



APAICS
Women's Collective

SUMMIT

Program

FRIDAY, JULY 1, 2022 - SATURDAY, JULY 2, 2022
CAESARS PALACE | LAS VEGAS, NV

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Honorary Co-Chairs



The Hon. Cecelia González

Nevada Assemblywoman

Assemblywoman Cecelia González is a 30-year-old Thai-Mexican American representing Nevada's 16th Assembly District. A proud daughter of immigrants, Cecelia was raised in Las Vegas and received her bachelor's and master's degrees at UNLV. She is currently pursuing her Ph.D in multicultural education at UNLV. Prior to assuming office, González volunteered for NARAL, Planned Parenthood, and Mass Liberation Project to educate lawmakers on issues related to domestic violence, stalking, women's health, and criminal justice reform.



The Hon. Brittney Miller

Nevada Assemblywoman

Assemblywoman Brittney Miller was born in Detroit, Michigan to her Black/African American father and Lebanese mother. First elected to the Nevada State Legislature in 2016, Miller is currently serving her third term in the State Assembly, representing District 5. She is a passionate advocate for education, criminal justice reform, veterans, social justice, a diversified economy, and accountable government. Miller has a Bachelor's in Criminal Justice, a Masters in Public Administration, and Masters in Teaching.



The Hon. Rochelle Thuy Nguyen

Nevada Assemblywoman

Assemblywoman Rochelle Thuy Nguyen was appointed in December 2018 and was elected to the same position in November 2020. During the historic 80th session, she co-founded the first AAPI legislative caucus in the state of Nevada. Nguyen serves as the Chair of Health and Human Services Committee, the Vice Chair of the Judiciary, and is a member of the Education committee. When not in session, she is a criminal defense attorney.



The Hon. Selena Torres

Nevada Assemblywoman

Assemblywoman Selena Torres is an educator and was born and raised in Las Vegas, Nevada. During the 2021 Legislative session, she served as Vice Chair of the Assembly Government Affairs committee and as a member of the Assembly Education and Assembly legislative Operations and Elections. She has served as a member of the Judiciary committee, Legislative Committee for Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice, Interim Government Affairs, and is Chair of the Nevada Hispanic Legislative Caucus.



Agenda

FRIDAY, JULY 1, 2022

8:30AM-
9:00AM

Summit Registration
Location: Verona/Turin

9:00AM-
10:00AM

Breakfast + Opening Program
Location: Verona/Turin

Welcome Remarks

Madalene Xuan-Trang Mielke, *President and CEO, APAICS*

Honorary Co-Chair Remarks

The Hon. Selena Torres, *Nevada Assemblywoman*

10:00AM-
11:00AM

Plenary 1: Asian American Women in Political Leadership

Each political leader has their own origin story about who supported them and how they got to where they are. During this panel, you will hear from Asian American women who have held different types of political leadership positions. They will share their experiences and how their different identities and lived experiences shaped their political identity.

- The Hon. Nima Kulkarni, *Kentucky State Representative, 40th Legislative District*
- The Hon. Jan-le Low, *Former President's Advisory Commissioner, White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders*
- The Hon. Sheng Thao, *Oakland Council President Pro Tempore*
- Moderated by: Danielle Moon, *Director of Programs and Community Engagement, APAICS*

Location: Verona/Turin

11:00AM-
11:30AM

Break



Agenda

FRIDAY, JULY 1, 2022

11:30AM-
12:15PM

Breakout Session A: Elected Leadership Track: Power Mapping to Build (big "P") Political Power

It is not enough to be appointed or elected. To be an effective and influential leader you need to have an understanding of where power resides and how to navigate the landscape to achieve your goals. This session will help current elected officials and candidates organize their thinking around their existing political relationships and how to leverage them to help them achieve their political goals and priorities.

- *Facilitator: Shu-Yen Wei, Campaign Manager,
Congressman Steven Horsford*

Location: Trevi

Rising Leadership Track: Personal Values for Your Political Leadership

Once in leadership positions, values act as your north star that can help guide decision making and develop priorities. This session will help those who are considering running for office or other political leadership roles identify and articulate their personal values they will bring into their leadership. Values are intangible beliefs and ideas that bring together people and communities. Spending time thinking about the values you will bring into your own political leadership before you run for office helps create a foundation for how you can talk about why you are running and why you champion certain issues.

- *Facilitator: Kate Chapek, Political and Advocacy
Senior Strategist*

Location: Verona/Turin



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12:15PM-
1:15PM

Lunch + Program

Remarks

Tammy Thien-Tam Tran, Senior Manager, Local Public Affairs, Southern California Edison

Plenary 2: Beyond Elected Political Leadership

Political leadership is much more than running for office. This lunch panel is to highlight the opportunities for political leadership beyond elected office. Panelists will share why they chose the political path they are on, how they got there, and what motivates and energizes them about the work they do.

- *Bethany Khan, Spokesperson, Director of Communications & Digital Strategy, UNITE HERE Culinary Workers Union Local 226*
- *Vida Chan Lin, President and Founder, Asian Community Development Council*
- *The Hon. Chanpone Sinlapasai, Judge Multnomah County Circuit Court, Oregon*
- *Moderated by: Patranya Bhoolsuwan, Founder, Patranya Media LLC*

Location: Verona/Turin

1:15PM-
2:45PM

Plenary 3: Visioning a 'Political Home' for Asian American Women Political Leaders

In this two-part plenary session, Women's Collective Summit attendees will explore what a "political home" for Asian American women political leaders could be and could do. Part one of the plenary is a chat with a small panel to hear ideas about a political home for Asian American women. Part two will be small group discussions about the ideas and concepts heard from the panelists. APAICS hopes to capture the ideas and input from this session to help shape future Women's Collective programming.



