



A3PCON

THE ASIAN PACIFIC POLICY AND PLANNING COUNCIL

40TH ANNIVERSARY REPORT

www.A3PCON.org



A3PCON'S MISSION

PROMOTE. STRENGTHEN. ACTIVATE.

The Asian Pacific Policy and Planning Council (A3PCON) is a coalition of community-based organizations that advocates for the rights and needs of the Asian and Pacific Islander (API) community in the greater Los Angeles area, with a particular focus on low-income, immigrant, refugee and other disadvantaged sectors. To accomplish this mission, A3PCON strives to:

- ✓ **PROMOTE** the needs, interests and concerns of the API community to policy makers and the general public.
- ✓ **STRENGTHEN** collaboration, planning and collective action amongst its members to support common advocacy/policy, organizational development and capacity-building goals.
- ✓ **ACTIVATE** the API electorate and promote public accountability to the API community through non-partisan political and electoral participation.





LETTER FROM A3PCON PRESIDENT

Dear A3PCON Friends and Supporters,

As A3PCON commemorates its 40th anniversary, we have much to celebrate. A3PCON has played a critical role in supporting Asian and Pacific Islander (API) communities in Los Angeles County. Since its inception, A3PCON has advocated with local, state and federal agencies to ensure increased support for API organizations who provide comprehensive culturally and linguistically appropriate services in health care access, mental health, substance abuse, housing, and environmental justice for hundreds of thousands of individuals living in Southern California every year.

A3PCON has also served as an important voice on a number of local, state and national issues. As its forty member organizations offer services to APIs across all eight Service Planning Areas, A3PCON understands the diverse needs of APIs in Los Angeles County. With that understanding, it has promoted the health and well-being of community members and increased the collective voice of APIs through policy advocacy with the Los Angeles City Council and Office of the Los Angeles Mayor, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, the California State Legislature and California Governor as well as the U.S. Congress and the White House.

In forty years, A3PCON has helped to bring about positive social change for API communities in Southern California. With your support, we hope to continue to build strong API communities for the next forty years!

Debra Fong
President, Board of Directors





JUDY CHU

U.S. REPRESENTATIVE (CA 27)

“ I commend A3PCON on 40 years of standing up for APIs. Whether advocating better access to services, increasing civic engagement, or promoting good health, A3PCON has been a key ally in my work to raise awareness in Congress of the issues affecting APIs. ”

WHAT COMMUNITY LEADERS ARE SAYING

“ A3PCON’s importance and impact was never more evident than in the aftermath of the 1992 LA Riots. A3PCON recognized that the civil unrest was not a “race war” between African-Americans and Asian-Americans. Rather, it was the failure of policies and systemic practices that neglected and marginalized immigrants and people of color. The work of A3PCON’s Liquor Store Task Force is one example of how A3PCON impacted city policies on rebuilding devastated communities. A3PCON’s recommendations respected the interests expressed by community residents as well as immigrant small business owners in the neighborhoods. ”

Debbie Ching
Former Executive Director
Chinatown Service Center



“ A3PCON has a history of standing up for the most vulnerable, and the recent rise of immigrant scapegoating, Islamophobia, racism, homophobia and sexism vividly illustrates that its work is far from over. In fact, as a voice for refugee, immigrant, low income and other disadvantaged APIs, A3PCON’s work is more relevant than ever and sets an example for how we should treat all members of our society. ”

Dennis Arguelles
Program Manager, Los Angeles
National Parks Conservation Association
(former A3PCON President and Executive Director)



DAVID RYU

LOS ANGELES CITY COUNCILMAN (DISTRICT 4)

“ I am honored to extend my warmest greetings to the Asian Pacific Policy & Planning Council (A3PCON) as you celebrate your 40th anniversary. As a former A3PCON board member, I know firsthand how it serves as a unifying voice for the diverse API population represented by many prominent organizations rooted to the cause of fair and equitable treatment of the underserved. ”



WARREN FURUTANI

FORMER MEMBER OF CALIFORNIA ASSEMBLY

“ A3PCON is a unique and effective coalition that is not replicated in many other communities. During my tenure as President and CEO, we added the third “P” for policy. ”



WHAT COMMUNITY LEADERS ARE SAYING

“ Perhaps the greatest strength of A3PCON has been the collaborative spirit engendered amongst the various API community-based organizations, groups which might more likely be in competition with each other rather than working together. The 1992 Riots was a huge challenge for A3PCON on how to respond as an Asian American community and not allow the conflicts to be strictly “Black versus Korean.” Social and economic injustices contributed to the riots and also helped to spawn the growth of API community/economic/affordable housing development within low-income neighborhoods. A3PCON helped to foster this activity which has contributed greatly in the number of affordable housing as well as greater economic development resources. ”

