

COLLEGE AVENUE

Volume 17 | Issue 3 | Spring 2022
A Rocky Mountain Student Media Publication

CELEBRATING
**ASIAN
AMERICAN
HERITAGE
MONTH**

History Uncovered

Asian American Culture In Old
Town Fort Collins

APACC

How One CSU
Organization Embraces
Community and Culture

Asian American Art

Visual Stories
of a People

**You came.
You shopped.
You voted.**

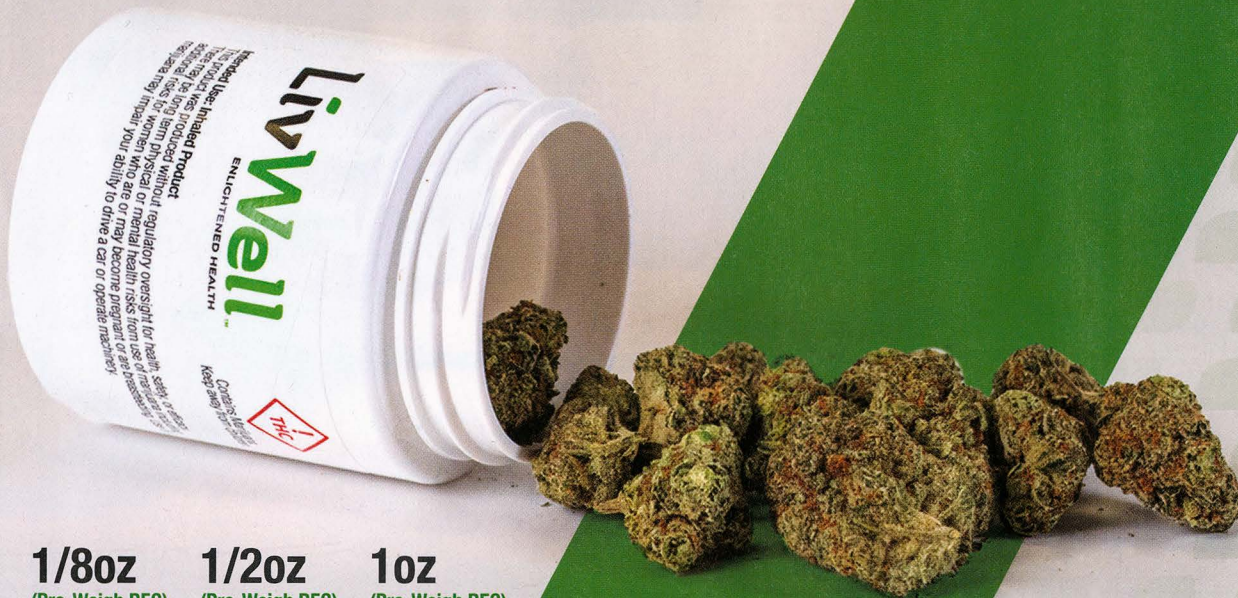
We're humbled by the outcome.

Thank you CSU students for voting LivWell Enlightened Health one of the top dispensaries in Fort Collins. It's our mission to provide you the best dispensary experience possible, and we thank you for this honor!

LivWell Fort Collins

900 N. College Ave - Fort Collins, CO 80524

Order ahead at LivWell.com



1/8oz
(Pre-Weigh REC)

1/2oz
(Pre-Weigh REC)

1oz
(Pre-Weigh REC)

\$12^{99*}

\$39^{99*}

\$69^{99*}

LivWell
ENLIGHTENED HEALTH™

COLLEGE AVENUE

Editors

Kailey Pickering, Editor-in-Chief
Anna von Pechmann, Multimedia Editor
Sasha Beran-Hughes, Visual Editor

Copy Editors

Holly Middleton
Annie Weiler

Contributors

Kelsie Korinek
Simone Woodbury
Aspen Flores
Harper Wines
Samantha Nordstrom

Photography

Greg James
Pratyooosh Kashyap
Anna von Pechmann
Skyler Pradhan
Anna Tomka

Design

Sasha Beran-Hughes
Olive Mielke
John Califf
Kaylee Congdon

Advisor *(the man who made this possible)*

Jake Sherlock



@collegeavemag
collegeavemag.com

College Avenue Magazine

CSU Lory Student Center, Room 118
Fort Collins, CO 80523
(970)491-1683
collegeavemag.com
editor@collegeavemag.com

Advertising Inquiries

advertising@collegian.com

Employment Opportunities

editor@collegeavemag.com



This publication is not an official publication of CSU but is published by an independent corporation using the name 'College Avenue' pursuant to a license granted by CSU



From Your Editors

Throughout this academic year, College Avenue has paid homage to old and new Fort Collins traditions and celebrated the rich agricultural and culinary atmosphere of the area. For our last print edition, we would like to shine a light on the Asian Pacific Islander Desi American (APIDA) community.

The COVID-19 pandemic has incited a recent rise in violence against Asian Americans nationally. What is not so commonly understood, perhaps, is the historic discrimination against the APIDA community in Colorado, as described by Harper Wines in this issue. Despite these adversities, our local APIDA community has shown both resilience and vibrance here in Fort Collins.

Leading up to APIDA Heritage Month in May, this print edition celebrates the APIDA community in Fort Collins. Under the leadership of JoAnn Cornell, the director of CSU's Asian Pacific American Cultural Center (APACC), a designated inclusive space for APIDA identifying individuals has been created on campus in order to provide a space for expression. Additionally, Asian entrepreneurs have fostered a greater presence and appreciation of Asian culture in our Fort Collins community. For example, Saiprasad Palusa, the owner of Bawarchi Biryani Point restaurant and Swagath Indian Grocery Store, has created a place in which customers can dine and buy groceries to make food that tastes like home. Beyond cuisine, many art forms can be used as an instrument for expression of Asian culture. Graphic designer Micah Hwang, a senior at CSU, incorporates Korean culture into his artwork.

We hope you enjoy learning more about the rich and diverse APIDA community in Fort Collins!

Sasha Beran-Hughes
Visual Editor

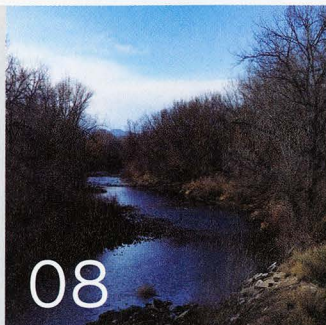
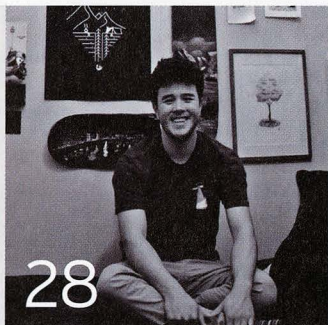
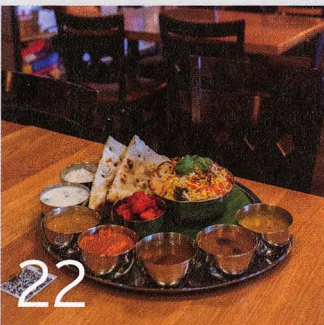
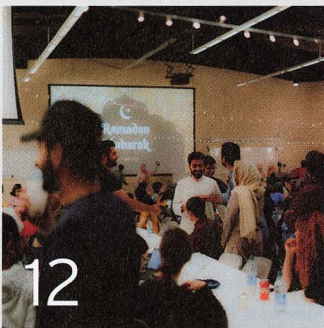
Kailey Pickering
Editor-in-Chief

Anna von Pechmann
Multimedia Editor

Cover Art by Skyler Pradhan

Content

- 08** History Uncovered
- 12** APACC Organization
- 18** Asian Heritage Through Film
- 22** Bawarchi Biryani Point
- 28** Asian American Art

