Photo courtesy of Vattana Peong

CHAPTER 2

BUILDING SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

ASIAN AMERICANS ADVANCING JUSTICE ORANGE COUNTY

Orange County continues to be a place that attracts Asian Americans & Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders (AA&NHPI) because of its Pacific Rim location, temperate climate, quality of public education, employment opportunities, and well-established ethnic communities. As they settled in different cities in Orange County, AA&NHPI also established businesses and institutions that not only serve ethnic community members but also bring new residents to these areas. These amenities continue to attract AA&NHPI, including an increasing number of Asians from other countries, to Orange County. Despite these residential shifts that suggest the county is becoming a more multicultural and diverse area, AA&NHPI still face persistent discrimination and segregation. In addition, the county is now one of the most expensive places to live in the United States. The increasing housing prices may jeopardize the residential stability and security of many middle- and low-income AA&NHPI homeowners and renters, which include families and elderly immigrants.

ASSETS

Residential Growth

Orange County attracts AA&NHPI residents who want to live in areas with diverse neighbors, businesses, and community institutions as well as good public schools. As Mary Anne Foo, who is of Chinese and Japanese descent and the founding executive director of the Orange County Asian and Pacific Islander Community Alliance, explains, "People are moving to Orange County because of the lifestyle, because of the schools, because of the family focus. And so a lot of people, immigrants were coming here because of Little Saigon, because of Koreatown, because of the Chinese area in Irvine. And so they still come for that, but they also come for the lifestyle and the family, so we saw a lot of people moving in." While many AA&NHPI residents are from other locations, including those who attended local colleges and opted to stay in the county, a good number were raised here and want to be near their families. They see Orange County as a place that not only provides employment and educational opportunities but also has attractive mainstream and Asian American institutions and businesses.

Photo courtesy of Asian Americans Advancing Justice – Orange County

The Vietnamese and Korean communities in Orange County are the largest and most visible communities with large concentrations in multiple cities, while other AA&NHPI ethnic groups in Orange County are generally more geographically dispersed.[1] From 2000 to 2010, the Asian American population increased in every city in Orange County. Among cities with at least 10,000 Asian Americans, Irvine (99%), Yorba Linda (56%), Cypress (54%), Tustin (53%), and Fullerton (52%) had the highest percentage of Asian American population growth. Among cities with

at least 400 Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders, Irvine (66%), Cypress (46%), Huntington Beach (44%), Tustin (40%), and Lake Forest (38%) experienced the highest percentage of Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander population growth.[2] Some with more expendable incomes, including single, young professionals, are also taking advantage of newly constructed rental units in the county, which may lead to the continued growth and dispersal of AA&NHPI throughout Orange County. Whether as renters or homeowners, AA&NHPI infuse dollars into the local neighborhoods and economy by purchasing goods and services while also helping to create community institutions and spaces that serve the growing population.

The reputation of good school districts and low crime rates, especially in other suburban areas such as Buena Park and Fullerton, continues to be a major attraction for Asian Americans, both new immigrants and U.S.-born generations. Many Korean Americans moved to Orange County after migrating from the Los Angeles area in search of educational opportunities. Charles Kim, cofounder and first executive director of the Korean American Coalition, explains that specific areas in North Orange County that are accessible to major freeways were also more desirable than cities in South Orange County because of its proximity to Los Angeles Koreatown:

> Cerritos [on the border of Orange County but in Los Angeles County] became a very popular area with a heavy Korean population. And then now actually this area, Buena Park–Fullerton area, became the hub of Orange County's Koreatown. That used to be like the Irvine area. We have two Korean Americans [mayors who have] served the city of Irvine, but Irvine is kind of too far down [south]. And now everybody thinks that this, Fullerton area is a good school district, easy access to LA, . . . and also to the [Los Angeles International] airport area, so this is a very popular area. There are many people actually coming, even though they work in Koreatown [in Los Angeles], they live here.

The multiethnic services available in Orange County's major cities have become an asset that attracts more residents to the county. The city of Irvine is expected to become the largest city in the continental United States with a predominantly Asian population.[3] Incorporated in 1971, the city has established a master-planned community that was predominantly White, but by 1980, AA&NHPI made up 8% of the population; by 1990 it rose to 18%, and by 2000 it climbed to 30%. With a total population of 238,474, Irvine is 40% Asian (96,341) and is also distinct as it is not dominated by one Asian ethnic group.[4] The Asian population is 33% Chinese (31,728), 19% Korean (18,744), 15% Asian Indian (14,476), 10% Vietnamese (9,280), 8% Filipino (7,822), and 6% Japanese (6,213).[5] Naz Hamid, an Irvine parent of Indian and Afghani heritage who moved to the city in 2003 and who came to California initially as an international student from Pakistan, shares her observations: "I've seen a huge shift—a really big shift. When we moved here, it

was very difficult to find an Asian restaurant. It was very difficult to find a dentist or a doctor who was Asian. But I think now it is easier to locate one, whether you're looking for a Pakistani doctor or a Chinese doctor. It's much easier to find someone you feel you can identify with."

