

Beyond our Boundaries

National Asian American Youth Organizing Summit

As youth growing up, we've heard the messages of what it means to be Asian American in the US. We're quiet, we behave, we do what we're told. We are the "model minority." We also know this false framework is part of a larger narrative meant to hide our real struggles with poverty, racism and immigration status and oppress our communities and other communities-of-color.

From the streets of Los Angeles, Chicago and Philadelphia to the streets of Korea, Cambodia and the Philippines, we are part of a larger movement for justice and liberation. Our parents, grandparents, and ancestors have fought back against war, colonization, and injustices both here and abroad, defying the model minority myth, and defining what it can mean to be Asian American in the US now. We are pushing past the oppressive narratives and lifting up our real stories, voices and leadership. We are parts of larger movements nationally and internationally. We will organize to go Beyond our Boundaries.



Beyond our Boundaries Summit



The Beyond our Boundaries Summit is a three-day convening to be held in Chicago, IL from August 10-12, 2017 that is being planned for and by Asian American youth organizers from different parts of the country. The goal of the summit is to bring together Asian American youth organizing groups to create a space where young people can learn, build, share and develop an Asian American Youth Organizing Platform with each other. We are living in a moment where the attacks against communities of color are becoming more visible and people are growing increasingly agitated and angry and feeling disempowered. But at the same time, our organizations see this as an organizing opportunity. Many transformational movements in our history have been led by youth, and at a time when Asian American are both the targets and beneficiaries of some of these oppressive systems, we hope to take this opportunity to really redefine what it means to be an Asian American youth in the US. With such a complex

diaspora, and with groups working on different issues ranging from immigrant rights, education, economic justice, criminal justice and more, youth also understand the work we do locally is connected to the larger movement. From this summit, we hope to develop a shared platform around what youth see as the role of Asian Americans in the larger movement for racial, social, economic, and gender justice.

Youth have the capacity to imagine a world beyond our current reality, and a vision for how to get there, and we see this summit as an important step towards that path towards justice and liberation.

Participants

The Summit is for high school-aged youth who identify as Asian American, and is being led and organized by youth. The planning committee consists of AAU (Asian Americans United in Philadelphia), APANO (Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon), Hana Center (Chicago), KRC (Korean Resource Center in LA), and NAKASEC. We are expecting 100 youth from 10 organizations participating in the Summit.