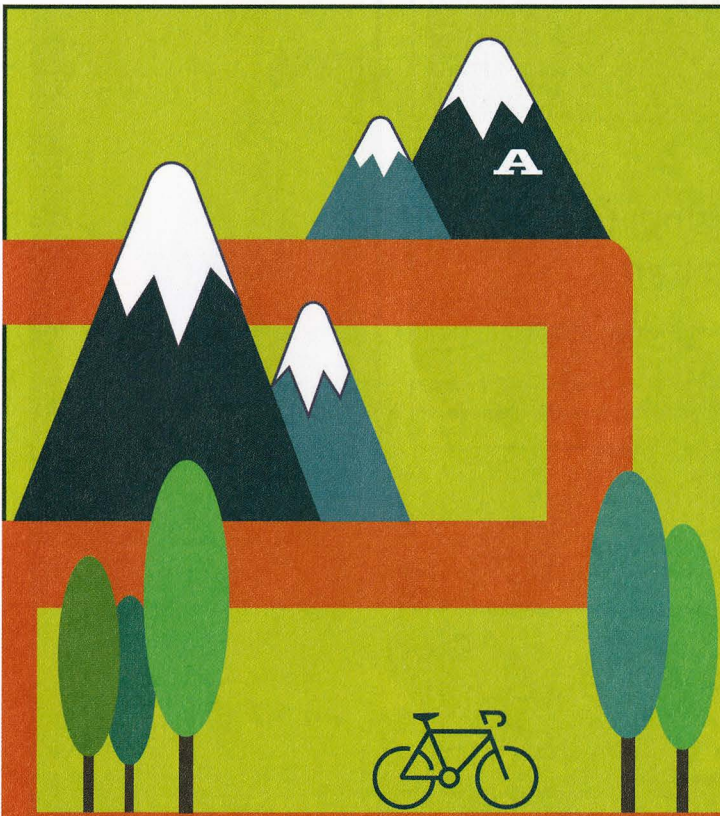


90.5
FM
kcsufm.com

The ALL-NEW KCSU APP



**Take KCSU
with you
wherever
you go!**



WORK ON CAMPUS!



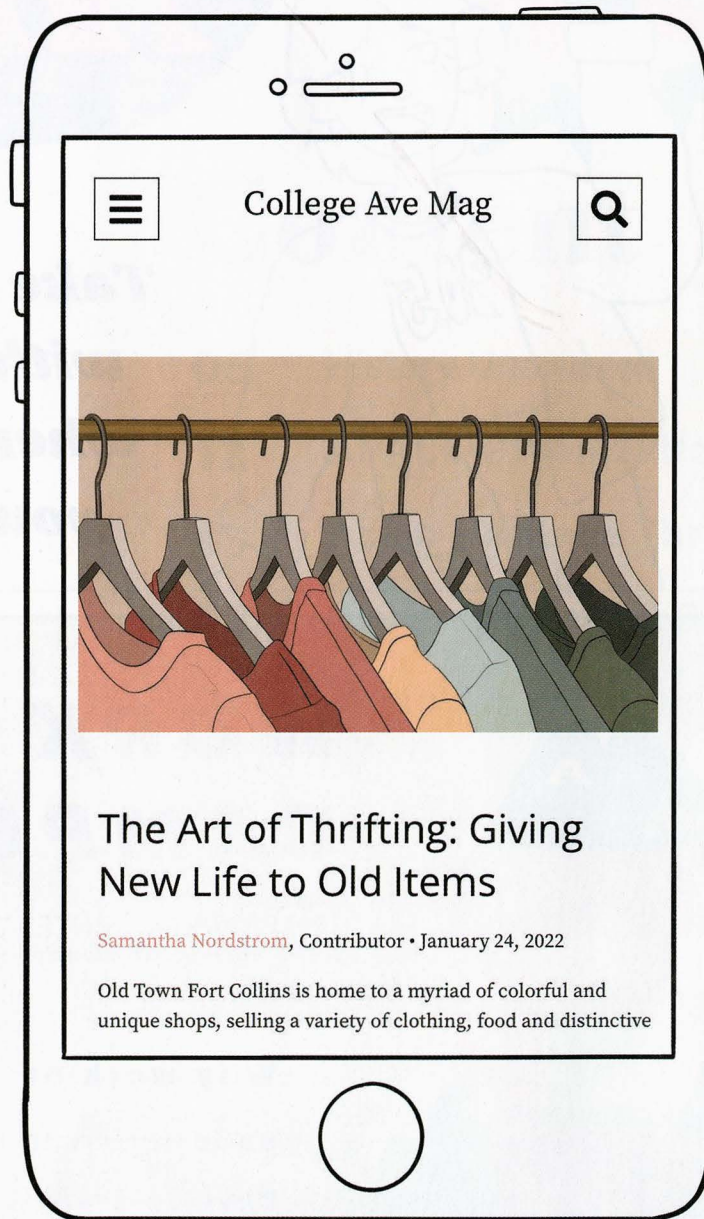
CAREER CENTER
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY

Why work on campus?

- Build community with your peers
- Develop essential skills that help with future jobs
- Flexible hours around class schedules

Look for jobs at: <https://career.colostate.edu/jobs/>

THERE'S MORE TO THIS EDITION!

