

BOARDS & COMMISSIONS

CANDIDATES MEMORANDUM-Asian American Pacific Islander Commission

To	Denver City Council
From	Mayor's Office of Boards & Commissions
Date	06/05/2026

BOARD PURPOSE

The Denver Asian American Pacific Islander Commission (DAAPIC) serves as a support liaison and facilitator between the Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) community in Denver, Denver Human Rights & Community Partnerships (HRCP), and the Denver Mayor's Office.

The Commission acts as catalyst, educator, collective voice, and respond to issues and/or advocate based on community assessment of need and create awareness and visibility of Asian American Pacific Islander community.

APPOINTMENT CANDIDATE PROFILES

Term Dates: 2026-2029



Christina Vu-Pham
Partnerships & Growth,
Denver Film
She/Hers
Asian

Bio:

Christina Vu-Pham is the daughter of Vietnamese refugee immigrants and is passionate about community advocacy, cultural equity, and uplifting underrepresented voices. Her background in marketing, partnerships, and arts and culture reflects a strong ability to connect communities through storytelling and creative engagement. She has led initiatives focused on elevating diverse perspectives and building meaningful community partnerships. Christina approaches leadership with empathy, collaboration, and authenticity, believing in creating spaces where all voices feel heard and valued. Outside of work, she enjoys creative hobbies like crocheting, pottery, and baking sourdough, bringing curiosity and creativity into everything she does. She hopes to support initiatives that celebrate and strengthen the AAPI community while encouraging inclusive civic engagement across Denver.

Female

Statement of Support:

Christina Vu-Pham brings a creative, community-driven perspective and a strong passion for celebrating and uplifting diverse voices. Her experience across partnerships, storytelling, and arts and culture highlights her ability to connect with people and create meaningful community engagement. She approaches leadership with warmth, collaboration, and authenticity, and clearly cares deeply about building inclusive spaces where people feel represented and heard. We're excited to support her application and believe she would bring valuable energy and perspective to the commission.

Candidate Answers to Additional Screener Questions:

Describe a previous experience that demonstrates how you would approach your role.

I would approach this role by drawing from both my personal and professional experiences. As the first in my family to be born and raised in America, attend college, and pursue a corporate career, I understand the challenges of navigating systems that were not built with people like me in mind. Along the way, mentors and educators helped guide me, and those experiences shaped how I show up for others today.

Professionally, I believe representation matters, and that having a seat at the table comes with a responsibility to use your voice. If given the opportunity, I would advocate for the community I serve by helping bridge gaps, create access, and amplify perspectives that are often overlooked. I want to contribute in a way that helps move our community forward while creating more opportunities for future generations.

Describe what goals or actions of this Mayoral administration align with your personal priorities for the City.

This administration's goals of "Building a Vibrant Denver" would not be possible without acknowledging the AANHPI communities who live here, set the trends, and create community gathering spaces. Asian cultures are one of the most celebrated cultures in the world, yet, because of the model minority myth, they do not receive as much funding. My goal would be to advocate for greater investment in the AANHPI community by highlighting the impact we already make and the even greater possibilities that could emerge with sustained support. I believe a more vibrant and connected Denver comes from investing in the communities that actively contribute to its identity and growth. With stronger support and visibility, the AANHPI community can continue expanding opportunities for connection, creativity, and cultural engagement across the city.

Reappointment? No

Term Number: Add Term Number for Candidate

For New Appointments:

Filling an Open Seat? Yes

Replacing an Expiring Seat:

Appointment Process for Seat: Mayoral Appointment, Council Confirmation**Term Dates: 2026-2029****Ryan Kim**

He/His/Him

Asian

Male

Bio:

Ryan Kim is a Denver-based attorney and recent graduate of the University of Denver Sturm College of Law with a strong passion for mentorship, community service, and civic engagement. Originally from Los Angeles, he has built both his professional and personal roots in Colorado and is committed to supporting the local community long term. Through his work in law and his involvement in mentorship programs supporting future law students, Ryan has demonstrated a genuine commitment to uplifting others and creating opportunities for the next generation. As a young Korean American attorney, he brings both valuable professional perspective and a strong desire to advocate for and support the Asian American community in Denver and across Colorado.

Statement of Support:

Ryan Kim brings a thoughtful perspective, a strong commitment to service, and a genuine passion for giving back to the community. As a young Korean American attorney building his career in Denver, he has already shown a strong interest in mentorship and supporting the next generation through programs focused on students pursuing law. His background in law, combined with his long-term commitment to Colorado and the AAPI community, would make him a valuable voice on the commission. We're excited to support his application and believe he would bring both professionalism and a strong sense of community to the role.

Candidate Answers to Additional Screener Questions:

Describe a previous experience that demonstrates how you would approach your role.

As an attorney, I understand the importance of being able to work effectively on an individual basis and as part of a team. The best attorneys are open to collaboration and understand that valuable perspectives can be obtained from all team members, regardless of individual experience levels. Concurrently, they are not afraid to speak their mind and offer differing opinions as needed in a professional manner. I would incorporate this mindset into serving on the Commission.

