

A stylized illustration of hands holding a tree-like structure. The hands are rendered in a gradient of orange and red, with fingers interlaced. The tree-like structure is composed of various shades of purple, pink, and blue, with a central trunk and branching limbs. The background is a light, neutral color.

2021 Annual Report  
**The Power of  
Community**





**Our mission is to advance  
the civil and human rights  
of Asian Americans and to  
build and promote a fair  
and equitable society for all.**

# A MESSAGE FROM OUR LEADERS

**We are right here with you. That is the promise that Asian Americans Advancing Justice | AAJC has kept with the Asian American community for over thirty years now. Three decades ago, we were founded on the need for our community to have a voice at the national level in all branches and offices of our federal government.**

At our core is a promise to bring meaningful change to the Asian American community: advocating on behalf of our diverse communities, from new immigrants, asylum seekers and refugees, to multi-generation citizens, protecting our voters, safeguarding a fair and accurate census, speaking out against racial profiling, calling for diversity in media behind and in front of the camera, ensuring that our community does not fall prey to mis/disinformation, and ensuring that we have the technology and the telecommunications to connect to our families and others across the country.

We have delivered on our promise by engaging with Congressional members and the Biden Administration on the landmark passage of the COVID-19 hate crimes legislation - an act that will help us to get a better handle on how much violence is occurring against our Asian American community, help to develop in-language information for our communities, and support community responses to anti-Asian hate. Through our partnership with Right To Be (formerly Hollaback!), we have trained over 100,000 people on how to intervene safely and have also added simultaneous interpretation to make our trainings accessible in Chinese (Cantonese & Mandarin), Hindi, Korean, Tagalog, Thai, and Vietnamese.

We have witnessed the power of community, unwavering in its fight to unify Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders and the larger society. Through the tremendous support from our community, we were able to invest \$4.5 million in Asian American communities nationwide by sub-granting to 46 organizations across 18 different states in the areas of anti-Asian hate, direct services, redistricting, and youth leadership. We advocated for equity and justice through involvement in several landmark court cases in the areas of voting rights, education, and reproductive rights. Through the 2020 Census, we saw that the Asian American community is the fastest growing population in the United States growing at a rate of more than 35% when compared to the 2010 census.

Advancing Justice | AAJC celebrated the success of its Anti-Racial Profiling Project which called for, and eventually achieved, the dismantling of the government's "China Initiative" program and to lift up the experiences of the impacted Chinese American and Asian American scientists, researchers, and professors who, under that program, were being profiled by the government with no credible evidence of the national security threats the program was purported to address.

While we have accomplished much last year and, indeed, over the last thirty years, there is so much work ahead of us to address the continuing inequities in American society. From fighting against redistricting maps that unfairly affect the voices of our communities to advocating for the teaching of Asian American history in schools, to ensuring equitable access to education at all levels, including advocating for race-conscious admissions policies because our communities benefit significantly from such policies.

Through your support of this work and the dedicated staff members of Advancing Justice | AAJC, we are building a stronger community and achieving much by continuing to work together. Your unwavering support ensures Advancing Justice | AAJC can continue to deliver on our mission: advance the civil and human rights of Asian Americans and promote a fair and equitable society for all.

Sincerely,



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John C. Yang".

**John C. Yang**  
President and  
Executive Director



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Parkin Lee".

**Parkin Lee**  
Chair, Board  
of Directors

# PROMOTING EQUAL PROTECTION

## ANTI-HATE INITIATIVE



President and Executive Director, John C. Yang, joins President Biden and Asian American leaders for the historic signing of the COVID-19 Hate Crimes Act at the White House.

## Making History and Leading the Way on Fighting Anti-Asian hate

### COVID-19 and Anti-Asian Hate

Addressing hate and discrimination has been central to Advancing Justice | AAJC's mission since the organization was established. From the beginning of the pandemic, we knew that COVID-19 would fuel animus toward Chinese Americans and Asian Americans. Tragically, 2021 saw harm to far too many in our community, including the murder of 6 Korean American women in Atlanta and 4 Sikh Americans in Indianapolis.

In response, Advancing Justice | AAJC deepened its efforts, leading advocacy and

raising awareness on the dual pandemics of COVID-19 and anti-Asian hate. As part of this work, our staff presented in more than 100 webinars, panels, and other speaking engagements in 2021, reaching over 28,000 individuals, from community members to elected officials to corporate leaders and the general public. Our work has gained coverage from numerous print, radio, and television media outlets, including appearances on CNN, MSNBC, and various podcasts, including the Washington Post podcast series on Race in America.

In addition, Advancing Justice | AAJC President and Executive Director John C. Yang testified before Congress three times during 2021 on anti-Asian hate and recommendations for action. We have also engaged with the Justice Department and other federal agencies to advocate for our communities' needs, including improved data collection and reporting, better language access, and increased coordination with and support of communities impacted by anti-Asian hate.