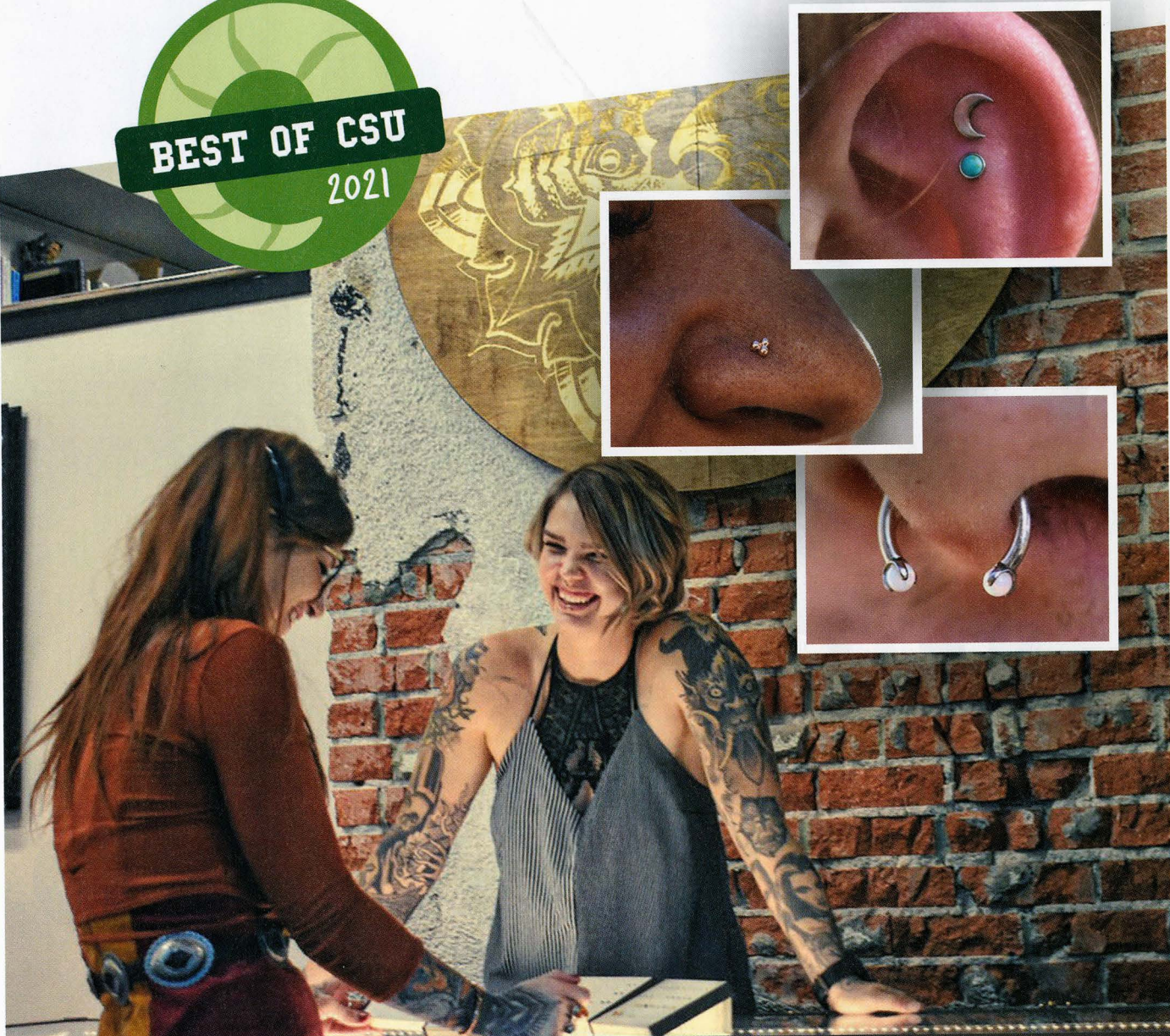


Visit collegeavemag.com
for more College Avenue content

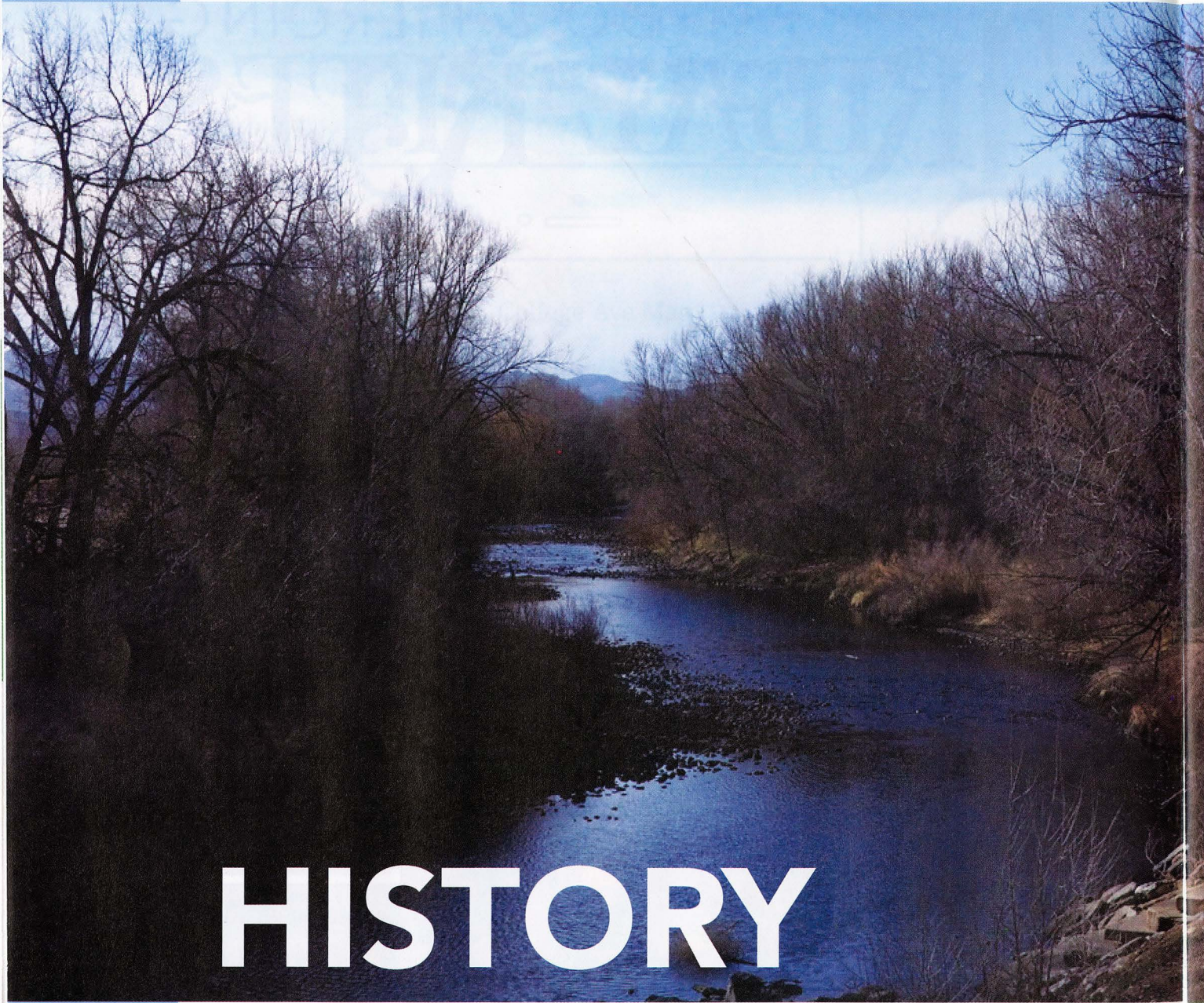
COLLEGE AVENUE

TATTOO & PIERCING TRIBAL RITES

EST. 1994



628 S COLLEGE AVE. | 970.221.9712 | WWW.TRIBALRITESTATTOO.COM



HISTORY UNCOVERED



Asian American Culture In Old Town Fort Collins

By Harper Wines

Those familiar with Colorado probably don't know that iconic Old Town Fort Collins, which is both a popular college student hang-out as well as a booming destination for tourists and locals, used to be a hub for eastern Asian immigration. Old Town Fort Collins was once home to an Asian community during the Gold Rush, and later, was the workplace for a significant number of Japanese immigrants who worked for agricultural ditch companies. Today, Chinese restaurants and businesses carry the remnants of this era through the town we know, and Fort Collins farms still rely on infrastructure built by Japanese immigrants.

When the discovery of gold in California met the ears of Chinese men around the late 1840s, they, along with many others, were drawn west to capitalize on the idea of striking it rich. The large migration led to the first transcontinental railroad. Many others, especially those who hadn't been so lucky in finding gold, turned to the railroad sector. This included many of the Chinese immigrants who were now in America. As railroads began popping up throughout the country, so did Chinatowns, which were areas of large cities and towns in which the population was predominantly of Chinese origin. Fort Collins quickly became one of the various Colorado Chinatowns, in addition to Denver.

"One of the problems with this kind of history is that, if it was documented at all, it was being documented by mostly white middle class journalists who weren't exactly interested in the history of Black or Asian communities, especially in the late 1800s," Jim

Bertolini, the historic preservation planner for the City of Fort Collins, says.

According to Bertolini, the Fort Collins Chinese community was likely located near the northside of the railroad tracks around present day Willow and Linden streets. The first of many Chinese businesses in Fort Collins was Yee Lee's Laundry, which opened in 1881. Even after Lee moved to Rock Springs, Wyoming, Yee Lee's Laundry stayed in operation, carrying Asian-American business through the next several decades of Fort Collins history. It wasn't until the 1920s that the laundry closed and was turned over to a white entrepreneur. Unfortunately, the Asian-American impacts on this area were not preserved. The Perennial Gardener is the current business that resides where Yee Lee's Laundry used to be.

A small laundry may seem trivial, but the time just before the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882, which temporarily suspended Chinese immigration and made Chinese immigrants ineligible for naturalization, was extremely dangerous for the Chinese community. The Chinese Exclusion Act was passed because American society used the Chinese people as scapegoats for the poor wages and lack of jobs, even though they only accounted for .002% of the population. The exclusion act demonstrated the immense amount of hatred for the Chinese community during this time.

"These are a small handful of Chinese residents that choose to stay, because this was a pretty hostile environment for anyone of Chinese ancestry," Bertolini says. This makes the Chinese businesses that sustained themselves through that era that much more historically notable.

Although there was still significant Asian immigration in the late 1800s, the Chinese Exclusion Act shifted immigration demographics from Chinese to Japanese. With the lack of records from this time, it is hard to say for sure which types of businesses were here. However, Bertolini suspects that there was a Japanese boarding house, which is a house where lodgers rent single rooms on a nightly basis, in Fort Collins at one point. This would have been located at 228 Jefferson St.

"There's a boarding house that operated on the upper floor, and we think that might have been a boarding house for Japanese migrant workers," Bertolini says.

These Japanese immigrants worked primarily in agriculture, developing irrigation and ditch systems throughout Northern Colorado. Many of these ditches are still in operation today, and they usually support and provide local farms with water. They also provide current Fort Collins residents with drinking water.

"Since they were moving around a lot, they weren't living in permanent apartments or houses, so we think the Ukata rooms at 228 Jefferson might be [boarding for the Japanese workers], because that is a Japanese surname," Bertolini says.

The Japanese community in Colorado grew to a noticeable size in the 1920s and caught the eye of the Klu Klux Klan. In 1924 Clarence Morley, Colorado governor and Klu Klux Klan member, passed multiple laws that limited the rights of the Japanese community, including preventing them from owning and buying land. The inability to buy land forced many to move, and this significantly decreased the Japanese population.

“The inability to buy land forced many to move, and this significantly decreased the Japanese population.”

The Asian American impact in Fort Collins is not exclusive to the late 1800s and the Gold Rush. Asian American culture is carried through Fort Collins today through the businesses and restaurants that have developed and operated over the years, primarily from Eastern Asian immigrants to Fort Collins. This includes LuLu Asian Bistro, formally known as The China Palace. According to Bertolini it was opened by Walter Wang, who was a Ph.D student at Colorado State University in the 1970s. Further, the University brings the Asian American culture to the campus with its Asian Pacific American Cultural Center (APACC), which educates and spreads awareness to the community and students. They also provide support for Asian American and Pacific Islander students.

The Asian American history in Old Town Fort Collins may not be evident, but the contributions of Asian Americans during the 1800s impact modern Fort Collins. The Asian American heritage is almost as old as the town itself. If you would like any additional information about the vivid Asian American history of Fort Collins, you can email the City of Fort Collins' historic preservation program at preservation@fcgov.com to learn more.

