

ASIAN PACIFIC ISLANDER FORWARD MOVEMENT

IMPACT REPORT

JANUARY

JUNE

2024-2025

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ASIAN PACIFIC ISLANDER
**FORWARD
MOVEMENT**

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Mission

We cultivate healthy, long-lasting, and vibrant Asian and Pacific Islander communities through community-centered engagement, education, and advocacy.

Vision

We want a world where Asian and Pacific Islander communities – and all communities of color – have full power to access good health and a healthy environment.

Dear APIFM Supporters,

We are proud to share our **2024–2025 Impact Report**, a reflection of the deep resilience and power of our communities—and of your unwavering support.

Over this past year and a half, your commitment allowed us to provide essential services, launch new initiatives, and deepen our impact. Together, we:

- Partnered with the Alhambra Unified School District and Fremont Elementary School to develop concept designs for **campus greening**;
- Nurtured 15 youth leaders through our 2024 **Environmental Justice Summer Institute (EJSI)** in the San Gabriel Valley;
- Distributed over 57 tons of **culturally relevant produce** and wellness education through community health clinics, schools, and faith-based organizations;
- Established one of LA’s first **collaborative community food hubs** with the Hollywood Food Coalition, Polo’s Pantry, and Sunrise Organic Farm.

Our core programs —**Food Roots Harvest (FRH)**, **Food Roots Nourish (FRN)**, and **Sustainable San Gabriel Valley (SSGV)**— continued to promote food sovereignty, environmental justice, and multigenerational leadership across Asian and Pacific Islander communities.

2025 has brought new and existential challenges for APIFM and the communities we serve. These include over \$1.55 million in federal funding freezes, ongoing threats to democracy and racial equity, cuts to social safety net programs, and climate disasters like the Eaton and Palisades fires—which underscore the urgency of the climate crisis we face every day.

Through it all, your support remains a beacon of hope. It fuels our ability to respond, resist, and reimagine what’s possible for our communities. More than ever, we must stand together—defending our collective right to health, safety, and dignity.

We remain deeply grateful for your partnership and solidarity.

