



2016 APANO Annual Report

APANO is working towards a just world where...

All our families have the rights, recognition and resources they need to thrive, and their life outcomes are not tied to identity or social determinants of health. // **Everyone** has the social, economic and political power and resources to make healthy decisions for themselves about their bodies, genders, sexualities and families, in all areas of their lives, without fear of discrimination, exclusion or harm. This includes the ability to have children, not have children, and/or parent the children we have in safe and healthy environments. // **The health**, well-being and survival of our communities and the natural world are understood as more important than individual profit, and supported through equitable distribution of wealth and resources. // **Institutions** are built around the inherent worth and dignity of all people and are designed and function as systems of care and support, not systems of criminalization and control. // **Communities** have the skills, capacity and resources to organize themselves for change, collectively self-determine their needs and solutions, and control their own destinies. // **We act** in solidarity with communities who experience oppression and recognize that our liberation is directly linked to theirs.

-- APANO Values

A Community to Weather Any Storm

A Note from the Executive Director

Now more than ever, I feel called to be in community, to have a place where I can love and be loved, and make sense of our complicated, hard and uncertain world. It is through membership in organized faith and community groups where I have been able to break out of my isolation, develop purpose, and form bonds of trust with neighbors and friends to dream and act for a better world. Whether it was during my years working in the service industry, as a stay-at-home Dad, as a seminarian or as an organizer in the nonprofit industrial complex, I've always sought to find a balance in order to stay as deeply engaged as I can.



I believe we all benefit from having strong homes, and recognize it takes serious time and intention to build. Through APANO, our hope is to be a vibrant political home. What do you envision for your political home? For me, it is a place where I can be in dialogue with an intergenerational community about the issues that affect us, pool our knowledge and skills to envision solutions that address the root causes of inequities, and to have concrete ways to take direct action that creates justice for all people. A political home is where we can deeply understand and nurture one another's values, reflecting on questions such as:

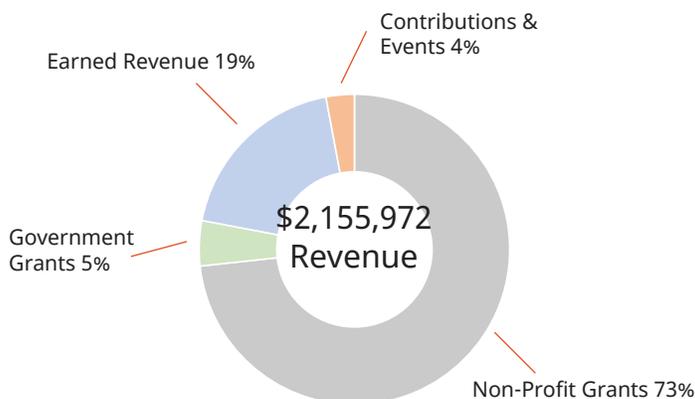
*When did you first realize the world was unfair? How has a political moment really shaped your worldview?
What was a meaningful action you took for justice?*

Sustaining a vibrant and healthy home is one of the best ways to weather any storm, and we can feel the political winds shifting rapidly. I am excited to share that we are re-organizing into two organizations: **APANO Communities United Fund** (501c3) to engage in research and education, and **APANO** (501c4) to engage in direct advocacy, lobbying and strategic candidate work. I thank you for helping make APANO a strong and stable organization. Please accept all our gratitude for giving your time and your treasure. You are the foundation of our work. Together, we are living into our new strategic plan, deepening our community organizing and policy advocacy with new principles and values for the world we want to live in. Before you put this annual report down, I ask that you take a minute to read our values statement on the cover, and then ask yourself, what resonates most with me? Whether you are a new or veteran member, I hope you will find a place to grow and build within APANO, to lead, link or join with us to achieve our vision.

