

NEW “JOURNEY OF HOPE” EXHIBIT FEATURES HISTORY AND CULTURES OF CHARLOTTE’S DIVERSE ASIAN AMERICAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER COMMUNITY

Community-curated exhibit features artifacts from 23 Charlotte AAPI cultures and communities

CHARLOTTE, N.C., May 15, 2023 – A new community-curated exhibit at the Charlotte Museum of History celebrates Charlotte’s diverse Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community and features artifacts from 23 AAPI cultures in Charlotte.

“This exhibit is groundbreaking and truly one-of-a-kind because it is curated by members of Charlotte’s AAPI community, focusing on their unique perspectives, histories and journeys,” said Terri L. White, president and CEO of the Charlotte Museum of History.

“Journey of Hope” includes folk art, artifacts, photos of local Asian landmarks and a brief history of Asian immigration to Charlotte and the United States. The museum will host an opening reception for the exhibit on Thursday, May 18, from 6-8 p.m.

“We welcome this opportunity to showcase the venerable heritage and ancient cultures of the AAPI community in Charlotte, which help make the Queen City so vibrant, inclusive and global,” said Dr. Nini Bautista de Garcia, exhibit co-chair and chair of the Asian American Foundation for the Carolinas. “The story of Asians and Pacific Islanders in America is one of perseverance, resilience and hope. And it started a long time ago.”

According to the 2020 U.S. Census, more than 138,000 Asians and Pacific Islanders live in the Charlotte metro, making up 5.2 percent of the area’s population. The Charlotte region’s AAPI community grew 89 percent between 2010 and 2020, making it the area’s fastest-growing ethnic group.

This exhibit represents cultures from East, South and Southeast Asia, as well as Hawaii and the Pacific Islands.

“In and around Charlotte, many in the AAPI community live between two worlds, “ said Dr. John C. Chen, exhibit co-chair and board chair of the Carolinas Asian American Chamber of Commerce. “They are

proud Carolinians and loyal Americans, while continuing to honor their traditional cultures and values. The artifacts in this exhibit come from the personal collections of residents who belong to the diverse Asian American communities in the greater Charlotte region.”

How to Go

The “Journey of Hope” exhibit is open now through July 29 and is included in regular museum admission. The opening reception on May 18 is free; registration at charlottemuseum.org/events.

The Charlotte Museum of History exists to save and share the Charlotte region’s history, helping create a better understanding of the past and inspiring dialogue about the future. The museum is the steward of the [1774 Hezekiah Alexander Rock House and homesite](#), which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is the oldest home in Mecklenburg County. The museum is the future home of the [historic Siloam School](#). Visit charlottemuseum.org and follow the museum on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#). The museum is an independent 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

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