

# Visible

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# **DIVISIBLE**



An AAPI Youth Leadership Institute

August 7-9, 2018



NORTH CAROLINA  
ASIAN AMERICANS TOGETHER

***Visible Not Divisible: an Asian American Pacific Islander Youth Leadership Institute***

is a 3-day program for AAPI (Asian American Pacific Islander) youth ages 15-25. Participants will gain hard skills such as lobbying and voter registration as well as interact with local professionals in the field, community leaders and elected officials. By creating your own programs and work plans, you will have the opportunity to show independence, leadership and critical thought based upon your interests regarding public policy and community engagement.

Throughout the program, we will examine Asian American identity in the U.S. South, its historical relevance and its implications for future change. This knowledge will be used to develop the skills necessary for leadership and personal development as well as collective community growth.

By empowering youth with knowledge and experience in political advocacy, community organizing and local legislation, NCAAT hopes to activate and support a new network of AAPI leaders across the state of North Carolina. Participants will have the opportunity to continue work throughout the year with NCAAT as an NCAAT Student Ambassador or NCAAT Affiliate.

## SCHEDULE

### Aug. 7

- 9:00 - 9:30 am Breakfast and Check-in
- 9:30 - 9:50am Welcome & Introductions  
— Chavi Khanna Koneru, Executive Director, NCAAT
- 9:50 - 10:20 am **OPENING — “Visible not Divisible”**  
Loan Tran, Co-Director, Youth Organizing Institute;  
Director of Special Projects, Southern Vision Alliance
- 10:25 - 11:25 am **The Proposed 6 Amendments to the N.C. Constitution:**  
Learn what they mean before November  
— Susanna Birdsong, Senior Policy Counsel, ACLU-NC
- 11:30 - 12:00 pm **KEYNOTE — Being an AAPI Elected Official in N.C.**  
State Senator Jay Chaudhuri (D-Wake)
- 12:00 - 12:40 pm Lunch
- 12:40 - 1:20 pm **Visibility in the Numbers:** The importance of the 2020 Census and “the citizenship question”  
— Juliana Cabrales, Mid-Atlantic Director, NALEO
- 1:20 - 2:00 pm **When Immigration Issues Hit Home:** Implications of immigration policies in our daily lives  
— Angelo Mathay, Administrative Judge, U.S. EEOC
- 2:10 - 3:45 pm **Lobbying 101:** How to effectively advocate for our issues  
— Skye David, lobbyist, New Frame
- 3:45 - 4:00 pm Closing

NC Justice Center

### Aug. 8

- 9:00 - 9:15 am Breakfast and Check-in
- 9:15 - 12:00 pm **Legislative Visits:** Lobbying at the NC General Assembly
- 12:00 - 1:00 pm Lunch
- 1:00 - 3:00 pm **Fighting for the Right to Vote:**  
Voting rights issues then and now  
— Jenn Frye, Training Director, Democracy NC
- 3:05-3:45 pm **Speak Your Mind:** The intersection of art and activism  
— Pierce Freelon, Founder, Blackspace
- 3:45 - 4:00 pm Closing

NCGA

LGBT Center

## SCHEDULE

### AUG. 9

NC Justice Center	9:00 - 9:30am	Breakfast and Check-in
	9:30 - 10:10am	<b>Where do you stand? —</b> Exploring Asian American Identity — <i>Bethany Ezawa, Educator and Consultant;</i> <i>Danica Lee, Seeding Change Fellow, NCAAT</i>
	10:15 - 11:15 am	<b>Moments of Change:</b> Asian American politics and activism — <i>Heidi Kim, Associate Professor of English and Comparative Literature, UNC Chapel Hill</i>
	11:15 - 12:00 pm	<b>A Journey to Making a Difference in Politics:</b> Starting a career in political engagement — <i>Neel Mandavilli, Constituent Services and Digital Manager, NC Department of Justice</i>
	12:00 - 12:30 pm	Lunch
HQ Raleigh	12:30 - 1:00 pm	<b>Building Youth Power:</b> Promoting social change through intergenerational organizing — <i>Johan Molina, El Pueblo Youth Council Member</i>
	1:15 - 1:45 pm	<b>The Tools of Engagement:</b> Learn campaigning skills to take back to your community — <i>Alyssa Canty, Outreach Coordinator, Common Cause NC</i>
	2:00 - 3:30 pm	<b>Go Forth and Lead! —</b> Planning out your own campaign
	3:30 - 4:00 pm	Closing

