# SAAPRI IMPACT \\ REPORT



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# letter from the 🖉 executive director

Dear SAAPRI family,

As we close out another year, I'm filled with gratitude and pride as I reflect on the incredible journey of the past five years with the South Asian American Policy & Research Institute (SAAPRI). When I took on the role of Executive Director on August 19, 2019, after meeting the inspiring

co-founders, Dr. Ann P. Kalayil and Dr. Padma Rangaswamy, I could have never anticipated the profound impact this journey would have on my personal and professional growth. Leading this incredible nonprofit has been both challenging and rewarding, especially during the pandemic, which tested our resilience in fundraising and operations. Despite the difficult journey, this milestone has allowed me to pause and appreciate the work we've accomplished together, and celebrate SAAPRI coming out stronger, more connected, and more committed to its mission than ever before. This would not have been possible without the resolute support of our enthusiastic volunteers and supporters, whose faith in our cause has made all the difference.

The road wasn't easy but being able to transition from a primarily volunteer-run organization to one with a dedicated staff, research fellows and interns, strengthening our role as a pillar of advocacy and research for our communities in just five short years gives me immense faith in the power of perseverance, and I am deeply thankful to everyone who has been a part of this journey. There is power in collaboration, dedication, and the passion with which so many of us remain committed to public service. It is these experiences that drive me to keep pushing forward.

While I am grateful for every milestone <u>#TeamSAAPRI has achieved</u> along with sustainable practices, and funding to ensure long-term impact, I would be remiss if I did not take a moment to express my deepest gratitude to my incredible partner Alok Verma and my children Shreyas Verma and Alisha Verma. Alok has been my rock throughout this journey, playing an instrumental role in making this work possible. If it wasn't for his presence and encouragement, the endless hours spent building a strong foundation and developing the organization would not have been possible.

The past five years give me hope and excitement about what lies ahead. Much work needs to be done, but I'm confident in our ability to keep advancing together as a team with the support of our funders, and donors. On behalf of the SAAPRI board and our team, here's to the next phase of advocacy, influence, and making meaningful change in our communities, one small step at a time!

Only with your help can we do what we do! If you would like to support our mission, please consider making a year-end donation to SAAPRI at <u>www.saapri.org/donate</u>.

I wish you all a restful holiday season and a wonderful new year ahead!

Sincerely,

Shobhana

Shobhana Johri Verma Executive Director



# **OUR Story SO far...** Our History

The South Asian American Policy & Research Institute (SAAPRI) is a non-profit and nonpartisan organization founded in 2001 by Ann Lata Kalayil, K. Sujata, and Padma Rangaswamy. Based in Chicago, SAAPRI is a South Asian woman founded and led organization. In 2019, SAAPRI welcomed Shobhana Johri Verma as its fourth part-time Executive Director. She later transitioned into the role of SAAPRI's first full-time Executive Director.

For much of its first two decades, SAAPRI operated primarily as a volunteer-led organization. The dedication of dozens of volunteers in this early period highlights the importance of advancing the South Asian American community and the crucial role volunteers play in driving change and building resilience. At the time of SAAPRI's founding, there were only a few organizations focused on Asian American experiences, and few, if any, organizations implemented a research-based or data-driven approach to address the unique needs of South Asian American communities.

SAAPRI's founding principles were grounded in bridging gaps and addressing the critical needs of a diverse and growing community through a non-partisan lens. The founders prioritized this non-partisan approach to foster unity within the community while highlighting its rich diversity and the unique needs of its various subsets.

SAAPRI works to serve South Asian American communities through conducting data-driven and human-centered research; formulating equitable and socially responsible policy recommendations; and strengthening community advocacy.



# foundations of our work

### **Our Mission**

The South Asian American Policy & Research Institute (SAAPRI) is a non-profit, nonpartisan organization established in 2001 with the mission to serve South Asian Americans by using research to formulate equitable and socially responsible policy recommendations.

SAAPRI's work has included research and policy initiatives on civic engagement, hate crimes, access to health care, economic development, and immigration. Projects are designed to create dialogue and better understanding, drawing from SAAPRI's expertise in community-based research and collaborations with partner organizations, academic institutions, and community members. SAAPRI advances public policy by proposing data-driven objectives based on community outreach. SAAPRI voices the community's concerns to public officials at the local, state, and national levels; works strategically in cross-racial coalitions; hosts public forums; and participates in speaking engagements to various audiences, including media and government.

