

WHAT WE ACCOMPLISHED

Last year's #PP10K, our People Movers fundraiser raised over \$10,000. That \$10,000 resulted in system-wide impact for low-income Asian immigrant communities. In the past 12 months, CAAAV has worked on:



PROTECTING AFFORDABLE HOUSING IN CHINATOWN

- Our Chinatown Tenants Union works with residents in Manhattan's Chinatown to organize tenant associations to fight corrupt landlords trying to evict long-time tenants.
- In our pursuit to organize and build power of low-income immigrant Asian tenants, in June 2018, Chinatown Tenants Union (CTU) staff and dozens of members organized and participated in the Rent Guidelines Board hearings and gave their testimonies in hope of a rent freeze. In Chinatown and across New York City, one million rent-stabilized tenants are struggling with rent burden while landlords continue to profit off of working-class families. Our tenants and members stood in the podium and shared their lived experiences about living in a rent-stabilized apartment where landlords continue to prey on them, increase their rent for unjust reasons, poor living conditions, and illegal evictions. Our tenants joined hundreds of tenants from across New York City to organize one of the most well-coordinating 300+ people direct action we have had at a Rent Guidelines Board Final Vote. While we were disappointed with the board's decision to reject a rent freeze and vote for an increase of 1.5% on 1-year leases and 2.5% on 2 year-leases, it was heartening to see people from across the city unite together to protect their communities and still fight for one of the lowest rent increases compared to historically 7% increases for decades.

- Chinatown Tenants Union has working with local organizations, elected officials, and Community Board 3 in effort to form a strong alignment in our community rezoning and to help present community rezoning needs to Department of City Planning. Developers are trying to build three [high-rise buildings in Chinatown's waterfront area](#) and we are trying to bring community needs to the forefront.



DEMANDING LANGUAGE ACCESS FOR IMMIGRANTS

- Our NYCHA Organizing Project [published *No Access: The Need for Improved Language Access*](#), the first ever report on the experiences and policy recommendations of Asian immigrants in public housing leading to [NYCHA adding Mandarin and Cantonese](#) to their Central Call Center in addition to English and Spanish. This win has opened the window to push for other Asian languages including Bangla and Korean.
- Our NYCHA Organizing Project is currently meeting with NYCHA's leadership team to deliberate further language access reforms: stronger data racking of language access needs, interpretation for call-in repairs services, and increased funding for NYCHA staffing and services for LEP residents.
- While we worked with a Council Member to get a bill introduced on language access that would impact NYCHA, it was also important to uplift the voices of limited English proficient immigrant tenants' voices through an ongoing campaign. To show the city what 3.07 million immigrants are facing on a daily basis, when they are not able to read or understand important documents, CAAAV members mailed in 200 testimonies not translated into English and only written in Bangla, Korean, and Chinese. Although there is Executive Order 120 that mandates language access in some of the key public agencies, NYCHA is excluded from this administrative code. We are calling for any city

funded agency, particularly NYCHA, to follow the basic guidelines of the executive order. This may be a simple ask, but our members have a right to live in safe conditions, and it starts with having the ability to advocate for themselves, and to stand in their power.



FOSTERING GRASSROOTS LEADERS

- CAAAV trained our immigrant members to develop organizing skills that catalyzed our organizing victories: community outreach, public speaking, direct action coordination, etc. Through leadership development, our members see they are not just victims of issues, but can enact systemic change.
- Our Asian Youth in Action was on hold, but our youth were still involved in the organization. Youth interned in our Archival Project and helped archive three decades of CAAAV's history and youth were a part of the Sadie Nash Leadership Project, a space where youth women and femmes were able to discuss topics like identity, self-esteem, and decision-making, all of which contribute to building power and leadership of our youth.
- CAAAV's members are building bridges across communities of color to fight for collective liberation. CAAAV helped coordinate direct actions like the End Family Separation march in June 2018 where we advocated for a broader movement for immigration reform and uniting of families that are separated. Our members hosted events like the Eid celebration, Lunar New Year event, and the summer celebration.



WHY SUPPORT CAAAV RIGHT NOW?

This upcoming year, CAAAV is staffing up our own capacity so we can win the victories our low-income Asian immigrant communities need to keep New York affordable and livable. We are thrilled to announce that Sasha Wijeyeratne will be the new Executive Director of CAAAV: Organizing Asian Communities. Sasha will come to the organization with years of organizing and leadership skills, so let's rally our supporters and donors to make a contribution in the PP15K to welcome Sasha! And let's make sure we don't lose momentum and can continue to advocate for low-income immigrant communities!

Our campaign for Equitable Rezoning has the potential to protect affordable housing and tenant rights in Chinatown/LES for many years to come, but we need your support now to succeed. And the push for the Language Access campaign will not only impact public housing residents, but communities from all over the city. So let your friends and network know: CAAAV's accomplishments are possible because of community support and ask them to contribute today.