

NEBRASKA COMMISSION ON ASIAN AMERICAN AFFAIRS COMMISSIONERS' MEETING AGENDA

Location: TEAMS + Nebraska State Office Building Buffalo Room 2nd Floor

Microsoft Teams meeting

Join:

Address: <https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/28307064891764?p=3N4QcY1ANTSGKyzadD>
Meeting ID: 283 070 648 917 64
Passcode: 3kS33Nq7
1526 K Street, Lincoln, NE 68508

Date: April 16, 2026

Time: 4:30p-5p

AGENDA DETAILS

I. CALL TO ORDER

- a. Roll Call
- b. Statement of Compliance with Nebraska Open Meeting Act
 - i. Open Meeting Act posted in the chat

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

- a. Open floor for public comments
 - i. Limit to three (3) minutes per speaker

III. GRANTS APPROVAL

- a. \$3,000 Sponsorship at the 21st Annual Asian Cultural Week (April 20th – 25th) at Creighton University
 - i. See attached for sponsorship letters
- b. \$2,000 Sponsorship at the AAPI Heritage Celebration on May 2nd
 - i. See attached for sponsorship letters

IV. ADJOURNMENT

- a. Closing remarks
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Note: A copy of the Nebraska Open Meeting Act will be available in the chat in compliance with state law

Grant Application To: Nebraska Commission on Asian American Affairs

Applicant: Asian World Center (AWC), Creighton University

Requested Amount: \$5,000

Project Title: 21st Annual Asian Culture Week – *Heritage & Advocacy: Asian Legacies and Futures in Nebraska*

Project Dates: April 19–25, 2026

Contact: Maorong Jiang, PhD, Director, Asian World Center, Creighton University

Executive Summary

The Asian World Center (AWC) at Creighton University respectfully submits this proposal to the Nebraska Commission on Asian American Affairs (NCAAA) requesting \$5,000 in program support for the 21st Annual Asian Culture Week, a week-long, free, and public educational initiative to be held April 19–25, 2026.

This proposal builds directly upon the attached Grant Proposal Submission for the 21st Annual Asian Culture Week and is specifically tailored to advance the vision, mission, and public visibility of the Nebraska Commission on Asian American Affairs, Nebraska’s newly established state-funded advocacy body.

The requested funds will support guest speakers’ travel and lodging, two major exhibitions, and more than six public lectures and panels, with a special emphasis on showcasing the leadership, advocacy, and community impact of the NCAAA across Nebraska.

Organizational Background

Founded in 2005, the Asian World Center at Creighton University has organized Asian Culture Week annually for more than two decades, making it one of the longest-running academic and community-based Asian cultural programs in the State of Nebraska. AWC’s mission is to promote intercultural understanding, global citizenship, and community engagement through education, scholarship, and public programming.

The Center serves as a bridge between academia, local communities, and public institutions. Its programs regularly engage students, faculty, policymakers, cultural leaders, and community organizations throughout Nebraska and the Midwest.

Prior Leadership in Promoting the Nebraska Commission on Asian American Affairs

The Asian World Center is proud to note that it was the first academic institution in the State of Nebraska to publicly promote and highlight the Nebraska Commission on Asian American Affairs.

During the 20th Asian Culture Week in April 2025, AWC intentionally introduced the newly established Commission to a broad public audience. At that milestone event:

- Mr. Ryo Suzuki, Chair of the Nebraska Commission on Asian American Affairs, delivered a distinguished public lecture;

- Mr. Weysan Dun, Vice Chair of the Commission, also delivered a featured lecture addressing Asian American advocacy and civic engagement in Nebraska;
- The Commission’s creation, mission, and policy significance were formally recognized and promoted throughout the week’s programming.

This early and proactive partnership demonstrates AWC’s longstanding commitment to supporting the Commission’s work and expanding its public reach through higher education platforms.

Project Description: 21st Asian Culture Week (2026)

Theme Alignment with NCAAA Mission

The 2026 theme, “Heritage & Advocacy: Asian Legacies and Futures in Nebraska,” is intentionally designed to align with the NCAAA’s statutory mission:

- Promoting advocacy for Asian American communities;
- Coordinating education, health, economic, and cultural resources;
- Encouraging civic participation and public awareness across Nebraska.

Through exhibitions, lectures, panels, workshops, and performances, the program demonstrates how cultural heritage directly informs policy advocacy, community leadership, and public service.

Role of the Nebraska Commission on Asian American Affairs

As detailed in the attached program schedule, multiple members of the Nebraska Commission on Asian American Affairs will be invited and hosted by the Asian World Center as:

- Featured speakers and lecturers;
- Panelists and moderators;
- Cultural performers and community leaders.

Commission members will actively engage with:

- Creighton University students and faculty;
- Local and regional Asian American communities;
- Civic leaders, nonprofit organizations, and business partners.

This collaboration positions the Commission not only as a policy body, but also as a living, visible, and accessible advocate for Asian Americans across Nebraska.

Key Program Components Supported by This Grant

1. Guest Speakers & Distinguished Lectures (6+ Sessions)

More than six public lectures and panels will directly feature Commission members and partners, addressing:

- Health equity and culturally competent care;
- Preservation of community history and cultural memory;
- Trade, business, and economic advocacy;
- Education, leadership, and youth engagement;
- Public policy and civic participation.

