

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR HOLLY J. MITCHELL

MAY 17, 2022

Recognizing Second District Asian Pacific American Heritage Month Honorees

Recognizing Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage Month gives Los Angeles County (County) an opportunity to honor the individuals and organizations that work to preserve Asian American and Pacific Islander narratives and culture throughout the County. Angelenos can look to this year’s honorees and celebrate the work being done by AAPI leaders and organizations to improve lives and uplift AAPI experiences. This year, the Second Supervisorial District honors individuals and organizations whose contributions empower their communities while working towards equity and cultural preservation.

Mike Murase Esq. has been involved in human services, social change, education, government, and politics for over 40 years. Beyond his career in academia as a professor of ethnic Studies at the University of California Los Angeles, University of Southern California, and California State University, Long Beach, Mr. Murase has dedicated his life and career to public service. He was a part of the core group who founded Little Tokyo Service Center, a social service and community economic development agency serving Little Tokyo and the greater Japanese American community throughout the County, serving as Board President for the first five years. He also advocated for members of the Japanese Welfare Rights Organization, Little Tokyo People’s Rights Organization, and the National Coalition for Redress/Reparations. Mr. Murase also authored Little Tokyo: One Hundred Year History. In 2006, he returned to the Little Tokyo Service Center and

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is currently serving as the Director of Service Programs. When the COVID-19 pandemic rocked the County, he helped to organize a project for seniors sheltering in Little Tokyo to receive home-delivered meals prepared by hard-hit Little Tokyo restaurants. For his dedicated service to the Japanese American Community throughout the County, Mike Murase is this year's recipient of the Second Supervisorial District's Public Service Award.

The Asian Pacific Islander Small Business Collaborative Women's Business Center (API SBC WBC) works in collaboration with small and micro businesses in Los Angeles, with an emphasis in the Second Supervisorial District AAPI communities. They provide business counseling, workshops, business resources and trainings to their clients with in-language service accommodations. API SBC WBC caters to the unique economic needs of their clients, specifically those clients in low-income, immigrant communities. Their work has bridged the gap between their client's passion and the legality of what it means to be an operating and successful small business in the County. For their outstanding service provision and efforts to assist the development of small and micro businesses in the County, the API SBC WBC is this year's recipient of the Second Supervisorial District's Community Engagement Award.

Hwarang Youth Foundation is an international service group composed of goal-oriented young leaders, looking to improve their international community through consistent, unified local efforts. With 27 chapters in the United States, the County is home to 8 Hwarang Youth Foundation Clubs, benefiting from unified efforts for the betterment of our communities. Recently, such efforts included: conducting in person outreach for the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Low-Income Fair is Easy Program; protecting the Comfort Women Statue located in Glendale; fulfilling their duty as Korean Americans to prevent the erasure of Korean history; and leading several public space clean-up efforts throughout the County. Beyond existing as a service organization, Hwarang Youth Foundation is an organization that fosters interest in the civic, cultural, social, and moral welfare of communities. For their tireless work to encourage future, service-minded leaders, Hwarang Youth Foundation is this year's recipient of the Second Supervisorial District's Young Leader Award.

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MAMA is a platform dedicated to preserving immigrant culture by sharing authentic flavors and traditions with the world. Drive-By Kitchen, a takeout model with pop-up locations in the County, was created as a response to the COVID-19 pandemic as an extension of MAMA's mission to preserve restaurants and culture that make communities vibrant. Founder, Jared Jue saw the impact of COVID-19 on small businesses and started this takeout initiative to assist in distributing pre-ordered meals from underrepresented ethnic restaurants in the community. MAMA's Drive-By-Kitchen assures that all businesses keep 100% of their profits and matches funds for every meal ordered, doubling restaurants revenue while providing food to those in need. The initiative was implemented through a partnership with Respect Your Elders, a nonprofit organization that feeds senior citizens in low-income communities. MAMA's Drive-By-Kitchen has also helped many veteran owned businesses stabilize and thrive in the pandemic. For their innovative approach to preserving culture through food and paying it forward, this year's recipient of the Second Supervisorial District's Small Business Influencer Award is MAMA's Drive-By Kitchen.

Maise Chin is the co-founder and Executive Director emeritus of CADRE a nonprofit organization that works to advance parent leadership to ensure that children receive their fundamental right to education regardless of where they live. Their work is centered around policy change and mobilization through parent participation models that expand the right to education for all South Los Angeles children and youth. Prior to co-founding CADRE, Maise Chin was one of three inaugural program managers at Public Allies Los Angeles and was Associate Director of Los Angeles Partners Advocating Student Success, the local site of 10-year National Ford Foundation initiative to foster systemic K-16 collaboration and increase college graduation in underserved communities. Through leadership and innovation, Maise Chin ensures that CADRE is sustainable, effectively governed, and that parent leaders learn and grow the organization individually and collectively for the benefit of South Los Angeles students. For her innovative work in teaching parents to mobilize to ensure their children's right to education are fulfilled, Maise Chin is this year's recipient of the Second Supervisorial District's Trailblazer Award.

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I THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

1. In honor of Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage Month and Renewed Commitment to Stop Anti-AAPI Hate in Los Angeles County, acknowledge and recognize the contributions of Mike Murase Esq., The Asian Pacific Islander Small Business Collaborative Women's Business Center, Hwarang Youth Foundation, MAMA's Drive-By Kitchen, and Maise Chin for their selfless contributions.
2. Remind all County residents to take a stand against AAPI violence and racism by visiting StopAAPIHate.org to learn more about how they can best support members of the AAPI community.
3. Encourage all County residents to learn more about AAPI heritage by accessing resources available through the County's Public Library and other library systems, as well as AsianPacificHeritage.gov.

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