## **Our Vision**

SAAPRI envisions a future where South Asian American communities are empowered, visible, and have the support needed to advocate for their needs. Through dedicated research, advocacy, and meaningful engagement with decision-makers, we aim to create pathways for sustainable change. Our work fosters a responsive and equitable future where the voices of South Asian Americans are uplifted, and their unique needs addressed at local, regional, and national levels.

# OUR TEAM



Shobhana Johri Verma Executive Director



**Anushka Das** Programs & Operations



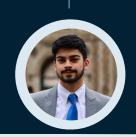
Francys Munoz Communications



**Murtaza Ali** Finance



Georgeena Mathai Research Fellow



Aakash Ray Communications & Research Fellow



**Prottusha Sarkar** Health Equity Fellow



**Karan Manohar** Research & Programs Specialist



Manasvini Kumaraswamy Health Equity Intern

SAAPRI Advocates & Volunteers



**Jordan Stalker** Research and Strategic Deleopment Advsior



# A YEAR DEFINED BY IMPACT & ADVOCACY

### SAAPRI STATE OF SOUTH ASIAN AMERICAN AFFAIRS



#### A GATHERING FOR IMPACT & ADVOCACY

This summer, the South Asian American Policy & Research Institute (SAAPRI) proudly hosted its inaugural **State of South Asian American Affairs conference**. The event served as a platform to present the findings of three pivotal research

reports—*South Asian Americans in Illinois: Making Data Count; Strengthening Democracy: Addressing and Overcoming Language Inequity in Elections*, and *Countering Prejudice: Hate Crimes and Discrimination Against South Asian Americans*—while facilitating meaningful dialogue among community members, government officials, and civic leaders.

The conference featured two engaging sessions: report presentations followed by a panel discussion, and a roundtable conversation. These sessions highlighted the challenges faced by South Asian Americans, including language barriers at the polls, which can hinder LEP voters from fully participating in the electoral process and the rise in hate crimes, while exploring actionable solutions. Community leaders delivered inspiring speeches, emphasizing the importance of collaboration in addressing these critical issues and advocating for long-term change.

By bringing together diverse voices, SAAPRI's conference underscored the value of using data and dialogue to empower the South Asian American community and ensure its growing needs are represented.

Discover more about the **State of South Asian Affairs** conference on our website.

# HEALTH EQUITY & WELLNESS

# DEMOCRACY & CIVIC ACTION

# **ACCESS TO JUSTICE**

# AREAS Č OF INPACT



# ACCESS TO JUSTICE

### 2024 PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Since its founding, SAAPRI has remained committed to addressing hate crimes and discrimination against the South Asian American community.

The Access to Justice program was launched in response to the alarming rise in anti-Asian harassment, violence, and bigotry during the COVID-19 pandemic. With the rise in anti-Asian sentiment, this program targets the distinctive experiences of South Asian Americans where violence often comes in the form of religious bigotry, ethnic conflation, and ethnic erasure.

Through the Against Hate initiative, SAAPRI strengthened interfaith and community partnerships while driving collaborative efforts to combat hate crimes and discrimination. These efforts include passing anti-hate resolutions, engaging with local commissions, and conducting impactful community-based research.

In 2024, SAAPRI published *Countering Prejudice: Hate Crimes and Discrimination Against South Asian Americans*, a report that **highlights** the troubling rise in hate incidents, analyzes trends using survey data from over 400 South Asians across the U.S. (with a focus on Illinois), and proposes actionable strategies to foster a safer, more inclusive environment.

### 2024 AGAINST HATE INITIATIVE





#### COUNTERING PREJUDICE: HATE CRIMES & DISCRIMINATION AGAINST SOUTH ASIAN AMERICANS

The Countering Prejudice report is a cornerstone of the Against Hate initiative, which works to prevent hate crimes and discrimination by strengthening community and interfaith partnerships and fostering

collaboration. This initiative has focused on building relationships with community partners, advocating for anti-hate resolutions, participating in local commissions, and advancing community-based research projects aimed at addressing the rising incidents of hate and bias targeting South Asian Americans.

The report is grounded in data collected from a national sample of over 400 South Asians, primarily in Illinois, gathered through a confidential online survey and an in-person questionnaire. Developed by **Jordan Stalker**, **PhD**, and SAAPRI Research Fellow **Aakash Ray**, these surveys were conducted between July 2021 to June 2023 and disseminated via social media, newsletters, and in-person bilingual outreach at locations frequented by South Asian community members. Participants shared their experiences with hate crimes and discrimination, describing specific incidents, interactions with law enforcement, and factors that made them targets. The survey also included demographic information and perspectives on hate crime resources.