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FRIDAY, JULY 1, 2022

Panelists:

- The Hon. Helen Gym, *Philadelphia City Councilmember At-Large*
- The Hon. Dr. Martha Wong, *Chair, Texas State Library and Archives Commission*
- Moderated by: Irene B. Bueno, *Co-Founder and Partner, NVG LLC*

Facilitators:

- Kate Chapek, *Political and Advocacy Senior Strategist*
- Danni Wang, *Campaign Strategist*
- Shu-Yen Wei, *Campaign Manager, Congressman Steven Horsford*

Location: Verona/Turin

**2:45PM-
3:45PM**

Breakout Session B: Elected Leadership Track: Committing to the Pipeline

AA & NH/PI women are very underrepresented in political positions. A broad, multi-pronged approach is likely needed to correct this underrepresentation. In this session, participants will discuss what the responsibilities and commitments current political leaders have to help fill the pipeline.

- **Facilitator:** Kate Chapek, *Political and Advocacy Senior Strategist*

Location: Trevi

Rising Leadership Track: Addressing Barriers to Leadership

A lot of factors go into an individual's decision to seek a political leadership position. Sometimes those factors are outside of our control, but most of the time there are barriers that we are able to address. Participants will identify personal barriers



Agenda

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to their own political leadership and then identify ones that they can address in the short-term and long-term.

Facilitator: Christina Kuo, *Senior Strategist, Grassroots Solutions*

Location: Verona/Turin

**3:45PM-
4:00PM**

Closing for Day One

Madalene Xuan-Trang Mielke, *President and CEO, APAICS*

Location: Verona/Turin

SATURDAY, JULY 2, 2022

**9:00AM-
10:00AM**

Breakfast + Opening Program

Location: Verona/Turin

Remarks

Madalene Xuan-Trang Mielke, *President and CEO, APAICS*

Honorary Co-Chair Remarks

The Hon. Cecelia González, *Nevada Assemblywoman*

The Hon. Brittney Miller, *Nevada Assemblywoman*

**10:00AM-
11:00AM**

Plenary 4: Building a Multi-Racial and Multi-Ethnic Network and Ecosystem for Women of Color

Working collectively will be how more women, especially women of color, are more representative in political leadership positions. During this session, panelists will share how they have built multi-racial, multi-ethnic collaborations and coalitions to support the political leadership of women of color as well as advance public policy.



Agenda

SATURDAY, JULY 2, 2022

- The Hon. Viengkeo Kay Bounkeua, *NM State Representative, HD19; NM State Deputy Director, The Wilderness Society*
- The Hon. April Fournier, *At-Large City Council Portland, Maine; National Program Manager, Advance Native Political Leadership*
- The Hon. Pat Spearman, *Nevada Senate, District 1*
- The Hon. Selena Torres, *Nevada Assemblywoman*
- Moderated by: Kimberly Sawyer, *Texas Program Director, ReflectUS*

Location: Verona/Turin

**11:00AM-
12:00PM**

Breakout Session C: Elected Leadership Track: Be Your Own Hype

Public speaking is a way of life for political leaders. But just because you do it often doesn't make it easy. This session will provide you high-level tips and tricks about how to prepare for speaking engagements, find your natural voice, and how to be your own hype person.

Facilitators:

- Danni Wang, *Campaign Strategist*
- Shu-Yen Wei, *Campaign Manager, Congressman Steven Horsford*

Location: Trevi

Rising Leadership Track: Visioning and Committing to Your Own Political Leadership

Visioning your own political leadership and making commitments to it are the focus of this session. We will round out the Rising Leadership track of the Women's Collective Summit by creating a personal vision of participants' own political leadership and identifying and sharing with others commitments they will make to fulfill that vision.



Agenda

SATURDAY, JULY 2, 2022

- Facilitator: Christina Kuo, *Senior Strategist, Grassroots Solutions*

Location: Verona/Turin

**12:00PM-
1:00PM**

Networking Lunch

Location: Verona/Turin

**1:00PM-
2:00PM**

Closing Program

Madalene Xuan-Trang Mielke, *President and CEO, APAICS*

Location: Verona/Turin



Meet the Speakers



Patranya Bhoolsuwan

Founder, Patranya Media LLC

Patranya is a TV host, speaker, and media trainer & strategist. A 3 time Emmy award winning broadcast journalist, Patranya has worked as a news reporter/anchor in major news markets across the country including San Francisco, Seattle, Washington DC and Las Vegas.

In 2019, she founded "Patranya Media LLC", a Las Vegas based agency specializing in media consulting, on camera performance training, and storytelling for a variety of clients in hospitality, healthcare, entertainment, public relations, retail and nonprofits.

Patranya teaches journalism at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. She is also a media/diversity trainer at the Poynter Institute, working with broadcast journalists and TV executives across the US.



The Hon. Viengkeo Kay Bounkeua

NM State Representative, HD19; NM State Deputy Director, The Wilderness Society

Kay is a first-generation immigrant born to Lao-Chinese parents. She is from Albuquerque, New Mexico and received her Master of Public Health degree from the University of Michigan's School of Public Health. She is the previous Executive Director for the New Mexico Asian Family Center; a board member of Bold Futures NM and the inaugural Chair for ABQ's Office of Immigrant and Refugee Affairs; and is an alumna of the Asian Pacific American Women's Leadership Institute and the W.K. Kellogg Foundation Community Leadership Network fellowship.