Emergence of Ethnic Neighborhoods and Cultural Amenities

The growing AA&NHPI residential population has helped to establish ethnic centers throughout Orange County with community-serving businesses and institutions. Eduardo Lee, who is of Chinese descent and cofounder of Wahoo's Fish Taco, grew up in South Orange County at a time when there were few Asians in the area. He comments on the growth of the Asian markets throughout Orange County:

> There were no Asian markets growing up. Now you got one in almost every-other mile kind of a thing. It's becoming like totally normal. The bottom of the hill [in Irvine] is a Korean market now. It used to be Ralph's. Then it became something else, [a] Persian [market]. Now it's Zion [Market, a Korean grocery store]. . . . The first Asian market that opened used to be packed. It was 99 [Ranch Market] and I think . . . [in] Garden Grove. . . . We used to drive out there!

Today there are large Chinese, Filipino, Japanese, Korean, Taiwanese, and Vietnamese markets and business chains dispersed across the county. In addition to ethnic markets, ethnic religious institutions—such as Christian churches, Buddhist temples, Muslim mosques, Hindu temples, and Sikh gurdwaras—and organizations, from cultural organizations to ethnic-based chambers of commerce, have been established throughout Orange County. These businesses and institutions signify the concentration of ethnic residents in these places and are assets attracting additional residents to these areas.

Photo courtesy of Asian Americans Advancing Justice – Orange County

Starting in the late 1970s and 1980s, Little Saigon emerged as a new ethnic enclave in central Orange County. Tam Nguyen, former president of the Vietnamese American Chamber of Commerce and the second-generation owner of the family business, Advance Beauty College, recalls visiting Little Saigon as a child and realizing the importance of personal and cultural connections for newcomers that contributed to the community's expansion:

> We would come down to Little Saigon . . . what I guess [were] the beginnings of Little Saigon back then, so that we could go to the service areas where we could send things back to their families, whether it's money or things or items, necessity items. Obviously, the ability to buy groceries that were important to our culture, that my mom and dad were familiar with, [and] to also meet with their friends. . . . They were always keen on was learning the language and culture for [my sister] and I. . . . Mom and Dad wanted to expose us to as many Vietnamese friends and family as possible on weekends, knowing that we didn't have that during the weekdays. So those were kind of motivators for my parents to really reconnect.

Nguyen points out how Little Saigon was an important social and cultural center for the community, especially for Vietnamese refugees who had suddenly been uprooted and could now connect with co-ethnics who shared similar experiences of having to build a new life in another country. Parents who wanted their children to retain the language and culture were attracted to living near the Vietnamese language classes that were held in the Little Saigon vicinity on weekends.

This scenario was similar for other immigrant groups as well. Cyril Yu, senior deputy district attorney at the Orange County District Attorney's office and former president and current board member of the South Coast Chinese Cultural Association, describes how the largest Chinese school in Southern California was started in Irvine in 1976:

> It started off like many of the cultural language schools, the heritage language schools, in California, and even the ones I was used to growing up in Northern California and Southern California. You had families that got together that basically built their own school. They would rent facilities from the local school district, and they would hold weekend classes. . . . They evolved from a small school and eventually rented out University High School . . . [in Irvine because they] needed more space as it grew . . . [and] the school board raised the rent.

The Chinese American community thought the rent increase was unfair and galvanized to create its own multifunctional 44,000-square-foot community space. Yu further elaborates:

> As a [Chinese] community, they were mad. . . . It was at that time that the community leaders said, 'Can we raise money to build our own school?' And there was this huge funding drive that was put together. . . . This was in the 2000s. That generation that had started this Chinese school 40 years ago, they were established in their careers. They were now making very good money, and they knew how to raise money in this system. They understood from working with different

> community groups how to talk to the Irvine Company to get them the land [in Irvine] that they ended up buying for the school, and how to fund-raise for this project and get it through the city. . . . You had people that were . . . lawyers and accountants and business people. . . . You had a community that was able to pull together to do this, and they built what eventually became the South Coast Chinese Cultural Center. . . . You had this building of the center that last year celebrated its ten-year anniversary as kind of a legacy project of a community that had been here for 40 years.

