



EMBRACING
THE HOPES AND
ASPIRATIONS OF
ASIAN PACIFIC
AMERICANS

OCA - ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN ADVOCATES
2015 ANNUAL REPORT

oca at-a-glance

our mission

We are dedicated to advancing the *social, political, and economic* well-being of **Asian Pacific Americans (APAs)**.

who we are

Founded in 1973, OCA – Asian Pacific American Advocates is a 501(c)(3) national non-profit, membership-driven organization based in Washington, D.C. with over 100 chapters and affiliates around the country.

our policy objectives

Immigration: We fight for comprehensive immigration reform that will improve the family visa system and create a clear pathway to citizenship.

Education: We advocate for a more inclusive and accessible education system for all members of our community.

Fair Treatment: We promote fair treatment and the elimination of discrimination, stereotyping, and hate crimes.

Broadband Access: We support efforts to expand opportunity by increasing broadband access to low-income, immigrant, and elder communities.

our programs

OCA Internship Program, APIA U, and APA Y Leadership Training: We train the next generation of APA leaders in college and high school for a lifetime of advocacy.

JACL/OCA Leadership Summit: This annual summit gives rising stars from local chapters the training to make positive change in their communities.

Mentoring Asian American Professionals (MAAP) and B3: Build, Breakthrough, Believe: These programs help develop APA professionals through networking, mentorship, and advice.

Civic Engagement: We assist the APA community in voicing its growing civic power.

stay in touch

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table of contents

message from the ceo	4
policy	5-7
immigration/education.....	5
military justice/ cultural heritage.....	6
tech and telecommunications/ national security.....	7
programs	8-12
internship.....	8
apa y and apia u: youth and college.....	9
professional development.....	10
jacl/oca leadership summit/tax-aide program.....	11
civic engagement.....	12
financial report	13
acknowledgements	14-15
sponsors and business advisory council members.....	14
donors.....	15

greetings from the ceo



Dear AdvOCAtes:

On behalf of OCA – Asian Pacific American Advocates, it is my pleasure to present to you the 2015 OCA National Annual Report. This annual report was completed after our final audit was approved on August 31, 2016.

2015 was a monumental year for OCA. Celebrating our 42nd year, we were able to reach and engage more Asian American and Pacific Islanders (AAPIs) than ever before through our empowerment programs, advocacy work, and leadership in the community. This report highlights many of the incredible accomplishments of our members, board of directors, and staff over the past year.

Our programs continue to be a pillar of our robust accomplishments, and we have reached a milestone by meeting 100% of our committed goals to our funders. We aim to touch a multitude of stages of an advocate's life from our APA Y-Advocate program for high school students that focuses on identity, our APIA U program for college students that focuses on leadership, our Mentoring Asian American Professionals Program that develops our young professionals, to our leadership program that focuses on making advocacy visits to elected officials. OCA's multi-stage approach helps make our community whole.

With a robust staff of 9 located in Washington, DC, we are proud of our policy team who ensures that we have a seat at the table in discussing critical policy issues. By advocating for policies around education, immigration, military issues, national security, and tech and telecommunications policy, we have touched countless AAPI lives around the country to ensure that our diverse community is represented.

I'd like to thank our sponsors, individual donors, and past supporters who believe in our mission and vision. Owing to their support, we are stable and sustainable into the future. I'd also like to thank our National Presidents Mike Kwan and Leslie Moe-Kaiser and the Executive Council for their support, along with each and every one of our chapters and members for their dedication in making 2015 a resounding success. It takes a community to create change and the OCA family is as strong as ever.

We look forward to continued progress in embracing the hopes and aspiration of Asian Pacific Americans across this great nation.

With Deep Appreciation,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ken Lee". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ken Lee
Chief Executive Officer

immigration



Senior Manager of Policy Kham Moua speaks at a pro-immigrant rally on Capitol Hill

AAPI immigrants, refugees, and asylum seekers should have the ability to equitably sponsor their families to the United States; live without constant fear of detention and deportation; and be provided due process rights if they are ensnared within our country's detention and deportation system. As such, OCA believes that the family immigration system must address the massive backlog of visa applications, of which 1.8 million are from Asian countries.

