

# 2021-2022 Reflection & Impact Report

**Asian Americans Advancing Justice | Chicago** builds power through collective advocacy and organizing to achieve racial equity in Chicago, the Midwest, and beyond. For 30 years, as a 501 (c)(3) non-profit, our organization has worked to bring together the Asian American community and create change in our communities through leadership development, advocacy, and civic engagement work.

Asian Americans are the fastest-growing racial group in Chicago, Illinois, and the entire country. As the only progressive pan-Asian power-building organization in Illinois, **Advancing Justice | Chicago** is creating meaningful policy change and building a diverse grassroots base that guides our campaign priorities and strategic vision.

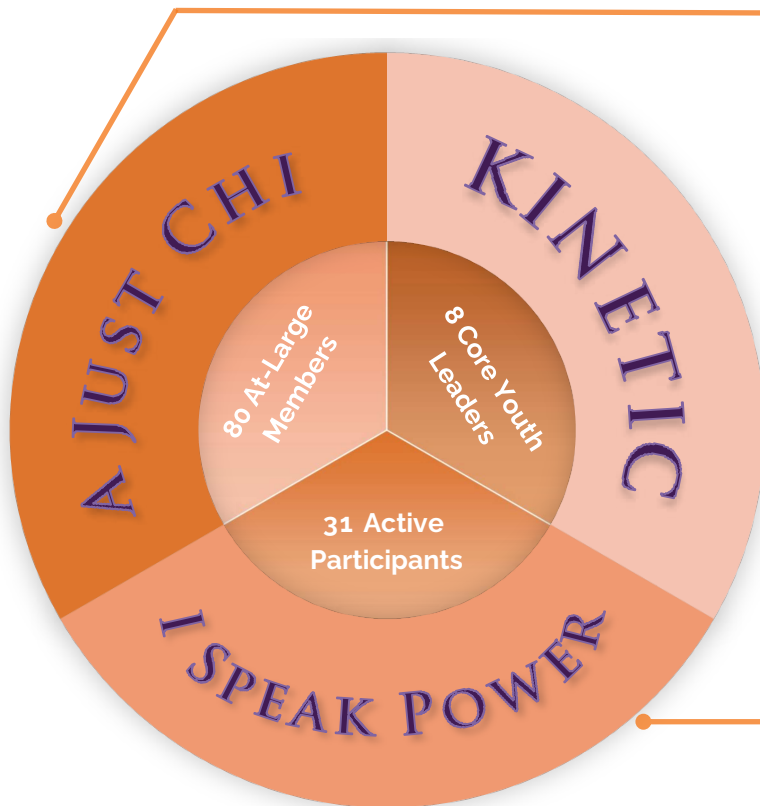
We know that change doesn't happen overnight. But with your support and involvement, our work will continue to empower hundreds of community leaders to lift their voices, and take action to advance racial equity. Learn more about our key issue areas, our impact, and how our vision in action.

**Since 1992, Celebrating 30 Years of Working for Justice**

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## Programs that Empower the Community



### 2021-2022 in Review

#### A Just Chi Pan-Asian Community Organizing

- 10 core leaders organized 48 working group meetings
- 2 issue-based working groups: Immigrant Justice & Abolition and Building Community
- Advocated for the passage of the TEAACH Act & implementation efforts

#### KINETIC Youth Leadership & Organizing

- Engaged with 40 limited English proficiency youth in the community
- Launched a new year-long fellowship
- Participated in an immigrant justice rally with 400 youth from 6 schools

#### I Speak Power Adults with Limited English Skills Community Organizing

- Tripled the number of participants
- Held 181 in-person and virtual community leadership meetings
- Reached community members from over 8 different language backgrounds

## Impact by the Numbers

- 100,000** **Asian American K-12 Students** in Illinois will see themselves reflected in their curriculum thanks to the recently passed Teaching Equitable Asian American Community History (TEAACH) Act.
- 20,850** **community members** have been trained by our Bystander Intervention Trainings to address anti-Asian hate and harassment in public spaces since October 2020.
- 553** **educators and administrators** have attended our professional development workshops on how to teach Asian American history since April of 2022.
- 202** **Cook County polling places and voting centers** were monitored for compliance with language and disability access laws by our staff and volunteers.
- 167** **community leaders** have been trained by our staff in the fundamentals of community organizing.
- 61** **organizations and corporate partners** have participated in our Bystander Intervention Trainings

## Key Issue Areas



**Democracy & Voting Rights**



**Education Equity**



**Immigrant Justice**



**Language Justice**



**Criminal Justice Reform**





I Speak Power community leader, Sara Begum speaks at the Indo-American Center in West Ridge (above). Advancing Justice | Chicago leaders and staff attend a rally in 2021 for a path to citizenship for all immigrants (right).



Maricor Chang and Grace Pai present a workshop on teaching Asian American history for educators at the Illinois Council for Social Studies conference (above left). Smita Garg facilitates a professional development workshop for the faculty of LaSalle II Magnet School in Chicago (above center). Kim Leung, Voting Rights Legal Fellow, conducts a youth workshop with Project Vision interns before the fall 2022 election (above right).



