

2024 ANNUAL REPORT



AZ AANHPI FOR EQUITY
AANHPI.ORG

A LETTER FROM OUR DIRECTOR

Dear Community,

Continuing to grow and expand our team, our base, and our community of empowered AANHPI's in Arizona this year has truly been a dream come true for me - a dream that was seeded when I was a kid growing up in California. Many of my Asian peers and I struggled with internalized racism, often uncomfortable and ashamed of our backgrounds; I never had a safe space or a political home to learn about Asian American history, nor to feel comfortable enough to share what I was going through with youth like me. Now, seeing our Youth Program and the civic engagement work we have built over the past five years moves me; at Arizona AANHPI for Equity, we have built the very community centered on AANHPI identity that I wish I would have had as a young person!

From launching our first Youth Climate Camp to building our We Imagine Safety program, working to improve the lives of unhoused folks in our community and to reimagine what public safety looks like through education and advocacy, our team has accomplished so much this year. One of my proudest achievements is on-boarding two new full-time team members, Amritha and Carla, who were both fellows in our first inaugural Youth Fellowship program in 2019. This is the leadership pipeline! To see our AANHPI youth become politicized and empowered through this work, come intern with our team, and then decide to stay in Arizona or move back here after college in order to engage and advocate for our communities, now becoming full-time staff, has been humbling.

I founded AZ AANHPI for Equity to fill a critical gap in the civic engagement infrastructure in Arizona. Today we remain the leading AANHPI organization in our state that actively engages in advocacy work. Since our founding we have contributed to increasing the voter turnout rate of AANHPI's in our state from 42% to 75% in the 2024 election cycle. We do this by intentionally reaching out to every AANHPI in

the state with in-language materials; educating our community on crucial issues (and not just during election years); and by building a political home for our youth where they are empowered to find their voices among leaders who look like them.

I am eternally grateful to our community, our team, and our funders who have made this work possible. Without you, the interest of Arizona AANHPI's would not be represented in the political sphere. In 2025 we know we will be taking on advocacy defense work; we know that our communities will not be safe under the next administration. But because of the community we have built over the past five years, we also know that our community is ready - we are educated, empowered, and mobilized to fight for our rights and to protect each other.

In solidarity,

Jennifer Chau



THE AZ AANHPI MISSION & VISION

Arizona Asian American Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander for Equity (AZ AANHPI for Equity) is a state-wide organization striving for equity and justice by building power through community directed organizing, increasing civic engagement, and empowering young leaders.

We envision an Asian American Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) community that is working together to shape its future as a part of the broader racial justice movement and advance our community towards a common purpose of well-being for all.



LIST OF CONTENTS

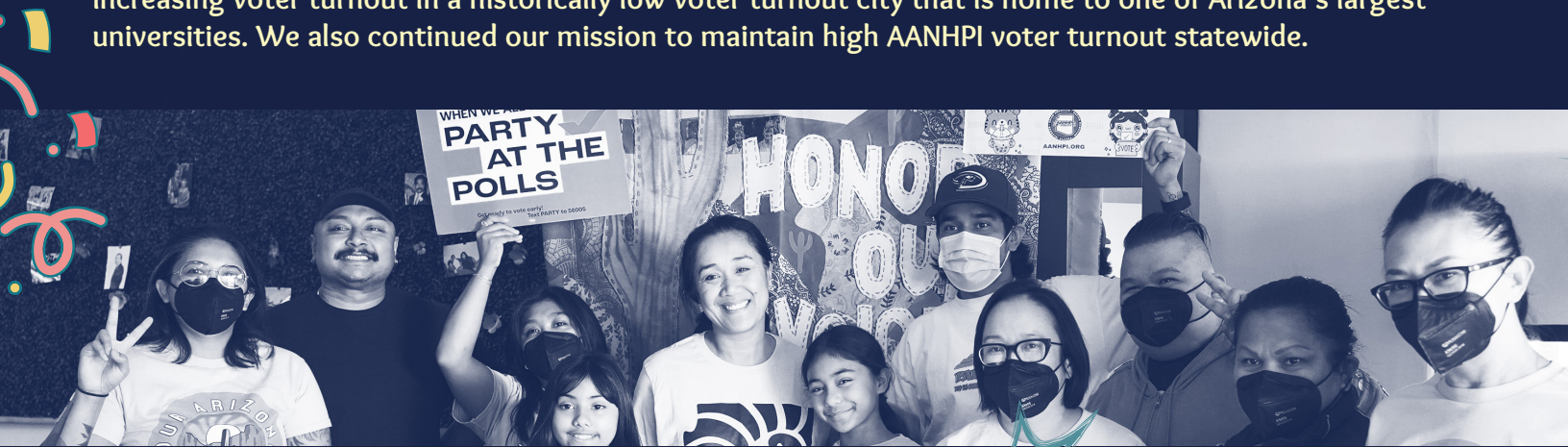
A Letter From Our Director	1
AZ AANHPI Mission & Vision	2
Civic Engagement Program	3
Youth Leadership Program	5
Membership Program	7
Climate Justice Program	9
We Imagine Safety & Legal Clinic	11
Finances & Funders	13

