

We beat Amazon out of Queens!

We fight until we win! Through people power, we kicked the richest man and the biggest corporation in the world out of our neighborhood. CAAAV organizes Asian tenants in the Queensbridge Houses, the largest public housing development in the country, encompassing 7,000 people. Our members living in the Queensbridge Houses and nearby neighborhoods are working class and come from immigrant families. Our members live in poor conditions and often deal with long wait times for repairs. No one is held accountable for the times our thousands of tenants are living without heat and hot water. Immigrants are afraid to make repair calls because of the language barrier. We have been demanding changes and investments to happen in our communities, yet over and over again we have been told that we do not have enough funding or resources to meet those demands. We got into this fight to protect our homes from gentrification and displacement, and are staying in this fight until we have economic development focused on people, not corporations.



Rent Stabilized Tenants Win Groundbreaking Protections!

For years, Chinatown tenants have been fighting predatory equity landlords and real estate speculators, who buy rent-stabilized buildings and systematically kick long-time residents to the curb in order to raise rents and speed up gentrification. But on Friday, June 14, that fight got a

little bit easier. After a long season of organizing and mobilizing for tenants across New York State, led by the Housing Justice for All Coalition, the state legislature passed the Housing Stability and Tenant Protection Act of 2019 into law. The new law eliminates or reforms loopholes that predatory landlords have used to unfairly raise rents and systematically de-regulate rent stabilized units, such as the vacancy bonus, preferential rents, and IAI rent increases.

CAAHV and CTU members are hopeful that changing these loopholes will make displacement a less profitable business strategy in Chinatown and beyond —these headlines agree. However, even as the tenant movement demonstrated its power, we also lost out on a reform proposal that would have provided immediate rent relief to many Chinatown residents - the elimination of Major Capital Improvement (MCI) rent increases.

It's been a busy season for CTU members, who have been mobilizing around both the rent laws and annual Rent Guidelines Board hearings, but we are committed to continuing the fight to win on MCIs and beyond. Read more about rent laws and rent protections.



Two Bridges Proposal is Struck Down, Major Victory for CAAHV!

In August, we won a major victory in the fight against gentrification in Chinatown and the Lower East Side. New York State Supreme Court issued a decision nullifying city approval of the proposal for three luxury megatowers in the Two Bridges neighborhood. Judge Arthur Engoron ruled that no permits should be issued and no construction can begin, unless the developers

re-apply and [undergo a more stringiest form of public review](#). This is not a permanent victory - it's an opportunity, a major delay in construction which will allow our community to push for [changes in local zoning laws](#) that will protect our waterfront from overdevelopment for the long haul. What does that mean for Chinatown and CAAAV's Chinatown Tenants Union Members? CTU members have fought for years to protect the waterfront and Two Bridges neighborhood, with the understanding that luxury development along the waterfront has been a driving force of gentrification in many NYC neighborhoods, like Williamsburg and Long Island City. A delay in tower construction means time for our community to organize and strategize. Two Bridges needs a rezoning, and now we have a real opportunity to make that future possible. A heartfelt thank you to our allies at TUFF-LES and GOLES, to our legal representation at Takeroot Justice, to the many other organizations like ANHD and CCCE who have worked on our rezoning proposal, to the elected officials, and to everyone that has been with us in this fight so far.



Asian Youth in Action is Back!

Our Asian Youth in Action (AYA) program rebooted this summer and we welcomed a cohort of 13 youth, ages 14-18 years old. AYA is a six-week long program, consisting of weekly meetings centering around political education and skills-building workshops. So far, we've covered topics like gentrification, systems of oppression, intersectionality, housing rights, tenant movement history, and wealth and inequality under capitalism. Through the skills-building workshops, our youth learned about the importance and effectiveness of organizing, what CAAAV's organizing model is, public speaking and outreach, and how to develop a campaign.

At the end of the program, our youth presented a cohort-directed final project based on youth making decisions and employing skills and knowledge they have developed over the course of

the program. This year, our youth worked on their zine "Sheltered Out", encompassing stories from our Chinatown and Queensbridge community about gentrification and housing rights!