Any form of comprehensive immigration reform must also include provisions to provide a pathway to citizenship for the over 11 million undocumented immigrants in the United States, along with a repeal of the sections of the 1996 immigration laws that limit judicial discretion in detention and deportation cases. As co-chair of the National Council of Asian Pacific Americans (NCAPA)'s immigration committee, OCA remains dedicated to passing a comprehensive immigration reform bill that supports all Asian American and Pacific Islander communities.

education

Education is often referred to as the great equalizer and a key component for social and economic mobility for all Americans. OCA believes that K-12 and higher education must be fully accessible to all Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. To this end, OCA's education priorities include ensuring that student data is disaggregated so that necessary resources can be provided to our most needing communities.

OCA's K-12 platform also includes efforts to ensure that parents, especially limited English proficient (LEP) parents, are able to understand and access resources necessary for their children's success. Additionally, OCA advocates to expand anti-bullying measures to include LEP and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) students. AAPI students are often bullied based on their race and language skills, and LGBTQ AAPI students often face additional hardship because of their sexual orientation and gender identity. OCA works to ensure that federal protections include everyone within our community.

OCA also remains committed to ensuring that higher education is accessible and affordable for all AAPI students, including undocumented students. OCA's higher education platform includes a congressional mandate for all public universities to allow the enrollment of undocumented students, along with translations for the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and its availability for undocumented students.



Students protest for data disaggregation on Capitol Hill

military justice



OCA - New York hosts an event with students commemorating Pvt. Danny Chen

In 2011, Private Danny Chen's death was caused by racialized bullying inflicted by his eight superior officers. This incident (and other similar incidents in the Armed Forces where individuals were led to suicide as a result of hazing and bullying) caused an upwelling of support for a revised approach to these issues. OCA has remained committed to creating a uniform database to track hazing incidents inclusive of a victim's race, sex, religion, and sexual orientation. Those who serve our country must be protected when they are with their troops and not in active combat.

OCA is happy to say that our advocacy efforts have resulted in multiple rounds of legislative amendments that have continued to shed more light on the nature and culture of hazing and bullying within the military. Efforts have also led to an update of the Department of Defense's memo on hazing, which had not been updated since 1997.

cultural heritage

OCA believes in celebrating the diverse heritages of the Asian American and Pacific Islander community. As one of the organizations that originally advocated for Asian Pacific American Heritage (APA) Week and subsequently APA Heritage Month, we believe that the United States must also acknowledge the many different contributions our communities have made to the foundation of our country. OCA is currently working to ensure that Chinese Americans are recognized for their work on the Trans Continental Railroad through the creation of a postage stamp commemorating the 150th anniversary of the completion of the rail road that highlights Chinese Americans.



Lunar New Year Stamps, a decades-old tradition first conceived of by OCA member Jean Chen

tech and telecommunications



OCA CEO Ken Lee hands out free Digital TV antennas to low-income residents in San Francisco's Chinatown

As our country continues to digitize and create modern communications networks, it is pivotal that Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders shape the policies and regulations that create the framework for that innovation. OCA believes that all Americans should have equitable access to modern communications networks, including mobile phones and broadband. Despite the data that says AAPIs are some of the earliest adopters of technology and have one of the highest rates of internet usage, we know that many within our communities still lack access to the internet. This lack of access can seriously impact educational attainment, income, and language ability.

In addition to access to modern communications networks, our communications laws must also promote the safety of AAPI families in times of an emergency. For that reason, OCA is committed to ensuring that our emergency alert system has multilingual alerts so that Limited English Proficient individuals and families know what to do during natural disasters and other crises.

Additionally, as we continue to talk about AAPI representation in media, OCA believes that we must have regulations that promote diverse media ownership and minority programmers. In order to have our representation on screen, we must ensure that our policies reduce barriers for AAPIs to create content and promote diverse narratives.

national security

Sherry Chen and Dr. Xiaoxing Xi made national news when the Department of Justice (DOJ) imprisoned them on espionage charges and, after lengthy and expensive legal proceedings, dropped all their charges without any explanation. Aside from Chen and Xi, there have also historically been several other similar cases regarding Chinese Americans. OCA views these incidents as potential cases of implicit bias against Chinese Americans and is working to push forward with an independent review of both Chen and Xi's cases to see if any racial biases were at play during any part of their case.

