



# City of Bellevue | Proclamation

**Whereas:** More than 23 million Americans proudly identify themselves to be of Asian, Native Hawaiian and/or other Pacific Island heritage; and

**Whereas:** Asians and Pacific Islanders form an American community of some 25 major ethnic groups, who speak over 15 different languages and belong to a wide variety of religions and cultures; and

**Whereas:** Approximately 38 percent of Bellevue's population is comprised of Asians or Pacific Islanders, the largest percentage enjoyed by any city in Washington; and

**Whereas:** Asian and Pacific Islander Americans have enriched our region's culture through excellence in the arts and design; and

**Whereas:** Asian and Pacific Islander American entrepreneurs strengthen our economy and our communities through their dedication and ingenuity, inspiring the next generation of American innovation by example; and

**Whereas:** May of 2019 marks the 41st anniversary of the annual celebration that has become *Asian Pacific American Heritage Month*.

**Now, therefore, I,** John Chelminiak, Mayor of the City of Bellevue, Washington, and on behalf of its City Council, do hereby proclaim the month of **May 2019** as:

## **Asian Pacific American Heritage Month**

in Bellevue and encourage all citizens to celebrate the rich diversity of this community, to enjoy the many contributions of the Asian and Pacific Islanders to our community, to reflect on the many challenges Asian and Pacific Islanders have faced in our past, and to join in looking forward to a future of hope and optimism.

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John Chelminiak, Mayor  
City of Bellevue