Bill Watanabe
Former Executive Director
Little Tokyo Service Center



“ As an emerging Asian ethnic community, the Thai community struggles with overwhelming unmet needs and the lack of linguistically and culturally appropriate services, hence, the reason for the founding of the Thai Community Development Center (Thai CDC) over 22 years ago. But it was with the help of A3PCON that Thai CDC received the critical support it needed to develop the organizational infrastructure that enables it to function and provide support on important public policy matters that affect the livelihoods of Thai immigrants and other Asian Pacific Islanders. A3PCON has all of our backs by being able to bring all of its members out in full force whenever we need to make our demands for equity heard. ”

Chancee Martorell
Executive Director
Thai Community Development Center



MEETING CURRENT CHALLENGES

A3PCON's four committees work on a broad range of issues impacting LA County's API communities. These include housing and economic development, mental health, older adults, and environmental justice. The committees advocate on local issues with the LA County Board of Supervisors and statewide issues with the California State Assembly and Senate and work to improve cultural and linguistic competency in government contracts.



More recently, A3PCON has initiated the human trafficking task force to examine the issue of human trafficking of APIs from Asian countries into the United States and to provide comprehensive services to these individuals to meet their needs.



In addition to ongoing committee work, A3PCON continues to provide capacity building support to staff of member organizations through training and development. In 2015 and 2016, A3PCON hosted a training for middle managers of these organizations to help them prioritize the many demands they face, strategize how best to address them and provide support to leadership of their organizations as well as their staff. A3PCON also sponsored a communications training on improving confidence and communications skills and the Op-Ed Project training to increase the voice of API communities in the editorial pages of mainstream publications.

NEEDS OF THE API COMMUNITY

IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY

LA County:

1,497,960 Asian Americans (15%),
54,169 Native Hawaiian and Pacific
Islanders (NHPs) (.3%)



ENGLISH PROFICIENCY

39% OF ASIAN AMERICANS ARE LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENT



67% OF ASIAN AMERICAN SENIORS ARE LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENT

10% OF NHPs ARE LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENT

ECONOMIC STANDING

11% OF ASIAN AMERICANS LIVE IN POVERTY

27% OF ASIAN AMERICANS ARE LOW-INCOME

13% OF NHPs LIVE IN POVERTY

31% OF NHPs ARE LOW-INCOME

INCOME LEVEL

\$21,441

PER CAPITA
INCOME FOR NHPs

\$28,953

PER CAPITA
INCOME FOR ASIAN
AMERICANS

\$47,503

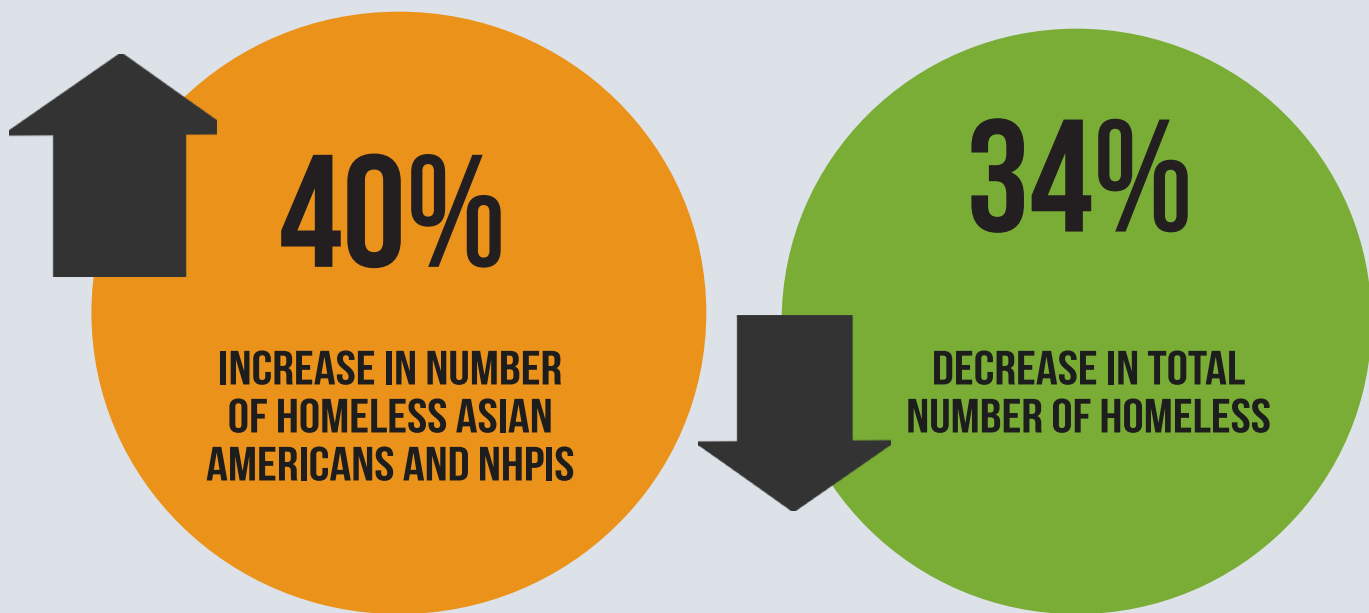
PER CAPITA
INCOME FOR
WHITES

* Data obtained from Community of Contrasts, Asian Americans Advancing Justice-Los Angeles, 2013

