



ASIAN AMERICAN BUSINESS ALLIANCE OF GREATER PHILADELPHIA NEWSLETTER

Issue 003

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SECOND QUARTER HIGHLIGHTS



AAPI Heritage Month Gala *Celebrating AAPI Impact & America at 250*

More than 420 business, civic, non-profit, and community leaders from across the tri-state region gathered on May 8, 2026, for the Asian American Business Alliance of Greater Philadelphia's (AABAGP) AAPI Heritage Month Gala. The gala showcased the diversity of AAPI communities, fostered greater cross-cultural understanding, and strengthened relationships across the private, public, and non-profit sectors.

As the nation reflects on 250 years of American Independence, the gala spotlighted the contributions and legacy of AAPI communities with the debut of AABAGP's Honoring AAPI Impact history video.

The gala also served as a platform to advance AABAGP's mission to empower businesses, strengthen communities, and build bridges across cultures. AABAGP was honored to receive recognition from the city and state for its leadership in this work.

View the Asian American History Video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xZEMe-AjscM>

Community Investment: 2026 Non-Profit Awards



Penn Asian Senior Services (PASSi): \$10,000 grant to support diverse aging Asian American populations



Discovery Pathways: \$2,500 grant to advance environmental education and youth leadership programs.

The gala also demonstrated AABAGP's commitment to community investment by awarding \$12,500 in grants to organizations creating lasting impact

Leadership, Inspiration & Cultural Celebration



*Keynote Speaker
Nydia Han, 6ABC
News Anchor*



*Councilmember Jim Harrity with Kazakhstan
Business and Culture Representatives*



*PA Senator Joe Picozzi, AABAGP
Board Chair David Oh,
Councilmember Mark Squilla
(left to right)*



*Karen Fegley, City
of Philadelphia
Commerce
Director*



*Korean Drum
Performance
Jaisohn Youth
Drum Group*



*Indian Dance
Performance
Laasya Dance
Academy*



AABAGP Board Members Visit Hanwha Philly Shipyard



On May 2, 2026, members of the AABAGP Board of Directors visited Hanwha Philly Shipyard for a meeting and facility tour hosted by CEO David Kim.

Board members learned about Hanwha's planned \$5 billion investment at the Philadelphia Navy Yard. This investment is expected to expand the shipyard's capacity to produce as many as 20 ships annually, create at least 5,000 new skilled jobs and thousands of additional indirect jobs, and strengthen America's maritime industrial base.



The visit provided valuable insights into the shipyard's growing role in advanced manufacturing, workforce development, and regional economic growth. AABAGP is proud to recognize Hanwha Philly Shipyard as a major economic engine for the region, reinforcing a shared commitment to innovation, job creation, and long-term economic prosperity throughout Greater Philadelphia.

AABAGP Expands Global Opportunities Through Samarkand Business Forum



On May 16, 2026, AABAGP co-hosted the Samarkand Business Forum in Philadelphia, bringing together international investors, business leaders, and government officials to strengthen economic ties between the Greater Philadelphia region and Uzbekistan.

The forum welcomed a high-level delegation representing the Governor of Samarkand and highlighted Uzbekistan's growing role as a global investment destination. Discussions centered on hundreds of millions of dollars in potential investment opportunities across infrastructure, real estate, logistics, construction, hospitality, manufacturing, technology, and data centers.

The event gave Greater Philadelphia businesses direct access to international decision-makers and potential partners, opening doors to new markets and investment opportunities. As AABAGP prepares to lead a Trade and Investment Mission to Uzbekistan, the forum marked an important milestone in expanding international partnerships and creating new pathways for trade, investment, and business growth.





AABAGP Hosts AAPI Business Town Hall with Senator McCormick



AAPI business leaders and professionals with Senator Dave McCormick at AABAGP's Business Town Hall.

On June 19, 2026, 200 AAPI business owners, executives, investors, and professionals gathered for a Town Hall with Senator Dave McCormick. The event provided a rare opportunity for members of the AAPI community to engage directly with a U.S. Senator and advocate for issues that impact businesses, workers, and communities throughout Pennsylvania.



Lois Kang, President of AABAGP, welcomes the attendees.



Senator Dave McCormick addresses the audience.

"Strengthening advocacy and civic engagement within the AAPI business community ensures our voices are heard and our interests are represented at all levels of government."

—AABAGP, ON THE MISSION BEHIND THE TOWN HALL SERIES

Key Topics Discussed

Senator McCormick addressed a wide range of questions from the attendees, including expanding international trade and investment, access to federal funding for emerging technologies, U.S.-South Korea economic and diplomatic relations following the confirmation of Ambassador Michelle Steel, workforce shortages, skilled immigration pathways, and support for nonprofit organizations serving diverse aging populations.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

The program highlighted the diversity and success of the AAPI community through remarks from:

- David Kim, CEO of Hanwha Philly Shipyard
- Youliang Dou, Vice General Manager of Ocean Kingdom
- Michiko Thwe, Co-founder of Sushi Awarsei
- Akmal Adgul, CEO of UPay.Net



The Town Hall reflects AABAGP's ongoing commitment to building bridges between community and government, amplifying the voices of AAPI businesses, and advancing policies that foster economic growth and opportunity across Pennsylvania.