While the study reached a diverse pool of participants, it revealed challenges related to language barriers and access, underscoring the need for broader language equity and indepth follow-up interviews. The interviews, included in the report, offer a deeper understanding of the multifaceted impact of hate crimes on South Asian Americans across the U.S.

The report highlights the alarming rise in hate crimes and discrimination, analyzing patterns and providing actionable strategies to combat these challenges. By fostering a safer and more inclusive environment, SAAPRI aims to empower the South Asian American community and ensure its voices are heard in ongoing advocacy efforts. Discover more about the Countering Prejudice Report on our website.

#### 2024

April

8

## PROGRAMMING OVERVIEW ACCESS TO JUSTICE

#### SAAPRI & CASL Present Anti-Hate Efforts

SAAPRI and CASL shared their efforts to combat anti-Asian hate in the Chicagoland area with the Asian Giving Circle (AGC), an organization dedicated to supporting the diverse and evolving needs of the region's AAPI community.



#### AANHPI Coalition for Hate Crime Response and Prevention

SAAPRI and the Anti-Hate Action Center are launching the AANHPI Hate Crimes Response and Prevention Coalition, a nonprofit group working to combat hate crimes and gender-based violence in the AANHPI community through a coordinated response plan.

мау **23** 

### Our Immigrant Story: Triumph and Tribulations of South Asian Migration to the Chicagoland Area

SAAPRI's Executive Director Shobhana Verma and Co-Founder Ann Kalayil presented an overview of South Asian migration and the evolving South Asian footprint in the Midwest at a virtual presentation hosted by the Chicago Department of Public Health.



#### White House Initiative on Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders

Executive Director Shobhana Verma met alongside policy experts and community leaders from across the country at the WHIAANHPI's 2024 Policy Summit.



#### Field Museum Educator Open House 2024

SAAPRI partnered with the <u>Field Museum</u> to bring its Oral History exhibit to help Pre-K-12 educators explore effective strategies for teaching Asian American history and fostering an inclusive classroom environment.



## DEMOCRACY AND CIVIC ACTION



### 2024 PROGRAM OVERVIEW

In 2024, SAAPRI's Democracy and Civic Action team continued its mission to elevate civic engagement among South Asian Americans in Illinois and beyond. Building on decades of dedication, the teams work addresses systemic barriers to participation, striving to close gaps in representation and engagement that leave the South Asian American community underrepresented in policy and decisionmaking processes. Through targeted initiatives such as voting rights advocacy, census outreach, redistricting efforts, and data collection, SAAPRI ensures our community's voices are heard and prioritized in the democratic process.

Some highlights of our efforts this year include our 2024 GOTV campaign, which featured both our online and in-person Speak Up, Step Up discussion series. The discussions were designed to empower young voters to explore policies that affect them, encourage lifelong civic participation, and ensure that the voices of younger generations are heard in the political process. The events also provided a platform for community members to learn about voting methods, candidates' platforms, and discuss issues impacting South Asian Americans.



# DEMOCRACY AND CIVIC ACTION



### 2024 PROGRAM OVERVIEW

In 2024, the Democracy and Civic Action Team released two cornerstone reports:

- 1. *South Asian Americans in Illinois: Making Data Count (2024)* Highlighting demographic growth and socio-economic trends from the 2020 Census, this report provides essential insights into the evolving needs of South Asian Americans, aiding policymakers, advocates, and community leaders.
- 2. **Strengthening Democracy: Addressing and Overcoming Language Inequity in Elections** – Examining barriers faced by language minority voters, this report explores the effects of redistricting and precinct consolidation on South Asian Americans while advocating for increased language accessibility in elections.

Together, these initiatives reflect SAAPRI's commitment to dismantling systemic roadblocks, fostering a more inclusive democracy, and amplifying South Asian American voices across local, state, and national levels. Through education, research, and advocacy, we aim to empower our community to be active participants in shaping their future.

### 2024 DEMOCRACY & CIVIC ACTION





#### SOUTH ASIAN AMERICANS IN ILLINOIS: MAKING DATA COUNT

SOUTH ASIAN AMERICANS IN ILLINOIS: MAKING DATA COUNT

The **2024** *Making Data Count* report offers a comprehensive analysis of the South Asian American community in Illinois, drawing on newly released 2020 U.S. Census data.