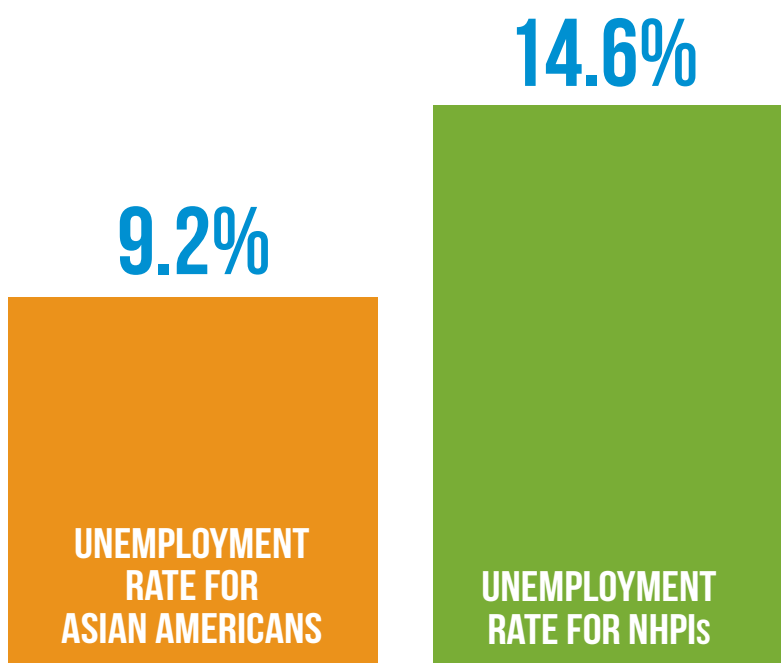
COMMUNITY CHALLENGES:

HOMELESSNESS AND UNEMPLOYMENT

FROM 2007 TO 2011



2011 UNEMPLOYMENT RATE



Nearly one in five Asian Americans DO NOT have a usual source of care when sick or in need of health advice, compared to one in ten Whites.

A3PCON ACCOMPLISHMENTS

For the past forty years, A3PCON has waged a campaign to broaden the understanding of cultural competence and secure greater public resources to API organizations who have the cultural and linguistic expertise to serve API communities in Los Angeles County.

Following the Immigration and Naturalization Act of 1965, Southern California saw significant increases in the API population. Alongside it, undocumented immigration rose, but undocumented APIs had few rights and protections. A3PCON advocated for federal immigrant rights legislation that culminated in President Reagan signing the Immigration Control and Reform Act in 1986, which granted amnesty to many of the 3.2 million undocumented in the U.S. at that time.



A3PCON and its member agencies assisted businesses and neighborhoods impacted by the 1992 Civil Unrest and worked to heal inter-ethnic relations during one of the most tumultuous times in Los Angeles' history.

Japanese American organizations led a national campaign for redress and reparations for the World War II internment camps and had been making progress. Following the death of California State Treasurer Jess Unruh in 1987, Governor Deukmejian appointed U.S. Rep Dan Lungren, pending Legislative confirmation. Lungren had been the most outspoken opponent of redress in Congressional hearings on Japanese American relocation and internment. A3PCON spearheaded the local component of a statewide API effort which successfully blocked Lungren's Treasurer appointment. The news stunned the political world and evidenced the political power of API communities. In 1988, President Reagan signed the American Civil Liberties Act of 1988, which provided \$1 billion for Japanese American redress.

A3PCON and its member agencies assisted businesses and neighborhoods impacted by the 1992 Civil Unrest and worked to heal inter-ethnic relations during one of the most tumultuous times in Los Angeles' history. In the aftermath, A3PCON also advocated for the community development needs of APIs and secured resources that led to greatly expanded small businesses, affordable housing and other programs in low-income API communities.

In 1997, A3PCON persuaded the L.A. County Department of Mental Health to create the API Alliance, composed of private and public providers, to coordinate referrals throughout the County and provide a continuum of care to APIs with mental illnesses. The Alliance has been extremely successful in this regard as API agencies have used 95% of the API patient slots they were allocated while non-API agencies filled only 40% of the API slots they were given.

