



Fearless New Breath

2022 IMPACT REPORT

NEW
BREATH
FOUNDATION

NEW BREATH FOUNDATION

Mission

New Breath Foundation mobilizes resources to support Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders (AANHPIs) harmed by the unjust immigration and criminal justice systems to heal, keep families together, and build movements that shift narratives and policies.

Vision

Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders (AANHPIs) harmed by violence, incarceration, and deportation have the power to embrace new beginnings and lead community transformation.

Contents

3

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

4

FEARLESS IMPACT

5

FEARLESS PHILANTHROPY

6

FEARLESS FUNDING:
2022 - 2023 GRANTEES

7 - 9

2021 - 2022
GRANTEE HIGHLIGHTS

10

COMMUNITY ADVISORY
COMMITTEE

11

NEW BREATH APPRECIATION

12

NBF TEAM & BOARD

Message from the President

Happy New Breath, all my relations,

2022 has been a year of turning courage and compassion into action. This year, we experienced much uncertainty created by the denial of reproductive rights, the global economy, the US elections, and the belief in false narratives, to name a few. In order to push forward for our communities that have felt the effects of this year deeply, New Breath Foundation (NBF) and our partners chose to remain fearless.

Here are the ways we lived into being fearless:

We're fearless in who we choose to support. The organizations we partner with focus on Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders (AANHPIs) impacted by incarceration, deportation, and violence – communities that society and philanthropy have historically overlooked.

We continued to trust and engage those with lived experience in our community to inform our grantmaking and strategy. We celebrate a whole year working with our Community Advisory Committee, which advises our grantmaking programs and participates in our grant review process. When we center those directly impacted, we can create better solutions.

NBF stayed committed to helping grassroots AANHPI organizations further build their capacity and infrastructure to maximize impact and sustainability. **Although we had fewer resources this year, we didn't compromise and we continued to give significant grants through our *We Got Us* fund.**

We also grew our internal capacity and hired a new Director of Strategic Partnerships, Director of Programs, and another Program Coordinator. As the NBF team expands and adjusts, we encourage a culture of transparency, engaging in courageous conversations, and creating psychological safety. Through this, we can be more effective in generating resources, building our programs, increasing our support to more organizations, and investing in trust-based philanthropy.

As we remain fearless through all this, we continue to remind ourselves that this is a journey that must be rooted in the understanding that racial solidarity is the only way to realize collective liberation. Thank you for being on this journey with us. We look forward to continuing our work together so that the AANHPI communities we support can create new beginnings and shape a more just world. Let's take a collective breath and build power together.

Breathin',



Eddy Zheng
Founder & President

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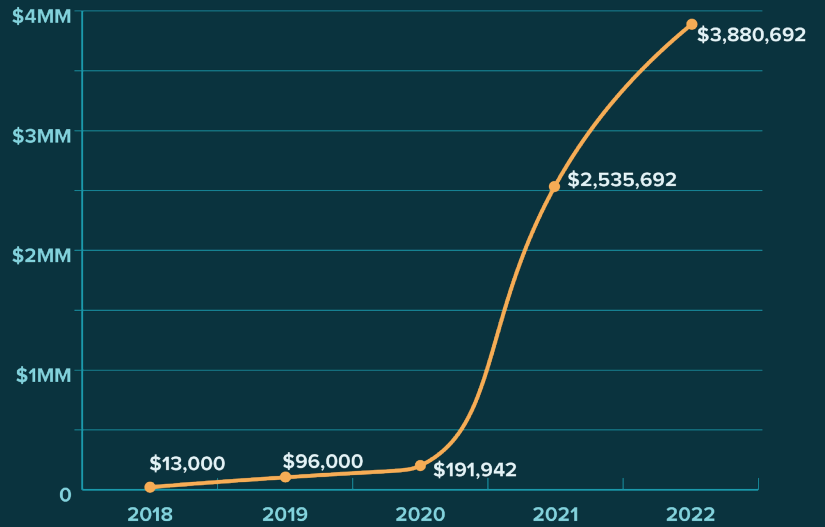


