The AAPI Community Hub
By SK Lo (October 13, 2023)

Purpose
The first phase (beta version) of the AAPI Hub was launched at the National Unity Summit this September by Asian American Unity Coalition (AAUC). The goal of the Hub is to connect different AAPI communities with share information to empower each other through collaboration.

What is currently included in the AAPI Hub
The AAPI Hub now contains shared information that includes the latest census data from previous work done by ESRI nonprofit program team as our first prototype in 2020. The census data includes voting powerbase down to each congressional district showing different AAPI community representations. It can also be shown down to precinct level as the map is expanded. Different maps show racial representation of each state, county and district. However, these maps have not been updated.

The work done in 2022-2023 mainly focused on developing a comprehensive database for the AAPI communities. It was decided that our AAPI communities would be best described by the nonprofit organizations that many belong and that public information are available. Currently the AAPI Hub displays nearly 15,000 AAPI nonprofit organizations in all 50 states with data from the IRS.

Methodology
First, we defined our scope and definition of AAPI nonprofits. Our scope of AAPI encompasses people living in the U.S. with cultural roots in Asia and the Pacific Islands, including 26 countries in East, South East, and South Asian and 15 Pacific Island countries, excluding New Zealand. By AAPI nonprofits, we defined it to be organizations primarily run by and serving AAPI communities.

We have chosen ESRI ArcGIS technology to analyze and display our data since it is the best and most advanced technology developed. Our work is primarily driven by dedicated volunteers collaborating with our ESRI technology partner, Blue Raster, in this endeavor.

Information on nonprofits is available in the IRS website and is the source of our data. IRS has categorized the purposes of the organizations, mailing location, point of contact, year formed and the latest filing date as well as the asset, income and revenue of over 1.8 million nonprofits in all 50 states.

The method we used to filter the AAPI nonprofits is as follows:

We first tested using AAPI related words to manually filter out AAPI nonprofits in medium and large states and arrived at about 80% accuracy that the search words are useful. We then applied the same using machine logic and arrived at over 80% agreement between manual and machine
search. With over 400 search words associated with different ethnic groups we used the machine logic to sift through over 1.8 million public nonprofit organization records. This provided over 24,000 nonprofit organizations. Our volunteers then sifted through the list generated manually to determine if the organizations are primarily run by and serving AAPI communities to be included in the network. The list was then reduced to about 17,000 nonprofit AAPI organizations out of 22,000 examined.

Of the ~17,000 organizations Blue Raster can only display near 15,000 of them using ESRI geocoding techniques due to data ambiguity. ESRI’s ArcGIS technology empowers us to analyze this data obtained from various angles, providing invaluable insights into our AAPI communities.

The AAPI Hub is an inclusive platform, open for all to use. The platform is a great way to organize and store information. We urge organizations to share their collected information and share that through the Hub.

Limitations
The beta version of the AAPI hub has several limitations:

1. Incomplete data on all AAPI nonprofits which do not contain any of our search words that are commonly used to describe AAPI. To overcome this, we have to rely on prior knowledge or crowd sourcing.
2. IRS data is updated monthly which needs to be updated correspondingly in the AAPI Hub. We need to develop a way to compare the filtered data with the new updated information using machine logic then manual determination.
3. Not all organizations have websites or Facebook pages or mission statements listed in their 990-return form. Often, we can find the website through online search manually.

Future Directions
1. Complete the nonprofit data to include weblinks and add other organizations that has no Asian nomenclatures in their organization names.
2. Develop the story board for cultural and historic info for different ethnic communities
3. Classify service nonprofit providers to build the different service types as resources for users
4. Build AAPI elected official directory
5. Branch out to AAPI business directory
6. Include West Asia and Central Asia countries as AAPI country origins