

2015

Annual Report



Leaders Retreat 2015

APANO



ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN NETWORK OF OREGON

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A Message to our Members

“You cannot change any society unless you take responsibility for it, unless you see yourself as belonging to it and responsible for changing it.” - Grace Lee Boggs 1915-2015

In the mid 1990s, APANO was founded in response to a vision for change. The needs of Asian and Pacific Islander families and children were largely ignored and misunderstood, and culturally competent, culturally specific direct services were deeply lacking. Leaders united to articulate a shared vision for systemic change. APANO became a place where our communities could think and act strategically to create policies that better serve our communities and achieve social justice.



Leaders Retreat 2015

Over the last 5 years, we have built on this vision, expanding our capacity to advocate. We strive to be a place that strengthens our shared purpose and energizes us to be and make the change we seek. APANO became an independent 501c3 in 2010, and grew alongside the 250,000 Asian and Pacific Islanders in Oregon. Thousands of Asian and Pacific Islanders have invested in shaping our mission, vision and values. Together we have committed to struggle together, to define what justice looks like, and to develop social change strategies that will make a difference in the lives of our members and all Oregonians.

2015 was a strong year for APANO. We co-led the fight to win bipartisan English Language Learner reform in K-12 public education, collaboratively published three major reports - *A Community of Contrasts: Oregon's Asian & Pacific Islanders*, *Health Disparities Among Pacific Islanders*, and *Mend the Gap: Why Full Coverage Makes Sense for Oregon* - that advance APANO's Our Families Our Health Campaign for immigrant and worker health, and launched our first youth-led Missing Pages Ethnic Studies Campaign. We were also honored to create the Min Yasui Voices of Change Award with the Yasui family, and be recognized as one of the 100 Best Nonprofits by the Oregon Business Journal.

Organizationally we have “good news” indicators:

- We have a growing, seasoned and talented staff and board working out of our new office home on 82nd Ave in SE Portland.
- APANO is in a healthy and financial position, with stronger member, donor and funder support. An independent financial review has again given APANO the highest possible rating.
- We are laying the groundwork for a new strategic plan to be released in 2016, building on our mission of community organizing.

Thank you for your support, for uniting and struggling together to change, and to create an equitable and just society.

With gratitude,

Jessie Domingo Salu and Thach Nguyen Acting Board Co-Chairs
& Rev. Joseph Santos-Lyons, Executive Director

Without Vision, the People Perish

APANO's Future

by Rev. Joseph Santos-Lyons, Executive Director



ALLY leaders at the *Missing Pages of Our History* Ethnic Studies campaign launch

As APANO celebrates our 5th anniversary as an independent 501c3 organization, and nearly 20 years as a critical space for Asian & Pacific Islanders to work together for social justice, we are taking a big step back from our day-to-day work to do evaluation and develop new goals. We're working with a great team from the University of Oregon Labor Research & Education Center: Raahi Reddy, Dan Ho-Sang and Barbara Byrd. We hope to be sharing back a new strategic plan in mid-2016, engaging members every step of the way and kicking off our next phase at the October 1, 2016 APANO Statewide Convention.

Over the last 3 months we've been listening deeply to you. As we wrap up hundreds of surveys, interviews, focus groups and think tanks, we'll be synthesizing and shaping a renewed strategic direction that builds on our APANO mission. We've found broad agreement in our continued aims to build power so our families and communities have the recognition, rights and resources to thrive, and in our commitment to strong and meaningful partnerships within and beyond our Pan-Asian Pan-Pacific Islander constituency. Some key themes are already emerging including:

- Articulating a political bearing that sharpens our role in the movement for social justice and distinguishes the systems change and policy advocacy work we do. What is our political analysis and theory of change that guides us?
- Strengthening year-round community organizing, and building on the successes we're having with youth, college, and parents, and considering new areas that intersect in the Jade International District and through our Strong Families gender and reproductive justice work.
- Investing in powerful and intensive leadership development programs that build a shared analysis and set of practices across the organization and in coalitions that help us win concrete change in our communities.
- Recognizing the value of art in the social change process, and integrating visual and performing arts into our cultural work, place-making and communications.

Thank you for being a part of the APANO family. I want to extend my gratitude to all of our members who are taking time not only to give constructive feedback but helping lay the groundwork for the next era of APANO. I look forward to connecting with you in the next phase of our organization's work!