Not only did the Chinese American community learn how to work together and mobilize its resources and networks, it also established an important community center that makes the county more welcoming to Chinese American residents and is also available for use by the broader community.

Homeownership and Asian Overseas Investments

Orange County has received attention for attracting overseas investors from Asia who are capitalizing on the housing market. Even during the recent economic recession or downturn, areas in Orange County with high percentages of Asian Americans maintained their real estate values, and many homebuyers continue to be overseas Asians or Asian Americans. More upscale developments with new luxury homes are attracting a more affluent population. For example, approximately 75% of the buyers of the Five Point Communities' Pavilion Park project at the Orange County Great Park in Irvine are recent Asian immigrants or overseas Asian investors.[6] Real estate developers are now marketing to Asian buyers with advertisements featuring photos of Asian families and designing homes with feng shui concepts, wok or spice kitchens with enclosed kitchen areas for cooking pungent foods, and in-law suites to accommodate multigenerational families.

Irvine is one of the top-three cities for residential investment by mainland Chinese along with San Francisco and Los Angeles.[7] Homebuyers from China, Hong Kong, India, Taiwan, and other Asian countries pay cash for their homes with quick escrows. They are thus being sought after as buyers by real estate agents who sell homes in Anaheim Hills, Buena Park, La Palma, Newport Coast, Tustin, and Yorba Linda. Some purchase homes as a safe haven for their money or as a place where their children can attend school. Real estate companies advertise and set up satellite offices in Asian countries; Asians are thus familiar with the housing market and amenities in the county even before they arrive as immigrants. Charles Kim of the Korean American Coalition explains how Koreans became attracted to Orange County through publicity in South Korea: "Those who send their kids here [think], 'Yeah Orange County is really good. There's a lot of good schools, easy to find a place to live, and at the same time, a good shopping area.' So it's kind of there are the personal contacts here—they tell them in Korea—so they come here."

The overseas investment has also increased property values. This trend has benefits for current property owners and the county, which will have more public funds through property taxes. However, the housing market has also raised concerns about future housing affordability and availability in Orange County.[8]

NEEDS

Persistent Anti-Asian Sentiment

The history and persistence of AA&NHPI discrimination highlights how AA&NHPI may still be treated as if they do not belong in Orange County, despite their contributions. In the early 20th century, Asians were discouraged from settling in Orange County because of fears that they posed an economic threat. In 1906, the modest Chinatown in Santa Ana was burned to the ground, justified by city officials based on an unsubstantiated rumor of a case of leprosy. During the incarceration of Japanese Americans during World War II, unfounded suspicions that they were potential enemies caused many Japanese Americans to lose their homes, businesses, and farms, which were dispersed throughout the county.

Michael Matsuda, a Japanese American who was born in Orange County and grew up in Garden Grove in the 1960s, is superintendent of the Anaheim Union High School District. He shares his parents' story of how they returned to Orange County following World War II but had difficulty finding housing until they met a family who did not hold discriminatory views of Japanese Americans:

> My mom and my dad recall trying to rent an apartment and as soon as she [my mom] showed up, they would basically slam the door on her face [saying] 'No Japs' [a racially derogatory term for Japanese or Japanese Americans]. So she got so frustrated on the phone she would just say, 'I'm Japanese,' and [she received] a lot of hang-ups. But there was one family who said, 'Well, come on. We'd like to meet you.' So my mom and my dad met this very kind *hakujin* family, the White family, in Garden Grove. Their names were Michael and Bertha Andres. And of course my name is Michael Bert, so I'm named after them. They were the one family who said it didn't bother them to rent to Japanese Americans. And in fact, Mr. Andres cosigned the loan for my dad to get furniture. So my mom always, during when I grew up in Garden Grove, I had to deal with a lot of prejudice, she would always remind me that there are these White people who helped us.

Race relations have improved, but anti-Asian resentment persisted as Asian Americans established a presence in Orange County. When Southeast Asian refugees began arriving in the mid-1970s, there were fears that they would pose a financial burden on local communities. When they began establishing a commercial and residential presence, they were accused of taking over those areas in the county.

"Affordable housing is very limited for the population, especially we have seen a lot of clients [who] have to share an apartment with multiple tenants."

Photo courtesy of Asian Americans Advancing Justice – Orange County

In the 1990s when the Korean business districts became more prevalent using signage in Korean, they faced hostilities by those who started an English-only campaign.

