ASIA FEST

ASIAFEST '21

The 17th Annual Plano Asian Heritage Festival

Music. Fashion Show. Martial Arts. Cultural Booths. Food Vendors. Fun Kids Activities.

Organization Summary

- **ASIAFEST ’21, the 17th Annual Plano Asian Heritage Festival, is organized by the Celebrating Asian American Heritage Foundation (CAAHF)**
- **CAAHF is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization**
- **CAAHF and ASIAFEST staffing are comprised of all non-paid volunteers from North Texas communities**
- **AsiaFest Website: http://www.AsianAmericanHeritage.org**

Celebrating Asian American Heritage Foundation (CAAHF)

Formed February 18th 2005

COLLIN COUNTY

Plano revels in its diversity with festival

About 1,000 sample Chinese heritage at inaugural event

www.planostar.com Page 4A Plano Star Courier — Saturday, March 5, 2005

"Sometimes when people think of Asians, all they think about is noodles and chopsticks. But there are a lot of different cultures in Asia ..."
— Kristina Walsh

New group promotes Asian culture

BY SHAWN FLOYD
STAFF WRITER

Members of the Celebrating Asian American Heritage Foundation are, from left to right, Vivian Li, Patrick Ni, Jian Li, Kristina Walsh, Stephen Li and Georgia Wong.

Music. Fashion Show. Martial Arts. Cultural Booths. Food Vendors. Fun Kids Activities.

Celebrating Asian American Heritage Foundation

C.A.A.H.F

Dedicated to enriching our community by promoting the diversity of Asian culture through cultural activities and participation in community events

Bringing Unity In Diversity to Plano For 17 Years

Music. Fashion Show. Martial Arts. Cultural Booths. Food Vendors. Fun Kids Activities.

The Objective of CAAHF

- **To create opportunities for first generation immigrants to integrate with their community**
- **To give later-generation Asian Americans occasion to celebrate and exhibit their dual heritage**
- **To set a stage for the diverse communities of Plano to come together and interact at various levels**
- **To reflect the desires of the Asian community to contribute to and to enrich the cultural diversity of the city and beyond**

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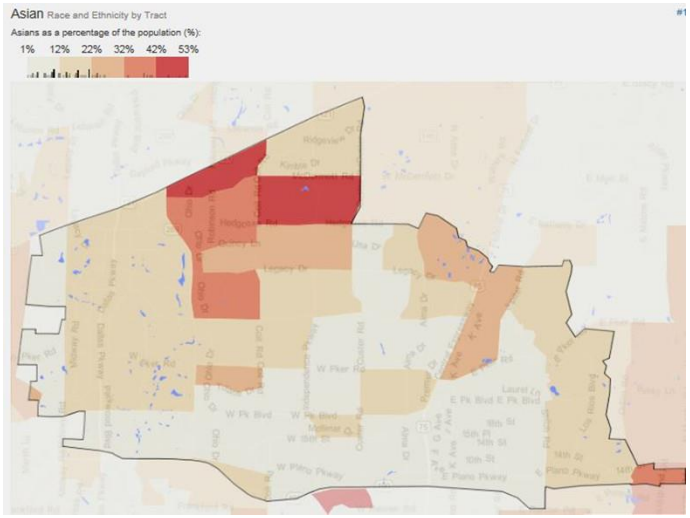
Demographics

- **19% of Plano population is of Asian descent according to US Census Bureau's American Community Survey (ACS) 2019 5-year Estimates**
- **24% of the PISD student body is of Asian descent per PISD's 2019-2020 Student Ethnicity Report**
- **The Asian community comprises the largest ethnic minority group in Plano per 2019 ACS**



Statisticalatlas.com's presentation of US Census data shows several tracts in Plano with **30**, **40**, and **50** percent Asian Households.

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Plano AsiaFest 2019

- >14,000 Attendance
- 62 Booths
- 30 Performances
- 400 Performers
- 11 Food Vendors

