

BOARDS & COMMISSIONS CANDIDATES MEMORANDUM

Denver Asian American Pacific Islander Commission (DAAPIC)

To	Denver City Council
From	Mayor's Office of Boards & Commissions
Date	06/12/2026

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: 8/1/2025-7/31/2028.



Cameron Green
Regional Engagement
Manager, Creative West

Bio:

Cameron Green is a first-generation Cambodian American adoptee born in California and raised in Cheyenne, Wyoming. He holds an M.A. in History from the University of Wyoming. A mission-driven leader, he joined Creative West (formerly the Western States Arts Federation) in 2021 and now serves as the Regional Engagement Manager. In this role, he leads innovative programming, acts as a strategic thought partner and manages consulting services for the organization's portfolio of state arts agencies in the West. He believes strongly in volunteerism and community service, and in addition to his work as a commissioner for the Denver Asian American Pacific Islander Commission, he serves on the boards of Colorado Dragon Boat and Art of the Rural, and volunteers with Playground Ensemble. He is an alum of several leadership programs, including Colorado Business Committee for the Arts Leadership Arts (2023-2024), Colorado

Dragon Boat Emerging Leaders Program (2024-2025), and WESTAF's Emerging Leaders of Color (2021).

He strives to empower individuals and communities by fostering collaboration and building trust through arts, culture, and creativity, driven by a vision for a more healthy, vibrant, and connected world.

Statement of Support:

Cameron Green exemplifies the spirit of community leadership that DAAPIC is built on. He has demonstrated genuine investment in the AAPI community's well-being and a clear commitment to making Denver a more equitable city for all its residents. We are honored to support his appointment to this commission.

Candidate Answers to Additional Screener Questions:

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

My approach to board and commission services begins with listening before leading. As a Cambodian-American adoptee raised in Wyoming who now calls Aurora home, I have spent my life navigating multiple cultural worlds simultaneously, and learning that the most important perspectives in any room are often the ones least likely to be heard first.

In my professional journey I have facilitated state arts agency roundtables across 13 Western states and 3 Pacific jurisdictions bringing together executive directors, equity managers, community engagement staff, and deputy directors in separate conversations to surface distinct needs and perspectives before synthesizing them into shared priorities. I bring that same discipline to commission work and board service by drawing on my background in historical research, arts policy, federal arts advocacy, civic advocacy, and AANHPI community leadership to ask questions that the communities most affected by policy decisions have a genuine voice shaping them.

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

Mayor Johnston's administration has prioritized housing stability, public safety through community investments, and making Denver a city where everyone belongs. His priorities align deeply with my own commitments as a civic leader and AANHPI community advocate.

I am particularly aligned with the administration's focus on arts and culture as essential civic infrastructure, its commitment to the AANHPI community through programs such as AAPI Culture Fest and support of AANHPI non-profits such as Colorado Dragon Boat, and its vision for Denver as a city that honors the full diversity of its

Asian

Male

residents and workforce. I see my service on the Denver Asian American Pacific Islander Commission as a direct extension of the administration's commitment to belonging for everyone in Denver and the greater metro area.

Reappointment? No
For New Appointments:
 Filling an Open Seat? Yes
 Replacing an Expiring Seat: No

Term Number: 1

Appointment Process for Seat: Mayoral Appointment, Council Confirmation

Term Dates: 8/1/2025-7/31/2028.



Gigi de Gala

Bio: Gigi de Gala was born in the Philippines and is a dedicated community leader committed to equity, cultural inclusion, and public service. She has held key leadership roles including Board Chair of the Asian Pacific Development Center, Board Chair of Leadership Aurora, Co-Chair of the Aurora Asian/Pacific Community Partnership, and Area Governor of District 26 Toastmasters. She currently serves on the Board of Directors for Aurora Mental Health & Recovery, where she previously served as Vice Chair. In addition, she is Secretary of the Asian Roundtable of Colorado and a member of both the National Federation of Filipino American Associations – Region V and the Philippine American Society of Colorado.

As a licensed substitute teacher, Gigi shares her passion for education and youth development in the classroom, inspiring curiosity, resilience, and confidence in her students. Beyond education, she champions the Action Against Hate initiative, volunteers with Junior Achievement to promote youth financial literacy, and supports the Global Down Syndrome Foundation's Be Beautiful Be Yourself Fashion Show. She also assists immigrants and refugees through citizenship workshops with the Cultural Development & Wellness Center (formerly the Asian Pacific Development Center).

Gigi's dedication has been recognized with the Junior Achievement – Rocky Mountain Apple Award and the CACEN Asian American Hero of Colorado Award. In every role, she leads with

compassion, purpose, and a deep commitment to helping individuals and communities thrive.

Statement of Support:

Gigi de Gala has consistently demonstrated that great commissioners are first and foremost great community members. She leads by listening, builds trust through action, and brings people together in ways that make our collective work stronger. We are honored to recommend her and grateful for her continued dedication.