KINETIC and youth organizer, Chris Aldana, facilitates our 2022 summer youth leadership program at Lakeview High School (top left).

An organized blockade protests in front of the Chicago headquarters of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to demand #Citizenship4All (top right).

Poll watching volunteers, Jacqueline Lee and Sang Yup Lee, join us at our Election Day headquarters (left).

I Speak Power Organizer, Bharat Sharma, volunteers as an interpreter for voters on Election Day in West Ridge (right).





# Vision in Action—The Teaching Equitable Asian American Community History (TEAACH) Act

The road to the passage of the 2021 **TEAACH ACT** in Illinois started with the drafting and introduction of this historic piece of legislation by **Advancing Justice | Chicago**. Our months-long campaign work included :

- Convening of an **8 organization** steering committee of to lead advocacy efforts
- Sending **15,000 text messages** to Illinois residents to build public support
- Mobilizing **1,000 witness slips** in support of the bill
- Activating **800 constituents** to email their state legislators urging them to co-sponsor and vote year on the bill
- Collecting **65 testimonials** from students, community members, and educators

**JULY 2021 —**  
Governor JB Pritzker  
signs the TEAACH  
Act into law, making  
Illinois the first state  
to require the  
teaching of Asian  
American history in  
all K-12 public  
schools.



*Joined by dozens of the volunteers and community leaders who helped to make the campaign to champion the bill a success.*

## Asian American Education Resource D...

Use this data

Topic	Grade Level	Themes	Essential Questions
15 Family History	1st	Citizenship Civil Rights Identity Immigration Racism	What is chronological order? Why is it important? What is the chronological order of events in U.S. history? Within your family's history? What questions would you ask to better understand your family's history? If you could travel back in time, what questions would you ask t...
16 Japanese Incarceration	1st	Citizenship Civil Rights Immigration Racism	What causes a person to leave his/her native country and start a life in another country? What are the struggles and obstacles of starting a new life in an unfamiliar place? What would help a person feel like they belong? How did the United States' government feel about Asian ...
17	1st	Civil Rights Immigration Racism Activism/S...	Who is allowed to attend public school in America? Who decides?

*Smita Garg, one of our TEAACH Act professional development facilitators, shares curricular resources with educators (left).*

In support of the implementation of the bill **Advancing Justice | Chicago** has:

- Convened a team of volunteer educators and Asian American community stakeholders to create the **Asian American Education Resource Database**
- Launched professional development workshops for K-12 educators, leading 36 PDs that reached 693 as of November 2022
- Reached out to 67 school districts, regional offices of education, teachers unions, and other educational institutions to share our implementation resources and curricula

Learn more about the TEAACH Act, explore resources, and find upcoming professional development workshops: [advancingjustice-chicago.org/TEAACH](https://advancingjustice-chicago.org/TEAACH)

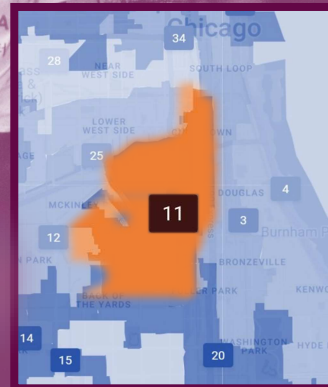


## Vision in Action—Voting Rights & Equitable Representation

"Our historic redistricting achievements will allow Asian American voters to have greater influence in local elections and will help elevate the unique issues that impact our community."

- Justin Sia

*Former Democracy and Redistricting Counsel*  
Advancing Justice | Chicago

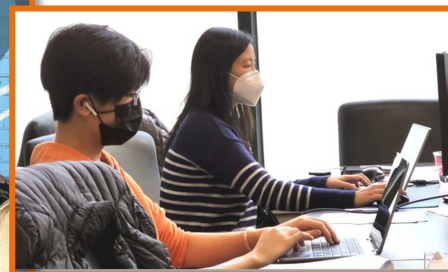
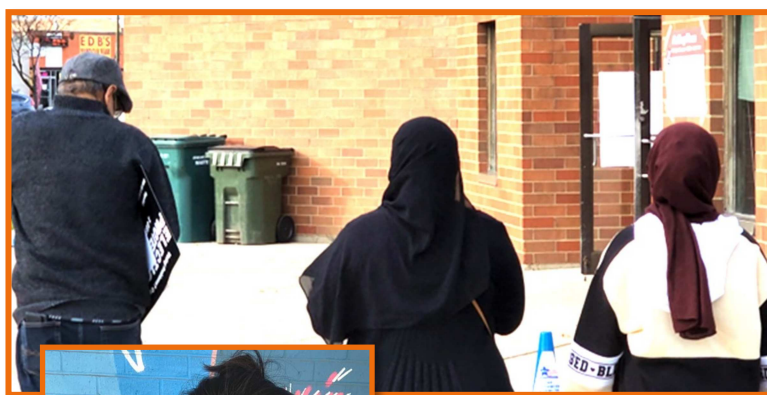


In 2021, **Advancing Justice | Chicago** helped win the creation of the **first-ever Asian American majority ward** in Chicago. During the Chicago redistricting process, our team organized dozens of legislative meetings with Chicago alderpersons and testified at multiple public hearings to advocate for an Asian American majority ward and the consolidation of our community in wards across the city. We led a collective effort with six other Asian American organizations to ensure that Asian American priorities were heard and recognized throughout the redistricting process.

