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For Immediate Release

Capital Region Celebrates Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage Month

Local Asian Americans come together to showcase the diverse range and shared experiences of Asian Americans living in the 518

Albany, NY: To celebrate Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage (AAPI) Month, local organizers founded AAPI Heritage Month 518. It is the first month-long celebration in the Capital Region, created by Asian Americans with the goal of increasing visibility and raising awareness of the local AAPI community.

Throughout the month of May, to coincide with celebrations across the country, nearly 20 public events are scheduled locally to showcase the history, culture, achievements, and impact of the local AAPI community. A sample of AAPI Heritage Month 518 events include a kick-off at Volcano Asian BBQ and Hot Pot, an art exhibition at the Albany Center Gallery featuring local AAPI artists, multiple fitness activities, a virtual film screening, food and beverage demonstrations, and the Troyasia Night Market to close the celebrations. The public is welcome to join any and all of these events; some require registration.

AAPI Heritage Month 518 is organized by a small group of Asian American, grassroots volunteers dedicated to fostering community, belonging, and recognition.

"AAPI Heritage Month is a time to celebrate the rich tapestries of our diverse cultures into a shared quilt of community and understanding. As a Pacific Islander, I celebrate this month by sharing the Aloha Spirit—offering love, peace, and compassion, bridging the gaps between us, and nurturing our communities where everyone feels valued and connected", said Maile Barcelon, one of the lead volunteer organizers of AAPI Heritage Month 518.

According to the US Census Bureau's 2022 estimates, less than 6% of people reported living in the Capital Region (Albany, Rensselaer, Saratoga, and Schenectady Counties) identify as AAPI, but the population has been continuously growing since 2010. AAPI Heritage Month 518 seeks to bring attention to the diverse and dynamic Asian American community living locally.

"AAPI Heritage Month 518 not only affirms that our vibrant and diverse community is and has been a part of the Capital Region's story, but is a reminder that we are shaping and advancing its

future, too - as business owners, professionals, neighbors, creatives, students, and more”, says Rachel Hye Youn Rupright, another lead volunteer organizer of AAPI Heritage Month 518.

For a full list of AAPI Heritage Month 518 events, visit: aapiheritage518.com or follow on Facebook and Instagram.

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