



ASIAN YOUTH CENTER (AYC)  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS PRESENTS

35<sup>TH</sup>  
ANNIVERSARY  
CELEBRATION  
& AWARDS DINNER

CELEBRATING AYC, BUILT BY COMMUNITY,  
INVESTING IN THE FUTURE



FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 27TH  
HILTON SAN GABRIEL  
[AYCLA.ORG/GALA](http://AYCLA.ORG/GALA)

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## Silent Auction

Silent Auction Bidding closes at 8:30 pm. Item payment and pickup will begin after conclusion of program.



Two (2) Preferred Parade Tickets and One Parking Pass to the 2025 Rose Parade



90 Minute Golf Cart Tour for up to five (5) people at the Huntington Library, Art Museum, and Botanical Gardens including Huntington Admissions for five (5) people



One (1) year Crunch Fitness Peak Results Gym Membership at the San Dimas location.



\$150 Perch Gift Card



One Night Weekend Stay with Breakfast for Two, in a Deluxe Room Accommodation (Breakfast Credit of \$75)

# 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration & Awards Dinner



## VIP RECEPTION

## WELCOME

## DINNER SERVICE

## AYC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REMARKS

Michelle Freridge

## AWARD PRESENTATION

### POLICY LEADERSHIP AWARD

Fiona Ma

## SPECIAL TESTIMONIAL

Claire Lee

## AWARD PRESENTATION

### COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP AWARD

City of Rosemead

## AYC ANNUAL VIDEO PREMIERE

## AWARD PRESENTATION

### CORPORATE LEADER AWARD

Transtech Engineers, Inc.

## SPECIAL PERFORMANCE

String Duet

## AWARD PRESENTATION

### POP-CULTURE ICON AWARD

Curtis Chin

### PRESIDENT'S RECOGNITION AWARD

Waldo Yan

## AYC BOARD PRESIDENT MESSAGE

Bryan Chau



# ABOUT AYC



## HISTORY

The Asian Youth Center (AYC) was founded as an independent, community-based nonprofit organization in 1989 by a United Way Task Force and then local Asian American community leaders, Judy Chu and May L. To, to meet the social and health needs of Asian immigrant youth and families in the San Gabriel Valley. Over the years, AYC has grown significantly in size and scope, becoming a diverse multi-service organization with an annual budget of over \$6 million.

## MISSION

AYC exists to empower low-income and immigrant youth, families, and young adults of all ethnicities to succeed in school, at work, and in life.

## WHO WE SERVED

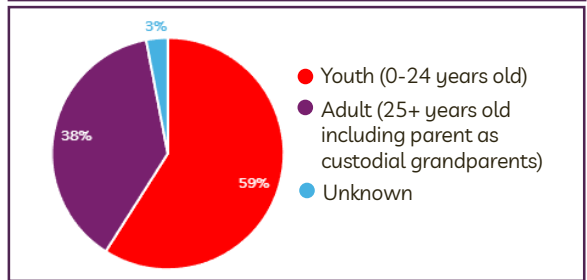
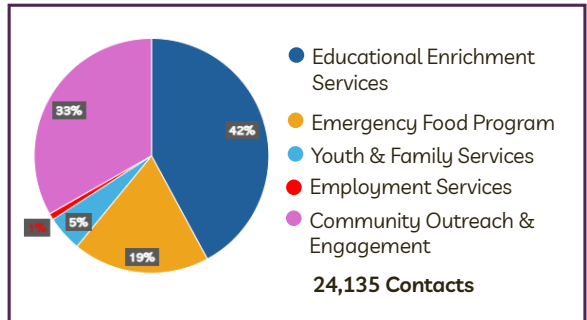
In 2023-2024, AYC served 8,650 unduplicated individuals with services and reached more than 24,135 community members through community outreach and education and 88 volunteers. Sixty-one (61%) of individuals served lived in low-income households, while 14% were unknown and 25% had moderate/middle income. Of those individuals served, 59% were youth (ages 0-24), 38% were adults, and 3% were unknown.

Of the youth served, 1% were ages 0-5, 5% were ages 6-11, 41% were ages 12-13, 46% were ages 14-18, and 1% were ages 19-24 and 6% unknown. Thirty-seven percent (37%) of youth were male, 44% were female, 1% were non-binary or other, 14% declined to state, and 4% were unknown.

Of the 5,117 unduplicated youth served last year, 93% were assessed as at-risk, 5% were on probation, 1% were in foster care, and 1% were homeless. Youth are considered "at-risk" when they have been assessed with multiple risk factors that may include being from a low-income family, living in a high-crime or gang-identified neighborhood, failing in school, learning English as a second language, and being a first-generation immigrant (documented or not).

Thirty-four percent (34%) of all people served identified as Asian Pacific Islander, while 30% identified as Latinx or Hispanic, 8% as African American, 8% as Caucasian, 1% as mixed race, 1% as another race or ethnicity, 16% declined to state, and 2% were unknown.

Sixty-five percent (65%) of individuals receiving services spoke English, 14% spoke Chinese only (Mandarin or Cantonese), 3% spoke Spanish only, 14% spoke Spanish and English, 2% spoke Vietnamese only, and 1% spoke another language including: ASL, Arabic, Bangla, Burmese, Teochew, Chamorro, Hmong, Indonesian, Japanese, Khmer, Korean, Persian, Portuguese, Russian, Telugu, and less than 1% were unknown.



Geographically, 55% of services were provided in Supervisorial District 1 (39% in East Los Angeles and 17% in the El Monte/Pomona side of the District), and 4% of services were provided in Supervisorial District 2 (South Los Angeles). 7% of services were provided in Supervisorial District 3, 2% were provided in Supervisorial District 4, and 1% outside of Los Angeles County. 31% of services were provided in Supervisorial District 5 (5% in the San Gabriel Valley and 26% in the Antelope Valley).