Caroline Hahn, a second-generation Korean American who is past president of the Orange County Korean American Bar Association, grew up in Huntington Beach and moved back in 2006 with her family to work as a criminal justice lawyer. Soon after moving back, she was harassed on the street, reminding her of the discrimination she had faced growing up in this area of Orange County:

> I was pushing the stroller with my child in it, and we were walking to the park. And this truck drives by and [the driver] says, 'Hey you chink!' This was 2006 and I thought, 'They can't be talking about me, right?' And so I look around, but no one else is there. So I realized, 'Oh my gosh, they're talking about me!' And that actually really unnerved me. . . . I think I'm more sensitive to that whole thing because I grew up in Huntington Beach. Because I felt so different, and I felt like people didn't have a problem making it known that I was different. . . . What I experienced—that is not right, like that's racism!

After this incident, Hahn decided to move to Tustin, where she felt the area was more diverse and friendlier to non-White ethnic groups. The persistence of hate crimes and discrimination in the 1990s and 2000s, along with the current resurgence, indicate that addressing discrimination against AA&NHPI continues to be a major need.

Racial and Residential Segregation

Although Orange County is becoming more diverse, residential segregation and preferences based on racial stereotypes continue. A 2016 scholarly study of the persistence of residential segregation in Orange County indicated that White interviewees preferred to live in racially homogeneous neighborhoods and expressed negative or stereotypical perceptions of Latinos and, in some cases, Asians.[9] The study also indicated that White residents assumed that Asians could easily integrate into their communities based on assumptions and stereotypes of Asians as successful model minorities, overlooking their socioeconomic heterogeneity. Despite the multiethnic character of Irvine, some Asian residents still feel like "outsiders" because of their lack of English language fluency and lingering resentment from long-term residents who are resistant to the demographic changes.[10]

Jonathan Paik, Orange County director of the Korean Resource Center, has witnessed the growth of AA&NHPI in Orange County since his family moved to Fullerton in the late 1980s. This growth became more noticeable as he became engaged in political organizing:

> For me the transformation has been stark. . . . For me, the things that I learned recently, I think in the last 2½ years, was like how starkly segregated our communities were while creating that block. Like the block of Asian Americans was being created while there was a block of Latino communities that were being created. And if you were going to go across the county, I mean you look at cities like Anaheim, Garden Grove, Westminster, and Santa Ana, like all those cities have changed dramatically. Garden Grove, which used to have a big Korean hub has like a Korean exodus now. They're moving to Irvine. They're moving up here to Buena Park, North Anaheim. . . . Given that Westminster, growing up, had always been considered, and still today is considered, Little Saigon, but now like . . . Little Saigon has really become larger. It's really expanded across like four different cities.

Yet Paik notes that residential segregation and a lack of interaction among racial groups continues to create separations and sometimes conflict between groups:

> It's really cool that our county has become so multiethnic—but how much interaction is actually happening between these different communities? And I would say that level of interaction has been very small, like very, very small. . . . I think it has stirred up a ton of conflict actually in Central Orange County, but that can be resolved. And I actually believe that young folks, and especially young folks from each of our communities, are actually the future for that—a future for being able to build bridges.

Burdens of Housing Costs

Orange County has also become an increasingly expensive place to live and ranks fourth out of the largest 100 metropolitan areas for fastest-growing income gap between the rich and the poor between 1990 and 2012.[11] In 2014, Orange County was the second-most expensive metro area in which to purchase a home in the nation, just behind the San Francisco metro area and ahead of the Los Angeles metro area.[12] In 2016, the median home sale price for a single-family home in Orange County was $704,950; the minimum household income needed to purchase a home was $86,870.[13] The median gross rent in Orange County is now $1,548 a month.[14] An annual household income of $52,960 is needed to rent a one-bedroom apartment.[15]

The majority of AA&NHPI reside in cities, and an estimated half of poor AA&NHPI live in the 20 most expensive real estate markets nationwide.[16]

Photo courtesy of Asian Americans Advancing Justice – Orange County

Approximately 42% of Asian Americans and 54% of Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders (NHPI) are renters, while 58% of Asian Americans and 46% of NHPI are homeowners.[17] While many homebuyers in Orange County are of Asian origin, this masks persistent disparities many AA&NHPI residents face as homeowners and renters in Orange County's extremely expensive housing market. Homeownership among Asian Americans (58%) and NHPI (46%) is still overall lower than non-Hispanic Whites (67%).[18] The percentages also vary when broken down by different ethnic groups and, in particular, Samoan Americans have the lowest rate of homeownership in the county. Only 31% of Samoan Americans are homeowners, which is lower than Blacks or African Americans and Latinos.[19]

However, statistics on household income can be deceptive. Among AA&NHPI communities, there may be more wage earners who contribute to household income. AA&NHPI residents are predominantly in family households, with 80% of Asian Americans and 78% of NHPI in family households.[20] Approximately 15% of Asian American and 20% of NHPI families countywide have three or more workers contributing to the household income. Nearly a quarter of Cambodian American families have three or more workers contributing to the household income, a rate similar to that of Latinos (24%).[21] Per capita, Asian Americans in Orange County earn $33,703 and Pacific Islanders earn $30,630, which is substantially less than non-Hispanic Whites ($49,817).[22] Thus, AA&NHPI face income disparities, and the financial burdens of housing may be even greater when considering per capita income disparities.

