at the White House in 2011) and the Asian Pride Project (Elena Chang and Suma Reddy) as three Champions of Change. Nine champions were chosen as part of the White House Initiative on AAPI’s effort to highlight the personal stories of AAPIs across the country who have impacted their community through their dreams, experiences, and dedication to a cause.

On September 19, the White House and the Office of the Vice President hosted a day long series of events for LGBT Emerging Leaders from around the country. Many of these leaders under the age of 30 are part of NQAPIA’s network. A special evening reception for these youth was hosted by Vice President Joe Biden and his wife, Dr. Jill Biden, in their official residence.
REGIONAL MEETING
On March 24, NQAPIA member organizations along the Northeast corridor participated in a Regional Meeting in New York City. From as far north as Providence, RI, and as far south as Washington, DC, 23 representatives from 9 organizations attended the meeting, which was held at the Center for Social Inclusion. Participants were able to share information about their local organizations, compare notes, build solidarity and trust, and plan for upcoming activities, including the 2012 NQAPIA Conference.

EQUALITY ON WALL STREET
For LGBT Pride Month, the LGBT Business Professionals Network of the Depository Trust and Clearing Corporation on Wall Street featured NQAPIA and the unique challenges facing LGBT and Asian American/ South Asian communities. DTCC provides clearing, settlement and information services for equities, corporate and municipal bonds, government and mortgage-backed securities, money market instruments and over-the-counter derivatives. Forty people attended in NYC, along with 20 people in London, 10 in Tampa and 10 in Dallas.

LGBT ASIAN AMERICAN/SOUTH ASIAN LAWYERS NETWORKING RECEPTIONS
In Chicago on April 19, New York City on July 17, and Washington, DC on July 19, members of the legal profession “came out” to celebrate the diversity within the LGBT and API communities. Associates at corporate firms, government attorneys, solo practitioners, small firm and public interest lawyers, and law students enjoyed these networking receptions where proceeds supported young people to attend the NQAPIA conference.

In Chicago, U.S. District Court Judge Edmond Chang gave special welcoming remarks where he shared a story of a transgender attorney arguing in court. The newly installed Regional Director of the National Labor Relations Board, Peter S. Ohr, gave a moving keynote address about the discrimination that LGBT and minority attorneys face, and the need for respect.

In New York and Washington, DC, Associate Justice of the Hawaii Supreme Court Sabrina McKenna gave moving keynote addresses that told her story of rising through the ranks as a legal services attorney, to a corporate law firm, to the bench and finally to the State Supreme Court. She reminded attendees of the legal history of anti-Asian discrimination and the current problem of LGBT youth suicide in America today, especially among LGBT API youth.
LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, AND TRANSGENDER ASIAN PACIFIC ISLANDER ORGANIZATIONS

Northern California
Asian Pacific Islander Equality-Northern California
Asian Pacific Islander Queer Women and Transgender Coalition
Gay Asian Pacific Alliance
One Love Oceania
South Bay Queer and Asian, San Jose
Trikone

Southern California
API Pride Council
API Equality-Los Angeles
Asian American Queer Women Activists
Barangay - The Gay Filipino Organization of Los Angeles
Satrang
Gay Asian Pacific Support Network
Koreans United for Equality (KUE)
UTOPIA- San Diego

Pacific Northwest
Asian Pacific Islander Pride of Portland, OR
Trikone-Northwest, Seattle, WA
UTOPIA- Seattle

New England
Massachusetts Area South Asian Lambda Association, Boston, MA
Queer Asian Pacific Alliance, Boston, MA
Southeast Asian Queers United for Empowerment & Leadership (seaQuel), Providence, RI

Greater New York City Area
Dari Project
Gay Asian & Pacific Islander Men of New York
QWAVE
South Asian Lesbian and Gay Association

Mid-Atlantic/Metro DC Area
API Queers United for Action, Washington, DC
API Queer Sisters, Washington, DC
hotpot!, Philadelphia, PA
Khush-DC, Washington, DC
NAPAWF-DC LGBTQ Committee, Washington, DC
Queer Philadelphia Asians, Philadelphia, PA

Midwest
Invisible-to-Invincible: Asian Pacific Islander Pride of Chicago
Shades of Yellow (SOY), Minneapolis, MN
Trikone-Chicago, IL

The South
Asian Queers and Allies-NC (AQUA-NC), Durham, NC
Queer & Asian, Houston, TX
Trikone- Atlanta, GA
Khush Texas, Austin, TX

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National LGBT Bar Association
South Asian Bar Association of New York
South Asian Bar Association - DC
**NQAPIA PROGRAMS**

**Annual Training and Issue Briefing for Leaders of LGBT AAPI organizations**
This weekend long summit focuses on networking, learning about current issues, sharing strategies, building local organizational infrastructure, and building national collaborative programs. Prior convenings were held in San Jose in 2011, Chicago in 2010, Denver in 2008 and Oakland, CA in 2005. Our next training will be held in Honolulu in 2013.

**National Conference**
This conference brings together grassroots LGBT AAPI activists from across the nation. Prior national conferences were in Washington, DC (350 attendees), Seattle in 2009 (250 attendees) and New York in 2004 (400 attendees).

**LGBT Immigrants’ Rights**
In collaboration with local LGBT AAPI groups, we are spearheading an educational and advocacy campaign on immigrants’ rights that includes local community forums and press conferences featuring immigration advocates and immigrants and a national postcard campaign.

**Multilingual Visibility Campaign**
NQAPIA aims to improve the visibility of LGBTs in the mainstream AAPI community and of AAPIs in the broader LGBT community. This multilingual education campaign includes outreach to the Asian ethnic media and educational pieces translated into several Asian languages.

**Capacity Building Resources, Workshops, and Trainings**
This includes a descriptive directory of all of the nation’s LGBT AAPI groups, organizational tool kit with best practices and model documents, fiscal sponsorship, and special trainings/workshops.

**Participation in Current Issues**
NQAPIA raises the LGBT AAPI voice in current issues and we promote LGBT AAPI engagement. NQAPIA is a member of the National Council of Asian Pacific Americans, the coalition of national AAPI advocacy organizations. Other examples of this work include NQAPIA’s participation in the Equality March on Washington in 2009, the Immigrants’ Rights March on Washington in 2010, Census 2010, and an LGBT Youth Briefing with White House Initiative on AAPIs and Office of Public Engagement in 2011.