

# A3PCON

ASIAN PACIFIC POLICY & PLANNING COUNCIL

## Dear A3PCON Friends,

We come to this newsletter in celebration, reflection and gratitude for one of our own. Mariko Tse Kahn has served as a tireless advocate for the mental wellness of our AAPI communities as Executive Director of [Pacific Asian Counseling Services](#) since 2004. An LMFT by training, Mariko's service to our communities began long before her role at PACS.

In 1977, 20,000 people from around the world gathered in Houston, Texas. The National Women's Conference was the first and only time that the federal government supported a meeting with approximately 2,000 delegates from 50 states and 6 territories to collectively create a national women's agenda. Mariko was a California delegate and ended up being the API spokesperson for the Minority platform.



*(Pictured from left to right are: Rita Elway, Carmela Lacayo, Gloria Scott, Ethel Allen, Mariko Tse Kahn, Coretta Scott King, Angela Cabrera, and Maxine Waters.)*

In the nearly 45 years since this historic conference, Mariko's commitment to fighting for the well-being of our communities has elevated every organization, every committee, and every role she's stepped into. Her belief in a better world for us all shines through in her work, her advocacy and her friendships. Those efforts included building capacity of Asian American and Pacific Islander communities through A3PCON. She served in multiple leadership roles as co-chair of the Mental Health Committee, board treasurer, board vice-president and president. In these positions, Mariko always sought to strengthen member organizations' ability to serve community members and address their needs.

Prior to joining PACS, Mariko was the Executive Director of The Maple Counseling Center in Beverly Hills, a private non-profit mental health counseling center, as well as the Executive Director of The Wellness Community, a non-profit organization that provided free support to cancer patients and their families. She was also a fierce leader in the Department of Mental Health and served on the Systems Leadership Team - which is the primary advisory group to the Director of LAC DMH. She is a former co-chair of the API Underrepresented Ethnic Populations (UREP) Committee, was a member of the Workforce Education and Training Advisory Committee and she worked on the development of the LAC DMH Innovations Plan.

Mariko's comprehensive view and full understanding of what mental wellness takes led her to become a founding member of the MFT Stipend Committee of the Southern California Consortium of MFT Educators and Clinical Directors. She was chosen to serve as a member of the MHSOAC Workforce subcommittee on Education and Training.

In her eyes, one of her most rewarding experiences as a member of the Board of Directors of Cambodia Town in Long Beach. She was part of the community team of business and community leaders who spearheaded the successful naming of "Cambodia Town" and continued to be actively involved with them as they moved forward towards the economic revitalization of the community.

Her accolades are clear and precede her. Mariko Tse Kahn is a force to be reckoned with and will be dearly missed in all the spaces she fought for, created, supported and advised, as she transitions into her very well deserved retirement.



"Mariko Kahn is the consummate advocate for the mental health needs of our API communities here in Los Angeles County. She has been the outspoken critic of the Department of Mental Health failure to address the historic mental health disparity between mental health need and the lack of culturally competent services in our communities and has been the chief architect of the A3PCON Mental Health committee advocacy positions for the past decade. For all of us she has been the role model in the importance of "speaking up" at every opportunity to address the leadership at the Department of Mental Health and the Board of Supervisors on this issue and holding them accountable for their inability to address our needs. A3PCON is well respected, better and stronger given

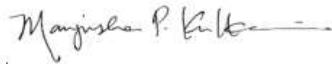
Mariko Khan's leadership over the past 15+ years and I am truly grateful to be her colleague." - **Herb Hatanaka**, *S&S Executive Director*

"There has never been a question of Mariko's commitment to her work, the community, and the needs of the Asian Pacific Islander people. As a Board Member, and the former Board President, Mariko could always be counted on to remind us of our mission, our responsibilities to our members, and the history of our A3PCON journey. Thank you Mariko for your tireless dedication to our Board and to our organization as a whole." - **Rachelle Arizmendi**, *A3PCON Board President*

"For decades, Mariko has been an amazing leader not only for A3PCON, but for the AAPI community in Los Angeles. She has always sought to raise awareness of our issues and ensure equity in terms of language access, resource allocation and funding. She's also been a mentor to me, offering sage advice when I was South Asian Network's executive director in 2010. As one of the few women AAPI EDs, Mariko serves as a model in her assertiveness, generosity and demands for excellence. Mariko, we are so grateful for your thoughtful leadership and dedication to the community and we will miss you dearly. Enjoy your retirement, though we promise to keep you busy in asking you to continue to serve in an advisory role at A3PCON." - **Manju Kulkarni**, *A3PCON Executive Director*

Today, a little over a week into Mariko's retirement - we are beyond grateful and

elated to celebrate Mariko and all that she's done and created for our communities. Congratulations and thank you, Mariko!