This report highlights the diversity within the South Asian American population, underscoring the critical need for disaggregated data to accurately capture the varied demographics, socio-economic conditions, and unique characteristics of this rapidly growing community. Without detailed population data, it is difficult to identify and address the specific needs of different subgroups. Analyzing this data is essential for informing policy, allocating resources, and developing targeted programs that effectively serve the community's diverse populations.

The *Making Data Count* report analyzes the latest demographic trends and socioeconomic insights, providing a detailed examination of the growth, distribution, and evolving needs of South Asian Americans. Designed to inform policymakers, community leaders, and advocates, this report serves as a valuable resource for shaping policies and programs that address the needs of South Asian Americans while ensuring their voices and contributions are fully represented in Illinois and beyond. Discover more about the **2024 Making Data Count** on our website.

### 2024 DEMOCRACY & CIVIC ACTION



STRENGTHENING DEMOCRACY

ADDRESSING AND OVERCOMING

LANGUAGE INEQUITY IN ELECTIONS



#### STRENGTHENING DEMOCRACY: ADDRESSING AND OVERCOMING LANGUAGE INEQUITY IN ELECTIONS

SAAPRI's **Strengthening Democracy** report highlights the challenges faced by South Asian American voters with limited English proficiency (LEP) and examines the broader issue of

language inequity in elections. Drawing on 2020 Census data, American Community Survey data, and SAAPRI's own advocacy and poll-watching efforts, the report provides an in-depth analysis of how policies such as redistricting, precinct consolidation, and the closure of bilingual voting precincts have disenfranchised language minority citizens.

The findings reveal the significant impact of these changes on South Asian American voters, especially during the 2022 election cycle in Chicago, where thousands of LEP voters were left without adequate bilingual services. To further understand this issue, SAAPRI conducted interviews with bilingual poll workers, developed in partnership with Asian Americans Advancing Justice-Chicago (AAAJ-C). These insights, combined with disaggregated data, allowed SAAPRI to identify systemic barriers and propose a list of actionable recommendations to protect and empower LEP voters.

With South Asian Americans representing one of the fastest-growing voting populations in the United States, the protection of their voting rights is critical to ensuring the integrity of American democracy. This report underscores the urgent need for equitable language access in elections and offers a roadmap of best practices to create a more inclusive and representative democratic process. Discover more about the Strengthening Democracy Report on our website.

2024 PROGRAMMING OVERVIEW DEMOCRACY & CIVIC ACTION

#### **State of South Asian American Affairs**

SAAPRI hosted the "State of South Asian American Affairs" at the Fulton Street Collective, which included a panel discussion, roundtable conversation, and speeches from community leaders, aiming to engage in meaningful dialogue about our community's challenges to drive effective change.



November

### Speak Up, Step Up: A Youth Discussion on 2024 Election Candidates and Policies

SAAPRI hosted an engaging online event tailored for youth. We discussed the latest news and key aspects of the upcoming election, including voting methods, candidate positions, and the issues that matter most to South Asian Americans.



June

#### Speak Up, Step Up:GOTV Event w/ AARCC

With <u>UIC's Asian American Resource and Cultural Center</u> (AARCC), SAAPRI hosted an in-person, non-partisan discussion on election insights, candidate policy, and key voting deadlines.

#### Protect Your Vote: Navigating Election Challenges Panel

SAAPRI presented the last event in our GOTV Event Series: "Protect Your Vote: Navigating Election Challenges," cohosted by <u>The North American South Asian Law Students</u> <u>Association</u> (NASALSA) and <u>South Asian Legal Defense</u> <u>Fund</u> (SALDF).



#### **Election Day Poll Watching**

Our Executive Director, Shobhana, dedicated her day to poll watching by visiting various locations across Chicago!



## HEALTH EQUITY & AWARENESS

### 2024 PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Through its Health Equity and Awareness program, SAAPRI addresses critical health disparities and gaps in health literacy within the South Asian American community. Recognizing that unique social conditions, living environments, and genetics impact overall health outcomes, SAAPRI works directly with community members to educate, improve health literacy, and advocate for culturally relevant resources. The program's multifaceted approach aims to tackle these challenges while empowering individuals to better navigate their healthcare journeys.

