

ASDP 2019 Host City Proposal - Atlanta

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Background:

ASDP (Asian Studies Development Program) holds its annual conference in Washington, D.C. even years, and in other cities odd years. At the 2017 conference in Portland, Liam Madden (GSU Perimeter College) conceived the idea and informally discussed with ASDP leadership the possibility of the USG Asia Council hosting the 2019 conference in Atlanta, an idea for which ASDP was amenable.

The close ties between USG faculty and ASDP over the years, as well as the strong showing from Georgia faculty at ASDP 2017 (ten participants, all presenting), further reinforce this idea. When initially discussed among Asia Council members, Paul Rodell (Georgia Southern) added Savannah to the mix for consideration, as Georgia Southern now has an enhanced footprint there with the merger of Armstrong Atlantic.

This proposal is contingent upon three factors:

1. ASDP supporting the 2019 conference in Georgia.
2. The Asia Council supporting the hosting of the 2019 conference in Georgia.
3. The continuation of ASDP programs.

ASDP sent an email earlier this year noting that potential funding cuts under the Trump Administration could affect the future status of ASDP programs. The Asia Council would need to follow up with ASDP regarding the continuation of programs, especially the national conference.

If the stars align regarding the three factors above, this proposal is submitted to the Asia Council for consideration of Atlanta to host the ASDP 2019 national conference.

Positive Considerations for Atlanta:

1. The number of faculty with experience in both the Asia Council and ASDP located in Atlanta.
2. Convenience and affordability of air and ground transportation (Atlanta Airport, major and regional airlines, MARTA, interstates 85, 75, and 20)
3. Various conference hotel options in Midtown relevant to the size and scope of the ASDP conference
Downtown Atlanta is NOT an option, as most hotels cater to larger groups, and the area is not as pleasant for a conference experience as Midtown; tourist sites downtown are close and easily assessable by MARTA from Midtown.
4. Opportunity to offer pre-conference and conference activities and programs that will distinguish this conference (more info below)

Possible Hotels:

Both hotels appear to have cheaper rates than the conference rates for the 2018 D.C. hotel, so negotiated conference rates could make both appealing given the Midtown locations (photos below).

Atlanta Hyatt Midtown	Georgia Tech Conference Center
10 th and Peachtree/Piedmont <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1 block from Margaret Mitchell House• 2 blocks from MARTA station / Piedmont Park• 3-4 blocks from High Museum of Art• Great restaurants in ALL directions	800 Spring Street (Tech Square) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Located in Tech Square• 3 blocks from Peachtree St.• 2 blocks from Marta Station• 2 blocks from Varsity Drive-In



Distinctive Conference Features:

- Access to exceptional plenary speakers in the Atlanta area and vicinity (Emory, Georgia Tech, UGA, foreign consulates, government agencies, NGOs, etc.)
- Access to cultural displays and demonstrations from Asian organizations that I work with regularly: Japanese Consulate, Japan-America Society, Taipei Economic & Cultural Office (TECO), and various artists (see below)
- Access to cultural entertainment, e.g. Atlanta Taiko Project (performed at 2017 Asia Council workshop).



Pre-Conference Program:

In a previous email, I included info about a Pre-conference Asian Culture Professional Development Tour that I organized for Asia Council members in conjunction with the 2017 conference in Portland, and plans for the same with the 2018 conference in D.C. As the largest city in the south with one of the largest Asian American communities in the U.S., Atlanta offers exceptional opportunities for a similar pre-conference program in 2019 open to all conference participants.

See the information below for a proposed itinerary.



ASDP 2019 ▪ Atlanta, GA
Pre-Conference **ASIAN CULTURE**
Professional Development Tour



ASIA COUNCIL



University System of Georgia

BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir Atlanta [VISITOR INFO](#)

This traditional Hindu mandir, or place of worship, is affiliated with the Swaminarayan branch of Hinduism. The largest of its kind outside of India, It was constructed in accordance with ancient Hindu architectural scriptures. It is made of 34,450 pieces of hand-carved Italian marble, Turkish Limestone and Indian pink sandstone, situated on 30 landscaped acres. The complex also includes an exhibition on the key tenets of Hinduism. Open daily to visitors of any faith.



The largest and oldest organization in the Southeast to focus on issues and concerns of Asian Americans, especially women, children and low-income families, the missions of CPACS is to promote self-sufficiency and equity for immigrants, refugees and the underprivileged through comprehensive health and social services, capacity building, and advocacy. [INFO](#)



Note: Participants who wish to visit only the Hindu Temple, or only the temple and CPACS, may take the metro back to the conference hotel, as the station is located adjacent to CPACS, and very close to the Korean sites below.

Optional Korean Cultural Sites

Korean Market	Korean BBQ	Korean Bakery

Explore Asian cultural sites in metro Atlanta before the conference begins with colleagues from the
USG ASIA COUNCIL ▪ Minimal fees for transportation ▪ MORE DETAILS FORTHCOMING