I am my family’s wildest Dreams

2018 Annual Report
Southeast Asia Resource Action Center
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2018 was an unprecedented year marked by fires on all fronts: from record-high detentions and deportations of Southeast Asian Americans, to attacks against our health system through the fight against the Affordable Care Act, to fears about the Census 2020 aimed to make immigrant and refugee communities invisible. But SEARAC together with Southeast Asian Americans nationwide responded with the fierceness to fight back, along with the resilience to join hands in demanding for an America that is truly free and just for all.

We replenished our fuel during the spaces we convened around our major policy areas, including education, immigration, and general national and California strategy, and we drew inspiration from the community members who joined us along our journey.

Perhaps nothing exemplified this more than the strong women — the majority graduates of our own advocacy training programs — who traveled to DC in fall 2018 to testify at a Congressional briefings with members of Congress about the emotional, physical, financial, and very personal costs of deportation and detention. We rally behind the call to action from Tina Meetran, SEARAC LAT 2017 alumnus, who was torn from her father as he was deported to Laos as an undocumented individual. Tina beautifully states, “I just see myself in whatever ways that I’m pulled to: dedicating my life and my work to elevating the stories and the narratives of my people, making sure that our culture is still here for our future generations to understand and witness and be a part of years from now.”

In that moment, I was so proud to be part of team SEARAC. During those two days of Congressional briefings, we witnessed the local leaders — whom SEARAC trained and nurtured — empowered to push for national change and never to back down in our fight for justice against deportation. This is an issue that so many have neglected, but not SEARAC. This is an issue that also speaks to our broken education and health systems that others silo, but not SEARAC. Ours is a community that many have ignored, but not SEARAC. Together, we are a force to be reckoned with in our communities and in DC — a fierce community of advocates charged to change laws despite some of the harshest political conditions we’ve ever seen.
About Us

Mission

SEARAC is a national civil rights organization that empowers Cambodian, Laotian, and Vietnamese American communities to create a socially just and equitable society. As representatives of the largest refugee community ever resettled in the United States, SEARAC stands together with other refugee communities, communities of color, and social justice movements in pursuit of social equity.

Our Strategies

Building Powerful Community Leaders & Advocates
Community Engagement & Mobilization
National & State Policy Advocacy
Internal Infrastructure Building

Our Major Focuses

Aging with Dignity
Health Access
Boys & Men of Color
Immigrant Justice
Education Equity
2020 Census
By the Numbers

2018

48
LAT participants who went on 37 Congressional visits

60
minutes of community calls with 585 attendees

838 + 50
individual comments
organizational comments collected denouncing 2020 Census citizenship question
Southeast Asian Anti-Deportation Network

SEARAC and partners from the Southeast Asian Freedom Network (SEAFN) and the Vietnamese Anti-Deportation Network joined forces to host an anti-deportation convening in DC. The event brought together grassroots organizers, directly impacted people, and advocates from national networks and several community-based organizations across the country. Participants committed to working together to push one national policy agenda to end mandatory detention and deportation laws hurting Southeast Asian American communities and other immigrant and refugee families.

Data Disaggregation Collective

Eighteen organizations, representing SEARAC education partners, national and community-based AAPI organizations, and national ally organizations, came together in DC to strategize around federal and state efforts to support data equity for the nation’s Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander students. Only through the collection and publication of disaggregated data, cross-tabulated by gender, language proficiency, and socioeconomic status, can we unmask the disparities our unique AANHPI communities experience.

“It is so important to think about this work on a national scale. The workshop gave me the opportunity to meet and learn from others across the country on the strategies they used to tackle difficult situations. This experience gave me confidence to ensure that the work we’re doing will allow those that have been silent, to be heard loud and clear.”

— Sovanna Pouv, executive director of Cambodian Mutual Assistance Association
The convening was important because it brought together community leaders and advocates who are passionate about their communities. This was a great way to strengthen our coalition and bring more visibility in the work that we all do. The ideas, stories, and facts that were shared, brought a connection amongst us all, and I am proud and honored to be part of a wonderful team that continues to uplift their community. Lastly, I was able to gain a lot of insight and implement some key ideas that would strengthen FIRM and better serve the refugee community.”

