A YEAR IN REVIEW 2021
Campaigns

COMMUNITY PULSE SURVEY

In 2021, we launched our Community PULSE Survey to understand how to move life-giving resources within our communities. We will continue to assess and address the needs of already disenfranchised Asian American communities, deepen relationships, and be in dialogue through focus groups.

PORTAL TO LIBERATION 1-YEAR ANNIVERSARY

We celebrated the Portal to Liberation 1-year anniversary with a Virtual Summit: Asians and the Journey to Abolition. Panels, learning sessions and performances demonstrated the impact of utilizing creativity to transform and strengthen relationships as we build alternatives to relying on the state for safety.

COMMUNITY ACTIONS AND RESPONSE EFFORTS (C.A.R.E.)

We launched the C.A.R.E. campaign to engage Asian and Asian American communities, organizations, businesses and service providers in community care practices and existing services that do not rely on punitive measures or escalating forces.

FREEDOM & JUSTICE (F&J)

As a solidarity collaborative effort organized by Pillars of the Community and ASC, the F&J campaign launched its official website to share stories of our incarcerated community members and families. F&J seeks to challenge the stall tactics of San Diego’s District Attorney and judges regarding Senate Bill 1437, which was passed to limit felony murder prosecutions and is a means of liberation for some still incarcerated today.

Policy

On May 2, 2021, Asian Solidarity Collective co-sponsored #TeamJustice’s Legislative Summit which featured over 30 state bills that impacted criminal justice including gang enhancements, expungements, non-murder charges and more. We will continue the work in state legislations on criminal justice issues to bring more racial, social and economic justice and equity for the people. ASC intends to continue on with #TeamJustice as they hope to push for non-reformist reform bills in order to co-create an abolitionist world.

On November 10, 2021, ASC joined its coalition members of the Transparent and Responsible Use of Surveillance Technology San Diego (TRUST -SD) to host a virtual panel discussion on the surveillance and policy oversight ordinance. Over 100 people joined online to learn the most recent updates and next community actions to continue to push forward the ordinance and develop a privacy advisory board.

On March 13, 2021, ASC and Kirin Macapugay of APICA, both part of the FIERCE Coalition, co-facilitated a discussion during the Policy Breakout Week on advocating for racial justice at the state level. The Statewide FIERCE Coalition is made of 20+ FilAm nonprofits, community-based organizations, and student groups that support SB 2, which would establish a statewide system that allows for a process to decertify police officers convicted of misconduct. We believe in the fundamental values of bringing transparency and accountability to the profession of law enforcement.

Civic Engagement

ASC hired seven outreach specialists to canvass during the recall election of 2021 with the support of the AAPI’s Civic Empowerment Education Fund (AAPI-FORCE). ASC conducted nonpartisan outreach to voters in San Diego, knocking on over 800 doors in the Mira Mesa neighborhood. We heavily invested in Redistricting efforts at the State, County and City levels, understanding what was at stake for Black, Brown, Indigenous and people of color in obtaining resources and creating policies that impact us the most. We carefully and intentionally navigated the blurred lines within a systemic structure and deepened our commitment to organizing beyond the structures of civic engagement for real structural democracy change.
ASC members, staff and coalition partners launched programs and events when our communities needed them the most. The ASC Youth Committee hosted *Let it Be Known*, a youth roundtable to discuss the mental impact of COVID-19, the unjust political climate placed on youth and the importance of solidarity and practicing self- and community care as young organizers.

In January 2021, ASC’s Political Education Committee hosted the *People’s Progress Report on Joe Biden and Kamala Harris* to provide facts and education on the politicians and to have the people evaluate their commitment to liberation. The failures and broken promises of the current administration do not come as a surprise as ASC understands that we cannot rely alone on a system rooted in white supremacy.

As the interconnected pandemics of COVID-19, white supremacist violence and economic injustice converged in 2021, a spotlight was cast upon Asian and Asian American communities. ASC responded by deepening our commitment to solidarity. The Political Education Committee hosted the *Social Solidarity Virtual Series: Breaking the Silence on Trauma and Anti-Asian Violence* to guide toward collective healing and process the collective damage of white supremacy, policing culture and historical traumas. We hosted the *Solidarity is the Way Forward Vigil* to gather to grieve the multiple levels of violence experienced in Georgia and those that have plagued each of our communities for generations. Along with a multiracial coalition, ASC participated in the *Anti-Asian Violence Solidarity Press Conference* to support and center survivors and victims of anti-Asian racism, gender violence, and xenophobia. We also centered moments of celebration and community healing through the arts by hosting our 5th Annual Fundraising Gala and the *Twitch Freedom Sounds Series: Winter’s Night Virtual Fundraiser*.

### MEMBERSHIP

**OVER 100 MEMBERS JOINED ASC IN 2021, BRINGING THE MEMBERSHIP BASE TO OVER 630 MEMBERS.**

Members got a chance to provide feedback and dream up new programming in our annual retreat. We also held the first official new membership ceremony to honor their commitment to community care, revolutionary love, and principled struggle. Several month- and day-long trainings were offered to members including Organizer 101 Training, the Critical Concept Course for Abolition, Bystander Intervention and De-Escalation Trainings, as well as continual training for our Safety Team.

Through 2021 grant awards, Asian Solidarity Collective received a total of $211,867. We’ve also received $20,190 from donor contributions and individual donations. Altogether, we raised a total of $232,057 in 2021. Because of this, ASC has been able to bring on an Executive Director and a full-time Organizer! We were also able to hire temporary canvassers/outreach specialists during the recall election, as well as utilize our expense funds to source our operations and our programs to carry out our campaign goals. With all of this support, ASC can continue to build its capacity, provide programming, develop campaigns and initiatives that better serve our communities.
2022 PRIORITIES

Civic Engagement

For 2022, Asian Solidarity Collective aims to develop its Civic Engagement infrastructure through a community-led approach with several strategic areas of policy and issues advocacy, structural democracy change, capacity building, digital organizing, narrative change, communications, research, and funders. ASC hopes to build out its partnership with major stakeholders locally, statewide and nationally in order to establish its civic engagement framework. ASC expects to hire an additional temporary part-time Civic Engagement Specialist in 2022 to implement ASC’s civic engagement initiatives including voter registration, voter education, Get Out the Vote initiatives as well as to monitor the implementation of Vote Centers.

Staffing + Infrastructure

Increased staffing in 2021 has proven the importance of building capacity for ASC to increase the support needed to carry out campaign goals, reach organizational priorities and work on leadership development.

ASC has identified 3 staff positions that would need to be brought on to realize its organizational priorities for 2022 – a Civic Engagement organizer, a Program Coordinator for a collaborative mental health initiative in the works for 2022, and a Development Coordinator.

Personal Ecology + Wellness

Since the pandemic emerged in 2020, ASC’s workload unquestionably grew as the needs of the communities required triage, community care, and new leaders. 2021 brought ASC into the field of civic engagement while intensely understaffed and under-resourced. Yet, we still managed to accomplish our goals and achieve recognition as a serious contender within the non-profit and advocacy sector in San Diego.

WHILE ALL OF THESE ACHIEVEMENTS ARE TO BE CELEBRATED, OPPORTUNITIES TO DEVELOP PERSONAL ECOLOGY AND WELLNESS MUST BE INTENTIONALLY PLANNED TO CULTIVATE MEANINGFUL AND TRUSTING RELATIONSHIPS.

In 2022, ASC plans to utilize tools on developing skill sets on work load, time management, and creating work/life balance in hopes to improve habits of overload and prevent burnout, and to foster a cultural shift towards personal ecology.