



## The Equity Newsletter | May 9, 2022

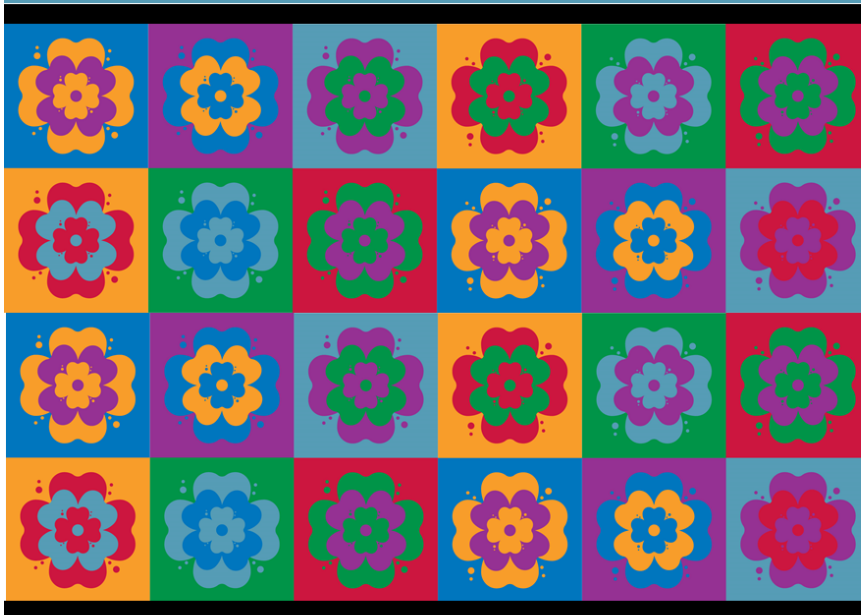
# CELEBRATE ASIAN AMERICAN PACIFIC ISLANDER HERITAGE MONTH

In commemoration of Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month, the Office of Racial Equity and Belonging is hosting *How Do You Identify? Asian & Pacific Islander People Are Not A Monolith*. This interactive event will center Asian & Pacific Islander staff, highlighting their diverse identities, perspectives and lived experiences. All staff are invited to join the virtual discussion on **Tuesday, May 24 from 12:30 PM – 2 PM.**

The SFMTA Office of Racial Equity and Belonging presents:

### **How Do You Identify? Asian & Pacific Islander People Are Not A Monolith**

An Interactive Discussion featuring Guest Speakers from across the Agency



**May 24, 2022  
12:30 PM – 2:00 PM**

[Click Here](#) to Join the Virtual Microsoft Teams Event

To join by phone, call:  
**415.915.0757**  
Phone Conference ID:  
**755 535 046#**

Contact [equity@sfmta.com](mailto:equity@sfmta.com) for more information.

[Click Here to Download the Flyer](#)

**Share Your Story At Upcoming *How Do You Identify?* Events**

*How Do You Identify?* is an interactive, staff belonging discussion series about identity and equity. At each event, we work to highlight the diversity of the MTA workforce. The June discussion will celebrate Pride, centering the LGBTQIA+ community. If you are interested in sharing your story as a speaker, please email [equity@sfmta.com](mailto:equity@sfmta.com).

# TAKE A FREE BYSTANDER INTERVENTION TRAINING

Credit: Uyen Ngo, Transportation Planner, Streets Division

# Hate is a virus.

Be immune from the virus of hate. Let's put a stop to anti-Asian discrimination now. Bias, hate, and violence have no place in our city. Join the Hollaback global movement and learn how to intervene and protect AAPI communities with online bystander intervention training. Take action today.

**#UnityInOurCommunity**



311 Free language assistance / 免費語言協助 / Ayuda gratis con el idioma / Бесплатная помощь переводчиков / Trợ giúp Thông dịch Miễn phí / Assistance linguistique gratuite / 無料の言語支援 / Libreng tulong para sa wikang Filipino / 무료 언어 지원 / 無料の言語支援 / 無料の言語支援 / خط المساعدة المجاني على الرقم

**SFMTA.com/Hollaback**

From May through July, the “Hate is a Virus” public service announcement is rolling out on our vehicles again. This campaign is inspired by the [#HATEISAVIRUS](#) social movement that highlights the Anti-Asian American and Pacific Islander violence sparked by the pandemic and which continues to be an ongoing concern harming Asian and Pacific Islander elders, businesses and others in the community. The campaign encourages members of the public to take free [bystander intervention trainings](#) from the [Right to Be](#) organization (previously “Hollaback”). This is one way members of the public can learn to take action to protect our communities by understanding tactics to intervene effectively as a bystander without compromising safety.