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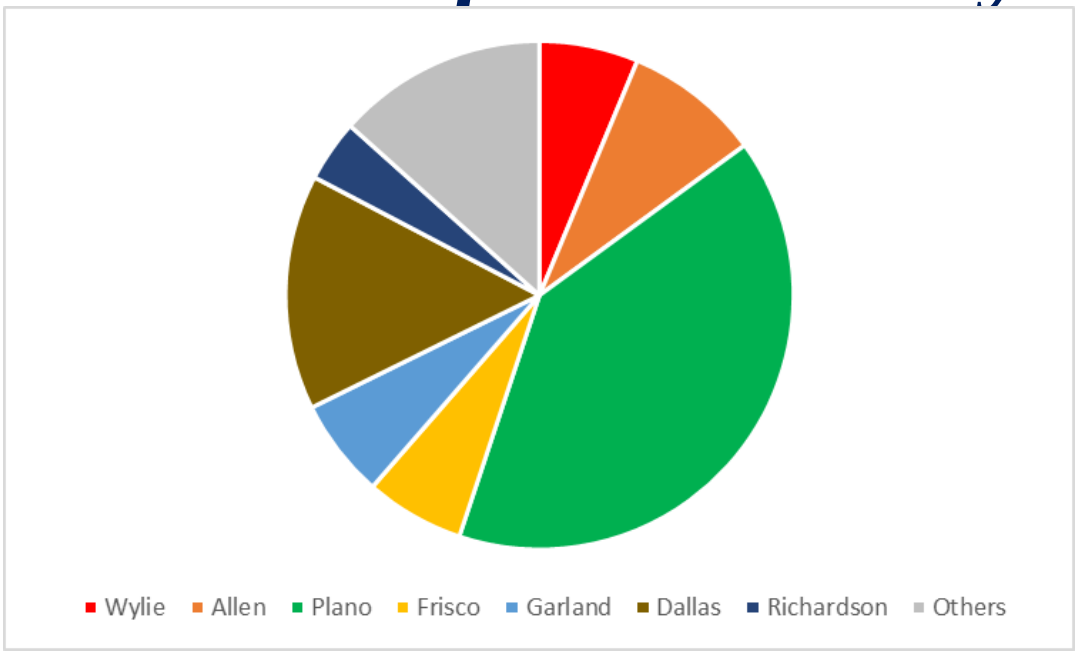
Attendee Zip Code Survey



The Others category comprised zipcodes with fewer than 2 respondents. 59 different zipcodes were collected. Respondents were from New Orleans, Little Rock, Seattle, and Chandler Arizona.

2019 Social Media Initiative

1. **Facebook page with quantifiable results**
2. **Google provides management tools for their free collaborative software**
3. **Frequent updates to the AsiaFest Facebook Page throughout the year**
4. **Posted Festival Photos on Facebook**
5. **Festival Survey is an on-line Google Form taken via QR Code at AsiaFest**

Plano Star Courier

Local men among Atlas suspects

KELSEY SAMUELS
ksamuels@starlocalmedia.com

Two Frisco men – Christopher Caylor and Jafri Syed – were among the 15 suspects arrested in last week's child solicitation investigation Operation Atlas. The other suspects are also residents of Mesquite, Garland, Farmers Branch, Mansfield and Arlington.

This is the third investigation conducted by the Child Exploitation Unit, a multi-agency collective involving local, state and federal law enforcement agencies. In 2017, Operation Medusa resulted in 15 indictments for offenses ranging from promotion of child pornography to online solicitation of a minor. Last year's Operation Zeus resulted in 12 online sexual child exploitation arrests, where investigators seized several electronic devices during the investigation, including phones, hard drives and computers.

Much like its predecessors, Operation Atlas also resulted in 15 arrests. Nic Bristow, spokesperson for the Collin County Sheriff's Office, said the forensic evidence collected for Operation Atlas could point to more arrests in the future. As long online solicitation and child pornography continues in Collin County, so will these investigations and arrests.

"We're going to continue to do these. Sheriff (Jim) Skinner and everyone involved is not going to sit and let this kind of conduct continue. We're going to continue to do these operations," Bristow added.

"These criminals go to great lengths to hide their true identities as they seek to exploit our children using the worldwide web," Skinner stated in a press release. "The talent level, experience and dedication of the investigators and analysts who worked on Operation Atlas are extraordinary, and their ability to root out these criminals should be commended. There is no way to estimate the number of children saved by their efforts."

Even though the suspects were arrested in Collin, Denton and Dallas counties, all of the online solicitation offenses occurred in Collin County, so all of the suspects will be processed in Collin County.

During the arrest, officers seized hard drives, computers and cellphones, which are the most common way for people to solicit minors through social media or over chat rooms. Based on the forensic evidence collected, Bristow said there could be more arrests in the future.

Law enforcement involved in Operation Atlas include United States Marshal's Service-Eastern District of Texas, Federal Bureau of Investigation, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Homeland Security Investigations, Child Protective Investigations, Denton County Sheriff's Office, Allen PD, Carrollton PD, Dallas PD, Farmers Branch PD, Irving PD and Wylie PD.