## LOCATIONS

NC Justice Center

224 S Dawson St, Raleigh NC 27601

NCGA

16 W Jones St, Raleigh, NC 27601

LGBT Center

324 S Harrington St, Raleigh, NC 27603

HQ Raleigh

310 S Harrington St, Raleigh, NC 27603



**KEYNOTE —**  
**Being an AAPI Elected Official in N.C.**

*State Senator Jay Chaudhuri (D-Wake)*

**Senator Jay Chaudhuri** is the first Indian American elected to the N.C. General Assembly. As a member of the North Carolina Senate representing Wake County, Senator Chaudhuri has sponsored important bills such as a repeal to House Bill 2 (referred to, by critics, as the most anti-LGBT legislation in the country) and a hate crimes bill. Prior to joining the N.C. legislature, Senator Chaudhuri served as General Counsel and Senior Policy Advisor to Treasurer Cowell and Special Counsel to then Attorney General Cooper, where he helped lead an investigation by all 50 Attorneys General that resulted in a landmark agreement with MySpace and Facebook, to better protect children from Internet predators. Senator Chaudhuri is currently Of Counsel at Cohen Milstein.

**OPENING —**  
**“Visible not Divisible”**

*Loan Tran, Co-Director,  
Youth Organizing Institute*



**Loan Tran** is a queer, bilingual writer and educator of color based Durham, NC. Loan has worked on issues of migrant justice, LGBTQ liberation, economic and racial justice and for an end to all interpersonal violence. While in high school, they co-managed the “Drop the i-word” Campaign in Charlotte to challenge media representation of undocumented immigrants. They are the Director of the Youth Organizing Institute and the Director of Special Projects for the Southern Vision alliance. Loan envisions a movement for liberation and justice to be one that leaves no one behind so one day we can all be our authentic selves, lead full lives and be free.

## DAY ONE WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS

### **The Proposed 6 Amendments to the N.C. Constitution:**

Learn what they mean before November

*Susanna Birdsong, Senior Policy Counsel, ACLU-NC*

- This workshop will provide an overview of the constitutional amendments that will appear on the ballot in November and what they mean.

**Susanna Birdsong** is the Senior Policy Counsel for the American Civil Liberties Union of North Carolina. She contributes to the organization's statewide legislative and policy program, educating federal, state, and local policy makers on civil liberties issues as well as working in communities to build grassroots support for the ACLU's legislative priorities.

### **Visibility in the Numbers:**

The importance of the 2020 Census and "the citizenship question"

*Juliana Cabrales, Mid-Atlantic Director, NALEO*

- This session will include an activity and presentation about the 2020 census and what's at stake for the community.

**Juliana Cabrales** focuses on Latino civic engagement with NALEO (National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials) Educational Fund in the Mid-Atlantic region and North Carolina. She also currently serves on the Board of Directors for NCAAT.

## When Immigration Issues Hit Home:

Implications of immigration policies in our daily lives

*Angelo Mathay, Administrative Judge, U.S. EEOC*

- What is the role of immigration in today's society? What kind of policies have historically been in place and are being enacted today that affect immigrant communities in the United States and in NC? This workshop will explore cases such as the 287g program agreements, which allows for collaboration between local law enforcement agencies and ICE.

**Angelo Mathay** is an Administrative Judge at the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, where he adjudicates employment discrimination complaints of federal employees. Previously, Angelo was a Program Officer at the Robin Hood Foundation in New York City managing several grants in the immigration and food security portfolios. He has also worked at The Pew Charitable Trusts, Immigration and the State project; the Migration Policy Institute's National Center on Immigrant Integration Policy; and the National Immigration Law Center, where he helped implement the DACA program in two states.

