

## ASIAN AMERICANS/PACIFIC ISLANDERS IN PHILANTHROPY (AAPIP)

### ANNUAL REPORT 2020-2021

#### **INTRODUCTION**

This fiscal year for AAPIP was full of robust activity under our new President & CEO Patricia Eng who joined in September 2019. We are pleased to share this summary of AAPIP's innovations including responsive action and advocacy, leadership voice of AAPIs in philanthropy working towards racial justice, expanding its research and communication in philanthropy.

Through the continued pandemic and exponential rise of anti-Asian violence that reached a boiling point this spring, AAPIP met the new pivotal moment of Asian American activism with corresponding quick action in the philanthropic sector to advocate for more long-term support of AAPI communities. In this newer era of racial reckoning that is inclusive of AAPI communities, AAPIP is working to evolve how AAPI communities show up around racial solidarity while also insisting that the philanthropic pie be expanded in support of AAPIs and all communities that are often sidelined.

#### **LEADERSHIP IMPACT**

AAPIP mobilizes today's AAPI leaders in philanthropy, equipping a new wave of AAPI change-makers advancing a nuanced social, cultural, political narrative toward equity and justice. By deepening and expanding the leadership bench of AAPIs in philanthropy, we work to expand opportunities for AAPIs in philanthropy at every leadership level to apply their talents in service of an intersectional equity agenda that is multi-racial and inclusive of AAPI communities.

#### **CEOs and Trustees Leadership**

Due to the events of this year, gathering and organizing top-level leadership (CEOs and trustees) has risen to prominence. Since the fall of 2019, AAPIP has cultivated cohorts of these leaders from mid-to-large-sized foundations and philanthropy-serving organizations to organize and advance intersectional racial equity and justice. We have since grown our list and connections to AAPI CEOs, trustees, and allies, over this year, as demonstrated by the *Call-to-Action* statement detailed below.

- In July 2020 AAPIP released [Purging Anti-Black Racism Toward A Democracy For All: Joint Statement From AAPI CEOs And Trustees In Philanthropy](#) signed by more than 40 CEOs and Trustees in support of Black communities and our Black colleagues in philanthropy.
- Oct 16, 2020 – AAPIP held a Power in Practice conversation which brought together AAPI executives and trustees in philanthropy. Susan Taylor Batten, President of ABFE, joined as a speaker to talk about the work of Black CEOs and Trustees
- March 17, 2021 – AAPIP held a meeting of AAPI CEOs and trustees the day after the Atlanta shootings. [A Call for Solidarity and Collective Action: Asian American Philanthropy Letter of Intention](#) was released on March 26, timed to a national day of action and healing around anti-Asian hate. This statement was signed by more than 720 people, including 60 AAPI CEOs and more than 230 non-AAPI CEOs in philanthropy.

#### **Mobilization of AAPIs in Philanthropy**

AAPIP chapters play an important role as gravitational hubs, engaging various stakeholders whose work impacts the lives of AAPI communities. This year, chapters offered healing spaces and created supportive communities for AAPIs and allies in philanthropy. Building on the pivotal moment that surged Asian American activism forward, AAPIP convened working groups based on three topic areas identified by the CEO/trustees group in March of this year: narrative change; data/research; and community ecosystems. Approximately 80-100 people from different levels of leadership in various philanthropic institutions

participated in these working groups to develop recommendations and next steps for philanthropy. A memo is being finalized to summarize the work with the goal of a release to the philanthropic community in the fall.

### **AAPIP's National Giving Circle Network**

While some foundations have just begun to acknowledge the need to address racism through their COVID-19 response, Asian American community foundations, giving circles, and other mutual aid solutions stepped up to support AAPI communities, both to address COVID-19 and the unique harms to Asian Americans. AAPIP continued to support its National Giving Circle Network who responded robustly to the impacts of the health crisis and economic downturn alongside the racism experienced by community members.

AAPIP held three giving circle meetings with our National Giving Circle Network, engaging approximately 20 giving circles across the country. During our most recent convening, held in April of this year, the theme was "the connection between anti-Asian and anti-Black racism." This session featured a panel of several giving circles discussing their work around cross-racial solidarity. A strength of the giving circle model is the flexibility to put money where the values are and adapt more nimbly than institutional philanthropy. AAPIP also conducted two cycles of Giving Circle Mini-Grants totaling \$80,000 as part of AAPIP's COVID-19 Response Fund to support local efforts in the continued pandemic and toward cross-racial solidarity efforts. The first grants made in October/November of 2020 totaled \$62,000, and the last grant cycle in May 2021 totaled \$18,000.