Additionally, OCA is working to ensure that the recent announcement by the DOJ to include implicit bias training as part of their enforcement training includes AAPI and specifically Chinese American scenarios.



Sherry Chen and Joyce Xi, the daughter of Dr. Xiaoxing Xi, speak at the 2016 OCA National Convention

oca national internship program



OCA fosters an incredibly safe space, where I wanted to talk about my frustrations and voice my own thoughts. Most importantly, I learned about myself in exploring my own Asian American identity. For the first time, I was not so concerned about what other people might think of me. This environment within the cohort gave me the tools, support, and confidence to just be me.

—Emily Zhou, Summer Class of 2015

In its 26th year, the OCA Internship Program seeks to cultivate future leadership by providing students from all over the country with the opportunity to become involved in the policy-making process through a national organization. The program has successfully led past interns to become more active on their college campuses and increased the presence of the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community in local, state, and federal governments.

OCA interns are placed in Congressional offices, federal agencies, the OCA National Center, and other prominent non-profit organizations for ten weeks in and around Washington, DC.

OCA has developed the OCA Summer Internship Program to achieve the following goals:

- Provide a substantive complement of professional and personal development opportunities.
- Introduce key concepts of individual and collective empowerment that are derived through engagement in social justice movements and American public policy issues that affect AAPIs.
- Offer opportunities to meet and interact with national policy makers and thought leaders in Washington, DC and throughout the OCA national network.
- Encourage careers in sectors and professions where AAPIs are underrepresented through professional development, training, and mentoring.
- Connect emerging AAPI leaders with broad based coalitions and OCA partners across the country.

Interns are required to attend Sama Sama (which in Tagalog means togetherness or coming together). These are half day sessions held once a week that address issues affecting the AAPI community and provide a space to have open discussions on possible solutions and how the community can meet these issues.

Interns are also given the opportunity to schedule meetings with their member of Congress for an advocacy visit. Visits entail discussions concerning public policy and an inside look at the legislative work of Congress. We encourage our interns to take this opportunity and train them on how to bring important issues to the attention of their members of Congress.



The 2015 Summer Intern Class

Number of students served since 1989	Total program budget	Target Demographic
450+	\$125,000	Undergraduate Students

apa youth advocate



APA-Y Advocate in Long Island, NY

Launched in 2012, APA Youth Advocate is a State Farm® funded, half-day interactive training focused on equipping our youth with skills to enhance their personal development, as well as providing them a stronger platform before going to college. OCA internship alumni facilitate this advocacy training that is hosted by local OCA chapters. The half day program focuses on the development of AAPI High School youth in our communities.

Students participate in a highly interactive program that leads to responsible habits in personal financial management, career planning, and leadership-driven community engagement. During the training, students engage in robust leadership discussions about the implications of individual behavior on the community, thereby developing a pipeline of community leaders from an early age.

Number of people served since 2012	Total program budget	Target Demographic
1,200+	\$50,000	High School Students

apia u: leadership training

APIA U: Leadership Training is an interactive college leadership training program that involves hands-on exercises, small group discussions, and presentations led by two qualified Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) facilitators. The full-day training assembles students from each region and focuses on self-awareness, team-building, and direct action organizing. Participants will be asked to challenge themselves, share their experiences, and develop leadership tools in order to effectively serve as catalysts for change.

Knowing that cultural influences impact how one leads, our mission is to provide Asian American and Pacific Islander student leaders and activists with a unique training opportunity that keeps in mind the viewpoints and experiences of AAPIs and other students of color.



A 2015 APIA U Session in Wisconsin

Number of people served since 1999	Total Program Budget	Target Demographic
2,900+	\$100,000	Undergraduate Students

maap: mentoring asian american professionals



OCA - Houston MAAP participants in 2015

The MAAP program is designed to cultivate the next generation of confident, empowered, equipped, and collaborative Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) professional leaders through a mutually-beneficial platform of networking and skills building. The MAAP methodology incorporates networking career planning, professional and personal skills building, and both one-on-one and group mentoring. The mentoring cohort participates in three mentoring network convenings conducted as group seminars, peer-mentoring, learning activities, and facilitated discussions.

