

AACI Now Hosting “Growing Up Asian in America”

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SAN JOSE, CA – Beginning January 2019, AACI will continue the legacy of Growing Up Asian in America, a well-known art, essay and video contest, that provides a unique platform for young people to creatively explore and celebrate being both Asian or Pacific Islander and American. Growing Up Asian in America was started in 1995, by the Asian Pacific Fund and NBC Bay Area, as one of the largest youth celebrations of APA Heritage Month in the nation.

Every year, over 600 Bay Area students - Kindergarten through 12th grades - submit artwork, essays, and videos in response to a specific theme. It encourages young Asian Americans to take pride in their identities whilst discussing dreams for their future, pride in their heritage/culture, difficulties or challenges they face, etc. Furthermore, it helps individuals (both Asian and non-Asian) understand the varied experiences of our youth growing up in the Bay Area's diverse communities. The program is competitive and the 10 Best in Class winners will receive a \$500 award. All winners will have their entries showcased at the awards ceremony and on the AACI website and have a chance to be featured on NBC Bay Area.

This year's theme is: My Contribution to America.

Asian Americans' historical role in shaping our country - from the building of the transcontinental railroad 150 years ago to demanding for ethnic studies in schools 50 years ago – is cause for celebration. This year, we invite our Asian American youth to share what they believe they can contribute to our country.

Use the questions below to help spark ideas. You do not have to answer any of the questions as long as your entry is about your contribution to America as an Asian or Pacific Islander.

- (K-5 only): What would you create to make the country better?
- What rules or laws would you make or change for the country?
- How would you make a difference? What do you want to be remembered for?
- Why do you think your idea(s) or other students' ideas are important for the future of the country?
- What part (if any) does being Asian American play in your contribution?

Submissions will be accepted until Friday, March 15, 2019.

To access our online entry form or learn more information, please visit <https://aaci.org/guaa/>. For any questions, contact AACI at guaa@aaci.org.

About Asian Americans for Community Involvement (AACI)

Founded in 1973, AACI is one of the largest community-based organizations advocating for and serving the marginalized and vulnerable ethnic communities in Santa Clara County. Our many programs address the health and well-being of the individual and advance our belief in providing care that goes beyond just health, but also provides people a sense of hope and new possibilities. Current programs include behavioral and primary health services, substance abuse prevention and treatment, center for survivors of torture, shelter for domestic violence, senior center, youth programs, and community advocacy.