Fearless Impact: 2018-2022

Total Funds Granted inclusive of *We Got Us* Fund

Year	Total Grantees	New Grantees	Returning Grantees	Total Grants
2022	13	9	4	\$1,345,000
2021	30	17	13	\$2,343,750
2020	15	13	2	\$95,942
2019	11	9	2	\$83,000
2018	3	3	0	\$13,000

Cumulative Grantmaking 2018-2022 inclusive of *We Got Us* Fund



We Got Us Fund

Year	Grantees	Funding Range	Total Grants	Grantees by Budget Size			
				≤ \$100K	\$100K - \$300K	\$300K - \$500K	\$500K - \$1MM
2022	7	\$150,000 - \$210,000	\$1,270,000	3	0	1	3
2021	10	\$200,000 - \$230,000	\$2,280,000*	2	4	1	3

*This total includes \$130,000 of rapid response grants distributed to 12 organizations.

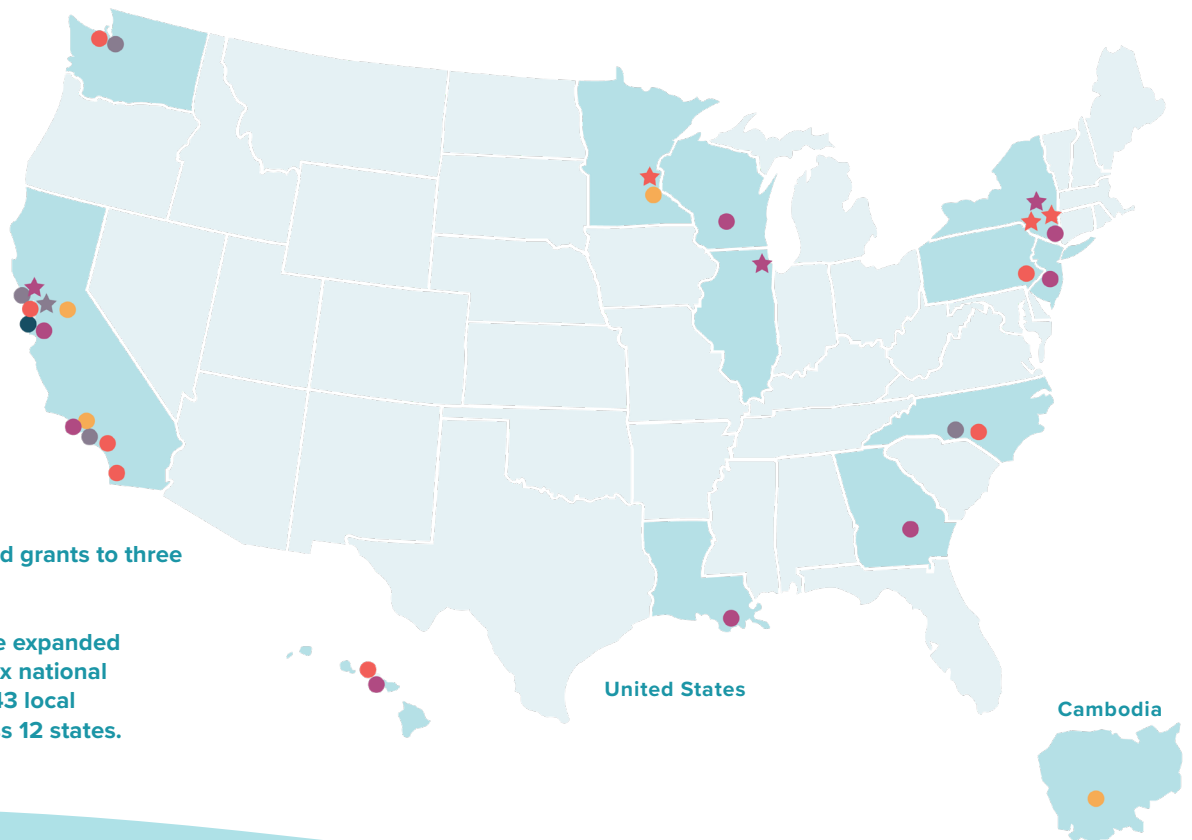
Areas Reached

- 2022 ■
- 2021 ■
- 2020 ■
- 2019 ■
- 2018 ■

★ indicates an organization with a national presence

In 2018, we awarded grants to three local organizations.