In her current role as New Mexico Deputy State Director for The Wilderness Society, Kay has been using her policy, advocacy, public health, program development and movement building experience to advance their work to make public lands a solution to the climate crisis and ensure that all New Mexican's equitably benefit from them.

Kay was recently appointed as the State Representative for House District 19, one of the most diverse districts per capita in the state of New Mexico encompassing Albuquerque's International District. As a freshman legislator, she was able to champion the passage of a language access bill that was recently signed into state law.

In her personal time, she can be found running with her two dogs and exploring the mountains with her husband and three-year-old daughter.



Meet the Speakers



Irene B. Bueno

Co-Founder and Partner, NVG LLC

Irene B. Bueno is a born leader. And she knows how leaders – including key decision-makers throughout government – think. With decades of experience working in and with the highest levels of government, Irene provides clients with critical insights and advice on issues ranging from education to health care. Irene has been recognized as a Top Lobbyist by the National Institute of Lobbying and Ethics.

Irene's experience has helped her develop extensive high-level relationships across government, including in the executive branch; House and Senate Democratic Leadership; Congressional Committees with jurisdiction over health, education, and appropriations issues; and the Tri-Caucus (Congressional Hispanic Caucus, Black Caucus, and Asian Pacific American Caucus).

At NVG, Irene leads by drawing on her networks and knowledge of the executive and legislative branches to promote clients' policy objectives. And she gets results – most recently, her clients saw their policy priorities reflected with the inclusion of language in the Affordable Care Act and the Higher Education Opportunity Act; and, in every Congress, Irene ensures her clients secure critical funding for medical research and education programs.

Before co-founding NVG, Irene served in the Clinton Administration as Special Assistant to the President in the White House Chief of Staff's Office and Domestic Policy Council and as Deputy Assistant Secretary for Legislation at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Early in her career, she worked as a Legislative Assistant for Senator Alan Cranston (D-CA) and Congressman Edward Roybal (D-CA).

Irene serves on the Planned Parenthood Action Fund Committee and is a leader in the national Asian Pacific Islander American community. She serves on the Asian American Justice Center's National Advisory Council, Asian American Action Fund Board, and previously served on the Board of the Asian Pacific American Institute for Congressional Studies (APAICS). Irene has been recognized for her service to the Asian American and Filipino American communities by the Filipino American Women's Network and the President of the Philippines.

A California native, Irene earned a Juris Doctor from Hastings College of Law and a Bachelor of Arts from University of California, Berkeley. She is a member of the California and District of Columbia Bars and was selected to participate in the Coro Foundation Fellowship Program in Public Affairs in San Francisco, California. An accomplished Latin ballroom dancer, Irene competes at national dance competitions.



Meet the Speakers



Kate Chapek

Political and Advocacy Senior Strategist

Kate Chapek is the founder and CEO of Rise Above Strategies. Kate has dedicated her professional career to developing people and equity programs to lift women and people of color into organizational and government leadership.

With over two decades of experience running campaigns, managing teams and developing, building and managing program infrastructure to scale in 25+ states, Kate has a laser focus on recruiting and investing in diverse teams, developing strategic programs for diverse organizations, and building a pipeline of staff and elected leaders at all levels of government, having recruited, trained, coached, managed, and elected hundreds of women and people of color up and down the ticket.

Specializing in program, infrastructure and leadership development through a diversity and equity lens, her experience working with candidates, educating voters and shaping public discourse around issues most affecting women and communities of color culminated in her selection as National Women's Vote Director for President Obama's 2012 campaign.

Kate's passion and experience managing large national teams and programs around civic engagement and leadership development has led to her holding leadership positions throughout major organizations and candidate campaigns such as EMILY's List, SEIU, America Votes, Communication Workers of America.

As a creative and analytical thinker, Kate has translated her decades of campaign experience and expanded her personal scale to grow impact across many issues most affecting local communities ignored and underfunded by people in power - from restorative justice, educational equity and affordable healthcare access to addressing affordable housing and the needs of those impacted by homelessness.

Her innate abilities to work within existing structures struggling to meet goals or scale outcomes, whether it's standing up a start up, or high level strategic planning that includes team building and program development, mean no project is too big or small.

Kate earned her undergraduate degree in Political Science and Broadcast Journalism from the Annenberg School of Journalism at the University of Southern California and her Master's Degree in Journalism from Georgetown University.

A native of Southern California currently based in Los Angeles, Kate is equally dedicated to raising her tween daughter Sinatra and two darling dogs Lula and Beau "Joe" Biden and rooting for her beloved Dodgers. Raising Sinatra pushes Kate to further her drive and determination for bringing more leaders and teams into the movement for justice and equity.



Meet the Speakers



The Hon. April Fournier

At-Large City Council Portland, Maine; National Program Manager, Advance Native Political Leadership

April Fournier (Navajo) is the National Program Manager for Advance Native Political Leadership. She supports the development and delivery of the Native Leadership Institute's Leadership Training Program and Native Digital Fellowship.

April has extensive experience in community organizing, community leadership and development, coalition building, and training. April is the co-founder of the first all-Indigenous roller derby team and worked to leverage technology and community building to engage team members globally. She is currently serving as an at-large councilor on the city council in Portland, Maine, the first Native woman to serve in that office. She is a graduate of the University of Maine and holds a degree of Master of Education in Intervention Studies.

April resides with her husband, four children and two dogs in Portland. She enjoys Maine's different seasons, and will swim in the ocean year-round. She also enjoys live music indoors or outdoors, sometimes traveling south to Boston for shows, visiting the many eateries and microbrews around Maine, family game night, beading, and reading science fiction and fantasy novels.