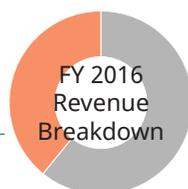
With peace,

Rev. Joseph Santos-Lyons
Executive Director

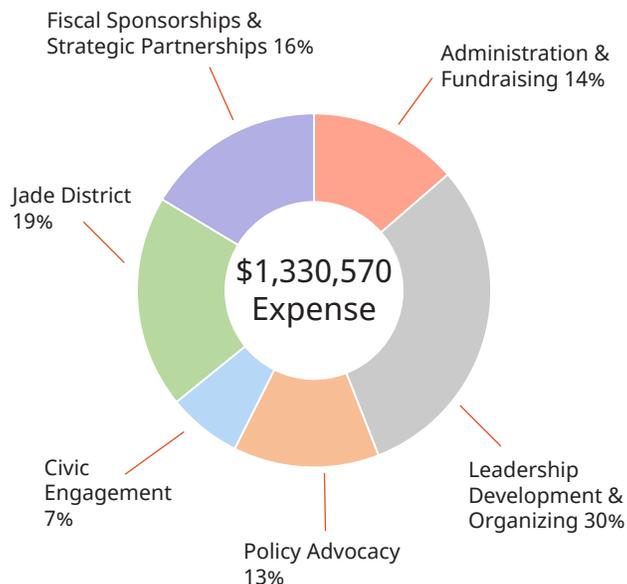
Financials for Fiscal Year 2016



Total Raised for Use In Future Years
39% (\$843,722)



Total raised for use in FY2016
63% (\$1,312,250)



Organizing in this Political Moment

by Karn Saetang, Lead Organizer

“The night of the election, I stayed up to watch the results. And after hearing all the things that were being said, it reminded me why the work we do is more necessary than ever. Communities that have been targeted need to come together and organize and build solidarity with one another. We need to understand our role is in this movement, the roles of allies, and OUR roles as allies. We need to make sure we aren’t complicit in a system that targets black, Muslim, LGBTQ, Latinxs, women, and other marginalized communities.”

- ALLY Youth Organizers Jessica Yu, Franklin High School and Karina Autar, Benson High School

Two things happened this year that I never thought I’d ever see. My hometown Chicago Cubs winning the world series and Donald Trump being elected president. That first thing led to the 7th largest gathering in human history with the Cubs victory parade, and the latter also led to human gatherings, but of a different kind. These gatherings were a response, not just to one person, but to what that person is symbolic of. We’ve seen an increase in attacks against communities of color, LGBTQ communities, immigrants, and women. This election and the results of this election didn’t just come out of nowhere - It’s no coincidence that Donald Trump is elected President right after the country’s first black President. But what this election does signify though, is that we are living in a very special and unique time in our history. A time that has seen the emergence of the Black Lives Matter movement, one of the largest mobilizations of Native Americans happening at Standing Rock, and one of the largest national prison strikes in history.



The ways we communicate, think, and organize are changing, and what we do in these next few years will have very real implications for decades. Not only is this moment an opportunity to organize, but also a time that requires us to really be creative with our organizing, and re-envision what it can look like: Organizing that’s intersectional, organizing that’s local, national, and global, and organizing that can bring out even more people than a Cubs victory parade.

This year, with the overwhelming support from and mobilizing of APANO members and partners, ALLY led and won its first justice campaign - “Missing Pages of our History,” establishing Oregon’s strongest and most comprehensive ethnic studies policy. This win requires Portland Public Schools to offer at least one ethnic studies class in every high

school within 4 years, with an oversight committee formed by students, community leaders, and teachers. This was a big win, and we’re not stopping there.

In line with our strategic plan goal of centering and expanding our community organizing work, and to keep up with our growing base, APANO has invested in new full-time organizers to build a vibrant base of young leaders: Yian Saechao connected with APANO’s early youth leadership work as a Parkrose student, and Justin Sipoloa brings deep experience in our Pacific Islander communities.

Yian and Justin add to APANO’s organizing program, which currently includes high school youth in Metro Portland, immigrant adults who are parents of English Language Learners (ELL), and immigrant, low-income tenants in Salem and East Portland. These organizing groups play a core part in APANO’s decision-making on issues we address. Here, members develop skills and capacity to become leaders to champion solutions they want to see within their communities.

As we continue centering and expanding this work, we’re increasingly organizing in-language, and ensuring those who are most affected are leading our struggles for justice. We aim to connect with over 1,000 people, launch an organizer fellowship program, and develop national relationships. We look forward to organizing creative visions of change with our communities with your support.



The struggle isn’t new. Our oppression isn’t new. We’ve been through 500 years of this. But we need to remember there’s also been 500 years of resistance. We’re built for this.