Since then, we have expanded our reach to fund six national organizations and 43 local organizations across 12 states.



United States

Cambodia

Fearless Philanthropy: The New Breath Way

New Breath Foundation is rooted in Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) grassroots movements to prevent community violence, end mass incarceration and mass deportation, and advance solidarity and racial justice. Cross-racial solidarity and creating pathways in philanthropy for AANHPI directly impacted leaders are embedded in our work.

We have made transformative impact through:

Deep expertise, knowledge, and lived experience.

Research has demonstrated a lack of philanthropic support for AANHPI organizations, particularly those on the frontlines of incarceration, detention, deportation, and violence.¹

New Breath Foundation is uniquely positioned to identify and support these grassroots AANHPI organizations. Over decades, our Staff and Board have established and maintained strong and trustful relationships with grassroots groups and leaders to inform our work. We are sought out as subject experts by philanthropy, media, and the community.

Addressing root causes by uplifting ground-up community solutions. The most impacted people are vital to helping create sustainable solutions. The grassroots organizations that NBF funds are organizations with authentic relationships, history, and credibility within their communities. They understand the needs and desires of directly impacted people and work to build cross-racial solidarity.

Cultivating authentic relationships and providing grantee-centered support. With a portfolio that includes an intimate group of grantees, we nurture relationships beyond the typical funder-grantee transaction. In their 2021 study, *Overlooked: Foundation Support for Asian American and Pacific Islander Leaders and Communities*, the Center for Effective Philanthropy reported AAPI and Native American nonprofit leaders having less positive

James Head, former CEO of East Bay Community Foundation, with his wife Bernida and NBF founder Eddy Zheng, May 2022.



Photo: Joyce Xi

Criminalization does not operate in a silo. It overlaps with race, class, gender, and immigration status to compound its harmful effects, resulting in incarceration, deportation, family separation, and trauma. We believe that the *We Got Us* Fund, and New Breath Foundation [embody] that intersectionality... They are people leading in their communities to really address intergenerational cycles of harm. They're finding solutions to end it, to heal it, and to reimagine other possibilities.

- Angie Junck
Director of Human Rights,
Heising-Simons Foundation



experiences with their foundation funders than nonprofit leaders of other races/ethnicities. This finding was consistent before and during the pandemic.

To address this issue, our team supports grantees and holds space for their questions, needs, and advice. Our in-kind support includes:

- advising on 501(c)3 organizational development and coaching executive leadership.
- sharing resources and connecting grantees to new funders.
- bringing national grassroots organizers together to build community with each other.

One example of New Breath Foundation building community was our first virtual grantee gathering of the 2021 *We Got Us* Fund grantee recipients. They shared their work, achievements, and challenges and discussed strategy, tactics, and how-tos. The response was overwhelmingly positive. Grantees asked for more time to connect and learn from one another. In 2023, we hope to offer similar opportunities for grantees to convene, both virtually and in-person.

1. AAPIP, *Seeking to Soar: Foundation Funding for Asian American and Pacific Islander Communities*, 2021

Fearless Funding: 2022-2023 Grantees

New Breath Foundation's (NBF's) two funds strategically advance our mission.

We Got Us Fund

Last year, NBF established the *We Got Us* Fund in response to rising anti-Asian violence and to address the need to assist frontline organizers. The organizations NBF supports fight scapegoating, cultivate healing, promote cross-racial solidarity, and protect communities from state violence. This year's *We Got Us* Fund grantees are:

Asian Prisoner Support Committee (APSC) – Oakland, CA

APSC provides direct support to Asian and Pacific Islander (API) prisoners through Ethnic Studies programs in prisons, community-based reentry programs, deportation defense campaigns, and raises awareness about imprisoned, detained, and deported APIs.

‘Ekolu Mea Nui – Honolulu, HI

‘Ekolu Mea Nui seeks to transform Hawai‘i's justice system through Native Hawaiian cultural practices and values, to innovate alternatives to incarceration, restore the human spirit, build resilient ‘ohana, and change laws and policies.