As a result of A3PCON advocacy, in 2005, the Department of Children and Family Services agreed to fund Family Preservation services to a County-wide API collaborative covering the five most frequently occurring API groups in DCFS's caseloads. This led to a dramatic increase in the referrals of API families now receiving counseling and other services.



A3PCON and APIs California Action Network (APISCAN), convened a State Public Hearing on "Addressing the Gaps of Place-Based and Regional Approaches" in October 2011, with the California API Commission and Assemblymembers Mike Eng and Warren Furutani to discuss the impact of such funding approaches on API communities that are more geographically dispersed.

As a result of an A3PCON meeting with DCFS Director, the Korean American Family Services (KFAM) started the Asian Foster Family Initiative. The program, working with other A3PCON organizations, recruits, trains and supports API foster parents to provide culturally appropriate homes for the 600-800 foster children in LA County.

As a result of an A3PCON meeting with DCFS Director, the Korean American Family Services (KFAM) started the Asian Foster Family Initiative.

2016-2018 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President:	Debra Fong Executive Director Asian Pacific Community Fund
Vice-President of Administration:	Mariko Kahn Executive Director Pacific Asian Counseling Services
Vice-President of Planning:	Connie Chung Joe Executive Director Korean American Family Services
Vice-President of Policy:	Manjusha Kulkarni Consultant South Asian Network
Treasurer:	Yvonne Sun Division Director Special Service for Groups
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Board Member at Large:	Richard Calvin Chang Policy Director Empowering Pacific Islander Communities
Board Member at Large:	Hyepin Im President Faith and Community Empowerment
Board Member at Large:	Nayon Kang Assistant Division Director Koreatown Youth and Community Center
Board Member at Large:	Rachelle Arizmendi Vice President and Chief Operating Officer Pacific Asian Consortium in Employment

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Committee Chairs:**

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Director
Energy & Environmental Services Department
Pacific Asian Consortium in Employment

Jan Victor Andasan
Community Organizer
East Yard Communities for Environmental Justice

Dean Toji
Board Member
Little Tokyo Service Center

**Housing and
Economic Development
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Deputy Director
Little Tokyo Service Center

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Committee Chairs:**

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Executive Director
Special Service for Groups

Connie Chung Joe
Executive Director
Korean American Family Services

Grace Park
Clinical Services Manager
Koreatown Youth and Community Center

**Older Adults Committee
Chairs:**

Amy Phillips
Director of Senior Services
Little Tokyo Service Center

Yvonne Sun
Division Director
Special Service for Groups

MEMBER LIST

Asian Americans Advancing Justice (AAAJ-LA)
Asian American Drug Abuse Program, Inc. (AADAP)
Asian Business Association
Asian Pacific American Dispute Resolution Center (APADRC)
Asian Pacific American Leadership Foundation
Asian Pacific Community Fund (APCF)
Asian Pacific American Legislative Staff Network
Asian Pacific Islander Small Business Program
Asian Pacific Islanders for LGBTQ Equality- Los Angeles Chapter (API Equality – LA)
Asian Pacific Women’s Center (APWC)
Asian Professional Exchange (APEX)
Asian Youth Center (AYC)
Cambodia Town, Inc. (CT)
Cambodian Association of America (CAA)
Center for Asian Americans United for Self Empowerment (CAUSE)
Center for the Pacific Asian Family (CPAF)
Chinatown Service Center (CSC)
Chinese American Citizens Alliance Los Angeles (C.A.C.A)
Empowering Pacific Islander Communities (EPIC)
Families in Good Health (FiGH)
Filipino-American Service Group, Inc. (FASGI)



Japanese American Citizens League - Pacific Southwest District
Khmer Girls in Action
Korean American Coalition - Los Angeles Chapter (KACLA)
Korean American Family Services (KFAM)
Faith and Community Empowerment
Koreatown Immigrant Workers Advocates (KIWA)
Koreatown Youth and Community Center (KYCC)
KW Lee Center for Leadership
Leadership Education for Asian Pacifics, Inc. (LEAP)
Little Tokyo Service Center (LTSC)
National Asian Pacific American Families Against Substance Abuse (NAPA-FASA)
Organization of Chinese Americans of Greater Los Angeles (OCA-GLA)
Pacific Asian Consortium in Employment (PACE)
Pacific Asian Counseling Services (PACS)
Pacific Clinics – Asian Pacific Family Center (APFC)
Samoan National Nurses Association (SNNA)
Search To Involve Pilipino Americans (SIPA)
South Asian Helpline and Referral Agency
South Asian Network (SAN)
Special Service for Groups (SSG)
Thai Community Development Center (ThaiCDC)
United Cambodian Community, Inc. (UCC)
UCLA Asian American Studies Center (UCLA AASC)





ASIAN PACIFIC POLICY & PLANNING COUNCIL

PROUDLY SERVING THE **API COMMUNITY** SINCE 1976



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