

Reflections on 2016 and Looking Ahead

December 15, 2016

Dear Friends,

As 2016 draws to a close, I have been reflecting on a year of great accomplishments and grave challenges. For AAPIP, the past year heralded the announcement of a long-awaited Strategic Plan, the successful conclusion of our five-year National Giving Circle Campaign, the production of an expanded and more content-rich national network convening in New York City, the creation of a broader and more diverse philanthropic membership structure, and – perhaps most importantly – a reaffirmation of our 26-year commitment to expand and mobilize resources for AAPI communities to build a more just and equitable society.

2016 also put the country through a tumultuous presidential election campaign that gave rise to a level of divisiveness and hate that many had hoped was a thing of the past, and still believe is not representative of this country's democratic values. In the aftermath of that election we remain concerned for historically vulnerable communities, particularly the Arab, Middle Eastern, Muslim, South Asian (AMEMSA), LGBTQ, and immigrant & refugee populations. While acts of violence and hate are not new to vulnerable communities, including AAPI's, complacency and continued acts of hate are not the reality we are willing to accept.

In November, AAPIP issued a Post-Election Statement urging our members and allies to be heard by supporting community organizations that are fighting on the front lines of AAPI social justice. You can read the full statement [here](#), and it's still not too late to make a donation!

So in many ways, 2016 sets the focus and agenda for our work in 2017. We will continue to grow our network of engaged funders and allies to expand resources for AAPI communities. We will deepen our partnerships and intersectional work to advance advocacy, action and new resources with an equity agenda. And we will continue to pursue innovative projects that explore new solutions and practices in philanthropy to address current gaps and future AAPI community needs.



Building Democratic
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AAPIP strongly believes that philanthropy has a responsibility and role in fostering a thriving civil society by meeting urgent needs and investing in our collective future. This is only possible with the commitment of many, and I look forward to working closely with all of you on the important work ahead.

With gratitude and best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cora", written on a light green rectangular background.

Cora Mirikitani
President & CEO