



Asian American and Asian
Resource and Cultural Center

**Purdue University Asian American and Asian Resource and Cultural Center
(AAARCC)
Virtual Tour Script
(Updated July 21, 2020)**

Slide 1:

Thank you for joining us on the tour of Purdue University Asian American and Asian Resource and Cultural Center Virtual Tour.

Slide 2:

Purdue University Asian American and Asian Resource and Cultural Center, most commonly referred to as Purdue AAARCC, was founded in Spring 2015 after more-than-a-decade-long-activism by Purdue students, supported by faculty, staff, and alumni. The AAARCC started with a room in the Ground Floor of Stewart Center for about a year before moving to our current location. We are located at 915 5th Street, West Lafayette, IN, at the corner of 5th and Waldron St.

Slide 3:

Before we go inside, let's take a look outside our Center. Our outdoor lawn space includes a seating area that students and campus community may use for relaxing, studying or gathering. We also share this space with our neighboring Cultural Centers: the Latino Cultural Center and the Native American Educational and Cultural Center. Together with the Black Cultural Center and the LGBTQ Center, these five cultural centers are units under the Division of Diversity and Inclusion at Purdue. One thing that we like to emphasize is that, our centers are open for everyone!

Slide 4:

When the weather is nice outside, you will notice that students are hanging out and enjoying each other's company there. Purdue ARC works closely with Asian-interest student organizations, and they often reserve this space for different outdoor events. The list of Asian-interest student Organizations on campus can be found through our website.

We also collaborate with these students through Summer Peer Mentoring Programs for incoming Asian and Asian American Students. We also collaborate with campus-wide student organizations such as the Purdue Student Government, Purdue Graduate Student Government, Purdue Student Union Board, and many others.

Slide 5:

Now join me in seeing the inside of the Center

Slide 6:

As you come into the door, you will be greeted by our staff members, Undergraduate Ambassadors, or our Graduate Assistant.

Voice:

Hello! Welcome to the Asian American and Asian Resource and Cultural Center. Our mission is to weave the Asian and Asian American experiences into the fabric of Purdue's campus life. What I appreciate most about the AAARCC is its presence on campus. Having something like this on-campus shows that Asians and Asian Americans are represented and have tailored resources to best fit their personal situations.

Slide 7:

Voice:

"Purdue AAARCC, this is Kathleen"

When you come in, you will need to sign in at the Welcome Center. Purdue ARC can also be contacted through phone calls, website, email, and social media accounts that we will list at the end of this tour.

Slide 8:

This is our Center's living room area. Throughout the school year, we host many different events here. Oftentimes, you will find students relaxing or studying, and we enjoy the creation of communities happening in this space.

Slide 9:

The AAARCC's programming includes pedagogy, cultural work, and advocacy. The first area is pedagogy. We emphasize the sharing, teaching, learning, and dialogues on the diversity of Asians and Asian Americans. Our Center's name, the Asian American and Asian Resource and Cultural Center, signifies the recognition and commitment to learn the different but intersecting histories and experiences of these two communities. One example of our pedagogical programming is our signature event, the AAARCC Lunch and Learn Series,

where we invite faculty/staff/students/ community members to discuss a particular topic related to these two communities. They touch on history, politics, and religion, and include topics from transnational adoption and protest movements to thriving in college, and getting a jump start in our career.

Slide 10:

Our cultural work provides a general entry to understand the diversity of Asian and Asian American communities through cultural ceremonies and celebrations. We do so, for example, by organizing a Lunar New Year celebration event that involves performances, food, and activity tables. Our goal is that interests in appreciating, preserving, and learning our cultural heritage will lead to deeper understanding of these communities' histories, struggles, and contributions.

Slide 11:

Our advocacy work is done through providing trainings and resources that speak to pertinent issues. For example, we have been pushing for dialogues on mental health and well-being among Asians and Asian Americans, particularly today in the time of COVID-19 with heightened bias and racism against Asian communities. We also do our advocacy work through providing opportunities for our students, current and future leaders, to participate in leadership conferences, meet with students from other universities, and start building networks and solidarity.

Slide 12:

In this picture, you can see several people gathering and learning how to play mahjong. Our library collection offers books, films, and games, and our online catalogues can be accessed through Purdue AAARCC's website. Our programming also includes a Reading Program or Book Club and Movie and Discussion, featuring books and films on Asian and Asian American experiences.

Slide 13:

In addition to educating our campus about the Asian American and Asian experiences, we also celebrate our community!

Voice:

People singing "Happy Birthday"

Slide 14:

Our Center is equipped with a kitchen and appliances, including stove and oven, refrigerator, coffee maker, and microwave.

Slide 15:

Like many communities, food brings people together. Student organizations have also been organizing events from this kitchen, such as dumpling making party, hot pot party, or Pho night.

