



APAPA Ushers in Lunar New Year with Thousands of Spectators in San Francisco

SACRAMENTO - APAPA (Asian Pacific Islander American Public Affairs Association) ushered in the Lunar New Year by joining millions of parade-goers and watchers this past Saturday by participating in the largest Chinese New Year Parade held in San Francisco. In the past year, the APAPA team designed and constructed a 30-foot replica of the Jupiter train with the purpose of educating and bringing the community together to highlight the contributions of the Chinese railroad workers who built the Transcontinental Railroad in the late 1800's.

The Jupiter train made its second debut this year at the San Francisco Chinese New Year Parade, which attracted more than three million spectators. With its life-size model, the Jupiter train delighted families of all generations who were positioned at various routes along the parade to cheer on float attendees.

APAPA Founder CC Yin said, “We are celebrating the Year of the Dragon, representing transformation and change with this amazing train float to showcase the strength of our commitment to our community. This APAPA Jupiter Train highlights the incredible contributions of immigrants. California’s diversity is our strength.”

This year, APAPA partnered with the Association for the Advancement of Asians (AAA), which is a newly-formed 501c4 nonprofit organization based in San Francisco. AAA focuses on vetting and supporting local candidates in San Francisco who are focused on issues which are important to the Asian American community, including diverse representation, education, and public safety.

“We formed a strong leadership team with nearly two dozen engaged long-time leaders in the city and appreciate the support from so many, including APAPA. Our voices matter more than ever with Asian Americans making-up over 37% of the population in San Francisco. The recent recall of former District Attorney Chesa Boudin and members of the school board demonstrates the new awakening of Asian Americans in San Francisco. Our votes can swing many of the local elections to make a big difference,” **said Chris Do, Chair of AAA and the APAPA San Francisco Chapter.**

“APAPA is grateful to partner with many organizations, including AAA to represent the interests of Asian Americans as we are the fastest growing ethnic group nationwide. The recent Census data shows how the population of Asian Americans across the country have increased by more than 25% in the last decade. While we celebrate our heritage and pass on traditions to our younger generations, our mission to engage our

minority communities is critical. This is an important election year and we urge everyone to vote,” **said Mary Yin Liu, APAPA National CEO.**

“I am honored to be part of this great community with many leaders here,” said Daniel Lurie, Tipping Point Community Founder and San Francisco Mayoral candidate. Lurie has promised to make sweeping changes in the city, while “ensuring Asian Americans feel safe and are fairly represented in decision-making positions.” He is one of several candidates challenging the current Mayor of San Francisco, London Breed.

With several competitive races this year, the candidates who can appeal to the most voters will gain a clear advantage. This Asian American vote is a powerful one in San Francisco. Remember to vote at the primary election on March 5th and at the general election on November 5th this year.

The list of other notable public officials, candidates, and community leaders who joined APAPA on the Jupiter train this year included: San Mateo Sheriff Christina Corpus; Jean Roland, San Francisco Assistant District Attorney and Candidate for Superior Court Judge (seat 13); Yang Shao, Fremont City Councilmember; Chris Zecher, Vice Chair of UCSF Law School and candidate for Superior Court Judge (seat 1); David Haubert, Alameda County Board of Supervisors; Sharon Seto, AAA Board Member and San Francisco Symphony Board Member; Chris Chang, Asian Americans for Good Government (AAGG-PAC); Marjan Philhour, Candidate for SF Supervisor (district 1); Mary Yin Liu, APAPA National CEO, and Jacqui Nguyen, APAPA-Government Appointments Committee and Commissioner for Solano Commission on Women and Girls. (San Francisco Mayor London Breed and other public officials were also invited, and many were at the parade with their own individual floats or vehicles). This past year, the APAPA train hosted CA State Treasurer Fiona Ma and Assemblywoman Lori Wilson, Chair of the Black Caucus, among others.

To learn more about AAA, the Association for the Advancement of Asians, a San Francisco based organization, email info@advancingasians.org.

APAPA is a national nonprofit focused on leadership and civic engagement, with community outreach programs and forums, chapter leaders, and student interns across the country. APAPA was established in 2001 and partners with many diverse organizations to serve the community. Visit www.apapa.org or email info@apapa.org to support and get involved with APAPA's events and programs.

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