



**EMERGING HISTORIC PLACES,
CENTURIES IN THE MAKING.**
2026 NATIONAL ASIAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER AMERICAN
HISTORIC PRESERVATION FORUM

DETAILED SCHEDULE | DAY 1 - THURSDAY – SEPTEMBER 10, 2026

HISTORY COLORADO CENTER, DOWNTOWN DENVER

TIME	Colorado Room – 1F	
10:00-10:45AM	Welcome to the 2026 National APIAHiP Forum • APIAHiP - Rosalind Sagara – <i>APIAHiP Board Chair</i> • History Colorado - Dawn DiPrince - <i>President & CEO, State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO)</i> • Colorado Asian Pacific United (CAPU) - Shauna Medeiros-Tuilaepa - <i>Board Chair</i> • Denver Community – Derek Okubo - <i>Amache Alliance, Sakura Foundation, US-Japan Council, and Japan America Society of Colorado</i> • Aurora Community – Becky Hogan - <i>Edge Consulting, Korea Town Aurora, Korean Committee-Aurora Sister Cities International</i> • APIAHiP – Huy Pham – <i>APIAHiP Executive Director</i>	
10:45AM-12:00PM	Opening Plenary: People-Centered Preservation in the Asian American Community in Colorado • Damion Pechota, <i>Senior National and State Register Historian, History Colorado (SHPO)</i> • Molly Rose Merkert, <i>Associate Historian, National and State Register Program, History Colorado (SHPO)</i> • Ron Sladek, <i>President, Tatanka Historical Associates Inc., author of Far East Center, Colorado State Register</i> • Tejpal Bainiwal Singh, PhD, <i>Co-Founder, Sikh American History Project, APIAHiP Board</i>	
12:00-1:00PM	LUNCH ON YOUR OWN	
	Richmond Foundation Room – 4F	Martin Foundation Room – 4F
1:00-2:15PM	Call to Action: Asian & Pacific Islander American's Most Endangered Places • Paul Hiroshi Boyea - <i>Chair, Terminal Islanders Association Board</i> • Barbara Takei – <i>Officer, Tule Lake Committee Board</i> • Ed Tepporn – <i>Executive Director, Angel Island Immigration Station Foundation</i> • Moderated by Huy Pham – <i>Executive Director, APIAHiP, Advisor, National Trust for Historic Preservation</i>	Innovations in Archiving, Documentation, and New Interpretative Efforts • <u>Out of the Inn: Why a French Site in Colorado is Sharing Chinese American History</u> – Kevin Kuharic, <i>Hotel de Paris Museum</i> • <u>The Archives of California's Oldest Chinese Restaurant as a lens for the Chinese American Experience</u> – Kevin Miller, <i>UC Davis Library</i> • <u>Preserving San Francisco's International Hotel in the Digital World</u> – Caroline Cabading, <i>Manilatown Heritage Foundation</i>, & Jason Sarmiento, <i>UC Davis Library, APIAHiP Board</i>
2:30-3:45PM	Big Dreams in Denver's Little Saigon: Multimodal Ways of Preservation • Joie Ha – <i>Executive Director, CAPU</i> • Yadira Solis – <i>Director, Museum of Memory, History Colorado</i> • Mimi Luong – <i>Business Owner, Far East Center, Truong An Gifts, Boxtastic, Board of Trustees, Historic Denver</i>	Public History Challenges & Resisting Erasure at Rural Asian American Sites • <u>Challenges and Opportunities in Rural America: WWII Japanese American Incarceration Public History</u> – Rob Buscher, <i>University of Pennsylvania</i>, Hanako Wakatsuki-Chong, <i>Japanese American Museum of Oregon (JAMO)</i>, & Erin Aoyama, <i>Oberlin College</i> • <u>A Building Alone: Preserving a Sense of Place Through Cultural Landscape Analysis, Oregon</u> – Sang Bae and Laurie Matthews, <i>MIG, Inc.</i>
4:00-5:15PM	Koreatown: Aurora's Newest Cultural Heritage Site • Chris Geddes – <i>Historic Preservation Specialist, Aurora History Museum and Historic Sites, City of Aurora</i> • Jessie McCaig – <i>MSHP Graduate, University of Colorado Denver</i> • Sean Choi – <i>Founder, 3456tea, Chair, Koreatown Aurora</i> • Chang & Ryan Siwon Lee – <i>Business Owner and Son, Birchtree Plaza & Katsu Ramen, Rocky Mountain AANHPI Student Coalition (RMASC)</i>	Intangible Heritage Practices for Colorado's Asian American Communities • <u>Creating Place Through Stories: Hmong Culture & Communities in Colorado</u> – Sophia Siong, Trace Yang, Kia Vang, <i>Hmong American Association of Colorado</i> • <u>Heritage in Motion: Arts as a Tool for Nepali Historic Preservation</u> – Binisha Shrestha, <i>Colorado Nepalese Community</i>
5:15-6:15PM	HISTORY COLORADO CENTER & MUSEUM ROOM – after-hours access exclusive to Forum attendees	
6:15-7:30PM	OPENING RECEPTION - Anschutz Hamilton Hall (1F Atrium) - included	



