

MEDIA RELEASE

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Moon Fest: OCA-Pittsburgh Celebrates 50 Years of Empowering the Asian American and Pacific Islander Community

PITTSBURGH, Sept. 14, 2024– The OCA-Pittsburgh Chapter is thrilled to announce its 50th anniversary celebration, marking five decades of dedicated service to the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community in the greater Pittsburgh region. This momentous occasion not only commemorates the chapter's rich history, but also sets the stage for a future focused on community engagement, cultural preservation, and advocacy for equity and justice.

Event:

The celebration, in the theme of the mid-autumn moon festival, will feature keynote speakers, cultural performances, and a look back at the OCA-Pittsburgh Chapter's most significant achievements over the years. Attendees can expect a fun-filled evening of music, live cultural dance performances, networking, storytelling, Asian small business vendors, cultural cuisines and family-friendly activities designed to honor the AAPI community's contributions to the greater Pittsburgh region.

OCA's own Performance Ensemble and dancers from the local Asian American Community groups will be on stage. In a special partnership with JADED's Artist Collective,, the evening will also feature AAPI performers and artists:

- Award-winning Vietnamese singer/composer/activist **Mai Khoi**. Because of her activism, she was forced to leave the country and is now living in exile in Pittsburgh. She is a lead singer at Mai Khoi & The Dissidents.
- **Mita Gousal Dance Theatre** explores lost South Asian histories through the lens of Indian textiles and fabrics.
- **Himalayan Foundation-USA** will feature a performance from their dance team.
- **Formosa DJ's** Taiwanese American Stephanie Tsong will be headlining with her eclectic mix of sounds that reflect a youth spent listening to global pop music and dancing in gay clubs in Washington, D.C., and Baltimore. You can expect her sets to range from Italo to electro, jackin' house, city pop, disco, minimal, freestyle, deep house, and more. You can catch their sets on SoundCloud, at any Jellyfish party, and at your local discotheque.

In honor of this milestone, OCA-Pittsburgh is excited to launch a special membership promotion for new members. For a limited time, individuals who join the chapter will receive discounted rates and exclusive access to upcoming events, leadership programs, and community initiatives including free medical and dental clinics. Existing members are also encouraged to renew their membership to continue supporting OCA's mission of advocacy, leadership development, and youth empowerment.

A Legacy of Advocacy and Empowerment:

Founded in 1974, OCA-Pittsburgh has been at the forefront of efforts to advance the social, political, and economic well-being of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in Southwest Pennsylvania.

OCA-Pittsburgh is one of 50 chapters across the country affiliated with OCA-Asian Pacific American Advocates (OCA), a national membership-based civil rights nonprofit. As the second oldest AANHPI civil rights and advocacy organization in the country, OCA has been, and continues to be, uniquely positioned to impact policy and advocacy at the national, statewide and local levels. Over the past five decades, the Pittsburgh chapter has built an esteemed legacy of engagement with city and county governments, and local communities, by organizing educational workshops, free medical and dental clinics, advocacy campaigns, cultural events and more.

(Website: <https://www.ocapghpa.org/>)

"Our 50th anniversary is not just a celebration of the past, but a reminder of the work that remains," said Marian Lien, President of OCA-Pittsburgh. "We are committed to continuing our mission of empowering the AAPI community, fostering cross-cultural understanding, and standing up for equality in all aspects of life in Pittsburgh."

Community Engagement Opportunities:

As part of the anniversary celebrations, OCA-Pittsburgh will be expanding its community outreach efforts with new initiatives aimed at fostering dialogue, education, and collaboration. These include:

- Workshops and panels on AAPI history, issues, and leadership
- Volunteer programs to support local causes
- Vaccination campaigns
- Voter registration drives
- Youth empowerment projects, including mentorship programs and the U.S. Congressional and Presidential awards

Join the Celebration:

The OCA-Pittsburgh 50th Anniversary Celebration is FREE to the public and will take place on Saturday, Sept. 14, from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. at 520 Third Avenue in Downtown Pittsburgh. Don't miss the opportunity to be part of this historic event as we reflect on the past and look forward to an even brighter future.

For media inquiries, please contact:
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About OCA:

OCA – Asian Pacific American Advocates is a national organization dedicated to advancing the social, political, and economic well-being of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. The Pittsburgh Chapter, founded in 1974, continues to play a vital role in advocacy, cultural awareness, and leadership development for the AAPI community in the Pittsburgh area.