## PROGRAMS

AYC's programs are divided into five departments: 1) Educational Enrichment Services; 2) Emergency Food Program; 3) Youth & Family Services (YFS); 4) Employment Services; and 5) Community Outreach & Engagement.

## EDUCATION & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

**Education Enrichment Services (EES)** provides low-income and immigrant youth ages 5-18 with after-school and summer school programming, including Youth and Parent Leadership Development (YPLD) services in high school Dream Centers. Last year, EES served 3,628 unduplicated youth in elementary, middle, and high schools.

**Emergency Food Program** provided 144,780 meals to 1,624 unduplicated households with groceries and perishable items such as fresh produce, meat, grains, and dairy products as well as diapers, baby formula, PPE, and other essentials to help supplement basic needs.

**Youth & Family Services (YFS)** programs are provided at schools, in juvenile facilities, community partner sites, and in client homes to decrease recidivism and juvenile delinquency through diversion, social emotional learning, case management, and re-entry services. In 2024, YFS programs served 425 youth, parents, and adults, with post-tests demonstrating significant increases in skills and self-esteem.

**Employment Services** increases employment success among low-income youth ages 14-24. Last year, 75 participated in skills development, career workshops, school enrollment, tutoring, and opportunities to gain paid work experience.

**Community Outreach & Engagement** reached 282 unduplicated individuals and made 24,135 contacts last year in Mandarin, Cantonese, Vietnamese, Spanish, and English through in-language press coverage and community event outreach on a variety of topics, including broadband access for low-income families and utility consumer education (282 contacts), addressing anti-Asian hate (1,419 contacts), and COVID-19 education (1,164 contacts).

# IN 2023-2024

**24,135**

Community Members reached through community outreach and education



**8,650**

unduplicated individuals served



**3,338**

participants served by Youth & Parent Leadership Development.



**61%**

of individuals served lived in low-income households



**5,117**

Unduplicated youth served last year, 93% were assessed as at-risk, 5% were on probation, 1% were in foster care, and 1% were homeless.



**34%**

of all people served identified as Asian Pacific Islander, while 30% identified as Latinx or Hispanic, 8% as African American, 8% as Caucasian, 1% as mixed race, 1% as another race or ethnicity, 16% declined to state, and 2% were unknown.



# AYC LEGACY CIRCLE



## WHAT IS THE AYC LEGACY CIRCLE?

The AYC Legacy Circle honors forward-thinking donors who have left a gift to AYC through a will or trust.

## WHO SHOULD CONSIDER JOINING?

For those who have a special interest in creating a legacy beyond their lifetime, the Legacy Circle allows donors to ensure their philanthropic dollars are used in the way they intended. AYC encourages you to consider becoming a member of the Legacy Circle as part of your overall estate planning strategy.

“ It’s important for me to know that I can continue to support the much needed services that AYC provides to the communities that I care so much about. ”

– **Gay Yuen, Ph.D.**  
*Early Contributor*



## ASIAN YOUTH CENTER LEGACY CIRCLE, AT A GLANCE

- Enables you to leave a gift to AYC through a will or trust
- Provides lifetime recognition in AYC publications
- Invitations to exclusive Legacy Circle events
- Ensures that members' wishes will be honored faithfully

# AYC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Preferred Bank

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*Attorney*

Law Offices of Sabrina Li, P.C.



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## DINNER CO-CHAIRS



Kenny Chung



Judy Hsieh

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Todd Becker  
Bryan Chau  
Clara Chiu-Torres  
Ricky Choi

Sabrina Li  
Katherine Gorospe  
Damien Orozco  
Carmen Shoemaker  
Alice Shyu



# AYC STAFF



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Anthony Lu  
Bertha Morales  
Boi Truong  
Brendon Calderon  
Brianna Molina  
Bryan Kim  
ChinYa (Eva) Hsiung  
Christine Najung Lee  
Christine Nguyen  
Cindy Shihab  
Cinthia Alvarado  
Cyanine Khan  
Dean Alvarado  
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Eduardo Romero  
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Vinnie Ta  
Wing Han (Michelle) Chu  
Winni Luong  
Xiadani Perez  
Xuanyu (Julian) Zhu

# BOARD PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



DEAR FRIENDS,

On behalf of AYC Board of Directors, I am honored to welcome you all to our 35th Anniversary Celebration and Awards Dinner. We are grateful for your presence and humbled by your support for our organization and the youth and families we serve. Founded in 1989 by Congresswoman Judy Chu and the late May L. To in response to the unmet social service and health needs of Asian immigrant youth in the San Gabriel Valley, AYC has

expanded over three decades to serve and empower low-income, immigrant and at-risk youth and families of all ethnicities across Los Angeles County through culturally and linguistically competent education, employment and social services.

Tonight's theme, "Celebrating AYC, Built by Community, Investing in the Future" highlights AYC's reverence of our founding communities through our commitment to creating opportunities for our youth! AYC aims to inspire our youth to raise awareness and organize around the issues and injustices that affect them and their future. As AYC grows, with the help of our donors and partners, we make it a point to invest in those communities, such as our latest expansion into the Antelope Valley and San Fernando Valley.

Since our last Gala, we have continued this growth by adding two new programs to not only support our youth, but also our senior citizens, respectively. In partnership with the Los Angeles Department of Mental Health, the United Mental Health Promoters program will reduce mental health stigma among seniors over 65 in the San Gabriel Valley by raising awareness, removing barriers, and improving access to culturally relevant resources.