COURTESY OF THE COLLIN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
Fifteen suspects across Collin, Dallas and Denton counties are in custody for online solicitation of a minor as part of Operation Atlas.

AsiaFest set for May 4

KELSEY SAMUELS
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The 16th annual AsiaFest is set for May 4 in Haggard Park in downtown Plano. For another year, residents can enjoy the diversity of Plano through its varied languages, medicines, music and fashions.

For the past 20 years, Collin County's Asian community has grown significantly. Between 1990 and 2000, Plano's Asian population quintupled from 4,992 residents to 22,5518, then doubled again to 43,418 in 2010.

According to the 2016 American Community Survey, nearly 54,000 Plano residents are of Asian descent, with the vast majority – about 71 percent – coming from India or China. And as Plano's diversity continues to grow, AsiaFest is a place to celebrate

■ See ASIAFEST, Page 5A

ASIAFEST FACTS

The event is cosponsored by the city of Plano, Texas Instruments, American Airlines, Star Local Media and more. For a schedule of events, visit asianamericanheritage.org/asiafest.asp.

KELSEY SAMUELS / STAFF PHOTO
The performers of the Chinese Lion Dance perform on the main stage Saturday at Plano's AsiaFest 2017.

NEWS ■ PAGE 5A
Senior Wellness Saturday
SPORTS ■ PAGE 6A
Area athletes headed for state track

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THE PLANO STAR COURIER IS PUBLISHED AND DELIVERED EVERY THURSDAY AND SUN

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Community Impact Newspaper

LOCAL EVENTS

COMPILED BY **GAVIN PUGH**

MAY 5

AsiaFest 2018

The 15th annual Asian-American heritage festival features dance, music, fashion, martial arts and booths representing the cultures and traditions of various Asian countries. The festival takes place at Haggard Park, 901 E. 15th St., Plano. www.asianamericanheritage.org

MAY 4-13

Greater Plano Kiwanis Club butterfly festival

The Greater Plano Kiwanis Club presents its butterfly festival at The Shops at Willow Bend. Attendees can learn about the anatomy of butterflies. Tickets are $6 for adults and $5 for children. www.shopwillowbend.com

MAY 18-20

Worth the trip: Wildflower Arts and Music Festival

The annual festival takes place at 2351 Performance Drive, Richardson. The lineup includes Spoon, Jimmy Eat World and Reckless Kelly. Tickets are available for $30 online and $40 at the gate. www.wildflowerfestival.com

To-do list

Your ultimate local guide for events, business openings, meetings and more in the month of May

Find more or submit Plano events at **communityimpact.com/pln-calendar.**

Event organizers can submit local events online to be considered for the print edition. Submitting details for consideration does not guarantee publication.

MAY 17-20

Sarah Jaffe at the Box Garden

Legacy Hall hosts a grand opening ceremony for its outdoor garden, which doubles as an entertainment venue, with a live performance from North Texas native Sarah Jaffe. Tickets are available on www.prekindle.com

MAY 4

May the Fourth be with you on 'Star Wars' Day

Davis Library, located at 7501-B Independence Parkway, will hold a "Star Wars" Day celebration. The event includes games, trivia and crafts. Admission is free and the event is open to guests of all ages. www.plano.gov

MAY 11

Relay for Life in Plano

The annual Relay for Life event is from 6 p.m. to midnight and is free to the public. The fundraiser also includes a luminaria ceremony to honor those who have fought cancer. Proceeds will go to the American Cancer Society's programs. www.relayforlife.org

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Dallas Morning News GuideLive

The Dallas Morning News

Dallas, Texas, Friday, May 3, 2019

DALLASNEWS.com

RICHARDSON BRIBERY AND CORRUPTION

& DO | GUIDE PICKS

Find additional picks, free events and more at GuideLive.com

ST

Fort Worth love the month of ... can count the ways. More than ... locals are expected to attend ... which during its annual four ... tion, will feature more than ... of live performances by 40- ... bands on seven stages across ... acres divided into distinct ... ment zones, all for a variety of ... s. Each zone is jam-packed ... uch as pony rides and petting ... way with carnival rides and ... Texas country music; fried ... ey legs, corn dogs and other ... r garden, an artist market; ... en's area surrounded by ... ised white picket fence ... in-art, noisemakers and ... es for young'uns. (Whew, we ... ll after all that.) Since 1973, ... as raised more than $7.5 ... e community.