— Lucky Siphongsay, program manager of Fresno Interdenominational Refugee Ministries (FIRM)
Congressional Briefing

SEARAC partnered with the National Asian Pacific American Women’s Forum (NAPAWF) to host two briefings and subsequent advocacy visits on Capitol Hill to help educate and inform elected officials and their staff about the impact of immigration policy on Southeast Asian American communities. During the sessions, the groups discussed findings from their joint immigration report, *Dreams Detained, In Her Words*, which includes interviews with women whose SEAA family members were detained or deported. Five of the speakers at the briefing were graduates of SEARAC’s Leadership and Advocacy Training (LAT) and Leadership, Empowerment, and Advocacy Fellowship (LEAF) programs.

“Since the age of 16, I’ve had to do a lot. Until today, I have to do a lot. I don’t blame anyone for that besides immigration. I think it’s tough that I had to grow up so fast. I have to take care of my mom and make sure she’s mentally and physically and emotionally okay. I have to take care of my dad to make sure he’s mentally and physically and emotionally okay. And I have to take care of my sister because she’s my baby sister and make sure she’s okay.”

— Tina

“Since the age of 16, I’ve had to do a lot. Until today, I have to do a lot. I don’t blame anyone for that besides immigration. I think it’s tough that I had to grow up so fast. I have to take care of my mom and make sure she’s mentally and physically and emotionally okay. I have to take care of my dad to make sure he’s mentally and physically and emotionally okay. And I have to take care of my sister because she’s my baby sister and make sure she’s okay.”

— Linda
Throughout the year, SEARAC took a firm stance against proposed legislation and policies that would separate Southeast Asian American families and communities. Key alerts issued for the community included calls to oppose:

- The Secure and Succeed Act and the Securing America’s Future Act, which would eliminate the ability of immigrants and US citizens to sponsor family members for green cards, and make it nearly impossible for U.S. citizens to sponsor their parents
- The suspension of visas from Laos and Myanmar, a tactic the Trump Administration has used to pressure the countries into accepting individuals with removal orders
- The Community Safety and Security Act, a bill that would drastically expand mass incarceration and increase deportation numbers

We also supported policies at the national and local levels that would help Southeast Asian Americans overcome institutional barriers, such as the Health Equity and Accountability Act, which would help broaden access to culturally and linguistically appropriate health and mental health services, as well as improve the collection and reporting of data to better understand health disparities; the College for All Act, which eliminates tuition and fees and expands avenues to higher education for low-income students and families; and California Senate Bill 895, which would require the state’s Instructional Quality Commission to develop a model curriculum incorporating Cambodian, Hmong, and Vietnamese American refugee histories.

Furthermore, in preparation for a critical 2020, SEARAC advocated to secure state funding for census outreach and education in California, which is home to the country’s largest Southeast Asian American population at roughly 1 million.
Forty-four participants representing 14 states and 33 congressional districts celebrated their refugee legacy by sharing personal stories of discovery, adversity, loss, hope, and resilience. Advocates used their newly developed skills in 40 meetings on Capitol Hill, where they sat down with their elected officials and congressional staffers to discuss issues affecting their local communities.

Sixteen community leaders from Southeast Asian American-led and -serving organizations across the country came together for our newly revamped LEAF convening. Pivoting from past years, our 2018 program had three objectives: to connect with others in order to feel less isolated, to acknowledge and heal from the burnout that often accompanies the fight for social justice, and to strategize on national issues affecting the Southeast Asian American community.

Building Capacity
In partnership with ReleaseMN8, along with the National Immigration Project of the National Lawyers Guild and the University of Minnesota James H. Binger Center of New Americans, we launched the Southeast Asian American Solidarity Toolkit: A Guide to Resisting Detentions and Deportations from the #ReleaseMN8 Campaign. The one-of-a-kind resource provides organizing, advocacy, and legal tools, tips, and resources to support families whose loved ones are facing detention and removal. Authored by impacted family members, campaign organizers, lawyers, and advocates, the toolkit offers insight into how a small Minnesota community inspired a nationwide movement to save its loved ones from deportation to Cambodia.