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DETAILED SCHEDULE | DAY 2 - FRIDAY – SEPTEMBER 11, 2026

HISTORY COLORADO CENTER, DOWNTOWN DENVER

TIME	Richmond Foundation Room – 4F	Martin Foundation Room – 4F
9:00-10:15AM	Filipino American Sites from Pre-Settlement to Recent Efforts • <u>How to Become a Filipineaux Narrative Expansion Agent, Louisiana</u> – Carolyn Sideco, <i>The Bayou Barkada</i> • <u>More Than a Building: Creating Space for Filipino American Stories in Colorado</u> – Vivian Egonio-Norman, <i>Filipino American Community of Colorado (FACC)</i>, Fran Campbell, <i>Asian Chamber of Commerce Colorado (ACCC)</i>	Faith & Place: Recognizing Colorado's Asian American Religious Heritage • Molly Rose Merkert – <i>History Colorado (SHPO)</i> • Dr. Janan Graham-Russell – <i>Harvard University, Study of Religion</i> • Dr. Benjamin Pongtep Cefkin – <i>University of Denver & the Metropolitan State University of Denver</i> • Alesha Adolph – <i>Heritage of All Intern, History Colorado (SHPO)</i> • Brandon Gonzales – <i>Teacher, Centauri High School in La Jara, Colorado</i>
10:30-11:45AM	Our Histories, Places, and Power: Asian American Communities in the Suburban South • Marian Liou – <i>Director of Arts & Culture, Smart Growth America, APIAHiP Board</i> • Frank Lee – <i>Executive Director, 85 Community Development Corporation</i> • Stephanie Drenka – <i>Executive Director, Dallas Asian American Historical Society</i> • Shaolu Yu – <i>Associate Professor of Urban Studies, Chair of Asian American Studies, Rhodes College</i>	Emerging Histories of Pacific Islanders in the Continental United States • <u>From Waves to Mountain Ranges: Finding a Sense of Place for Pacific Islanders in CO</u> – Shauna Medeiros-Tuilaepa, <i>CAPU</i>, Tisha Mendiola Jessop, <i>UC, Colorado Springs</i>, & Meta Sarmiento • <u>The Forgotten Hawaiians: Native Hawaiian Presence and Cultural Integration in Early California</u> and • <u>Hawaiian Cowboys: Paniolo Culture, Mexican Vaqueros, and the Untamed Beasts</u> – Ashlyn K. Weaver, <i>Northeast Information Center</i>
11:45AM-1:00PM	LUNCH ON YOUR OWN	
	Richmond Foundation Room – 4F	Martin Foundation Room – 4F
1:00-2:15PM	Remembering Lost Chinatowns • <u>From Gold Mountain to Steel City: Recovering Pittsburgh's Lost Chinatown</u> – Lena Chen, <i>UC Berkeley</i>, Jackie Wu, <i>Yale University</i> • <u>Voices Across Generations: Reimagining Cincinnati's APIA Histories Through Memory & Place</u> – James Tecco, <i>APIA History Cincinnati / Northern Kentucky University</i> • <u>Creating an Archive of Care: Historical Preservation in the Mississippi Delta Chinese Community</u> – Annabel Tang, <i>Duke University</i> • <u>The Star Theater in Locke, California: Can It Be Saved?</u> – Pattie Fong & Carol Lee, <i>LockePRDA</i>	Japanese American Settlement and Diaspora in Denver and Beyond • Gil Asakawa – <i>Author, Journalist, & Cultural Consultant, Nikkei View</i> • Stacey Shigaya – <i>Executive Director, Sakura Foundation</i> • Richard Yoshida – <i>Tri State Denver Buddhist Temple</i> • Jolie & Allyssa Noguchi – <i>4th generation owners, Pacific Mercantile Company</i>