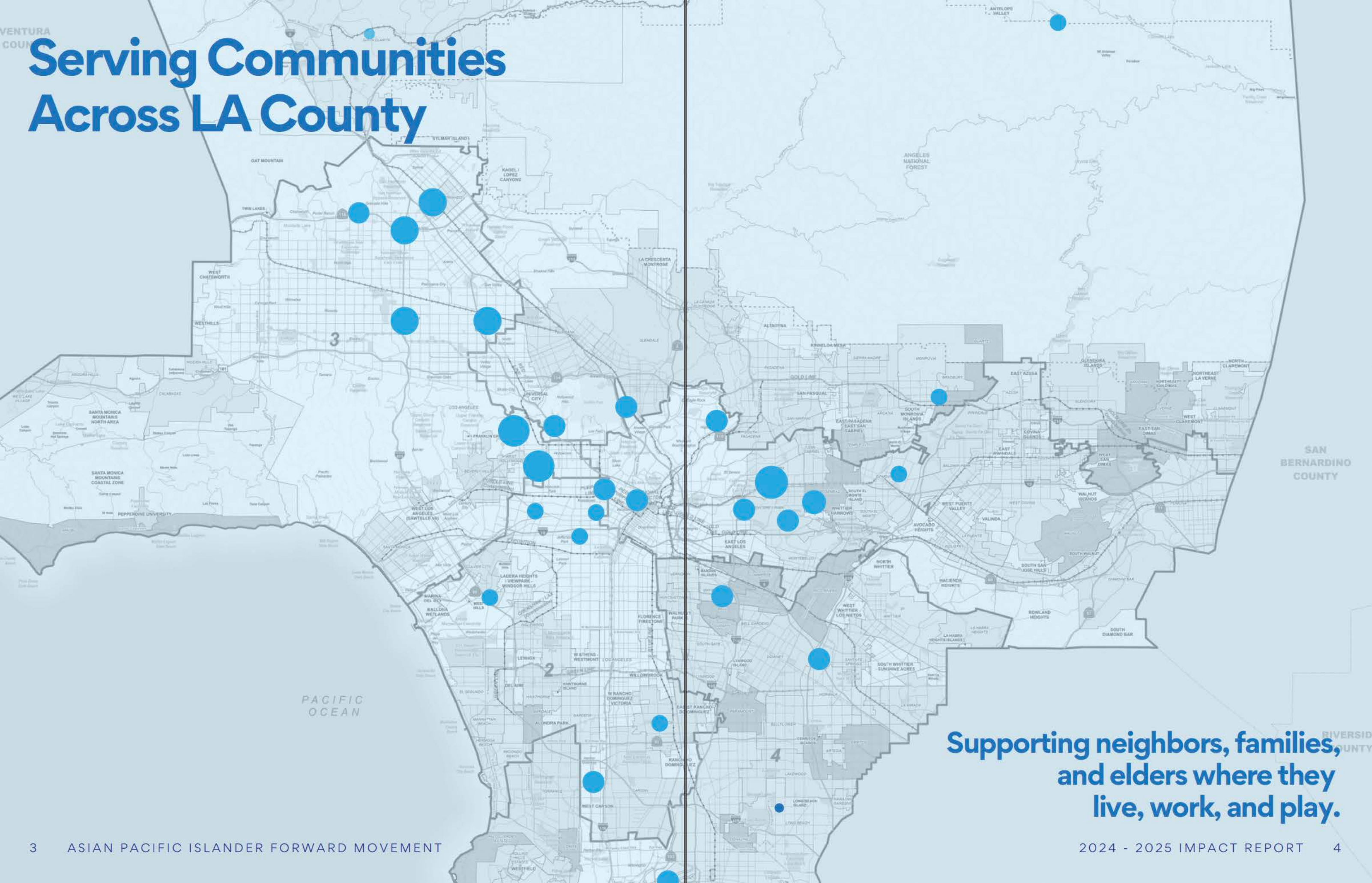
With gratitude,



Heng Lam Foong, MS
Co-Director



Kyle Tsukahira, MPA
Co-Director



Serving Communities Across LA County

Supporting neighbors, families,
and elders where they
live, work, and play.

A Year In Highlights

January 2024 - June 2025

From farm-to-school programs to clean air advocacy, this year has been one of deep impact. These highlights show how our initiatives have supported Asian and Pacific Islander communities across Los Angeles—nourishing bodies, building trust, and advancing equity. Behind every number is a story of resilience and shared purpose.

Over
2250
community members
served



7 languages offered for outreach and educational materials

- Samoan
- Tongan
- Mandarin
- Cantonese
- Toisan
- Vietnamese
- Spanish
- English

Over
449
community events, tabling,
and outreach activities held



Over
338,705
pounds
of fresh produce
distributed. That's about
847,000
meals!



After 10 years in the making, we launched the
LA Food Collective
a collaborative food hub with Hollywood Food Coalition, Polo's Pantry, and Sunrise Organic Farm—to expand food equity efforts and ensure that API communities and communities of color have lasting access to nutritious, culturally relevant food.

136+

SSGV coalition members— from parents and youth to elders, educators, local leaders, CBOs, and LEP individuals— making it one of the most diverse environmental coalitions in the San Gabriel Valley.



Community Voices

Behind every engagement, workshop, and delivery are the voices that make our projects matter. These stories from community members reflect the power of culturally rooted care, connection, advocacy, and the strength of the communities we serve.

“Because of APIFM’s thoughtful engagement, this project feels like something we’re creating together—not something handed to us.”
– PTA President Rosalyn Escobar



Upon finally receiving their EBTcard, a community member shared,
“I thought it might never happen. Seeing that balance brought me to tears—I can finally fill my fridge.”



“Thank you very much for providing such a wonderful program. This allows my family to eat healthier.”

IMPACT

We're highlighting the heart of our work through **four key themes** that show up across all our programs. These stories reflect how APIFM supports communities with care, collaboration, and purpose.

