

DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS AND CAMPUS DIVERSITY

SDSU Asian Pacific Islander Desi American (APIDA) Center



Read all about it!!!

Check your email! Newsletter #97 is out!

If you didn't get it, don't miss out;

Join the APIDA Center contact list: <https://bit.ly/SDSUAPIDA>



Location:

2nd floor of Student Union

Rooms #210A-K (Directly above Starbucks)

Hours:
Mon-Thurs 10-8pm
Friday 10:00-4:30pm

Connect with us!



@sdsuapidacenter



SDSU APIDA
Resource Center

SA+CD

Center Website: <https://sacd.sdsu.edu/apida>

Center Email: apida@sdsu.edu

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

Associate Director: Matt Garcia at mhgarcia@sdsu.edu

Assistant Coordinator: Angela Subido at asubido@sdsu.edu

Director's Message from Dr. Loh-Hagan

April 12, 2024



Success at APAHE 2024!

I had the pleasure of spending the last week in Oakland at the Asian Pacific Americans in Higher Education (APAHE) conference. In collaboration with my good friends and fellow CSU APIDA leaders, Dr. Tim Fong (Sac State), Dr. Simon Kim (Long Beach), and Dr. Darlene Daclan (Chancellor's Office), we presented a session entitled, "CSU AANHPI Collective: An Initiative for Change." We shared our work in advocating for more funds and resources for APIDA students across the CSU system. (Standby for more information about these endeavors! I've been really busy these past several years and am cooking up some good stuff - more later!)

In addition, I hosted a CSU dinner, went to the White House Initiative on AANHPIs Summit, met up with colleagues, devised some exciting schemes, and much more. Many thanks to our wonderful CFO, **Agnes Wong Nickerson**, for sponsoring the conference as SDSU builds our presence as an AANAPISI. Also, many thanks to **Hanna Sapida**, APIDA student assistant, for tabling at APAHE. Over two days, she talked to more than 200 people and bragged about all things SDSU APIDA.



Kudos to **Andrew Arevalo**, third year student and Sociology major, who also presented at APAHE, His presentation was entitled, "Taking Care of Our Own | Culturally Nurturing Counseling + Work-Based Learning Practices." Andrew, a transfer student from Mesa College, also works as a Project Assistant for Mesa College's Work-Based Learning program.

Check out our sponsor ad in the APAHE program! Woohoo! Many thanks to **Candy Carson**, **Leobardo Ramirez**, and **Angela Subido** for their assistance with the design.



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HIGHER EDUCATION
(APAHE) CONFERENCE!**



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Know APIDA History!



APIDA Center learns about San Diego's Lao community!

In San Diego, Lao Heritage Month is celebrated in April, coinciding with the Lao New Year. This year (2024), the Lao New Year takes place on April 13-15. Lao New Year, also known as *Pi Mai Lao*, is a period of new beginnings and the start of the monsoon season. (The Cambodian and Thai New Year are also celebrated at this time.)

About 7,000 Laotians reside in San Diego. From the 1970s-1990s, the United States received an influx of Southeast Asian refugees fleeing as a result of the Vietnam War (1955-1975). Refugees from Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam have heavily populated San Diego neighborhoods such as City Heights.

Of the 80,000+ Laotians in the United States, San Diego is home to ten percent of that population. In 1992, Laotian refugees established the Lao Cultural Community Center (LCCC-SD). The purpose was to support refugees in their social transition and to foster Laotian cultural preservation. Some notable events hosted by LCCC-SD are the Lao Boat Racing Festival and Miss Lao New Year. Additionally, they have programs teaching Lao youth about traditions and folk dances.

In 2018, the Lao Advocacy Organization San Diego (LAOSD) was established. This organization sought to include the Lao perspective in California history books and school curricula. LAOSD advocated for the inclusion of Lao Americans Refugee History in California Schools (Assembly Bill 1393) which was opposed by Governor Gavin Newsom (born 1967) in 2019. However, one major victory championed by LAOSD was the establishment of San Diego's Lao Heritage Month (2020).

In 2023, the Laotian community hosted its inaugural Lao Food Festival on June 17-18 in honor of World Refugee Day.