The Hon. Helen Gym

Philadelphia City Councilmember At-Large

Seated in 2016, Philadelphia City Councilmember Helen Gym leads a human rights agenda which measures outcomes based on the health and well-being of young people in the city.

As Chair of Council's Children and Youth Committee, she has helped lead a public schools agenda that contributed to the end of the 17-year state takeover of the Philadelphia school system, supported funding for pre-K programs, and restored nurses and counselors back to every public school. She established the city's Right to Counsel program to provide legal assistance to low-income tenants facing eviction, as well as the city's nationally acclaimed eviction diversion program. She has also focused her legislative efforts on economic justice issues, including enacting the nation's strongest fair scheduling legislation, and championing expanding the city's living wage laws.

Helen is a former public school teacher and journalist. She currently serves as Co-Chair of Local Progress, a network of progressive municipal leaders, where she has helped lead national efforts around Sanctuary Cities, the DREAM Act, and progressive public education policies. She is the mother of three children and is a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania and the University of Pennsylvania Graduate School of Education.



Meet the Speakers

She is the recipient of a number of awards including the Philadelphia Inquirer Citizen of the Year and the 2017 national Rising Star Award from EMILY's List, the nation's largest organization supporting women in elected office.



Bethany Khan

*Spokesperson, Director of Communications & Digital Strategy,
UNITE HERE Culinary Workers Union Local 226*

Bethany Khan is the Director of Communications & Digital Strategy at the Culinary Union. She uses strategic communications, technology, data, and digital strategy to support working families in Nevada.

Bethany is a first-generation daughter of immigrants who overcame many struggles to make sure she had opportunities they never had. Bethany's great-grandmother was an indentured worker from India and both of Bethany's parents were born in Guyana and were young immigrants in the United States of America and undocumented workers until 1986. Because of her ancestor's sacrifices, Bethany was the first in her family of 10 to go to college and graduate with a bachelor's degree.

Bethany graduated with a bachelor's degree in journalism from the University of Minnesota and has used those skills to fight for justice. Bethany has immediate family members who are undocumented and works with the Culinary Union fighting for comprehensive worker-centered immigration reform. As spokeswoman for Nevada's largest union and immigrant organization, Bethany is proud to use her digital and strategic communication skills to support workers in Nevada.

The Culinary Union, Nevada's largest union and immigrant organization, has improved the lives of over 800,000 Nevada hospitality workers and their families with middle-class union wages and good benefits. In 87 years, the Culinary Union has become an essential economic institution and a strong political force in the Battle Born State.

In the past 10 years, Bethany's communications and digital strategy has played a major role in the Culinary Union's campaign, organizing, and electoral work, especially in the last presidential election to defeat Trump.

The Culinary Union delivered Nevada for Joe Biden and Kamala Harris, and Bethany ran a comprehensive strategic communications program to support the largest political effort in state, which included 1.9 million emails and texts, completely in-house polling, digital persuasion social media ads targeting Nevada voters, "Trump Lies" video ads with over 11.4 million views via UNITE HERE's Take Back 2020 PAC, and uplifted the stories of workers who are fighting to take back their country. In 2020, the Culinary Union, under Bethany's leadership and direction, had over \$625 million unique earned-media stories uplifting directly impacted and frontline essential hospitality workers' voices that were featured in international, national, and local media markets.

Awards, recognitions, and nominations: Bethany was honored as a Trailblazer at the Asian



Meet the Speakers

Community Development Council's InspirAsian Gala in 2021, distinguished as a "40 under 40" award recipient at the American Association of Political Consultants in 2018, recognized on the National Association of Asian Pacifics in Politics & Public Affairs "40 under 40 List" in 2018, was named one of Vegas INC's "Women to Watch" in 2016, was nominated as a High Tech Woman of the Year in 2015 in the Vegas Women Tech Awards, and was proudly a World Food Championships Judge in 2014.



The Hon. Nima Kulkarni

*Kentucky State Representative,
40th Legislative District*

In 2018, Nima Kulkarni became the first Indian immigrant to be elected in the history of the Kentucky Legislature. She has also managed her own immigration law practice since 2010, helping others achieve the American Dream. Nima has dedicated her time as a public servant to helping the most vulnerable Kentuckians. She has been able to stop harmful anti-immigrant legislation, as well as gain bipartisan support for a historic bill that would ensure a fair and equitable judicial process for all Kentuckians.

In 2019, Nima was asked to serve as the only Democratic legislator on the Public Assistance Reform Taskforce. She was the first legislator from Kentucky to be invited to join the 2019 U.S.-Japan Council's Asian American Leadership Delegation program, one of just six (6) legislators asked to participate from across the country. She was also honored to be the first woman from Kentucky named as a NewDEAL Leader, a national group of rising state and local elected leaders who are pro-growth progressives.

In 2020, Nima was named as one of a handful of Louisville leaders to serve on the Mayor's Civilian Review Board Working Group, to achieve greater transparency, accountability, and trust between the community and law enforcement in the wake of Breonna Taylor's death. She continues to work on crafting comprehensive police reform legislation for Kentucky.

In 2021, Nima was recognized as a NewDEAL Ideas Challenge Winner for her work with the Kentucky Maternal and Infant Health Project. She was awarded the Daniel M. Alvarez Champion of Justice Award for her social justice work and for bringing our community together in calling for an end to racial and ethnic stereotyping amidst the rise in hate crimes against Asian Americans. She also cofounded a podcast called "Where Y'all Really From", to showcase Asian American stories in Kentucky.

