



City of Bellevue | Proclamation

Whereas: About 24 million Americans proudly identify themselves to be of Asian, South Asian, Native Hawaiian and/or other Pacific Island heritage; and

Whereas: Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islanders (AANHPIs) form an American community of some 25 major ethnic groups who speak more than 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 AANHPIs and individuals of AANHPI heritage, among the largest percentages enjoyed by Washington cities, and several organizations host festivals and events in the city honoring the heritage of these communities; and

Whereas: We acknowledge the institutional and systemic injustices that have historically impacted these communities, making it more difficult to be heard and seen, as well as the struggle to remain safe amid instances of hate and misinformation; and

Whereas: Japanese immigrants played a key role in Bellevue’s historical place as an agricultural center, and people from AANHPI backgrounds continue to enrich our region’s culture through excellence in technology, the arts and design; and

Whereas: AANHPI entrepreneurs strengthen our economy and our communities through their dedication and ingenuity, inspiring the next generation of innovators by example; and

Whereas: We strive to raise awareness of the history and contributions of the AANHPI community through the city’s AANHPI Heritage Month events, including an art exhibition featuring AANHPIs artists from May 1-26, and a second exhibition from the Chinese American Civic Association called “Applaud to the Chinese Transcontinental Railroad Workers” from May 15-26, both on display in the City Hall concourse.

Now, therefore, I, Lynne Robinson, Mayor of the City of Bellevue, Washington, and on behalf of its City Council, do hereby proclaim the month of **May 2023 as:**

Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander Heritage Month

in Bellevue and encourage all residents to celebrate the rich diversity of this community, to enjoy and appreciate their many contributions to our city, to reflect on the many challenges they have faced through history and in current times, and to join in looking forward to a future of hope, safety and optimism.

Lynne Robinson, Mayor
City of Bellevue