

“

Life is not simple, and people can't be boxed into being either heroes or villains.” – Jessica Hagedorn

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PARTICIPANT SPOTLIGHT



CAITLIN CHANG

Currently serving on the education team of P-CoC, Caitlin Chang has been a resident of Hastings for seven years along with her husband and two children, currently in 3rd and 5th grade in Hastings school district. Before having children, she was an elementary school teacher in Manhattan’s Chinatown (PS 42).

Caitlin first learned about P-CoC when she heard Dr. Damaris Lang make a public comment during the police reform work in Hastings. She was inspired by Dr. Lang’s vision and was very happy to find that Dr. Lang had founded the organization called P-CoC. Caitlin considers it an honor to do her part in supporting the work of equity and advocacy for children of color through P-CoC. It has also been a joy for her to get to know the education team. She is thankful to be part of an organization that is doing such important work!

RECENT EVENTS

Book talk by Dr. Damaris-Lois Lang

Dr. Lang’s book, *The Blues and Browns of the Twin Lands of Kiaralot and Donekiaratall: Classically Conditioned Biases*, edited by Dr. Stubin was presented to an engaged audience, one of the most successful and well-attended The Academy has hosted since this Book series began. The book provides an allegory for raising sensitive issues regarding race and color, and a practical blueprint for re-imagining the education of youth to achieve positive change in our society.



Student Presentation Day

Student Ambassadors

Student Ambassador Trailblazer leadership team held their first symposium organized by them and for them on April 16, 2022. The presentation which was well attended, included interesting and educational topics such as quotes from Nelson Mandela, Racism pertaining to Brazil & other countries, Poem on mental health status of black communities, living conditions of people of color compared to other groups, Michelle Obama and other topics of interest. [See it on YouTube](#)

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P-CoC Inc Mission

A professional charity society laser-focused on race and color equity for persons of color, supporting ethnicity, cultural expression, fair treatment, and education for all

Contact PR Team at: pcocrelations@pcoc.org

MAY IS AAPI HERITAGE MONTH

'Asian American and Pacific Islander' expands on a label created in 1968 to unify a collection of Asian ethnicities for participation in the fight for civil rights. As of the 2020 census 24 million people, roughly 7% of the total US population, identified as Asian in whole or in part.

From a perspective centered on Europe, 'Asian' stands for 50 ethnicities across more than 40 countries. Despite the many threads of Asian presence woven into the US since the early 1800s, culture and appearance differences from the expected norms result in chronic violence and legislation against Asians. Even today Asian heritage is not considered part of the American story.

Notable Americans who happen to have Asian heritage include:

George Nakashima (Japanese heritage): Born in Spokane Washington, Nakashima studied at multiple schools including MIT. He became famous for furniture that merged the natural beauty of wood with simple forms rooted in both Japanese and early American tradition.

Helen Zia (Chinese heritage): Zia was born in Newark New Jersey to parents who emigrated from Shanghai. She graduated from Princeton University, among the first classes of women to do so. A lifelong journalist and political and civil rights activist, Zia has been documenting the lives of Asian Americans for more than forty years.

Hasan Minhaj (Muslim Indian heritage): A native of Davis California in the Sacramento Valley. He became a comedian after college, joining 'The Daily Show' as a correspondent, performing his one-man off-Broadway show 'Homecoming King', and hosting the show 'Patriot Act' on Netflix. His comedy sketches typically include references to his family and politics.

Kamala Devi Harris (Indian and Afro-Jamaican heritage) Vice-president of the United States, Harris was born and raised in the East Bay cities of Oakland and Berkeley in California. Her mother is Tamil Indian, and her father came from British Jamaica. After schooling at Howard University and UC Hastings College of Law, she worked as a DA and AG before becoming a US Senator from California.

Sunisa Lee (Hmong heritage) born Sunisa Phabsomphou in St. Paul Minnesota, Lee took on the surname of her mother's partner John Lee, whom she regards as her father. Despite injury and death to family members in the years leading up to the 2021 Tokyo Olympics, Lee became the first Hmong American Olympian and won a gold medal for individual all-around gymnastics.

Philip Vera Cruz and Larry Itliong (Filipino American) born in the Philippines, Vera Cruz and Itliong became leaders of the Agricultural Workers Organizing Committee (AWOC), whose members were largely Filipino. In 1965 AWOC went on strike against Delano grape growers; Vera Cruz and Itliong persuaded Cesar Chavez and Delores Huerta of the predominantly Mexican American National Farmworkers Association to join with them in the strike that ultimately made Chavez famous.



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