### Passage of Historic COVID-19 Hate Crimes Act

In a historic move in May 2021, Congress passed, and President Biden signed into law, the [COVID-19 Hate Crimes Act](#) after months of critical advocacy from Advancing Justice | AAJC and allied civil rights organizations. This was in fact a victory years in the making, as the COVID-19 Hate Crimes Act, amended to include the Jabara-Heyer NO HATE Act, brought together two complementary legislative proposals to address anti-Asian hate and tackle the broader infrastructural improvements needed in hate crimes data collection, reporting, and connection to support services which we have been advocating for through multiple Congressional sessions.

This bill also marked a much-needed step forward in prioritizing language access and culturally competent outreach to our communities in reporting and addressing anti-Asian hate, while also allocating resources for community solutions to hate and discrimination, including non-law enforcement support services



# PROMOTING EQUAL PROTECTION

## ANTI-HATE INITIATIVE

### Bystander Intervention Trainings With Hollaback!

Advancing Justice | AAJC first joined forces with [Hollaback!](#) (now Right To Be) in April 2020 to develop bystander intervention trainings to address anti-Asian American harassment in the wake of COVID-19.

We have now trained over 100,000 people across all 50 states, empowering our community members and allies to safely intervene and stand up to hate.

In 2021, we held 79 public trainings, with many drawing in thousands of participants, and numerous private trainings for organizations, schools, and companies. The tremendous interest pushed us to launch [in-language trainings](#) with simultaneous translations in Chinese (Cantonese and Mandarin), Korean, Vietnamese, Hindi, Tagalog, and Thai.



Advancing Justice | AAJC staff and supporters participate in the DC Rally for Collective Safety.

We also collaborated with the Woori Show to produce animated [videos](#) that can be used to teach young children how to confront bullying and harassment.

### Strengthen Community-Based Organizations Nationwide

In 2021, we re-doubled our efforts to support Asian American communities nationwide through partnerships, trainings, and subgrants to build the capacity of community-based organizations serving Asian American communities.

Advancing Justice | AAJC has already committed to investing over \$3.7 million through an initiative funded through [Advancing Justice | AAJC and Kaiser Permanente's partnership](#) - to support 34 Asian American and Pacific Islander community organizations to build capacity to tackle anti-Asian hate in their communities.

Through our Stop Anti-Asian Hate and Violence Initiative, we are supporting a range of projects in local communities across the country, and we continue to coordinate with our Community Partners, Asian American organizations, civil rights allies, and many others to respond to the harm our communities continue to face.



President and Executive Director John C. Yang joins NAACP - LDF President and Director-Counsel Sherrilyn Ifill for a Washington Post discussion on race and allyship in America.



Community member reports anti-Asian harassment on StandAgainstHate.



Senior Director of Strategic Initiatives, Marita Etcubañez, and Hollaback! trainer Dax Valdes join Areva Martin's Special Report to discuss how individuals can protect themselves and their community in the face of hate.

# PROMOTING EQUAL PROTECTION

## LITIGATION

### Ensuring Legal Protections For Asian Americans

Advancing Justice | AAJC's litigation program works through the courts to protect our communities. We pursue impact litigation in federal courts, file amicus briefs, including in cases before the U.S. Supreme Court, and engage with the broader racial and social justice coalition to advance key issues.

#### Advocated for Equity Through Key Landmark Cases

Throughout 2021, Advancing Justice | AAJC played key roles advocating for equity and justice in several landmark court cases, most notably in the areas of education, voting rights, and reproductive rights.

In the lawsuit *Asian Americans Advancing Justice — Chicago et al. v. White et al. (N.D. Ill.)*, we represented the Advancing Justice — Chicago affiliate as well as other plaintiffs and successfully obtained a [settlement](#), ensuring efficient, automated, and in-language voter registration services through driver services in Illinois.

As a result of our joint litigation efforts with the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund in *LUPE v. Ross (D. Md.) (LUPE II)*, the Biden Administration in its nascent days issued executive actions rescinding Trump-era executive actions on producing block level citizenship data for redistricting and excluding undocumented individuals from the apportionment base.

In *Asian Americans Advancing Justice-Atlanta et al. v. Raffensperger et al. (N.D. GA.)*, Advancing Justice | AAJC with our Atlanta and San Francisco affiliates sued to protect Advancing Justice-Atlanta and Asian American individuals harmed by SB 202, Georgia's sweeping anti-voting bill. The lawsuit alleges SB 202 erects unconstitutional barriers intended to silence Asian American voters (shortens window to apply for mail-in ballots; restricts access to secure drop boxes; forces voters to satisfy onerous, unnecessary ID requirements; burdens civic engagement organizations to effectively assist voters; and prohibits elections officials from proactively mailing ballot applications to registered voters).

Our litigation team also filed numerous amicus briefs this year, notably in the cases of *Coalition for TJ v. Fairfax County School Board* in support of diversity at a Virginia magnet high school, and *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*, in which Advancing Justice | AAJC and

National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum represented 29 community and civil rights organizations advocating for the reproductive rights of Asian American and Pacific Islander women.



The Hogan Lovells Asian Pacific American Affinity Group holds APA Heritage Month event featuring an exclusive panel discussion on concerns and challenges facing the Asian American community.

