

**ASIAN AMERICANS AND PACIFIC ISLANDERS
LEARN. ENGAGE. ADVOCATE. DREAM.**

2023 AAPI-LEAD YOUTH CONFERENCE



CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS PREPARED BY...

**CACF'S ASIAN AMERICAN STUDENT
ADVOCACY PROJECT (ASAP)**

The AAPI-LEAD (Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders- Learn. Engage. Advocate. Dream) is a 4-day youth conference that brings together NYC's AAPI and allied youth to discuss the experiences and issues most relevant to AAPI young people. AAPI-LEAD aims to develop AAPI youth's understanding of and relationship to their own identities, deepen the connections between social justice and equity in relation to systems and community, and equip youth with the tools to advocate for themselves, their families, and the wider AAPI community as a whole.

Cohort A: June 28 to July 2nd

- 108 youths signed up
- 74 youth attended due to space limit
- 35 NYC Public high schools
- 3 colleges
- 11 AAPI ethnic groups



Cohort B: August 17 to August 20

- 110 youths signed up
- 75 youth attended due to space limit
- 30 NYC Public high schools
- 2 colleges
- 20 AAPI ethnic groups



List of Workshop Topics: social identity, data disaggregation, intersectionality, microaggressions, level of racism, levels of oppression, equality vs equity vs justice, impact of model minority, anti-Blackness, AAPI History, anti-Asian hate, solidarity, policy advocacy and root cause analysis.

All workshops were designed and facilitated by **ASAP Youth Leaders**

Cohort A: June 6/28 - 7/2



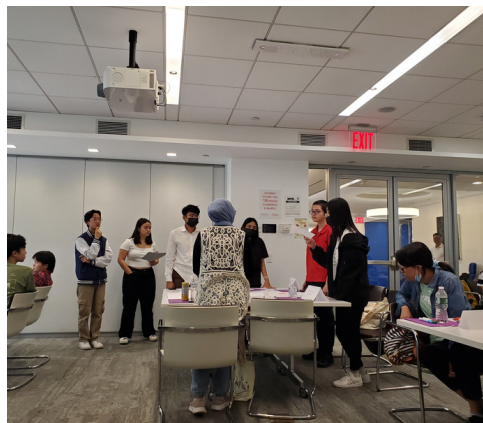
- "A great way to build up public speaking skills, **educate yourself and provide tools to bring knowledge** back home, and an involved way to meet others like yourself."
- "...consists of very **engaging workshops and activities** that helped in teaching us many of the issues that are present, but are not emphasized enough in our schools...and everyone who led the conference was **supportive and understanding.**"
- "... to discuss and learn about social justice and AAPI issues with AAPI people through lectures and group activities that use **collaboration, teamwork, and brainstorming.**"
- "...an insight into the AAPI community and **promotes solidarity within different communities.**"
- "...growth by taking the initiative to participate in this program...to realize the depth of this community...to become **more open minded on topics** we have been learning. At the end of the day, **equal access to education** like this is one of the steps **to creating a more equitable future.**"
- "...insightful in terms of learning more about how you can **be more proactive...learn about problems in the AAPI community** that I was unaware of and it also provides information on how we can contribute



Cohort A: June 6/28 - 7/2



- "...the generalization of many Asians as one group while **ignoring the intricacy and differences** between many groups."
- "Race is a social construct that has been perpetuated by humans **for the purpose of power and privilege** throughout history...make the change to create a more **equitable world**."
- "...in order to **combat divisions and inequality** in society, a group effort is needed to **compensate for resource disparities**."
- "Displaying support using verbal or symbols is only the surface level of solidarity and representation...being **transformative solidarity** where people **give up their privilege to fight** for someone else's."
- "...advocating for a policy **isn't linear**; it takes a **long time and work**. Sometimes the policy isn't implemented right away and there would be positives and negatives..."
- "... acknowledging the impact **stereotypes and microaggressions** have on a **marginalized community**, even people from such communities might not recognize such actions to be so."



Cohort B: August 8/18 - 8/20



- “Asians are **not a monolith**, and we all have **multifaceted identities and experiences** with systems of oppression.”
- “Truth is hidden in the numbers, you have to **dig deep to find it**”
- “many minority groups face different types and levels of racism but the amount of oppression **shouldn't be compared among marginalized groups** as it only divides them even more.”
- “in order to break this cycle of stereotyping and anti-asian hate, we must **find our voice** that society has taken away from us.”
- “a lot of reasons why society doesn't effectively tackle a problem is oftentimes because we fail to get to the **root cause and that leaves a hole in advocacy.**”
- “Data disaggregation might be discouraged because people have a scarce mindset, but it is important to **recognize that if different groups work together**, they can achieve much more than fighting against each other.”



Cohort B: August 8/18 - 8/20



- "...where you can really learn about racial issues super in-depth and without discomfort because of the **sense of solidarity** in this program."
- "In order to see change everyone has to **work together in a community and understand each other**, it requires a lot of effort"
- "As an AAPI student it's a great eye opener and it introduces **new ideas that we weren't introduced** to because of our school curriculum."
- "Anti-Blackness and the entire **negative dynamic which exists between Black and Asian communities** is a result of white supremacy...that I have never considered before."
- "... very informative and essential for all AAPI youth to listen to. It **educates us on the issues and struggles** within our community."
- " the different types of racism like **internalized and institutional**. I always thought racism was just discrimination but I learned **more in-depth about it today.**"

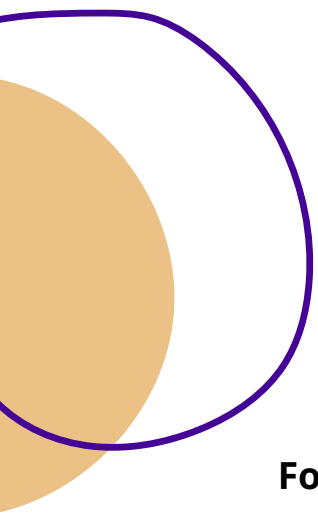




Thank You

For Your Support

The Asian American Student Advocacy Project is made possible with the generous support of: The New York City Council Black, Latino and Asian Caucus (BLAC), City Council Members Shekar Krishnan, Linda Lee, Christopher Marte, Lynn Schulman, Sandra Ung, Rita Joseph, Mercedes Narcisse and The NYC Department for Youth and Community Development, with additional support from Jeremy Lin and the Jeremy Lin Foundation's 3s for Hope Campaign, the Stronger Together Collaborative from the Jeremy Lin Foundation and the Asian American Foundation (TAAF) and Colgate-Palmolive Asian Action Network and Urban Education Fund.



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