Photo by
Gregory James

Previous Page: The Cache la Poudre River provides the water necessary for irrigation of local farms.

Photo by
Anna von Pechmann

Lulu Asian Bistro sushi chef Hong Xin Lin puts the finishing touches on a sushi roll March 21.



the
world
is your campus

10+ countries, 100 days



*your study abroad
adventure awaits*



SEMESTER AT SEA®



ACADEMIC PARTNER
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY



APPLY
NOW
**FALL
2022
VOYAGE**



APACC

HOW ONE CSU ORGANIZATION EMBRACES COMMUNITY AND CULTURE

By *Kelsie Korinek*

In celebration of Asian Pacific Islander Desi American (APIDA) Heritage Month in May, Colorado State University's Asian Pacific American Cultural Center (APACC) organized a variety of events to highlight the vivid cultures of their Asian American identifying community members. The diverse community at CSU paints a vibrant picture of the unique identities and experiences of its students and staff. The members of CSU's community come from all walks of life, traveling from near and far to be a part of the university's dynamic environment.

As a diverse institution, the need for inclusive spaces on campus has been imperative to instilling a sense of belonging and inclusivity among members of the CSU community. These spaces serve as a safe place for folks to express themselves and their identities, while building community with their fellow peers. APACC is one of many inclusive spaces on campus that provides resources for the success and well-being of students and staff, while educating and bringing awareness to the history and heritage of those that call the Fort Collins and CSU communities home.

APACC works to "provide a safe and supportive space for Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander, Southwest Asian, North African, Middle Eastern, Southeast Asian, Desi, adopted, mixed race, Asian American students, and other historically marginalized communities." Three percent of the CSU undergraduate population identifies as Asian, Rachel Wada says, Student Success Coordinator for APACC. Five percent identify as two or more races, which accounts for a portion of students that identify as mixed-race with Asian or APIDA descent.

"Our [mission] is trying to create a space of community for [marginalized students and students of color], being advocates for them, helping them succeed, and bringing them together," says JoAnn Cornell, APACC Director.

One of the ways that APACC engages with students is through the variety of events that the center organizes and participates in. This includes support groups like Chai to Understand, described on the APACC websites as "a weekly discussion panel that examines the experiences of APIDA identifying students and community members as a predominantly white institution," and Story Circle, "a support group for Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander, Southwest Asian, North African, Middle Eastern, Southeast

Asian, Desi, adopted, mixed race, and Asian American folks to discuss their experiences and identities as members of a predominantly white institution.”

“[Chai to Understand and Story Circle] are places for [students] to find community where there are different outlets for them, either to get involved or just have some fun and talk to different people,” Cornell says. They meet on Mondays at 4 p.m. and 5 p.m., respectively, in room 333 of the Lory Student Center.

CSU student and APACC Communications Manager Randy Huynh says that the Asian Pacific American Cultural Center has given him “a place to feel welcomed [as a marginalized student].” He began visiting the APACC center in 2020, interested in learning more about his culture, as well as the culture of others who frequented the center. His initial involvement has given Huynh the opportunity to engage and build connections with these students, while utilizing other resources that APACC offers, like Chai to Understand and Story Circle.

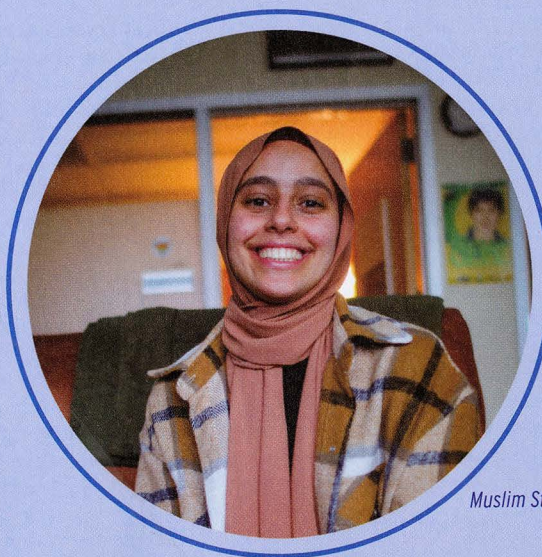
While APACC organizes events for GSU members throughout the entirety of the school year, they have created a special lineup of events to celebrate APIDA Heritage Month. The initial event took place on March 31 and April 1 at The Foundry dining hall on campus. Here, popular dishes from Southwest Asian and North African (SWANA) regions were served.

SWANA identities have been somewhat invisible within the Asian-American community. “In some ways, they identify as Black/African American, maybe Asian, or white, and there are a lot of traditions, heritages, and things that they experience that are very different from [that of the Asian Pacific American Cultural Center and the Black/African American Cultural Center]. So we’re trying to do a lot more programming for them,” Cornell says

The menu was made to satisfy, offering patrons an abundant, delectable spread of SWANA cuisine. It featured koshary, which is a dish that is made with rice, pasta, lentils, onions, chickpeas, and a flavorful red sauce. Koshary is “considered to be Egypt’s national dish,” Wada says. “The dish originated in India and is known as kichri. It was believed that the recipe was brought over by Indian soldiers during the British colonization in the late 1800s.”

Portraits by
Anna von Pechmann

Illustration by John
Califf



Alaa Eldeiry
*Muslim Student Association
Vice President*



JoAnn Cornell
Director of APACC



Shehab Elhaddad
*Muslim Student Association
President*

Ful medames, “a popular street food containing mashed fava beans, reminiscent of what we know as refried beans,” according to Wada, was also featured on the menu. It is a household breakfast food, originating in ancient Egypt, that is often served with pita. Another traditional recipe, mujaddara, was available too. This is a vegetarian dish, consisting of lentils and caramelized onions, usually served alongside a yogurt sauce, Wada says. It dates back to 1226 A.D. Iraq and has many Southwest Asian variations.

A number of other traditional foods were showcased as well, including tabouleh, fattoush, shiro wot, chicken wot, baklava, and Persian rice pudding. This menu was carefully crafted by Hiba Abdeljalil, a residence director at CSU.

The following weekend, APACC took a trip to Meow Wolf in Denver, where they visited Eriko Tsogo and toured her work. Tsogo is a Mongolian American artist who uses mediums such as film, writing, and painting to bring her visions to life. APACC had the opportunity to do a mask art workshop with the artist on April 5, where they were then able to display their masks on April 7 in the APACC office on campus. This was part of an art exhibition and ramen mixer organized by APACC to integrate their members’ cultural identities into descriptive artwork, all while enjoying traditional Asian-American fare.

Next on the agenda was a Ramadan Iftar event on April 8. “[Ramadan] is a month of fasting for Muslim folks,” Wada says. During this time, those that practice the Islamic faith do not eat between sunrise and sunset. The breaking of the fast at sunset is called Iftar. APACC provided a space for the community to come together and share a meal in celebration of the first Friday of fast-breaking, otherwise known as Suhur.

The remainder of APIDA Heritage Month consisted of panels, keynote events, and collaborations with other diversity offices on campus. Because April is also Sexual Assault Awareness Month, APACC partnered with CSU’s Women and Gender Advocacy Center

to host keynote speaker Chanel Miller. Miller is an Asian American artist and writer, who wrote pieces like “Know my Name: A Memoir” and the “Emily Doe letter,” describing her experiences as a sexual assault survivor. This event draws attention to injustices faced by women in the APIDA community, educating and bringing awareness to prominent and impactful topics, such as sexual assault.

As a community-driven organization, APACC has contributed to instilling a sense of belonging within its visitors, as well as the greater CSU community. The center has given students and staff the opportunity to come together to express their identities and tell their stories, while engaging in a number of events that highlight Asian-American cultures.

For more information about APIDA Heritage Month or to get involved with APACC, call (970) 491-6154 or visit their office, located in room 333 of the Lory Student Center.

Photo by
Skyler Pradhan

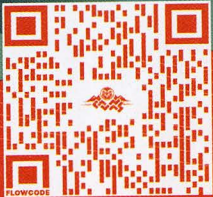
Colorado State students from the Muslim Student Association organized a Ramadan Iftar event, supported by the Asian Pacific American Cultural Center (APACC), Black / African American Cultural Center (B/AACC), and Islamic Center of Fort Collins.



We'll take care of your banking so you can focus on what actually matters.

We want to hear about your enormous dreams.

We have resources for your ambitions and goals.



