



2020

IMPACT REPORT

Harnessing our collective power to improve the lives of communities by connecting, learning and acting together

www.caalmn.org | [@caalmn](https://twitter.com/caalmn)

mission

We are a social justice network organization with a mission to harness our collective power to improve the lives of community by connecting, learning, and acting together.

vision

The Coalition of Asian American Leaders (CAAL) envisions a just and joyful future where all Minnesotans, regardless of background, have the power to shape decisions that affect us and live with dignity in thriving and caring communities.



OUR WORK

Network Weaving: Building relationships, curating learning spaces and celebrating the contributions of Asian Minnesotan leaders.

Advancing the Community's Priorities in Education Equity, Community Prosperity, and Safe & Welcoming Communities: Working on the community's shared priority issues in education, economics, immigration and anti-racism through organizing, policy and research.

Leadership Support: Strengthening the social justice movement capacity of Asian Minnesotan leaders through investing in their ideas, skills and relationships.

Solidarity: Building multicultural and multiracial formations to ensure communities made most vulnerable are working together for a shared future where justice, equity, prosperity exists for everyone.

Message from Bo Thao-Urabe, executive & network director

No person, community, or organization was left untouched by the events in 2020, but communities that were already made vulnerable were profoundly impacted. That's why we recommitted to acting powerfully to transform systemic conditions that again exposed how race, gender, poverty, immigration status, and other vulnerabilities create seismic inequities. At CAAL, we rooted ourselves even more deeply to stay true to our mission of harnessing our collective power to improve the lives of community, taking us closer to our vision of having a more just, joyful, thriving, and caring world.

We acted urgently to uplift the unseen voices, and we did not stop connecting people to decision-makers because, during this time, it became even more crucial that the voices of the community be centered. We took more action to make collective impact. For example, we opened up our Spark Leadership Fund beyond just supporting Asian Minnesotan leaders to support Black, Indigenous and Latinx leaders. And, instead of just taking care of us, we acted to take care of our village by creating the Stronger Together Fund, which provided \$250,000 to other Asian Minnesotan groups to collectively reach our linguistically and culturally diverse Asian communities.

In our work, we witnessed young people step up to create their future through our civic leadership work. They ensured that every eligible person could participate in voting. As anti-Asian violence increased, we did not wait to see what would be done; instead, we organized and created responses that helped establish a helpline, brought Asian organizations together to create the Asian Minnesotan Alliance for Justice, and joined movement building efforts across the country.

Returning to normal cannot be our goal when that normal did not work well for so many. That's why we are going beyond recovery and helping rebuild resilient systems where every person is seen, valued and included. We commit to pressing on, reflecting and learning, and adjusting and creating new ways to move forward together because the world we want leaves no one behind. I invite you to be in relations with us, join our work, and be our partner.



OUR IMPACT

"Please tell everyone at CAAL that this pandemic is not stopping you. You modeled that organizing leadership development and activism is totally possible, and very much needed and appreciated."

- 2020 MOVEE leader

90,000

Finished the third #MinneAsianStories storytelling book, exhibit and on-line storybank that reached over 90,000 people

30,000

Worked with 28 youth leaders that reached over 30,000 Asian Minnesotan voters

3,200

Hosted programming for over 3,200 leaders

20

Provided 20 trainings to private, public and nonprofit audiences

Grew CAAL's network to over

4,500
LEADERS

250,000

Created the Stronger Together Fund that provided 22 grants of over \$250,000 to Asian Minnesotan organizations supporting communities made most vulnerable during COVID pandemic

50,000

The Spark Leadership Fund provided over \$50,000 to Black, Indigenous, Asian and Latinx leaders who used their expertise to address urgent community needs

2020 HIGHLIGHTS

- Co-created **Asian Minnesotan Alliance for Justice** to respond to anti-Asian violence and advance intersectional justice
- Organized individuals and families impacted by anti-immigrant and anti-refugee policies to **keep families together**, centralizing a new intake process and form for multiple organizations to use
- Successfully completed the 4th cohort of the **MOVEE Social Justice Movement Leadership Program** growing our alumni to 88
- Successfully hosted a virtual 6-part **State of Asian Minnesotan Series** bringing timely knowledge, research, information about the Asian Minnesotan community to a board audience and completed written briefs for each session
- Published reports and created videos about the **impact of COVID on Asian Minnesotans**
- Launched a new cohort of the **BOBA Youth Leadership Program**
- Published papers on **heritage language preservation** and **redefining wealth using cultural and communal assets**