AABAGP Lunch & Learn Leadership Series: Doing Business with Philadelphia Housing Authority



On May 26, 2026, AABAGP hosted a Lunch & Learn featuring Kelvin Jeremiah, President and CEO of the Philadelphia Housing Authority (PHA). As the nation's fourth-largest housing authority, PHA serves more than 80,000 residents, manages approximately 11,500 housing units, administers nearly 20,000 housing vouchers, and operates with an annual budget of approximately \$500 million.



For most attendees, this was their first exposure to the breadth of business opportunities available through PHA. Participants gained insights into the process of becoming a PHA vendor and learned about a wide range of contracting opportunities across professional services, maintenance, construction, facilities management, and supplier categories—opening new opportunities for AAPI businesses that had not previously considered working with a major public agency.

Jeremiah also shared PHA's long-term vision for housing and neighborhood revitalization throughout Philadelphia. Through programs like these, AABAGP continues to connect minority-owned and small businesses with major institutions, creating pathways to procurement opportunities, economic growth, and stronger communities across Greater Philadelphia.



AABAGP Financial Freedom Radio Series Expands Access to Business and Financial Education

ASIAN AMERICAN BUSINESS ALLIANCE
OF GREATER PHILADELPHIA

Issue 003

FINANCIAL FREEDOM
Sunday, June 7

5pm-6pm (1st Sunday of every month)
WURD RADIO 96.1FM / 900AM
Live Streaming: [HTTPS://WURDRADIO.COM](https://wurdradio.com)

Michiko Thwe is a PhD candidate. She is also Co-founder of Sushi Awarsei, currently in 80 locations in PA, NY & MD. Learn how she started and runs the business.



Hosted by: David Oh
AABAGP Board Chair



ASIAN AMERICAN BUSINESS ALLIANCE
OF GREATER PHILADELPHIA

FINANCIAL FREEDOM
Sunday, April 5

5pm-6pm (1st Sunday of every month)
WURD RADIO 96.1FM / 900AM
Live Streaming: [HTTPS://WURDRADIO.COM](https://wurdradio.com)

Nakia Dillard is an actor, writer, director & entrepreneur. His love of the arts, persistence, discipline & talent resulted in his success. How about you?



Hosted by: David Oh
AABAGP Board Chair



ASIAN AMERICAN BUSINESS ALLIANCE
OF GREATER PHILADELPHIA

FINANCIAL FREEDOM
Sunday, May 3

5pm-6pm (1st Sunday of every month)
WURD RADIO 96.1FM / 900AM
Live Streaming: [HTTPS://WURDRADIO.COM](https://wurdradio.com)

James Williams is publisher of the Uptown Standard Newspaper. Learn how he started and runs the business. He says you can do it, too.



Hosted by: David Oh
AABAGP Board Chair



The Financial Freedom Radio Series continued to provide practical information and resources to entrepreneurs, business owners, and community members throughout Greater Philadelphia.

This quarter, AABAGP aired radio programs featuring:

- Michiko Thwe, Co-Founder of Sushoo Awarsei, now in 80 locations in PA, NY, and MD
- James Williams, Publisher of Uptown Standard Newspaper
- Nakia Dillard, an accomplished actor, writer, director, entrepreneur, and community advocate.

The series is part of AABAGP's commitment to increasing financial literacy, promoting entrepreneurship, and connecting community members with successful entrepreneurs in helping them grow and succeed.

AABAGP Board Members Meet with Ambassador of Uzbekistan



AABAGP Board members met with Ambassador Furkat Sidikov in Washington D.C. to strengthen collaboration in advance of AABAGP's upcoming Trade and Investment Mission to Uzbekistan.



AABAGP Board Chair Attends 2026 Turon World Cup in Uzbekistan



From May 26 to June 6, 2026, AABAGP Board Chair David Oh attended the 2026 Turon World Cup in Uzbekistan as a VIP Guest of the International Turon Federation. During his visit, he met with sports and government leaders and explored opportunities to strengthen cultural, business, and economic ties between Uzbekistan and the Greater Philadelphia region.

He shared AABAGP's plans to lead a Trade and Investment Mission to Uzbekistan and highlighted the role that international sporting events can play in promoting tourism, investment, and economic development.



2nd Annual Golden Eagle Awards – Save the Date



Mark your calendars for the 2nd Annual Golden Eagle Awards Dinner, AABAGP's premier celebration of business excellence, leadership, and community impact. The event will bring together hundreds of business leaders, entrepreneurs, investors, nonprofit organizations, and public officials to recognize business leaders making significant contributions to economic growth and community development in the tri-state (PA-NJ-DE) region.

Additional details, sponsorship opportunities, and award announcements will be released soon. We look forward to celebrating another year of achievement and impact with our members and partners.



Asian American
Business Alliance
of Greater Philadelphia



SAVE THE DATE

2ND ANNUAL

GOLDEN EAGLE AWARDS DINNER



DATE

October 30, 2026



TIME

5:00 PM



LOCATION

Live Casino Philadelphia
900 Packer Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19148

Join us for AABAGP's premier celebration of
AAPI business excellence, leadership, and community impact.



Sponsorship opportunities, award announcements,
and additional details coming soon.



<https://asianbusinessphila.com>