Learn more about the exclusive CSU Ram debit card from **Canvas.**



Come visit us at one of these **three** Fort Collins branches.

- › 2503 Research Blvd
- › 700 Whalers Way
- › 319 S Meldrum St

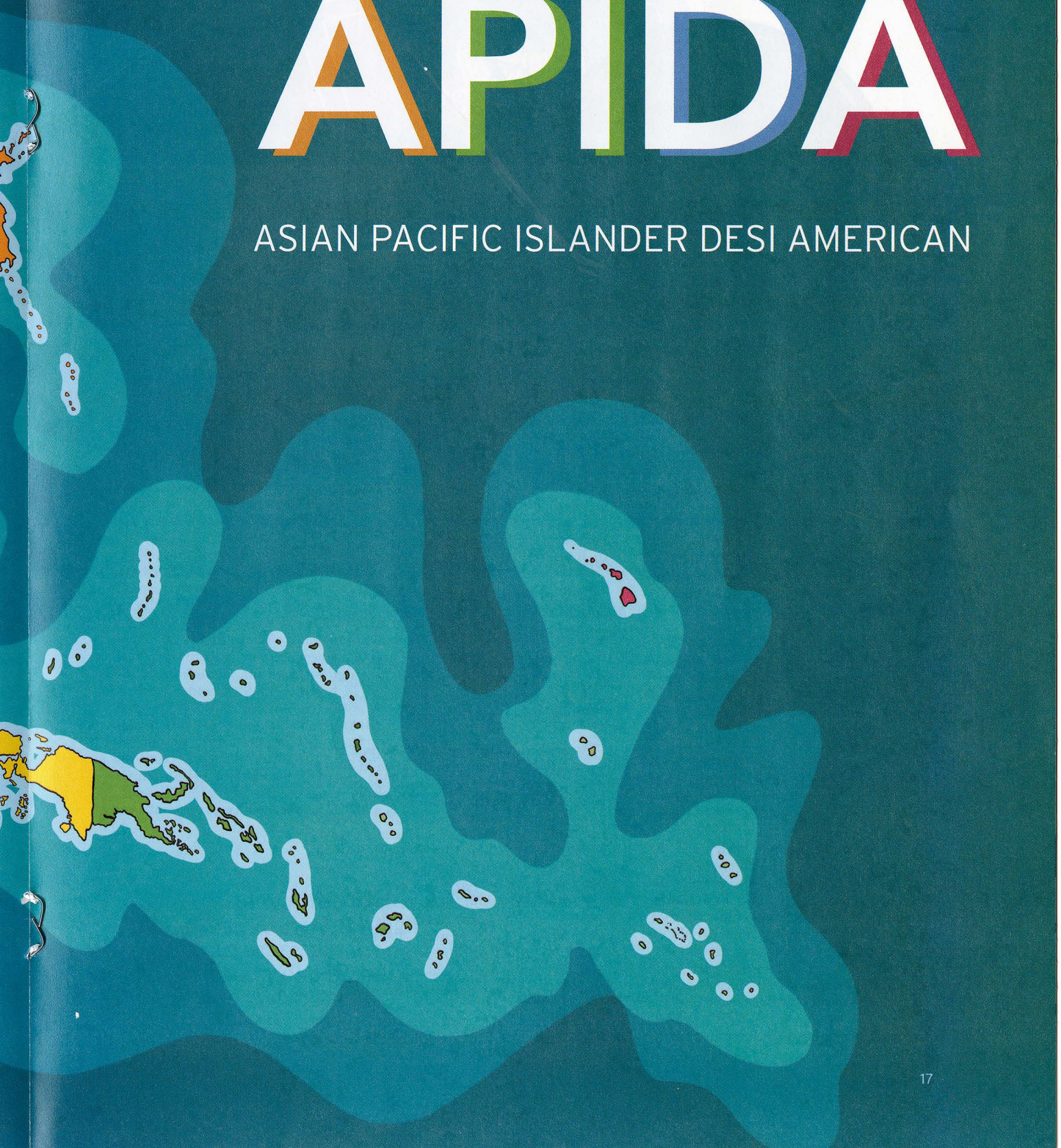
Have fun with us @Canvasfamily on social media:





APIIDA

ASIAN PACIFIC ISLANDER DESI AMERICAN





Asian American Heritage &



By Samantha Nordstrom

Picture this: a new movie just released, and you decide to check it out at the local theater with some friends. You buy tickets, arrive at the theater and find your seats. Then the movie starts and, slowly, the main character grows on you. You later realize why you like this character so much - they're just like you!

Movies are an enormous part of our culture today. They depict stories, become time capsules, and demonstrate how cultures have progressed. Movies allow creators to share experiences that viewers may not otherwise understand.

To celebrate Asian Pacific Islander Desi American (APIDA) Heritage Month, let's determine what "good" representation looks like and look into films featuring Asian leads.

Kurtis North, a senior instructor of communication studies at Colorado State University, explains that there should be a variety of different roles and film genres representing Asian Americans. He says that "good" representation means that people of different ethnicities receive major, minor, flat, or nuanced roles. He points out that good representation doesn't always mean staying within the confines of culture.

"I think we can have traditional ways of

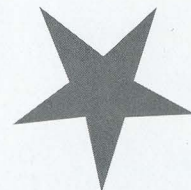
doing things, and we can have progressive ways," North says. "We can have movies that are cast a certain way, and we can have other movies that are cast differently."

He also says that authenticity is an essential aspect of good representation of Asian heritage and culture.

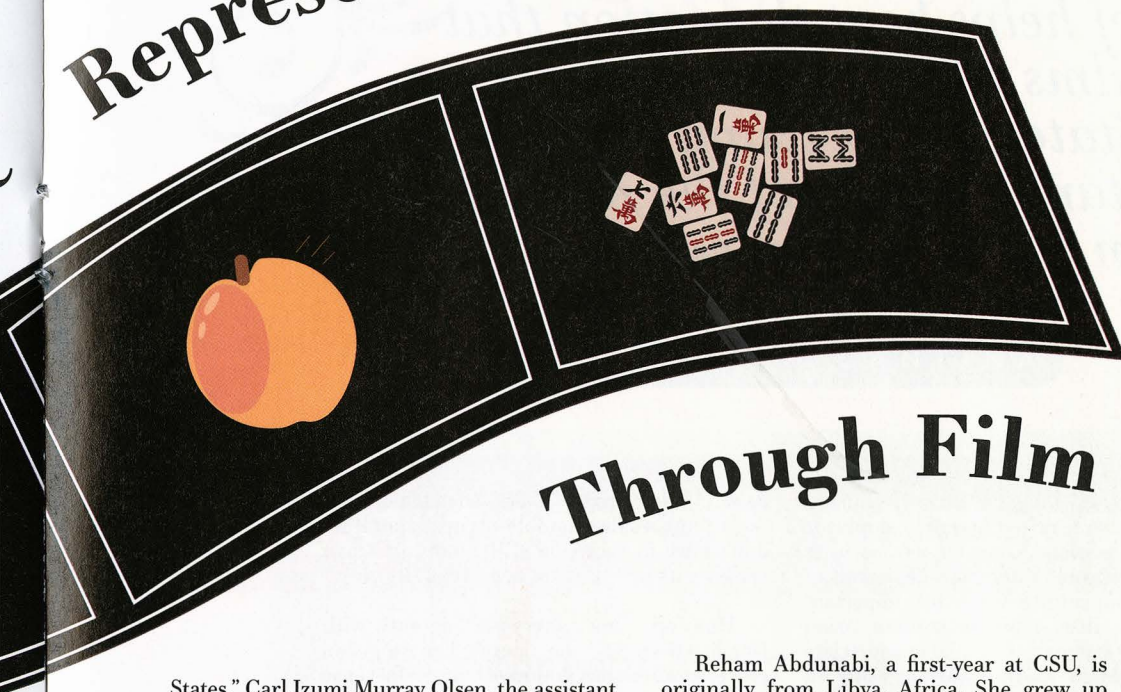
"I think we all want to see ourselves on screen," North says. "I want to see shared experiences ... and then I also want to get away from my own life and live other peoples experiences."

"Parasite" centers around the Kims, a poor Korean family living in a small town in South Korea. During the movie, the Kims meet a wealthy family, the Parks, and scam their way into working high-income jobs for the family while taking advantage of the family's trust. According to Bong Joon-ho, a South Korean director and screenwriter, the film showcases Korean leads while tying in deeper themes about hope, corruption, class, and capitalism. "Parasite" also features exclusively Korean actors, directors, and writers. "Parasite" has received a total of 197 film-related accolades among 330 nominations, making it a powerful showcase of Asian representation.

