Did You Know....

As we enter into May, Americans are encouraged to recognize and celebrate Asia Pacific American and Jewish American Heritage. The convergence of these two racial and ethnic groups, reminded us of a new philanthropic entity which was initiated by a Jewish American organization and supports the Asian American and Pacific Islander community – The Asian American Foundation (TAAF).

In the wake of the murders of six Asian women located in Atlanta in 2020, the Anti-Defamation League (an esteemed Jewish American organization focused on civil rights) reached out to key stakeholders in the Asian American community to discuss what might be done to support and protect the Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders communities as hate incidents spiked.

They grappled with striking evidence which highlighted that philanthropic support for AAPI communities has been sorely underfunded, despite the fact that Asian American are the fastest-growing racial or ethnic group in the United States and currently make up roughly 7% of the nation’s population. For instance, a report published by the Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in Philanthropy (AAPIP) found that for every $100 given by foundations for US-based work, only 20 cents were designated for AAPI communities.

The conversation led to the creation of The Asian American Foundation (TAAF), which has raised $1.1 billion since their inception in 2020. The existence of the foundation solely dedicated to the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community, its ability to raise significant attention and philanthropic investments, and its stellar board and staff has been a game changer for the AAPI community, philanthropic sector, and America. Going forward TAAF's mission is to bring the AAPI community together to mobilize action against hate and violence, and build infrastructure needed to improve AAPI advocacy, power, and representation across American society.

You can learn more about TAAF on their website, or by contacting your MCF philanthropic advisor.

What else is on our radar:

We Give Summit, an event focused on collective giving, will be held virtually from May 11th-14th. In addition to engaging main learning sessions by field leaders, participants will have access to peer networking events and lightning talks covering everything from research findings to social impact investing. Free to attend, but donations encouraged.

Sessions of interest:
Moving at the Speed of Trust - Funding Leaders of Color Equitably
How Giving Circles Around the World Are Quietly Shifting Power
Rooted, Resisting, and Raising Resources for Gender Equality