



**AAPI**  
*Emerging Leaders*  
A Colorado Dragon Boat Festival Program

September 22, 2011

**Purpose:**

The Emerging Leaders Program is designed to develop the leadership skills of the youth and young adults of the Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

**AAPI Emerging Leaders Program Council:**

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Dear Community Leaders:

Over the years numerous Asian American Pacific Islander community organizations have expressed the need for culturally sensitive leadership programs dedicated to train AAPI youth and young adults.

The Colorado Dragon Boat Festival convened a series of meetings with AAPI community leaders and determined that a leadership program specifically tailored for the 18-25 year old population is needed. The program is necessary to ensure that the AAPI young adults become powerful, productive, and effective community and business leaders.

With the generous financial support from Asian Pacific American Bar Association of Colorado Foundation, Arun Das Memorial Fund, MillerCoors and private donors, the **Asian American and Pacific Islander Emerging Leaders Program** was developed.

The AAPI Emerging Leaders Program Council would like to invite you to encourage your youth and young adults to apply for this program. The program is designed to develop their leadership skills through leadership workshops, mentorship, support, and development opportunities. Application, application fee, essay, references and letter of recommendation are due by **Friday, October 28, 2011, 5pm MST**. Interviews will be conducted in-person during November.

**Workshop Dates:** January 21, 2012 • February 25, 2012 • March 24, 2012

Attached is the overview of the program and application form for your convenience. Please visit [www.cdbf.org](http://www.cdbf.org), email us at [leadership@cdbf.org](mailto:leadership@cdbf.org) or call 303-953-7277 if you have questions or need more information.

Sincerely,  
AAPI Emerging Leaders Program Council



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## Background

Identifying and developing young leaders is the life blood of many organizations and this is especially true in Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) communities. Over the years numerous AAPI community organizations have expressed concerns regarding the lack of culturally sensitive leadership programs available to train AAPI youth and young adults. In 2008 the Colorado Dragon Boat Festival convened a series of meetings with Asian American organizations and community leaders to identify leadership programs and resources being offered to AAPI youth and to determine populations not served by these programs. Through this research, the gap became clearer as the group sought leadership programs specifically tailored for Colorado's Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders ages 18 through 25...none could be found. To ensure that AAPI young adults become powerful, productive, effective community and business leaders the **Asian American and Pacific Islander Emerging Leaders Program** was developed.

## Purpose

The AAPI Emerging Leaders Program is designed to develop the leadership skills of Asian American and Pacific Islanders—between the ages of 18 and 25—by providing leadership training, support, and opportunities. The purpose of this program is to build bridges from one AAPI generation to another to help these emerging leaders become successful in their personal and professional lives and to strengthen their communities through service, engagement, and education.

## Requirements and Selection

- Potential candidates must be 18 to 25 years old and a current member of one of Colorado's current AAPI communities.
- Each candidate is required to submit the application, answer all essay questions articulating his or her desire to be a leader and three references. A letter of recommendation from a teacher/professor, school counselor, community leader, mentor or professional is a plus.
- The Selection Committee will interview the candidates in November and select 10-15 individuals to participate in this program. Upon selection each participant is required to sign a written commitment to complete the program and community project.
- The application fee is \$100 and is due by **October 28, 2011**. For applicants who are not selected, the application fee will be refunded in full. If cost is a factor, please contact the Emerging Leaders Program Council at [leadership@cdbf.org](mailto:leadership@cdbf.org).

## Workshops

The program consists of three full-day workshops held once a month for three months on:

- Saturday, January 21, 2012
- Saturday, February 25, 2012
- Saturday, March 24, 2012

Topics include:

- **Module 1: Know Yourself** – discover your vision, life purpose, value and passion, build on your skills and develop a strong personal brand
- **Module 2: Express Yourself/Finding Your Voice** – gain tools to aid in reacting quickly to any situation, honing listening skills, and becoming aware of your intent versus your impact
- **Module 3: Give Yourself** – builds on the other 2 modules to put leadership skills into action, strengthen conflict resolution skills, and learn about different leadership styles
- A portion of each training will be set aside to help identify and plan each participant's community project
- Teleconferences will be scheduled in-between modules. This is a time for participants to call in to ask questions, practice skills and to get coaching on a particular issue.

## Community Project

- It is important for leaders to understand how to demonstrate their desire to make a positive impact on the AAPI community. Growing great leaders and the desire to make a difference is, in part, the purpose of leading a community project.
- Every participant must develop and execute a community project. Individuals can choose from several group projects or may elect to carry out his or her own project.
- Participants will be required to develop a project plan with specific milestones, identify potential cost and ways to raise funds for the project, review the project plan every month with their mentor, carry out the project and turn in a document describing the lessons they learned.

## Mentorship Program

Each participant will be matched with a mentor to guide them as they plan and carry out the community project, learn from the training sessions and create their personal development plan.

## Connecting to other leadership opportunities

After the successful completion of the program and community project, we are committed to helping graduates further their community and career development by connecting them to opportunities where they can utilize their leadership skills, e.g., internship programs, jobs opportunities, appointment to Boards or Commissions, chances to network with successful AAPI professionals, etc.

To receive a program application, visit [www.cdbf.org](http://www.cdbf.org) or email us at [leadership@cdbf.org](mailto:leadership@cdbf.org).

**Application deadline: Friday, October 28, 2011, 5pm MST.**