

*I am my family's
wildest Dreams*



2018 Annual Report

Southeast Asia Resource
Action Center





Table of Contents

4	A Word From Our Executive Director	17	Building Leaders
6	About Us	19	Building Capacity
8	2018 By the Numbers	21	Building a Movement
10	Convener	26	Financial Statements
13	Advocacy	31	Staff & Board



A Word From Our *Executive Director*



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

2018

By the Numbers

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





Convener

● 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.

February 2018

● 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.

April 2018

“

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 Pouy**, executive director of Cambodian Mutual Assistance Association



● CA SEAA ED Collaborative

May 2018

The executive directors of nine SEAA-led and -serving organizations throughout the state of California put their heads together to discuss pressing policy priorities. This convening allowed for information-sharing and strategy alignment for effective collective impact, as well as provided space for discussion around community-driven solutions to help inform SEARAC's California, as well as national, policy advocacy.



● Asian American + Pacific Islander Coalition Helping Achieve Racial & Gender Equity

August 2018

SEARAC coordinates the Asian American and Pacific Islander Coalition Helping Achieve Racial and Gender Equity [AAPI CHARGE], a statewide youth and community-centered movement that works toward building the advocacy capacity of AAPI youth, empowering them to seek equitable policy change and shift narratives on AAPI communities.

“

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]



Advocacy

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

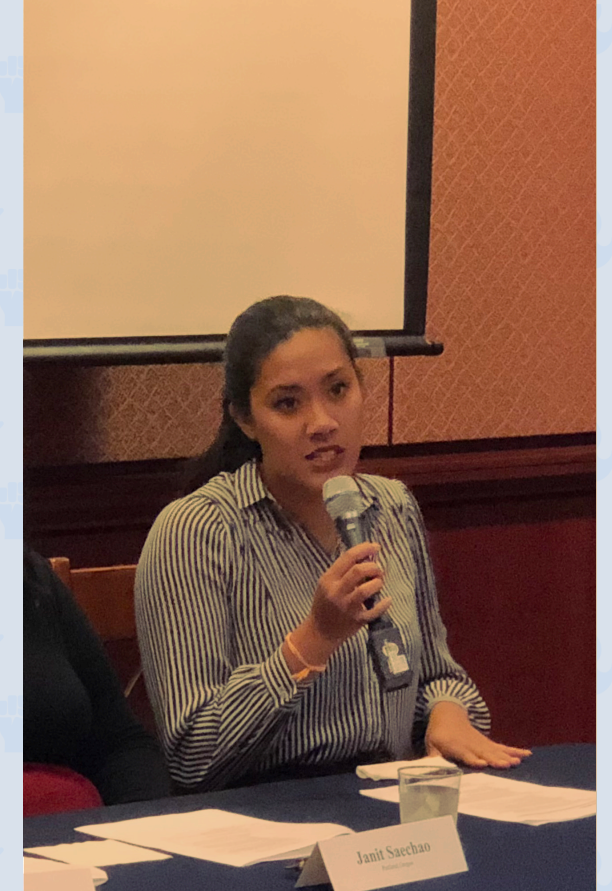


Photo credit: Dorothy He, NAPAWF

“

Well, one thing that keeps me going is my kids of course. I think about their state, their future, and what I live by, is what I tell myself every day. I should not live in fear because if I do, I will lose out on every opportunity given to me. I learned that the hard way, I gave up opportunities that both my husband and I had, and it led us to nowhere. So I try to live by faith, not by fear. And I try to be strong for my kids because we are their future as well. Without us they wouldn't have any future. ... So that's how I get past my day. It's looking at my kids. I have to try. I can't give up. I'm not going to let that fear get to me. That's how I live—hope—every day.”

— Linda



Action Alerts

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.

Building Leaders





3rd biennial Leadership, Empowerment, & Advocacy Fellowship (LEAF) convening

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.

19th annual Leadership & Advocacy Training

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.



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

Mobilizing the Community

Intergenerational Trauma and Southeast Asian American Youth in California



NKAUJ IAB YANG AND QUYEN DINH,
Southeast Asia Resource Action Center



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

Revenue	2018	2017
Grants - Foundations/Nonprofits	1,388,480	1,424,995
Grants - Corporate/Business	12,025	53,333
Individual Contribution	25,404	23,504
Fundraising Income	—	—
Other Income	75,994	6,162
Total Revenue	1,502,903	1,507,994

Expenditures	2018	2017
Program Expenses	1,252,872	1,248,942
Administrative Expenses	125,309	145,329
Fundraising Expenses	41,018	30,542
Total Expenses	1,418,199	1,424,813