"[Parasite] helps beat the notion that foreign films can't have success in the United



Representation



Through Film

States," Carl Izumi Murray Olsen, the assistant director of the Asian Pacific American Cultural Center, says. "The knock-on has always been 'English-speaking Americans can't get into subtitle films,' and it was cool to see an example that ran counter to that narrative."

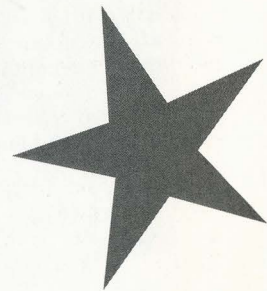
Another famous film celebrating Asian culture is "Mulan." The film follows a young Chinese woman, Mulan, as she disguises herself as a man to enlist in the Chinese army. Although "Mulan" was a breakthrough film as the first Walt Disney Company animated film to feature an Asian heroine, "Mulan" is often considered an Americanized version of the Chinese folktale, "Ballad of Mulan." Tony Bancroft, a white man, directed the animated movie. While this does not discredit the movie's depiction of Asian culture, it's important when considering if the film authentically represents Chinese culture. However, Mulan remains a beloved movie and her character continues to inspire young girls.

Reham Abdunabi, a first-year at CSU, is originally from Libya, Africa. She grew up surrounded by Middle Eastern culture. As a North African and southwest Asian community member, Abdunabi says she considers herself an ally to the Asian community because she believes minorities face similar struggles. She says that Americanizing movies imply that other cultures must Americanize themselves to receive attention. However, she credits the Walt Disney Company for making a movie with an underrepresented lead.

Illustration by Kaylee Congdon

"Disney movies get a lot of views, especially by younger people," Abdunabi says. "There are some aspects [of 'Mulan'] that are probably true, and it makes the younger society more aware...they didn't just make a movie about the typical culture here in America."

Although it's an older film, "Enter the Dragon," starring famous Asian American actor Bruce Lee, is a classic representation of Asian culture. Lee also helped director Robert Clouse write the movie. In "Enter the Dragon," Lee portrays a secret agent who must infiltrate an Opium Lord's fortress using martial arts. Murray Olsen says that discussing Bruce Lee is crucial when considering Asian American representation.



“ [Bruce Lee] was the first masculine, Kung Fu, Asian American representation that I think broke through for a lot of Asian men,” Murray Olsen says

“ [Bruce Lee] was the first masculine, Kung Fu, Asian American representation that I think broke through for a lot of Asian men,” Murray Olsen says. “At the time, it was groundbreaking. ... You never saw some sort of badass, kicking-like-30-bad-guys-at-the-same-time type of character.”

“[Parasite] helps beat the notion that foreign films can’t have success in the United States,” Carl Izumi Murray Olsen, the assistant director of the Asian Pacific American Cultural Center, says.

In this context, “Kung Fu” refers to Chinese martial arts, characterized by agility, duplicity, speed, and precision. Kung Fu movies were among the first, and most iconic, depictions of Asian American culture. While it is important to have films that showcase modern Asian experiences, it is equally essential to appreciate films that highlight Asian history, as Kung Fu has origins in 255 B.C.

“Crazy Rich Asians” is another well-known film featuring an entirely Asian cast and director. The film tells the story of Rachel Chu struggling to fit in with her boyfriend’s “old money” family. The romantic comedy was among the first Asian American films to break from stereotypes and feature pop culture elements.

The New York Film Academy points out that some Asian viewers are often repelled by Asian stereotypes in films, such as “the funny sidekick, the kung-fu master,” or “the chopstick-yielding exchange student.” With nuanced, developed characters, this film celebrates Asian leads outside of stereotypes and normalizes multi-faceted Asian roles.

“Now, we’ve got more than just a few Disney and Netflix movies [representing

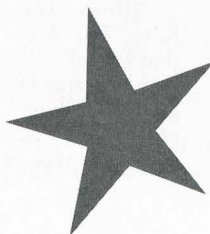
Asians],” North says. “There’s so much of it we don’t think it’s that notable anymore, [and] we don’t have to spotlight it. [It’s not] an Asian comedy; it’s just the best comedy of the year.”

However, not everyone agrees with North. Olsen says he doesn’t believe Asian representation has improved much because of the industry’s degradation of Asian women.

“There are so many examples of movies where Asian women are relegated to sexual objects, ... [or] die a tragic death, or the only value they have is their sexuality and what they can give men,” Murray Olsen says.

Ultimately, Abdunabi says we can always make improvements with Asian representation in film.

“There’s never a stopping point where everything is perfect,” she says. “I like how it’s grown to show language more, and how it’s been appealing more to the audience, even [when] they’re not of that community. I think that’s a very big growth and it shows the audiences a lot about other cultures. It’s not just a movie you watch; it’s something you learn [from].”





uno mas

TAQUERIA Y CANTINA

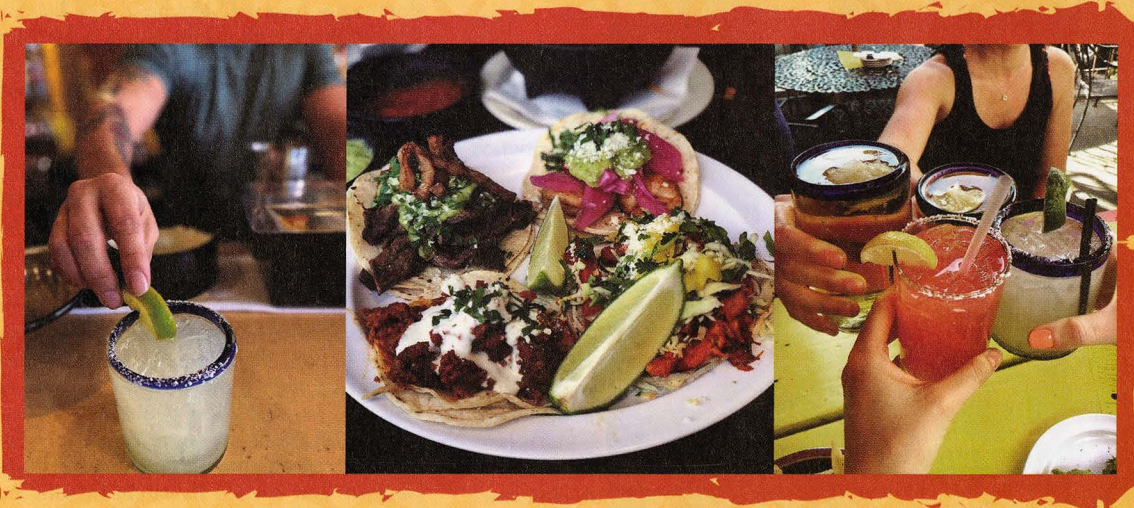
best tacos in fort collins

marg monday: happy hour margs all day

taco tuesday: \$1 off all tacos 2-7pm

wine wednesday: half price bottles all day

happy hour: m-f 2-6pm, sat/sun 11am-5pm



120 W Olive St • Suite 104 • Fort Collins, CO • 970.286.2957
unomastaqueria.com



Bawarchi Biryani Point

**A One-Stop Shop for
South Indian Cuisine**

By Aspen Flores

When you think of Asian food in Fort Collins, what's the first thing that comes to mind? Maybe it's the bao from Chopstickers, perhaps the pho at Saigon Grill, or maybe, if you have not explored beyond campus, you only know about the not-as-authentic food from Panda Express in the Lory Student Center.

Fort Collins has various family-owned and chain restaurants to choose from that offer wide varieties of food from different cultures, but until the last six years, one thing missing from that list was South Indian cuisine. Saiprasad Palusa, a former assistant professor in the biology department at Colorado State University, noticed the same thing.

In 2016, during a leave of absence from the University, Palusa jumped from biology to business and opened Bawarchi Biryani Point at 1611 S. College Ave. It sits across the street from the CSU Health and Medical Center near Taqueria Los Comales and Music City Hot Chicken.

Palusa says that he has been in Fort Collins since 2004, but even then, he would drive elsewhere to get South Indian food.

“South Indian food is different compared to North Indian food,” Palusa says. “Like idlis, dosas, biriyani, and all these things are South Indian food. I know people are going to eat South Indian food from Denver to Boulder, so I thought, ‘Why can’t I open a South Indian restaurant?’”

Because Palusa did not have experience in the restaurant industry beforehand, he decided to expand the franchise Bawarchi Biryani Point because of their success in locations across the United States. Even though it is a chain restaurant, the atmosphere and cooking can make you feel at home.