These sessions transform academic spaces into community listening and advocacy forums, reinforcing the Commission's role statewide.

2. Two Major Public Exhibitions

The two week-long exhibitions serve as visual and historical anchors for the program:

- *Faces of Friendship: Photography as Witness in Wartime China*
- *From Omaha to China: General Albert C. Wedemeyer and America's War Alliance*

Together, they connect Nebraska's local history to global Asian legacies and contemporary advocacy concerns, such as immigrant identity, veterans' recognition, and inclusive historical narratives.

3. Community Listening & Storytelling Programs (New Enhancement)

To strengthen the funding application and advance NCAAA priorities, AWC will introduce:

- Community Listening Sessions where Commission members engage directly with students and community participants;
- Storytelling & Leadership Forums highlighting Asian American service, nonprofit leadership, and public advocacy in Nebraska;
- Student Reflection & Policy Brief Workshops, where students translate cultural learning into practical advocacy recommendations.

These additions ensure measurable outcomes beyond cultural celebration, emphasizing capacity building and policy relevance.

Outcomes and Public Impact

The proposed program will:

- Significantly increase public awareness of the Nebraska Commission on Asian American Affairs;
- Position the Commission as a central voice in cultural, educational, and policy conversations;
- Foster long-term partnerships between the Commission, Creighton University, and community organizations;
- Engage hundreds of students and community members through free public events;
- Create a replicable model for how academic institutions can support state-level advocacy bodies.

Budget Request and Use of Funds

The Asian World Center respectfully requests \$5,000 from the Nebraska Commission on Asian American Affairs. Funds will be used exclusively to support Commission-related programming, including:

- Guest speakers' travel and hotel expenses;
- Support for two public exhibitions (installation, materials, educational programming);
- More than six public lectures and panels featuring Commission leadership and partners.

The requested funds directly advance the Commission's mission while leveraging significant in-kind and institutional support from Creighton University and community partners.

Sustainability and Long-Term Partnership

This grant will further formalize an already successful partnership between AWC and the Nebraska Commission on Asian American Affairs. By embedding the Commission's work within one of Nebraska's most established Asian cultural programs, the collaboration ensures sustained visibility, student engagement, and public trust.

The Asian World Center is committed to continuing this partnership beyond 2026 through future Asian Culture Weeks, academic collaborations, and statewide outreach initiatives.

Conclusion

The Asian World Center respectfully submits this proposal as a demonstration of its leadership, proven capacity, and deep commitment to advancing the mission of the Nebraska Commission on Asian American Affairs. With the Commission's support, the 21st Asian Culture Week will serve as a statewide platform for advocacy, education, and community empowerment, honoring Asian American heritage while shaping Nebraska's inclusive future.

We thank the Nebraska Commission on Asian American Affairs for its leadership and consideration.



Asian Community & Cultural Center

Serving ALL Refugees & Immigrants, Celebrating Cultural Heritage

Dear community partner,

The Asian Community & Cultural Center invites you to support our annual Asian American & Pacific Islander Heritage Month Celebration. Over 13,000 Lincoln residents are of Asian heritage, representing a wide variety of countries and cultures. The Asian Center supports and empowers all refugees and immigrants through programs and services. In 2025, we served more than 2,200 individuals with essential services.

We also champion cultural exchange through events like our AAPI Heritage Celebration, inviting the community to see and experience other cultures. In 2025, over 1,400 people attended our AAPI event and 40+ local partners participated in the celebration. This year the event will be held on May 2nd from 1pm – 4pm at the Sandhills Global Event Center, Ag Room. This family-friendly event is free to the public, offering cultural exhibitions, performances, immigrant youth stories display, live music, fun activities, food tasting, health screenings, and more.

To continue offering this event to the public free of charge, we need to raise over \$25,000 through event sponsorships to cover costs.

Your event sponsorship demonstrates your support for refugees and immigrants building home in Lincoln. Please, review the sponsor levels and benefits attached and let us know if you have any questions. We are grateful for your partnership!

Thank you for your consideration,

Sheila Dorsey Vinton
Executive Director/CEO
Asian Community & Cultural Center
sheila@lincolnasiancenter.org



**ASIAN AMERICAN &
PACIFIC ISLANDER**

Heritage Celebration!

2026 Sponsor Opportunities

For over 34 years, the Asian Center has welcomed immigrants and refugees in Lincoln helping newcomers build home here. Part of our mission is to share the beauty and richness of Asian cultures with our community.

The Asian Center hosts several annual events that present sponsorship opportunities to partners, including our annual Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Celebration every May.

This free event invites the entire community to celebrate the marvelous contributions that Asian and Pacific Islander cultures offer through music, dance, food, and more. Over 1,500 people attended in 2025. AAPI Heritage Celebration 2026 will be Saturday, May 2nd from 1pm - 4pm at Sandhills Global Event Center.

Your sponsorship demonstrates your commitment to celebrating the beautiful cultural diversity of our community. Will you join us?

SPONSOR LEVEL	Title Sponsor*	Gold	Silver	Bronze
Investment	\$6,000 <i>*only one available</i>	\$3,000	\$2,000	\$1,000

BENEFITS

Recognition: website, program, on-stage at event	X	X	X	X
Table at event	X	X	X	X
Recognition on TV/radio interviews	X	X	X	
Video feature	X	X		
Free cultural presentation	X	X		
Special recognition	sponsor name in event title			