We've also added the Level Up Next Gen program, which supports justice-impacted, foster care, and low-income youth (ages 14-24) to reduce delinquency and recidivism. Over six months, participants receive weekly mentoring to build life skills, peer mediation, post-secondary education, and job readiness. Eligible youth can also access paid internships for career exploration. AYC provides additional support like educational referrals and assistance with ID fees, transportation, and clothing. Mentors meet youth at home, in the community, or at AYC Lancaster office. None of this would have been possible without our supporters and dedicated Board Members, all of whom tirelessly volunteer their time, talent and resources to sustain AYC.

Congratulations to our distinguished honorees The Honorable Fiona Ma, City of Rosemead, Transtech Engineering Inc., Curtis Chin, and Waldo Yan, for their achievements and contributions to AYC and the community. I also want to express my sincere appreciation to all our event sponsors. With your support and generosity tonight, AYC can continue making a positive difference to inspire, develop and empower our youth.

Sincerely,  
**Bryan Chau**  
President

# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



DEAR FRIENDS,

Welcome! On behalf of everyone at AYC, I am so proud to welcome you to our 35th Anniversary Celebration and Awards Dinner.



AYC exists to empower low-income, immigrant, and at-risk youth and families of all communities to overcome barriers to success. We help youth succeed in school, at work, and in life!

We could not do this work without the amazing staff who work so hard, the many volunteers who donate their time, and all the sponsors, donors, and community members who donate, support, and contribute in so many ways to AYC's mission and success.

I would like to give a very special thank you to our Gold sponsors! We deeply appreciate Cathay Bank, Preferred Bank, and Southern California Edison for your generous support and leadership.

I also want to thank the Silver sponsors: Accele8Networks, East West Bank, The Gas Company, Pacific Plaza Premier, and Royal Business Bank. Silver sponsorships make a huge difference for the youth we serve!

Thanks must be given to the Dinner Committee Co-Chairs Kenny Chung & Judy Hsieh, their awesome Dinner Committee, and the fabulous Asian Youth Center Board of Directors, led by President Bryan Chau. It is a pleasure to work with you all, and I deeply appreciate all the time, expertise, and support you all give to AYC! Thank you!

I wish to extend our deepest gratitude and appreciation to our patrons for your continued support. Through your generosity tonight, Asian Youth Center will be able to continue to make a difference in the lives of so many low-income, immigrant, and at-risk youth and their families. You are truly making the world a better place.

I want to congratulate all of the Honorees and thank everyone here tonight. On behalf of everyone at AYC, we thank you for your support and invite you to have a wonderful evening.

Sincerely,  
**Michelle Freridge**  
Executive Director

# POLICY LEADERSHIP AWARD



## FIONA MA | CALIFORNIA STATE TREASURER

Fiona Ma is California's 34th State Treasurer. She was first elected on November 6, 2018, with more votes (7,825,587) than any other candidate for treasurer in the state's history and reelected on November 8, 2022. She is the first woman of color and the first woman Certified Public Accountant (CPA) elected to the position.

The State Treasurer's Office was created in the California Constitution in 1849. It provides financing for schools, roads, housing, recycling and waste management, hospitals, public facilities, and other crucial infrastructure projects that better the lives of residents. California is poised to become the world's fourth-largest economy and Treasurer Ma is the state's primary banker.

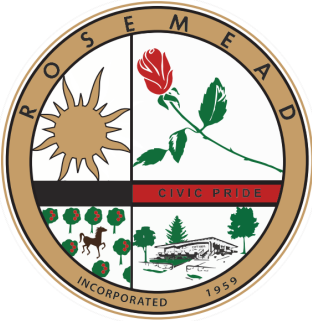


Presently, her office processes more than \$3 trillion in banking transactions. She provides transparency and oversight for the government's investment portfolio and accounts, as well as for the state's surplus funds. Treasurer Ma oversees an investment portfolio that currently averages over \$200 billion—a

significant portion of which is beneficially owned by more than 2,200 local governments in California. She serves as agent of sale for all State bonds and is trustee of billions of dollars of state indebtedness.

***Award presented by: Congresswoman Judy Chu***

# COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP AWARD



## CITY OF ROSEMEAD

Incorporated on August 4, 1959, the City of Rosemead is an urban suburb in the San Gabriel Valley, 10 miles east of downtown Los Angeles. It is bounded on the north by the cities of Temple City and San Gabriel, on the west by Monterey Park, Alhambra, and the unincorporated Los Angeles County community of South San Gabriel, on the south by Montebello, plus by El Monte and South El Monte on the east. The city is 5.2 square miles in size. Rosemead is a working-class suburb with a diverse population base. According to the 2020 Census, the city had a population of 51,185. Rosemead is a working-class suburb with a diverse population base.



## HISTORY

John Guess and his wife, Harriet, arrived in the San Gabriel Valley in 1852 in an ox-drawn wagon from Arkansas. They settled in 1855 on a 100-acre ranch called Savannah on the site of what is now Savannah School. Others followed, including Frank Frost and Leonard Rose. Rose purchased 500 to 700 acres to breed and train horses and called his place Rose's Meadow, which was shortened to Rosemead and gave the city its name.

## TODAY

Today, the city boasts that its goals include improving the quality of life offered in Rosemead in a business-friendly atmosphere conducive to continued economic growth and prosperity. The city offers a desirable and affordable community in which to live and a dynamic and expanding business sector that is an economic growth engine for West Coast commerce.

Rosemead's appeal as a new kind of small town in the heart of an urban environment is accomplished by honoring tradition, uniting in diversity, and evolving for the future. This is evident in Rosemead's Key Organizational Goals in the city's Strategic Plan 2023, which aims to improve public areas, including infrastructure and community facilities; enhance public safety and the overall community environment and opportunities for residents through programs, services, education, and recreation; and ensure the city's financial stability to continually meet these goals and provide essential services to the community.

