

COMMISSIONER'S MESSAGE

This past May, we proudly celebrated Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage Month — honoring the rich cultures, histories, and contributions of AAPI communities across New York City.

The AAPI community has a long history of resilience, resistance, and solidarity in the face of injustice. From the Civil Rights Movement to today's grassroots coalitions, NYC's AAPI communities have played a pivotal role in advocating for equity, justice, and dignity for all.

Reflecting on May, we were reminded of the power of cross-cultural connection and the importance of continuing to build bridges across communities.

Together, we move toward a more just and inclusive future for all.



TAKE ACTION • 5 MINUTES OR LESS


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EQUITY IN ACTION

Celebrate Pride Month!

This June the NYC Unity Project will show up across all five boroughs—celebrating and supporting LGBTQ+ New Yorkers with pride, purpose, and community.

From sharing vital resources to creating spaces for connection and belonging, they're working to ensure every LGBTQ+ person feels seen, valued, and empowered—across every generation.

[SCHEDULE OF EVENTS](#)


EQUITY IN ACTION

To mark Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage Month, the NYC Mayor's Office of Equity & Racial Justice hosted *A Cusp of Lineage: An AAPI Heritage Roundtable* — a special event honoring the contributions of AAPI leaders in city government. MOERJ Chief Content Officer Ashley Ross-Teel hosted while Chief of Staff Peggy Chan moderated a thoughtful panel discussion with Saloni Sethi, Commissioner, Office to End Domestic and Gender-Based Violence, Dr. Sarah Sayeed, Chair & Executive Director, Civic Engagement Commission, Asim Rehman, Commissioner & Chief Administrative Law Judge, OATH, and Anne del Castillo, Senior Policy Advisor, NYC Culture. The event was a powerful reminder of the importance of representation, storytelling, and community-driven leadership in building a more inclusive New York City.



Agency commissioners and staff sitting at the round table



Panelists posed for a photo



Panelists mingling after the event



Attendees got the opportunity to participate in our Q&A



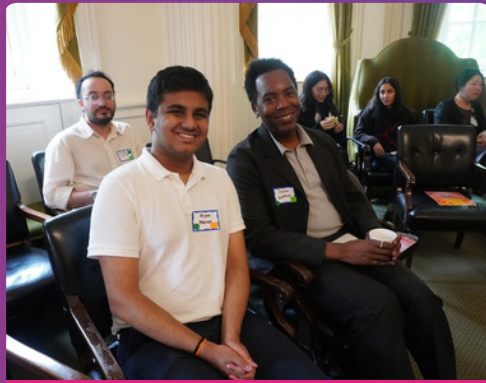
Panelists and attendees listening attentively



Commissioner Sethi spoke passionately about her experience



MOERJ staffers posed and smiling for photos



City employees represented over 10 different agencies



Attendees posing for a photo

EQUITY IN ACTION

We were proud to join NYC Public Schools in honoring the rich and diverse AAPI diaspora during a vibrant celebration for #AAPIHeritage Month! The event featured heartfelt remarks from MOERJ's Chief of Staff Peggy Chan and NYC Schools Chancellor Melissa Avilés-Ramos, alongside school leaders and exceptional student voices. With captivating cultural performances and powerful student presentations, the day served as a powerful tribute to the strength of diversity and the critical importance of representation in our schools and communities.



Peggy Chan, MOERJ Chief of Staff, giving remarks



Peggy Chan with NYC Schools Chancellor Melissa Avilés-Ramos, student performers, and guests

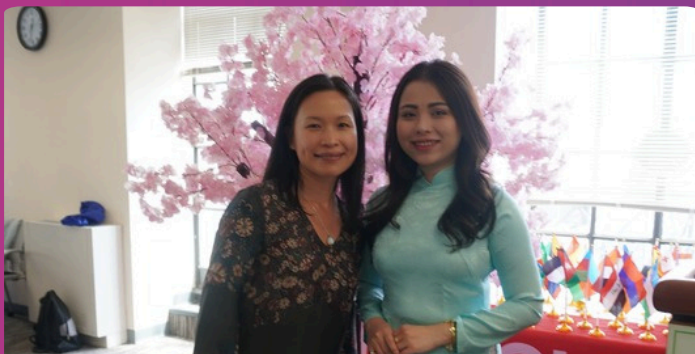


Books by AAPI authors displayed for attendees



Peggy Chan with attendees

Peggy Chan delivered heartfelt and inspiring remarks at the NYC Administration for Children's Services' (ACS) AAPI Heritage Month kickoff event. Reflecting on her identity as a Chinese-American, Peggy spoke about how her cultural roots and family traditions have shaped her personal and professional journey, offering strength, purpose, and pride along the way.



