ABOUT US

Asian Solidarity Collective (ASC) is a power-building, movement organization in San Diego activating Asian American communities and moving them into action by utilizing a dialectical, transformative and left-edge organizing approach of advocacy, direct action, political education, leadership development, service and civic engagement with a cross-racial solidarity and intersectional framework in San Diego. Since its inception in 2016, ASC has organized campaigns on fighting for housing, ending mass incarceration and the oversight of surveillance technology in San Diego. Over the years, ASC has provided countless programming that advocates for alternative interventions such as community dialogues on healing and transformation, resource and referrals for mutual aid and rapid response efforts, events on art justice, learning sessions disability justice, and numerous leadership development programs and trainings on Organizing, Safety, and so much more.

MISSION

Asian Solidarity Collective (ASC) is a grassroots organization in San Diego whose mission is to activate Asian American social justice consciousness, condemn anti-Blackness, and build Asian solidarity intersectionally with Black, Brown and Indigenous folks, people with disabilities, queer and trans people of color, and all oppressed communities. Our work includes political education, community building, and collective action.

ASIAN SOLIDARITY COLLECTIVE’S VISION IS TO:

- Work for the collective liberation of all communities. "When Black folks are free, we are all free."
- Build Asian solidarity with Black, Brown, Indigenous, LGBTQ2IA+, and People with Disabilities.
- Engage Asian Americans to be liberated from anti-Black racism, model minority myths, internalized colonialism, and white supremacy.
- Honor Asian American histories, experiences, and peoples as relational to other oppressed communities. We understand Asian American lives through a transnational, anti-imperialist framework.

THEORY OF CHANGE

Asian Solidarity Collective is a movement organization with a group of community organizers, educators, artists, community scholars, and critical thinkers conspiring to activate Asian American social justice consciousness in a time where white supremacy perpetuates violence, harm, and works to maintain division. We work to liberate people from anti-Black racism and to build solidarity with Black and Indigenous folks, people with disabilities, and with LGBTQ2IA+ people of color. We make use of our values through movement-building in order to further amplify the power of communities most impacted. Our work includes political education, community building, and collective action which encompasses policy & civic engagement, leadership development, advocacy, rapid response efforts, trainings, and direct actions.
COMMUNITY PULSE SURVEYS
ASC Outreach Team canvassed and door-knocked over 50 doors from the neighborhoods of Mira Mesa, Linda Vista, Chula Vista, City Heights, National City, Paradise Hills and Southeast San Diego to check in with community assessing the perspective of safety, needs and resources. Over 200 surveys were completed and our focus groups and long digital surveys will be wrapping up at the end of 2022. A full report of the PULSE Survey will be published with key recommendations including a town hall with a report back scheduled in Summer 2023. The findings of the surveys and report will be valuable as it will help Asian Solidarity Collective to further advocate alongside the communities that they serve.

PORTAL TO LIBERATION: 2ND YEAR ANNIVERSARY: A WORLD FREE FROM POLICE & PRISONS
As part of ASC’s 2nd year anniversary of their Portal to Liberation (P2L) campaign, ASC presented a panel discussion on the impacts of policing and mass incarceration on Asian communities in San Diego. Moderated by ASC Organizer and Licensed Clinical Social Worker, Marie Obaña, ASC invited Capone, Kay and Sophat, Dina Sirypangno, and ASC’s very own Community Organizer as opening speaker, Lon Chhay. Over 70 community members and families attended the event in Southeast San Diego as ASC continued to call on San Diego Asian communities and non-Asian co-conspirators to enter the Portal to Liberation, in solidarity with Black lives. P2L is “a calling for us to free ourselves from the police state and culture of policing in order to reimagine a world free from policing and borders.” Panelists shared their im/migrant experiences of the impacts of incarceration.

“I have never been to an event with the opportunity to hear the stories of our Asian siblings and their experiences”

YOUTH COMMITTEE’S Co-HEART SERIES:
“Skyline Heals”
Asian Solidarity Collective’s Youth Committee coordinated several art workshops as part of their Co-H.E.A.R.T. (Hope, Empowerment, Aspire, Restorative, and Transformation) Series. The summer started with their booth at the “Parks After Dark” event held at the Skyline Hills Recreation Center on August 5th and 12th where the youth learned from famed local artists, Invited teaching artists, The Eastside Collective taught techniques in conceptualizing, sketching, and painting. The summer workshop series ended with a grand reveal showcasing the final mural created by the youth. It was an amazing experience where youth shared space and co-created together! ASC is deeply humbled to be guided by such talented and caring artists from the community including the opportunity to work with Bay Terraces Community & Senior Center, Paradise Hills Rec Center, Penn Rec Center, and Skyline Hills Rec Center to create a collective masterpiece which also kicked off the next workshop series, “Paradise Heals.” The Skyline Heals event had 30 workshop participants. Over 70 guests attended the overall exhibition.

