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Narrative Description of Activities for Social Change Organization

Overview

The Asian and Pacific Islander diaspora is the fastest-growing population in Texas, and the state has the third largest AAPI population in the country. Every Voice Texas (EVT) will be focused on uniting our community, training future leaders, and advocating to advance equity, social justice and civil rights for all communities. The phrase Asian American refers to Southeast Asia, South Asia, West Asia, Central Asia, and East Asian cultures. AAPI is often used to include Asian Americans and Pacific Islander. In the Asian community, there are more than 50 different ethnicities and over 300+ languages and dialects. We believe any level of Asian and intersectional identities must be included to have an authentic representation of these communities.

The Need in Texas

As the AAPI population in Texas grows, the needs of the community and demand for more inclusion at all levels of civic engagement will rise with us. We are a community that is often overlooked and neglected culturally, economically, and politically. AAPIs make up 6.6% of the entire state. That includes 22% of Fort Bend County, 18% of Collin County, and about 10% of Travis, Williamson and Denton Counties. The fastest growing demographic in Texas, the Asian population grew by 65% in the last decade. In more than 30 counties, that growth equaled more than 100%. Texas is now home to 1,926,422 AAPIs.

While the community has much in common in terms of needs for language access and civic education, AAPIs are not a monolith. Despite the model minority myth and lack of data

disaggregation that makes it appear that all AAPIs are better off socioeconomically, they have the largest income inequality gap, with many in Texas experiencing extreme poverty and low English proficiency.

With the last few years seeing a rise in anti-Asian incidents and Texas ranking fourth in such reported cases, the time is now for a statewide organization to advocate on behalf of AAPI communities and help grow and develop the community and its leaders to engage civically to improve the state for all Texans.

Activities and Areas of Focus

EVT's programming will be divided into three main pillars of engagement, including:

Convening & Coalition Building (30% of agency time)

The purpose of this pillar is to build community, create a sense of unity and sense of belonging among all Asian Texans, with their shared identities, cultures and values. This programming will include a regular cadence of monthly statewide meetings, quarterly town halls, and eventually the launch of an annual conference in the summer of 2023. In the spring of 2023, this will also include coordinating a Day of Action at the state legislature. EVT will also assist existing nonpartisan regional organizations in collaborating and building coalitions outside the AAPI community around identified data- and evidence-based priority issues. The group will also represent the Asian American and Pacific Islander communities in Texas at relevant rallies, marches, and through public testimony on related bills to educate lawmakers on the general needs of AAPIs.

Leadership Development & Pipeline Building (20% of agency time)

EVT will work toward emboldening and uplifting AAPIs, particularly younger generations, to embrace and embody the identity of a "leader." The goal will be to help participants build skills and capacities to be decision makers and problem solvers. Programming will include curriculum and training to prepare potential leaders for positions available beyond elected office to help them engage civically more effectively. This may include positions as staff members for elected officials or serving on city boards and commissions. Additional programs include mentorship, networking events, for overall relationship building to strengthen the AAPI community and leadership pipeline as a whole. Tools available for mentees and trainees will include resources such as a database of contacts to network with, as well as fact sheets on various positions available. The annual conference, slated for summer of 2023, will also create additional opportunities for networking and training, as well as an awards program to recognize regional organizations and leaders doing exceptional work serving their communities. Additional programming under this pillar includes awareness, education and infrastructure building around data to support the Stop Asian Hate movement.

Advocacy & Civic Engagement (50% of agency time)

EVT's final area of focus will provide resources to empower AAPIs to speak up and engage in the civic process. As a first step, this will include partnering with national nonprofit organizations, such as AAPI Data or APIA Vote, to identify priority policy areas and issues for Texas AAPIs. Planned programming includes issues-based education, statewide campaigns, and advocacy tool development. Volunteers will have the opportunity to testify on behalf of themselves and as an AAPI coalition. They will also participate in organizing, call to actions, and marches/rallies to help get out the vote. This may include partnering with organizations, like the Asian Law Caucus, for train-the-trainer events for community phone-banking and text-banking for targeted voter outreach to turn out Asian American communities in Texas. EVT will also invest in voter registration and turnout through general public awareness building and education through marketing and digital advertising campaigns.

Current Programming

Texas AAPI Redistricting Coalition

EVT formed and led a network of 200 individuals and other nonpartisan organizations under the "Texas AAPI Redistricting Coalition" with the goal fair representation for Asian American Pacific Islanders and all communities, esp those of color, in the redrawing of district maps. We recruited advocates to testify in six AAPI languages (Vietnamese, Tagalog, Mandarin, Urdu, Hindi, and Korean), resulting in an amendment in the state budget to fund interpreters for redistricting committee hearings. We organized community training and advocacy toolkits in partnership with national and local AAPI and civil rights organizations resulting in dozens of advocates testifying, more than 100 written comments, and statewide media placements. This advocacy campaign launched in Dec. 2020 and is currently wrapping up with the close of statewide and local redistricting processes.

Texans for Asian American Studies Coalition (TAASC)

EVT is already in the process of launching a grassroots coalition focused on K-12 education advocacy for the State Board of Education (SBOE) to consider and approve an Asian American Studies ethnic course elective and inclusion in social studies curriculum. TAASC is focused on public awareness, education, and mobilization of stakeholders to testify and advocate for Asian American Studies. As the core convener of the coalition, EVT has already begun campaign branding, website design, coordination with SBOE members who have agreed to sponsor the curriculum, collaboration with Asian American studies scholars to build out the recommended curriculum framework, and development of an advocacy toolkit and messaging. The advocacy campaign is scheduled to launch in January 2022 and go until the summer of 2023, when a final vote is expected from the SBOE.

Staffing Plan

The work outlined above will be completed by EVT's core team of staff, including an executive director, programming director and development/special events director. Programming initiatives will also be supplemented by contract staff, including regional field organizers, graphic designers and communications consultants, as well as by a team of volunteers.

Prospective Funding Plan

After a group of grassroots activists organized one of the country's largest #StopAsianHate rallies, with over a thousand in attendance in Austin, the outpouring of support from the community fueled and funded the creation of ETJ. Our total projected revenue will come from approximately 65% of national AAPI-focused foundations and sub-granting organizations, 10% general foundations, 10% major donors, 10% corporate donors, and 5% grassroots donations and special events. We have already received a committed \$50,000 in grant funding from Asian Pacific Islander American Public Affairs and interest from other organizations, such as Wallace H. Coulter Foundation, Asian Americans Advancing Justice-AAJC, and Texas Civil Rights Project.

Distribution to Other Organizations and Individuals

We do not fundraise for any specific organization, and EVT is not organized solely to contribute or fundraise for any specific entity. However, at the discretion of the board of directors, we may at times choose to offer sub-grants to other Texas organizations who share a similar mission and only if the contribution will serve EVT's mission of uniting our TX AAPI community, training future leaders, and advocating to advance equity, social justice and civil rights for all communities.

One example of an organization which we may contribute to is Austin Chinese-American Network (EIN: 82-0847511) is a 501c(3) tax-exempt charitable organization with the mission of serving the Austin community and fostering its Chinese-American heritage through community service, cultural exchanges, member enrichment, and education.