ManForward – Wisconsin, Minnesota, and California

ManForward mobilizes a national network of Southeast Asian men and masculine folks to transform patriarchal power systems through direct action organizing, education, and collective healing.

Massage Parlor Outreach Project – Seattle, WA

Massage Parlor Outreach Project supports migrant Asian massage parlor workers, sex workers, and care workers, building power through organizing and leadership development.

LavenderPhoenix (LavNix) – San Francisco, CA

LavNix builds queer and transgender API (QTAPI) power, as a political home, meeting QTAPIs with the healing support they need to recover from systemic and interpersonal violence, while developing them into lifelong leaders.

SEAC Village – Charlotte, NC

SEAC Village organizes Southeast Asian (SEA) and Black communities around police violence and SEA deportation, building analysis and power around the intersecting history and systems that affect refugee, Black, and immigrant communities.

VietRISE – Orange County, CA

VietRISE builds power with working-class Vietnamese and immigrant communities through organizing, narrative change, cultural empowerment, and civic engagement.

New Breath Fund

The *New Breath* Fund offers entry points for organizations doing meaningful work in one or more areas: Hope and Healing, Keeping Families Together, and Movement Building. This year's *New Breath* Fund grantees include:

Asian Solidarity Collective – San Diego, CA

Asian Solidarity Collective uplifts social justice consciousness for Asian Americans, condemns anti-Blackness, and builds solidarity with Black, Brown, and Indigenous folks through political education, community building, and collective action.

Southeast Asian Freedom Network (SEAFN) – National

SEAFN is a national network that mobilizes Southeast Asian communities towards abolition, defends communities from deportation, and moves collective work out of isolation.

F.O.U. Movement – Los Angeles, CA

The F.O.U. Movement works to achieve and reintegrate Pacific Islander former prisoners into the community, reduce recidivism, and improve public safety by addressing the needs of returnees and providing support and connection through community.

VietLead – Philadelphia, PA

VietLead creates a vision and strategy for community self-determination, social justice, and cultural resilience, through intergenerational programs and community defense, focusing on a pathway to healing trauma in Southeast Asian communities.

Yuri Kochiyama Solidarity Fund – National

Yuri Kochiyama Solidarity Fund's mission is to carry on Yuri's legacy through strengthening BIPOC solidarity, building community through art and activism, and providing learning resources for young people to promote anti-racism and teaching about the history and shared experiences of oppression and resistance by people of color as well as examples of successful multicultural community-building efforts in the United States.



Photo courtesy of: SEAC Village

We Got Us Fund 2021-2022 Grantee Spotlights

The missions and work of the following organizations align with NBF's core pillars of Hope and Healing, Keeping Families Together, and Movement Building.

Hope and Healing: Oakland Pacific Islander Network

Oakland Pacific Islander Network (OPIN) is a grassroots organization that cultivates and equips the Pasifika community to operate as exceptional leaders in their communities by providing leadership development programs, hosting community events, and partnering with local organizations in order to provide resources.

Oakland Unified School District has a disproportionate percentage of Pacific Islander students, yet never had programming to support them or meet their specific needs until OPIN was developed. OPIN supports Pacific Islander students to fully be Pacific Islander while growing up within US culture, empower them to live purpose-driven lives as young people, and make resources available to help them thrive. This past year, OPIN has ramped up its case management and mentorship programs, offered leadership programming, and launched its first OPIN Resource Center at Castlemont High School.

Learn more at [instagram.com/oak.pin](https://www.instagram.com/oak.pin)



Photo courtesy of: OPIN

IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS

OPIN brought on Alina Fa'aola as their first full-time staff and supported their board member recruitment. As a grassroots organization started as a project in the Oakland Unified School District, OPIN sought to become a 501(c)(3) nonprofit. As the process stalled, NBF helped OPIN identify a fiscal sponsor, Samoan Community Development Center, which allowed OPIN staff to focus on program development.

WHAT'S NEXT

OPIN is building its volunteer teams to support teaching and sharing leadership. They are excited to expand their OPIN Center model. They envision growing until there is one at every school in Oakland. Their programs seek to deepen skills and capacity in trauma-based services and address the healing needs of their young community. OPIN seeks further resourcing, advising, and support for each effort.