Fostering Community Ownership

Communities are not just beneficiaries
— They're co-creators of change



Farm to School

Our Farm to School team partnered with Willard Elementary in the Garvey School District for a hands-on garden lesson last Spring. We were excited to find the class garden already thriving—thanks to a dedicated teacher who continued growing Thai basil, broccoli, and a unique snail vine used in her Cambodian cooking. It was a beautiful example of cultural sharing through food and gardening. The experience deepened food literacy and empowered students and educators to take ownership of the space.

Healthy Markets LA

Through our partnership with the LA Food Policy Council's Healthy Markets LA program, we worked with Amy Tran of Yue Wa Market, the first Chinatown participant, providing in-language training and business coaching. Despite her efforts to reimagine the store with culturally relevant offerings, years of challenges from low foot traffic to burglaries and ICE raids led to her difficult decision to close. We are grateful for her dedication, and her journey strengthens our commitment to continue building partnerships with small businesses to lead the way in advancing health equity and food access in Chinatown.

Water is Life

APIFM partnered with the Alhambra Unified School District, Fremont Elementary School, and the Council for Watershed Health to co-create a vision for a greener, more climate-resilient campus. By engaging over 300 students and 30 parents and staff through surveys, school events, and listening sessions, we ensured that the design of Fremont's future schoolyard reflects the lived experiences, ideas, and needs of the community.

Clean Air SGV

In Alhambra and Monterey Park, residents became community scientists—hosting sensors, building DIY air filters, and working with APIFM and university researchers to study local air quality. They identified pollution hotspots near schools and freeways, confirmed long-held community concerns, and showed that low-cost DIY filters can protect families as well as commercial units. Clean Air SGV not only generated vital data but also empowered neighbors to share their stories and advocate for cleaner air policies.

EJSI | MYARC

Youth like Brandon Pham and Jacob Chow have gone from curious participants to passionate advocates shaping their communities. After joining EJSI, Brandon returned to APIFM as an intern and now leads outreach and advocacy efforts across the SGV. Jacob, inspired by our air quality workshops, went on to conduct public health research and join national climate programs. Their journeys reflect how APIFM's youth leadership pipeline helps nurture action-driven community members—who are not only participants but co-creators of long-term environmental solutions.

Building Long-Term Relationships & Community Trust

Trusted presence in communities builds bridges to access and opportunities



The Enroll LA team developed multiple new partnerships including with the Carson Community Center to support Pacific Islander and other seniors through CalFresh outreach. During monthly tabling and community events, the team helped older adults apply for benefits, shared culturally relevant recipe cards, and answered questions about ongoing food resources. Seniors expressed deep appreciation for the one-on-one support and valued the chance to connect in a trusted, welcoming space. This consistent presence helped reduce stigma around public benefits and strengthened APIFM’s long-term relationships in the South Bay.



Since 2020, APIFM has partnered with Asian Pacific Health Care Venture (APHCV) to deliver fresh, culturally familiar produce to communities like Westlake— completing over 57 monthly deliveries and distributing more than 86,000 pounds of fruits and vegetables. At St. Columban Church, the switch to a client-choice model has helped participants select what they’ll actually use, reducing waste and promoting autonomy. Over time, this partnership has grown into more than food distribution—it’s become a trusted space for connection, cultural recognition, and community well-being.



The Tai Chair program has been offering gentle, accessible movement classes for over four years in the LA State Historic Park in Chinatown. Supported by Park Ranger Ban Luu and led by trusted community instructor Sipoo Shelene Herring, these sessions provide more than physical wellness—they’re a consistent space for connection, routine, and joy, especially for community elders. By showing up consistently, the program builds trust and fosters lasting relationships, transforming public spaces into hubs for health, healing, and belonging.



APIFM accompanied elders from Chinatown and the SGV to the San Gabriel Mountains— a first time for many who were unaware that such natural spaces were so close and accessible to them. Through multilingual interpretation and a free shuttle as part of the Transit to Trails initiative, participants explored native landscapes, learned about environmental protections, and shared a joyful day outdoors with their peers. The response was overwhelmingly positive, with elders thanking us and asking to be included in future trips—proof that culturally responsive, accessible programming builds lasting trust and connection.



