



GIL ASAKAWA

GILASAKAWA@GMAIL.COM

720-232-3509

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Cultural Communications / Journalist / Author / Subject Matter Expert **June 1999-present**

Nikkei View LLC - www.nikkeiview.com

Creator for premiere Asian American Pacific Islander blog covering pan-Asian and Japanese American culture, identity and issues. Consultant and adviser on cultural competence and anti-racism communications and training for community organizations, local governments and companies. Public speaker, moderator and panelist. Author, "Being Japanese American" and "Tabemasho! Let's Eat! The Tasty History of Japanese Food in America." Also managed public relations for organizations including Colorado Dragon Boat Festival and Mile High Japanese American Citizens League.

Adviser/mentor **June 2021-present**

Poynter-Koch Journalism Media Fellowship

Serve as advisor for fellowship program aimed at professional development for young journalists with emphasis on journalists of color, and be a career mentor

Associate Editor/reporter **Jan. 2022-Sept. 2022**

Nutrition Business Journal, New Hope Network

Wrote reports assessing the state of the natural products supplements industry, and articles covering trends in natural products, organic foods, health, vitamins and supplements markets.

Public relations chair **March 2001-Aug. 2016**

Colorado Dragon Boat Festival

Managed public relations and media interviews, wrote press releases and sent press kits including digital media kits, managed content for CDBF.org website and newsletters, maintained festival and film festival's social media presence. Served as main stage emcee. Volunteer position, also served as operations committee member.

Manager of Student Media **Aug. 2010-May 2020**

University of Colorado College of Media, Communication & Information, Boulder, CO

Staff adviser to the CU Independent, responsible for managing the award-winning student-run news website for the University of Colorado in Boulder. Train student journalists and introduce emerging digital media concepts and social media to www.cuindependent.com.

- CU Independent received numerous awards from the Society of Professional Journalists.
- Was finalist in Hearst Student Journalism Awards.
- Received Online Pacemaker Award from Associated College Press.
- Helped place staff for internships and post-graduation positions in local & national media

Colorado Media Project **May 2019-Dec. 2020**

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI) Consultant

Consultant for the Colorado Media Project (<https://coloradomediaproject.com>), an organization funded by foundations, which is working to find ways to make local news sustainable in our new media industry paradigm. Role was to make sure that diversity is always considered in the CMP's work.

- Initiatives included memberships for newspapers, media sites and radio stations.
- Public funding of local news.
- Project to increase diverse coverage of the arts.

- Helped newsrooms cover immigration stories.

AARP AAPI Marketing Communications Consultant

Mar. 2014-Oct. 2019

AARP - www.facebook.com/AARPAAPI/

Managed social media outreach and editorial content focused on Asian American Pacific Islander topics for AARP's AAPI Multicultural Leadership Team.

- Grew initial Facebook page "Likes" from 80 to 22,000.
- Increased social media engagement rates.
- Established regular editorial presence on AARP's "Voices" blog and aarp.org website.
- Launched high-profile successful promotions including annual "Asian American Hero Awards."

See full CV at <https://www.linkedin.com/in/gilasakawa/>

EDUCATION

Pratt Institute, NYC ■ BFA in Painting, with Honors

SKILLS

HTML, Wordpress, Wix, newsletters, social media, photography, audacity, adobe photoshop, video editing programs

AWARDS & RECOGNITION, ADDITIONAL TRAINING

- Oct. 2023 – will be inducted into Denver Press Club Hall of Fame
- Sept. 2023 – will receive Award for Order of the Rising Sun with Silver and Gold Ray from government of Japan for building relationships between Japan and the U.S.
- 2019 Asian American Hero of Colorado Award, Colorado Asian Culture & Education Network
- American Society of News Editors (ASNE) 2017 Emerging Leaders Institute
- "Voice" award at V3 conference from Asian American Journalists Association/Los Angeles for being a pioneer in AAPI digital media
- Online Journalism Fellow, Western Knight Center for Specialized Journalism, Los Angeles, 2004
- Scholarship for Digital Storytelling Seminar at the American Press Institute, 2004
- Denver Rocky Mountain News "100 Best Colorado Web Sites," 2000 & 2001
- Denver Business Journal Who's Who in Technology, Telecommunications & Media, 1998 & 1999
- Pikes Peak Arts Council Recognition Award for regional arts coverage, 1994
- Rocky Mountain Music Association Media Coverage Award, 1990

COMMUNITY & PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- National Japanese American Memorial Foundation board member – 2023-present
- Denver-Takayama Sister City Committee chair – 2020-present
- Poynter-Koch Media & Journalism Fellowship advisor, mentor and instructor – 2021-present
- Colorado Asian Pacific United (CAPU) founder and board member – 2020-present
- US-Japan Council member – 2016-present
- COLab Asian Community Liaison for Colorado Media Project's Voices – 2021-2022
- Historic Denver Board of Trustees –2021-2022
- Community Foundation of Boulder County, TRENDS Reporting Fellowship for diversity in journalism Community Advisor – 2020-2021
- Board of Directors, Emily Griffith Foundation – 2015-2020
- Commissioner, Denver Asian American Pacific Islander Commission – 2014-2020



(Asakawa = Shallow River)