Many segments of the AA&NHPI community still face financial burdens in housing in Orange County. Ideally, 30% or less of the household income should be dedicated toward housing costs. Among those with mortgages, 53% of Asian Americans spend 30% or more of their income on housing.[23] Approximately 61% of Korean, 57% of Vietnamese, 56% of Cambodian, 54% of Filipino, and 53% of Indonesian American households with mortgages spend 30% or more of their income on housing costs.[24] Asian American renters also face housing cost burdens, with over 50% of Asian Americans and 38% of NHPI spending more than 30% of their household income toward housing costs.[25] Among Asian American renters,

Thai (62%), Vietnamese (60%), and Korean Americans (57%) are the most burdened, spending 30% or more of their income on housing.[26] Approximately 38% of Vietnamese and 30% of Thai American renters are severely housing-cost burdened and spend 50% or more of their income on housing, rates higher than all racial groups.[27]

The need for more affordable housing and housing assistance programs will continue to grow, especially as Orange County becomes a more expensive place to live. As of 2016, there were 26,643 subsidized housing units in Orange County, and they were 93% occupied.[28] Currently the county's housing authorities have provided rental assistance to over 22,000 households, but an estimated 77,000 households are still on a waiting list for rental assistance, indicating that the overall demand is still high in Orange County.[29] Currently AA&NHPI comprise 43% of subsidized housing residents in the county, the highest of any racial group.[30] This number has grown since 2008, when AA&NHPI made up 38% of subsidized housing residents.[31] In addition, Orange County has no rent-control law, so property owners are legally allowed to increase rent as long as they provide proper notice. Given the high demand of housing, property owners may be inclined to continue raising rents.

As the cost of purchasing a home and renting has risen substantially in Orange County, new immigrants and refugees who work in the county are moving to other counties like Riverside or San Bernardino where housing expenses are lower, and commuting to work, which presents other burdens such as added transportation costs. In other cases, they are leaving the state to seek a lower cost of living. Mary Anne Foo of the Orange County Asian and Pacific Islander Community Alliance notes that, "We also see a lot of transition moving out because no one can afford it here. So the 2020 Census will be very interesting 'cause a lot of people have moved to the Inland Empire to be able to get a house, to be able to afford housing because it's just so expensive here."

"People are moving to Orange County because of the lifestyle, because of the schools, because of the family focus."

Invisibility of Housing Insecurities

Housing instability, overcrowding, and informal housing are also important issues affecting AA&NHPI communities that housing statistics do not capture. Jonathan Paik of the Korean Resource Center explains some of the housing conditions facing Korean American clients:

> The folks we interact with every day through naturalization or through deferred action and through health care access, most folks that you were to find here are not folks that you're finding that are like incredibly wealthy. In fact, they're folks who are new immigrants who are moving here that are, even if they're living in cities like Fullerton or Irvine, that have a higher income per capita. Often they're making that work by being able to live in larger collective housing than what is traditionally known in the American nuclear family.

Extended family members may share living quarters to cover expenses; however, renting to strangers is also being practiced to cover housing expenses. In congested pockets in Garden Grove, Santa Ana, and Westminster, overcrowding occurs in rentals and homes, where garages, porches, and rooms are sublet or rented out to strangers, which can lead to unhygienic conditions and dangerous situations for children.[32] Vietnamese American homeowners, who are not always part of the wealthier segment of the community and are struggling to pay their mortgages, rent out shared rooms to two or three individuals or families in Little Saigon.[33]

Vattana Peong, executive director of The Cambodian Family, relates how many are forced to share housing because affordable housing is in such demand, and his organization serves as a safe, community space for youth who are experiencing overcrowding at home:

> Affordable housing is very limited for the population, especially we have seen a lot of clients [who] have to share an apartment with multiple tenants. . . . Some of the clients live in a garage with their kids. . . . They told us that . . . "We are grateful that we just walk from the neighborhood and come here to do our homework and hang out and join this after-school program." . . . So a lot of our Latino clients live in a garage, and a lot of Cambodian clients have to share housing with their friends and family. And a lot of family members have been unable to be accepted into affordable housing. . . . At least two or three clients are coming to our door a month asking for [the] affordable housing list. . . . We have a list so we were able to refer them to, but most of the time they have to be on the waiting for five to six years.

