

## Reflections on the 2016 Annual Meeting

July 1, 2016

Dear Friends,

As we bring the month of June to a close, the staff and I have had a chance to reflect on AAPIP's 2016 National Network Convening & Annual Meeting, held on June 10 in New York City. The theme of this gathering was "Building Our Philanthropy" which was apt given the diversity of the nearly 150 individuals in the room representing institutional philanthropy, our ten regional chapters and AAPIP's 51 giving circles nationally.

Our goals for the day were to share the results of our Strategic Plan, 2017-2021, celebrate a successful five-year National Giving Circle Campaign and bring together a more diverse network involved in AAPI philanthropy to take advantage of a day of networking and valuable information exchange. We also welcomed new and returning board members Vivian Tseng and June Noronha, and bid farewell to departing board members Beadsie Woo, Liane Wong and Alice Ito with sincere gratitude and thanks.

The meeting was kicked-off with a series of "I Am Philanthropy" testimonials from amazing individuals who are working across the philanthropic spectrum, in foundations and individually, to support giving to AAPI communities and needs.

As AAPIP's new President and CEO, I also had the opportunity to [address the conference attendees](#) to share my personal observations on AAPIP's purpose and role in "Building Our Philanthropy," and to outline our five-year Strategic Plan from 2017 through 2021.

The afternoon gave way to breakout sessions focusing on topics of interest and importance to our membership, including innovative partnerships in the Giving Circle movement, mobilizing resources and action to combat Islamophobia and new foundation strategies and approaches being used to address social justice and community change.

Our meeting was brought to a close by Suk Rhee, AAPIP board member and chair of the board's planning committee, who reminded us that we could all draw inspiration from Muhammad Ali, whose legacy as an outspoken agent for social justice needed to be honored as much as his talent and fame as the world's greatest boxing champion.

Convenings of this nature are the result of the work of many, and I would like to especially thank The Annie E. Casey Foundation, Wells Fargo, the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, the Ford Foundation and the Wallace H. Coulter Foundation for their support. We are also grateful to the AAPIP New York Chapter for organizing a series of impressive dine-arounds to share first-hand the work of AAPI funders and nonprofit partners on the ground. We have already started planning for next year's convening, and will take both lessons learned and inspiration from the 2016 gathering to make that an even better event.

Our thanks again to all,



Cora Mirikitani  
President & CEO

Click here to access and read [AAPIP's strategic plan](#), as presented at the 2016 National Network Convening & Annual Meeting.