This year, APAICS and the communities we serve continued to feel the impacts of 2020’s unprecedented events. The rise of anti-Asian hate culminated in the devastating Atlanta Shootings that took the lives of six Asian women. Lockdowns from COVID-19 kept work virtual. Yet, Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders (AA & NH/PIs) nationwide reclaimed power amidst tragedy. We demanded increased awareness and greater recognition for our communities’ achievements. And despite travel restrictions, APAICS continued to produce quality programming, calendar of events.

In 2021, APAICS hosted the inaugural APAICS Health, Energy, and Tech Summits that brought together AA & NH/PI elected officials, community and corporate leaders, and subject matter experts for bipartisan policy discussions that affect the AA & NH/PI community and the nation at large. These virtual summits attracted participants from over sixteen states, including American Samoa and Guam, and garnered over 350 registrants.

APAICS saw record growth in placing AA & NH/PI Congressional fellows on Capitol Hill with the addition of the 2021-2022 Racial Equity Congressional Fellowship program. In partnership with Airbnb, we launched this program to support the APAICS Congressional Fellowship program. Beginning 2022-2023, we will provide future Congressional fellows with free housing before the start of the fellowship program to support their transition to Washington DC.

We celebrated Asian Pacific American Heritage Month at our 27th Annual Awards Gala—AA & NH/PIs Rising to the Challenge. In a fully virtual format, we celebrated the diversity of our combined community. We had the pleasure of honoring Asian Americans Advancing Justice AAJC—Atlanta for their fight for justice in the aftermath of the devastation our community in Atlanta endured. We also acknowledged the Philippine Nurses Association of America for being on the frontlines in the fight against COVID-19.

Our online engagement substantially grew after an increase in virtual programs and live streams. Our expansive digital footprint has allowed us to reach AA & NH/PI individuals, families, and communities who continue to support our mission.

Looking forward, we plan on returning to in-person events in the upcoming year. We’re eager to engage with APAICS’ friends and supporters regionally. We’ve navigated the challenges of a virtual landscape to emerge stronger, more resilient, and excited to increase AA & NH/PI representation at all levels of the political process.

Sincerely,
Susan Jin Davis
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MISSION

The Asian Pacific American Institute for Congressional Studies (APAICS) is a national non-partisan, nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to promoting Asian Pacific American participation and representation at all levels of the political process, from community service to elected office.

APAICS programs focus on developing leadership, building public policy knowledge, and filling the political pipeline for Asian Pacific Americans to pursue public office at the local, state, and federal levels.
2021 IN REVIEW

To fulfill its mission during COVID-19, APAICS has transitioned to a virtual and then a hybrid setting to maximize its reach while preserving the health and safety of its audience. The creation of new programming in a virtual space, allowed the organization to build upon and reach new audiences in every corner of the country.

To address the onslaught of anti-Asian hate, APAICS expanded its traditional programming to include initiatives to focus on addressing the most pressing issues in our communities.

Highlights of new programs and the expansion of existing programs include:
1. The Health, Energy, and Technology Summits
2. The creation of the Racial Equity Congressional Fellowship
3. Record growth in placements of interns and fellows on Capitol Hill
THROUGH UNPRECEDENTED HARDSHIP, APAICS FOUND SOLUTIONS

Through the new programs, APAICS has been able to address the top concerns in our communities whilst expanding its offerings beyond Washington DC with both live and on-demand programming. Staying true to our core mission of representation, APAICS has connected subject matter experts, elected officials, and community leaders to address the unique needs of the fastest growing population in the United States. This hybrid environment allowed APAICS to:

**Strengthen** relationships with existing partners across all subjects including racial equity, solidarity, and representation

**Expand** our alumni network in both membership and diversity

**Cultivate** new investments and grow existing sponsorships to support APAICS programs

**Create** evergreen content to enhance interest and build leadership in AA & NH/PI communities
PRODUCED THE FIRST HEALTH, ENERGY & TECH SUMMIT

APAICS Summits brings together community and corporate leaders, subject matter experts, as well as AA & NH/PI elected officials for bipartisan policy discussions that affect AA & NH/PI communities and the nation at-large.

With the introduction of the Health, Energy, and Tech Summits, APAICS captured conversations from across the country for these fully virtual conversations on the top issues affecting our communities in these three key areas.