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT



Our Mission

The Civic Engagement program strives to better represent AANHPIs, BIPOC, and other marginalized communities in policy changes. We do this by conducting voter registration, educating voters on issues and policies, and mobilizing voters to the polls. In 2024, we focused on increasing voter turnout in a historically low voter turnout city that is home to one of Arizona's largest universities. We also continued our mission to maintain high AANHPI voter turnout statewide.



VOTER REGISTRATION

2,182
Registered voters

42,779!!
Free Our Vote Mailers sent

We are proud to contribute to expanding a voter block with our voter registration program. Along with the AZ AANHPI We Imagine Safety program, we advocated for restorative justice, which includes ending felony voter disenfranchisement. In 2024, we partnered with Free Our Vote and AZ Justice Protect in a mailer program to get newly eligible people to register to vote.

VOTER EDUCATION

21
Civic Engagement Events

2,668 ←
Attendees

In 2024, we were able to establish two advocacy campaigns as part of our voter education efforts. We Imagine Safety shifts the narrative on criminalization and community resilience. The Climate Justice program educates voters on climate policies and ballot impacts on climate change. Considering that 40% of AZ AANHPIs do not affiliate with a political party, voter education is crucial during an election cycle.

GET OUT THE VOTE

49,067

Doors canvassed

12%

Contact rate

2024 was an essential year for voters to turn out, since Arizona is one of the most competitive battleground states in our nation. Our organization had a multi-prong approach to get voters to the polls and to vote down the ballot. We empowered our community to get out the vote by hosting Arizona's first Asian American Music Festival, Wavelengths, where we celebrated AANHPI culture and arts.

AZ AANHPI VOTER TURNOUT

75%



WAVELENGTHS IS A COLLECTIVE OF EMERGING ARTISTS WITH A MISSION TO GIVE A **VOICE** AND **SPOTLIGHT** TO THE EVER-GROWING ASIAN AMERICAN ARTIST COMMUNITY IN ARIZONA. AZ AANHPI FOR EQUITY MADE A **HUGE CONTRIBUTION** WITH STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS JOINING EVENT PREPARATIONS...I LEARNED OF THE IMPORTANCE OF **ALIGNMENT** AND **COMMITMENT** WITH A LIKE-MINDED AND PASSIONATE TEAM TO **MAKE A VISION TANGIBLE.**

Dianne Saez

YOUTH LEADERSHIP



Our Mission The Youth Leadership Program aims to cultivate leadership and advocacy skills among AANHPI youth in Arizona. The Youth Program works to amplify and empower youth voices to create impactful social change through mentorship, community-driven organizing, workshops, campus engagement, and more.

Our Vision The Youth Leadership Program envisions a community of AANHPI youth leaders and advocates working towards a more equitable and just world for all. We envision youth of all ages driving equitable change through learning, healing, organizing, leadership, and advocacy. Since our founding, we've developed 106 youth!



Youth Fellowship Culminating Projects

- Personal Storytelling, Volunteering, Finding Your Voice
- Health Impacts of Climate Change
- Advocacy for Language Access & Digital Literacy
- LGBTQ+ Experiences by Culture
- Procedural Justice and Inequalities in the Legal System
- Colorism and Discrimination within Asia
- The Role of Personal Narratives in Social Development

+ **14 more!**

My name is Vy, and I currently serve as a Public Policy Research Intern for AZ AANHPI for Equity. My journey with this incredible organization began as a Youth Fellow in the Youth Civic Engagement program, where I gained valuable experiences that shaped my understanding of community building and embracing empathy. Through the program, I had the privilege of connecting with ambitious and inspiring individuals who reinforced my passion for advocacy. As I transitioned into the role of Fellow Mentor, I had the opportunity to guide new fellows, learn from their unique perspectives, and grow as a leader. Now, as an intern, I am fortunate to have the freedom to dive deeper into my passion for public policy while actively engaging with the Arizona community. The lifelong connections I've built through this program continue to inspire and motivate me. I encourage others to take that first step and get involved - you never know how transformative the experience might be!

