

August 2007



Dear friend,

The summer has been extremely busy, and I hope you are finding these CAA Updates helpful and informative. Thanks also for the replies of encouragement and support - keep them coming! Please email me anytime at vpan@caasf.org.

Here's a snapshot of some recent happenings:

CAA continues to lead efforts to secure a permanent community college campus in San Francisco Chinatown. A permanent campus will help immigrants and low-income workers access classes to learn English, prepare for the U.S. citizenship exam, and obtain critical job skills in housekeeping, hospitality, and entry-level office work. Read why systemic discrimination is at the heart of this struggle in my Op-Ed, [Put Community First](#), which appeared in Monday's *San Francisco Chronicle*. You can also visit www.supportchinatowncampus.org to learn more.

CAA's local budget advocacy was very successful this year. In the just approved City and County of San Francisco 2007-2008 budget, we secured funding for the creation of an Office of Language Services to ensure equal access to government services regardless of English language ability, a new One-Stop employment center to help jobseekers in Chinatown connect with prospective employers, and the expansion of community-based outreach and legal services available to immigrant communities. Though many pressing needs remain, these victories are important steps toward achieving equal opportunity for our communities.

As a member of the San Francisco Immigrant Legal and Education Network, last weekend CAA hosted an Immigrant Family Fair in San Francisco's Visitacion Valley neighborhood. Organized to provide local residents with information about legal and social services, the fair attracted an ethnically diverse crowd of over 200. These activities are an essential part of our work to meet urgent community needs, while building community capacity for civic engagement.

Lastly, in the wake of the recent US Supreme Court decision on voluntary school de-segregation, CAA is taking measures to ensure racial diversity in our schools, particularly for Asian and Pacific American children. In addition to co-authoring the Op-Ed [Asian Americans Value Diverse Schools](#) that appeared in the *San Francisco Chronicle*, we are engaging local school officials to help them understand and take advantage of opportunities to promote racial integration.

Once again, thank you to everyone who contributes to our work at CAA. I enjoy being in touch.

Sincerely,

Vincent Pan
Executive Director