For more information please contact Joseph Santos-Lyons, Executive Director at joseph@apano.org

Increasing Clarity and Direction for the Jade District

by Duncan Hwang, Associate Director

Developed through a strategic planning process with the Jade District Steering Committee, our work in the neighborhood now focuses on three overarching goals: They are to 1) build power for our community, 2) prevent involuntary displacement, and 3) improve neighborhood health outcomes. We believe that our community members should be able to choose if they want to move out of a neighborhood and have a say in determining how it is developed. This year we really started to feel the urgency as some residents have reported annual rent increases of up to 60% for a 1 bedroom, and long time businesses such as Hung Far Low (an 87 year old Portland institution) has had to close its doors as the landlord prepares for future development.

In our local policy advocacy, we are pushing for greater policy tools to protect Jade District neighbors from the effects of rapidly rising property values and large scale public investment. This year, APANO has been working with Anti-Displacement PDX, a coalition of 30 multi-ethnic organizations to advance 11 anti-displacement measures in Portland's Comprehensive Plan. This plan will guide Portland's development over the next 20 years and guide how the Jade District develops. We are also advocating for tenant and small business protections alongside the Powell Division Transit Line. This transit line, opening in 2019, would connect Gresham with downtown Portland and will bring improved access to opportunity to the Jade District, but place further pressures on rents along the corridor.

On the ground this year, we celebrated the opening of the Jade/APANO Multicultural Space (JAMS), an 8,000 square foot community event space and hub for emerging nonprofit organizations located at SE 82nd and Division. This building is owned by Metro and provided to APANO for community use in the short term. In the long term, the neighborhood can expect a new building with 40-60 units of affordable housing units to be built here. This is part of our long term strategy to win a permanent community center and build our stock of affordable housing.

This past summer, we also hosted the 2nd Annual Jade International Night Market. Located at the same intersection as JAMS and planned in partnership with Portland Community College Southeast, this event brought over 25,000 visitor over two Saturdays and hundreds of thousands of dollars in revenues to our local small businesses. One vendor, Law Auto, even sold a car at the event. This event helped build our political capital as it brought over a dozen VIP guest speakers and decision-makers and served as a platform for civic engagement with a broader community. Alongside classic night market cuisine, many conversations around transportation, safety and walkability, and housing were also had.

As the stakes for the Jade District and East Portland continue to rise, we will continue to deepen our commitment to place based community organizing. With a 3 year grant from Meyer Memorial Trust and other new funders, we anticipate bringing on added organizing capacity to build a base of long term renters, the group that is most at risk of displacement as investment flows into the district. Our community will only have the opportunity to prevent displacement while addressing neighborhood risks if we are an organized and connected community.



APANO Board Member, Anita Yap

Building Leadership and Building Community

Year 4 of the API Community Leadership Institute

by Kara Carmosino, Trainer Manager



APICLI Graduation 2014

Earlier this Fall, a group of seventeen emerging Asian and Pacific Islander leaders gathered in Kah-Nee-Ta as the fourth cohort of the annual API Community Leadership Institute. The Asian Pacific Islander Community Leadership Institute (API-CLI) was founded in 2011 with the vision of building the leadership capacity of community leaders and of building collaborative alliances and partnerships among Asian and Pacific Islander communities to address racial and ethnic disparities. The Institute is led by IRCO Asian Family Center in partnership with APANO. It is one of six culturally-specific leadership programs funded through the Coalition of Communities of Color as part of their BRIDGES initiative.

Building on their popular education foundation that fellows experienced during the retreat, for the next six months they will facilitate workshops for each other on the topics of social determinants of health, community organizing, coalition building and cross-cultural communication. Fellows will also continue to build an understanding and analysis of API history in Oregon and racial justice for all communities of color, work with staff to analyze the root causes of the issues they see in their communities and design Community Action Projects to facilitate their experiential learning, and meet regularly with an assigned mentor from the community who will support them in their leadership journey.

Now that three cohorts have graduated from API-CLI, this year's fellows are also connected to a diverse and active network of senior cohort fellows and supporters. Some highlights of senior cohort fellow involvement include:

- 12 senior fellows serving on the API-CLI Steering Committee, including two senior fellows serving as the committee's first ever volunteer co-chairs;
- 9 senior fellows volunteering to serve as mentors for this year's cohort;
- 3 senior fellows planning the annual senior fellow retreat this past August;
- Senior fellows from all three cohorts volunteering to lead activities and workshop sessions for the new cohort during the September kick-off, retreat in Kah-Nee-Ta, and the November Saturday workshop.

Senior cohort fellows are also holding leadership positions throughout the community and working for systems change in a number of important areas. We at APANO are excited to support a new group of fellows in their growth and see where their leadership journeys take them!

To learn more about API-CLI, please contact Kara Carmosino kara@apano.org or Anny Hsiao at chiao-yunh@irco.org.