Keeping Families Together: API-RISE

API-RISE seeks to empower Asian, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander American communities and specifically those individuals who have been impacted by the criminal justice system. They aspire to be an organization that celebrates diversity through inclusion and to build upon knowledge, resources, and organizing to undo the stigma and shame that silences youth, formerly and currently incarcerated people, and their loved ones.

Learn more at api-rise.org



Photo courtesy of: API-RISE

IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS

API-RISE seamlessly transitioned their founding director Duc Ta to an advisory role and hired two new co-directors: Billy Taing, a formerly incarcerated Cambodian refugee, and Diane Ujiye, a pastor and lifelong activist. During their first six months as co-directors, Billy and Diane welcomed two new staff, Mike and Thailee, both formerly incarcerated leaders, who support their member outreach and community care.

API-RISE's programs have evolved and expanded. Their member/community care program includes monthly meetings for impacted community members, reentry transition support, pardon application support, performance art training, story-telling, healing circles, and life-coaching. Staff are building skills for trauma-informed, culturally-sensitive care and legal support. API-RISE is ramping up their Prison Inreach program that will be seamlessly connected to their Care Support program. Advocacy efforts include supporting the VISION Act, working

API RISE

ASIAN PACIFIC ISLANDER REENTRY
& INCLUSION THROUGH SUPPORT & EMPOWERMENT



with ICE Out of California, leading clemency fights, and focusing on local policy to uplift the needs of Asian and Pacific Islander returnees. API-RISE continues to build solidarity through violence programming with their Latina/Latino and Black communities.

WHAT'S NEXT

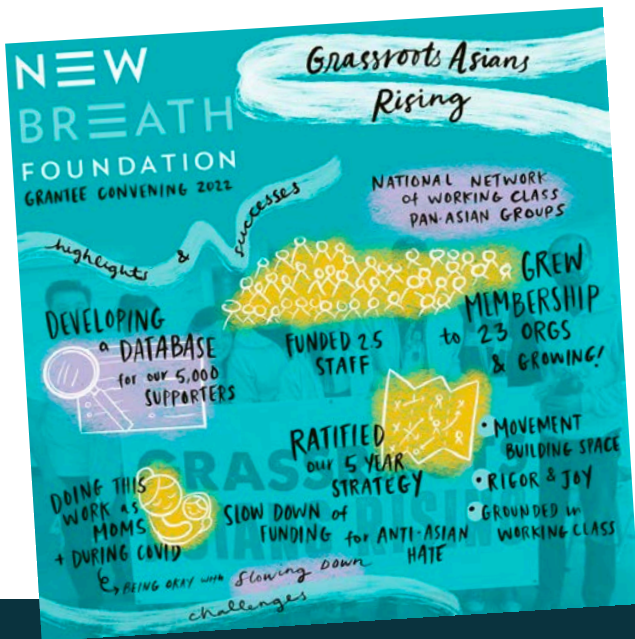
API-RISE has its eye on a sustainable and abundant future for its members. In 2021, they engaged a consultant to do a feasibility study and build a business plan on a social enterprise model. They aim to train members through their reentry program, building job skills while creating a revenue stream to support the nonprofit work. Another dream of API-RISE's is transitional housing to support their growing returnee community and build a place-based, sustainable support system. API-RISE seeks advising, investment, and support to further explore and launch these efforts.

Movement Building: Grassroots Asians Rising

GRASSROOTS ASIANS RISING

Grassroots Asians Rising (GAR) is a national network of grassroots organizations rooted in Asian and Pacific Islander communities. Their work is rooted in communities that live in the most precarious margins of power: refugees, low-wage workers, youth, undocumented immigrants, queer and trans people, and low-income tenants.

Learn more at grassrootsasians.org



IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS

GAR hired Roksana Mun, formerly of Desis Rising Up and Moving (DRUM), to join Cathy Dang, formerly of CAAAV, as full-time co-directors. Before this expansion, GAR didn't have capacity to recruit members. Under their leadership, they have expanded their national membership base from seven core organizations to 28 and counting. New recruitment added organizations based in California's rural Central Valley, the South, Southwest, and Midwest, regions that are often overlooked for their Asian American organizing.