This year, **Advancing Justice | Chicago** resumed its **countywide poll watching** program for the June 2022 primary election and the November 2022 general election. Our poll watchers monitor polling places throughout Cook County that are legally required to provide language access in the form of bilingual election judges and translated ballots and voting materials.

Our poll watching and voting rights program:

- Advocated for **robust precinct-level implementation** of federal and local language access laws, affecting dozens of Asian American communities
- Trained **38 staff and volunteer poll watchers** who were dispatched to 202 Cook County polling places and voting centers
- Ensured provisional translated materials in over **10 languages** including Mandarin, Hindi, Gujarati, Urdu, Arabic, Korean, and Tagalog
- **Up-to-the-minute surveying of polling sites**, provision of Board of Elections translation assistance, in-person voting instruction translation, and incident reporting
- Facilitating **of bi-weekly meetings** between the Board of Elections and critical partner organizations to elevate community concerns and recommendations around language access





## Our Journey is Just Beginning!

For the past 30 years, **Advancing Justice | Chicago's** members, supporters, funders, and community partners have made it possible for us to build power with and for the Asian American Community. Thank you for believing in our mission and investing in our work.

Help us continue to increase our impact by investing in the next 30 years of Advancing Justice!

## What Your Support Means to Us

**\$3000** Support for a Cook County-wide language access focused poll-watching program, including volunteer recruitment and training, printed materials, posters, transportation, and stipends for Advancing Justice | Chicago Election Headquarters staff

**\$1000** Charter bus transportation for 50 community leaders to go to the state capital for Asian American Action Day to meet with legislators and advocate for key issues, such as language access and education equity

**\$500** Travel stipend for a Midwest partner organization to attend a training with us in Chicago

**\$100** Campaign materials for our A Just Chi leaders to support community canvassing activities

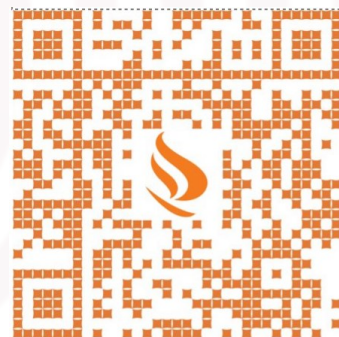
**\$60** Materials for creating a banner and posters for a rally

**\$30** Three months' worth of supplies for art, posters, and flyers for our KINETIC youth leaders



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Learn More & Share Our 30 Years of Impact:  
**[www.advancingjustice-chicago.org/impact](http://www.advancingjustice-chicago.org/impact)**



Please remit donation checks, payable to:

Asian Americans Advancing Justice | Chicago  
4716 North Broadway  
Chicago, IL 60640

EIN: 36-3844385





## Asian Americans Advancing Justice | Chicago

### 30 Years of Working for Justice

1992

The Asian American Institute (AAI) is founded as a research and policy organization with the goal of uplifting the profile of Asian American communities in Chicago.

1998

AAI lobbies to nominate Bill Lann Lee as Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights, and to confirm Paul Iwasaki as a commissioner on the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

1999

AAI promotes Asian American and Pacific Islander participation in the 2000 Census, and publishes "A Comprehensive Guide to the Asian American Community of the Greater Chicago Area."

2001

AAI forms a coalition on redistricting, and sets the ground work to launch poll monitoring programs to ensure language access compliance under the Voting Rights Act during the 2002 election.

2007

AAI and the Association of Asian Construction Enterprises successfully lobbies the City of Chicago to re-include Asian Americans in the affirmative action program for city contracts.

2011

AAI is a founding member of the Pan-Asian Voter Empowerment (PAVE) Coalition, which organizes the first-ever Asian American-focused mayoral forum.

2012

AAI works with Cook County election officials to implement required language access for South Asian voters for the first time ever and runs the largest election poll watching effort in IL.

2013

AAI rebrands as Asian Americans Advancing Justice | Chicago as an affiliate alongside peer organizations in D.C., Los Angeles, San Francisco, and Atlanta.

2014

Advancing Justice | Chicago organizes a community forum on police brutality, with initial demands evolve into the Chicago Welcoming City Ordinance.

2017

Advancing Justice | Chicago leads the championing of the Automatic Voter Registration and the Illinois TRUST Act for the state.

2018

KINETIC youth leaders successfully advocate for change in Chicago Public Schools policy to better support English language-learner students.

2020

Advancing Justice | Chicago launches Bystander Intervention Trainings in response to rising anti-Asian sentiment and violence.

2021

Advancing Justice | Chicago leads the passage of the TEAACH Act, making IL the first state in the nation to require Asian American history to be taught in all public schools.

2022

Advancing Justice | Chicago celebrates 30 years of impact, and continues to organize and work to implement systemic change.

Follow our work and join us in celebrating **#30YearsOfJustice**:



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