The Bawarchi Biryani Point Fort Collins website says, “Bawarchi Indian Cuisine isn’t just about food. It’s about the generations of chefs who kept the cooking traditions alive and are behind the delicious dishes we serve in our establishment.”

Sampling foods is a great way to explore different cultures, but Palusa likes to take cultural exploration one step further for his customers and share the history, tradition, and relevancy behind each dish

“In India, we have so many different cultures,” Palusa says. “I’m from South India. We will eat a little bit more spicy food compared to North India, and South Indian people will eat more rice compared to North Indian people, that’s where biriyani comes from, a flavorful rice dish.

Sai Murali Arra, the Bawarchi Biryani Point Fort Collins manager who helps prepare food and manages customer service, says that while the restaurant has many quality dishes, biriyani is their signature meal.

According to their menu, biriyani is “a versatile Hyderabadi offering of meat/vegetables marinated in herbs and spices is layered with long-grain basmati rice and steamed to perfection in a tightly sealed, heavy-bottomed dish (dum-process).”

The dum-process, or dum pukht, is a traditional cooking method in India that uses a tightly sealed, heavy-bottomed dish to slow cook food and allow each herb and spice to release its aromatic flavors.



Indian food is not a monolith, and it depends heavily on the region. Different cultures contribute to these unique variations, which means that Bawarchi Biryani Point has food, such as biriyani, that people cannot find anywhere else in town. The other Indian restaurants in Fort Collins have Nepali or North Indian cuisine.

Through the ambiance and food, this restaurant connects customers to South Indian culture. Arra says the friendly staff and environment also bring people back.

“I would say most of the customers here come for the good service, first of all,” Arra says. “When compared to the restaurants, like for Indian cuisines, they feel like it’s a homecoming actually, like when you sit at home and have a chat with your family. They love the ambiance here.”

Looking at a menu could be intimidating for those unfamiliar with the dishes and ingredients in Indian cuisine. However, Palusa is happy to help with that. He estimates that out of the 30% of his new customers, 20% have never had Indian food before.

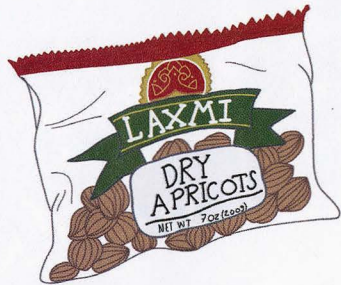
Photos by
Pratyoosh Kashyap

Left: Customers are greeted with idols from Indian mythology as they make their way into Bawarchi Biryani Point.

Right: Bawarchi Biryani Point is an Indian restaurant that serves South Indian cuisine and is located next to Swagath, an Indian grocery store on South College and Prospect in Fort Collins.

“Bawarchi Indian Cuisine isn't just about food. It's about the generations of chefs who kept the cooking traditions alive and are behind the delicious dishes we serve in our establishment.”





“People come here, and if I put a menu in front of them, they’ll say that they don’t know what anything is, ‘Tell me what your favorite food is and bring me that,’” Palusa says.

Palusa estimates that 70% of the customers at the restaurant are regulars and some stop by every week. Bruce Froseth is a regular who says that he stops by at least every three weeks.

“It seems like you can taste the spices in the food here much more than some of the other [Indian restaurants] that are more Americanized,” Froseth says.

He also credits the success of Bawarchi Biryani Point throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. Because a large majority of the customers are regulars, when dining-in was closed, 70% of customers utilized the take-out option.

As COVID-19 continued in 2021, the banquet room in Bawarchi Biryani Point sat

unused. However, Palusa renovated it into the Swagath Indian Grocery Store, which sells everything someone would need to recreate Bawarchi Biryani Point’s dishes.

“For example, you are eating here, okay, you like this butter chicken, for example,” Palusa explains. “Now you will ask, ‘Where can I get these spices? What spices are you using?’ Then, I’m telling you to go next door, and you will find the spices.”

Palusa says that although some other stores in town have the same ingredients, sending the customers away will make them lose interest. That is why the Swagath Indian Grocery Store has the spices for biryani, premade batter for dosas, fresh vegetables, naan, and much more. It even sells frozen food options for those with little time to cook.

Bawarchi Biryani Point makes South Indian cuisine and culture accessible for Fort Collins residents with their dishes made from scratch and easily-available ingredients. Word of mouth has been a powerful tool in propelling this restaurant to success, and Palusa says it only took a few people telling their friends and family about the restaurant to change customers who have no experience with Indian food to regulars. Bawarchi Biryani Point found a home in Fort Collins, and it wants to make people feel at home with food they can’t find anywhere else in town.

Left: The non-vegetarian thali consists of a variety of chutneys, sambar, curry, fried chicken, bread, biryani, and kheer and gulab jamun, all served on a banana leaf.

Right: Uma, who works at both the Bawarchi Biryani restaurant and the Swagath Indian Grocery Store, organizes grocery stocks.

Illustrations by Olive Mielke





Your
Involvement Hub

SLICE

Check us out!

SLICE.Colostate.edu

Or Visit Us at **the LSC!**

Looking for your
place at **CSU**?

Sign up for a free
involvement advising
session today!



STUDENT LEADERSHIP, INVOLVEMENT,
AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY

**The 24-hour Victim Assistance Team (VAT)
is available to assist student survivors of
interpersonal violence and the people who
support them**

24/7/365

Victim Advocates provide information about academic, legal, medical, emotional, and/or student conduct resources to survivors of sexual assault, sexual harassment, relationship violence, stalking, peeping, and/or who are adult survivors of childhood sexual abuse.

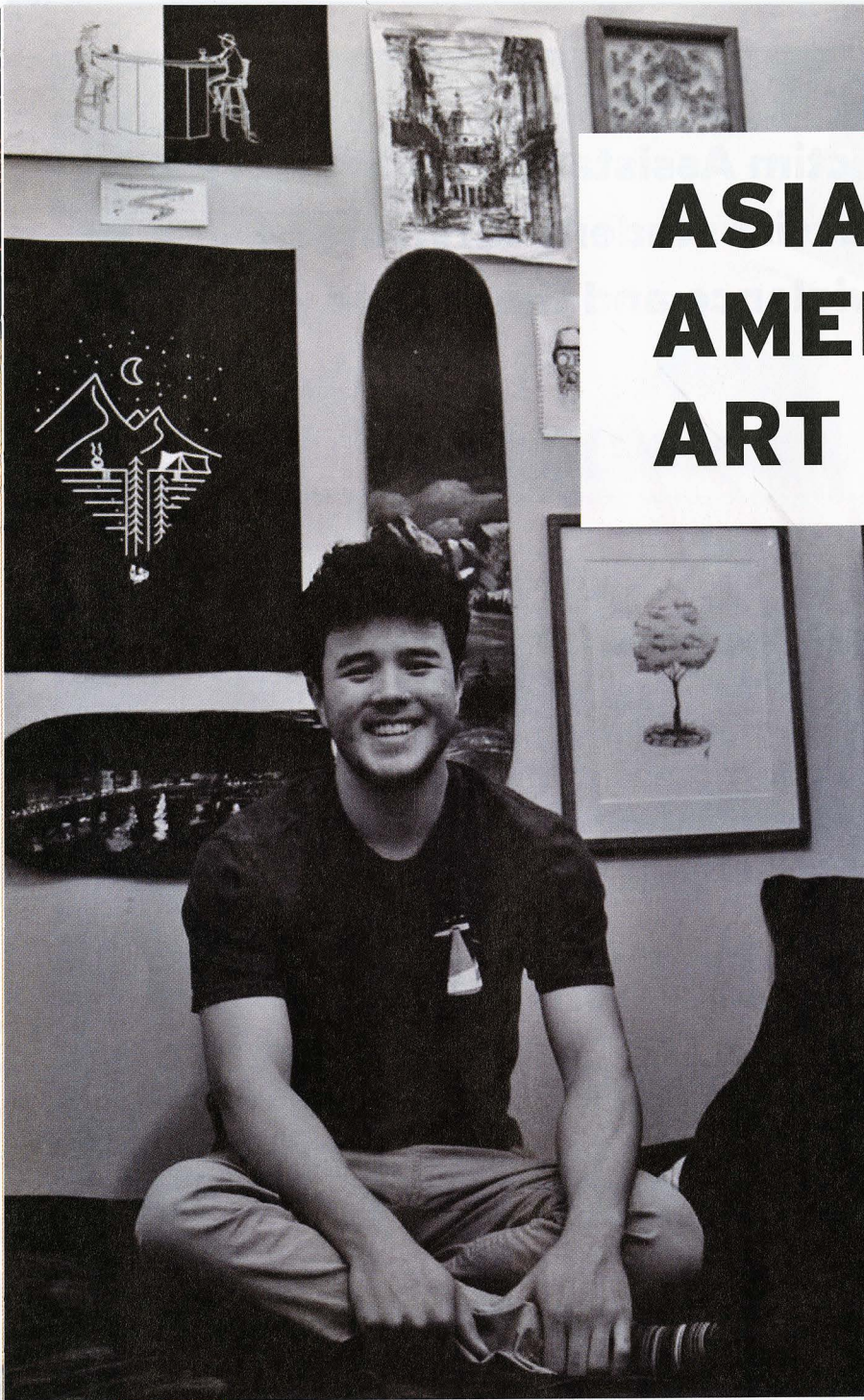
We also offer support to secondary survivors, such as intimate partners, friends, family, roommates and/or others who are connected to the primary victim.