5:30 to 10 p.m., May 4 from ... n. and May 5 from 11 a.m. to ... Park, 2401 University Drive, Fort ... al admission for ages 13 and ... citizens 60 and older (free on ... ildren 2-12, free for children 2 ... ng is $10 per car (cash only).

ALLAS

... the autographs ... celebrity sightings, ... s and fantasy is a surefire ... om Lynda Carter to ... be there, including ... om *Back to the Future*, ... *The Goonies*, *Boy ... alleville* and *The* ... stalwart star men ... and Peter Mayhew. ... ities include meeting ... rriers, YouTubers, ... layers and more niche ... on to photo ops and ... with famous folk, you'll ... g for geeks, tattoo artists ... comic culture, laser ... ooms, and chances to ... l artwork, memorabilia, ... more from over 500 ...

... p.m., May 4 from 10 a.m. ... from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at ... n Convention Center, 650 ... Single-day passes: $25-$45 for teens 13-17, $10 ... e for 5 and under (12 and ... mpanied by an adult at all ... holiday passes available.

2017 File Photo

Above: Vanyda Boulom laughs as she gets makeup applied before performing during the Plano AsiaFest. The event takes place in Heggard Park.

Left: Trinity McBrayer squealed at the antics of goats at Mayfest in 2017. The huge Fort Worth festival is scheduled to run through May 5 in Trinity Park.

File Photo/Ashley Landis

In all, organizers say, you'll find cultural highlights from Japan, Korea, China, Taiwan, the Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia, Bangladesh, India and Nepal.

■ May 4 from 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Heggard Park, 901 E. 15th St., Plano. Free admission and parking in nearby city lots. asianamericanheritage.org

PLANO ASIAFEST

FREE Asia is a vast continent, and while it may be difficult to represent the farthest reaches of its myriad diversity in a mere afternoon, this 16th annual celebration in Plano seeks to showcase those that enrich every corner of D-FW. Expect the pageantry of lion dances, exhibitions of martial arts and uplifting song and dance performances, as well as a tea ceremony and fashion show featuring traditional wedding garments. An updated children's area focuses on STEM activities, and there will be merchants and food vendors selling delicacies from around the world.

DOG BOWL

FREE What goes on at the Cotton Bowl during the football offseason? Furball action. The famous sports stadium becomes a supersized dog park during this annual springtime frolic for dogs of all sizes. Good boys and girls can roam unleashed, take dips in kiddie pools and compete on an agility course. For

Guide | The Dallas Morning News | GuideLive.com

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Children's Area

Over 7 Tables in this section including

- GREEN SCREEN PHOTO BOOTH
- CITY OF PLANO LIBRARY
- CHILDREN'S DRAWINGS
- PAINTING AND CALLIGRAPHY
- ASIAFEST AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION ACTIVIES
- ORIGAMI

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Children's Activities

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Martial Arts

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Performances

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Artist Exhibition at the Courtyard Theater

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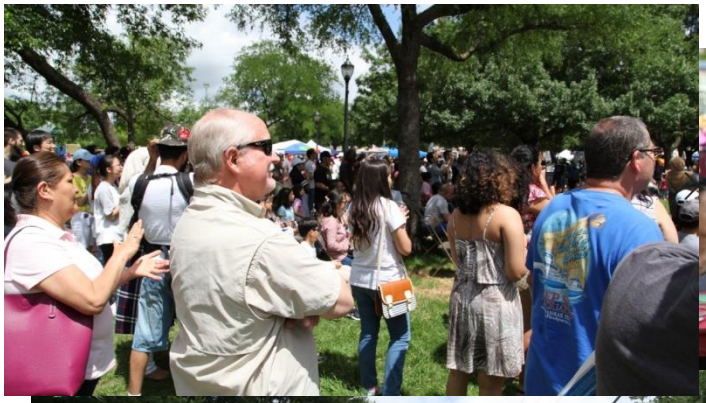
Three Things We Improved



- Food Court On H Ave could better accommodate Food Trucks
- More First-time Attendees
- More Volunteers
- Diversity In Performances
- Tai Chi
- Art Competition had PISD Art Teacher As Organizer

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New for 2021

- **Increased Focus on Social Media**
- **Expanded Children's Interactive Corner with New Activities**
- **Kite Building**
- **Chinese Square Dancing**
- **Language and Cultural Education Kick-off**

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Thank You

ASIAFEST provides excellent opportunities for businesses to network with the Asian community and beyond

Music. Fashion Show. Martial Arts. Cultural Booths. Food Vendors. Fun Kids Activities.