	<i>Describe what goals or actions of this Mayoral administration align with your personal priorities for the City.</i> As an attorney with a background in criminal and constitutional law, I am drawn to the mayoral Roads to Recovery initiative. Recidivism rates are at issue across the nation, and countless individuals are incarcerated under questionable circumstances. I believe the goals of this initiative to provide care to individuals suffering from complex mental health issues aligns with principles of American justice. That the initiative includes collaboration with the Denver Police Department and the court system will make it particularly effective.
Reappointment? No For New Appointments: Filling an Open Seat? Yes Replacing an Expiring Seat:	Term Number:
Appointment Process for Seat: Mayoral Appointment, Council Confirmation	
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Appointment Process for Seat: Mayoral Appointment, Council Confirmation	
Term Dates: 2026-2029	
Emily Mowrer Bilingual Program Manager, Rocky Mountain Human Services She/Her/Hers Asian	Bio: Emily Yamazawa Mowrer is a bilingual program manager with over a decade of experience in education, community outreach, and human services. Passionate about advancing equitable access to services and education, she currently works Rocky Mountain Human Services, where she oversees contract compliance and ensures quality service delivery for Medicaid waiver and Mill Levy funds. Emily has a strong background in language education, having worked as an ESL instructor and curriculum developer for more than ten years. Her work has focused on supporting diverse communities, including refugees and English language learners, through culturally responsive programming and workforce-focused education. Proficient in Spanish and proficient in Japanese, Emily brings a global perspective to her work and excels in building connections across communities. She is also an active volunteer with the Aurora Asian Pacific Community

Female	Partnership, contributing to the steering committee to advance AAPI initiatives across the metro. Statement of Support: Emily Yamazawa Mowrer brings a strong background in education, community outreach, and human services, along with a genuine commitment to supporting diverse communities. Through her work with refugees, English language learners, and multicultural populations, she has demonstrated thoughtful leadership and a people-centered approach. Her continued involvement supporting AAPI initiatives across the metro further reflects her dedication to community impact. We fully support her application and believe she would be a valuable addition. Candidate Answers to Additional Screener Questions: <i>Describe a previous experience that demonstrates how you would approach your role.</i> Thinking about work and volunteer activities, I have often served as a bridge between different perspectives, particularly within multicultural environments and marginalized communities. As someone engaged with AAPI and under-represented groups, I love to be 'boots on the ground' to get a pulse of the needs. I am hoping to contribute to equitable decision-making that reflects Denver's diversity and create trust between residents and the commission. Much of my current professional work with people with disabilities is ensuring Denver taxpayer funding is equitably distributed across families in the metro area. I imagine those skills will transfer to the commission. <i>Describe what goals or actions of this Mayoral administration align with your personal priorities for the City.</i> The mayoral administration's initiatives around equity, housing stability, and community-centered solutions have definitely piqued my interest and engagement. My current professional work with unhoused individuals with intellectual disability is closely aligned with the initiatives to address housing inequities. I appreciate the commitment to inclusive civic engagement—ensuring that residents from all backgrounds feel empowered to participate in decision-making. This aligns closely with my own priority of increasing representation and access for AAPI voices [AAPI fest at Civic Center] I have seen efforts to engage the community [Black History month/AAPI appreciation events] and it is refreshing!
Reappointment? No For New Appointments: Filling an Open Seat? Yes Replacing an Expiring Seat:	Term Number:
Appointment Process for Seat Mayoral Appointment, Council Confirmation	

For New Appointments:

Filling an Open Seat? Yes

Replacing an Expiring Seat:

Appointment Process for Seat: Mayoral Appointment, Council Confirmation

Term Dates: 2026-2029

Chris Nguyen

Manager, TriVista

Pronouns He/His

Race Asian

Gender Male

Bio:

Chris Nguyen is a business operations consultant, specializing in the private equity sector. He has executed projects focused on operations improvement, investment due diligence and management system deployment. With a background in Industrial Engineering, he has also spent a significant amount of time in manufacturing holding various roles ranging from operations management to initiative delivery and process engineering. Highlighting a passion for both problem solving and continuous improvement. As both a 1st generation child of Vietnamese refugees and an Iowa born native, he holds a blended perspective on the American experience. This experience not only helps define him but aids him in acting as a bridge between the two worlds. Recently he sought to utilize this by participating in Convivir, a non-profit organization aimed at helping youth impacted by migration.

Statement of Support:

Chris Nguyen brings a strong background in operations, problem-solving, and continuous improvement, along with a thoughtful and community-minded perspective. His professional experience across consulting and manufacturing, combined with his involvement supporting youth impacted by migration, reflects both strong leadership and a genuine commitment to service. We fully support his application and believe he would be a great addition.

Candidate Answers to Additional Screener Questions:

Describe a previous experience that demonstrates how you would approach your role.

I am an Asian American professional who has had many different roles throughout my career. Through these experiences, I have worked in leadership roles that required collaboration across people from different

backgrounds, priorities, perspectives, and regions across the country. Also, inherently to the work I do as a private equity consultant, I interface between blue collar workers and white collar/executive management. These two aspects of my professional experience represent how I would approach serving the commission. In essence, drawing on those experiences to liaison between groups (such as between the Asian American community and city leadership). This would include both translating policy impact on the community, escalating issues so voices are heard and structured communications.

Additionally, I am a son of a 1st generation American small business owner so I empathize with many of the community here. I approach this role with empathy and hope of giving back to a community that I am part of as a Denver resident.

Describe what goals or actions of this Mayoral administration align with your personal priorities for the City.

The priorities of the current Denver administration that most align with my values are improving affordability, public safety and equity for all residents. In my vision, I believe that making the city affordable and safe will improve all other deficiencies in Denver such as homelessness and economic disparity. While improving equity will strengthen not only individual communities but integration between all communities within Denver. I also appreciate the city's emphasis on strengthening partnerships between government and underrepresented communities through commissions. In particular with the Denver Asian American Pacific Islander Commission which in my opinion does not voice their needs, concerns and issues as much as other communities.

Overall, my priority is to provide a voice for the Asian American community on the topics I mentioned previously. Not only to help that singular community but all groups here by promoting our own voices in collaboration with our neighbors/fellow communities.

Reappointment? No

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