Missing Pages of Our History Campaign

by Amy Li, Sophomore at Franklin High School, ALLY Leader

I am a sophomore in high school and I still have barely learned anything about my people and history and what we've done in this country. 6th grade was the first time I learned about people like me, but all we did was make a poster. I also made a little booklet of the inventions from China, but that was only for extra credit. 8th grade was the only other time where I learned about US history in general.

US history is really Euro-centric, so I never really thought people like me had made any important contributions. I know that there were a lot of different ethnic groups that came to America that have made major contributions to our country. US history should include the contributions from these different communities-of-color because these people are a very important part of the development of our history.



ALLY Panelists on Race and Ethnic Studies at Lewis & Clark

I feel like right now, the things we learn in US history isn't really reflective of a lot of people. As a youth leader in ALLY (API Leaders for the Liberation of Youth), we're starting a campaign on Ethnic Studies called "Missing Pages of Our History." With an increasing population of students of color in Portland Public Schools, with approximately of 46% enrolled high school students in 2014 being non-white students, still very few Portland Public High Schools offer an Ethnic Studies class. ALLY leaders have stated that because our histories aren't reflected in our textbooks, it's harder to stay engaged and be successful in school. And because most curriculum is Euro-centric, students of color may never have the opportunity to learn about the contributions of our communities in the U.S.

ALLY believes that by offering Ethnic Studies in schools, students-of-color will get to learn about their histories and communities, which can raise the self-worth of students-of-color, develop political, social, and critical consciousness, help combat racism, foster empathy and understanding, and connect to and learn about our shared struggles and experiences. By offering these classes in other school districts in the country, data has shown that students enrolled in Ethnic Studies classes raise their grade point averages, reduce the number of unexcused absences, and graduate at higher rates.

ALLY hopes to work with the Board of Education to draft a resolution to create a plan to implement at least one Ethnic Studies class in every Portland Public High School within 4 years. ALLY youth are also proposing that:

1. Ethnic Studies classes fall under the Social Studies Program (a graduation requirement)
2. All ethnic studies classes include: Asian studies, Black studies, Latin@ studies, Pacific Islander studies, Arab studies, Native studies, and QTPOC studies.
3. All classes focus on our histories of oppression and resistance
4. During the 4 years, students, parents, and teachers will help shape what these classes look like.

For more information please contact Karn Saetang, Lead Organizer at Karn@apano.org.

Our Families, Our Health Campaign

by Kathy Wai, Policy Advocacy Coordinator

Healthy, thriving families lead to strong, resilient communities. When we are healthy, we are more likely to live fulfilling lives and contribute to a vibrant and productive Oregon. Every Oregonian, regardless of the color of their skin, their place of origin, their gender identity, their sexual orientation or financial resources--deserves the chance to be healthy.

Oregon has made great strides in extending health insurance to Oregonians but there are still gaps. Over 383,000 Oregonians are uninsured due to systemic exclusions or because the cost of coverage is too high for working families. Yet others who have health insurance cannot access services due to cost, discrimination, or citizenship status. Our Families, Our Health is our vision for affordable, culturally competent healthcare for all families. We center our work around the voices and experiences of those who are uninsured. Our focus is on addressing barriers and exclusions for undocumented Oregonians, legal permanent resident immigrants who face the Federal 5 Year Bar, LGBT individuals, and residents from the Compact of Free Association (COFA) nations of the Republic of Palau, Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Federated States of Micronesia who face a lifetime ban.

We know that real change requires incremental steps; this means working with individuals to collect stories and empower them, to changes at the systemic level so that policies can reflect the needs of our communities. Changes in policy can have a real impact on the lives of thousands of people in our state. In order to achieve our vision of healthy families, we are working towards short and long term goals. Our members can help in the following months through a variety of ways:

- Sharing a story of being uninsured currently, or in the past
- Collecting 500 pledges from our communities in support of our campaign
- Educating our elected officials at Lobby Day on Feb. 15th
- Volunteering on our campaign team

For more information please contact Kathy Wai Policy Advocacy Coordinator, at kathy@apano.org.



Community Health Forum 2015

Research in Action

Landmark Report Reveals Growing Contributions

APANO and our national partners released a statewide report *Communities of Contrast* examining the demographic changes and diverse communities within Oregon's 250,000 Asian and Pacific Islanders. The analysis highlights the growing political power and persistent inequities among ethnic groups.