This year, the APIDA Center with generous funds from Student Success Fee hosted our inaugural South East Asian American (SEAA) Festival. On Monday, April 8th, we hosted our kickoff event featuring Lao dance groups with the LCCC-SD. Follow us on [Instagram](#) for more events!

APIDA Center Highlights: News to Know!



APIDA Center learns about Laotian dances!

On Monday, April 8th, we had the pleasure of hosting two local Laotian dance groups: [Champa Noy](#) and Laotian Students from O'Farrell Charter School (coached by SDSU alum, **Carol Manisouk**). It was a gorgeous kick-off event as the dancers shared their traditional costumes and elegant dance moves with us. In addition, on Thursday, April 11th, [Dok Kulap Sinlapakorn](#), a Laotian dance group founded by SDSU student **Emily Phonhsongkham**, taught a Laotian dance workshop at the APIDA Center.



APIDA Center hosts Koy Sun and April Yang!

As you know, the APIDA Center likes to amplify examples of APIDA excellence, especially those who are succeeding in the arts. On April 9th, we hosted [Koy Suintichotinum](#), a Thai Teochew American sign designer. He shared his journey with us and then gave us a lesson on lettering and sign-making. Then, he made signs for the APIDA Center (and for Dewey)! Afterwards, participants made their own Koy Sun-inspired tote bags!

On April 10th, we hosted [April Yang](#), a Hmong American fashion designer known for her upcycling and thrift flips. She talked about her process and then taught us how to make scrunchies from fabric scraps. (Thanks to **Helen Ma** and **Matt Garcia**'s roommate for supplying the used clothes.)

Both speakers shared how they navigated familial and cultural expectations in their pursuit of creative careers. Today, they are both successful content creators and have made their immigrant/refugee parents very proud.



APIDA Center learns about Cambodians in the Donut Industry and Farmer Mai!

On April 10th, we hosted a screening of "The Donut King," a documentary about Ted Ngoy, the Cambodian refugee who built a donut empire and who introduced the pink donut box. We were lucky to be able to speak with the film producer, Jose Nunez.

On April 12th, we brought back our favorite farmer, Mai Nguyen, who continues to do amazing things. Farmer Mai shared their journey as a farmer-activist and discussed the role of Asian Americans in the conversation of U.S. land justice/equitable redistribution. They also shared how their Vietnamese American experience has informed their commitment to land justice.

APIDA Flex Alerts!

Giannela Gonzales, former APIDA Center student staff member and SDSU Alum ([2021 Liberal Studies Outstanding Graduate](#)), got engaged. Aldo Vargas, APIDA Center volunteer (as voluntold by Gi), proposed to her this past weekend and she said yes!

Dr. **Lashon Daley** and Dr. **Loh-Hagan** presented at the San Diego Writer's Festival on April 6th. They discussed various topics addressing diverse children's literature.

The *San Diego Union-Tribune* featured SDSU School of Music and Dance Associate Professor, Dr. **Texu Kim** in an article entitled, "[Spring arts preview 2024: San Diego composer Texu Kim's profile is on the rise.](#)"



We want to celebrate the SDSU APIDA community!

Have a flex to share?

Email us at apida@sdsu.edu.

Upcoming APIDA Center Events

SDSU Explore

Location: SDSU Campus

Date: Saturday, April 13 from 9-2pm

Meet newly admitted students and/or learn about campus resources! The APIDA Center will be hosting an open house and tabling at [SDSU Explore](#). Come hang with us!

Dragon Boat Race

Location: Fiesta Island at the San Diego Youth Aquatic Center at 1750 Fiesta Island Road

Date: Sunday, April 14 from 10-2pm

We will be racing a dragon boat and competing against the UCSD Dragon Boat Team. Come cheer on our team and enjoy a day in the sun!

Sustainable Crafting Night: DIY Scrunchies

Location: APIDA Center

Date: Monday, April 15 from 6-8pm

Inspired by our April Yang workshop, we are hosting a sustainable crafting event. We will be turning fabric scraps and discarded clothes into functional hair accessories!