Vy Truong



21 youth fellows

graduated from our annual Youth Fellowship Program through attending 10 workshops such as Story of Self and Confidence Building, AANHPI History and Misconceptions, Legislative Advocacy, Pride LGBTQ+, and more. 4 youth Fellowship Mentors, past fellows that took on a leadership/mentorship role for the next class of fellows, supported this program.

105 hygiene kits

containing wipes, sunscreen, menstrual products, etc. were made by 19 youth fellows for distribution to the houseless community.

2 youth fellows

onboarded as full-time AANHPI for Equity staff. Amritha and Carla were part of our first ever Youth Fellowship Program and now have roles as Climate Resilience Organizer and Advocacy Community Organizer.

9 youth interns

who are currently supporting AZ AANHPI projects and staff members ranging from climate justice, public policy, youth advocacy, and communications. We currently have 2 active Students for Equity organizations on campuses, which are student groups that focus on AANHPI advocacy and bringing the mission of our work onto campuses.

MEMBERSHIP

Our Mission The Membership Program works to redefine traditional membership and include people from different communities, backgrounds, and conditions to take collective action to achieve the change we want to see in Arizona.

Our Vision Our vision is to build an inclusive membership program that centers an Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander multigenerational and multi-ethnic community, and build power.



Events in 2024

21
attendees

Inaugural
Membership
Welcome
Orientation

with VietShack & Cafe 86

14
attendees

Our Immigrant
Story &
Community
Altar

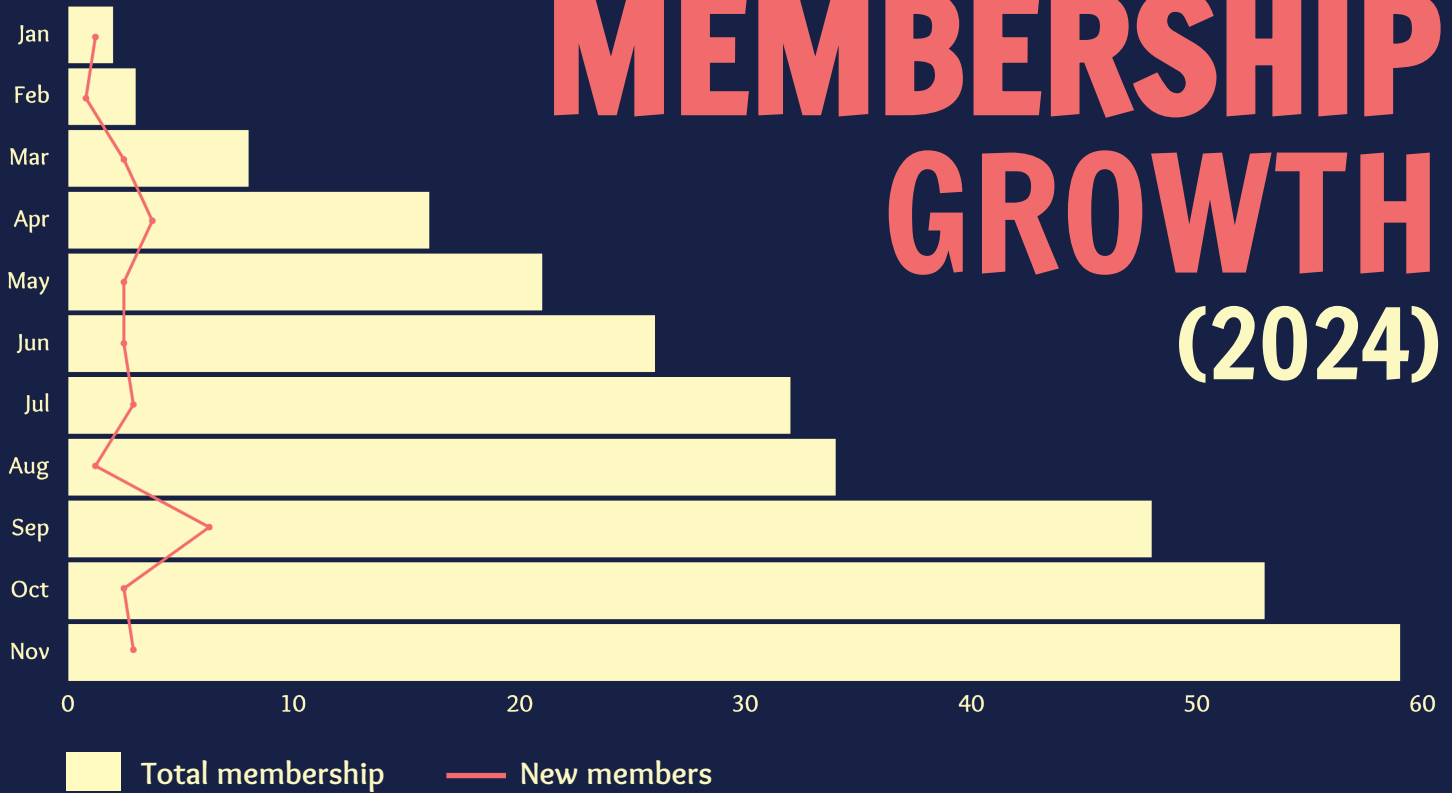
with Chinese Chorizo of Tucson

10
attendees

Post-election
Sunset Hike

with Climate team and
Ana Gorla of Sierra Club

MEMBERSHIP GROWTH (2024)



34

New members before the official program launch in September 2024

59

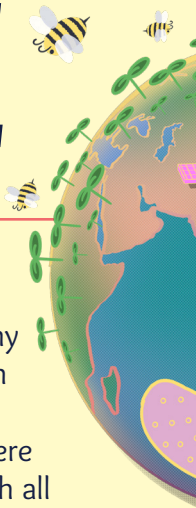
Members to date

75

Our goal membership by the end of 2024



CLIMATE JUSTICE



Our Mission

The Climate Justice Program aims to educate our community on the many intersectionalities between our climate crisis and racial justice. We envision building community through strengthening environmental action in Arizona while amplifying AANHPI, BIPOC, and other marginalized voices to fight our climate crisis! The Climate Justice Program is an educational and reflective space, where we appreciate and care for nature and mother earth as we care for ourselves. We promote solidarity with all communities and understand the human actions that are causing climate injustices at home and around the world. We use education to understand and equip us to be civically involved at our local and state level.



12