Asian and Pacific Islanders are reshaping every facet of life in Oregon. The report underscores the unique disparities facing whole ethnic communities that are too often masked by inadequate data that lumps all Asian and Pacific Islanders together. APANO and our partners are increasingly working together across all 36 counties to organize and win policies that serve all our communities.

APANO will be discussing key findings with electeds, boards and commissions. Contact kristina@apano.org to request a presentation and copy of the report.

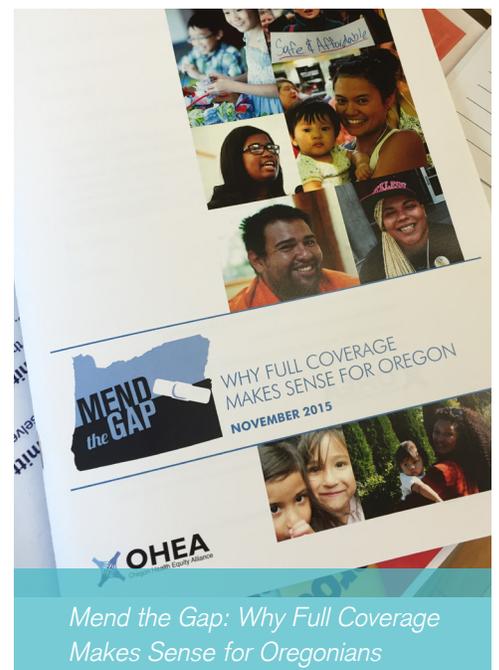


- There are over 220,000 Asian and 31,000 Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islanders in Oregon as of the July 2014 US Census estimates.
- Asian Americans and Pacific Islander are becoming citizens and turning out to vote in greater numbers.
- Among counties in Oregon with more than 2,000 Asian Americans, Polk (123%), Deschutes (92%), Yamhill (70%), Clackamas (66%), and Washington Counties (59%) had the five fastest-growing populations.

Many APIs Are Still Uninsured

Mend the Gap: Why Full Coverage Makes Sense for Oregon reveals the barriers facing over 383,000 uninsured Oregonians, and public policy recommendations. Roughly 1 in 10 Oregonians still lack basic health insurance, and many others who have coverage find it difficult to see a doctor due to cost and discrimination.

While Oregon has made progress in recent years through implementing the federal Affordable Care Act, 383,000 uninsured Oregonians threatens our families and the prosperity of the economic future of our state. Many lack health insurance because it remains too expensive for those experiencing joblessness or poverty, while others are uninsured because federal law continues to exclude people from basic public services including Medicaid due to their citizenship status and other factors. The report details gaps in coverage and the disproportionate impacts on rural Oregonians, communities of color, immigrants, women, LGBTQ people, people with chronic conditions and low-wage working families. The OHEA report noted that while 8 percent of Whites are uninsured in 2014, the rate is 18 percent for Pacific Islanders.



Growing Statewide Network



The APANO Statewide Network organizes and supports the development of Asian and Pacific Islander community organizations in Oregon to achieve social justice. We recognize that when working together, we can form meaningful partnerships to address the needs of our diverse communities. The purpose of the network is to create a regular forum for understanding community needs, increasing cooperation, and building collective power to improve the lives of Asian & Pacific Islanders in Oregon. The network is also an infrastructure for providing leadership training, raising financial resources to support local organizing, and building a movement for our communities. The Statewide Network is a part of APANO's Civic Engagement Program; interested organizations can fill out an application.

These are our current list of partner organizations as of November 2015. We are working towards expanding this list and including groups in other areas of the state. If you are interested in connecting us with organizations, please contact us at kathy@apano.org

APANO 2016

Key Dates to Remember

WINTER



Jan. 14 Racial Equity Report Card

Feb. 15 Lobby Day

SPRING



Apr. 2 Our Families, Our Health

Lifting Up Health Justice for COFA!