### **Racial/Gender Equity Curriculum**

Due to the ongoing pandemic and yet another defining moment after the Atlanta shootings, this work is now scheduled to be completed this summer to capture the depth and nuanced experiences of AAPI communities. AAPIP will pilot this curriculum at the pre-CHANGE Summit in October (virtual) with different components phased over the next two years. This project is also evolving to ensure added value as a racial equity curriculum in philanthropy that connects the dots between anti-Asian and anti-Black racism.

### **RESEARCH AND COMMUNICATIONS**

AAPI communities are frequently misunderstood and overlooked due to a lack of high-quality data. Data is typically aggregated, masking the inequities such as the largest wealth gap of any group. Philanthropy is often unaware of these gaps that communities know and feel; therefore, research is vital for deploying appropriate resources to AAPI communities. During the first part of the year, AAPIP partnered with CHANGE Philanthropy and AAPI Data and later produced two of its own reports credited with making the case for increased funding and influencing the direction of racial and gender equity approaches in the field of philanthropy.

- [Asian American and Pacific Islander People Working in Philanthropy](#) was released in July 2020, in partnership with CHANGE Philanthropy, noting greater representation of AAPI people among millennials in philanthropy.
- ["State of AAPI Philanthropy"](#) -in partnership with AAPI Data- was released on September 14, 2020. It served as a precursor to the Seeking to Soar report. [*The State of AAPI Philanthropy* September 2020]
- [Seeking to Soar: Foundation Funding for Asian American & Pacific Islander Communities](#) was released in April of this year with immediate impact on the philanthropic sector, helping to make the case for foundation funding within various philanthropic institutions. [*Seeking to Soar: A Call for Collective Action* April 2021]
- [Invisible Ink: Media Representation of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders](#) was released on May 24<sup>th</sup> offering a snapshot view of pre-pandemic media coverage of AAPIs in 2019 on topics of economic inequality. This was accompanied by a webinar in partnership with Asian American Journalists Association and Pew Research Center. It was well-received and circulated throughout AAPIP's networks. [*Invisible Ink: Media Representation of AAPIs* May 2021].

### Communications

Since AAPIP's leadership transition, digital communications (e-newsletter, website, social media) has become a higher priority, reinvigorating and expanding AAPIP's national network. In addition to our research and educational webinars, our communications educate audiences and key stakeholders (philanthropy, government and community agencies, etc.) and build public will to invest deeply and consistently in AAPI communities alongside other marginalized people. By creating this digital presence, AAPIP seeks to be a resource for philanthropy and the AAPI community.

Select earned media include:

- [“As Violence Against Asian Americans Intensifies, the Moment for Philanthropy to Act Is Now”](#) published as a Letter to the Editor, co-authored by Pat Eng and Erik Stegman (Executive Director, Native Americans in Philanthropy) in the Chronicle of Philanthropy on March 17, 2021- less than 24 hours after the Atlanta shootings
- [“Hundreds of Foundation Leaders Unite to Push for More Support of Asian Americans”](#) was published in the Chronicle of Philanthropy on March 26, 2021, and timed with the release of AAPIP's Call for Solidarity and Collective Action. This influential article became widely circulated through the Associated Press.
- *Letter to the Editor: “The progress made by Black and Asian sorority women continues”* was published by the Washington Post on August 14, 2020.

### Educational Webinars/Conference Sessions Include

- *Twenty Years After 9/11: A Call to Action to Support Impacted Communities* was held on June 10th. Cohosted with the Rise Together Fund, an Initiative at the Proteus Fund, this webinar outlined ongoing challenges faced by Black/African, Arab, Middle Eastern, Muslim, and South Asian (BAMEMSA) communities due to suspicion and progressive Islamophobia.
- *How to Ensure Racial Equity in Everyday Giving* opening plenary panel in April for the Gates Foundation's Greater Giving Summit included CEO Pat Eng as a panelist.

### Newsletter

Monthly editions of the newsletter offered an ongoing AAPIP presence, often including a thought piece or written statement such as:

- [President's Message: Solidarity Matters](#)
- [Philanthropy, Is This Us?](#)
- [Making Cents Of The Senseless](#)

### SUMMARY

While this year has been unlike any other in our lifetimes and in our 30-year history, AAPIP's work left a significant imprint on philanthropy responsive to pivotal events shaped by compounding inequities and intersectional racism. AAPIP members are finding and building community, with a renewed commitment from philanthropic institutions to enlarge the philanthropic pie that is inclusive of AAPI communities and all marginalized communities. AAPIP has sparked a new path to catalyze progressive voices in philanthropy and move funding for communities of color towards racial equity and justice.