

Joie Nikita Ha

Community Builder & Storyteller

EDUCATION

Bachelor of Arts- Anthropology with Distinction University of Denver, 2015

Honors Thesis: *Finding Family: From street gangs to hip-hop crews in Phnom Penh, Cambodia*
Minors in Leadership, International Studies, and Psychology

Master of Development Practice Regis University, 2018

Thesis: *Where We're From: Stories of resilience as a method of mitigating mental health risks of Vietnamese refugees and the broader APIA community*

WORK EXPERIENCE

Community Organizing for Radical Empathy

Founder (2020- NOW)

- Provide clients a fresh Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion perspective rooted in realities of marginalized communities to corporations, small businesses, non-profits, and community organizations
- Respond to needs of community through community organizing; most recently Addressing Anti-Asian Hate town hall with over 900 registrants, and the state-wide Stop AAPI Hate rally
- Increase Mental Wellness support through statewide Mental Wellness Summit, and providing a Therapy Stipend program for marginalized individuals
- Provide easy to understand workshops and trainings for allies. Topics include but are not limited to:
 - Sustainable Allyship and Activism
 - Courageous Conversations
 - Microaggression & Implicit Bias
- Conduct DEI audits and collaboratively develop strategic roadmaps for improvements with clients

Colorado Asian Pacific United

Vice Chair, Project Manager (2020- NOW)

- With other community leaders, founded a non-profit focused on bring to light local Asian Pacific Islander American histories
- Oversaw the installation of three historic markers and one mural in Downtown Denver regarding Denver's Historic Chinatown, the first project of its kind
- Partnered with the Denver Office of Storytelling to release a documentary detailing the stories of the historic families of the local Chinese diaspora
- Hosted several high-profile events with substantial media coverage regarding developments for the Re-Envisioning Denver's Historic Chinatown project
- Secured official apology from the City of Denver regarding the 1880 Anti-Chinese Race Riot, the first of its kind outside of California and 5th in the nation
- Created and implemented a traveling exhibit regarding Denver's Historic Chinatown

U.S. Census Bureau, Denver/Dallas Region

Partnership Specialist (2019-2021)

- Engaged and educated historically undercounted communities about the importance of the 2020 Census, with focus on Asian Pacific Islander American communities
- Partnered with over 100 community organizations in a grassroots manner
- Organized and facilitated dozens of presentations and events focused on education and getting out the count; including but not limited to:
 - 2020 Virtual Denver PRIDE and Census Kick Off Event (3,000+ views, featuring Colorado LGBTQ+ leaders, performers, and artists)
 - Social Distance Powwow Online National Census campaign (4 separate events totaling 100,000+ views, featuring famous indigenous dancers and leaders across the country)
 - Far East Center Lunar New Years Celebration & Mural Reveal (1000 attendees, 40 x 15 feet mural)
 - National Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander Social Media Campaigns (22,000 views on Instagram and Tik Tok)

- Facilitated and helped create a statewide Asian Pacific Islander American Complete Count Committee, Hmong American Complete Count Committee, and Cambodian American Complete Count Committee
- Served as Colorado, Montana, and Wyoming data and Customer Relationship Management software lead

Denver Asian American Pacific Islander Commission Chair (2018-2022)

- Serve as liaison between the Asian American Pacific Islander community and Denver Mayor Hancock
- Led COVID-19 relief response to hundreds of Asian Pacific Islander seniors in Denver that were unable to secure groceries or PPE
- Led statewide Asian American Pacific Islander response to the redlining of AAPI history in the state Social Studies Standards and successfully pushed for inclusion
- Conducted survey and listening sessions with the Asian American Pacific Islander community to discover existing needs

Colorado Asian Culture and Education Network

Program Manager (2016-2020)

- Planned and facilitated Colorado Asian Eats events to bring awareness to different important topics through the mutual love of food
- Planned and advised for the 2017 Colorado Asian Pacific Islander American Leadership Conference
- Planned and implemented the 2017 Asian American Heroes of Colorado awards ceremony

Book Trust, Colorado

Donor Data and Analytics Manager (2017-2018)

Development Coordinator (2017)

- Raised over \$330,000 through annual events in support of children literacy in low-income areas
- Expert management and utilization of all data systems: Donor Perfect, Tableau, Donor Search, Microsoft Office, and more
- Increased efficiency in reporting processes and data maintenance saving the organization 50/hours+ a month

- Designed, imported, and exported data queries for segmentation in MailChimp, solicitation analysis, appeals, and more
- Told engaging stories through Tableau data visualizations that helped lead development strategy

Science of Life Studies, Malaysia

Community Development Officer (2015-2016)

- Liaised and connected with several community leaders in order to build trust and assess needs
- Planned and taught an extensive English curriculum to over 300 students
- Created and implemented the Youth Leadership Initiative, an intensive 6-week program for Malaysian youth
- Started a Pen Pal program, pairing 100 local students with native English speakers around the world

Asian Avenue Magazine, Colorado

Writer (2011- Present)

- Penned 2 cover stories and 10 articles covering Asian American Pacific Islander centered topics nationally and locally with focus on identity and culture
 - [Stories of Resilience: Refugee Families Start New Lives in Colorado](#), March 2017
 - [LGBTQIA+ What Does It Mean for AAPI's?](#), April 2017

AWARDS

- 2022 University of Denver Recent Alumni Award
- 2021 100 Asian Americans to Know in Denver
- 2014 Partners in Scholarship Research Grant
- 2013 Asian American Hero of Colorado

PANELS

- 2022 The Chinese Lady Talkback
- 2022 University of Denver Diversity Summit Alumni Activism Panel
- 2021 Chinook Fund Panel on Anti-Asian Racism and AAPI Solidarity
- 2021 Colorado Health Foundation Combatting Anti-Asian Hate

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