***Award presented by: Marissa Castro-Salvati, Government Relations Manager at Southern California Edison & AYC Community Advisory Board Member***

# CORPORATE LEADER AWARD



## **TRANSTECH ENGINEERS, INC.**



Est. 1989

**Your Projects | Our Passion**

A Municipal Consulting Firm

Founded in 1989, Transtech is a full-service municipal consulting firm providing civil and traffic engineering, public works, construction management, and building services to over 80 cities throughout Southern California. Transtech's headquarters is located in the City of Chino with regional offices in Los Angeles, San Bernardino, Big Bear Lake, and Costa Mesa. This year, Transtech is celebrating 35 years of providing quality professional services to public agencies! Transtech strongly believes in giving back to the community by supporting countless civic events and community

programs, by awarding annual scholarships to Civil Engineering students at Cal Poly Pomona, and by serving on numerous non-profit boards. Transtech is A Trusted Community Partner and we truly live by our motto – "Your Projects. Our Passion."

Community service and civic engagement, especially involving the youth is a core value at Transtech. We are always honored to partner with civic groups, non-profit organizations, and chambers of commerce in the cities we serve. As a professional engineering firm, we are particularly proud of our efforts in encouraging students to pursue STEM related fields from early education up through college and beyond.

We are deeply honored and humbled to receive the Asian Youth Center's 2024 Corporate Leader Award. Thank you again for this amazing honor.

***Award presented by: Assemblymember Mike Fong***

# POP-CULTURE ICON AWARD

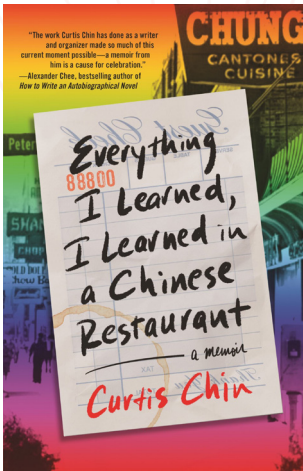


## CURTIS CHIN

A co-founder of the Asian American Writers' Workshop in New York City, Curtis Chin served as the non-profit's first Executive Director. He went on to write for network and cable television before transitioning to social justice documentaries. Chin has screened his films at over 600 venues in sixteen countries. He has written for CNN, Bon Appetit, the Detroit Free Press, and the Emancipator (Boston Globe). A graduate of the University of Michigan, Chin has received awards from ABC/Disney Television, New York Foundation for the Arts, National Endowment for the Arts, and more.

His memoir, *Everything I Learned, I Learned in a Chinese Restaurant*, was published by Little, Brown in Fall 2023. His essay in *Bon Appetit* was just selected for Best Food Writing in America 2023.

***Award presented by: City Council Member, Monterey Park, Henry Lo***



# PRESIDENT'S AWARD



## WALDO YAN

For more than two decades, Chef Waldo Yan watched his parents operate Tasty Food, a Chinese restaurant in San Gabriel that, like so many of the city's best restaurants, kept a dream alive in a new land by recreating memories of home, now thousands of miles away. He saw the woks fired with every order. He heard the knives gliding along the chopping block. But for the most part, he waited for the keys to rustle in the door back home.

From Central Texas-inspired smoked brisket to hojicha ice cream, Yan's meticulous, forward-thinking technique diverges from that of his parents' more traditional focus. Inspired by texts like *The Flavor Bible* and award-winning cookbook author and chef J. Kenji Lopez-Alt (whom Yan once cooked alongside), there is a creative, problem-solving bent to Yan's culinary ethos. A recent collaboration with Nova Brewing, the only craft sake brewery in Los Angeles, presented Yan with kasu (the leftover, umami-rich byproduct of sake after straining), which he transformed into an ice cream, demonstrating the versatility of flavor that rice fermentation creates.

Still, like his parents before him, Yan is guided by memories of home. His first love was his mother's Hainan chicken rice; in preparing her son's favorite meal, she would joke that she was enabling a blood feud between Waldo and chicken-kind. Later in life, after his mother was taken suddenly by advanced leukemia, the dish became an obsession. Yan agonized over the grains of rice, over the optimal way to slice the bird, over the ginger-scallion sauce that his mother perfected but never passed the recipe down to.

His actions went against his mother's last wishes. Days before her passing, she implored her son not to enter the restaurant business. Whatever you do, don't do this. Don't cook for a living. "She was raised to think that restaurant work was reserved for people who didn't have any other option," Yan said in the L.A. Times video. He understood why she was so adamant in her plea. He witnessed firsthand the physical, financial, and mental toll the industry took from his parents. But in taking up the mantle that his mother left, despite her reservations, Yan hopes to point toward a different way, both as a creative exercise and as a business venture.

It took time, but his diligence was recognized and celebrated: in 2016, the Los Angeles Times ran a video feature on Yan's story; in 2018, Eater LA praised Tasty Food's Hainan chicken rice as an essential rendition. The dish meant the world to him; it was a fitting tribute to a mother's love.

Yan chose to follow his calling, an ongoing pursuit of knowledge in the kitchen, as a way to communicate his love and care the way his mother once did, as a way to keep her inspiration alive. Allow him to share all he's learned with you.

***Award presented by: AYC Board President, Bryan Chau***



# MISTRESS & MASTER OF CEREMONIES



## GIGI YAM

Gigi Yam is a TV personality and Event MC in Los Angeles. She hosts several shows on Chinese broadcasting television station SkyLink TV. Gigi started her career as a model and show host with TVB and AM1430.