These housing insecurities may be especially difficult to document because AA&NHPI are often concerned about family separation or worried about their immigration status. Mary Anne Foo notes why AA&NHPI are reluctant to ask for housing assistance: "There's so many at-risk for homelessness or homeless Asians that it's just hidden because the Asian community doesn't want to talk about it. Because they're afraid that their children will be taken away. Because they might be accused of child neglect." Children who live in overcrowded conditions due to economic hardship also tend to be those who report experiencing homelessness and unstable living conditions.[34]

Emerging Need for Senior Housing

Affordable senior housing that targets AA&NHPI communities is an expanding need, given that they are one of the fastest-growing senior populations in the United States. They are expected to grow 240% by 2060 and make up 33% of the total AA&NHPI population across the country.[35] Over 87% of AA&NHPI seniors in the United States are also foreign-born, indicating that the AA&NHPI senior needs are interrelated with their experiences as immigrants.[36] While AA&NHPI senior citizens often live in multigenerational households, this is not always viable,

and many are beginning to live on their own. An estimated 36% of AA&NHPI seniors across the United States are low-income and living alone.[37] As Ellen Ahn, a 1.5-generation Korean American who grew up in Los Angeles Koreatown and is the executive director of Korean Community Services, remarks about the emerging needs in the Korean community in Orange County, "We have also seen a greater senior need and as the early immigrant population, the 1970s and 1980s population, as they've aged, their needs have grown a lot more." Low-income immigrant seniors or those on a fixed income who are monolingual are in need of affordable housing options that provide health assistance and allow them to age in place as well. Subsidized housing for seniors can have long waiting lists and application processes that can be complicated to complete. In 2014, Asian Americans Advancing Justice – Orange County and the Public Law Center successfully stopped major rent increases for 200 elderly Asian immigrant seniors living in a low-income apartment complex in Anaheim, preventing possible displacement and homelessness.[38]

Ethnic enclaves that provide linguistically and culturally appropriate services will become even more important for aging monolingual AA&NHPI seniors.[39] Community organizations are beginning to fill this gap by providing services for low-income seniors, especially those who live independently. Tricia Nguyen, CEO of Southland Integrated Services (formerly Vietnamese Community of Orange County), describes the range of its services that specifically focus on seniors:

> We also do [have a] seniors' isolated program called Early Intervention for Older Adults. We also help with telephone assistance, translation, billing issues, utilities issues. . . . And then [at] our headquarters, we do food commodities on a monthly basis to give to 400 low-income families. We provide a senior center where seniors can come in to play cards, do activities. We provide them hot meals, nutritious meal from Senior Serve. . . . A lot of them might not have meals [otherwise] because they don't have family members. And we do transportation programs, we have senior nonemergency transportation and we have [a] senior mobility program where we transport to and from the senior center.

Additionally, Jane Pang, cofounder and board member of Pacific Islander Health Partnership, notes how Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander seniors are in need of resources, especially those that address mental health. She explains how the Aloha Seniors Program connects seniors who are residentially separated, so they can build a support network:

> A lot of elders I know, for a fact, are depressed, go through depression. And not having the resources to help them, I see that because I work with the older population. . . . Many of the husbands of the spouses passed, but the Aloha Seniors have been so remarkable. I sit back and

"It's really cool that our county has become so multiethnic—but how much interaction is actually happening between these different communities?"

> see that with each case there is at least three or four of the seniors will band together, . . . make sure that individual is brought to our activities, offer transportation, give them support, take them out to lunch or breakfast. And those interactions are undirected by us. . . . Aloha Seniors—that social network is so strong.

Having senior citizen facilities and assisted care centrally located for this segment of the community is a concern for all AA&NHPI communities. Sufficient funding to expand housing options and provide services will become even more critical as the senior citizen population increases.