Number of people served since 2009	Total Program Budget	Target Demographic
1,400+	\$150,000	Young Professionals

b³: build breakthrough believe

Launched in 2009, B³: Build, Breakthrough, Believe is a program for aspiring Asian Pacific American (APA) professionals interested in taking their personal and professional goals to the next level through leadership development and networking.

The purpose of B³ is to provide relevant professional development, peer networking, and mentoring to aspiring APA professionals. Additionally, one of the main goals is to increase the civic engagement level of participation of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders throughout the U.S.

All of this is achieved in a one-day program consisting of workshops, panels and/or seminars that are centered on professional development themes. Discussion topics can range from personal branding to corporate success tactics and strategies.



A panelist of entrepreneurs at the Orange County B³ Program

Number of people served since 2010	Total Program Budget	Target Demographic
500+	\$30,000	Young Professionals

jacl/oca leadership summit



Former Secretary of Transportation Norm Mineta addresses the 2015 Leadership Summit

The annual JACL/OCA Leadership Summit brings together OCA members from across the country to build their local capacity for advocacy work, develop their community leadership skills, teach them about current civil rights issues, how to engage with elected and government officials, and how to deepen their commitment towards achieving equity and equality for AAPI communities.

The Summit has expanded the social, economic, and political power of AAPIs by uplifting leaders and giving them the necessary tools to advocate for their communities. Sessions have included workshops on Legislative Visits, Education issue areas, visits to Capitol Hill, and a Congressional Speaker Series. Over the three day summit, participants engaged with elected and appointed government officials, including Deputy Secretary of Labor, Chris Lu, Representatives Judy Chu, Mark Takano, Ted Lieu, Grace Meng, and many more.

Number of people served since 1991	Total Program Budget	Target Demographic
350+	\$35,000	Future Community Leaders

aarp foundation tax-aid

Too often, members of the AAPI community are targeted by high-cost tax preparation services or scams, creating a strong need for a trusted tax-aid service in the community. AARP Foundation offers low and moderate income taxpayers with free, individualized, and no-strings-attached tax assistance and preparation services through their volunteer run Tax-Aide program. OCA provides assistance to the Tax-Aide Program by helping reach the AAPI community through targeted outreach, volunteer recruitment, and program promotion.

In its inaugural year, OCA was successful in meeting its goals for this program and we look forward to continuing to expand on our best practices from the last year. Through local partnerships, digital media, TV commercials, and grassroots outreach, this program was successful in reaching more than 120,000 people nationwide and a potential 2.5 million when inclusive of advertisements on Crossings TV. OCA also was successful in recruiting over 500 volunteers through local partnerships and the conscientious grassroots effort of our chapters.

AARP FOUNDATION TAX-AIDE

OUR HELP IS FREE, INDIVIDUALIZED AND NO STRINGS ATTACHED. AND WE'RE RIGHT HERE IN YOUR COMMUNITY.

ADVOCATE

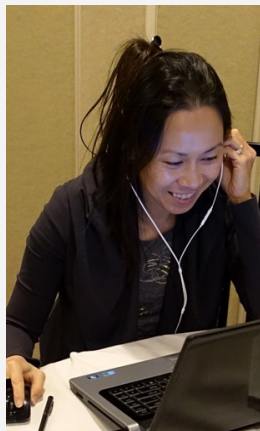
We offer free tax preparation help to anyone and if you're 50 and older, and can't afford a tax preparation service, we were made especially for you. We're available from late January to April 15. To find a location visit <http://bit.ly/OCAtaxes>

An advertisement for the Tax-Aide program placed in OCA's IMAGE magazine

People Reached	Volunteers Recruited	Target Demographic
120,000+	500+	Elders and Low-Income Individuals

civic engagement

Though the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) population is projected to double by 2040, our gains in the political system are being stifled because of low turnout rates. Continuing a long tradition of fostering civic participation, OCA's efforts are aimed towards enhancing the role of marginalized AAPIs in our political system. During 2015 all OCA Civic Engagement initiatives were fully supported by the Wallace H. Coulter Foundation.



"This is the second year that OCA – Greater Cleveland participated in the GOTV phone banking program and supporting the broader voter engagement initiatives. It has been rewarding for our team of volunteers to reach out to Asian and Pacific Islanders in our community on such an important topic."