In 2024, SAAPRI advanced its health equity efforts as a Regional Community-Based Partner with the Asian Engagement and Recruitment Core (ARC) under the Asian Health Coalition. Through this collaboration, SAAPRI supported the *All of Us Research Program* in collecting data from one million individuals nationwide, addressing the critical lack of disaggregated health data for South Asian Americans, one of the fastest-growing ethnic groups in the country.

This year also marked the launch of SAAPRI's **Women's Health Series**, a new initiative focusing on vital health issues such as reproductive health and menopausal care. As part of its continued commitment to breast cancer awareness, SAAPRI released the *Breaking Barriers: Unpacking Breast Cancer Challenges & Triumphs for South Asian Americans* report, which features disaggregated health data, survivor stories, and actionable recommendations. These initiatives reflect SAAPRI's dedication to creating culturally tailored solutions that empower South Asian women and families while addressing health inequities in the broader community.

### 2024 **PROGRAMMING OVERVIEW** HEALTH EQUITY & AWARENESS

#### A Chat About: South Asian Men's Mental Health

SAAPRI hosted an insightful conversation about South Asian men's mental health with licensed therapist Ankur Varma on Instagram Live.



#### **ARC 2024 National Conference**

Shobhana Verma and Health Equity Research Fellow Prottusha Sarkar attended the National Asian Engagement & Research Core (ARC) Conference, hosted by the <u>Asian</u> <u>Health Coalition</u> (AHC).

#### Women's Health Series | Webinar 1: Healthy Relationships, Contraception & Safe Sex

As part of SAAPRI's Community Health Forum, the first webinar of the Women's Health Series (WHS) explored key topics on building healthy relationships, understanding contraception options, and practicing safe sex. The WHS is an educational initiative dedicated to exploring and addressing health issues that uniquely affect South Asian American women, focusing on key healthcare milestones throughout their lives.



#### **APIAHF VOICES 2024 Conference**

Shobhana Verma attended the Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum (APIAHF) VOICES 2024 conference in Washington, D.C. The conference brought together healthcare leaders, key stakeholders, and advocates to explore and discuss health equity and justice in eliminating disparities and supporting AANHPI communities.



January

Auaust

#### **Movember: Men's Mental Health Discussion**

SAAPRI is proud to have continued its tradition by hosting its third annual panel discussion on men's health, featuring Zaneb Mansha, a South Asian therapist specializing in mental health.

### 2024 HEALTH EQUITY & AWARENESS





#### BREAKING BARRIERS: UNPACKING BREAST CANCER CHALLENGES & TRIUMPHS FOR SOUTH ASIAN AMERICANS

At the South Asian American Policy & Research Institute (SAAPRI), we are committed to empowering the South Asian American community with the knowledge, support, and advocacy needed to address the rising prevalence of breast cancer.



BREAKING BARRIERS: X UNPACKING BREAST CANCER CHALLENGES & TRIUMPHS FOR SOUTH ASIAN AMERICANS

In 2023, we hosted a powerful three-part **Breast Cancer Awareness Series**, where survivors, physicians, and advocates shared their stories, shedding light on the unique challenges our community faces. Recognizing a critical data gap regarding breast cancer among South Asian women, we partnered with a team from Northwestern University's Feinberg School of Medicine to conduct a comprehensive study on awareness and attitudes.

In conjunction with **Breast Cancer Awareness Month** in October, SAAPRI launched the report **Breaking Barriers: Unpacking Breast Cancer Challenges and Triumphs for South Asian Americans**, which offers key insights and initiatives focused on improving education, early detection, and health equity. Through our research, analysis, personal narratives, and expert insights, the report underscored the urgent need for greater awareness and care.

Thank you to everyone who joined us in addressing these important issues. Together, we've made progress in promoting health equity and raising awareness in our communities. Our heartfelt gratitude also goes to the Asian Health Coalition (AHC) for their invaluable support through the ARC **All of Us Research** grant, which enabled us to reach a wider audience, implement impactful strategies, and gather essential data that will shape future care. Discover more about the **Breaking Barriers Report** on our website.



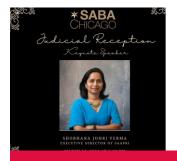
**On January 19, 2024,** reflecting on the legacy of Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Team SAAPRI attended the launch of BeloveD13, an initiative aimed at fostering new relationships, tools, and opportunities to actively build the Beloved Community envisioned by Dr. King. This breakfast was the first of many conversations.

