



NATIONAL ASIAN AMERICAN COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

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ASPIRE

awards



Some of the most powerful and influential Asian American philanthropic, business and social leaders celebrated the official launch of the groundbreaking [National Asian American Community Foundation](#) at the inaugural ASPIRE Awards Gala on June 14, 2019 in Costa Mesa, California.

The sold out event brought together over 300 guests who enthusiastically supported the first-of-its-kind initiative to unify philanthropic efforts within the Asian American, Native Hawaiian & Pacific Islander (AANHPI) communities in order to increase their collective impact.

The glamorous black-tie gala held at the Renee and Henry Segerstrom Concert Hall also honored the many achievements and contributions of Filmmaker Aneesh Chaganty, Film Producer Teddy Zee, United Exchange Corp Founders Carol and Eugene Choi, Advance Beauty College President Dr. Tam Nguyen and Senior Director of International and Domestic Markets at South Coast Plaza, Brian Chuan.

“We have been divided and fragmented for far too long as a community. But it is our time - to join together, to harness our collective power and to focus on the things that unite us not divide us. Now, more than ever, we need a national organization that can be a united voice for our communities,” said Sylvia Kim in her speech as the Founding Director of the National Asian American Community Foundation (NAACF).

Other notable gala guests were:

William Wang (Founder & CEO of Vizio), Charlie Zhang (Founder of Pick up Stix), Anne Shih (Chairwoman of the Bowers Museum), Bhikubai Patel (Founder of Tarsadia Hotels Inc. and the Tarsadia Family Foundation), Kevin Lin (Co-Founder & COO of Twitch), Bing Chen

(Co-Founder of Gold House), Chris Pang (actor), Benny Luo (Founder & CEO of NextShark), Jason Lee (Founder & CEO of Jubilee Media), Michelle La (actress), Eduardo Lee (Co-founder of Wahoo's Fish Taco), Ben Chung (dance choreographer and member of award-winning dance crews Kinjaz and Jabbawockeez), Osric Chau (actor and filmmaker) and Aiko Tanaka (actress/comedian).

The ASPIRE Awards Gala also featured live performances by Grammy-award winning singer Judith Hill and Pacific Symphony Concertmaster Dennis Kim. The inaugural event raised over \$1.1M which will go towards NAAC Foundation's efforts to establish a permanent community reserve that will ensure a bright future for the next generation of Asian Americans.

As Lifetime Achievement Award winner, Teddy Zee, noted, "The seeds we are sowing today will bear incredible fruit for generations to come".

The creation of the **NAAC Foundation** is, in part, a result of the AANHPI's rapid growth and influence in the U.S. AANHPIs are the fastest growing population, the fastest growing voting bloc and are expanding their influence in business, politics and entertainment across the globe at lightning speed. AANHPIs are projected to be the largest immigrant group in the United States by 2055. The NAAC Foundation recognizes this as a pivotal time for the community and is set on harnessing the power of collective philanthropy to use it to serve, not only, the Asian community, but also to positively impact American society as a whole.

Photos from the gala are available for media purposes so please contact us and we will be happy to provide.

For more information about NAAC Foundation, please visit our [website](#).

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