Manju Kulkarni  
Executive Director



Rachele Arizmendi  
Chair, Board of Directors



## Upcoming Events

This Thursday, August 12th at 5PM PST, A3PCON will be co-sponsoring the event: "Redressing Racial Injustices Through Reparations and Solidarity: Lessons Learned from the Incarceration of Japanese Americans, Slavery in America, and Repeated Suffering of Inequities by Black Americans". Registrants will receive a link to a free screening of "Reparations", a Stop Repeating History production by panelist Jon Osaki, for viewing in advance of the program. Interested community members can register at link above.



**JOHN M.  
LANGSTON**  
BAR ASSOCIATION  
OF LOS ANGELES



Present

# REDRESSING RACIAL INJUSTICES THROUGH REPARATIONS AND SOLIDARITY

Thursday, August 12, 2021 • 5:00pm PT

*Lessons Learned from the Incarceration of Japanese  
Americans, Slavery in America, and Repeated Suffering of  
Inequities by Black Americans.*

**Panelists:**

**Dr. Melina Abdullah**

*Professor of Pan-African Studies, Cal  
State LA, Co-founder, Black Lives  
Matter Los Angeles*

**Dr. Cheryl Grills**

*Professor of Psychology, LMU,  
Clinical Psychologist, California  
Reparations Task Force Member*

**Mia Yamamoto**

*Criminal Defense Attorney,  
Civil Rights Activist,  
Past President of JABA*

**Jon Osaki**

*Award-Winning Filmmaker,  
Social Justice Advocate,  
Executive Director, JCYC*

**Moderator:**

**John Mathews II**

*Langston Bar Association,  
Civil Rights Committee Chair*

Registrants will receive a link to a free screening of "Reparations", a Stop Repeating History  
production by panelist Jon Osaki, available for viewing before the program.

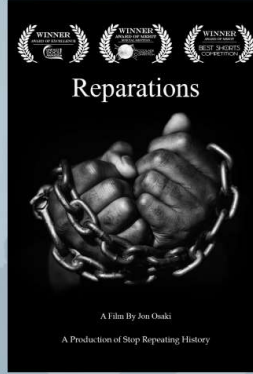
Register at [www.langstonbar.org/civil-rights](http://www.langstonbar.org/civil-rights)



**JOHN M.  
LANGSTON**  
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OF LOS ANGELES



**REDRESSING RACIAL INJUSTICES  
THROUGH  
REPARATIONS AND SOLIDARITY**



A Film By Jon Osaki

A Production of Stop Repeating History

The film, "Reparations", explores the four-century struggle to seek repair and atonement for slavery in the United States. Black Americans and Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders reflect on the legacy of slavery, the inequities that persist, and the critical role that solidarity between communities has in acknowledging and addressing systemic racism in America.

See 1-minute film trailer at <https://vimeo.com/531973252>.

Register at [www.langstonbar.org/civil-rights](http://www.langstonbar.org/civil-rights)



## REDRESSING RACIAL INJUSTICES THROUGH REPARATIONS AND SOLIDARITY



**Panelist:**  
**Dr. Melina Abdullah**  
Professor of Pan-African Studies, Cal State L.A. Co-Founder, Black Lives Matter Los Angeles

Dr. Melina Abdullah is a Professor of Pan-African Studies at Cal State LA, Co-Founder of Black Lives Matter Los Angeles, Co-Director of Black Lives Matter Grassroots, and Mama of three children. Abdullah earned her Ph.D. from USC in Political Science and her B.A. from Howard University in African American Studies. Abdullah has authored numerous scholarly articles and book chapters. Is the creator, host, and producer of the radio program Move the Crowd and co-host and co-producer of Beautiful Struggle both on 90.7FM KPFK radio. She is a recognized expert on race, gender, class, and social movements.



**Panelist:**  
**Mia Yamamoto**  
Criminal Defense Attorney, Civil Rights Activist, Past-President of JABA

Born in Poston Relocation Camp, Arizona, during World War II, Mia Yamamoto is a criminal defense attorney and civil rights activist. After serving in the U.S. Army and being awarded several medals for her distinguished service, Mia attended UCLA's School of Law, where she co-founded the Asian Pacific Islander Law Student Association. Thereafter, Mia worked at the Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles before becoming a public defender and eventually opening her own practice. Mia was appointed to serve on the California Judicial Council State Task Forces on Jury Improvement and Access to Justice by the Chief Justice of the California Supreme Court and has held many leadership positions in various organizations within the legal and social justice communities. Mia is a frequent speaker in classroom lectures, demonstrations and panel discussions, in addition to a frequent media commentator on, among other things, issues relating to criminal law. Mia has received countless honors and awards throughout her career.