#### **BELOVED13 COMMUNITY BREAKFAST**



**On February 8, 2024,** Shobhana celebrated Lunar New Year alongside <u>Asian Giving Circle, AFP Chicago</u>, and <u>AAPIP Chicago</u>. Thank you to these organizations for the wonderful opportunity to be able to celebrate with so many friends and dedicated AAPI leaders.

#### LUNAR NEW YEAR CELEBRATION



**On March 12, 2024**, Shobhana Verma was invited to deliver the keynote address at SABA Chicago's Judicial Reception at The Arts Club of Chicago. In her address, she recognized Judge Sanju Oommen Green and Judge Loveleen Ahuja.

#### **KEYNOTE AT SABA CHICAGO JUDICIAL RECEPTION**



**On March 26, 2024,** SAAPRI Research Fellows Prottusha Sarkar and Litcy Kurisinkal attended Mayor Brandon Johnson's Women's History Month Celebration at the <u>Chicago Cultural Center</u>

**2024 WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH CELEBRATION** 



**On April 26, 2024,** SAAPRI team members attended KAN-WIN's 32nd Anniversary virtual Gala!

#### KAN-WIN VIRTUAL GALA WATCH PARTY



**On May 1, 2024,** SAAPRI team members joined our <u>Pan Asian Voter Empowerment Coalition – PAVE</u> <u>Coalition</u> partners for the 11th Annual Asian American Action Day (AAA Day) in Springfield, IL to advocate for funding for Inclusive History Implementation.

#### 2024 ASIAN AMERICAN ACTION DAY!



**On May 7, 2024,** SAAPRI team and board members attended Mayor Brandon Johnson's celebration of AANHPI month.

#### 2024 AANHPI HERITAGE MONTH CELEBRATION



**On May 14, 2024,** SAAPRI's Executive Director, Shobhana Verma, attended the APAICS Annual Awards Gala, which marks the culmination of our nation's recognition of the culture, traditions, history, and contributions of Asian Americans and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islanders in the United States.

**APAICS ANNUAL AWARDS GALA** 



**On May 17, 2024**, Asian American Data Inclusion, a resolution proposed by Cook County Commissioner for the 13th District Josina Morita, was unanimously passed at Cook County Government. SAAPRI's Democracy Project Research Fellow, Litcy Kurisinkal testified alongside our community partners to advocate on behalf of our diverse AANHPI populations in Cook County

#### ASIAN AMERICAN DATA INCLUSION RESOLUTION PASSAGE



**During the month of June,** SAAPRI led a TEAACH-In event, drawing from its Oral History Project: Our Immigrant Story: South Asians in Illinois, 1945-1965 at the National CAPACD's 2024 Building Convention

#### NATIONAL CAPACD'S 2024 BUILDING CONVENTION



**On August 7, 2024,** Shobhana attended the Induction, Investiture, and Installation Ceremony of the Honorable Judge Sunil R. Harjani, who became the second South Asian American federal judge on the United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois.

#### INDUCTION, INVESTITURE, AND INSTALLATION CEREMONY FOR THE HONORABLE JUDGE SUNIL R. HARJANI

THE CHICAGO KASAM PRESENTS, CHICAGOS IST SOUTH ASIAN FESTIVAL SHOWCASE SAT | 10.05.2024 ATHEMACUM CENTER IN LAKE VIEW WWW INTECHICAGOKASAM ORG

**On October 5, 2024,** at the Athenaeum Center, Shobhana Verma was a part of the Chicago Kasam's 1st Annual South Asian Festival Showcase. The showcase featured Chicago based participants across social justice, fashion, film, dance, and music across the diaspora of our Chicagoland South Asian community.

THE CHICAGO KASAM: CHICAGO'S 1ST SOUTH ASIAN FESTIVAL SHOWCASE



**On May 13th,** 2024, SAAPRI's Executive Director Shobhana Verma attended Lasting Legacies: A White House Celebration of Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Heritage and History at the Andrew W Mellon Auditorium in Washington, D.C. This landmark event in the heart of our nation's capital commemorated 25 years since the creation of the White House Initiative and the President's Advisory Commission on Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders. For the first time, current and former leaders spanning five presidential administrations gathered to honor this historic milestone and reflect on the progress AA and NHPI communities have achieved over the past 25 years.

#### LASTING LEGACIES: A WHITE HOUSE CELEBRATION OF AA & NHPI HERITAGE & HISTORY







## support our work!



# THANK YOU