He is currently a member of THE DREAM.US's National Planning Council and has previously been on the board of the Social Justice Collaborative (Oakland, CA) and the Asian Pacific American Bar Association Educational Fund (Washington, D.C.).

## Lobbying 101:

How to effectively advocate for our issues

*Skye David, lobbyist, New Frame*

- This will be a workshop on the current political climate of North Carolina, and policy issues that are pertinent to AAPI youth. We will explore how to communicate effectively with legislators, and how to advocate on your own behalf.

**Skye David** first got her start in politics in high school during her junior and senior years when she served as the chairperson of the Illinois State Board of Education's Student Advisory Committee. In this role, Skye was a member of the State Board of Education and worked on an important legislative project that eventually became the law in Illinois. From that point forward, Skye was hooked on politics and policy.

Skye's academic work on domestic violence led to an Orville Bentley Undergraduate Research Award for her work and served as the foundation of her future work at the North Carolina General Assembly.

Skye now lobbies for New Frame, Inc, and serves as legal counsel for New Frame's lobbying clients. She also serves as the staff attorney for the North Carolina Coalition Against Sexual Assault.

## DAY TWO WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS

### Fighting for the Right to Vote:

Voting rights issues then and now

*Jenn Frye, Training Director, Democracy NC*

- Have you ever been asked or thought to yourself: “Why should I vote?” How do you answer that question?

Having worked in voting rights for more than 12 years, I always think, “If voting didn’t matter, they wouldn’t try so hard to prevent people from doing it!” Voting has always mattered A LOT, which is why wealthy, white men have fought so hard, for so long, to prevent pretty much anyone else from doing it. The history of our country is the history of winning the right to be seen and heard, the right to have a voice in decisions that impact us, the right to vote. And the right to vote is the right upon which all of our other civil rights are based. In this workshop we’ll learn how voting is about power, and how to use that power to organize on things that matter to us.

**Jenn Frye** is the Training Director of Democracy North Carolina. For more than 20 years, Democracy NC has fought the corrupting role of money in politics and pushed for a more participatory democracy. What drew Jenn to Democracy NC was the way the organization speaks truth to power and works for the right of everyone to participate in decisions that impact their lives.

Jenn has been on the Democracy NC team for over 12 years. She started as student, as a summer intern, then served as a youth board member before joining the staff as an organizer in 2006. She served as Associate Director from 2008-2017 before taking on the new challenge of directing the organization’s political education, skills building and leadership training.

### Speak Your Mind:

The intersection of art and activism

*Pierce Freelon, Founder, Blackspace*

- Explore modern journeys into the realm of art, activism and politics.

**Pierce Freelon** is a musician, professor and activist with a passion for creativity and community. He is front man of the genre-bending The Beast, hailed as a “natural, engaging blend of jazz and hip hop,” by Jazz Times Magazine. After graduating with degrees in Black Studies from UNC Chapel Hill and Syracuse University, he started searching for ways to answer his calling to art and activism. Pierce found early success co-founding the Emmy-award winning PBS web-series, Beat Making Lab™. Blackspace was founded a year later, as a necessary next step towards bridging the racial divide in tech and providing safe space for youth to flourish. He most recently ran for mayor of Durham in 2016.



## DAY THREE WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS

### Where do you stand? —

Exploring Asian American Identity

*Bethany Ezawa, Educator and Consultant;  
Danica Lee, Seeding Change Fellow, NCAAT*

- What does it mean to be Asian American? How are our experiences the same and how are they different? This interactive workshop will explore some of our experiences as Asian Americans in the south and in the US as well as what they can mean for the work we engage in for social change.

**Bethany Ezawa** is a middle school exceptional children teacher in Durham at the Central Park School for Children with a background in non-profit management and community education. Bethany's professional and personal interests revolve around food and beverages, wellness, domestic violence and sexual assault prevention, and civic engagement.

