



# PROCLAMATION

## Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month

**WHEREAS**, Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month is observed nationally in the month of May, chosen to commemorate the immigration of the first Japanese to the United States on May 7, 1843 and to mark the anniversary of the completion of the transcontinental railroad on May 10, 1869 as the majority of workers who laid the tracks were Chinese immigrants; and

**WHEREAS**, this recognition encompasses all of the Asian continent and the Pacific Islands of Melanesia, Micronesia, and Polynesia; and

**WHEREAS**, the diverse Asian and Pacific Islander population in Washington state numbers more than 700,000 making them the second-largest and fastest-growing minority population, and is representative of 48 Asian and Pacific Island nations; and

**WHEREAS**, a large percentage of the population in Bothell identify as Asian and Pacific Islander, composed of varied ethnicities, languages, and cultures that contribute to our community's progress, success, and vibrancy; and

**WHEREAS**, we must acknowledge and address a documented regional and nationwide trend of increased discrimination, hate and violence against Asian Americans, exacerbated by false narratives and xenophobia around the coronavirus; and

**WHEREAS**, the institutional racism that Asian and Pacific Islander communities face cannot erase the resilience, strength, accomplishments, and joy of the people, now and throughout history, making their character and legacies even more inspirational and reinforcing that education, celebration, and public awareness is vital to our community health.

**NOW THEREFORE**, I, Mason Thompson, do hereby proclaim May 2022 as "Asian and Pacific Islander Heritage Month" in the City of Bothell. The City makes this proclamation to honor our Asian and Pacific Islander community and recognize the opportunity the celebration provides to educate the public on the Asian Pacific role in American history and promote the advancement of civil rights and equal opportunity for all.

Signed this 10<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2022

*Mason Thompson*  
Mason Thompson (May 10, 2022 12:33 PDT)

Mason Thompson, Mayor