

ASIAN AMERICAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER HERITAGE GRANT PROJECT BRIEFING



Asian American & Pacific Islander HERITAGE PROJECT

Description

Staff will present a status update on the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage Project, funded through a non-capital grant from the Maryland Historical Trust. The project entails a historic context study, the creation of an interactive feedback map, the documentation of AAPI oral histories, and the identification of themes and trends associated with AAPI history in Montgomery County.

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SUMMARY

Staff will present a status update on the Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Project.

OVERVIEW

Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) heritage is currently underrepresented in the Master Plan for Historic Preservation. This is a significant gap in our documentation of the county’s history and development and a reflection of past racial inequities in our understanding of historic significance.

To begin to bridge this gap, the Historic Preservation Office applied for and was awarded a FY2021 non-capital grant of \$24,000 by the Maryland Historical Trust to fund a historical and cultural resource study of Montgomery County’s AAPI communities. The grant supports the Department’s hiring of a consultant to develop a historic context study, conduct oral histories, and identify themes and trends associated with AAPI history that may be used for future historic property designations or nominations to the National Register of Historic Places.

The briefing will provide an update on the status of this grant-funded project and findings so far, including preliminary background information on the history and development of Chinatowns and ethnoburbs, progress toward grant deliverables, and a demonstration of the interactive feedback map developed to collect public input on sites with historical and cultural significance to AAPI individuals and communities.

CONCLUSION

No action by the Board is requested at this time. Staff will return with a future update as the project progresses.