Candidate Answers to Additional Screener Questions:

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

One experience that best demonstrates how I would approach my role as a DAAPIC Commissioner is my leadership with different organizations. I have been a board chair or Steering Committee chair 3 times for 3 different organizations. Currently, I'm also the Executive Director of Asian Roundtable of Colorado. I have worked with diverse AANHPI communities, community organizations, elected officials, and stakeholders to strengthen collaboration, improve governance and create systems and processes that elevate our community. Building relationships is key to understanding community needs and creating opportunities for collaboration and taking collective action. As a commissioner, I would bring the same commitment to building relationships, collaboration, and community service and engagement.

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

I share the Mayor's commitment to fostering safe, welcoming, and inclusive communities where all residents can thrive. As someone who has worked with diverse AANHPI communities, I understand the importance of addressing discrimination, supporting vulnerable populations and promoting belonging and equity. I support his efforts to strengthen economic opportunity, improve access to services and address complex community challenges. One area of strong alignment is community engagement. Ensuring that residents have opportunities to participate and ensuring that their insights are being heard is very important to me.

Reappointment? No

Term Number: 1

For New Appointments:

Filling an Open Seat? Yes

Replacing an Expiring Seat: No

Appointment Process for Seat: Mayoral Appointment, Council Confirmation

Term Dates: 8/1/2025-7/31/2028.



Kerry Ann Kelley

Bankruptcy Specialist,, Bellco
Credit Union

Bio:

Kerry Kelley is a proud descendant of Thai, Black, and White heritage, raised in a military family that instilled discipline, resilience, and a global perspective. Growing up, Kerry traveled extensively, experiencing diverse cultures that shaped her appreciation for identity, belonging, and the importance of community connection. These formative years fostered her commitment to amplifying voices that too often go unheard and to ensuring that multicultural narratives are celebrated and represented.

With more than 15 years of experience in the legal and financial sectors, Kerry has built a career focused on advocacy, compliance, and service. She has managed legal operations at the corporate level, built departments from the ground up, and worked directly with families navigating complex legal and financial challenges. As the founder of Symphony Pearl Designs & Co., Kerry channels her creativity into jewelry design, using pearls as a metaphor for resilience and transformation. Her business is both an artistic pursuit and a cultural expression bringing together identity, storytelling, and healing

Kerry believes true representation comes through relationships as much as policy. Guided by resilience, cultural pride, and a spirit of service, she is committed to building bridges that honor both the shared and unique experiences of Denver's AANHPI communities.

Statement of Support:

Kerry Kelley has shown exceptional dedication to civic engagement throughout her time with DAAPIC. She approaches every challenge with a collaborative spirit and a clear sense of purpose. Her contributions have helped shape a commission that is more responsive, more inclusive, and more connected to the communities it serves. We are confident she will continue to be an outstanding contributor to this commission.

Candidate Answers to Additional Screener Questions:

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

Growing up as a military child of African American and Thai heritage, I learned early that identity is not always a box you fit neatly into. Every new base meant a new community, and people often decided who I was before bothering to ask. For a

long time, I felt caught between worlds, not fully claimed by any of them. What I needed back then was a space where a mixed, multicultural experience was treated as a strength rather than something I had to explain or defend.

That search shaped how I approach community work today. I listen before I assume, I make room for perspectives different from my own, and I try to build the kind of belonging I once looked for myself.

I want to serve on DAAPIC to help the commission be exactly that bridge: connecting AAPI residents to resources, raising the visibility of our communities with the city, and creating safe spaces where younger people, especially those navigating layered identities, can find themselves and choose to get involved. Representing the full diversity of Denver's AAPI community, in all its blended forms, is the work I care about most.

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

What stands out to me most in Mayor Johnston's agenda is the commitment to young people, especially the push to expand out-of-school programming and connect thousands of high school students to paid job opportunities. Youth investment is where my own priorities live. I have seen how much it matters for a young person to have a real seat at the table, a mentor who understands where they come from, and a reason to stay rooted in their community. That kind of investment changes the direction of a life, and it builds a stronger Denver from the ground up.

I also value the administration's vision of a city that is safe, affordable, and vibrant for everyone, not only for certain neighborhoods. To me, representation is part of what makes that vision real. When AAPI families, and all of Denver's communities, see themselves reflected in city programs and decisions, trust grows and people choose to get involved.

As a commissioner, I would carry these priorities into the AAPI community: making sure our young people know about the jobs and programs open to them and bringing the community's voice back to the city so the work reflects who actually lives here. That is the kind of bridge I want to be.

Reappointment? No

Term Number: 1

For New Appointments:

Filling an Open Seat? Yes

Replacing an Expiring Seat: No

Appointment Process for Seat: Mayoral Appointment, Council Confirmation

Term Dates: 8/1/2025-7/31/2028.



Rose Dang
Paralegal, Recht Kornfeld
PC

Asian
Female

Bio:

Rose Dang is a second generation Vietnamese American. Her parents are her heroes who fled the VietNam war. She is a Colorado native who lives and breathes for them and never takes for granted their sacrifice. Rose attended the University of Colorado at Boulder and obtained her Bachelor of Science in Marketing. She attended Arapahoe Community College where she received her Paralegal Certificate. Rose is a Litigation Paralegal that defends Legal Malpractice, Medical Malpractice, and health care professionals. She loves the challenges of her complex cases and taking them to trial which helps her navigate her moral compass and the pursuit of justice.