Viewers were able to engage with panelists on topics ranging from electric vehicles to the cancer moonshot to the future of technology to what AA & NH/PI representation means in these industries.
ANNOUNCED INAUGURAL RACIAL EQUITY CONGRESSIONAL FELLOWSHIP

In August of 2021, APAICS announced the inaugural Racial Equity & Social Justice Congressional Fellowship in partnership with General Motors.

The Fellowship was created in response to the rise in anti-Asian hate and violence, and will build upon APAICS’ traditional Congressional Fellowship Program to offer AA & NH/PI individuals a public policy position specifically to address racial equity and to advocate for social justice.

The Racial Equity & Social Justice Congressional Fellowship provides a nine-month congressional office placement beginning December 2021 through August 2022. The inaugural 2021-2022 class included ten fellows.
RECORD GROWTH IN CAPITOL HILL PLACEMENTS

APAICS saw record growth in Capitol Hill placements with nine Congressional Fellows, ten Racial Equity & Social Justice Fellows, nine summer Congressional Interns, and two fall Congressional Interns.

With our largest cohort yet, APAICS has been able to help cultivate the next generation of AA & NH/PI leaders.
ONLINE ENGAGEMENT INCREASE

With the continued impact of the pandemic keeping a substantial amount of work virtual, APAICS has stepped up to the challenge by holding and expanding successful virtual programs throughout the year. In 2021, APAICS has seen record growth in online engagement. This growth includes surpassing one million impressions on Twitter, almost seven times the rates from prior years. This increase in online engagement was seen across other platforms including LinkedIn, Facebook, and Instagram. Through this outreach, APAICS engaged constituents representing all 50 states, five major territories, and in Washington DC—bridging all levels of politics and the AA & NH/PI community.
DEMOGRAPHICS

GLOBAL REPRESENTATION
Throughout APAICS’ core programming including its Congressional Fellowship, Congressional Internship, National Leadership Academy, and Regional Leadership Academies, APAICS saw an increase in registrants and has ensured that all APAICS programs appropriately represented all AA & NH/PI communities in the country. This commitment toward representation was carried through direct outreach to communities and resulted in 24 different ethnicities across 26 U.S. states including DC and Guam.

26 STATES REPRESENTED

24 HERITAGES REPRESENTED

Bangladeshi | 3  
Bengali | 3  
Cambodian | 2  
Chinese | 37  
Hmong | 3  
Indian | 20

Indonesian | 3  
Japanese | 5  
Korean | 15  
Lao | 1  
Marshallese | 1  
Native Hawaiian | 7

Nepali | 3  
Pakistani | 4  
Punjabi | 2  
Filipino | 22  
Samoan | 1  
Singaporean | 1

Taiwanese | 7  
Tamil | 1  
Tibetan | 2  
Tlingit | 1  
Tongan | 1  
Vietnamese | 13

GENDER

48% FEMALE

47% MALE

1% GENDER NON-CONFORMING

2% N/A
APAICS BY THE NUMBERS

569 NATIONAL LEADERSHIP ACADEMY ALUMNI
606 REGIONAL LEADERSHIP ACADEMY ALUMNI
11 RACIAL EQUITY FELLOWS
96 CONGRESSIONAL FELLOWS
328 CONGRESSIONAL INTERNS
36 CONGRESSIONAL LEADERSHIP ACADEMY ALUMNI
88 YOUTH LEADERSHIP ACADEMY ALUMNI
23 KAKEHASHI PROGRAM
FUNDRAISING

TOTAL FUNDS RAISED IN 2021
$4,040,726

FUNDRAISING SOURCES
Unrestricted Funding (Other) 52%
Unrestricted Funding (AA & NH/PI History Month Events) 21%
Restricted Funding 37%
PROGRAMMING

BUILDING THE AA & NH/PI PIPELINE ACROSS FOUR PILLARS

01 INSPIRE
APAICS programs and events are organized to inspire the next generation of AA & NH/PI leaders. APAICS continues to highlight and celebrate the historic achievements of our community.

02 EDUCATE
APAICS programs and events are created to provide the AA & NH/PI community resources and training to be prepared for their political ambitions—whether you are in high school and attend our Youth Leadership Academy or are attending our National Leadership Academy to run for local office, APAICS is a resource for the community.

03 CONNECT
APAICS programs and events connect the AA & NH/PI community to its national network. Often times, the first step is the hardest, and APAICS programming opens doors.