Besides working on TV and events, Gigi enjoys her time doing volunteer work. She is the Vice President of Morning Light Foundation and President for the Hong Kong School Alumni Federation, both educational foundations helping scholars with financial need.

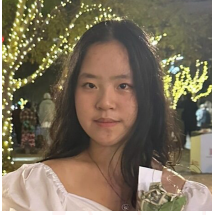
Gigi also hosts for many international and community organizations throughout California as well as politicians' fundraising events. Gigi is a strong supporter for many charitable organizations and hosts many of their events including the Chinese American Museum, Chinese Parents Association for the Disabled and Chinese Christian Herald Crusades annually. Gigi has been a supporter and volunteer MC for AYC's galas and other fundraising events for more than 10 years and we deeply appreciate her time, support, and friendship!



## SKY PATTERSON

Sky Patterson attended the University of Southern California where he studied Theatre and Chinese language while captaining both the Tae Kwon Do and Wushu martial arts teams. After graduation he moved to Beijing, China, where he competed internationally and appeared in several feature films. His athletic achievements include Gold Medal at the International Shaolin Temple Cultural Festival and Grand Champion at the Long Beach International Karate Championships. He has appeared in films such as The Kung Fu Master and Ted Bundy: American Boogeyman. Sky grew up in Portland, Oregon and resides in Los Angeles.

# YOUTH SPEAKER



## CLAIRE LEE

Claire Lee is a 15 year old youth currently in the 11th grade at San Marino High School. She became a volunteer to give back to her community, make a tangible impact in the lives of the less fortunate, and further enhance her leadership skills. Claire enjoyed volunteering at AYC, as she felt it gave her a purpose and a sense of direction. Guiding low-income families with helpful resources and assisting students at the after-school and summer school programs gave her a sense of joy and accomplishment. All it took was the courage to speak up and show up to volunteer, and she realized she could positively impact on her life and other people's lives through her actions.

Before beginning this volunteer work and internship at AYC, Claire struggled with guiding a large group, and although she had already developed some public speaking skills, she wanted to build upon those and use her voice for a good cause. Through this experience, she has discovered her own personal growth and the happiness she finds in helping others. This experience has also offered her a broader perspective on the challenges that others face and the opportunity and flexibility to balance school life and the internship's duties.

In the future, Claire plans to continue her volunteer work and internship but will also utilize the valuable skills that she has acquired from the AYC program by spreading awareness to our community, working or creating other wonderful initiatives that help low-income families, and focusing on mentoring younger students by sharing her knowledge to empower them to make positive changes in their lives.

# ENTERTAINMENT



## ANTONIO SHYU

Antonio Shyu is a talented multicultural musician currently enrolled and studying at the prestigious Los Angeles County High School for the Arts. He began his musical studies at the age of 5 and has developed a love for all genres of music. Antonio is a seasoned chamber, orchestral, and solo musician studying cello with Benjamin Lash at the Colburn School and piano with Betsy Lo. He has succeeded in various competitions, such as the Opus Music Competition, the American Virtuoso International Music Competition, the Universal Stars Competition, and the Charleston International Competition. Antonio has showcased his music at notable events, including the Congressional Award Ceremony alongside Congresswoman Judy Chu, a solo performance at Carnegie Hall, and a feature at the White House. Even as a winner of multiple competitions and an accomplished performer, Antonio is most proud of teaching and nurturing the younger generation with music. As the President of Love Through Music, Antonio has demonstrated strong leadership, successfully raising over \$4,000 by organizing two fundraiser concerts in Fall 2023 and Spring 2024, benefiting music programs in underserved schools.

Additionally, he is a recipient of the My My Nhan Memorial Scholarship Award. Antonio's repertoire includes contemporary works by acclaimed artists such as Spanish cellist Pablo Casals and French singer Edith Piaf. He has enriched his musical knowledge through participation in masterclasses led by esteemed musicians Ko Iwasaki, Ronald Leonard, and Nathaniel Rosen.



## JULIAN RIFE

Julian Rife is a violinist, sound designer, and composer currently attending the Los Angeles County High School for the Arts. Beginning his musical journey as a violinist at age five, he developed a love for all genres of music and their relationship with the classical form. In addition to his long classical resume, performing at venues as famous as Carnegie Hall and Walt Disney Concert Hall, Julian is well versed in music creation as well as performance. His knack for music technology led him to become proficient in production and composition, and he collaborates with LACHSA's Cinematic Arts Department students in the creation of music for film. Through technology Julian aims to support his peers in their music, while simultaneously enriching his pursuit of classical music.

# 2024 SPONSORSHIPS



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## BRONZE SPONSORS

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# Thank you to Asian Youth Center for investing in our community and our children's futures!

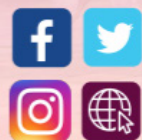
Congratulations to the deserving honorees.

Fiona Ma  
City of Rosemead  
Transtech Engineers, Inc.  
Curtis Chin  
Waldo Yan



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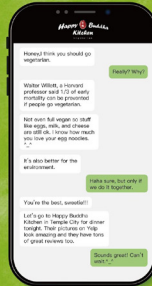
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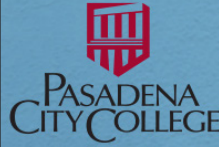
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**Congratulations to the honorees and thank you for supporting Asian Youth Center!**



**Michelle Freridge  
AYC Executive Director**



Los Angeles County Supervisor  
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*Los Angeles County Supervisor Hilda L. Solis, First District, proudly supports Asian Youth Center's 35th Anniversary Celebration & Awards Dinner!*

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Asian Youth Center

35th Anniversary  
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**Congratulations to the honorees!**

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September 27, 2024

Asian Youth Center  
100 West Clary Avenue  
San Gabriel, CA 91776

Dear Friends,

I would like to extend a warm welcome to everyone gathered for the 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Asian Youth Center and to all those honored today.