Honoring Cultural Relevance & Identity

Cultural foods foster deeper engagement and long-term behavioral change



LA Food Equity Fund Project

APIFM partnered with Alma Backyard Farms and received mentorship from APIFM staff member, Isa's parent Joel Fonua to grow over 100 taro plants, harvesting 225 leaves and distributing them alongside other culturally relevant produce to Pacific Islander families. Through this collaborative effort, we provided nutritious, familiar foods and preserved intergenerational knowledge and cultural identity. The project demonstrated how reconnecting communities to traditional foods like taro can deepen engagement, inspire pride, and promote lasting health and well-being.



Community Health

Through our Health Begins with the Heart project, APIFM partnered with Malamalama Ole Lalolagi Church in Carson to adapt a Samoan Healthy Plate—an educational resource integrating traditional foods like taro and breadfruit with nutrition guidance. Developed through focus groups and translated into Samoan, the brochure reflects community knowledge and values, while promoting balanced eating and movement. The process sparked meaningful conversations about cultural identity, intergenerational learning, and dietary habits—fostering lasting engagement by honoring the deep ties between food, health, and heritage.



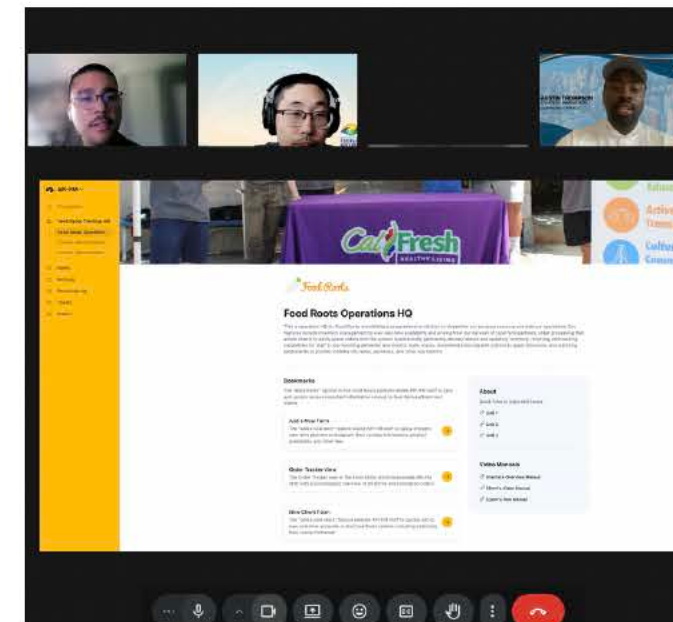
Hands-On Support Meets Systems Change

Individual advocacy and long-term infrastructure building are both essential to advancing food access and equity



Food Roots Harvest

Through strategic connections from our advisory board members, APIFM worked with Community Dynamix (CDX) to develop a customized Airtable system to streamline our food hub operations. By automating invoicing, communications, and inventory tracking, we've been able to significantly reduce administrative burden and human error — freeing up time and capacity to focus on bringing culturally relevant and healthy food to community members in need.



Enroll LA

At the Chinatown Branch Library, our Enroll LA team supported a single mother whose CalFresh benefits were stuck at \$23 a month. Acting as her authorized representative, we navigated DPSS bureaucracy to request a recalculation. After several weeks of follow-up, her benefits increased to \$420. This case illustrates how direct, compassionate advocacy can unlock essential resources for families—while also building trust, reducing stigma, and strengthening the systems that support food access and equity.



Acknowledgements

We extend our heartfelt thanks to our Sustainers, funders, and partners who make our efforts possible. Your generosity helps us grow our programs, strengthen community relationships, and advance health, environmental, and food justice across Los Angeles. We're grateful to have you alongside us in this work.