“

**I am here because I believe that API community needs to have a voice in the civil rights (and civil liberties) discourse that is happening today. Advancing Justice | AAJC along with their partner affiliates and other community organizations provide the voice.**

ANGELA OH,  
ADVANCING JUSTICE | AAJC  
NATIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

”





# BUILDING POLITICAL POWER

## VOTING RIGHTS

### Protecting Asian Americans' Voting Power and Equal Access to the Ballot Box

As a nationally recognized expert on voting rights, Advancing Justice | AAJC works to increase access for Asian Americans to the political process by eliminating barriers to participation and advocating for expansive voting policies. We promote compliance with voting rights laws and increased access to the ballot, fight voter intimidation and suppression, produce reports on voting rights issues, and conduct voter surveys to increase understanding about the voting behavior and attitudes of our community. With increased efforts by state-level officials and others to disenfranchise and further suppress the votes of immigrants and voters in communities of color, our continued work to fight for our communities' access to the ballot box is more urgent than ever.

#### 2021 Redistricting Investment in the Field

In an initiative to empower more Asian Americans to participate in [redistricting](#),

the process of redrawing political district boundaries, we created Asian American community public education and communications materials for our partners, including [factsheets](#) translated into 12 languages (Arabic, Bangla, Chinese (Traditional), Chinese (Simplified), Hindi, Hmong, Karen, Korean, Khmer, Tagalog, Urdu, Vietnamese). We produced a redistricting messaging guide, with sample social media graphics, focused on how best to message to different Asian American communities about the importance of redistricting. Advancing Justice | AAJC provided funding to local partners in 11 states (Arizona, Florida, Michigan, Minnesota, Nevada, New Jersey, North Carolina, Oregon, Texas, Virginia, and Washington). With these grants, our community partners engaged in trainings on the mechanics of the redistricting process and how to actively participate in redistricting,



Terry Ao Minnis, Senior Director of Census and Voting Programs, [reflects](#) on the 56<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 for the House Democratic News Conference on Voting Rights.

conducting outreach and education to diverse, local Asian American communities to get them involved in the redistricting process, and educate the public, media and policymakers about the communities' needs with respect to redistricting.

#### 2021 John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act

Advancing Justice | AAJC was also a [key partner](#) in the effort to secure a bipartisan Congressional response with the [John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act \(H.R. 4\)](#), which would restore and modernize essential provisions of the 1965 Voting Rights Act that were gutted in the [Shelby v. Holder Supreme Court](#) decision, and serve as an important first step to counter discriminatory voting laws. Advancing Justice | AAJC testified in three Congressional hearings about voting rights in 2021: before the House Committee on Administration Subcommittee on Elections, House Judiciary Committee Subcommittee on the Constitution, and Senate Committee on the Judiciary, Subcommittee on The Constitution.

“  
It’s important to effectuate positive change for our community on national level – speak up, act and get results.

JOAN HARATANI,  
ADVANCING JUSTICE | AAJC  
BOARD MEMBER,  
AND MORGAN, LEWIS  
& BOCKIUS LLP

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Advancing Justice | AAJC staff and supporters participate in March on For Voting Rights and Make Good Trouble Rally in DC.

# BUILDING POLITICAL POWER

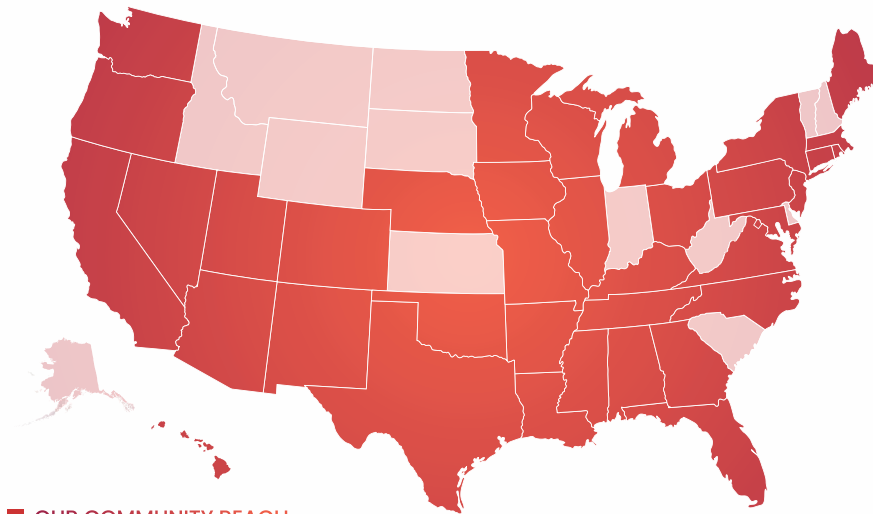
## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

### Engaging With Local Communities to Protect and Advance the Rights of Asian Americans

#### National Fieldwork

##### COMMUNITY PARTNERS NETWORK

For over 25 years, the Community Partners Network program has engaged in coalition and capacity-building and provided training and technical assistance to local AAPI-serving organizations since its establishment in 1995. We hold relationships with over 250 community-based organizations (CBOs) in 38 states and the District of Columbia.