APANO Roots to Rise

by Duncan Hwang, Associate Director

In 2017, APANO will be putting down roots at the corner of SE 82nd and Division at the heart of the Jade District. This once in a lifetime opportunity came to us this past fall, when the State of Oregon awarded funding to redevelop our current Jade APANO Multicultural Space (JAMS) into a new 4 story neighborhood landmark. The iconic furniture many have come to know and love will be redeveloped to provide 48 units of permanently affordable housing, becoming home for local families that struggle with regular rent increases. On the ground floor APANO will also be finding a permanent home in the form of a new multicultural center and workspace.



To find our permanent home, our Roots to Rise Capital Campaign looks to raise \$2 million in 2017, allowing us to own this space and advance the community vision for how the Jade District develops. Why this space, and why now? With this investment, we're saying, "We were built by our communities, and we're here for our communities." Given this new political landscape, we more than ever need safe places for our members to come together to plan, organize, and build community. That's where our space comes in.

This unique opportunity for our organization will depend on the contributions and talents of many throughout our network. In the past year, we held community visioning discussions to hear from community members and Jade residents about their needs and what they envision for the space. We brought on long-time APANO member Cindy Casama Gerber as our Senior Development Advisor to lead our fundraising efforts. Our board and staff are mobilizing APANO members and supporters, old and new, to fundraise for this project. Together, we typically create art, policy, or disaggregated data. In this instance, however, we will build an actual physical place that embodies our values for many years to come.

Our campaign launches in 2017, and we hope you will join us as we build a safe place rooted in community. For more information, please contact duncan@apano.org.

New Faces and New Teams

Earlier this year APANO completed a new strategic plan, centering comprehensive new values and renewing our focus on organizing and advocacy. We have evaluated and shifted our staff to better achieve our goals. Get to know some new faces and new teams!

Organizing Team

Karn Saetang, Lead Organizer
Yian Saechao, Community Organizer
Justin Sipoloa, Community Organizer
Wanna Lei, Community Organizer
Carol Chan, Community Organizer

Operations Team

Duncan Hwang, Associate Director
Melissa Magaña, Operations Manager
Simeon Jacob, Operations Associate
Jack Mesplay, Finance Manager
Lokye Au, Communications Coordinator
Cindy Casama Gerber, Senior Development Advisor
Candace Kita, Cultural Work and Development Coordinator

Jade Team

Todd Struble, Jade District Manager
Maiyee Yuan, Jade District Coordinator

Strategies Team

Kara Carmosino, Director of Programs and Strategy
Khanh Pham, Manager of Programs and Strategy
Kathy Wai, Civic Engagement Manager
Linh Doan, Parent Engagement Associate

Policy Team

Zahir Janmohamed, Policy Director
Jeanice Chieng, Policy Manager



Building API Civic Engagement

by Kathy Wai, Civic Engagement Manager

2016 was a big year for us as we mobilized our communities for the local, state, and federal elections. Our Civic Engagement team began working on engaging with new and veteran API voters in the Spring. We showed up to places of community gathering- public libraries, grocery stores, cultural events, parks, apartment complexes, and more.

Our Civic Engagement Program set record highs this past year: **5,083 voters registered, 20,000 APIs reached statewide, 6 API languages used in voter materials, and over 600 hours given from volunteers to mobilize our communities.** This is all possible thanks to our volunteers, members, partners, fellows, and supporters like you!



Also new this year is APANO's **VOTE Network (Voter Organizing, Training, and Empowerment)**. We worked with six API organizations in Oregon this past year to build leadership, organizing skills, and implement integrated voter engagement strategies in their culturally and regionally specific communities. These organizations engaged in year-round work as VOTE Partners and used their expertise to cultivate relationships among community leaders, elders, and young people to engage them civically.