2:30-3:45PM	After the Buildings Are Gone: Preserving Denver's Chinatown Without Walls • Lisa Burkhart – <i>Founder, HearStorySpot</i> • Li Leyuan – <i>Assistant Professor of Architecture, CU Denver</i> • Linda Lung – <i>Lung Family & Community Historian, CAPU Storytelling Committee</i> • Catharine McCord – <i>Operations Manager, CAPU</i> • Moderated by Jasmine Chu – <i>Programs and Communications Manager, CAPU</i>	Preservation Methods for Japanese American Rural and Agricultural Sites • <u>Farming Under Colorado's Mount Fuji: Japanese American Agriculture and Their Layered Histories</u> – Marie Matsuda, <i>ERO Resources</i>, Elisabeth Rios-Brooks, <i>Boulder County</i> • <u>Revive, Restore, Renew: From Busted Fruit Barreling Plant to Bustling Food Hub</u> [Vashon, WA] – Dr. Jade Keala Agua, <i>Friends of Mukai</i> • <u>Historic Wintersburg: Turning the Corner on Most Endangered to Saved</u> [Huntington Beach, CA] – Ernie Nishii, <i>Historic Wintersburg Conservancy</i>
4:00-5:30PM	Lessons and Updates at Sites of Turmoil and Recovery • <u>Buried in Protest: Defending the Wakasa Memorial and Its Sacred Site, Utah</u> – Mari Carpenter, <i>National Trust for Historic Preservation</i>, Lauren Araki, <i>Wakasa Memorial Committee</i> • <u>From Recovery to Readiness: County of Maui's Department of 'Ōiwi Resources</u> – Kekai Robinson & Dr. Janet Six, <i>County of Maui</i> • <u>No Arena in Philadelphia's Chinatown: Making a Movement & Shaping Future Histories</u> – Lauren Lowe & Allison Lau, <i>Asian Americans United</i> • Moderated by Huy Pham, <i>APIAHiP</i>	Preservation on the Big Screen: Film as Advocacy • <u>Bluff City Chinese</u> [20 min cut] – filmmaker Thandi Cai • <u>Oakland Ilokana</u> [20 min cut] – filmmaker Elenita Makani O'Malley • <u>Reclaiming Denver's Chinatown</u> [20 min cut] – filmmaker Roxana Soto • <u>There's a Lane for Us Here: Denver's Little Saigon</u> [20 min cut] – filmmakers Hannah My Tran and Dougal Brownlie, <i>Lionheart Motion Works</i> • [10 min Q&A]
6:30-8:30PM	FRIDAY SOCIAL EVENT @ 3456Tea on Havana St, Aurora (\$10 RSVP) <i>Inspired by last Forum's LITeraoke, join host Sean Choi and emcee Meta Sarmiento — Guam-born Filipino rapper, poet, and educator based in Aurora — for an evening of performances, music, and good company in the heart of Koreatown on Havana St. Enjoy the show, or maybe grab the mic yourself. Shuttle service, light snacks, and drinks provided.</i>	