■ OUR COMMUNITY REACH

#### 2021 HIGHLIGHTS

- **New Partners:** In 2021, we added AAPI-serving organizations from Arkansas, Colorado, Maryland, and Nebraska to our Community Partners Network, further diversifying our reach and visibility into local Asian American concerns and building relationships with partners in emerging Asian American communities.

- **Convened and organized thought leaders across the country** on issues involving anti-Asian hate, voting rights, redistricting, and immigration
- **Empowered and equipped local and regional leaders** on skills related to fundraising and working with the media.

- **Maintained rapid response communications** on developing issues related to anti-Asian hate and immigration.
- **Capacity Building:** In 2021, we subgranted over \$4.5M to 46 community-based organizations in 18 states to support work in anti-Asian hate and youth leadership.



Asian American youth nationwide join Advancing Justice | AAJC for a convening centering their voices and ideas for change.

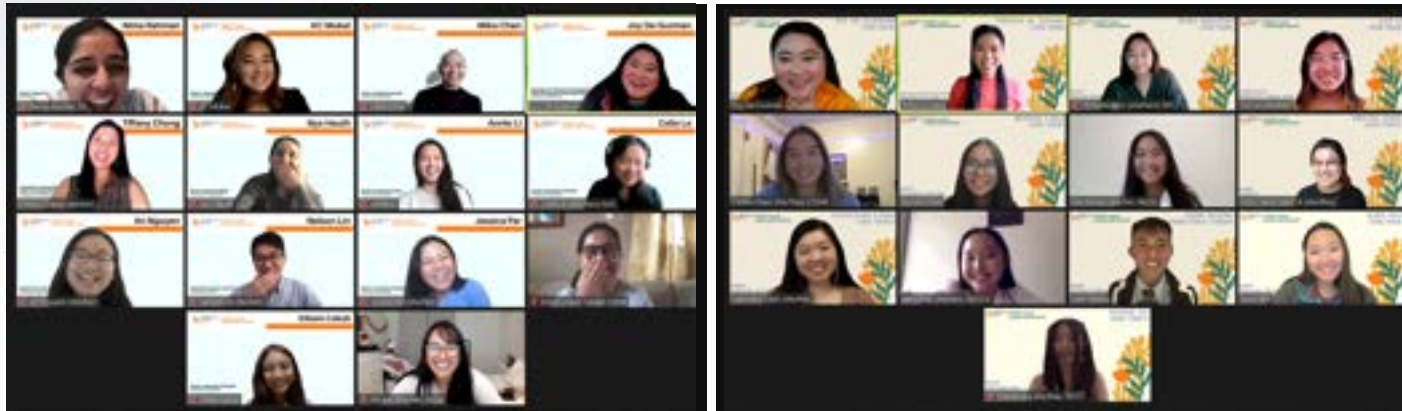
“The Summit was such an eye-opening and inspiring experience that I am extremely grateful to have participated in. I developed a strong understanding of how having AAPI representation, strong alliances with BIPOC partners and political power is vital to make policy change positive and lasting.”

MIKA CHAN, SEATTLE UNIVERSITY, SPRING 2021 YLS



# BUILDING POLITICAL POWER

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



Advancing Justice | AAJC's Youth Leadership Summit Spring 2021 (left) and Fall 2021 Cohort (right).

### Youth Engagement

#### YOUTH LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

We continue to support Asian American youth leadership development and provide training, connections, and opportunities for young leaders to grow in their experience and impact. Since 2014, our annual **Youth Leadership Summit** has brought together a group of student leaders to Washington, DC, for three days of advocacy trainings and leadership development workshops focused on civic engagement. Summit participants represent a diverse array of AAPI backgrounds, advocacy interests, geographic areas across the country, and the colleges and universities they attend, and the Summit provides a unique opportunity for young advocates from across the country to both interact with their peers as well as learn from and network with national leaders.

Through interactive workshops, hands-on activities, and a visit to Capitol Hill, participants build advocacy skills and gain a deeper understanding of how advocacy and activism affect policy decisions. Student leaders also work with experienced policy advocates and have opportunities to interact with the legislative staff of U.S. Senators and Representatives. Following the Summit, select student participants are awarded project stipends to lead campus-based outreach and education efforts on key policy issues.

In 2021, we successfully adapted our program to two virtual summits, and welcomed a total of 23 students who participated over the course of 5 days in an intensive program that includes trainings on advocacy and organizing, policy briefings,

brown bag lunches with young Asian Americans working on the Hill and beyond, and legislative visits with members of Congress. In 2021, YLS students collectively held 15 meetings with House and Senate offices on issues including immigration, racial profiling, and hate crimes against Asian Americans. In addition, we hosted **Advancing Justice | AAJC's first-ever Youth Convening & Listening Session**, which welcomed 80 attendees from across the country to participate in an intergenerational dialogue. During the convening, we heard from high school- and college-aged student leaders working in the areas of climate and environmental justice, gun violence prevention, anti-Asian hate, and civic engagement.