“It is amazing to be able to create art with community at this rec where I grew up. We never had anything like this to be able to sit down with each other and paint. We need this in our community and for our babies.”

“Healing x Art = HEART” (Poetry + Mixed Medium Workshop Series)
Continuing on with ASC Youth Committee’s Co-H.E.A.R.T. workshop series into the fall, ASC invited speaker and poet Mr. Viet of The Likehearted Project at the Skyline Hills Library on Oct. 29, Nov. 5, and Nov 12th (Poetic Celebration featuring Dr DJ Kuttin Kandi) to facilitate sessions on Poetry x Mixed Media with over 40 workshop participants who engaged in creating collective poetry, mixed media art, open mic and dance. Co-H.E.A.R.T’S series stems from ASC’s community care and alternative intervention practices to continue working towards healing from anti-Asian violence.

Closing Healing Circle - “Joy, Challenged, more hopeful, Happy because I’m not the only one, Inspired, Purposeful, Intentional and grateful”
ASC CONTINUES TO C.A.R.E.

Community Solidarity Day of Remembrance:
As we mourned the lives lost in Atlanta and Indianapolis just one year ago, we were grateful for the chance to spend this time in solidarity with each other. 125 of our community leaders, organizers and artists showed up to honor the victims, survivors and families to and understand the shape of the work that lies ahead.

Following the lead of Asian American Advancing for Justice-Atlanta’s Remembrance Day event, this event intended to honor the victims, survivors and families as well as to advocate for resources, policies and solutions that address the root causes of violence and hate so that we may all live in safe communities. Featured artists, Miesha Rice-Wilson, Dr. grace shinhae jun, and Julie Corrales performed inspiring and healing artistic pieces.

Anchor Organizations: Karen Organization of San Diego, the Partnership for the Advancement of New Americans (PANA), the San Diego API Coalition and Viet Vote and supporting and endorsing Organizations Anakbayan San Diego, Asian Business Association San Diego, Asian Pacific Islander Community Actions (APICA), Convoy District San Diego, Filipino Migrant Center, Kuya Ate Mentorship Program (KAMP), Majdal Center, Malaya San Diego, National Association of Asian American Professionals San Diego, Palestinian Youth Movement, Pillars of the Community, San Diego Queer APIMEDA Coalition, San Diego Pride, San Diego Showing Up for Racial Justice, SDSU APIDA Resource Center, San Diego Tech Workers Coalition, Think Dignity, Union of Pan Asian Communities (UPAC), Uprise Theatre came together to make this event possible.

Youth Workshop Series: Healing, learning and civic engagement:
Alongside ASC’s organizing partners Partnership for the Advancement of New Americans - PANA, Viet Vote, and the Karen Organization of San Diego - KOSD, ASC provided a workshop for youth to learn, connect, and heal together which focused on AAPI stories/history, hate/violence roots of white supremacy + community solutions which also included a Pod Mapping session. In addition, together, organizing partners, coordinated an Election Fair to promote the November election. ASC’s organizing partnership is made possible through a grant by The California Endowment which will continue on for the next two years as ASC intends to collaborate through additional partnered programming on organizing on racial justice as well as providing trauma-informed healing spaces.

"Mental Health and the Impact of Hate:
A Forum on the Asian American & Pacific Islander Experience During Covid"
Through a statewide grant provided by The California Department of Social Services ASC was able to continue to team up with Asian Pacific Islander Community Actions (APICA) to provide year long events dedicated to healing and wellness - all of which aligns with ASC’s C.A.R.E. (Community Action & Response Efforts), Co-H.E.A.R.T. and Portal to Liberation campaigns. During the month of Mental Health Awareness ASC gathered over 60 community members to process and share in a safe space the experiences of COVID-19 and all the ways it has impacted AAPI lives. It was an opportunity to write through interactive activities where many expressed shared struggles of depression and loss. Ending with a reflection on what brings joy through it all, many shared how they find healing in art and spaces like this forum to create pathways towards collective healing. Facilitators featured: Marie Obaña | LCSW, Organizer, ASC, Kirin Macapugay | Director, APICA, Coach Keli Ross-Ma’u | MANA Counselor, MiraCosta

“This is what Community Care looks like. There is healing in telling our stories. There is healing in gathering as a community; Connectedness. There is power in solidarity!”