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DETAILED SCHEDULE | DAY 3 - SATURDAY – SEPTEMBER 12, 2026

TWO TOUR OPTIONS (\$10 RSVP REQUIRED)

TIME	TOUR [A] - Amache National Historic Site [12 HOURS]	TIME	TOUR [B] - Historic & Emerging Neighborhoods [10 HOURS]
8:00 AM- 12:00 PM	Bus Ride from Downtown Denver Hotel Block to Amache NHS in Granada - Amache Rose documentary, Billy Kanaly, Courtesy of Denver Botanic Gardens Bus Speaker 1: <u>Federal Recognition and Advocacy for Amache NHS</u> - Dan Sakura – <i>President, Sakura Conservation Strategies</i> Bus Speaker 2: <u>Amache & Its Afterlife: Amache & Sand Creek</u> - Natasha Varner – <i>4Culture & past New America Fellow</i> - If 2 buses, speakers will switch buses at midpoint rest stop.	8:00-9:30 AM	Historic Chinatown + Sakura Square, Historic Japantown - Joie Ha - <i>Executive Director, CAPU</i> - Stacey Shigaya – <i>Executive Director, Sakura Foundation</i> Followed by bus ride to Far East Center
		10:00 AM- 12:00PM	Far East Center, Little Saigon - Mimi Luong – <i>Business Owner, Far East Center, Truong An Gifts, Boxtastic, Board of Trustees, Historic Denver</i> - Ron Sladek - <i>President, Tatanka Historical Associates Inc., author of Far East Center, Colorado State Register</i> Followed by bus ride to Seoul BBQ on Havana St, Aurora
12:00- 1:00PM	Welcome Remarks + Lunch at Newman's Block by Shorty's Cafe - Julianna Ellis – <i>Lead Interpreter, National Park Service, Amache NHS</i> - Mitch Homma – <i>President, Amache Alliance</i> - Glen Tagawa – <i>President, Nikkeijin Kai</i> - Derek Okubo – <i>Amache Alliance, Sakura Foundation, US-Japan Council, and Japan America Society of Colorado</i> - Katie Peterson - <i>Endangered Places Program Director, Colorado Preservation Inc.</i> Buffet lunch by Shorty's Café, Mexican American cuisine with vegetarian options	12:30-2:00PM	Lunch at Seoul BBQ - Chance Horiuchi – <i>Executive Director, Havana Business Improvement District, On Havana Street</i> - Becky Hogan – <i>Edge Consulting, Korea Town Aurora, Korean Committee -Aurora Sister Cities International</i> - Chris Geddes – <i>Historic Preservation Specialist, Aurora History Museum and Historic Sites, City of Aurora</i>
1:00-2:30 PM	BUS 1: Amache Museum - John Hopper – <i>Founder, Amache Preservation Society and Students, Granada High School</i> BUS 2: Amache National Historic Site - Julianna Ellis – <i>Lead Interpreter, National Park Service, Amache NHS</i>	2:00-2:30PM	Visit M Mart Shopping Center and Other Businesses on Havana Tour - Chance Horiuchi – <i>Executive Director, Havana Business Improvement District, On Havana Street</i> - Becky Hogan – <i>Edge Consulting, Korea Town Aurora, Korean Committee -Aurora Sister Cities International</i> - Chris Geddes – <i>Historic Preservation Specialist, Aurora History Museum and Historic Sites – City of Aurora</i> Followed by bus ride to Korean War Memorial on Havana St, Aurora
2:30-4:00PM	BUS 1: Amache National Historic Site - Julianna Ellis – <i>Lead Interpreter, National Park Service, Amache NHS</i> BUS 2: Amache Museum - John Hopper – <i>Founder, Amache Preservation Society and Students, Granada High School</i>	2:30-4:00 PM	Korean War Memorial - Becky Hogan – <i>Edge Consulting, Korea Town Aurora, Korean Committee-Aurora Sister Cities International</i> - Peter Lee – <i>UN Korean War Memorial Foundation</i> - Suegie Park – <i>Colorado Alliance for Health Equity and Practice</i> Followed by bus ride to Aurora History Museum
4:00- 8:00 PM	Bus Ride from Amache NHS in Granada back to Downtown Denver Hotel Block Dinner boxes provided by Shorty's Café, Mexican American cuisine with vegetarian options	4:00-6:00 PM	Reception at Aurora History Museum - Chris Geddes – <i>Historic Preservation Specialist, Aurora History Museum and Historic Sites – City of Aurora</i> - Minsoo Song – <i>Senior International Program Coordinator, Office of International Immigrant Affairs – City of Aurora</i> Light appetizers and beverages will be provided
		6:00-6:30PM	Bus Ride from Aurora History Museum back to Downtown Denver Hotel Block



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DETAILED SCHEDULE | DAY 4 - SUNDAY – SEPTEMBER 12, 2026

CLOSING EVENTS | LITTLE SAIGON & DENVER BOTANIC GARDENS

TIME	Beautify Little Saigon - Give5 Mile High Sunday Service Event
8:30-9:00 AM	Bus Ride from Downtown Denver Hotel Block to Far East Center
9:00 -11:00 AM	“Beautify Little Saigon” Service Event • Courtney Johnston – First Lady of Denver • Joie Ha – Executive Director, CAPU • Trần Nguyễn-Wills – Deputy Outreach Director, City and County of Denver • Elaine Limmer – Associate Director of Outreach, City and County of Denver • Remarks and Orientation followed by 60-minute guided clean-up activity • Banh mi lunch, snacks, water and clean-up equipment provided • Followed by bus ride to Denver Botanic Gardens
11:00-11:20AM	Denver Botanic Gardens • Welcome Remarks - Mary Lee Chin – <i>Chair, Denver Botanic Gardens Board of Trustees Officers</i> • Closing Remarks - Huy Pham – <i>Executive Director, APIAHiP</i>
11:20AM-1:00PM	Denver Botanic Gardens • Guided and Self-Guided Tours
1:00PM-1:30PM	Bus Ride back to Downtown Denver Hotel Block • Attendees also have option to stay longer at the Botanic Gardens or head out on their own plans (airport, etc.).