Nima is focused on issues of economic, social, racial, and environmental justice for all Kentuckians. Most recently, she has sponsored legislation to decriminalize and fairly regulate adult cannabis use, establish a uniform bodycam policy for law enforcement, extend unemployment to domestic violence/stalking/sexual assault victims, create more equal footing between landlords and tenants, update and strengthen Kentucky's hate crime laws, and monitor and regulate "forever chemicals" in Kentucky's drinking water. Nima is the Kentucky State Lead for the National Council of Environmental Legislators, and represents Kentucky on a new nationwide task force to combat "Shoot First" laws.



Meet the Speakers

She is a progressive voice for her district, and works with colleagues on both sides of the aisle to create policy that empowers Kentuckians. Nima serves on the House Standing Committees on Judiciary, Economic Development, Agriculture, and Banking & Insurance. She is a member of the House Democratic Women's Caucus, the Kentucky Nonprofit Caucus, the Louisville Metropolitan Caucus, and of course, the Bourbon Trail Caucus.



Christina Kuo

Senior Strategist, Grassroots Solutions

Christina Kuo is a Senior Strategist with Grassroots Solutions based in Michigan. She brings over 18 years of advocacy, civic engagement, and campaign experience into her work with clients to help them better understand and expand the impact of their civic engagement and public engagement work through strategy development and evaluation.

Prior to joining Grassroots Solutions, Christina was the State and Local Campaigns Manager for the U.S. Green Building Council, where she worked with members of USGBC's state-based chapters to develop strategic grassroots and grassroots advocacy programs in key states. In addition, she educated and directly lobbied policymakers in state legislatures and at the local government level on energy efficiency related policy and green affordable housing. Before USGBC, she was the Deputy Political Director at OFA Michigan for President Obama's 2012 re-election campaign working with political and celebrity surrogates to educate voters about President Obama's achievements, as well as organizing the Michigan Women for Obama volunteer and voter outreach effort.

She began her career in issue advocacy and campaigns, while at the University of the Michigan, as a community organizer for reproductive rights. She has worked on numerous advocacy campaigns on campaign finance reform, redistricting, and issues concerning the nonprofit sector that have bridged community organizing, grassroots advocacy, civic engagement, and legislative lobbying strategies.

She holds a law degree from Thomas M. Cooley Law School in Michigan, with a concentration in administrative law, and is a licensed attorney in Michigan. She received her B.As. in Political Science and Women's Studies from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. She was named to the 2017 40 Under 40 for the National Association of Asian Americans in Politics and Public Affairs.



Meet the Speakers



Vida Chan Lin

*President and Founder,
Asian Community Development Council*

Vida Chan Lin has worked closely with the Las Vegas Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community for the past 26 years. She currently serves as the founder and president of the Asian Community Development Council (ACDC), the first and only non-profit community development corporation in Nevada established to educate, connect and empower the fastest growing demographic in the United States.

Through the creation of ACDC, Ms. Lin has created a space for vital resources for the AAPI community. She developed the first Asian food pantry in Nevada, providing culturally appropriate food that meets the dietary needs of AAPI as part of the first steps to tackle food insecurity. She has created both COVID-19 and flu pop-up vaccination clinics with the goal of serving individuals with limited English proficiency. ACDC also assists with health insurance enrollment, free citizenship assistance, translation, and voter registration. ACDC hosts College Readiness Bootcamp, GraduAsian, Asian Night Market, Asian Small Business Week, among others.

A 20+ year insurance broker who built an insurance agency committed to serving diverse minority communities, Ms. Lin actively serves on various boards, including the Nevada Equity Cabinet, Asian American Pacific Islanders County Commission, College of Southern Nevada Diversity Council, KTNV Diversity Panel, Esperanza Fund, and UNLV University Libraries. She is one of the co-founders of OCA, Las Vegas Chapter, an AAPI advocacy and civil rights group, and is currently an Executive Council Member of the AARP Nevada Executive Council. Ms. Lin has also served as past President of the Asian Chamber of Commerce Las Vegas, former Secretary for the FBI Las Vegas Citizen Alumni Association, and former Board Member for the Nevada System of Higher Education Chancellor's Roundtable.

Ms. Lin has been chosen as a guest speaker for various leadership and advocacy conferences. Ms. Lin has also won numerous awards and recognitions. She was chosen to represent Las Vegas on the National Association of Professional Women, and was also chosen as a "Woman who Means Business" in 2010, an elite business award conferred by the Las Vegas Business Press. In 2017, she won the Nevada State College President's Medal, a prestigious award honouring distinguished local leaders for their dedication to the college. In 2019, she was awarded the YWCA Women of Excellence Social Action and Community Awareness Award.



Meet the Speakers



The Hon. Jan-le Low

Former President's Advisory Commissioner, White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders

Jan-le Low held multiple strategic and senior-level positions in human resources for 12 years with Fortune 500 companies AT&T Wireless and T-Mobile USA. With a passion to take the entrepreneurial plunge, Jan-le left corporate America in 2005 and started SATAY Thai Bistro & Bar. In 2021, SATAY celebrated its 16th year and was named by TripAdvisor® as one of the highest-rated Asian restaurants in Las Vegas.

In the course of organizing special events at SATAY, Jan-le launched Golden Catalyst, a public relations, event planning, and marketing firm specializing in multicultural segments. Established in 2008, Golden Catalyst continues to organize business summits, conventions, and political events nationwide. Her signature city-wide celebration, CNY in the Desert™, celebrated its 11th year in 2022 and was named by Forbes Magazine as "One of the Top 8 Places in the United States to Celebrate Chinese New Year".