Since its establishment in 1989, the Asian Youth Center has served as a critical partner in helping to provide social services and address the health needs among Asian youth in the San Gabriel Valley. In offering important programs for at-risk youth such as educational services as well as emergency food resources for youth and their families, the Asian Youth Center continues to expand to new heights and tender to our diverse and energetic community. As one of the founding members of AYC, I take great pride in the organization's ongoing commitment to providing youth and their families with services and programs tailored to their needs. This dedication is vital to ensuring that future generations can grow up in an environment that allows them to become healthy and productive citizens in our society.

I commend this year's honorees, Fiona Ma, the City of Rosemead, Transtech Engineers Inc., Curtis Chin, and Waldo Yan for their efforts in promoting the AYC spirit. To the AYC and to the honorees, I am truly thankful for your passion and dedication towards improving our communities. I am honored to recognize your endeavors in assisting our San Gabriel Valley family.

On behalf of the United States House of Representatives and the people of the 28<sup>th</sup> Congressional District, I extend my gratitude for thirty-five years of service to our community and best wishes for your continued success.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Judy Chu".

**JUDY CHU, Ph.D.**  
Member of Congress, 28<sup>th</sup> District



**ADAM B. SCHIFF**

Member of Congress  
California's 30th District

September 27, 2024



Asian Youth Center  
100 W. Clary Ave.  
San Gabriel, CA 91776

Dear Friends:

It is with pleasure that I join you in celebrating the Asian Youth Center's (AYC) 35th Anniversary Celebration and Awards Dinner.

The Asian Youth Project was founded in 1989 by the Asian Task Force of the United Way to bridge the gap in crucial needs and social services by providing linguistically and culturally proficient services to Asian American youth and families in the San Gabriel Valley. In 1990, the Asian Youth Project became an official non-profit organization and was renamed the Asian Youth Center, and in 2009, the AYC expanded its services to include the Antelope Valley. For 35 years, the Asian Youth Center has empowered immigrant, low-income, and at-risk youth of all communities through emergency food programs, community engagement and outreach, and employment and educational services. In response to the increase of anti-Asian hate incidents and crimes in recent years, the AYC began the Stop Hate Project, which raises awareness of discrimination faced by Asian Americans.

This evening, the Asian Youth Center will honor three individuals and two organizations for their contributions to the AYC. California State Treasurer Fiona Ma will receive the Policy Leadership Award, Curtis Chin will be given the Pop-Culture Icon Award, Waldo Yan will be honored with the President's Award, the City of Rosemead will receive the Community Leadership Award, and Transtech Engineers, Inc. will be recognized with the Corporate Leader Award.

Thank you to the Asian Youth Center for over three decades of outstanding service to the community. Congratulations to all the honorees and best wishes for a successful event!

Sincerely,

**ADAM B. SCHIFF**  
Member of Congress

# California State Senate

SENATOR  
ANTHONY J. PORTANTINO  
TWENTY-FIFTH SENATE DISTRICT



September 27, 2024

Asian Youth Center  
100 W. Clary Ave.  
San Gabriel, CA 91776

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the California State Senate, I extend my warmest welcome to everyone attending the Asian Youth Center's (AYC) 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration and Awards Dinner!

It is with great pleasure that I recognize AYC's steadfast service to our community and the State of California. For 35 years, the organization has served as an embodiment of hope, empowerment, and support for countless young individuals. I am delighted to extend my warmest congratulations to the organization on its exceptional efforts and dedication to improving the lives of low-income and immigrant community members by promoting youth education, ensuring food security, and combating hate crimes.

Thank you for striving to make a positive impact on the community by promoting civic engagement. I look forward to seeing the continued impact of your work, as well as the many more milestones to come.

Congratulations and best wishes on all your future endeavors!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anthony J. Portantino".

ANTHONY J. PORTANTINO  
Senator, 25<sup>th</sup> Senate District

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BUDGET & FISCAL REVIEW  
BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE #5  
ON CORRECTIONS, PUBLIC  
SAFETY, JUDICIARY, LABOR &  
TRANSPORTATION  
ELECTIONS & CONSTITUTIONAL  
AMENDMENTS  
ENERGY, UTILITIES &  
COMMUNICATIONS  
TRANSPORTATION  
JOINT COMMITTEE ON RULES

September 27, 2024

Dear Friends,

It's my great privilege to personally welcome you to the Asian Youth Center's 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration & Awards Dinner.

Originally established in 1989 as the Asian Youth Project and renamed the Asian Youth Center (AYC) in 1990, the AYC continues to enthusiastically serve and advocate for Asian American youth across Southern California through its numerous leadership and educational enrichment programs, food assistance programs, and upstream work to prevent anti-Asian hate crimes and incidents.

This evening's festivities are both a celebration of the AYC's 35 very successful years and a resounding affirmation of its ongoing mission to provide holistic support to Asian American families and youth throughout the region. Through these consistent efforts and investments in our youth, to include programs for low-income and immigrant youths, the AYC has had an immensely positive impact on our local communities as a whole, for which the Center is to be fittingly commended.

On behalf of the California State Senate, I'm very pleased to extend my gratitude to the Asian Youth Center, its Board of Directors, and staff for their 35 years of invaluable service to Asian American youth across Southern California, as well as my congratulations to all of those being honored, whose steadfast advocacy and success serves as a worthy inspiration for the entire community.

I look forward to our continued partnership, and to celebrating many more milestones as the AYC continues its outreach and commitment to providing direct and tangible support to immigrant families, expanding opportunity for Asian American youth, and encouraging and cultivating our next generation of community leaders.

