

# NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE CITY CONTROLLER

CHRIS HOLLINS, CITY CONTROLLER



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

May 1, 2026

## **CITY CONTROLLER CHRIS HOLLINS TO HOST ASIAN AMERICAN PACIFIC ISLANDER HERITAGE MONTH CELEBRATION AT CITY HALL**

**HOUSTON, TX** — The Office of the City Controller will host its annual Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage Month Celebration on Thursday, May 7, 2026, from 10:30 AM to 12:30 PM in the Legacy Room at Houston City Hall.

The event will honor the rich history, cultural contributions, and lasting impact of Houston's AAPI community; while recognizing local leaders whose work continues to shape the city's future.

Houston is home to a vibrant and growing AAPI population that plays a vital role across business, culture, education, and public service.

"This celebration is about honoring the people and stories that help define Houston," said City Controller Chris Hollins. "Our AAPI community is an essential part of what makes this city strong, dynamic, and globally connected. It's important that we take the time to recognize those contributions as we continue building a city that reflects and uplifts every community within it."

The program will be emceed by Rosie Nguyen, Director of Communications and Projects in Free Expression at Rice University, and will honor:

- Community Hero, Chairman of Southwestern National Bank, Dr. Jody Lee
- Community Champion, Former CEO of the Texas Tribune, Sonal Shah
- Community Visionary, Founder of Lemonade with Ice, Ice Venkatesh
- Community Trailblazer, Founder of Hope Clinic, Beverly Jean Quan Gor
- Community Trailblazer, Comedian and Actor, Mo Amer
- Community Advocate, Founder of The Law Offices of Omar Khawaja, PLLC, Omar Khawaja

Attendees will enjoy live performances, and the program is free and open to invited guests and community partners. Those interested in attending or seeking additional information may [RSVP here](#).

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**ABOUT CITY OF HOUSTON CONTROLLER'S OFFICE:** Established in 1903, the City of Houston Controller's Office is the cornerstone of financial oversight and accountability for America's fourth-largest city. With a mission to uphold Houston's fiscal integrity and protect residents' tax dollars, the office oversees a broad spectrum of the City's financial operations, including its budget, investments, and debts. Committed to transparency and fiscal responsibility, the

Controller's Office is key to maintaining the economic vitality of Houston, contributing to its status as a thriving metropolis for its diverse community.

**ABOUT CONTROLLER CHRIS HOLLINS:** Chris Hollins, serving as Houston's City Controller since January 2024, brings a dynamic approach to City governance and financial management. With a rich background in legal practice and management consulting, coupled with innovative leadership as Harris County Clerk, Hollins is dedicated to enhancing the city's fiscal practices and community engagement. Educated at Morehouse College, Yale Law School, and Harvard Business School, Hollins's commitment to accountability and service excellence drives his mission to build a financially resilient Houston. Residing in the Third Ward with his family, his work is deeply informed by his strong community ties.