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

- Collect and report disaggregated data for AA&NHPI on housing conditions and sustainable community needs (e.g., informal housing arrangements, homelessness).
- Provide culturally and linguistically accessible education, outreach, counseling, and legal assistance for AA&NHPI on housing and sustainable community issues such as financial education, tenant rights (e.g., eviction, fair housing), affordable housing options (e.g., Section 8 requirements, transitional housing), and foreclosures. This should include translated materials and contracts, interpreters, and bilingual advocates.
- Provide culturally and linguistically accessible housing and related services to AA&NHPI seniors (e.g., transportation, meals) and plan for future housing options, particularly low-income senior housing, for the growing AA&NHPI senior population.
- Fund community organizations that provide AA&NHPI-specific housing and related services (e.g., after-school programs) that address overcrowding and other community sustainability issues.
- Educate media and policymakers that AA&NHPI experience racial hostility and segregation in their neighborhoods, and support policies that create a welcoming county for all ethnic groups.
- Enforce anti-discrimination laws in housing, including new state laws barring the use of immigration status to threaten or intimidate tenants.
- Advocate for local and state policies that support the development and preservation of affordable housing stock in Orange County such as inclusionary housing requirements.

INTERVIEWED COMMUNITY LEADERS

Ellen Ahn	Executive director of Korean Community Services
Mary Anne Foo	Founder and executive director of the Orange County Asian and Pacific Islander Community Alliance (OCAPICA)
Caroline Hahn	Past president of the Orange County Korean American Bar Association
Naz Hamid	Parent in Irvine; ran for the local school board
Charles Kim	Cofounder and first executive director of the Korean American Coalition
Eduardo Lee	Cofounder of Wahoo's Fish Taco
Michael Matsuda	Superintendent of the Anaheim Union High School District; founding member of the Orange County Asian Pacific Islander Community Alliance (OCAPICA)
Tam Nguyen	Former president of the Vietnamese American Chamber of Commerce; owner of Advance Beauty College; former president of the California State University, Fullerton (CSUF) Alumni Association
Tricia Nguyen	CEO of Southland Integrated Services, formerly known as the Vietnamese Community of Orange County (VNCOC)
Jonathan Paik	Orange County director of the Korean Resource Center
Jane Pang	Cofounder and board member of Pacific Islander Health Partnership (PIHP)
Vattana Peong	Executive director of The Cambodian Family
Cyril Yu	Former president and current board member of the South Coast Chinese Cultural Association; senior deputy district attorney at the Orange County District Attorney's office; ran for the Irvine School Board

The quotes from these interviews are represented verbatim in this report, with some shortened for space considerations, shown by an ellipsis. The only other modifications are to help provide context, shown in brackets.

NOTES

1. Asian Americans Advancing Justice, and Orange County Asian and Pacific Islander Community Alliance. 2014. *A Community of Contrasts: Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders in Orange County*. Los Angeles: Asian Americans Advancing Justice.

2. U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census SF1, Table QT-P6; 2010 Census SF1, Table QT-P6. Information from Asian Americans Advancing Justice, and Orange County Asian and Pacific Islander Community Alliance. 2014. *A Community of Contrasts: Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders in Orange County.* Los Angeles: Asian Americans Advancing Justice.

3. Wheeler, Ian. 2016. "Why Asians Have Become the Dominant Group in Irvine—and What That Means for the City." *Orange County Register*, September 21, 2016, http://www.ocregister.com/2016/09/21/why-asians-have-become-the-dominant-group-in-irvine-and-what-that-means-for-the-city/;.

4. U.S. Census Bureau, 2011–2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Table DP05. Note: Percentages calculated from "Asian alone" category. The 2010 U.S. Census shows the total population count is 212,375 and total "Asian American alone" count is 83,176, which is 39% of the population.

5. U.S. Census Bureau, 2011–2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Table DP05. Percentages calculated from "Asian alone" category.

6. Wheeler, Ian. 2016. "Why Asians Have Become the Dominant Group in Irvine—and What That Means for the City." *Orange County Register*, September 21, 2016, http://www.ocregister.com/2016/09/21/why-asians-have-become-the-dominant-group-in-irvine-and-what-that-means-for-the-city/.

7. Collins, Jeff. 2014. "Chinese Homebuyers Seeking Security in O.C." *Orange County Register*, August 12, 2014, http://www.ocregister.com/2014/08/12/chinese-homebuyers-seeking-security-in-oc/.

8. Collins, Jeff. 2012. "Foreign Investors Buying Homes in O.C." *Orange County Register*, December 16, 2012, http://www.ocregister.com/2012/12/16/foreign-investors-buying-homes-in-oc/.

9. Lacayo, Celia. 2016. "Latinos Need to Stay in Their Place: Differential Segregation in a Multi-Ethnic Suburb." *Societies* 6 (3): 25.

10. Do, Anh. 2017. "Even with Irvine's Diverse Mix of Cultures, Some Residents Feel They Don't 'Fit.'" *Los Angeles Times*, May 30, 3017, http://www.latimes.com/local/california/la-me-ln-irvine-immigrants-20170511-htmlstory.html.