“Our campaign was founded by the love we had for our families and for our community. We believe all families have the right to be together, and we want to remain engaged in this movement to support other families who are at risk of being ripped apart. Impacted families often want to fight for their loved ones but are overwhelmed and don’t know where to begin. We hope this guide helps families see that they have the power to organize and to fight for change”

— Jenny Srey, #ReleaseMN8 Campaign Organizer

Building a Movement
Creating a Roadmap to 2020

With the launch of our National Southeast Asian American Equity Agenda, we announced our priorities leading to a pivotal 2020. Our equity agenda reflects a community-centered process that included interviews with more than 30 partner organizations that serve, empower, educate, and advocate on behalf of SEAA communities nationwide.

**2020 Census**
- Opposing census suppression
- Expanding disaggregated data
- Resourcing communities for an accurate count

**Education**
- Data equity
- Culturally relevant K-12 support to increase high school completion
- College access, affordability, and completion
- College Success

**Health**
- Data equity
- Mental health
- Culturally and linguistically appropriate care
- Access and affordability

**Immigration**
- Ending unjust mandatory detention and deportation laws
- Strengthening naturalization programs
- Protecting family immigration
Community

In 2018, we released our full report, “Southeast Asian Americans Speak Out to Protect the Affordable Care Act and Medicaid Expansion,” the culmination of our Protect Our Health Care comment card campaign to fight for our right to healthy lives. More than 350 community members used their voices to demand that their policymakers protect health care access and affordability.

We also published a policy brief that retraced how the unique historical war trauma in Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam and growing up in low-income neighborhoods contribute to ongoing trauma for California’s Southeast Asian American youth. Intergenerational trauma and Southeast Asian American Youth in California examines key traumatic pre- and post-migration experiences, the community’s current socioeconomic distress, and today’s youth experiences, ultimately offering policy recommendations to address intergenerational trauma. It also serves as a stepping stone to acknowledge the glaring health and mental health disparities that SEAA youth and their families are forced to endure.

Other comment collection campaigns included:

- **Saying YES to expanded race and ethnicity categories**
  - Why?
  - The systemic barriers that SEAs face are only made known through the collection and reporting of disaggregated data through the census. Without this data, the most underserved and marginalized communities in the United States remain invisible, and community needs are unmet. Expansion of race and ethnicity categories allows SEAA groups to be listed separately so that our diverse community does not become absorbed under the broader Asian American umbrella.

- **Saying NO to a citizenship question on the 2020 Census**
  - Why?
  - The inclusion of this question undermines the accuracy of the 2020 Census and jeopardizes a full, fair, and accurate count of our communities. When communities are underrepresented, it negatively impacts their voices in government, as well as critical funding for education, healthcare, housing, and other essential programs.

- **Saying No to public charge**
  - Why?
  - The Department of Homeland Security proposed regulations that will penalize immigrants for using a wide array of health and education benefits by denying them entry into the country or access to a green card. As the largest refugee community ever resettled into the United States, many Southeast Asian Americans have benefitted from government programs that have helped their families grow and thrive. The SEAA community responded by fighting for the ability of newer family and community members to access the same programs and benefits that have been critical to their own survival.
## Financial Statements

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<td><strong>Revenue</strong></td>
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<td>Grants - Foundations/Nonprofits</td>
<td>1,388,480</td>
<td>1,424,995</td>
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<td>Grants - Corporate/Business</td>
<td>12,025</td>
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<td>Individual Contribution</td>
<td>25,404</td>
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<td>Fundraising Income</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Income</td>
<td>75,994</td>
<td>6,362</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Revenue</strong></td>
<td>1,502,903</td>
<td>1,507,994</td>
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<td><strong>Expenditures</strong></td>
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<td>Program Expenses</td>
<td>1,252,872</td>
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<td>Administrative Expenses</td>
<td>125,309</td>
<td>145,329</td>
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<td>Fundraising Expenses</td>
<td>41,018</td>
<td>30,542</td>
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<td><strong>Total Expenses</strong></td>
<td>1,418,199</td>
<td>1,424,813</td>
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<td><strong>Net Assets</strong></td>
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<td>Net Assets at the Beginning of the Year</td>
<td>781,428</td>
<td>1,205,719</td>
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<td>Release from Restriction</td>
<td>-529,547</td>
<td>-507,472</td>
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<td><strong>Total Net Assets</strong></td>
<td>1,394,679</td>
<td>781,428</td>
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2018 Donors