Their programs are at the forefront of combating white supremacy, racism, and right-wing violence against Asian Americans. Examples include their member webinar on Reimagining Safety, encouraging sharing and dialogue on members' strategies for combating housing insecurity, anti-Black racism, and gender-based violence. They also held a webinar and discussion for member organizations on lessons learned from post 9-11 vigilante and state violence against Arab, Middle Eastern, Muslim, and South



Photo courtesy of: GAR

Asian (AMEMSA) communities to address the rise in violence against East and Southeast Asians in the context of COVID scapegoating.

WHAT'S NEXT

GAR hopes to build their membership base and expand capacity by hiring a member organizer and moving its part-time communications staffer to a full-time role. They intend to grow their cross-racial solidarity efforts by translating their racial justice toolkit into at least 12 languages for groups that work with immigrants and refugees. They guide their member organizations to work on more policy advocacy. They also engage working-class immigrants and refugees they serve with campaigns focused on building power in their communities. GAR is considering recession planning with members and giving grassroots organizations the tools and resources to weather economic unpredictability. GAR seeks investment and support for these efforts.

Community Advisory Committee

The Community Advisory Committee (CAC) plays a central role in New Breath Foundation's strategy to create leadership pathways for directly impacted AANHPI community members.

The CAC provides guidance and expertise for NBF's participatory grantmaking process. Members recommend strategies, promote cross-racial solidarity through convenings and community events, and help NBF build a grantmaking process that supports frontline organizations.

The CAC is composed of primarily AANHPI formerly incarcerated leaders, survivors of violence, and members with expertise and lived experience from grassroots organizing and leadership development.

2021-2022 Community Advisory Committee Members

Sefa Aina

Asian American Resource Center at Pomona College

Aylaliyah "Liyah" Birru

Survived & Punished

Alina Fa'aola

Oakland Pacific Islander Network

Vanna In

Hope Now

Ny Nourn

Asian Prisoner Support Committee

Jacqueline Thanh-Avery

VAYLA-NO

Alex Tom

Center for Empowered Politics

KaYing Yang

President Biden's Advisory Commission on Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders

"I wanted to express my gratitude for allowing me to be a part of the grant reviewing process. It was a learning moment for me, as is everything that NBF and its team members do. Thank you."

- Aylaliyah "Liyah" Birru



New Breath Appreciation



“The need to support AAPI grassroots organizing groups who are already doing the work of healing and cross-racial solidarity, and building the capacity of others to do this work, is so critical right now – given both the rise in Asian hate, but also the subsequent narrative backlash that pits communities against each other.”

- Dr. Sandra Witt, Managing Director: Power Infrastructure Statewide, The California Endowment

“It was pretty important for us to invest in a partner that had deep experience with grassroots partners on the ground, and for those of you who know Eddy and the team, they’ve been long-time allies and partners both doing the work themselves and reaching out to some of the most unseen communities, even within the AAPI community.”

- Doua Thor, Vice President Strategy and Influence, Sobrato Philanthropies



New Breath Foundation is incredibly grateful for the generous support from the following institutions who helped advance our mission to mobilize resources in support of AANHPI communities:



We would also like to thank our generous individual and anonymous donors.

New Breath Foundation Team

Eddy Zheng
President & Founder

Stephanie Gee
Director of Operations & Communications

Maya Iwata
Director of Strategic Partnerships

Claudia Leung
Director of Programs

Megan Franich
Program Coordinator

Mari Yamagiwa
Program Coordinator

Ly Ia
New Breath Foundation Fellow

Board of Directors

Jonny Moy
Treasurer
Program Associate
Pacific Foundation Services

Kasie Lee
Secretary
Assistant District Attorney
San Francisco District Attorney's Office

Jina Freiberg
Senior Grants Manager
Katz Amsterdam Foundation

David Ho
Political Organizer and Principal
Long Ying International

Zachary Nightingale
Immigration Attorney, Partner
Van Der Hout LLP

Aakar Vachhani
Partner
Fairview Capital

Keith Wattley
Founding Executive Director
Uncommon Law

Sachi Yoshii
Director of Collective Impact
Amalgamated Foundation

