

Kickoff of Asian Heritage Month and explorASIAN Festival 2022 with an in person Opening Ceremony, April 30

Vancouver, BC – March 28th, 2022 – To mark the beginning of Asian Heritage Month and explorASIAN Festival 2022, the Vancouver Asian Heritage Month Society (VAHMS) will hold an in person Opening Ceremony on April 30th, 2022 from 10:00am-12:00pm. The two-hour ceremony will feature a reception, live speeches by esteemed guests, an exhibition of art from VAHMS' [Interconnected Artist Spotlight Series](#), and live performances to celebrate Asian Heritage Month and explorASIAN Festival 2022.

The ceremonies will include five performances by influential artists. [Luke Kawabata](#), a Nikkei-Canadian baritone who is a current member of the Yulanda M Faris Young Artists' Program with Vancouver Opera, will sing O'Canada to kickoff the Opening. The proceeding performances will feature [Eileen Kage](#) and [Noriko Kobayashi](#), two taiko veterans who will perform the explorASIAN Theme Song; Robyn Jacob and George Rahi, interdisciplinary artists and performers of [Gamelan Tekanan Suara](#), a style of gamelan music played in Bali, Indonesia; [Kassandra "La China" Flamenco](#), one of Canada's leading flamenco artists well-known for her unrelenting drive to push the artistic envelope; and, thanks to the generous sponsorship of the U.S. Consulate General Vancouver, [ARKAI](#), an Asian American duo who won the 2021 Astral Artists National Auditions and continuously use their music to challenge preconceptions, bridge social and cultural divides, and cultivate peace-building.

As well, the following iconic Vancouver attractions will be illuminated in red to celebrate Asian Heritage Month:

- May 1st: City Hall, B.C. Place, Bloedel Conservatory, and more
- May 3rd: Canada Place

Register: [explorASIAN Opening Ceremony](#)

Download: [explorASIAN 2022 Program](#)

Quote from U.S. Consul General, D. Brent Hardt:

"As countries of immigrants, the United States and Canada proudly celebrate our multicultural roots and the mosaic these diverse peoples have formed together over time. We understand how diverse people and perspectives challenge norms and strengthen our societies. We also appreciate that the process of integration has often been slow and painful for many newcomers and many communities, both in the past and today."



The Vancouver Asian Heritage Month Society (VAHMS) is a registered secular non-profit organization with year-round programming in the arts and culture scene. Its mission is to foster, promote and celebrate the arts and cultural diversity that Asian-Canadian communities bring to Canadian society. VAHMS' signature project, **explorASIAN**, is an annual Metro-Vancouver festival showcasing pan-Asian Canadian arts and culture during Asian Heritage Month in May.

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