Roots

Ranko Fukuda
Brian Kim
Carol Lee
Joanna Lee
Momo Tomato
Stan Tsukahira
Margaret Wang

Fresh

Viet Bui
Elizabeth Berger
Jessica Jinn
Craig Kaneshiro
Barbara Kim
Andrea Kimura
Katherine Lee

Yeun-Bin Lee
Mark Masaoka
Emily Ng
Michael Ngim
Kathy Pham
Jacob Phillips
Sree Ponamala

Dora Quach
Yi Min Teo
Dominic Tovar
Leslie Toy
Alexander Tsao
Sabrina Yunus

Active

Carmen Chan
Joanne Chin
Ralph Degala
Jocelyn Estiandan
Heng Lam Foong
Kathryn Lee

Connie Lo
Lydia Ma
Anne Manalili
Leah McGowan
Jennifer Ming
Keri Nishi
Jonathon Nomachi

Jenny Park
Avisha Patel
Roselma Samala
Shay T D Tan
Alexandar Tsao
Marianna Yamamoto
Sisi Zhang

FOUNDATIONS

Butterfly Equity Foundation
California Community Foundation
Chinatown Firecracker Run
Cedars-Sinai Medical Center
City of Hope – Community Benefits
Community Partners
Conrad N. Hilton Foundation
Dwight Stuart Youth Fund
Kaiser Permanente
Liberty Hill Foundation
Resources Legacy Fund
SCAN Health Plan
The California Endowment
Weingart Foundation

NONPROFITS

Active San Gabriel Valley
Asian American Pacific Islander
Equity Alliance
Asian Resource Inc.
Asian Youth Center
California Food & Farming Network
Council for Watershed Health
Farm2People
Food Forward
Hollywood Food Coalition
Impact Justice
Los Angeles River State Park Partners
Nature for All
Neighborhood Legal Services
Polo's Pantry
The Greenlining Institute
TreePeople

EATON FIRE FOOD RESPONSE FUND

Liberty Hill Foundation
California Community Foundation
Charles and Peggy Norris Family Fund
Lacuna Giving Circle
Mayta Lor
Angry Asian Man
Max Kalantar
Pasha Ehtiyatkar
Stephanie Nitahara
Wendy Takahashi
Macy H

GOVERNMENT

California Air Resources Board
California Department of Food & Agriculture
California Environmental Protection Agency
Governor's Office of Land Use and
Climate Innovation
Los Angeles County Department of
Public Health
Los Angeles Food Policy Council
Los Angeles State Historic Park
Los Angeles County Flood Control District's
Safe Clean Water Program (grant
administered by The Water Foundation)
US Environmental Protection Agency
San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District

BUSINESSES

Capital Group
Edison International
Elite Graphics
GreenZone
Gu Grocery
JOY
Panda Restaurant Group
Pickle Pickle Co
Pine and Crane – Silverlake
Pine and Crane – DTLA
Sunrise Organic Farm
Two Dragons Martial Arts
Yang's Kitchen

EDUCATION

Alhambra Unified School District (AUSD)
California State University, Los Angeles
Fremont Elementary School (AUSD)
Garvey Elementary School District
KYCC Kids Town Preschool
Occidental College
University of California, Los Angeles
University of California, Irvine
University of Southern California

LA CHINATOWN/ BUNKER HILL FIRE RESPONSE

California Community Foundation DAF
Cedars-Sinai Medical Center
SCAN Health Plan

APIFM Advisory Board Members

Thank you to our Advisory Board members for your guidance, insight, and steadfast support.

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CAREERWORK\$

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HARVARD KENNEDY SCHOOL

MICHAEL NGIM
PG&E

SISI ZHANG
PANDA RESTAURANT GROUP

SREE PONAMALA
EXPERIAN

Our Team

Thank you to the APIFM team—your dedication, heart, and vision make our work possible every day.

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COORDINATOR

PAPU TOGAFAU
COMMUNITY HEALTH
WORKER

PEGGY WANG
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
COORDINATOR

BRANDON PHAM
INTERN

Join Us In Building A Healthier Future for Our Communities!



APIFM team at the Pacific Island Ethnic Art Museum (PIEAM) in Long Beach for our annual retreat, December 2024. Grateful to PIEAM for welcoming us!

Sustain Us

Become an APIFM Sustainer with a monthly gift of just \$5. Every dollar helps drive real community change.



Volunteer With Us

Join us in giving back to the community! Scan the QR code to sign up.





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