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8 Artists Share What Asian American And Pacific Islander Heritage Month Means To Them



Lisa Kocay Contributor ⓘ

Arts

I believe in good food, good wine and good music



From top left to bottom right: Josh Pan (credit: Julian Cassady), Saweetie (credit: BRIAN "SPAZZ" ... [+]
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Due to the recent rise in anti-Asian violence, the gravity of Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month (AAPIHM) feels amplified.

Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month **initially began** in 1977 when a resolution was introduced to the House of Representatives, however, it only advocated for the celebration to last for 10 days. In 1991, George H.W. Bush signed a bill passed by Congress to extend the celebration to a month, deeming that the honorary celebration would last a month in May 1991 and May 1992. Later, May was officially designated as Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month in 1992.

May marks a time to honor the achievements and contributions of Asian and Pacific Islanders that have greatly impacted the United States. Here, *Forbes* recognizes eight of the many Asian and Pacific Islander artists who have left their mark on music.

Lisa Kocay: What does Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month mean to you?

Sawetie: “For me, AAPI Heritage month is all about taking pride in who I am and celebrating the rich history and culture that my ancestors created.”

Kocay: How have Asian Pacific Islander artists been coming together to empower one another this month?

Sawetie: “I’ve seen a lot of artists stand together in protest and lend their talents to raise awareness and educate others on AAPI anti-racism and discrimination. I’m excited to perform for the AAPI TV special in May—make sure you tap in.”

Kocay: Do you have a message you would like to share during Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month?

Saweetie: “Every life is valuable and you should treat people the way you want to be treated, okay? I know [that is] right.”



Saweetie. Courtesy of BRIAN “SPAZZ” CONTRERAS. BRIAN “SPAZZ” CONTRERAS