



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 (AA and NHPs) 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 37 percent of Bellevue's population is comprised of AA and NHPs, 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 during the pandemic, even as the region's Asian-American community stepped up to offer strong support of efforts to help fellow community members through COVID-19; and
- Whereas:** Japanese immigrants played a key role in Bellevue's historical place as an agricultural center, and Americans from AA and NHP backgrounds continue to enrich our region's culture through excellence in technology, the arts and design; and
- Whereas:** AA and NHP entrepreneurs strengthen our economy and our communities through their dedication and ingenuity, inspiring the next generation of American innovation by example.

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 2022** 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