Guest Speaker: Dr. Beverly Yuen Thompson

Location: Zoom

Date: Wednesday, April 17 from 2-3pm

Dr. Beverly Yuen Thompson graduated from SDSU's Women's Studies master's program. In this talk, she will discuss creating a theory centering a position of identity based on multiplicity, language (loss), identity, and community. She argues that while finding our identity-based communities can be emotionally enriching, it is additionally important to strive toward models of alliances and allyship.

SEA Festival: Suzanne Thao & Hmong Embroidery

Location: Zoom

Date: Wednesday, April 17 from 4-5pm

Meet Mama Suzanne, a Hmong elder, who is an active practitioner and teacher of Paj Ntaub, Hmong embroidery. She will be sharing her personal story as well as the history of this craft.

SEA Festival: April Yang & Hmong Embroidery

Location: APIDA Center

Date: Wednesday, April 17 from 5-7pm

April Yang returns! She'll teach us about paj ntaub and how the younger Hmong generation is using and preserving this traditional Hmong art. Then, she'll teach us how to do Hmong embroidery!

A Trip to Seattle, Washington: AAAS Conference + Seattle Historic Sites

Location: Seattle, WA

Trip Dates: April 24-28

We will be attending the Association for Asian American Studies conference and visiting historic sites like the Wing Luke Museum, Seattle Chinatown, and more!

Read with APIDA!

Location: APIDA Center

Date: Monday, April 29 from 12-1pm

Be a part of our community reading initiative. As we wait for the 2024 One Book One San Diego book selections, let's read the 2023 books. Come to the APIDA Center and take free books. Then, join our Book Club meeting. Food will be provided!

SDSU APIDA 2024 Graduation Celebration & End of the Year Party

Location: Student Union Courtyard

Date: Thursday, May 2 from 5-8pm

[RSVP today](#) for the SDSU APIDA 2024 Graduation Celebration & End-of-Year Party! We will be celebrating our December 2023, May 2024, and August 2024 Graduates. Graduates must attend from 5-8pm in order to get an APIDA grad cord and charm! All are welcome but folks must RSVP to be admitted! [RSVP by April 26, 2024](#).

APIDA Conference 2024: Telling Our Stories

Location: Tula Community Center

Date: Friday, May 3 from 10-4pm

We are hosting an APIDA Conference! The theme is "Telling Our Stories." More info coming soon - For now, save the date!

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 Dr. Loh-Hagan at vloh-hagan@sdsu.edu.

Happy Hours at the APIDA Center

The APIDA Center is hosting "Happy Hours" on Mondays through Thursday from 6-8pm. Craft with us on Mondays. Make music with us on Tuesdays. Watch TV with us on Wednesdays. Play games with us on Thursdays. Open to all while supplies last and while space is available. Most nights will be unstructured. However, there will be times when we host specific activities and when we need to cancel in order to support another program.

Opportunities & Events

APIDA Student Organizations:

- [JSA](#) is hosting [Undoukai](#) on April 13 from 9-6pm at Bolsa Chica State Beach.
- [APSA](#) is hosting a [Bonfire Social](#) on April 13 from 5-9pm at South Mission Beach Jetty.
- [\(AAPI\)phany](#) and the [Women's Resource Center](#) are hosting [Chanel Miller: artist, writer, and author of Know My Name](#) on April 15 from 12-2pm at the Student Union Theater.
- [SDSU VSA](#) and CSUSM VSA are hosting [Vietnamese Culture Night: When Flowers Bloom in the Fall \(Hoa Nở Vào Mùa Thu\)](#) on April 19 from 6-9pm at the Grossmont Performing Arts Center.
- [AB Samahan](#) is hosting [Magpahinga](#) on April 19 from 6-9pm at Montezuma Hall.
- [KASA](#) is accepting [24-25 Officer Applications](#). Apply by April 19 at 11:59pm.

Cultural Center Partners:

- The [Native Resource Center](#) and Native American Student Alliance are hosting the [52nd Annual SDSU Pow Wow](#) on April 13 from 11-6pm.
- The [Women's Resource Center](#) is hosting events for [Take Back the Week SDSU](#).
- The [Center for Intercultural Relations](#) is hosting events for [Southwest Asian & North African \(SWANA\) Heritage Month](#).