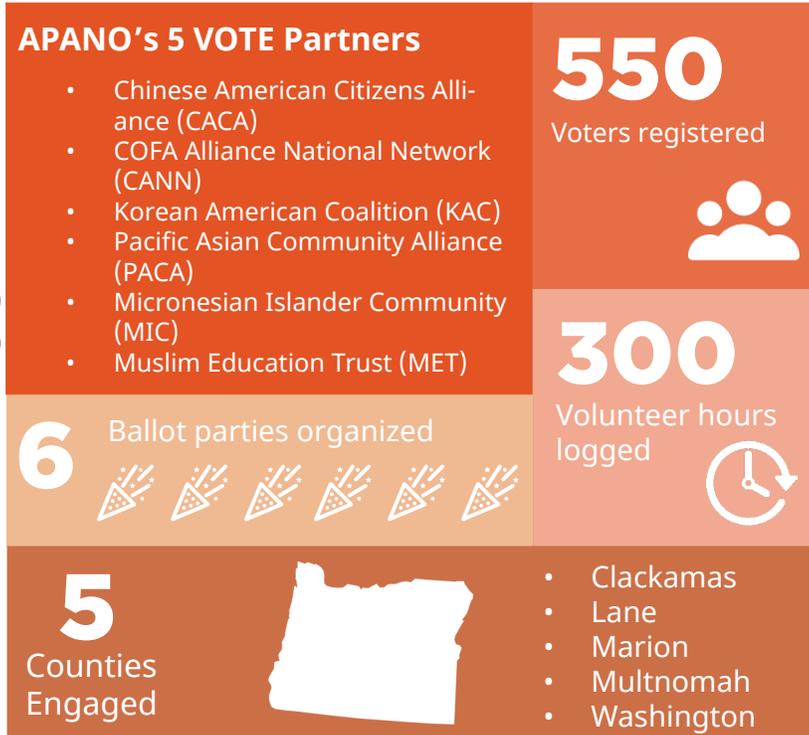
We are proud of what these groups accomplished this year - from long-standing groups like the Chinese American Citizens Alliance that helped 150 Chinese seniors fill out their ballots for the first time, to newer ones like the Micronesia Islander Community who brought their youth

volunteers to phone bank with us, our Partners are a key part of APANO's goal to organize with our communities, forge relationships, and build long-term political power.

We may be facing rough waters as we enter this new political administration, but with our network of partners, volunteers, and members, we are stronger and more resilient than ever.



VOTE Partners Civic Engagement numbers



APANO Civic Engagement numbers



We Will Create Our Future: Cultural Work at APANO

by Candace Kita, Cultural Work and Development Coordinator

“The final product of culture is not a commodity, it is society.”
-- Jeff Chang, We Gon’ Be Alright

As the recently-appointed Cultural Work & Development Coordinator at APANO, I am constantly thinking about how we create culture. Infinite forms of cultural and creative expression--murals, dances, poems, songs, meals, gardens, garments, and so much more--are woven into our homes, our offices, our restaurants, our institutions, our places of faith, and at our core, embedded in our humanity. But what does that mean for APANO and for our world?

In our 2016-2020 Strategic Plan, APANO included “Cultural Work” as one of its core strategies. Author Jeff Chang’s wise words point to why culture is so critically important. When we create, we not only make something, but we articulate our beliefs and worldviews. When we create, we wield a powerful tool to express what we value, change hearts and minds, and actively create a society built on compassion and justice.

Cultural work at APANO seeks to center the voices and experiences of Asian and Pacific Islanders, shift harmful narratives, and envision alternatives. We know that specific and pervasive messages about our communities have impacted our experiences, shaped our histories, and influenced our ability to thrive. Persistent myths about our communities, including the idea of the “model minority,” tangibly affect our ability to build political power. In this context--and even more so in this tumultuous social and political moment--cultural work is vital as a means of healing, nourishment, and empowerment. While a single poem or piece of art may seem small in the effort to challenge racism and inequity, the collective effects of these expressions are both heartfelt and powerful. From the justice movements of the 1960s to Black Lives Matter, creativity has been the right hand of movement-building and has helped shift tides that appeared insurmountable. At APANO, we are thus invested in a multifaceted and multipronged cultural work strategy, which has grown tremendously in scope over the past year and currently includes:

- **MicCheck!**, a cultural event series that highlights the voices of Asian and Pacific Islander artists. This past year, MicCheck! comprised seven distinct events throughout summer and early fall, using dance, film, visual art, poetry, and more to address a wide variety of topics such as health equity, climate justice, education and interracial solidarity.
- **The Jade-Midway Districts Placemaking Project Grant Program**, which provides funds for local artists and creatives to conduct sustained, collaborative projects in East Portland that resist involuntary displacement, impact local issues, and build community resilience.
- **The Arts & Media Project (AMP)**, a member-led APANO committee that creates and curates original cultural work projects aligned with APANO’s mission, vision, values and organizing campaigns.