Best wishes on this very joyous occasion,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Josh Newman".

Josh Newman  
Senator, 29<sup>th</sup> Senate District





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# Assembly California Legislature



**PHILLIP CHEN**  
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, FIFTY-FIFTH DISTRICT

**COMMITTEES**  
VICE CHAIR: BANKING AND FINANCE  
VICE CHAIR: ENVIRONMENTAL  
SAFETY AND TOXIC MATERIALS  
INSURANCE  
UTILITIES AND ENERGY

September 27<sup>th</sup>, 2024

Dear Friends and the Esteemed Members of the Asian Youth Center,

I am honored to extend my heartfelt congratulations to the Asian Youth Center (AYC) on the momentous occasion of your 35th anniversary. This milestone is a testament to the invaluable work and unwavering dedication that AYC has provided to our youth and communities over the past three and a half decades. Since its inception, AYC has been a pillar of support, guidance, and empowerment for countless young people, particularly those from underserved and immigrant communities. Your commitment to helping youth achieve success in education, employment, and personal development has made a profound impact on the lives of many, fostering a brighter future for all.

As you celebrate this significant anniversary, it is essential to acknowledge the incredible achievements of your organization and the lasting legacy you are creating. The programs and services you provide have not only enriched the lives of young individuals but have also strengthened families and contributed to the vibrancy and diversity of our community. The work you do is more critical now than ever. By continuing to offer a safe and nurturing environment, AYC plays a pivotal role in ensuring that our youth have the opportunities, resources, and support they need to thrive. Your efforts have not only built strong, resilient individuals but have also cultivated a sense of community and belonging that resonates far beyond your immediate reach.

On this special occasion, I want to express my deep appreciation for all that AYC has accomplished and my confidence in the continued positive impact you will have in the years to come. May your next 35 years be filled with even greater success, growth, and inspiration. Once again, congratulations on your 35th anniversary. I wish you a memorable celebration and continued success in all your endeavors.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Phillip Chen".

Phillip Chen, Ed.D  
Assemblyman, 59<sup>th</sup> District



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**COMMITTEES**  
COMMUNICATIONS AND CONVEYANCE  
RULES  
UTILITIES AND ENERGY

**SELECT COMMITTEE**  
CHAIR, REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION  
SOLUTIONS

**CAUCUSES**  
CALIFORNIA LEGISLATIVE BLACK CAUCUS

September 27, 2024

I am pleased to greet all of you gathered for your 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration and Awards Dinner.

Thank you for your 35 years of success in fulfilling your mission to Stop Asian Hate and provide employment, educational services and emergency food resources to youth and families.

I congratulate this year's distinguished honorees who have exemplified the Asian Youth Center's goals and mission. This year's honorees include: Fiona Ma, City of Rosemead, Transtech Engineers, Inc., Curtis Chin and Waldo Yan.



Thank you for your leadership and service to low-income, immigrant, and at-risk youth, of all communities, to overcome barriers to success through the provision of culturally and linguistically competent education, employment, and social services.

Best wishes and continued success in the future.

Sincerely,

Assemblymember Chris Holden  
41<sup>st</sup> Assembly District

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COMMITTEES  
CHAIR: EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT  
AGING AND LONG-TERM CARE  
COMMUNICATIONS AND CONVEYANCE  
HEALTH

CHAIR: JOINT LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE  
ON EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT  
JOINT COMMITTEE ON FAIRS  
ALLOCATION AND CLASSIFICATION

September 27, 2024

Dear Friends:

On behalf of the California State Assembly and the 53<sup>rd</sup> Assembly District, it is my honor to commend the Asian Youth Center (AYC) for hosting their 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration & Awards Dinner.

This evening I would like to congratulate tonight's outstanding honorees: Fiona Ma, California State Treasurer for the Policy Leadership Award; City of Rosemead for the Community Leadership Award; Transtech Engineers, Inc. for the Corporate Leader Award; Curtis Chen for the Pop-Culture Icon Award; Waldo Yan for The President's Award. You all play a key role in paving the way towards a brighter future. Thank you all for your leadership.



AYC's key focus to empower low-income, undocumented, and at-risk youth of our communities through culturally and linguistically competent education, employment, and social services. You have helped them overcome barriers and led them to success in school, work and life!

Your work is exemplary of what organizations in our communities should strive for – to help all members of our community become empowered and successful individuals.

My colleagues in the legislature and I appreciate your efforts to empower and strengthen the future of California's youth to become strong and capable members of our community. Thank you for your continued commitment and dedication to empower and enrich our underserved youth. I wish you all the best in your future endeavors!

Thank you,

**FREDDIE RODRIGUEZ**  
Assemblymember, 53<sup>rd</sup> Assembly District  
Chair, Assembly Committee on Emergency Management

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Assembly  
California Legislature



**MIGUEL SANTIAGO**  
ASSISTANT MAJORITY LEADER  
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, FIFTY-FOURTH DISTRICT

COMMITTEES  
ARTS, ENTERTAINMENT,  
SPORTS, AND TOURISM  
HEALTH  
UTILITIES AND ENERGY  
SELECT COMMITTEE  
CHAIR: LOS ANGELES  
COUNTY HOMELESSNESS

September 27, 2024

Dear Friends,

Greetings and a warm welcome to all those attending the Asian Youth Center's 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration & Awards Dinner! I would like to thank the Asian Youth Center's Board of Directors and staff for hosting this wonderful event.