As a college intern and as a young professional, Jan-le experienced the significant impact that true mentorship can make. Paying this forward is a top priority and at any given time, she is coaching and mentoring students, young professionals, and entrepreneurs.

Jan-le was appointed and served as a commissioner of the White House Initiatives for Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (WHIAAPI) under President Donald J. Trump and she continued to serve under President Joe Biden until May 2021. The commission's charge was to work with all the agencies of the federal government to improve the health, education, and economic status of AAPI communities.

Jan-le is committed to serving her community, donating her time to organizations such as Chefs for Kids, Nevada Small Business Council, AAPI Restaurants, and Las Vegas China Town Lions Club. On February 2, 2022, she was awarded the Citizen of the Month by Mayor Pro Tem and the City of Las Vegas. She was also awarded the President's Volunteer Service Award in 2020 by the Corporation for National and Community Service and President Donald J. Trump. Jan-le was recognized by the Asian American Group Las Vegas as one of the "Community Achievement Award" honorees in 2017 and Vegas Inc. as one of the "Women to Watch in 2012". She currently serves on the Advisory Board for the Young Asian Pacific American Leaders and is the Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Council of Women's Chamber of Commerce of Nevada, which recognized her as an ATHENA® International Leadership Award Honoree in 2021 and recognized SATAY as the "2011 Minority Business of the Year."

Jan-le earned a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration from the University of Washington.



Meet the Speakers



Madalene Xuan-Trang Mielke

President and CEO, APAICS

Madalene Xuan-Trang Mielke is the President & CEO of the Asian Pacific American Institute for Congressional Studies (APAICS) and Founder and Principal of Arum Group, LLC. She brings nearly 25 years of experience working in political campaigns and specializes in political/non-profit fundraising and political training. Ms. Mielke began her professional career working at the Democratic National Committee (DNC) in the Training Division of the Political Department and later for the Clinton/Gore Coordinated '96 campaign as a Regional Field Director in Pennsylvania.

After returning from the '96 campaign, Ms. Mielke worked for the Co-Executive Director at the Presidential Inaugural Committee and later on Vice President Gore's team. Ms. Mielke started fundraising while working at the New Democrat Network PAC and she returned to her roots as the Training Director for the Ron Brown-Paul Tully Institute (BTI), the training arm of the DNC. In 2002, Ms. Mielke started her political consulting firm, specializing in fundraising and political training. Madalene has collaborated with national organizations and federal campaigns of all levels to raise millions of dollars to empower communities of color.

Madalene is a proud graduate of Tulane University, Newcomb College. She serves as a mentor through a variety of collegiate mentoring programs including the Newcomb College Institute Women to Women Mentoring Program and Georgetown University's Politics Mentorship Program.



Danielle Moon

Director of Programs and Community Engagement, APAICS

Prior to joining APAICS, Danielle worked for Congressman Joaquin Castro (D-TX) as an advisor on the Congressman's AAPI Civic Engagement, Energy, Environment/Natural Resources, Banking/Financial Services, Foreign Affairs, Science/Space, and Animal Welfare legislative portfolio. In addition to her legislative work, Danielle managed the Congressman's role as co-Chair in the U.S.-Japan Caucus and Congressional Caucus on ASEAN, and Chairmanship of the United States-Spain Council.

As Founder & former President, Danielle serves as an Advisory Board member of the Clean Energy and Technology Staff Association, a bipartisan and bicameral congressional staff association dedicated to educating and promoting the adoption of clean energy technologies among Capitol Hill staff. Danielle also serves as an Advisory Member to the Capitol Hill Community Service Staff Association (CHCSA) bringing congressional staff together for community service projects throughout the Washington, D.C. area.



Meet the Speakers

Prior to joining Congressman Castro's office, Danielle served as an appointee with the Obama Administration at the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE). During her time at DOE, Danielle worked as Special Advisor for Strategic Planning in the Office of Secretary and Office of Nuclear Energy, where she worked on PUNT (Peaceful Use of Nuclear Technology) Agreement with China.

Prior to moving to Washington, D.C., Danielle worked as a Field Manager for Environment America in Syracuse, New York for re-elect President Obama and New York Congressional candidates, where she managed and trained canvassers. Danielle received her B.A. in Political Science and Chinese Studies from Syracuse University.



Kimberly Sawyer

Texas Program Director, ReflectUS

Kimberly is very dedicated in serving others, leadership development and giving back to her community. Kimberly was a member of the 2018 Inaugural Fellowship for New Leaders Council Dallas. Kimberly is passionate about collective impact and developing community. Kimberly also serves as Treasurer of the Alpha Omicron Sigma Charitable Foundation - the charitable arm of the Dallas Chapter of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. The main foci for the foundation include youth empowerment and educational enrichment. Kimberly is also an active member of the Junior League of Dallas where recently she currently serves at the Membership Chair. She is a founding member of the HERitage Giving Fund, which combines their gifts and give to organizations that use innovative approaches to serve African-American women and girls, so that they can achieve success. Her connection started a couple years ago with ReflectUs with her participation in our Texas Women's Leadership Council, focused on working across racial, ethnic, geographic, and ideological spectrums to provide a network of support for all Texas women in their political journeys. Lastly, Kimberly is finishing up her last year of graduate studies at the Clinton School of Public Service at the University of Arkansas, Little Rock.

By virtue of her life's experiences, Kimberly is passionate about health care issues and has become a powerful advocate for Health Equity, Women's Health, and Children & Youth. She serves as the Board Secretary for Sisters Network Dallas, a community-based organization comprised of African-American breast cancer survivors.