– Lisa Wong (OCA – Greater Cleveland)

OCA operates through a multi-tiered system, in order to engage all our Chapters in Civic Engagement efforts depending on the capacity and networks of the chapters. Each chapter receives a sub-grant based on local plans and through consultation with APIAVote. Activities range from hosting a public event to promote civic engagement, to hosting phonebanks to encourage AAPIs to get to the polls. OCA National helps coordinate chapter efforts by providing education and trainings around Civic Engagement. By doing so, our Chapters are able to fully mobilize their members and community to get to the polls and voice their vote.



OCA– St. Louis phonebanks in advance of the 2015 mid-term elections in Missouri

Number of people served	Total Program Budget	Engaged Chapters
38,000+	\$150,000	14

financial report

2015

Income

Individual Donations	197,041.17
Sponsorship Income	1,329,000.00
Event Income	108,630.50
Membership Dues	25,887.50
Other Income	14,710.35
Total Income	1,675,269.52

Expenditures

Communications	21,481.88
Equipment & Depreciation	14,108.74
Event & Meeting Expense	497,342.89
Occupancy	27,000.00
Dues, Licenses & Permits	7,155.00
Other Expenses	8,128.26
Postage, Mailing Services	5,469.92
Printing & Copying	16,323.17
Intern Stipend	85,000.00
Professional Fee	119,954.14
Salary & Benefits	420,898.21
Scholarships	30,000.00
Supplies	24,301.83
Travel Expenses	90,848.41
Total Expenditures	1,368,012.45

NET INCOME

307,257.07

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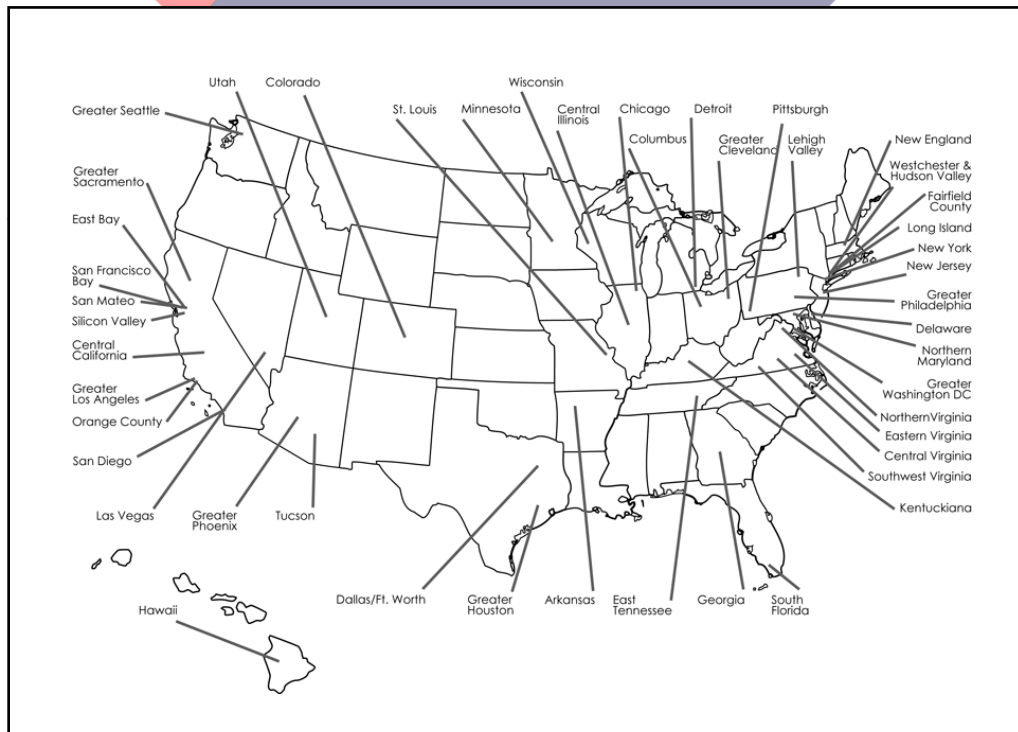
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OCA - Eastern Virginia
OCA - New Jersey
The Cha Family



OCA - ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN ADVOCATES
is a national network of over 100 chapters and affiliates, with an annual reach of over 400,000 individuals and over four decades of experience working on behalf of the Asian Pacific American community.