“  
Interfacing directly with staffers on the Hill for issues I cared about was incredibly rewarding and is an experience I'll take away for my future advocacy in the realm of health equity. The Summit has been truly fulfilling during this life-changing pandemic: the skills and knowledge I've gained here will undoubtedly serve as the foundation for my future advocacy serving the Asian American community and beyond.  
”

NELSON LIN, BROWN UNIVERSITY, SPRING 2021 YLS

# STRENGTHENING ROOTS

## IMMIGRATION AND IMMIGRANT RIGHTS

### Protecting Our Immigrant Families and Communities

Advancing Justice | AAJC is a leading authority on immigration policy as it affects the Asian American community. We advocate for fair and just immigration policies that protect family unity, provide access to immigration status and citizenship, and promote civil rights protections and due process in enforcement.

Throughout 2021, we continued to lead the Value Our Families Campaign with a mission of protecting and strengthening the family immigration system and promoting an immigration system that is informed by love, empathy, and justice. We advocated for and won the inclusion of the [Reuniting Families Act](#) in [President Biden's Day One immigration bill](#), which would modernize and fix the family immigration system. Through our sustained advocacy, the House of Representatives passed provisions to clear family immigration backlogs, and these provisions are under consideration in the Senate.



Together with the Value Our Families coalition, Advancing Justice | AAJC advocated for family-based immigration during a “Week of Action.”

From our coalition efforts, we celebrated the repeal of the Muslim and African bans, and we supported advocacy and education efforts for Temporary Protected Status, including for Burma (Myanmar) and Nepal. Advancing Justice | AAJC also continued our advocacy for a pathway for citizenship for millions of undocumented community members such as Dreamers, TPS-holders, essential workers, and farmworkers.

We continued our coalition efforts seeking to decrease Congress on the massive increase in deportations of Southeast Asian refugees with criminal convictions, many of which were minor or decades old. As part of these efforts, we secured new Congressional co-sponsors for the “New Way Forward Act,” which would repeal many of the harshest deportability grounds from immigration law, restore discretion in our immigration system, and reform the detention system. Furthermore, with the Defund Hate coalition, we sought to reduce spending on immigration enforcement, and we remain critical of alternatives to detention that increase immigrant surveillance rather than encourage community-based solutions.

#### Naturalization SUPPORT FOR ASPIRING NEW AMERICANS

As a member of the New Americans Campaign (NAC), we work with many D.C. area immigration legal service providers to provide naturalization assistance



Daishi Miguel Tanaka, Manager of Immigration Advocacy, hosts an Instagram Live conversation with undocumented advocates on the 9<sup>th</sup> anniversary of DACA.

through low-cost citizenship workshops with trained bilingual volunteers to help legal permanent residents to complete the naturalization application.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, our D.C. NAC partners transitioned from in-person services to providing remote assistance, which posed challenges, particularly for applicants who need language support and are not well-versed in navigating online platforms. Nevertheless, our partners have continued to provide citizenship assistance, communicating with applicants through phone calls, texts, and various online platforms.

Fortunately, our advocacy efforts have been successful in halting many of the harmful changes to naturalization initiated by the Trump Administration: changes to immigration fee waivers, immigration fee increases, and changes to the civics test.

“

**We need to make long overdue fixes to our immigration system so that families are no longer needless kept apart. And I look forward to working with *Value Our Families* and my colleagues here today to move forward this robust legislation.**

REPRESENTATIVE JUDY CHU

”

# STRENGTHENING ROOTS

## IMMIGRATION AND IMMIGRANT RIGHTS

### Launching the Anti-Racial Profiling Project

Since the launch of the [Anti-Racial Profiling Project](#) in October 2020, Advancing Justice | AAJC has led advocacy efforts in response to the government's racial targeting and profiling of Asian Americans and Asian immigrant scientists, researchers, and scholars. We spearheaded advocacy calling on the U.S. Department of Justice to end the "China Initiative" as well as other practices and programs in other agencies engaging in race-based targeting of Asian Americans for surveillance and investigations.

#### Legal Referrals & Individual Case Advocacy

Advancing Justice | AAJC established the first bilingual legal referral service on this issue in the country. Along with our [advocacy efforts](#), we helped nearly 70 impacted persons in 24 states, connecting them to specialized attorneys and providing them with support. In the first case to go to trial under the "China Initiative," we provided holistic support, including Congressional advocacy, legal referrals, grassroots organizing, and media training. The case ultimately resulted in acquittal.

Our racial profiling work has led to the dismissal of multiple "China Initiative" cases as well as better treatment for impacted individuals.

#### Combating Racial Profiling & Ending the "China Initiative"

Advancing Justice | AAJC spearheaded advocacy efforts with a coalition of civil rights and academic groups to call on the Biden administration to end the "China Initiative." We engaged directly with senior officials at the White House and multiple federal agencies, as well as working closely with Members of Congress, to promote congressional oversight, providing expertise through briefings, testimony, meetings with impacted persons, and other engagements, including the first Congressional Roundtable on the racial profiling of Chinese American scientists.