Slide 16:

Right around the corner, we have a space that we call “The Nook.” People often go to the Nook when they want a little bit more quiet but still want to be in the fun atmosphere coming from the other area.

Slide 17:

We use the dining area to serve refreshments during our events. It also serves as an additional space to study. The AAARCC has been collaborating with Purdue Writing Lab that uses our space as one of their lab satellites once a week. In addition, a community’s Chinese language school also meets at the AAARCC during the weekend.

Slide 18:

Our dining area offers a space to share cultural elements, like food, with others on campus. For example, you can see here our staff are preparing ingredients for a dumpling making event during the Lunar New Year celebration week. Sharing sessions like these give us a space to learn that even within a very comforting topic such as food, we can dialogue about how, for Asian and Asian American communities, food at many occasions may bring memories of sweet gathering with loved ones, but it may also bring a painful memory of microaggressions from classmates, for example, about what we eat and about the smell, texture, or color of our food.

Slide 19:

The signed posters on the walls throughout the nook and dining area serve as a celebration of many who brighten our space with their visits. Through our Speaker Series program, every semester, the AAARCC brings in scholars, artists, athletes, public figures to share on their expertise.

Slide 20:

Now that we have toured the first floor, let’s go upstairs!

Slide 21:

Throughout the Center, the artworks that you see serve as a reminder of community that grows across generations, for example, the origami as an expression of the AAARCC’s

community of makers and Balinese masks generously given by a friend of the AAARCC who was involved with the founding of the Center.

Slide 22:

Upstairs, we have a computer lab connected to the Information Technology at Purdue, also known as ITaP. Here, students can print their homework out directly from our computer. It is also a great place to go in between classes if students need to read for class or do homework.

Slide 23:

(Students' explanations about how the AAARCC is meaningful for them)

Yuta Hoashi:

Hi, I'm Yuta Hoashi and the AAARCC is meaningful to me because it is able to bring together all the asian organizations on campus, and increase their influence within the campus. Asian cultures have some impact on campus but it has the potential to have bigger influence through the community, not just at Purdue, but in West Lafayette. I believe the AAARCC is bringing a lot of resources and support to all the Asian organizations, and it has been beneficial on my part as president of JSA in order to improve and make our organization expand.

Gwynelle Condino:

My name is Gwynelle Condino and the AAARCC is meaningful to me because it gave me a warm and welcoming place to call home away from home.

David Phan:

Hello my name is David Phan and the AAARCC means a lot to me in many ways and one is it's a physical space for my organization to host our events, the AAARCC does a really good job with supporting our members and supporting the community in order for us to host our events here. We have a lot of our different socials here as far as game night and our fun night. The AAARCC in general is just a nice place for students to come have some downtime or come hang out. Personally I've been here a lot just being able to talk to the people inside the building and just being able to converse and build a community within Purdue's campus.

Slide 24:

The upstairs of the AAARCC is regarded as a more quiet area than the downstairs area. Students often use the conference room as a quiet study space or a space to do a group project. Sometimes though, in late afternoons, you can hear music and laughter coming

from the conference room as students and their communities are listening to or singing a song or two.

Slide 25:

Our conference room can also be utilized for extracurricular events such as this mahjong game. Events like this provide a great opportunity for cultural learning and networking.

Slide 26:

The second floor also hosts offices for the AAARCC's program Administrator,

Slide 27:

and the AAARCC's Director. Campus communities may contact our staff members to schedule meetings and request trainings, presentations, or collaborations through the forms on our website.

Slide 28:

With more than 10,000 Asian American and Asian international individuals at Purdue from different backgrounds, weaving our communities' histories and experiences takes collaborative efforts. We need your partnership! Read 3 points

Slide 29:

We need your partnership! There are many different ways to help. First of all, come and visit our Center to familiarize yourself with our space. Browse our website, and Follow and "like" our social media accounts. Our website and social media offer rich resources to incorporate into your learning and to get to know more about what we do. Be Friends of the AAARCC and partner with us in our Initiatives. You can sign up on our website to receive an email newsletter that we send out on a weekly basis. You can join one or more of the Asian-interest student organizations on campus. Attend our educational and cultural events! Most importantly, join us in learning together every day on the diversity of Asian and Asian American experiences and struggles. Include these communities' history and experiences in your daily life, organization, Classes/Syllabi, Trainings, Examples, Work, Business, and conversations with others.

Slide 30:

If you have further questions, you can search "purdue aaarcc" online that will take you to our website. You can email us at aaarcc@purdue.edu. You can also give us a call at 765-496-0488. We are @purdueaarcc (that is 3 A's and 2 C's) on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and YouTube.

Slide 31:

This concludes the virtual tour of Purdue Asian American and Asian Resource and Cultural Center. Thank you for your interests, and Boiler Up!