



*Garden Seat, Peter Gee*



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21

# ANNUAL REPORT

FY 2020-2021



# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## A FEELING OF RENEWAL

This report marks the Oakland Asian Cultural Center's 25th year of residency at the Pacific Renaissance Plaza in the heart of Oakland's Chinatown. We are committed to building vibrant communities through Asian Pacific Islander (API) art and cultural programs that foster intergenerational and cross-cultural understanding and social justice with renewable energy. Last year, we completed OACC's strategic plan for advancing into a more sustainable and community-relevant organization.

Since then, six new members have joined our board, adding cultural diversity and contributing valuable leadership skills to expand the vision of our organization. OACC improved access to its programs despite the physical limitations of the COVID-19 pandemic. Our offerings celebrated the culture and identities of people from 11 Asian countries. The virtual programs helped gain new audiences in other states and countries. Although we were unable to host school tours, we collaborated with the Oakland school district to create walking tours of our neighborhood, one of only about 50 Chinatowns surviving from the 1800s.

The legacy of the disappearance of America's Chinatowns still haunts us today. OACC has been shaken by the rise of violence against people of color, notably against Blacks and increasingly against Asians. We are challenged to offer programs to defuse hatred, encourage cooperation, and nurture understanding – in short, to build the “vibrant communities” of our mission. Through book talks and performances, API artists have shared stories of reconciliation and healing; these and most of our programs are available on YouTube. The generous donations and grants of supporters, large and small, have sustained us in this work.



*OACC Lunar New Year 2020*





OACC Lunar New Year 2020; Staff & Volunteers (L-R): Tommy Leong, Rachall Lee, Wendy Lin, Josephine Hui, Akemi Chan-Imai, Saly Lee, Terri Trang Le, Marvin Lee, and Sohkhham Senthavilay

OACC has resolved that one means of countering hate is to portray the humanity of our API community to the public. Thanks to a generous multi-year grant from the Senior Assistance Foundation of the East Bay, OACC will chronicle and publish the stories of local elders. By highlighting seniors who have contributed to the fabric of American society, we hope to simultaneously honor their API roots and eradicate the stigma that targets API people as the "other."

As the economy reopens, we will resume our program and rental activities so that OACC is once again the physical hub for gatherings, celebrations, and cultural classes in Chinatown. With increased revenue will come increased program opportunities. In our 26th year, we will continue both our tradition of bringing art to the neighborhood and the challenge of presenting art as a forum for dialogue towards positive social change.

Thank you for your faithful support and patronage. We hope to see you soon!

Evelyn C. Lee,

President, Board of Directors

Saly Lee,

Executive Director





“

There is a great feeling  
of renewal and energy  
at OACC that is very  
inviting and exciting.

”

- Community Member

*Postage Stamps, Peter Gee*





# ABOUT US

## HISTORY

In 1984, local community leader Reverend Frank Mar of the Chinese Methodist Church conceived of the Oakland Asian Cultural Center (OACC). Forming a coalition of volunteers and artists, he proposed a pan-Asian cultural center to affirm the Chinese, Filipino, and Japanese cultures that had flourished in the Oakland Chinatown area. The center found its current home when the City of Oakland opened the Pacific Renaissance Plaza in 1996.


Since the COVID-19 outbreak, there has been a noted rise in reports of racism, violence, and discrimination against APIA communities throughout the country. Now more than ever, OACC's mission, commitment, and dedication towards the APIA community of artists, sharing culture, and promoting social justice is most critical to advance diversity and equality.

## MISSION

OACC builds vibrant communities through Asian and Pacific Islander arts and cultural programs that foster inter-generational and cross-cultural dialogue and understanding, collaboration, and social justice.

## VISION

OACC envisions vibrant, healthy, and just communities where diverse Asian and Pacific Islander identities and heritage are celebrated through cross-cultural exchange, inter-generational dialogue, and educational programming.





# OACC VALUES

## AUTHENTICITY

OACC values authentic cross-cultural interchange among Oakland's APIA residents and the community-at-large.

## EMPOWERMENT

OACC values the need to empower its immediate community; build bridges between diverse communities by breaking down APIA stereotypes.

## INCLUSIVENESS & DIVERSITY

OACC values local marginalized populations and under-represented APIA cultural art forms that are left out of mainstream outlets, education, and media.

## QUALITY CONTENT

OACC values cultural programs that are high quality, have community relevancy, and affirm diverse APIA identities.





# RACIAL JUSTICE STATEMENT

Adopted on April 12, 2021

The Oakland Asian Cultural Center (OACC) supports vibrant, healthy, and just communities where diverse Asian and Pacific Islander identities and heritage are affirmed and celebrated. Through the cross-cultural exchange, intergenerational dialogue, and educational programming, we use arts and culture as powerful tools for social change and to fight white supremacy and anti-Black racism.