04 EMPOWER
APAICS programs and events empower the AA & NH/PI community to take the steps they need to reach their political and career goals—whether you are already in politics or are brand new, APAICS will develop leadership and build public policy knowledge for its participants to have the confidence to pursue their ambitions.
PROGRAMS

NATIONAL LEADERSHIP ACADEMY
The APAICS National Leadership Academy provides AA & NH/PI elected officials and those looking to run for office with the training and network to help them excel in their current office, prepare them for opportunities to advance into higher office, or to run a campaign for the first time. The National Leadership Academy brings together a bipartisan group of promising AA & NH/PI political leaders from state legislatures, city councils, and local governing bodies from all across the country. The Leadership Academy has grown from 13 participants in 1999 to more than 500 participants now.

“Having the opportunity to learn from AA & NH/PI Leaders working in policy and political circles across the country, I learned from my fellow cohort members and mentors’ experiences on: how to launch and run an effective campaign for elected office; advocate for the needs and experiences of the broader AA & NH/PI community; understanding that AA & NH/PI representation matters while coming together to support fellow cohort members in their campaigns for public office.”
- Moana Cabiles

REGIONAL LEADERSHIP ACADEMY
The Regional Leadership Academy is a two-day leadership training event for current elected officials, individuals seeking to run for public office, and community stakeholders. APAICS partners with local organizations to deliver programming that consists of interactive political training with topics ranging from developing your campaign plan, communications, digital organizing, power mapping, volunteer recruitment and management, and fundraising.

“As one of the few Pacific Islanders who participated I found the information gained was very relevant and the connections made were highly valuable. Participating in this year’s academy has added fuel to the fire in me that there needs to be more PI representation at all governmental levels. I was able to walk or click away from this event with a better understanding of how I will tackle my objective. Mahalo plenty APAICS for arming me with information.”
- Jared Sam Agtunong
RACIAL EQUITY FELLOWSHIP
Racial Equity fellows research and analyze community-based recommendations along with key public policy initiatives that affect economic opportunity, structural racism, and health equity. While working in Congressional members’ offices, fellows utilize their own experiences providing a racial lens in their field. Fellows help draft public policy, attend briefings, observe committee hearings, conduct research, write speeches, and develop rapport with key leaders in all areas of social justice allowing for continued representation of AA & NH/PIs in the public policy process.

“My experience as an APAICS Racial Equity and Social Justice fellow was truly transformational. I entered the fellowship with zero Hill experience and graduated with a full-time job in a Congressional office. Most of all, I am grateful for the supportive APAICS network that invests time and energy to ensure the fellows succeed during and after the fellowship. In addition, professional development programs like mock interviews and meetings with AA & NH/PI officials in the Administration provide unique insights into the various career tracks in public service. Most of all, I feel connected to a large and growing ecosystem of AA & NH/PIs in Washington DC and across the country that seeks to ‘do good’ and strives to increase AA & NH/PI representation in government.”

-Jennifer Min

2021-2022 RACIAL EQUITY FELLOWS

PRIYA AMILINENI
Office of Senator
Alex Padilla

VIRAJ AYAR
Office of Congresswoman
Barbara Lee

ROYCE CHEN
Office of Congresswoman
Brenda Lawrence

DEVAKI DAVE
Office of Senator
Catherine Cortez-Masto

ALI FAZAL
Office of Senator
Tammy Duckworth

ERIC KIM
Office of House Committee on Financial Services

SHARON Kwon
Office of Committee on Education & Labor

JENNIFER MIN
Office of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus

PATRICK PERALTA
Office of Representative Gregorio Sablan

MAYWADEE VIRIYAPAH
Office of Congressman Mike Levin

CHRISTIAN VON ROTZ
Office of Congressman Bobby Scott
CONGRESSIONAL FELLOWSHIP
The APAICS Fellowship provides exceptional graduates and young professionals the opportunity to work extensively on policy issues as full-time staff members in a Congressional office. Through a nine-month program, fellows gain invaluable federal policymaking experience and develop lasting relationships amongst fellows and prominent leaders as they work closely with members of Congress, government officials, and community leaders.