$3,000+
- Hengsum Heng
- Alissa Ko
- Alvin Yeh
- Amy Yue
- Andrew Nguyen
- Anh Nguyen
- Bonna Weinstein
- Boon Khang
- Bruce Thao
- Cara Priestley
- Celeste Regan
- Charles Bickford
- Chong Lo
- Christina Chung
- Claire Lune
- D Pheng
- Daniel Duong
- David Boultaovong
- David Pritchard
- Detention Watch Network
- Edgar and Ald Sanchez
- Elaine Wilson
- Elaine Abelaye-Mateo
- Eliza Sanchez
- Erin Cluney
- Gie Vue
- Gilles Hautefuille
- Greg Baxter
- Ha Tran
- Hanoa Dang
- Huong Nguyen-Yap
- Ike Mao
- Jeannette Regan
- Jim Tulabut
- John Trinh
- Jolyn Chinance
- Jonathan de Jong

$1,000+
- Gregory Cendana
- Hillary Binder-Aviles
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- Jay Stansell
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- Jenifer Chamreun
- Julie Mao
- Khaniphong Trinh
- Loan Dao
- Mai Vang
- Michael Lai
- Michael Stern
- Monica Thammarath
- Nam Phamdo
- Paul Nguyen
- Phitsamary Uy
- Rhoda and Mike Lee
- Samantha Dizon
- Seng So
- Sin Po
- Stephanie Hoo
- Stephane Tchang
- Trinh Nguyen
- Yen Le

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- Hai Duong
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- Nkauj Iab Yang
- Odell Ross
- Sarah Kith
- Sean Dinh
- Sharon Stanley-Rea
- Sophia Giddens

$200+
- Aimee Nichols
- Barry Cohen
- Chaoya Yang
- Christine Chang
- Christine Kim-Tai Plautz
- Cynthia Brothers
- Dana Chan
- Dido Nguyen
- Doua Thor
- Ed Lin
- Elizabeth Wang
- Fred Davie

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- Alex Toy
- Alice Yang
- Aiden Yang
- Alvin Zhang
- Anh Nguyen
- Bonna Weinstein
- Boon Khang
- Bruce Thao
- Cara Priestley
- Celeste Regan
- Charles Bickford
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- Gilles Hautefuille
- Greg Baxter
- Ha Tran
- Hanoa Dang
- Huong Nguyen-Yap
- Ike Mao
- Jeannette Regan
- Jim Tulabut
- John Trinh
- Jolyn Chinance
- Jonathan de Jong
- Jonathan Vorasane
- Kammitha Tham
- Kathy Bach
- Kathy Duong
- Kenory You
- Kent Laux
- Kevin Le
- Kevin Fong
- Kevin Padilla
- Kevin German
- Kim Geron
- Komal Sunak
- Kristina, Dave & Ethan Henderson
- Kunthary de Gallifer
- Kwabina Applah
- Laura Phonharath
- Learkana Chong
- Maika Yang
- Marcia Withiam-Wilson
- Mari Quenemoen
- Maria Tran
- Mark Franken
- Mary Regan Wilson
- Melissa Brown Hurley
- Michael Dalton
- Michael Benson
- Mono Sotie
- Nancy Xiong
- Ngoc Estello
- Nichtha You
- Nicol U
- Olary Yim
- Oswaldro Ortega
- Pekhov Tan
- Pow Wang
- Pysay Phinth
- Quelani Penland
- Ram Dolom
- Rany Aith
- Rattana Yeang

$50+
- Abigail Sanchez-Deonarine
- Aida Samaniego
- Allison Hickey
- Anna Hyams
- Anne Frank
- Anoop Prasad
- Ay Saechoa
- Berta Romero-Fonte
- Channapha Khamvongs
- Danielle Ngo
- Denly Ly
- E Her
- Elizabeth Herrera
- Ellen Kemp
- Hermine Higgins
- Hugues O’csay
- Irene Matz
- Irene Khin Wong

2018 Funders

Foundations
- Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation
- Borrealis Foundation
- Four Freedoms Fund
- RISE for Boys and Men of Color
- Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors Inc
- The California Endowment
- Wallace H. Coulter Foundation