Rose graduated from the Colorado Dragon Boat Emerging Leaders in March 2025 which sparked her passion of activism. She is a member of the Asian Pacific American Bar Association (APABA), Treasurer of the Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) Caucus, and will be a mentor and volunteer for Asian Girls Ignite. Rose joined DAAPIC because it is her duty and honor to use her voice, to protect, and advocate for her community. She intends to get to know the other commissions so that we can align and create a brighter future for everyone.

Her core values are: love, commitment, and perseverance which means that she has pure intentions, keeps her word, and never quits.

Statement of Support:

Rose Dang exemplifies what it means to show up for your community. Her commitment to amplifying AAPI voices in Denver has been consistent, thoughtful, and deeply impactful. She brings both heart and rigor to her civic work, and her ability to foster trust across diverse communities makes her an invaluable asset to the commission. We wholeheartedly support her continued service.

Candidate Answers to Additional Screener Questions:

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

I volunteered for poll watching for the November 2024 election. It was a valuable and important experience. Every question and issue was answered and solutions were provided. A lot of voters that showed up were registered in another county but there was a map that showed where they needed to go to vote. I was instructed to not

engage or talk to any of the voters, but I did not witness anything troublesome. I was happy to see how many people still vote in person. I am on the State Outreach Commission for the AAPI Caucus. The state of democracy is frightening right now with the current Presidential administration, it is my duty and honor to make sure that my community is represented, they are aware of their rights, and they realize the power of their vote. We are only stronger together and we will not be diminished in any way, shape, or form.

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

I voted for Mayor Johnston and am happy the timing worked out with his term to align my goals as a commissioner. He is a compelling speaker, always gives you a memorable history lesson, and welcomes feedback. This is my opportunity to protect and serve my community. There are so many important conversations that we have been able to have our seat at the table, i.e. the conversation with Senator Michael Bennett, Town Halls, etc. My personal priorities for the City of Denver are to maintain the strength of our diverse community and that our voices are heard. I will always show up and advocate for our needs, concerns, and what we want to implement for positive change. This is bigger than DAAPIC, it's about creating purpose and a footprint, leaving a legacy for the next generation, and to pass the torch. It is imperative to get involved and do my part.

Reappointment? No

Term Number: 1

For New Appointments:

Filling an Open Seat? Yes

Replacing an Expiring Seat:

Appointment Process for Seat: Mayoral Appointment, Council Confirmation

Term Dates: 8/1/2025-7/31/2028.



Bio:

Originally from Fresno, California, Kevin has called the Denver metro area home for the past 28 years. He holds a bachelor's degree in Information Systems from the University of Denver and has built a career in the tech industry. Currently, he serves as a Partner Operations Manager at a leading software company, supporting the global partner alliance team within the security and identity management sector.

Kevin Yang

Partner Operation Manager, Okta Inc

Outside of work, Kevin serves as the Vice President of the Hmong American Association of

Asian
Male

Colorado, where he leads nonprofit efforts to support the Hmong community through cultural programming, educational initiatives, and the creative arts. Kevin is deeply motivated by a desire to give back and uplift his community, and he hopes to continue this advocacy and support in even greater ways.

In his personal time, Kevin enjoys cooking, reading, and staying active. Whether experimenting with new recipes, diving into a great book, or prioritizing fitness, he's always seeking opportunities for personal growth.

Statement of Support:

Kevin Yang has been instrumental in helping DAAPIC grow as an organization and deepen its community relationships. His insight, reliability, and dedication to AAPI representation in Denver have made him one of the commission's most valued contributors. We are honored to recommend him.

Candidate Answers to Additional Screener Questions:

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

Much of my work, whether in my personal career in partner operations or as VP of the Hmong American Association of Colorado, requires bringing people together who don't always see things the same way. In partner operations, I regularly work across teams where priorities compete and alignment isn't natural. What I've learned is that the best outcomes don't come from pushing your own perspective hardest — they come from genuinely understanding where everyone else is coming from first. I ask a lot of questions, find the common thread, and focus on what actually moves things forward. That same instinct carries into my community work. Whether navigating a planning committee or representing AANHPI communities at the city level, I lead with curiosity and a real commitment to making sure the right voices are part of the conversation.

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

Everything I do comes back to one thing: making sure people feel genuinely represented, not just acknowledged. Through HMAAC and community work, I've seen firsthand where gaps exist for Hmong and AANHPI communities — in cultural resources, civic engagement, and visibility at the decision making table. These aren't small things, they shape how a

community sees itself and its future. What draws me to this administration is a real alignment around equity and community investment that goes beyond rhetoric. Those are priorities I've been working toward at the ground level for years. Stepping into a board or commission role is a natural extension of that work, a chance for me to advocate from the inside and help make sure Denver's commitments actually reach the communities that need them most.

Reappointment? No

Term Number: 1

For New Appointments:

Filling an Open Seat? Yes

Replacing an Expiring Seat:

Appointment Process for Seat: Mayoral Appointment, Council Confirmation