Recognizing that systemic racism is deeply embedded in our society and thinking, which is a byproduct of decades of racist legislation and exclusionary immigration acts, including within APIA communities, OACC fights all forms of racism and xenophobia that APIA communities face, while in solidarity with Black, Indigenous, and other communities of color. To this end, OACC is committed to the following:

- a. Ensuring our programming represents diverse opinions and voices that promote cross-cultural unity and anti-racist values
- b. Elevating voices that are often marginalized or excluded by inviting their participation in decision-making spaces
- c. Working in partnership with cross-cultural community groups and individuals by showing up for their work and also incorporating them into our programs and organizational planning
- d. Cultivating an inclusive environment through positive engagement and appreciation
- e. Embracing a willingness to be uncomfortable and avoiding the perpetuation of white supremacy characteristics [1]
- f. Challenging oppressive viewpoints, behaviors, and assumptions through dialogue and active listening
- g. Showing up as a racial and social justice organization within our community and providing spaces for our diverse community to have difficult, but necessary, conversations

[1] For more information visit <https://www.showingupforracialjustice.org/white-supremacy-culture-characteristics.html>





# PROGRAMS & PARTNERSHIPS

## HIGHLIGHTS

- 1** | *new program series initiated addressing systemic racism*
- 2** | *exhibitions with content spanning cultures and social justice issues*
- 5** | *performing arts showcases as part of OACC's Performing Arts Series*
- 30** | *virtual programs consisting of workshops, screenings, and talks*
- 41** | *new community partners*
- 1,098** | *unique visitors to OACC's first-ever Virtual Community Night Market*
- 4,920** | *individuals (attendees, instructors, artists, partners) directly impacted by programs*

OACC provides a diverse range of programs for all ages and backgrounds including weekly classes, workshops, presentations, performances, and exhibitions. Events are provided free to maximize accessibility to the public unless otherwise noted.

During FY20-21, OACC was deeply impacted by the unprecedented global health crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. OACC staff continued to research and try out new technology to enhance the virtual event space for our partners and audiences. OACC is now better equipped to host accessible programming for a wider audience range. We hope to retain our remote event hosting capabilities as we return to in-person programs by 2022.

A key highlight of FY20-21 is the depth and breadth of intentional relationship-building and stretching our capacity to host ambitious new programming we were able to produce with staff teamwork and collaborative partners willing to experiment and work with us.

# VIRTUAL PROGRAMS



## Open E.A.R.S. for Change Engage. Activate. Rise up. Series

*A brand new anti-racism and social justice initiative!*

### What is "Open E.A.R.S. for Change" about?

The "Open E.A.R.S. for Change" program will be an on-going project that aims to build stronger allyship and co-conspiratorship among our API audiences with local Black communities in order to foster a more diverse and inclusive culture in our communities that is anti-racist and anti-discriminatory in the Oakland/East Bay Community.

The two key objectives of the series are

- 1) address anti-blackness in API communities and meaningfully confront issues of colorism/racism in a safe space; and
- 2) address Black-Asian community relations specifically in the Oakland Chinatown area.

