

APIQS is an organization for queer API women in the Washington DC metropolitan area, focusing on education, community, and sisterhood.

KhushDC is a social, support and political group that provides a safe and supportive environment, promotes awareness and acceptance, and fosters positive cultural and sexual identity for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, questioning (LGBTQ) and additional gender or sexual minority South Asians in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area.

AQUA is an organization for queer APIs, by queer APIs, focusing on queer API issues and interests. AQUA strives to project a positive image of queer API men in the community through advocacy, education, outreach, and social events.

NAPAWF's mission is to build a movement to advance social justice and human rights for API women and girls. The mission of the DC Chapter is to create a community of API women leaders working to educate and advocate for our social and economic justice while emphasizing a local angle on national issues.

Planning Committee Members: Rashad Ullah, Alyssa Lee, Lan Van, Matthew Ong, Diana Bui, Puesh Kumar, Luella Garies

Catering from Burma Restaurant.

Raffle prizes courtesy of The Garden, a new queer woman -owned sexuality resource in D.C. ~ thegardendc.com

Other Partners: The D.C. Center for the LGBT Community



Welcome to the 13th Annual Pride & Heritage Celebration!

Pride & Heritage is a coalition of local community-based organizations celebrating Asian Pacific American Heritage Month and Pride Month together in May. This year we are also celebrating the International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia (May 17).

Honorees

Danny Leung

Mala Nagarajan

Vega Subramaniam

Lan Van

Hosted by: KhushDC, Asian Pacific Islander Queer Sisters (APIQS), Asian Queers United for Action (AQUA), and the National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum (NAPAWF-D.C.), in partnership with the National Queer Asian Pacific Islander Alliance (NQAPIA)

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Danny Leung has been involved in the Queer API community since 2006. He was AQUADC's co-chair from 2006-2009, during which he led AQUA to become an organization that unites Asian cultural awareness with queer activism. In 2006, Danny helped create Out2Paddle, the first LGBT team to compete in Washington, D.C.'s Dragonboat Festival, an event annually attended by at least 1,000 competitors from around the world. Danny introduced in 2007 the first aZen club event, which became a well-known monthly party for all LGBT Asians in the D.C. community. He also served on the HRC diversity committee, speaking at the Democratic National Convention in Denver in 2008 as a QAPI leader. Danny helped develop a national action plan for queer API activism at the 2011 NQAPIA summit in San Jose, and also took part in organizing the 2012 NQAPIA National Convention in D.C. In 2013, Danny has been elected as vice president of Lambda PTO at the U.S. Patents and Trademark Office, and is expanding QAPI activism in his capacity as a member of the National Association of Realtors.

Mala Nagarajan served on the board of the National Queer Asian Pacific Islander Alliance from 2010-2013, and she is a founding Steering Committee member of the Rainbow Dragon Fund. Mala is currently an assistant director in the American Federation of Teachers, Information Technology department. She is the founder and former co-director of Creative Collaborations, a nonprofit organization that served other nonprofits with administrative back-end services, resource sharing, and collaboration support. In addition to consulting nonprofits on various organizational development and capacity building issues, she has served on the boards of local, state, and national organizations, and served as the co-director of Infrastructure and Operations for the National Queer Asian Pacific Islander Alliance. As a former fellow of the National Gay Lesbian Task Force Policy Institute, she researched leadership development and movement building in small identity-based organizations and developed a constituency-centered framework for designing organizational structure towards movement building.

Vega Subramaniam has been involved in South Asian LGBT activism since the late 1990s. With her wife, Mala Nagarajan, she co-founded Trikone-NW in 1997, an organization for queer South Asians in the Pacific Northwest. In 2004, she and Mala were one of eight couples to participate in a marriage equality lawsuit against King County and Washington. She also helped organize the DesiQ conference in San Francisco in 2006 and the NQAPIA national conference in Seattle in 2009 and in Washington, D.C. in 2012. She is a founding member of the Rainbow Dragon Fund, a giving circle that aims to increase social justice philanthropy supporting QAPI communities in the D.C. metropolitan area. She is currently the Executive Director of the Collaborative Project of Maryland, which offers low-income Marylanders access to a respectful alternative dispute resolution process called Collaborative Practice.

Lan Van became involved in Queer API activism when she joined APIQS in 2001. In the same year, she built a website for the organization, led the D.C. Dyke March, and helped organized Asian Pacific American Heritage Month, which later became known as D.C. Pride & Heritage. Lan has since served on the planning committee for P&H in 2002, 2009, 2010 and 2013. She represented APIQS in 2002 at the Lotus Roots Conference in Vancouver, B.C., and was a delegate at the 2004 Queer Asian Pacific Legacy Conference in New York City. Lan also joined and recruited members for AQUA's Out2Paddle 2008 mixed-gender team, which merged with the National Association of Asian American Professionals' team—the resulting “Phoenix Alliance” paddled to a silver medal victory. In 2009, Lan represented APIQS at the NQAPIA National Conference in Seattle. She went on to serve on the local planning committee for the 2012 D.C. conference. Lan succeeded in obtaining a grant from the Rainbow Dragon Fund for APIQS, and now serves as administrator of APIQS's steering committee.