



**Dancing, Drumming, Lei Making and More!
Museum of Discovery and Science to Host the
11th Annual Asian-Pacific American Heritage Celebration on May 7**

Fort Lauderdale, Fla. (April 13, 2022) – May is Asian-Pacific American Heritage month, and the [Museum of Discovery and Science \(MODS\)](#) will celebrate the rich culture, traditions, history and music in collaboration with Polynesian Proud Productions at its 11th Annual Asian-Pacific American Heritage Celebration on May 7.

“Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders have enriched communities and the nation with enduring leadership, vibrant cultures and extensive contributions to all aspects of our society,” said **Joseph P. Cox, president and CEO of MODS**. “While showing steadfast resilience in the face of great hardship, they have helped shape our country’s history for the better, including protecting the nation during times of war, serving the American people at all levels of government, and spearheading innovations. We are committed to celebrating the rich heritage of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, and furthering our collective efforts to promote equality, diversity and inclusion in everything we do.”

Guests are invited to enjoy a full-day of cultural programming at the Museum including taking a class in the visual dance form of hula, experience the thrill of Samoan Fire Knife dancers, watch live Polynesian drumming, learn the delicate process of lei making and participate in hands-on make-and-take arts and crafts stations that celebrate the diversity of south Florida’s Asian-Pacific Islander community.

“Since creating this event 11 years ago and partnering with MODS, it has always been an opportunity to share, showcase and celebrate our Polynesian culture so everyone can experience the beauty, excitement and rich culture, traditions and customs of our islands and our people,” said **Russell “Talani” Gagliano with Polynesian Proud Productions**. “To perpetuate, preserve and promote through performances, demonstrations and hands-on interaction with our community, families and attendees as we immerse guests in the islands of Hawaii, Tahiti, New Zealand, Kingdom of Tonga and Samoa. The event is educational and fun at the same time.”

Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPI) have contributed significantly to many facets of American culture and society, including science and medicine, literature and art, sports and recreation, government and politics, and activism and law. In 2021, Kamala Harris became the first Asian American Vice President of the United States. Today, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders are the fastest growing racial group in the United States.

The month of May was chosen for AAPI Heritage Month because it commemorates the immigration of the first Japanese people to the United States on May 7, 1843. May also is a significant month because it recognizes Golden Spike Day, May 10, 1869, which marks the completion of the transcontinental railroad that was built with significant contributions from Chinese workers.

This event is included with admission to the Museum. Tickets can be purchased online at mods.org/asianpacific or by visiting the Museum box office upon arrival.

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ABOUT THE MUSEUM OF DISCOVERY AND SCIENCE (MODS):

Founded in 1976 as the Discovery Center, today the Museum of Discovery and Science (MODS) is at the forefront of science education, innovation and exploration. MODS connects people to inspiring science. The Museum encompasses more than 150,000 square feet of interactive exhibits. This includes all of our permanent and traveling exhibits, as well as our outdoor Science Park. Families can enjoy super science shows and demonstrations, wild Creature Feature animal encounters, private experiences, mind-blowing Makerspace labs, cool camps, unforgettable birthday parties, engaging field trips and STEM curricula, professional development workshops for educators, distinguished speakers, and more. In addition to daily hours, MODS' STEMobile delivers STEM education on location across South Florida! A STEMobile experience ranges from one-hour to full-day with programming for pre-kindergarten through adult and is available for schools, community centers, corporate team building and special events! All programs can be customized for time, group size and age group. Book a STEMobile visit today. Free programs and scholarships are available!

The Museum celebrates diversity and welcomes visitors from all walks of life. The Museum hours are Monday through Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. MODS is located downtown at 401 SW Second Street, Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33312. For more information about the Museum, please visit mods.org or call 954.467.MODS (6637).

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