We spearheaded the first legislative week of action on this issue, including visits to Congressional offices, a press briefing with nearly 250 registrants, a digital week of action sharing impacted stories, and advocacy



John C. Yang and Vivin Qiang are interviewed for a documentary about the racial profiling of Asian Americans and Asian immigrants.

trainings for community members. And we worked with directly impacted persons in delivering a petition of nearly 30,000 signatures to President Biden urging him to combat the racial profiling of Asian American and Asian immigrants and put an end to the China Initiative. Overall, our education and awareness efforts, including webinars and Know Your Rights trainings, have reached thousands of community members.

Our work includes advocacy across multiple federal agencies on racial profiling. We supported Congress in raising concerns about the Department of Commerce's Investigations and Threat Management Service, which was then terminated in

September 2021. We continued to educate and provide recommendations to multiple federal agencies, including to the National Institute of Health, National Science Foundation, and to the Office of Science and Technology Policy, on implementation guidance on grant disclosure requirements and to raise concerns of profiling of Asian Americans and immigrants.

As a result of our sustained advocacy efforts, the Department of Justice announced the end of the "China Initiative" in early 2022, and we continue to engage with the administration to ensure proper implementation of this significant policy change.

**“I look at these cases and I see my parents — the scientists came to America believing in its ideals, just like my own family members. Yet we are portrayed as perpetual foreigners. There are real issues. But the ‘China Initiative’ was not about catching actual spies; it was about racial prejudice.”**

FRANK H. WU, PRESIDENT, QUEENS COLLEGE



# STRENGTHENING ROOTS

## TELECOMMUNICATIONS, TECHNOLOGY, AND MEDIA

### Safeguarding our community in Telecommunications and Technology

#### Bridging the Digital Divide

Access to technology and telecommunications is an absolute necessity to accessing education, health services, economic opportunities, and maintaining relationships with loved ones, especially during the pandemic. Advancing Justice | AAJC has continued to lead our efforts to make reliable high-speed broadband and devices available to our most vulnerable populations. This year, Advancing Justice | AAJC advocated for the Emergency Broadband Benefit (EBB) program to include materials and outreach in multiple Asian languages, eligibility to differently documented populations, and increased funding for community organizations working to advance digital equity. We participated in legislative briefing sessions, submitted letters and comments to agencies, collaborated directly with the FCC rollout of the EBB program, and hosted a community convening with over 20 Community Partners to better understand our digital access and literacy needs and advocate for them at the federal level.

#### Promoting Access, Protection, and Equality in Digital Technology

As society increasingly relies on technology to stay connected, user and community protections must become more robust.

Advancing Justice | AAJC continues to advocate for comprehensive privacy reform that will meaningfully provide privacy rights and protections to individuals, including those who may be accessing services and platforms in non-English languages or may not have high digital literacy rates. We work to ensure our communities, including immigrants, are protected against unauthorized data collection and sharing as well newly developing technologies such as facial recognition, algorithm use, and geolocation tracking.

This year, Advancing Justice | AAJC launched a mis- and disinformation project to monitor Asian American media and online content trends and understand narratives that are negatively impacting communities, including how they can be dismantled. We will promote media and digital literacy skills through community trainings, provide tools and resources for community partners, and advocate for policies and processes that can effectively reduce harmful content targeting the Asian American community.

Advancing Justice | AAJC also continues to advocate for greater platform accountability and transparency. This year, we met with the CEOs of major online platform companies, senior government



Social and political leaders discuss how we can utilize social media and creative platforms to reclaim our narratives and build a lasting movement.

officials, experts and academics, and other stakeholders to advocate for better content moderation, surveillance practices, and data ethics; and advised various stakeholders on how to detect and reduce hateful and inciteful content that has increased material harms to our communities.

#### Media Representation: Our Representation Matters

Advancing Justice | AAJC remains committed to ensuring that media reflects the diversity of the world around us. We continue to ensure that the images meant to reflect our communities are accurate,

thoughtful, and relevant. This year, we have also worked with various actors, agencies, networks, and other industry stakeholders to facilitate conversations about the history and activism of Asian Americans in media, and how today's talent can do their part to stand against hatred. Along with several other national Asian American organizations, we co-founded the Asian American Media Alliance, which is dedicated to equitable Asian American representation in the media.

# STRENGTHENING ROOTS

## CENSUS

### Fighting For Our Communities to Be Counted

Advancing Justice | AAJC works to address barriers that have historically resulted in the undercounting and underreporting of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in federal data collection and analysis efforts. An accurate count of our community in the census is essential for government services to be provided to our people, for decision makers to understand the community's importance, and for the enforcement of AAPIs' civil rights.

As co-chair of the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights' Census Task Force, we emphasize the need for a fully funded Census Bureau and for

smart, effective, and well-tested policy decisions to interested stakeholders, administration officials, and legislators.

Through this work, we advocate for inclusive federal data collection efforts to safeguard the Census—our most valuable source of nuanced community demographic data.

### Executive Order and Presidential Memorandum Census 2020

This year, we [successfully advocated](#) for the immediate repeal of the 2020 Presidential Memorandum, which sought to exclude undocumented individuals in the apportionment count, and Executive Order 13880 (issued in July 2019), which sought the creation of a block-level citizen-voting age population dataset. Both measures sought to erase Asian Americans from critical data used to allocate benefits and determine representation.