In her spare time, you will find Kimberly enjoying her Peloton, attending hot yoga classes, traveling and spending time with her friends and family.



Meet the Speakers



The Hon. Chanpone Sinlapasai

Judge Multnomah County Circuit Court, Oregon

The Honorable Chanpone Sinlapasai was appointed to the Multnomah County Circuit Court by Governor Kate Brown and was sworn in as a circuit court judge on September 20, 2021. She is assigned to the court's general trial docket, presiding over both civil and criminal matters.

Judge Sinlapasai was born in Laos and came to America as a Refugee in 1980. She was resettled in Stockton, California and was raised in Northern California. She earned her Bachelor of Arts in English and Philosophy from Santa Clara University in 1998. She earned her J.D. from Northwestern School of Law at Lewis & Clark College in May 2002. She began her legal career as an advocate for victims of crime and violence at Immigrant Refugee Community Organization and Catholic Charities. She later became an Associate for the Law Office of John Marandas. She became a member and partner of Marandas Sinlapasai Garcia, LLC.

Judge Sinlapasai's legal practice focused on cases involving the protection of victims' rights throughout the immigration process. She represented clients in removal defense proceedings and assisted in her client's cases both in the federal and state criminal justice systems. She founded programs to assist immigrant and refugees, such as Refugee Adjustment Day (RAD), citizenship workshops, and know your rights clinics in partnership with community partners and specialty bars. As an attorney she tirelessly advocated for the community, especially marginalized communities throughout the litigation system.

Judge Sinlapasai is a past chair and commissioner of the Oregon Commission on Asian Pacific Islander Affair, Board member of Oregon, American Civil Liberties Union, Past chair and board member of the Immigrant Refugee Community Organization, Federal Bureau of Investigation Citizens Academy and the Federal and State task force on Anti-Human trafficking team. As an attorney, her firm was a member of the Mexican Consulates Protection Team. Judge Sinlapasai is a member Oregon Women Lawyers (OWLS), Oregon Pacific Asian American Bar Association (OPABA), Oregon Minority Lawyers Association (OMLA), and Multnomah Bar Association (MBA). Judge Sinlapasai speaks at continuing legal education seminars for the Oregon State Bar, the U.S. Attorney's Office, Oregon Department of Justice, Oregon's specialty bars, and State and Federal Law Enforcement, to name a few.

Outside of the court, Judge Sinlapasai loves spending time with her family, hiking, reading books, and cooking with her family.



Meet the Speakers



The Hon. Pat Spearman

Nevada Senate, District 1

Dr. Pat Spearman is an American cleric, veteran, and Democratic politician from North Las Vegas, Nevada. She was elected in November 2012 to the Nevada Senate representing District 1, that is composed of the northern section of North Las Vegas and slivers of neighboring jurisdictions, after defeating the incumbent in the primary, and winning the general election. Spearman became the first openly lesbian member of the Nevada Legislature. She was re-elected in November 2016, and serves as co-majority whip since. She is regarded as one of the most liberal members of the Nevada Senate. In 2017, Dr. Spearman introduced and was instrumental to the passage of a resolution to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA), making Nevada the 36th state to vote to ratify the 1972 ERA. She has introduced bills that provide equal pay for women, support LGBT rights, and support veterans. Moreover, she was involved in the process of establishing the Nevada Revenue Plan during the 2015 session. On October 6, 2021, Spearman entered the 2022 race for Mayor of North Las Vegas, Nevada.

Before being elected senator, Spearman served in the United States Army for 29 years, reaching the rank of lieutenant colonel, was a pastor, and held several public service positions, including president of the school district of San Marcos, Texas.

Dr. Spearman holds several accredited degrees; a Bachelor of Science (BS) in Political Science from the Norfolk State University, Norfolk, VA; a Master of Divinity (M.Div.) from The Seminary of the Southwest; and a Doctorate of Business Administration (DBA) from Walden University.

Dr. Spearman is an Ordained Minister, former Pastor, and serves on the Global Social Justice Ministry Team of The Fellowship of Affirming Ministries, Retired Lieutenant Colonel (U.S. Army), former part-time lecturer at the University of Louisville, and a Nevada State Senator representing Senate District 1.

Dr. Spearman has served as Chair of the Committee on Legislative Operations and Elections, Vice Chair of Government Affairs, member of Revenue & Economic Development, Commerce Labor & Energy, Health and Human Service, and Transportation committees in the Nevada State Legislature. She also serves as the Chair of Active Military and Veterans Affairs subcommittee for the Counsel of State Governments, member of the Energy Resource Task Force, and the Natural Resources and Infrastructure Committee of the National Conference of State Legislators. Her doctoral study, Using Sustainable Development as a Competitive Strategy, provided her the opportunity to gain professional and academic expertise to facilitate improvements in the rural electric industry.

Dr. Spearman is also an active member of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority. She enjoys, travel, learning about different cultures, music, and spending time with her family.



Meet the Speakers



The Hon. Sheng Thao

Oakland Council President Pro Tempore

Councilmember Sheng Thao (District 4) was elected in 2018, and currently serves as Council President Pro Tem. She is a daughter of Hmong refugees, and a domestic violence survivor, who was homeless for a time as a young mother. She went on to graduate as valedictorian from Oakland's Merritt College, transferring to UC Berkeley where she helped co-found the Bear Pantry.

She joined the City Council staff and later became the first Hmong-American woman Councilmember in California history. Sheng brings her tenacity, creativity and perseverance to lead Oakland at this critical time.