2021-2022 CONGRESSIONAL FELLOWS

REMY JOSE GOLLA
Office of Congresswoman Pramila Jayapal

ELISE INOUYE
Office of Congresswoman Mazie K. Hirono

KEVIN KOO
Office of Congresswoman Lizzie Fletcher

CASEY LEE
Office of Congressman Ted Lieu

NIKKI OKA
Office of Congresswoman Kaiali’i Kahele

LOU PANICCIOLI
Office of Congresswoman Marilyn Strickland

HABIBUR RAHMAN-KADER
Office of Congresswoman Grace Meng

MARIAM TARIQ
Office of Congresswoman Judy Chu

CHRISTOPHER ZHEN
Office of Congresswoman Young Kim
CONGRESSIONAL INTERNSHIP

The Congressional Internship is designed for AA & NH/PI undergraduate-aged students looking to increase their experience in public policy and service. The paid internship program offered in the Fall and Summer places interns in congressional offices and provides them with the opportunity to develop their leadership and professional skills, encourages political engagement, and fosters interests in public service careers.

“Looking back on my experience as an APAICS Congressional Intern, I would have never thought that I would learn as much as I did about the legislative process and the position of AA & NH/PI issues and leaders in government. I would tell any AA & NH/PI interested in public service to spend some time on the Hill with an open mind and you may be surprised by the numerous ways that you can be involved.”

-Ritika Reddy

2021 CONGRESSIONAL INTERNS

MEGHANA HALBE
Office of Representative
Katherine Clark

AL EDRICH LABANG
Office of Congresswoman
Stephanie Murphy

BRETT LOUIE
Office of Representative
Darren Soto

ASHWIN MAHADEVAN
Office of Congressman
Raja Krishnamoorthi

PARISA MAHMUD
Office of Congressman
Jamaal Bowman

RANEN MIAO
Office of Congressman
Jamaal Bowman & Office
of House Committee
on Veterans’ Affairs

AMBER NGUYEN
Office of Congresswoman
Judy Chu

AGUNG PUTRA
Office of Congresswoman
Ann Kirkpatrick

VICTOR QIU
Office of Congressman
Ami Bera

RITIKA REDDY
Office of Congressman
Byron Donalds

JOYCE SHIN
Office of Congresswoman
Marilyn Strickland
LEGISLATIVE LEADERSHIP ACADEMY
The APAICS Legislative Leadership Academy, in partnership with the Leadership Education for Asian Pacifics (LEAP), is a Washington DC-based program for mid-senior level Hill Staffers (Legislative Correspondent or Legislative Assistant level) of AA & NH/PI heritage, interested in the opportunity to hone their leadership skills, deepen their confidence, strengthen relationships, and build community to more effectively position themselves and pursue senior management roles such as Legislative Director, Chief of Staff, Committee Staff Director, or Communications Director on Capitol Hill.

YOUTH LEADERSHIP ACADEMY
The APAICS Virtual Youth Leadership Academy program, in partnership with the Close Up Foundation, is a week-long leadership development and enrichment program geared towards high school students. The purpose of the program is to provide students of AA & NH/PI heritage the unique opportunity to learn more about government and public policy issues impacting the AA & NH/PI community and how they can be more involved in the political process.
KAKEHASHI PROGRAM

The Kakehashi Program is designed to promote people-to-people exchange between Japan and the United States.

The program will provide participants with an enhanced understanding of Japanese economics, society, history, culture, politics, and diplomatic policies and encourage individuals to play an active role in the future of United States-Japan relations.

The Japanese word “kakehashi” means “bridge,” which symbolizes the hope that participants will form lasting relationships with Japan and its people.
WOMEN’S COLLECTIVE
The Women’s Collective aims to build a community that inspires and supports AA & NH/PI women to become politically engaged by leading the national conversation. This includes tools, trainings, resources, conversations, and a national network to connect AA & NH/PI women leaders and stakeholders.

"I was briefly chatting with someone else who is planning on running for a local office and they went through a similar campaign training and found it not to be as helpful. I didn’t mean to draw negative comparisons when chatting with my friend, but I mentioned how in just two days I learned so much from the academy that I feel I can easily take into my own future campaign. I truly found that the Women’s Collective leadership academy was so helpful in breaking down the process and framing it in a way that didn’t seem so overwhelming. I also really enjoyed the Summit. Hearing from elected officials and other leaders boosted my motivation to run.”

-Sabel Harris
Washington DC Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner, 1B12
SUPPORT, BUILD, PROMOTE

APAICS events celebrate the achievements of the AA & NH/PI community, and offer opportunities for individuals and organizations in government, non-profit, and the private sector to connect and engage in meaningful discourse.

In 2021, APAICS offered its signature events virtually to continue providing quality avenues for connection.
ANNUAL AWARDS GALA
The APAICS Annual Awards Gala is the culmination of our nation’s recognition of Asian Pacific American Heritage Month in May, a celebration of the culture, traditions, history, and contributions of AA & NH/PIs in the United States.