## PEOPLE OF THE SFMTA



**Geraldine De Leon**  
Engineer

### **What does it mean to be an Asian and/or Pacific Islander professional in transportation?**

Before college, I remember having a dream to one day be in a public service career. So, having been a traffic engineer for over 20 years in a big city like San Francisco has been a proud life-long achievement.

I don't see too many Filipino-American professionals in transportation so it's important for me to be a good role model to hopefully inspire others to pursue a rewarding career where every day they know they are making conditions safer for people, and they can see the tangible projects they're involved with on display on the streets of San Francisco.

### **What do you love about being Asian and/or Pacific Islander?**

I love carrying on the proud legacy of Asian Pacific Islanders contributing to the diverse community in San Francisco.

### **What does racial equity mean to you?**

Racial equity means to me that everyone has an opportunity to pursue their dreams of a better life for themselves and their families, regardless of their racial background.



# CELEBRATE ASIAN AMERICAN PACIFIC ISLANDER HERITAGE MONTH WITH A CABLE CAR RIDE

This month, the Office of Racial Equity and Belonging and Transit, Cable Car Division's staff belonging, appreciation and racial equity initiative to decorate a series of racial-equity themed cable cars continues with a cable car commemorating Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month!

We are celebrating Asian & Pacific Islander communities with an inaugural, staff networking and belonging ride scheduled for **Friday, May 13th from 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM**. We are looking forward to a time of celebration and connection with our workforce. **Please email [Fred.Butler@sfmta.com](mailto:Fred.Butler@sfmta.com) to RSVP.**



## PEOPLE OF THE SFMTA



**Pallavi Panyam**  
Junior Engineer

### **What do you love about being Asian and/or Pacific Islander?**

I identify as South Asian, specifically of Indian descent. I love the vibrant traditions around food, family, and festivities, and the sense of community shared across the culture.



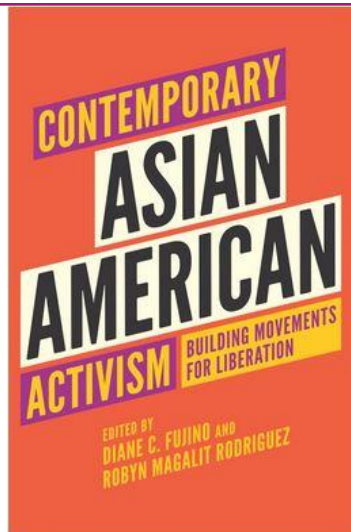
**Melinda Hue**  
Environmental Planner

### **What does it mean to be an Asian and/or Pacific Islander professional in transportation?**

As a child of Chinese immigrants, we couldn't afford a car growing up in San Francisco. Transit was a lifeline. I work in transportation because I believe that kids growing up like I did should have a transportation system that serves them.

# UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS & LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

Check out [the Asian Pacific American \(APA\) Heritage Foundation's 2022 Celebration Guide](#) to find events associated with the City and County of San Francisco's official celebration of Asian American & Pacific Islander Heritage Month! A selection of upcoming free community events and learning opportunities are highlighted below:



## [Reflections on Contemporary Asian American Activism and Amado Rodriguez](#)

**Saturday, May 14 | 2 PM – 5 PM | Main Library, Koret Auditorium**  
100 Larkin Street, San Francisco, CA 94102

Join Bay Area Asian American grassroots organizers and scholar-activists for a panel discussion on their chapters in *Contemporary Asian American Activism: Building Movements for Liberation*, and reflections on the state of Bay Area Asian American activism past, present and future. The event is also dedicated to the memory of Amado Khaya Canham Rodriguez, a Bay Area bi-racial Asian American activist who would have celebrated his 24th birthday on May 9, 2022.

## [Immigration Stories of Asian American Women: Here Is Happiness](#)

**Sunday, May 15 | 3 PM – 4 PM | Virtual**

Watch experienced storytellers Alton Chung, Eleanor Clement Glass and Janet Liu perform hopeful immigration stories in celebration of Asian Pacific American Heritage Month.

[Click here to register for the free event.](#)



## [Indonesian Food Art and Bazaar](#)

**Saturday May 21 | 11 AM – 3 PM |**  
**La Cocina Marketplace**  
101 Hyde St, San Francisco, CA 94102

Stop by La Cocina Marketplace for a curated Indonesian food and art bazaar, along with traditional dance, videos presentation and a batik fashion show.

The purpose of this publication is to provide information about ongoing equity work at the SFMTA, including upcoming events, trainings and suggested educational resources.