Although I have been at APANO for just over three months, I am thrilled by our progress and see infinite opportunities looking ahead. We live in a time in which we must keep exploring how we create culture. We must actively cultivate a society that honors our communities, our experiences, and ourselves. We must look ahead and fearlessly create the future that we want to see.



We Are Not Drowning, We Are Fighting!

by Khanh Pham, Program and Strategies Manager

Climate change threatens human and non-human lives on this planet, and Oregonians are already being impacted. In recognizing how urgently we need to address climate change, APANO members came together this past year to develop our understanding of climate change, and what climate justice means for us. Through a series of educational events, we discussed and learned with members to increase our understanding of how global climate change affects our communities, and how we can advocate for equitable climate policy in Oregon. One of the biggest messages we hear is that all over the world and in Oregon, the people who are hit first and hardest by climate change, are poor people and people of color.



Pacific Islanders are one of the communities on the frontlines of climate change, experiencing the impacts we often hear and talk about. Here in Oregon, we have one of the largest Pacific Islander communities in the U.S., with strong connections to the islands. Through Climate Justice workshops at the Pacific Islander Student Alliance (PISA) Forum, and the APANO Health Justice Forum, members highlighted the many ways in which Pacific Islanders and other APIs in Oregon are experiencing climate impacts on their health, homes, and communities.

Recently in late September, we hosted “We Are Not Drowning, We Are Fighting,” featuring poet and climate activist Kathy Jetnil-Kijiner from the Marshall Islands to talk about climate change impacts on the Islands’ culture, community, and livelihood.

Through all these events, members have highlighted the need to fight for climate change policy that is equitable and just. That means we are fighting for climate policies that do not harm communities of color, and provide concrete benefits to our communities. As we work with our partners at Renew Oregon and the Coalition of Communities of Color to move away from a fossil fuel economy, we also work to advocate for Oregon’s transition to a clean, renewable economy is inclusive and just.



Thank You for Contributing to Our Success

This was an amazing year of growth at APANO as we crafted our new strategic plan, opened a community space, and deepened our commitment to community organizing, leadership development, and cultural work. This would not have been possible without the generous support of funders, individual supporters, and Board leadership.

Foundations

AAPI Civic Engagement Fund
American Heart Association
APIA Health Forum
Bullitt Foundation
Coalition of Communities of Color
Coulter Foundation
Gates Foundation
Jessie Smith Noyes
Kaiser Community Fund
Kaiser Permanente Community Benefit
Kresge Foundation
Meyer Memorial Trust
National Institute for Reproductive Health
NW Area Foundation

NW Health Foundation
Oregon Community Foundation
OSPIRG Foundation
Penney Family Foundation
Regional Arts and Culture Council
Urban League of Portland
Voqal Fund
Venture Portland
Western States Center

Government Funders

City of Portland
Metro
Multnomah County
Portland Development Commission
Portland Public Schools

Board of Directors

Gauri Rajbaidya, Chair
Raahi Reddy, Vice Chair
Jessie Domingo Salu, Secretary
Thach Nguyen, Treasurer
Mary Li
Bennie Moses-Mesubed
Huy Ong
Mike Pichay
Patti Sakurai
Simon Tam
Sandy Tsuneyoshi
Toni Tabora-Roberts
Jean Yamamoto
Anita Yap

Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon

2788 SE 82nd Ave, Suite 203
Portland, OR 97266
www.apano.org

Join Us



APANO Day of Action

Add your voice to influence policies and be part of the political process

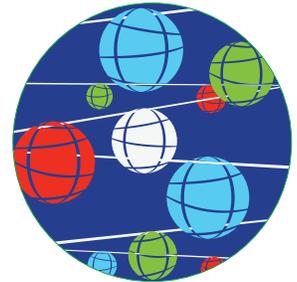
Monday, February 20, 2017
Capitol Building
900 Court St NE, Salem OR 97301



Voices of Change

A Celebration of Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month

Thursday, May 4, 2017
Oaks Park Dance Pavilion
7805 SE Oaks Park Way, Portland OR 97202



Jade International Night Market

Unique cultural event reflecting the diversity of the Jade District communities

Saturday, August 19 and 26, 2017
PCC Southeast Campus
SE 82nd and Division, Portland OR 97266

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