May 6 Voices of Change 2016

Annual Fundraiser and API Heritage Month Celebration

May 17 Primary Election

SUMMER



Mic Check: Voices from the Margins

Cultural Event Series

Building Political Power Training

FALL



Oct. 1 Rolling Tides 2016

Biennial Statewide Convention

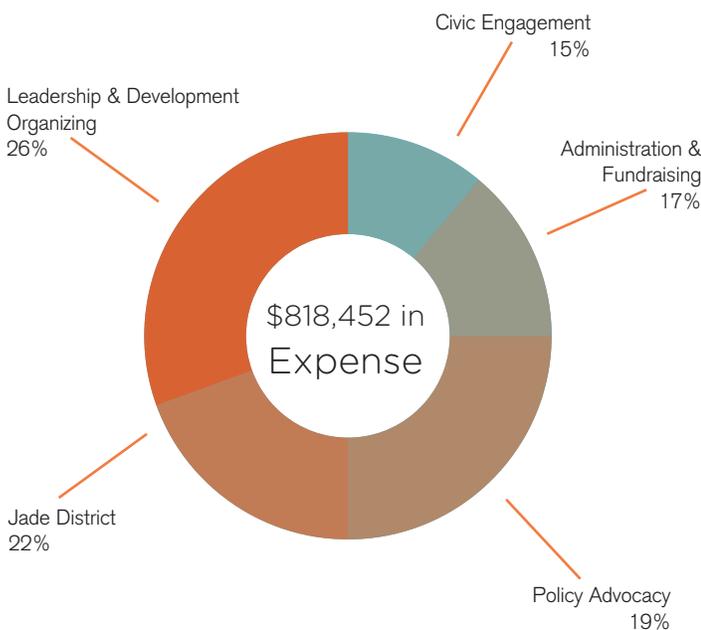
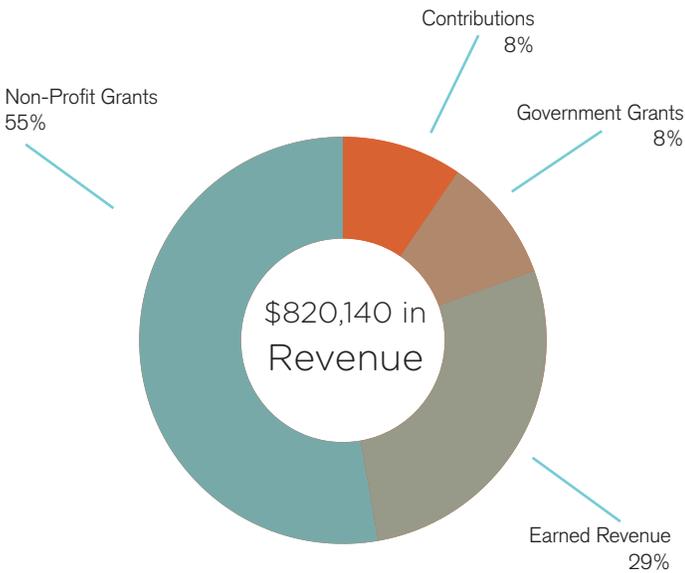
Nov. 8 Election Day

Thank You for Contributing to Our Success

Here are a few of our accomplishments for this year. APANO was named one of the 100 Best Nonprofits to work for by the Oregon Business Journal in 2015. Anita Yap was honored as Extraordinary Board Member by Portland Monthly Magazine at the 2015 Light a Fire Awards. We received the Guidestar Gold level profile, demonstrating APANO's commitment to transparency. APANO was also selected to win a Weston Award from Oregon Walks for our advocacy on safe streets.



Financials for Fiscal Year 2015



Board of Directors

Jessie Domingo Salu
Co-Chair & Secretary

Raahi Reddy
Vice Chair

Thach Nguyen
Co-Chair & Treasurer

Gauri Rajbaidya
Board Chair on Leave

Board Members

Toeutu Faaleava
Theodora Ko Thompson
Mary Li
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Paulina Perman

Mike Pichay
Patti Sakurai
Sandy Tsuneyoshi
Anita Yap
Jean Yamamoto

Staff

Joseph Santos-Lyons
Executive Director

Karn Saetang
Lead Organizer

Duncan Hwang, JD
Associate Director

Paolo Esteban
Community Organizer

Melissa Magaña
Office & Events Manager

Kathleen Jonathan
Marshallese Parent Organizer

Gebrehiwet "Gary" Abraha
Facilities Custodian

Cheryl Luong
Youth Organizing Associate

Jack Mesplay
Financial Manager

Carol Chan
Xiaoping Su
Wanna Lei
Chinese Outreach Associate

Kathy Wai
Policy Advocacy Coordinator

Trami Nguyen
Vietnamese Outreach Associate

Kristina Narayan
Policy Associate

Todd Struble, JD
Jade International District Manager

Yian Saechao
Civic Engagement Associate

Merrie-Chris Agag
Jade District Coordinator

Luann Algosio
Community Engagement Manager

Khanh Pham
Environmental Justice Manager

Shannon Paine
Communications Associate

Kara Carmosino
Training Manager

Jeanice Chieng, JD
Education Justice Manager

Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon
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Dates to Remember



Voices of Change 2016
Annual Fundraiser &
API Heritage Month Celebration
Friday, May 6, 2016



Rolling Tides 2016
Biennial Statewide Convention
Saturday, Oct. 1, 2016

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