### Count On Your Census Podcast

Although the decennial Census concluded in 2020, our efforts to educate the community about the importance of the Census and how data could be used continued into 2021. Advancing Justice | AAJC continued



Advancing Justice | AAJC quickly adapted during the pandemic to create a season 2 of the Count on Your Census podcast to provide our community with the information they needed.

its [census podcast mini-series](#) released on Apple, Spotify, and other platforms to communicate about why the census is important and what's at stake if our

community and fellow communities of color are not counted fairly and accurately in the census.



**\$4.5** MILLION



**Investing in our Communities to Meet Today's Challenges and Strengthen Infrastructure for the Future**

Advancing Justice | AAJC invested over **\$4.5 million** to support Asian American committees nationwide, subgranting to **46 organizations** serving Asian American communities across **18 different states** in the areas of anti-Asian hate, direct services, redistricting, and youth leadership.

**7x** TESTIFIED BEFORE CONGRESS

**Recognized by Congress for our Expertise**



Advancing Justice | AAJC was called on to **testify before Congress 7 times in 2021—representing our communities and delivering expertise** on issues including anti-Asian hate, immigration, and voting rights. Our testimony from those 7 congressional hearings reached nearly **100,000 viewers**.

**3,000+** MEDIA PLACEMENTS

**Served as A Voice For Our Communities**

Over **3,000 placements** across **2,286** different media outlets.

Recognized Expertise: AAJC staff were interviewed **181 times by 97 different media outlets** for their expertise across **8 different issue areas**.



**100,000+** TRAINED

**Equipping Our Communities to Take Action**

Advancing Justice | AAJC, through our partnership with Hollaback! Has conducted over **220 Bystander Intervention Trainings**, equipping over **100,000 people** across **all 50 states**, DC, Puerto Rico, and the US Virgin Islands, to stand up to hate.

**28,000+** PEOPLE REACHED



**Raising the Public's Awareness of the Asian American Community**

Advancing Justice | AAJC spoke on **168 panels**, presentations, webinars, and press conferences in 2021 reaching more than **28,000 people** across the nation.

**500+** MEETINGS WITH GOVERNMENT



**Representing Our Communities Before the Administration and Congress:**

Advancing Justice | AAJC advocated for our communities with the Administration over the course of over **150 meetings** throughout 2021, including with the White House, Department of Justice, Department of Homeland Security, and many more, across diverse issues including anti-Asian hate, immigration, census, technology and telecommunications, and voting rights.

With respect to the legislative branch, Advancing Justice | AAJC engaged in over **350 meetings** with Congressional offices on issues including immigration, voting rights, technology and telecommunications, anti-Asian hate, and census.



**OUR IMPACT**



# AMERICAN COURAGE AWARDS



Advancing Justice | AAJC staff, board members, and supporters commemorate the bravery and advocacy of our community at the 2021 American Courage Awards.

## Celebrated 30 Years of Protecting and Advancing the Civil Rights of Asian Americans at the 2021 American Courage Awards

The American Courage Awards (ACA), a signature annual event hosted by Advancing Justice | AAJC, honors individuals, groups, and corporations in recognition of their extraordinary courage or commitment to the cause of Asian American and Pacific Islander civil rights.

While we celebrated this year's ACA online, our event was nothing short of impactful and moving for the hundreds who tuned in. With the help of some special friends, we honored CBS News Senior White House Correspondent **Weijia Jiang** with the American Courage

Award, our partner **Hollaback!** with the Changemaker Award, and **Bank of America** with the Bridge Builder Award.

In commemoration of our 30-year anniversary, we reflected on how our organization has grown and evolved through staff reflections and staff fireside chat featuring President and Executive Director John C. Yang, Senior Director of Strategic Initiatives Marita Etcubañez, and Manager of Immigration Policy Daishi Miguel Tanaka. We also heard from impacted community members on how they have been moved to combat anti-Asian hate.

We thank our speakers and award presenters Broderick Johnson from Comcast NBCUniversal, Ren Guartico, Mari Shiratori, Maulik Pancholy, Jason Ve, Parkin Lee, Gina Shishima, Washington Post Reporter Michelle Ye Hee Lee, U.S. Olympians Alex Hideo Shibutani and Maia Shibutani. We also thank Sen. Mazie Hirono, Rep. Judy Chu, Rep. Ted Lieu, Rep. Pramila Jayapal, Rep. Andy Kim, and Rep. Grace Meng for their special appearances. Entertainment and performances by Bay Area rapper Ruby Ibarra and NYC Youth Poet Laureate Serena Yang rounded out the night.

“

I am inspired to support Advancing Justice | AAJC because of its work to empower our Asian Americans communities which creates a more just America for all of us.

KENZO KAWANABE,  
ADVANCING JUSTICE | AAJC  
BOARD MEMBER AND DAVIS  
GRAHAM & STUBBS LLP PARTNER

”

# THANK YOU

Advancing Justice | AAJC sincerely thanks our 2021 donors. Your tremendous support elevated our ability to protect and advance the civil and human rights of the Asian American community and beyond, especially during times of unrelenting hate and xenophobia thrust upon our community across the nation.

