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## RANGOLI PITTSBURGH ANNOUNCES JUNE 1 AS LGBTQ+ AAPI DAY OF VISIBILITY

Pittsburgh, PA -- Rangoli Pittsburgh, a Pittsburgh-based initiative dedicated to advocating for and uplifting the voices of LGBTQ+ South Asians in Pittsburgh, will celebrate Saturday, June 1, 2019, as LGBTQ+ AAPI Day of Visibility.

“We chose June 1st because it’s right at the intersection of May, Asian American Heritage Month, and June, Pride Month. Our mission at Rangoli Pittsburgh is to help every LGBTQ+ AAPI person celebrate every part of their identities, and LGBTQ+ AAPI Day of Visibility is meant to do just that,” said Satvika Neti, one of the organizers of the event, and one of the co-founders of Rangoli Pittsburgh.

Joining Rangoli Pittsburgh will be the City of Pittsburgh and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, both of which will be issuing official proclamations celebrating June 1 as LGBTQ+ AAPI Day of Visibility.

“LGBTQ AAPI’s face specific and often under the radar health, discrimination, and community issues, and we are proud to have worked with Rangoli Pittsburgh and Governor Wolf to ensure that our LGBTQ AAPI communities have a little more of the visibility that is so needed to advocate and organize for our issues and concerns. As a queer Asian American myself, knowing that we have a Governor who sees and stands with my communities is a matter of personal as well as professional pride, and I am grateful for Rangoli and all the other organizations who are doing the work every day to make our communities and our commonwealth stronger and more just,” said Mohan

Seshadri, Executive Director of the PA Governor's Advisory Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs.

To celebrate LGBTQ+ AAPI Day of Visibility, Rangoli Pittsburgh will be launching a [digital campaign and toolkit](http://www.tinyurl.com/qaapitoolkit) (www.tinyurl.com/qaapitoolkit) that features LGBTQ+ AAPI media, icons, statistics, and resources, as well as encourages LGBTQ+ AAPIs to share their experiences and tell their stories. Additionally, Rangoli Pittsburgh and the LGBTQIA+ Advisory Council of Pittsburgh will be hosting a panel discussion of LGBTQ+ AAPIs discussing their experiences as LGBTQ+ AAPIs on June 1, from 2:30 - 4:30 PM at the Liberty Conference Room in the Allegheny County DHS building.

"Being on this panel is important for us queer Asians because it's a powerful thing to have a carved out space to share with each other the similarities and differences in our experiences. It builds community. We need more spaces not only where we can name the things that oppress us, but also how we benefit and are privileged from the variety of different identities that we claim," said Kimmy Dinh, one of the featured panelists at Saturday's event.

With the support of so many, Rangoli Pittsburgh hopes LGBTQ+ AAPI Day of Visibility will allow this marginalized group to be seen and celebrated, and help raise the profile of this oft-forgotten group in the national fight for representation, equality, and justice.

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Rangoli Pittsburgh is a community initiative created to uplift the voices of LGBTQ+ South Asians in Pittsburgh, PA. Rangoli Pittsburgh is dedicated to building a community of LGBTQ+ South Asians and increasing visibility and representation of our intersection at every level.