**Panelist:**  
**Cheryl Grills, Ph.D.**  
Professor of Psychology, LMU; Clinical Psychologist, California Reparations Task Force Member

Dr. Cheryl Grills is a Clinical Psychologist with a current emphasis in Community Psychology. On the faculty of Loyola Marymount University (LMU) for the past 34 years, she is a Professor of Psychology, Director of their Psychology Applied Research Center, and President's Professor in their College of Liberal Arts. Dr. Grills is a national past President of The Association of Black Psychologists. She currently serves on the CA Reparations Taskforce, appointed by the Governor of CA. She also serves as Commissioner and Vice Chair of Los Angeles County's Sybil Brand Commission for Institutional Inspections, which focuses on conditions and practices within county jails and correctional facilities. She was Co-Executive Director of the Los Angeles County Blue Ribbon Commission on Child Protection whose work led to significant reforms in LA County's approach to child welfare, including establishment of an Office of Child Protection. Dr. Grills is a research principal investigator on several multi-site projects addressing mental health disparities, social determinants of health, positive youth development, and COVID's impact on communities of color nationally. Her work in the area of racial stress focuses on research and training associated with racism, racial stress, implicit bias and the development of community-based self-help models to address the negative effects of racism on people of African ancestry in the US and globally.



**Panelist:**  
**Jon Osaki**  
Award-Winning Filmmaker, Social Justice Activist, Executive Director, JCYC

Jon Osaki is an award-winning filmmaker who has directed and produced promotional, educational, narrative, and documentary films. His initial interest in film grew from his desire to share the stories of the Japanese Community Youth Council, where he has served as Executive Director since 1996. Over the past few years, he has had films screened at film festivals and community events across the country. As a filmmaker, Jon views this genre as the next step in his lifelong pursuit of social justice and equity.



**Moderator:**  
**John Mathews II**  
Langston Bar Association, Civil Rights Committee Chair

John Mathews II is a lawyer and a dedicated advocate for justice, equity, and civil rights. John currently serves as Senior Justice Deputy for Supervisor Holly J. Mitchell, where he is responsible for developing and advancing a policy agenda that is aligned with the Supervisor's vision and priorities related to public safety & criminal & youth justice reform. He previously served as Director of Community Engagement and Senior Legal Counsel at the Justice Collaborative, where he was committed to reforming the criminal justice system and building healthier and safer communities. John earned his B.A. from UCLA and his J.D. from Harvard Law School.

### Special Thanks To All of Our Sponsors



Register at [www.langstonbar.org/civil-rights](http://www.langstonbar.org/civil-rights)

# Redistricting 101

You still have a chance to offer public comment, submit testimony, draw your community and submit your suggestions to [LAUSD](#), [LA City](#), [LA County](#), and [CA State](#) Redistricting Commissions! **Why is this important?**

When the U.S. Census Bureau releases the data collected in the 2020 Decennial Census, electoral districts will be redrawn in the state of California (and everywhere that has districts). This process is called Redistricting, and it occurs to balance the populations in each district based on the Census data - which dictates funding, resources and legislative influence for the communities that live in the districts.

Most states give the power of redrawing legislative and congressional districts to the state legislature. Some states, like California, conduct redistricting differently. In 2008, California voters passed the Voters First Act. The Voters First Act mandates the creation of an independent Commission to redraw district lines.

## UPCOMING REDISTRICTING MEETINGS

### Los Angeles Unified School District - Meeting Agenda August 11, 2021

The next LAUSD Redistricting meeting will be held **Wednesday, August 11, 2021 at 4:00 PM (PST)**. Agenda notes can be found above.

### Los Angeles City - Meeting Agenda August 11, 2021

The next LA City Council Redistricting Commission meeting will be held on **Wednesday, August 11, 2021 at 6:00 PM (PST)**. Agenda notes can be found above.

### Los Angeles County - Meeting Agenda August 11, 2021

The next LA County Citizens Redistricting Commission (LAC CRC) Meeting and Public Hearing seeking input on communities of interest will be held **Wednesday, August 11, 2021** at the El Monte Community Center, 3130 Tyler, El Monte, CA 91731 beginning at **7:00 PM (PST)**. Parking is behind the building.

This will be their first combination of in-person and virtual LAC CRC meeting and public hearing in the San Gabriel Valley. For information about public hearings, please visit the public hearings page at; <https://redistricting.lacounty.gov/public-hearings/> or click here.

### California State - Meeting Agenda August 12, 2021

The next Citizens Redistricting Commission regular meeting will be on **August 11, 2021 at 7:00 PM (PST)** followed by the public hearing for communities of interest input (Zone G). Agenda notes can be found above.

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The Asian Pacific Policy and Planning Council (A3PCON) is a coalition of community-based organizations that advocates for the rights and needs of the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community in the greater Los Angeles area with particular focus on low income, immigrant, refugee and other disadvantaged sectors of the population. We set up this mailing list to keep you updated on API related issues. This includes community announcements, key news items, resources, and training. We will send you no more than 5 messages a month.

**Our mailing address is:**

Asian Pacific Policy & Planning Council  
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Los Angeles, CA 90021  
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