events in 2024

Highlighted event:

Sierra Club Volunteer and Partner Recognition Picnic, AZ AANHPI for Equity
Awarded the Environmental Protection and Justice Award

Sunday, November 17th, AZ AANHPI for Equity was awarded an Environmental Justice award from one of our partnered organizations, the Sierra Club Grand Canyon! Organizations and volunteers came together in a picnic style award event to highlight community and environmental solidarity. As we move into these upcoming federal, state, and local administrative changes, it is vital that we stand strong in unity and together stand up for our environment.



The Earth Day Festival:

April 20th, AZ AANHPI for Equity partnered with Chispa AZ, to celebrate Mamma Earth by elevating the fight for environmental justice in a vibrant and safe space for our community to gather, eat, learn, and have fun. We invited partners from all over Arizona to join in solidarity, celebrate, and connect with the community.



Youth Climate Connection Camp:

March 15-17th, AZ AANHPI launched our first annual Youth Climate Connection Camp for elementary to university age youth. High school and university-age youths exercised their leadership, public speaking, and critical thinking skills. The elementary and middle school program introduced climate crisis basics, while connecting with nature through art and our ancestral power to learn how to heal through our mother earth at an early age.

Climate Advocacy Wins

- Reached over **400** people through events, monthly environmental justice workshops, town halls, c3 lobbying efforts, Environmental Day at the capitol, press conferences, & coalition expansion
- Toured **Gila River** solar panel setup and began expanding our relationship building with Indigenous communities
- Received our first ever **environmental justice award** in November by Sierra Club
- Had our first elementary age youth tabling volunteer at the Climate Festival
- developed from a youth camper to our first **AANHPI Youth Climate Ambassador!**
- Hired our first **Climate Resilience Organizer**
- Obtained **6** new climate volunteers and launched our first climate volunteer orientation
- Made climate & environmental **attorney connections**
- Testified between the ACC and State Capitol against over **6 bills/proposals**

WE IMAGINE SAFETY

Our Mission

The We Imagine Safety (WIS) program harnesses the visionary, healing power of our community to transform the way Arizonans define justice. We believe in the power of collective solidarity to reimagine and rebuild a public safety model rooted in community wellbeing. We aim to fuel policy change across Arizona, including in the areas of criminal justice, immigration, community development, and equity, and to organize mutual aid efforts to enhance community wellbeing.