We strive to be trusted stewards of your support and are genuinely thankful for the power of community.

\*to see a full list of our supporters please [click here](#).

## VOICES OF OUR DONORS

WHY WE GIVE

“For being an important part of the history.”

“Lets figure out how to bring more progress.”

“For a better world.”

“...in the realization that what is happening now is consistent with what has always happened in this country... I hope one day because of groups like yours, and a growing change in consciousness, we can say America has changed.”

“I choose to support Advancing Justice | AAJC to invest in the protection and support of immigrant families in Asian American communities across the U.S.”

LAUREN C., DONOR

“May the world be a safer more inclusive place by the time you are grown. Love, Grandma and Grandpa.”

“Your fight is my fight.”

“Hi Mom, I made this donation in honor of you. I consider you a role-model of strength, wisdom, and compassion, and someone who continues to teach me about kindness, persistence, and who taught me from a young age to be curious, do the right thing, care for other beings, and helped me to dedicate my life to making the world a better place.”

“You are the special type of person that changes lives, lifts people up, and makes the world a better place.”

“When we keep doing the work together, it makes a difference.”

“...I thought of your mom, the things she overcame in her own journey of not only being a woman, but being a Asian American woman in this country. She symbolizes the ultimate American to me, a strong woman who loved fiercely and achieved her dreams.”

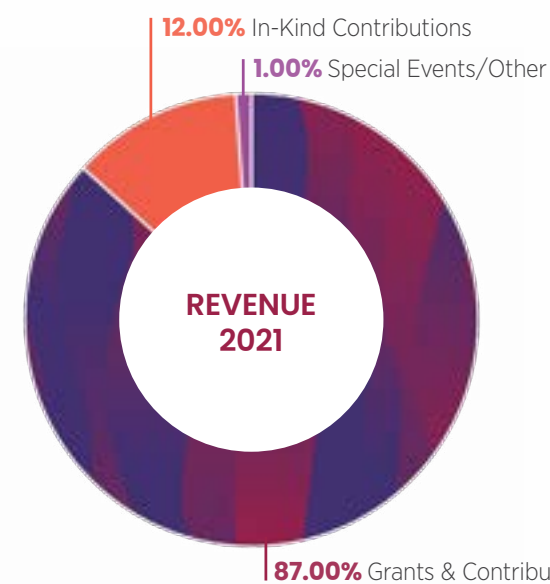
“For being proud and embracing the Asian American part of ourselves.”

“I love you and I wish more than anything for you to feel safe and at home in this country.”

“Your story matters. Your safety matters.”

# FINANCIALS

<b>ASSETS</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
Cash and cash equivalents	33,214,319	8,357,368
Investments	1,658,855	1,401,918
Grants and pledges receivable	7,740,060	1,968,163
Prepaid expenses	98,382	62,636
Furniture and equipment, net	11,308	14,195
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>42,722,924</b>	<b>11,804,280</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	418,190	349,244
Grants payable	2,035,000	-
Loan Payable	-	363,558
Deferred rent	252,350	282,996
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>2,705,540</b>	<b>995,798</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		
Without donor restrictions	16,169,895	1,651,082
With donor restrictions	23,847,489	9,157,400
<b>TOTAL NET ASSETS</b>	<b>40,017,384</b>	<b>10,808,482</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; NET ASSETS</b>	<b>42,722,924</b>	<b>11,804,280</b>





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**“I support Advancing Justice | AAJC because it is a tireless advocate addressing the immediate challenges and inequities facing Asian Americans today. Advancing Justice | AAJC also recognizes lasting impact requires systemic change, which drives its pursuit in the fight to increase visibility of Asian Americans within the fabric of America.”**

ANDY LIU, ADVANCING JUSTICE | AAJC BOARD MEMBER

**“At a time when Asian Americans remain disenfranchised in many areas and are the targets of hate crimes, Advancing Justice | AAJC’s advocacy and voice in legislatures, courts, and the public arena is a vital element in achieving the American dream for all Asian Americans.”**

JAVADE CHAUDHRI, ADVANCING JUSTICE | AAJC BOARD MEMBER

**“My family’s been here for 5 generations, but we still get that old “go back where you came from,” so I support Advancing Justice | AAJC as my way to say: we’re here, get used to it, and try being that great nation the U.S. Constitution purports to establish.”**

MARI MATSUDA, ADVANCING JUSTICE | AAJC NATIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL AND PROFESSOR AT UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI’I WILLIAM S. RICHARDSON SCHOOL OF LAW

**“Advancing Justice | AAJC’s advocacy work creates agency and empowers the Asian American community. They provided bystander training when our community felt the most vulnerable. I support Advancing Justice | AAJC because of their effectiveness as a national voice to makes sure that policy makers are informed to make decisions based on community need and data and not stereotypes or tropes.”**

KIM TRAN, ADVANCING JUSTICE | AAJC BOARD SECRETARY AND HEAD OF HR LEGAL, GITHUB



ASIAN AMERICANS  
**ADVANCING  
JUSTICE**

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