Corporations
- AT&T
- Comcast NBCUniversal
- NCheng LLP
- State Farm

Associations
- Asian Americans Advancing Justice
- Los Angeles
- Chinese Progressive Association
- Diverse Elders Coalition
- National Education Association
- Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance, AFL-CIO
$25+
Allan Bagsic
Amy Singharaatsavong
Angela Dorsey
Anita Brady
Anname Phann
Annie Kim
Arnel Agas
Benjamin Wu
Beverly Wade
Chanda Choun
Chenda Chhi
Cherry Lim
Cheryl Yin
Cina Chang
Clement Lai
Daniel Arreola
Darcy Caba
Dashni Amin
Denise Tan Agatep
Diandra Tephabock
Dorcas Wilson
Eileen Morrison
Elle B.

SEARAC:
2018 Annual Report

Allan Bagsic
Amy Singharatsavong
Angela Dorsey
Anita Brady
Anname Phann
Annie Kim
Arnel Agas
Benjamin Wu
Beverly Wade
Chanda Choun
Chenda Chhi
Cherry Lim
Cheryl Yin
Cina Chang
Clement Lai
Daniel Arreola
Darcy Caba
Dashni Amin
Denise Tan Agatep
Diandra Tephabock
Dorcas Wilson
Eileen Morrison
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$25+
Allan Bagsic
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Angela Dorsey
Anita Brady
Anname Phann
Annie Kim
Arnel Agas
Benjamin Wu
Beverly Wade
Chanda Choun
Chenda Chhi
Cherry Lim
Cheryl Yin
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Under $25
Dan Truong
Dana Tran
Eloise Needleman
Emily Short
Ithara Phleng
James Bao
Joy de Guzman
Julie Le
Justin Trinidad
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Kim Ho
Kiran Mansukhani
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Moon Wong
Priscilla Hoang
Savary Chhem Kieth
Sonja Steinmann
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Misee Lee
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Norey Lee Navarro
Pang Her
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Sherlyn Tran
Sokmala Chy
Sony Stewart
Stacy Dizon
Synoukhom SaoLao
Thana Nop
Timothy Huey
Trinh Tran
Vanuyen Pham
Watt Samakki
William Ly

Leangelo Acuna
Mallory Mosner
Margaret Regan
Megan May
Melinda Chao
Michael Lapuz
Mos Xyooj
Nang Lo
Paj Nylag Hawj
Pajouablai Monica Lee
Paul Crowley
Paulina Dao
Phung C
Rhunmanee Hang
Ron Gillette
Ryan Mariateague
Sally Hang
Sandra Duval
Sandy Hang
Seng Vang
Shenwei Chang
Soapy Duong
Stacey Xiong
Stefan Saining
Steph Yaaj
Suzanne Vue
Tee Her
Tony Vo
Vina Alexander
Vinh Hyunh
Wanda Leboeuf
Yayue Vang

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Projects Consultant
Public Interest for the Four Freedoms Fund

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Lawyer
National Immigration Project of the National Lawyers Guild

Catherine Nou — Chair
Policy Consultant
Everyday Impact Consulting

Nerou Cheng, CPA
Senior Partner and Chief Quality Assurance Officer
N Cheng & Co

Phitsamay Uy, EdD
Assistant Professor
University of Massachusetts Lowell

Rev. Dr. Sharon Stanley-Rea
Director of Refugee and Immigration Ministries

Sophal Ear, PhD, MPA — Treasurer
Associate Professor, Diplomacy & World Affairs
Occidental College

Trinh Nguyen
Director
Office of Workforce Development

Yen Le
Realtor
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Alyssa Tulabut, Training Manager
Anna Byon, Education Policy Advocate
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Gabriel Garcia, Boys and Men of Color Coordinator
Katrina Dizon Mariategue, Director of National Policy
Kelsey Hendrixson, Operations Manager
Kham Moua, Immigration Policy Advocate
Lee Lo, Policy Associate
Mari Quenemoen, Director of Communications and Development
Monica Speight, Director of Field
Nkauj Iab Yang, Director of California Policy and Programs
Souvan Lee, Education Policy Advocate