6th Annual Gala: Roots of Healing & Transformation
On the early evening of May 22nd, ASC celebrated six years of rooted work towards collective liberation and their continued work of solidarity, healing and transformation within the communities they serve. It was such an incredible night with inspiring speakers and performers such as Dr. Akilah Weber | Assemblymember, District 79, Kabzuag Vaj, David Tran, DJ Miki Vale, DJ ET, Geminelle, Ruby Ibarra and CYPHERST8. The fundraising gala was sponsored by AAPI FORCE-EF (AAPIs for Civic Empowerment Education Fund), Alliance Healthcare Foundation, County of San Diego Office of Equity & Racial Justice, Planned Parenthood Pacific Southwest, SNOICE, SPACES @ UCSD, United Domestic Workers (UDW). ASC is filled with gratitude for the support of sponsors and the community as over $13,365.53 was raised!
National City Districting:
Asian Solidarity Collective, Environmental Health Coalition, Kuya Ate Mentorship Program, Pilipino Workers Center, Pillars of the Community and community members co-convened two open-to-the-public community power mapping sessions to build power by map-drawing district lines in National City. The “South Bay Collaborative for Fair Representation” (SBC4FR) map was created to ensure fair representation in National City. Through ASC’s partnership with PANA, ASC was able to provide a demographer for map-drawing sessions. SBC4FR and community members made sure the map reflected the feedback of the people and built the highest AAPI population density and City Voting Age Population (CVAP). SBC4FR also advocated on creating an Old Town National City District that encompassed the Environmental Health Coalition’s advocacy work. This map had the support of over 20 organizations and over 50 community members.

AAPI Force June & November Elections:
ASC had an outreach team of 8 with a Team Lead and Youth Committee Advisor, Iman Zermeno! The team finished with 92.6% of their field program goal canvassing in District 6 in the neighborhoods of Mira Mesa! During the November Midterm Election, GOTV canvassers knocked on 1,200 doors in Mira Mesa and completed over 500 conversations with voters at the door and on the phone. ASC is thankful to everyone who put the time and energy into the midterm GOTV! Much appreciation to ASC’s partnership with AAPIs For Civic Empowerment-Education Fund and for the guidance and fun with this continued work.

TRUST SD Coalition:
ASC is a proud member organization of the Trust SD Coalition as ASC’s very own Executive Director is a co-founding member and on the steering committee of the coalition. In June 2022, the community showed up to demand San Diego City Council to reject amendments that would allow loopholes for surveillance technology without oversight. For three years, ASC worked hard to show up and call in to further push for Council members to follow the lead of the community. In August 2022, the San Diego City Council passed the TRUST ordinance into law whereas there is now council oversight over the City’s surveillance technologies, advised by the Privacy Advisory Board and a public process. Congratulations to TRUST SD and the whole community who worked on this effort for the last three years!

Truth Act Forum:
On November 15th ASC joined in the call to action to stop the Sheriff from deporting community members by: demanding the Sheriff to: Stop transferring individuals to ICE and notifying ICE when individuals are released from jail (ICE transfers and notifications), Stop allowing DHS/ICE access to county property, including parking lots, Stop participating on joint task forces with DHS/ICE agencies and to Stop sharing information, data and resources with DHS/ICE. ASC had over 10 public comments and 10 in attendance who spoke truth to power.

Coalition for Police Accountability and Transparency:
Throughout the year ASC has been engaged with pushing for the support and passing of PrOTECT to ban SDPD practices such as pretext stops, consent searches, and the continued biased policing and police violence.

Opening More Doors to Workers Who are Neurodivergent, Including Autism:
ASC was in support of “Opening Opening More Doors to Workers Who are Neurodivergent, Including Autism” amplifying the need for workplaces to be inclusive and equitable to folx with disabilities and the neurodivergent community.

SD Vote Center Table
ASC is a member of the San Diego Vote Center Monitoring and Strategy Table. Our table includes civil rights, advocacy, and ethnic-based direct service organizations working together to ensure the county’s transition to Vote Centers, engages and centers the needs of our community members from language access, disability justice and voter outreach and education to voters on parole and probation. Over 20 ASC members submitted public comments urging the EAP Draft to be equitable and to represent the needs of the community.
In the year 2022, ASC has been able to continue building its base with now more than 730 base members! ASC’s work towards collective liberation would not be possible without ASC members. Thank you to ASC members for building solidarity and community care.
Through 2022 grant awards, Asian Solidarity Collective received a total of $394,942. ASC also received $23,789 from donor contributions and individual donations. Altogether, ASC raised a total of $418,731 in 2022. Because of this, ASC has been able to promote Miss Piggy to full-time Associate Director and hire Lon Chhay, a full-time Community Organizer to lead ASC’s alternative interventions organizing work.

ASC’s partnership with AAPI-Force made it possible for ASC to hire temporary canvassers/outreach specialists during the June and November elections, as well as utilize expense funds to source ASC’s operations and provide programs to carry out ASC’s campaign goals. Through this kind of support, ASC can continue to build its capacity, provide programming, develop campaigns and initiatives that better serve their communities as ASC moves into the 2023 year in a new office space.

2023 PRIORITIES

- Civic Engagement Infrastructure
- Challenge the Current Police State and Culture of Policing
- Build the Base from South Bay to South East
- ASC Infrastructure & Leadership Development
- Personal Ecology & Wellness