

AAPI Arts Leaders Statement

15% Now: Budget Equity for AAPI Artists

Who We Are

AAPI Arts Leaders Roundtable is a collective that gathers monthly to connect with each other, share relevant information and resources, build and maintain relationships, and discuss issues specific to the AAPI arts and culture community in New York City.¹

Why We Exist

We exist to advocate and call for equitable representation and funding appropriation for the AAPI arts community.

According to the [15% and Growing Campaign](#), the community of over 1 million AAPI is the fastest-growing racial/ethnic group in New York City representing 15% of the population. Despite these indicators, in fiscal year 2020, Asian-led and serving organizations received only 4.37% of City Council discretionary dollars, less than 4% of Department of Cultural Affairs funding, and less than 1.5% of social service contract dollars.

There are several barriers to accessing granting opportunities for AAPI communities, including language, guidance, and experience. This is a consistent problem, and it's time to ensure equitable representation and funding appropriation for the AAPI arts community.

What We Want

We are calling for increased funding for AAPI led and serving arts organizations that proportionally reflects the AAPI population size of 15% in New York City. Proposed changes to the city's cultural funding system that would help accomplish this include:

- **Equitable Funding**
 - Setting 15% as the benchmark in distributing funds to AAPI led and serving organizations in NYC.
 - Increase funding to AAPI regranting service organizations who are most aware of the landscape and have a demonstrated connection with the community to distribute funds smaller local organizations and artists
 - Increase and prioritize unrestricted funding for potential grantees.
- **Accessibility**
 - Including AAPI arts leaders on all cultural grant decision-making processes, to provide a cultural lens to evaluate the strength of proposals.
 - Conducting comprehensive outreach to the AAPI community with timely announcements of grant opportunities.
 - We ask for language accessibility and support throughout the application process and reporting.
- **Transparency and Accountability**
 - We ask for data and statistics regarding funding to AAPI organizations be made publicly available.
 - Streamlining the grantmaking process to increase accessibility for people with English as a second language and/or organizations with a small staff/limited resources.

¹ While we use AAPI, we recognize it is imperfect. We use AAPI to encompass all who identify as part of the Asian diaspora including AAPI (Asian American Pacific Islander), API (Asian Pacific Islander), APIDA (Asian Pacific Islander Desi American), SWANA (Southwest Asian and North African), APA (Asian Pacific American), AANHPI (Asian American Native Hawaiian Pacific Islander), and more.

Sources:

- [15% and Growing Strategy by CACF](#)
- [CreateNYC Cultural Plan](#)
- [Creating New Futures](#)
- [AAPI 2020 Philanthropy Report](#)
- [SMU DataArts Report: COVID Impact on NYC Arts Orgs](#)
- [Creative Economy Report by Scott Stringer's Office](#)
- [AAF Stats of AAPIs by City Council District](#)
- [AAPAC Visibility Report](#)
- [NYU map of Asians in New York City](#)
- [NYU Center for the Study of Asian American Health](#)
- [Bank of America boosts commitment to racial equity to \\$1.25 billion](#)
- [AAPI philanthropic leaders call for solidarity, action against hate](#)
- [AAPIP: funding-for-asian-american-pacific-islander-communities](#)

Signed (as of 7/8/21)

Aida A. Bartolome, Foundation for Filipino Artists, Inc.
Amanda Zhang, China Residencies
Amy Chin, Think!Chinatown (DBA for CREATE in Chinatown, Inc.)
Amy Hau
Andrew Chiang, Nai-Ni Chen Dance Company, Inc.
Andrew Hsiao, Verso Books
Andrew Suseno, Parcon Resilience
Angela Miskis, Angela Miskis Arts LLC & Abuela Neighborhood Maintenance
Angeline Gragasin, Happy Family Night Market
Anjali Goyal, South Asian Women's Creative Collective
Ariel Estrada, Leviathan Lab
Arun Ramamurthy, Brooklyn Raga Massive
Blu Furutate
Brinda Guha, Kalamandir Dance Company, Dance/NYC, Soles of Duende, Wise Fruit NYC
Carlos Fittante, BALAM Dance Theatre
Cathy Linh Che, Kundiman
Cinthia Chen
Damon Banks, Creative Strings Improvisers Ensemble
David Younghwan Lee
Dian Dong, Chen Dance Center
Elizabeth Cowperthwaite
Fang-Ting Yeh
Gargi Shinde, Chamber Music America
Gavin Trinidad
Hayoon Jay Lee, KAK
Hayoung Roh
Hannes Bend
Helen Koh, Art Science Connect
Heng-Gil Han, Korea Art Forum
J. Faye Yuan, New Circle Films

Jafreen Uddin, Asian American Writers' Workshop
Jeffrey Michael Rebudal, Rebudal Dance
Jennifer Fok, Jennifer Fok Lighting
Jenny Xie
Jesse Obremski, Obremski/Works and OUR PATHS
Jessica Chen, J CHEN PROJECT
Joseph O. Legaspi, Kundiman
Joyce Yu, Asian Women Giving Circle
Julia Azuma, Different Roads to Learning, Inc.
Julia Kim Flasphaler, Kundiman
Julie H. Tay, Mencius Society for the Arts
Kamala Cesar, Lotus Music & Dance
Karesia Batan, Queensboro Dance Festival
Karissa Chen, Hyphen magazine
Kayhan Irani, Artivista Productions
Keerati Jinakunwiphat
Kevin Suzuki, The Japanese Folk Dance Institute of New York
Kyoung H. Park, Kyoung's Pacific Beat
Lee Uehara, Asian American Podcasters Association
Liang Ming, New York Hanfu Corporation
Lily Chang, Asian Women Giving Circle
Linda Kuo, Dancers Unlimited
Lisa Chen
Lisa Gold, Asian American Arts Alliance
Lisa Ly
Lisette Morel
Marcelo Chan, Glow Community Center
Mary-Angela Granberry
Maura Nguyen Donohue, Hunter College Dance MFA Program
Melani De Guzman, breatheMDG
Mia Katigbak, National Asian American Theatre Co., Inc.
Nami Yamamoto
Nandita Shenoy, AAPAC
Norbert De La Cruz III, Independent artist
Parijat Desai, Parijata Dance Company
Paz Tanjuaquio, TOPAZ ARTS, Inc.
Peter Cheng, PETER + CO.
Phil Chan, Final Bow for Yellowface
Potrirankamanis Queano Nur, Kinding Sindaw Heritage Foundation, Inc.
Praveen Ramamurthy, Brooklyn Raga Massive
Priscilla Son, Asian American Arts Alliance
Ralph B. Peña, Ma-Yi Theater Company
Rejin Leys
Robert Lee, Asian American Arts Centre
Rocky Chin, Asian American Bar Association & Asian American Law Fund of NY***For identification purposes only*
Rohan Bhargava, Rovaco Dance Company

Sabina Sethi Unni, Fresh Lime Soda Productions
Shoko Tamai, Ninja Ballet
Sung Ho Choi, Korea Art Forum
Susan Cheng, Music From China, Inc.
Sunny Hitt
Symin Adiva
Tomie Arai
Virginia Myung
Xiang Xu, Xiang Xu Dance
Xin Xin
Ying Yen, New York Chinese Cultural Center
Yooah Park, Korean Art Foundation
Young Soon Kim, WHITE WAVE Young Soon Kim Dance Company