The Annual Awards Gala is the largest gathering of AA & NH/PI elected officials and government appointees at the federal, state, and local levels and considered the hallmark event of Asian Pacific American Heritage Month. Attendees participate from across the country, including community, business, and political leaders.

In 2021, due to continued restrictions from the COVID-19 pandemic, APAICS held its 27th Annual Awards Gala virtually, available to view online (here).

KEYNOTE ADDRESS
President Joe Biden

NORMAN Y. MINETA LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD
Dale Minami

COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP ACHIEVEMENT AWARD
Philippine Nurses Association of America

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AWARD
Asian Americans Advancing Justice | Atlanta
SUMMITS
The APAICS Summits bring together community and corporate leaders, subject matter experts, as well as AA & NH/PI elected officials for bipartisan policy discussions that affect the AA & NH/PI community and the nation at-large. Panel topics can range from “Challenges and Opportunities in Addressing the Digital Divide” at our Tech Summit, “Ensuring Diverse Voices at all Levels in the Healthcare Workforce” at our Health Summit, and “Getting Affordable Energy to Underserved Communities” at our Energy Summit. We examine the potential effects of new and evolving legislation, and what our partners are doing to adapt to these changing conditions.

LEGISLATIVE LEADERSHIP SUMMIT
The Legislative Leadership Summit took place over four days and brought together nonprofit and corporate leaders, subject matter experts, as well as local and federally elected officials for a series of weekly bipartisan policy discussions that affect the AA & NH/PI community and the nation at-large.
APAICS VIRTUAL LEADERSHIP TRAINING

APAICS Virtual Leadership Trainings are online programs providing the skills and resources to excel as political leaders and plan a run for public office.

Through our online virtual programming, trainings are easily accessible and delivered directly to individuals seeking to run for public office, current elected officials, and community stakeholders. Topics range from developing a campaign plan, digital organizing, power mapping, and fundraising, while including expert trainers in their field in their specialty.

APAICS IN CONVERSATION

APAICS in Conversation is an exciting series of virtual fireside chat teleconferences to learn and hear from leading AA & NH/PIs in their field. Each teleconference is approximately 30 minutes and includes a Q&A session with the participants.

BRIEFINGS

APAICS Briefings are tailored singular events that allow APAICS sponsors to broadcast updates and key messaging to the AA & NH/PI community. In 2021, briefing topics included: housing, lung cancer, and transitioning from Capitol Hill to other careers.
MAKE A DIFFERENCE TODAY

FOR THE GENERATION OF TOMORROW
Your donation helps APAICS continue its mission to promote AA & NH/PI participation and representation at all levels of the political process. Join us as we work towards a brighter future.

DONATE
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President & CEO

DIAN HERRMAN
Chief Administrative Officer

DANIELLE MOON
Director of Programs & Community Engagement

NICHOLAS KISHABA
Program Associate

ETHAN TSUI
Staff Assistant

CLAIRE CHANG
2021 Office Intern

ANNA LEE
2021 Office Intern

LEJING LIN
2021 Office Intern

REVATHI MENON
2021 Office Intern

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2021 Office Intern

NATALIE SEARA
2021 Office Intern

JENNIFER MIN
2021 Office Intern

JACK MERRITT
2021 Office Intern
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Davita
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FedEx
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PhRMA
SEIU
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Verizon
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1994 CIRCLE
$10,000 - $24,000
AARP
AmerisourceBergen
Asian Pacific Islander American Public Affairs (APAPA)
Asian Americans & Pacific Islanders Rising & Empowerment (ASPIRE)
Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation
California Teachers Association (CTA)
Ford
General Motors
Mercer Foundation
Motion Picture Association of America
Netflix
New York Life
Nielsen
Nike
Salesforce
SB Group
UK Online Giving Foundation
UPS Corporation

FRIEND
$1,000 - $4,999
3C Strategies, LLC
Annabel Bybee
Cristina Antelo
Curtis Hom
David Kim
Fair Kim
Frederick Underwood
Glenda Beach
Grisella Martinez
Irene Bueno
Jason Chan
Jason Tai
Jim Nam
Jim Park
June Jee
NCTA
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Roberto Llames
Robin Rorick
Ron Chu
Rep. Scott Nishimoto
Tariq Khan
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