She has been recognized for her leadership and ability to unite stakeholders and received the 2021 Powerful Women of the Bay Award, and was honored by the Alameda Labor Council as a champion for working families. Her candidacy has united organized labor, community leaders, elected officials and big and small business.



Tammy Thien-Tam Tran

*Senior Manager, Local Public Affairs
Southern California Edison*

Tammy Tran has over 15 years of experience working in government, media, and nonprofit organizations. Currently, Tammy serves as Senior Manager in Local Public Affairs at Southern California Edison (SCE), leading its Orange County Government Relations Team. Tammy joined SCE in 2013 as Senior Community Liaison where she had responsibility for developing, maintaining, and enhancing strategic engagement and partnerships with community stakeholders across SCE's service territory. In this role, she also served as a strategist to inform SCE's senior management about important matters that impact diverse communities. Tammy have served in other roles including Government Relations Manager, Senior Manager for Community Engagement, and President of Ascend, SCE's Asian Pacific Islander Employee Resource Group.

Prior SCE, she served as Deputy Chief of Staff and District Director for then California State Senator Lou Correa. She has also served as a campaign manager, political consultant, executive director for a nonprofit combating human trafficking, policy advisor to a member of the Orange County Board of Supervisors, and field representative for a California State Assembly Member. Tammy, being fully bilingual, has also co-hosted a weekly current events Vietnamese television program aimed at promoting civic engagement and bringing government closer to the people.



Meet the Speakers

Tammy is a community organizer at heart. She is strong champion for Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion (DEI) in the workplace and in leadership across different sectors. She is advocate for youth leadership, political engagement, and civic participation. She regularly volunteers to mentor immigrants, college and high school students with career coaching, internship, and job placements. She is an active board member of several nonprofits including her children's school Parent Teacher Association, Orange County Youth, Orange County Forum, DEI Advisory Committee for the Rancho Santiago Community College District, Asian Americans in Action, and the Center for Asian Americans United for Self-Empowerment (CAUSE).

A proud product of Orange County public schools, Tammy earned a Bachelor of Arts in International Relations with a minor in Health Communications and Masters in Public Administration. Both degrees are from the University of Southern California. Tammy and her husband live in Little Saigon and are the proud parents of two active, bilingual citizens of Planet Earth, Annalise-Quynh & Viet-Zander.



Danni Wang
Campaign Strategist

Danni Wang is a deputy director of campaign communications at EMILY's List, advising on campaigns for federal and gubernatorial candidates. Previously, she served as the communications director for three members of the California State Legislature and a red-to-blue congressional campaign. She graduated from the University of Southern California and led her college newspaper as editor-in-chief her senior year.

Originally from Overland Park, Kansas, Danni now lives in Los Angeles. She now considers herself an Angeleno — except when it comes to the Kansas City Royals!



Shu-Yen Wei
Campaign Manager, Congressman Steven Horsford

Shu-Yen Wei has worked to elect Democrats up and down the ballot for the past 10 years, first in political and communications roles and then transitioning to managing campaigns. She started her career working as a junior staffer in the office of former Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid but later jumped on the campaign trail, living and working in different places like Louisiana, Ohio, New Jersey and Virginia. She is based in Las Vegas and serves as campaign manager for Congressman Steven Horsford's re-election race. She was previously a regional director for the state and local team at EMILY's List, helping to grow the ranks of pro-choice Democratic women in office. She is originally from Maine.



Meet the Speakers



The Hon. Dr. Martha Wong

Chair, Texas State Library and Archives Commission

Dr. Martha J. Wong, a native Houstonian, is a third generation Chinese American. Wong is the first Asian American elected to the Houston City Council and the first Asian American woman elected to the Texas House of Representatives. Earlier in her career, Dr. Wong also was the first Asian American to serve as School Principal in the State of Texas and to also serve as Associate Superintendent in HISD.

Dr. Wong is a recognized leader in both the Asian American and the greater Houston Community. She currently serves on the Boards / Advisory Boards University of Texas Health School of Medical Bio Informatics, the Texas Library and Archives Commission, the Asian Pacific American Heritage Association (co-founder), and the Texas Asian American Assembly (founder and past chair). She also served as the Vice President of the Houston Chapter of the American Leadership Forum, the Houston Olympic 2012 Foundation, the Chair of the South Central Region Arthritis Foundation and the Texas Arthritis Foundation, Greenway Council of Homeowners, and the Memorial West Republican Women's Board.

She has been recognized for community service and dedication by the Greater Houston Women's Foundation, the Houston Lion's Eye Bank, the National Conference of Christian and Jews, the Texas Asian Republican Caucus, the Young Women's Christian Association, the Upper Kirby District, TREK, the Texas Council of Women School Executives, the Chinese Community Center, the Variety Children's Charity, Greater Houston OCA, The University of Texas at Austin's Community Leadership Circle, the National Chinese American Citizen's Alliance, the Asian Network Association, and the Asian Pacific American Heritage Association with the George H.W. Bush Award for Service. In 2020, Governor Abbott appointed her as the Chair of the Texas Library and Archives Commission. In March 2022, KPRC, Channel 2, Houston, chose Dr. Wong as one of "14 Trailblazing Women who left a lasting mark on Houston and Beyond."

Dr. Wong earned a Bachelor degree from the University of Texas and a Masters and Doctorate from the University of Houston, where she has also been recognized as a Distinguished Alumnus by the University of Houston Alumni Association and the UH College of Education Alumni.



Asian Pacific American Institute for Congressional Studies

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.

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