Campus Partners:

- The [John Fiske Legal Series at SDSU presents: Alumni Panel Discussion and Networking Event](#) is on April 17 at 6pm at the SDSU Experimental Theatre.
- The [Men of Color in Science Panel](#) is on April 18 from 1-4pm at LSN 101.
- [Student Disability Services](#) is offering virtual [Disability Ally Training](#).
- [International Student Center](#) is seeking [ISC Ambassadors](#). Apply by May 15.
- Struggling with basic needs? Need resources? Connect with [Economic Crisis Response Team](#)

Community Partners:

- The [San Diego Asian Film Festival Spring Showcase](#) is from April 18-25.
- [LAOSD](#) is seeking volunteers for their [2nd Annual SD Lao Food Festival](#) from June 22-23 at Mira Mesa Community Park. Sign up today!
- The Asian American Education Project offers free APIDA resources on their [website](#) and [Instagram](#).

Paid Internships & Scholarships

Paid Internships:

- **NEW!** Topcon Healthcare is seeking a [Data Science Intern](#) from June 3-August 1. Apply today!
- The City of San Diego is seeking two interns for their [Business and Finance Sector: Finance Internship](#). Apply by May 1.
- [Olami Public Relations and Social Media Internship](#) is seeking interns. Apply on Handshake by May 6.
- The City of San Diego is seeking two interns for their [Energy, Environment, and Utilities Sector: Marine Biology Internship](#). Apply by May 20.

Scholarships:

- The [LMJ Scholarship](#) is awarding \$10,000 to students for their first year of law school. Women and diverse students accepted to an ABA-accredited law school may apply by April 14.
- The [Mama Verang & Lola Remi Scholarship Fund](#) is awarding three \$1,000 scholarships. Filipinx college students in California may apply by April 17.
- The [Redefining Victory Scholarship](#) is awarding four students \$2,500. Apply by April 27.
- The [Across Cultures: Expand Your Horizons Scholarship](#) is awarding \$1,000 to a student open to learning about other cultures. Apply by April 28.
- The [Sandstone Care Scholarship](#) is awarding \$5000 to an undergraduate or graduate student in recovery. Apply by May 1.
- The [Jennifer Gephart Memorial Working Mothers Scholarship](#) is awarding \$3,025 to a mother pursuing higher education. Apply by May 10.
- The [Hicks Scholarship Award](#) is awarding \$2,000 to a student impacted by cancer. Apply by May 15.
- The [Leon Bradley Scholarship Program](#) is awarding \$3,500 to students of color entering the field of teaching and school leadership.
- [The Concrete Rose Scholarship](#) is awarding two \$1,150 scholarships. BIPOC women with a minimum 2.0 GPA are eligible to apply. Apply by May 24.
- The [AIAS Foundation Scholarship](#) is awarding \$2,500 to students pursuing a career in game development. Apply by May 31.
- The [Groundbreaker Leadership Scholarship](#) is awarding \$1,500 to an APIDA student who demonstrates leadership abilities. Apply by May 31.
- The [#LiveLikeLyly Memorial Scholarship](#) is awarding \$1000 to an APIDA student pursuing fashion or graphic design. Apply by May 31.
- The [Thear Sy Suzuki R.I.S.E. Scholarship](#) is awarding \$1,500-\$2,500 to an APIDA student who has demonstrated self-reflection. Apply by May 31.
- The [Lily Pabilona Emerging Entrepreneur Scholarship](#) is awarding \$1,000-\$5,000 to an APIDA student who is a small business owner. Apply by May 31.
- The [Artistic Scholarship](#) is awarding \$1,000 to an APIDA student pursuing art. Apply by May 31.
- **NEW!** The California Teacher's Association's [LGBTQ+ Safety in Schools Grant & Scholarship Program in Honor of Guy DeRosa](#) is awarding up to \$2,500 to an LGBTQ+ aspiring educator. Apply by May 31.
- **NEW!** [The Vietnamese Student of Excellence Scholarship](#) is awarding \$1000 to a student of Vietnamese descent. Apply by August 5.