Since its inception in 1989, the Asian Youth Center has provided culturally and linguistically competent employment, education, and social services to immigrant youth and families of all backgrounds. I commend the Asian Youth Center for their leadership and determination in improving the quality of life for the residents of our great city. I would also like to congratulate tonight's honorees:

**Policy Leadership Award — Fiona Ma**  
**Community Leadership Award — City of Rosemead**  
**Corporate Leader Award — Transtech Engineers, Inc.**  
**Pop-Culture Icon Award — Curtis Chin**  
**President's Award — Waldo Yan**

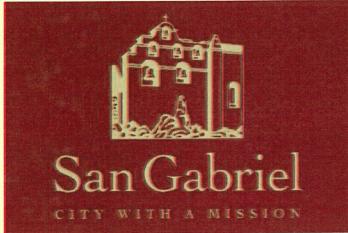
I look forward to continuing to work with the Asian Youth Center to serve our residents in the State of California and the 54<sup>th</sup> Assembly District in Los Angeles. Please accept my best wishes for continued success and congratulations on your 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Miguel Santiago".

**MIGUEL SANTIAGO**  
Assembly Member, 54<sup>th</sup> District





September 27, 2024

Michelle Freridge, M.P.A., J.D.  
Executive Director  
Asian Youth Center  
100 West Clary Avenue  
San Gabriel, CA 91776

I am extremely pleased and honored to congratulate the Asian Youth Center on its 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration and Awards Ceremony.

For the past 35 years, AYC has provided critical social services, employment and educational services to 3,000 youth and families of all ethnicities. AYC has achieved great results in spite of the difficult times and challenges that continue to affect our City and nation. The City of San Gabriel appreciates the dedicated work that AYC promotes every day.

Tonight, AYC will honor these individuals and organizations for their tremendous contributions towards furthering AYC's mission.

- Fiona Ma – *Policy Leadership Award*
- City of Rosemead – *Community Leadership Award*
- Transtech Engineers, Inc. – *Corporate Leader Award*
- Curtis Chin – *Pop Culture Icon Award*
- Waldo Wan – *President's Award*

Once again, congratulations to the Asian Youth Center and the 2024 honorees!

Sincerely,

John Wu  
Mayor



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

September 27, 2024

To Friends and Supporters  
of the Asian Youth Center:

It is a pleasure for me, on behalf of the City Council, to extend congratulations to the Asian Youth Center as it celebrates 35 years of success in providing social, employment and educational services to youth of all ethnicities in the San Gabriel Valley. This recognition is appropriate and a great opportunity to spotlight the wonderful way in which your organization contributes to our community.

I am delighted to extend congratulations and best wishes to your honorees this evening: Fiona Ma, the City of Rosemead, Transtech Engineering Inc., Curtis Chin, and Waldo Yan. These honorees have demonstrated their commitment to improving the lives of young people, and are deserving of this recognition.

Once again, congratulations upon this milestone, and best wishes for continued success.

Sincerely,

VICTOR M. GORDO  
Mayor



August 2024

Dear Asian Youth Center,

I am delighted to extend my heartfelt congratulations on the occasion of your **35th Anniversary Celebration & Awards Dinner**. Your 35th anniversary is a remarkable milestone, and a testament to your organization's unwavering dedication to the Asian community.

The Asian Youth Center is a beacon of hope, providing essential services such as anti-Asian hate prevention, employment assistance and opportunities, educational support, and emergency food resources. Your work has undoubtedly made a profound and lasting impact on the youth and families you serve.

I also want to express congratulations to the impressive lineup of honorees being celebrated tonight—**Fiona Ma, the City of Rosemead, Transtech Engineers, Inc., Curtis Chin, and Waldo Yan**. Your exemplary leadership in your fields have undoubtedly contributed to our entire City.

Thank you to everyone in your organization for the imperative service that you do daily. Your tireless efforts are making our community a better place for us all.

Sincerely,

**HEATHER HUTT**  
Councilwoman, 10th District





**NITHYA  
RAMAN**

| Los Angeles  
★ City Councilmember  
| 4th District

September 27, 2024

Asian Youth Center  
100 W. Clary Ave  
San Gabriel, CA 91776

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the Fourth District of the City of Los Angeles, I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to the Asian Youth Center (AYC) on its 35th Anniversary Celebration & Awards Dinner.

The Asian Youth Center has been a leader in advocating for and uplifting children and families from underserved communities in the City of Los Angeles and beyond by providing access to exemplary education and employment programs, social services, including emergency food resources, and working to stop Anti-Asian hate. I commend AYC for its 35 years of success in championing this work that is so integral to improving the well-being of our community. For that reason, our office is honored to join this year's celebration in recognition of AYC's incredible and enduring commitment to building a more inclusive and equitable world for the next generation.

I would also like to extend a very special congratulations to this year's honorees – Fiona Ma, the Policy Leadership Award recipient, the City of Rosemead, the Community Leadership Award recipient, Transtech Engineers, Inc., the Corporate Leader Award recipient, Curtis Chin, the Pop-Culture Icon Award recipient, and Waldo Yan, the President's Award recipient. I commend your dedication and commitment through your charitable work, distinguished leadership, and advocacy for the youth, families, and communities you serve in Los Angeles, the San Gabriel Valley, and beyond.

Please accept my best wishes and sincere gratitude to all those who worked hard to make this incredible and inspiring event possible. Once again, I congratulate the Asian Youth Center on this important milestone and continue to wish you success for the many years to come!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nithya Raman".

Nithya Raman  
Councilmember, 4th District  
City of Los Angeles





## AYC MISSION



Asian Youth Center (AYC) is a community-based 501(c)(3) non-profit organization (EIN #33-0383691) whose mission is to empower low-income, immigrant, and at-risk youth, of all communities, to overcome barriers to success through the provision of culturally and linguistically competent education, employment, and social services.

We help youth succeed in school,  
at work, and in life!



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@AYC100