Peggy Chan with NYC ACS's Lana Tau



Attendees posing for a group photo

EQUITY IN ACTION

Commissioner Sideya Sherman and the NYC Mayor's Office of Equity & Racial Justice were proud to co-sponsor the recent "Equity and Racial Inclusion in NYC Budget" event hosted by the NYC Commission on Racial Equity (CORE). The discussion focused on analyzing the proposed fiscal year budget through an equity lens, with guest speakers Linda Tigani (NYC CORE Chair and Executive Director), Barika Williams (Executive Director, ANHD), Darrick Hamilton (Professor and Founding Director, Institute on Race, Power and Political Economy), Hadia Ali (Youth Organizer, Ya-Ya Network), and Zara Nasir (Executive Director, The People's Plan NYC) offering powerful insights.



MOERJ Commissioner Sideya Sherman closing the conversation



Panelists having a robust discussion

The NYC Commission on Gender Equity (CGE) joined Council Member and CGE Commissioner Farah Louis in Brooklyn to mark Menstrual Hygiene Day. CGE staff tabled at the event, engaging with community members and distributing free menstrual hygiene products to promote dignity, access, and health equity for all.



Council Member Louis' table to celebrate Menstrual Hygiene Day



Staffers handed out menstrual hygiene products to New Yorkers



CGE provided prepackaged menstrual products for distribution



Menstrual hygiene products distributed by Council Member Louis

EQUITY IN ACTION

The NYC Young Men's Initiative and the Department of Youth and Community Development hosted the Community Mom and Dads Gala at Trinity Commons, honoring the everyday heroes who support and uplift NYC families.

From mentors and educators to essential workers and caregivers, these "community moms and dads" play a vital role in the well-being of our neighborhoods. The evening featured inspiring remarks from city leaders and special awards recognizing their contributions.



Deputy Mayor for Strategic Initiatives Ana Almanzar giving remarks



NYC Young Men's Initiative Executive Director James Stratford giving remarks

NYC Her Future joined NYC Public Schools to welcome young women to the "I Know a Girl" event, creating space for intimate reflection on self-image.

Participants shared personal experiences from school and life they hope to change, and engaged in affirmations and yoga to build mental and physical strength.



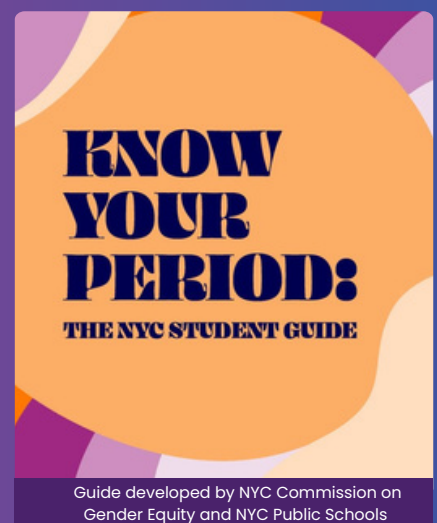
Participants practicing yoga poses



NYC Her Future Chief of Staff Natalia Diaz and participants pose for a group photo

The NYC Commission on Gender Equity, in partnership with New York City Public Schools, has launched *Know Your Period: The NYC Student Guide* — a new resource designed to help students better understand menstruation and menstrual health.

Created to be inclusive, informative, and accessible, the guide offers age-appropriate information about periods, menstrual products, and self-care. It also works to reduce stigma, promote body literacy, and ensure all students — regardless of gender identity — feel empowered to manage their menstrual health with confidence. This guide is a vital step toward creating more informed, supportive, and equitable school environments for all.



Guide developed by NYC Commission on Gender Equity and NYC Public Schools