**Our advocates are here to serve people,
no matter how they identify.**

Call us anytime 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year at **970-492-4242** and ask to speak with an advocate. Or use the QR code to see how to connect with a confidential victim advocate virtually or in-person.



**WOMEN AND GENDER
ADVOCACY CENTER
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY**



ASIAN AMERICAN ART

Visual Stories of a People

By Simone Woodbury

Art surrounds us everywhere we go, in all sorts of dimensions. A high-end outfit, sleek or archaic architecture, hand-crafted jewelry, and intricate sculptures are just a handful of ways self-expression fills our world. The mural that you pass by on your way to work, the eye-catching wall piece at the dentist's office, or a simple light fixture that hangs beautifully in your home all serve as reminders that art has a place in museums as well as everyday living.

Asian art, in particular, exemplifies culture, tradition, history, and talent in numerous mediums.

In Fort Collins, many different companies and galleries offer an opportunity for Asian artists to showcase their work. At Colorado State University, Asian works are displayed at the Gregory Allicar Museum of Art (GAMA). The numerous pieces in the GAMA reflect the diversity of Asian art and allows audiences to understand how it reflects eclectic Asian cultures and histories.

"The collection is also strong in Japanese ukiyo-e woodblock prints, including works by important artists like Hokusai, Hiroshige Ando, and Utamaro, which are exhibited and used for classes regularly," Lynn Boland, director and chief curator of the GAMA, says.

Along with Japanese woodblock prints, the museum is known for its permanent collection of Tibetan decorative art, located in the Hartford-Tandstad Galleries. The Altar Table, a work crafted in 1860 during the Qing Dynasty, is one of the galleries' most well-known pieces.

The Asian art in Fort Collins reflects how the community incorporates different artists' work and the culture that goes with it. Fort Collins was established in 1883, after some of the first waves of immigration, which included Asian peoples making their way to the western part of the United States in the late 1840s. A significant amount of these people were Chinese, according to the City of Fort Collins.

In Chinese art, representations of class structure are one of the most prominent characteristics. This theme is present throughout thousands of years of Chinese history. The Shang and Zhou periods, which occurred around 2,000 B.C., were some of the most pivotal moments within that development. Civilizations in this era undertook the process of urbanization, shaping China's Bronze Age, according to "Shang and Zhou Dynasties: The Bronze Age of China." During this time, the use of bronzed material skyrocketed. Nowadays, bronze material is seen in many forms of Chinese art, such as paintings, architecture, sculptures, carvings, and theater.

At CSU, many Asian-American students also have an opportunity to create and exhibit their art. One participant, Micah Hwang, is a senior in his final semester as a graphic design major who is eager to share his perspective on his culture.

"I like to bring Korean culture into my work with inspiration from letters, characters, ancient Korean art and old pottery," Hwang says. "Korean visual arts display the culture because in many ways it is unique in the style, especially back then, as well as its ability to communicate through symbols like animals and nature."

Today, a variety of Asian artists have the opportunity to be represented in Fort Collins. Through their work, people can see how culture, creativity, and a sense of place are vital to each artist.

"I definitely chose to do graphic design, but it did help that growing up, my siblings and I were artistic because of our dad, since he was a painter when he was younger," Hwang says.

One artist, Patrick Nagatani, highlighted Asian culture, traditions, and history in his pieces. Nagatani passed away in 2017, but he specialized in photography and printmaking, both seen at the GAMA. One of his projects captures the American-Japanese concentration camps that occurred in America during and after the second World War. Approximately 120,000 people of Japanese descent were placed in these camps between 1942 and 1945. His work explored the various landscapes where the concentration camps once stood. Here, Nagatani forged a connection between the landscape, memories, and time.

"Landscape retains memory. I felt the individual and collective memories that were inherent to all the camps in one way or another. Every camp is vividly etched in my mind and the images that I have selected to print are in a very small manner a way to share this personal experience," Nagatani says in a description next to his pieces.

There is always art around Fort Collins for audiences to experience, including Asian art that citizens of Fort Collins may not know about until they are introduced to it.

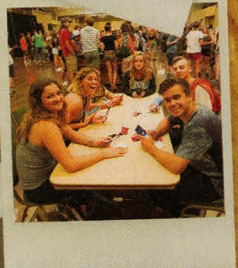
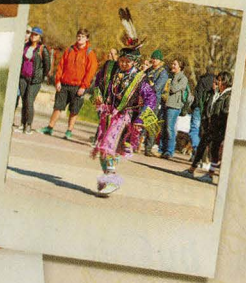
"Art that is not currently on display is always available for students to interact with by appointment," Madeleine Boyson, communications coordinator at the Gregory Allicar Museum of Art, says.

Photo by
Anna Tomka

Previous page: Colorado
State University graphic
design senior Micah
Hwang sits in front of his
bedroom wall of artwork
April 3.



LORY STUDENT CENTER
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY



WHERE WE BELONG

#LORYSTUDENTCENTER



Find What You Need:

For **Up-to-the-minute** information for specific programs and services, including hours of operation, visit:

LSC.COLOSTATE.EDU

OR
Scan Here



FLOWER POWER_{Rx}

MED 18 +

REC 21 +

It is my pleasure to announce that **Flower Power Botanicals** and **Baked Bots** have agreed to partner and bring our communities together to offer our supporters rewards and discounts for both online and in store purchases. We believe in the innovation and creativity that the NFT and crypto sectors create, the relationship between our communities is truly synergetic. We look forward to interacting and supporting our loyal customers. This is just the beginning of many things to come. Cheers!

Flower Power Botanicals has both Medical and Recreational retail stores in Fort Collins, CO, as well as cultivation facilities. The future collaborations are limitless!

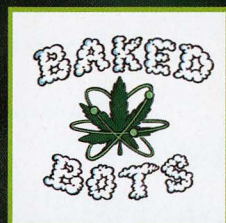
Verified Baked Bots NFT holders will be eligible for the following:

- **10% off** ALL THC products in store (flower, concentrates, edibles, etc.)
- **FREE** T-shirt/Hat or Pipe with first qualified purchase (while supplies last)
- **50% off** ALL accessories and apparel after redeeming your freebie (Shirts, Hoodies, Hats, Pipes, Bongs, Dab tools)

In the works

We are working towards a top shelf co branded flower Pre Pack for our customers as well as other products and apparel, future IRL events and more. Stay tuned!

Flower Power Botanicals is **THE ONLY** legal dispensary
in Colorado that accepts crypto payments in store!
We look forward to seeing you soon!



1308 Duff Drive
Ft. Collins, Colorado
970-672-8165
FlowerPowerBotanicals.com

IG: @FlowerPowerBotanicals
LinkedIn: linkedin.com/company/
flower-power-botanicals/

FLOWER POWER_{Rx}

MED 18+

REC 21 +

IT'S SIMPLE, BEST MEDS. BEST PRICES. BEST SERVICE.

MUNCHIE MONDAY

20% OFF
all edibles

CART TUESDAY

\$5 OFF **\$2.50 OFF**
1 gram carts 1/2 gram carts

WAX WEDNESDAY

\$5 OFF
all concentrates

TOP SHELF THURSDAY

10% OFF
all top shelf and platinum
shelf flower

FASHION FRIDAY

25% OFF
all apparel

SHAKE OUNCE SUNDAY

\$25
while supplies last



1308 Duff Drive
Ft. Collins, Colorado
970-672-8165

Flowerpowerbotanicals.com
@flowerpowerbotanicals

Cookies

Exclusive Cookies Concentrate
Carrier for Fort Collins