WIS Legal Clinic: Our Work in 2024

We Imagine Safety Legal Clinic is a stronghold of liberation and inclusivity, committed to dismantling systems of oppression through legal advocacy. The clinic's mission is rooted in empowering the community through legal education, broadening access to justice, and nurturing the next generation of liberators.

We deliver comprehensive support, including direct intervention, educational empowerment, and collective action efforts to carve pathways toward true democratic liberation. Our team is a collective run by people who have navigated and survived the very systems we fight against.

The legal clinic has been actively fostering relationships with 69 organizations. We have successfully partnered with the eastside and westside probation offices to provide informative sessions about our services. To date, we have conducted six workshops for community service providers, equipping their staff with accurate information on the Restoration of Rights and Know your Rights. Additionally, we have teamed up with Arizona Faith Network to offer monthly workshops and legal services.

132

WIS members

90

Rights restoration cases

350

People served

17

Immigrant stories collected

We received 200 calls to our legal clinic:

- 15 child support cases
- 5 divorces
- 75 fingerprint clearance applications
- 50 DACA applications
- 12 Temporary Protected Status applications
- 2 Violence Against Women Act Protections
- 1 U-Visa
- 90 Rights Restoration applications

Among these 90 cases:

55 individuals are still on probation and owe fees, qualifying for additional services such as **set-asides** and **marijuana expungements**.

We are currently assisting 35 people with **restoring their rights** and other related services.

I HAD PREVIOUSLY SOUGHT HELP FROM ANOTHER ORGANIZATION, BUT NO ONE WAS ABLE TO ASSIST ME IN LOCATING MY **IMMIGRATION PAPERWORK**. I TRULY APPRECIATE THE **TIME AND EFFORT** DEDICATED TO MY CASE, AND I NOW FEEL **HOPEFUL** THAT I'M ON THE RIGHT TRACK. I'VE FINALLY FOUND THE INFORMATION I NEED TO **CONTINUE RENEWING MY STATUS**.

Dylan

I WENT IN FOR MY **DACA RENEWAL** AND WAS REALLY IMPRESSED WITH HOW QUICKLY I WAS ABLE TO SECURE AN APPOINTMENT. THE ENTIRE PROCESS WAS **EFFICIENT, SMOOTH, AND MUCH EASIER THAN I EXPECTED**.

Laby



FINANCES

\$2,353,760.30

Finances from funders

\$6,916.00

Individual donations



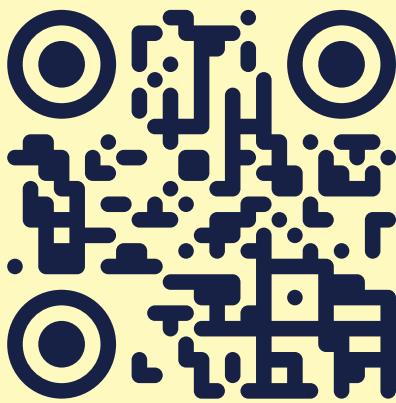
FUNDERS

- Movement Voter Project
- AAPI Civic Engagement Fund
- Coulter Foundation
- Levi Strause Foundation
- Pro Democracy
- APIA Vote
- Asian Caucus
- Building for Democracy for Education
- Asian American Advancing Justice
- Way to Rise
- Youth Engagement Fund
- Grove Foundation
- Climate Equity
- MHS Anonymous 1001 fund at the Amalgamated Charitable Foundation
- Justice Foundation for Civil and Environmental Rights
- Center For Empowered Politics
- Resilient Strategies
- Vitatlyst
- Instituto
- New Breath Foundation
- Ms. Foundation
- MTYKL Foundation
- Donor of Color
- National Voter Registration Day
- Clean and Prosperous
- Asian Fund
- MHS Consulting
- Campaign Legal Center



STAY CONNECTED FOR ANOTHER YEAR OF GROWTH, COMMUNITY, AND JUSTICE!

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