Net Assets	2018	2017
Net Assets at the Beginning of the Year	781,428	1,205,719
Release from Restriction	-529,547	-507,472
Total Net Assets	1,394,679	781,428

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

2018 Donors

\$3,000+

Hengsum Heng

\$1,000+

Anna (Hoa) Duong
Michael Peloquin

\$500+

Hai Duong
Nerou Cheng
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
Dara Chan
Dido Nguyen
Doua Thor
Ed Lin
Elizabeth Wang
Fred Davie

Gregory Cendana
Hilary Binder-Aviles
Ivy Ngo
Jay Stansell
Jeeraporn Chaisri
Jenifer Chamreun
Julie Mao
Khanhphong 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

\$100+

Alex Toy
Alice Yang
Alissa Ko
Alvina Yeh
Amy Vue
Andrew Nguyen
Anh Nguyen
Bonna Weinstein
Boon Khang
Bruce Thao
Cara Priestley
Celeste Regan
Charles Bickford
Chong Lo
Christina Chung
Clair Lune
D Pheng
Daniel Duong
David Bouttavong
David Pritchard
Detention Watch
Network
Edgar and Ald Sanchez
Elaine Wilson
Elaine Abelaye-Mateo
Eliza Sanchez
Erin Cluney
Gie Vue
Gilles Hautefeuille
Greg Baxter
Ha Tran
Hanhoan Dang
Huong Nguyen-Yap
Ike Mao
Jeannette Regan
Jim Tulabut
John Trinh
Jolyn Chinone
Jonathan de Jong

Jonathan Vorasane
Kannitha Than
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 Gaiffier
Kwabina Appiah
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
Nicitha You
Nicol U
Olary Yim
Oswaldo Ortega
Pekthov Tan
Pow Vang
Pysay Phinith
Quelani Penland
Ram Dolom
Rany Ath
Rattana Yeang

Raymond Derrien
Richard Agag
Rosie Abriam
Samorn Selim
Sara Spizzirri
Schenley Herrera
Sean Iv
Serey Mao
Steven Williamson
Supharidh Hy
Ted Nguyen
Terry & Maryann Hendrixson
Tho Phimmason
Thuy Vi
Ti Duong
Van Pham
Vic Guru
Wendy Ho

\$50+

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

Jade Wu
James O’Connor
Jeffrey Cunard
Jenny Ho
Jonathan Tran
Joyce Yu
Justin Barcenilla
Kathy Tran
Kenro Izu
Khanh Dinh
Larry Polokoff
Linda Băi
Marcella Willis
Mark Beyersdorf
Maryjane Moua
Maurice Seaty
Misee Lee
Nettra Pan
Norey Lee Navarro
Pang Her
Sarah Reeves
Seth Hendrixson
Sherilyn Tran
Sokmala Chy
Sony Stewart
Stacy Dizon
Synoukhom SaoLao
Thana Nop
Timothy Huey
Trinh Tran
Vanuyen Pham
Watt Samakki
William Ly

\$25+
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
Elizabeth Sterba
Farts McSwizzle
Gina Masequesmay
Harper Duong-Nguyen
Hlub Sim
Izzie V
Jeff Sommer
Jeniffer Huong
Jessica Campomanes
Joe Gueron
Joyce Hannan Clark
Kabo Yang
Karissa Yee
Kuong Lu
Lan Nguyen

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

Under \$25
Dan Truong
Dana Tran
Eloise Needleman
Emily Short
Ithara Phlong
James Bao
Joy de Guzman
Julie Le
Justin Trinidad
Kenny Kho
Kim Ho
Kiran Mansukhani
Laura Tancredi Smith
Lola Jusidman
Matt Lapuz
Melody Yang
Moon Wong
Priscilla Hoang
Savary Chhem Kieth
Sonia Steinmann
Sophorn Nuon
Souvan Lee

Staff

Quyen Dinh, Executive Director
Alyssa Tulabut, Training Manager
Anna Byon, Education Policy Advocate
Elaine Sanchez Wilson, Director of Communications & Development
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 lab Yang, Director of California Policy and Programs
Souvan Lee, Education Policy Advocate

Cynthia Brothers - Secretary
Projects Consultant
Public Interest for the Four Freedoms Fund

Julie Mao
Lawyer
National Immigration Project of the National Lawyers Guild

Catherina 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

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

Trinh Nguyen
Director
Office of Workforce Development

Yen Le
Realtor
Long and Foster Real Estate

Board



Southeast Asia Resource Action Center
www.searac.org

Washington D.C.
1628 16th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20009

Phone: [202] 601-2960
Fax: [202] 667-6449

Sacramento, CA
1225 8th Street, Suite 590
Sacramento, CA 95814

Phone: [916] 428-7769
Fax: [916] 428-7293