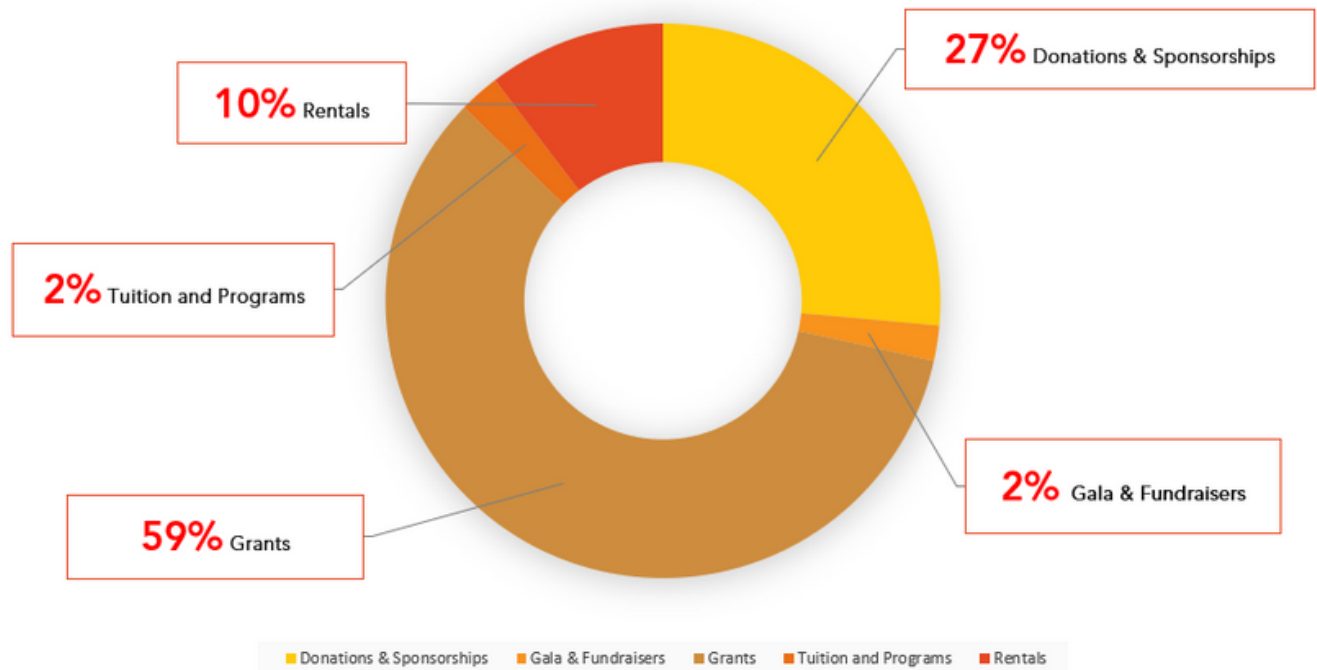




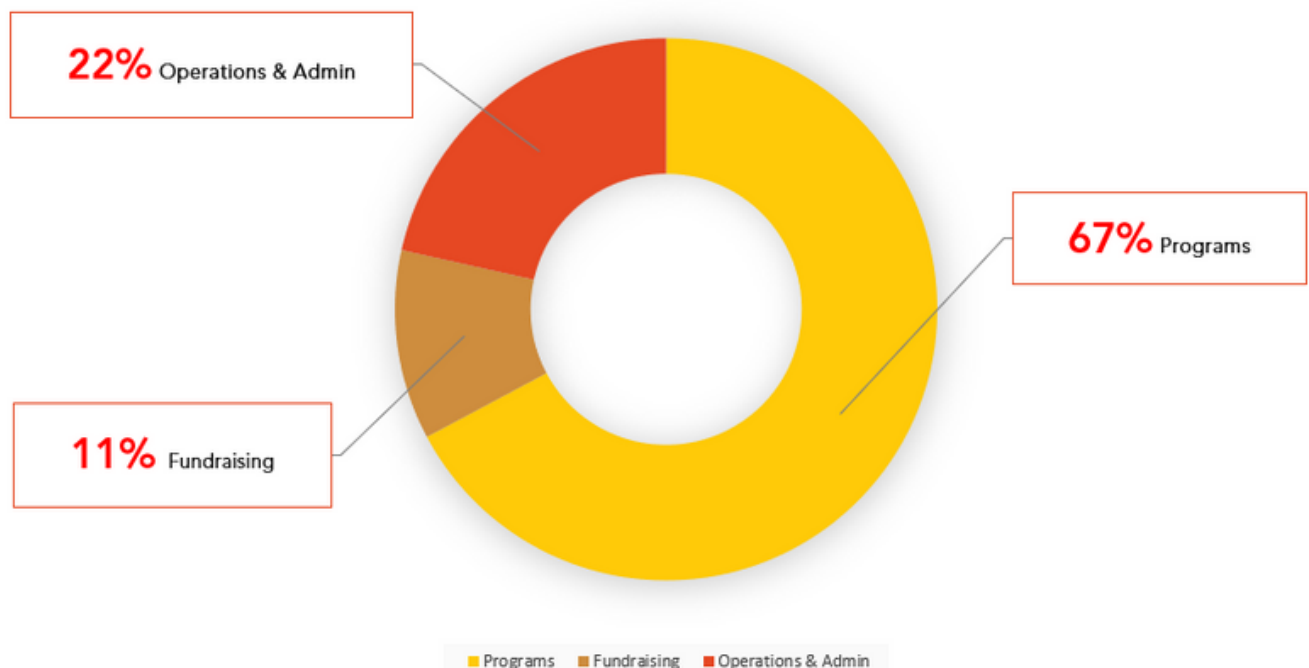
# FINANCIAL DATA

Excerpted from un-audited Financial Statements of the most recent completed fiscal year (ended June 30, 2021).

## FY 20-21 REVENUE SOURCE



## FY 20-21 EXPENSES



# THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS SUPPORTERS

We gratefully acknowledge funders and donors who made gifts between July 1, 2020, and June 30, 2021. Thanks to supporters like you, total donations in FY 20-21 were increased by 40% from FY 19-20 to sustain OACC's mission.

## Institutional Funders FY20-21

Alameda County Arts Commission  
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