11. UCI Community & Labor Project, and UCLA Labor Center. 2014. *Orange County on the Cusp of Change*, Los Angeles: UCLA Labor Center.

12. U.S. Census Bureau, 2011–2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Table DP04.

13. Children & Families Commission of Orange County. 2016. *OC Community Indicators 2016.* Santa Ana, CA: Orange County Community Indicators Project.

14. U.S. Census Bureau, 2011–2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Table B25064.

15. Children & Families Commission of Orange County. 2016. *OC Community Indicators 2016,* Santa Ana, CA: Orange County Community Indicators Project.

16. National Coalition for Asian Pacific American Community Development. 2016. *Findings on Financial Security for AAPI Seniors and Their Family: A Landscape Assessment & Community Survey Results*. Washington, DC: Coalition for Asian Pacific American Community Development (June).

17. U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census SF2, Table HCT2. Information from Asian Americans Advancing Justice, and Orange County Asian and Pacific Islander Community Alliance. 2014. *A Community of Contrasts: Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders in Orange County*. Los Angeles: Asian Americans Advancing Justice.

18. Ibid.

19. Ibid.

20. U.S. Census Bureau. 2011–2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Tables B11001D and B11001E.

21. U.S. Census Bureau, 2006–2010 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Table B23009. Information from Asian Americans Advancing Justice, and Orange County Asian and Pacific Islander Community Alliance. 2014. *A Community of Contrasts: Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders in Orange County*. Los Angeles: Asian Americans Advancing Justice.

22. U.S. Census Bureau, 2011–2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Tables B19301B, B19301D, B19301E, and B19301H.

23. U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census SF2, Tables HCT2 and HCT3. Information from Asian Americans Advancing Justice, and Orange County Asian and Pacific Islander Community Alliance. 2014. *A Community of Contrasts: Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders in Orange County*. Los Angeles: Asian Americans Advancing Justice.

24. U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census SF2, Table B25091. Information from Asian Americans Advancing Justice, and Orange County Asian and Pacific Islander Community Alliance. 2014. *A Community of Contrasts: Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders in Orange County*. Los Angeles: Asian Americans Advancing Justice.

25. U.S. Census Bureau, 2006–2010 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Table B25070. Information from Asian Americans Advancing Justice, and Orange County Asian and Pacific Islander Community Alliance. 2014. *A Community of Contrasts: Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders in Orange County*. Los Angeles: Asian Americans Advancing Justice.

26. Ibid.

27. Ibid.

28. U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. 2016. "A Picture of Subsidized Households."

29. Children & Families Commission of Orange County. 2016. *OC Community Indicators 2016.* Santa Ana, CA: Orange County Community Indicators Project.

30. U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. 2016. "A Picture of Subsidized Households." Note: Asian American and NHPI data are not available separately.

31. U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. 2008. "A Picture of Subsidized Households." Note: Asian American and NHPI data are not available separately.

32. Depaul, Amy. 2012. "Living Dangerously to Pay the Rent." *Voice of OC*, January 23, 2012, https://voiceofoc.org/2012/01/living-dangerously-to-pay-the-rent/.

33. Do, Anh. 2017. "Behind Little Saigon's Riches, the Poor Pack into Small Rooms to Survive." *Los Angeles Times*, March 13, 2017, http://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-rooms-for-rent-20170228-story.html.

34. Children & Families Commission of Orange County. 2016. *OC Community Indicators 2016.* Santa Ana, CA: Orange County Community Indicators Project.

35. National Asian Pacific Center on Aging. 2013. "Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in the United States Aged 55 Years and Older: Population, Nativity, and Language." *NAPCA Data Brief* 1 (1).

36. Ibid.

37. National Coalition for Asian Pacific American Community Development. 2016. *Findings on Financial Security for AAPI Seniors and Their Family: A Landscape Assessment & Community Survey Results*. Washington, DC: Coalition for Asian Pacific American Community Development (June).

38. Asian Americans Advancing Justice – Los Angeles, "A Holiday 'Miracle': Nearly 200 Elderly, Low-Income Tenants Avoid Losing Their Homes," press release, December 2, 2004, https://www.advancingjustice-la.org/media-and-publications/press-releases/holiday-miracle-nearly-200-elderly-low-income-tenants-avoid#.WeUPlWhSw2x.

39. National Coalition for Asian Pacific American Community Development. 2016. *Findings on Financial Security for AAPI Seniors and Their Family: A Landscape Assessment & Community Survey Results*. Washington, DC: Coalition for Asian Pacific American Community Development (June).