**Danica Lee** is a Seeding Change Fellow at NCAAT for summer 2018. A recent grad of Appalachian State University and a local of Sanford, N.C., she is passionate about service, leadership, civic engagement and youth empowerment.

Bethany and Danica worked over this past summer to put together NCAAT's first ever Youth Leadership Institute.

### Moments of Change:

Asian American politics and activism

*Heidi Kim, Associate Professor of English and Comparative Literature, UNC Chapel Hill*

- Where did the term Asian American come from? What does it mean to be Asian American? This workshop will dive into some of the historical and political implications surrounding the term and how can does it affect the work that we do in our everyday lives?

**Heidi Kim** is an associate professor of English at UNC Chapel Hill. She teaches and researches contemporary American literature, including specialized courses in Asian American drama and fiction. She also specializes in the remembrance of the Japanese American incarceration, including one of the few courses in the country focused on this historical event, and an edited book, *Taken from the Paradise Isle: The Hoshida Family Story*. She has been interested in Asian American culture and causes since she was a young teen, when her brother was involved in the student strike for ethnic studies at Princeton University during the 1995 nationwide wave of activism.

## **A Journey to Making a Difference in Politics:**

Starting a career in political engagement

*Neel Mandavilli, Constituent Services and Digital Manager, NC Department of Justice*

- In this workshop Neel Mandavilli will discuss how and why he pursued a career in public service and provide practical recommendations on effective advocacy and outreach gleaned from working the insides of Capitol Hill.

**Neel Mandavilli** works at the N.C. Department of Justice as a Constituent Services and Digital Manager. He is responsible for increasing the awareness and accessibility of Attorney General Josh Stein's work to protect families from crimes and consumer fraud.

Prior to joining the N.C. Department of Justice, Neel served two and a half years on Capitol Hill as a staffer to N.C. Congressman David Price, where he managed all legislative activity related to commerce, technology, and telecommunications.

Neel is from Cary, and attended Wake County public schools before graduating from N.C. State University as a Park Scholar and Caldwell Fellow. He is the recipient of the Congressional Award Gold Medal and the U.S. Senate Youth Program award for his service to N.C. In his free time, he enjoys cooking and honing his freestyle rapping.

## **Building Youth Power:**

Promoting social change through intergenerational organizing

*Johan Molina, El Pueblo Youth Council Member*

- The Youth Council represents a new intergenerational El Pueblo, in which young people and adults can learn from the points of view and experiences of each other.

**El Pueblo's** mission is for Latinos to achieve positive social change by building consciousness, capacity and community action.

## **The Tools of Engagement:**

Learn campaigning skills to take back to your community

*Alyssa Canty, College Outreach Coordinator, Common Cause NC*

- This workshop will teach participants everything they need to know about campaigning skills that can be used at school, at work, or in public spaces. After this workshop, participants will be ready to go out and engage their community!

**Alyssa Canty** works for Common Cause North Carolina, working with students at Fayetteville State, NC Central, St. Augustine's and Shaw universities. Alyssa has worked with such organizations as Breakthrough Atlanta, Shodor Education Foundation, Lillian's List, Planned Parenthood of Central NC and The LGBT Center of Raleigh.

**NCAAT (North Carolina Asian Americans Together)** is committed to supporting equity and justice for all by fostering community among AAPIs (Asian American Pacific Islanders) and allies in North Carolina through civic engagement, leadership development, grassroots mobilization and political participation.

**Our vision is for a more inclusive democracy built by drawing on the strength of diverse traditions, common values and community togetherness.** We envision a socially conscious and informed society that integrates greater participation and representation by AAPIs. We believe that for such a society to exist we must work within a cross-racial, cross-ethnic framework focused on grassroots power and solidarity.

### NCAAT Staff —

*Executive Director and Co-Founder*



**Chavi Khanna Koneru** leads the organization's efforts to increase civic engagement and political participation among AAPIs in North Carolina. Koneru attended college and law school UNC-Chapel Hill. Her legal background in voting rights law gave her the opportunity to interpret laws impacting the AAPI community, including during her time in the Voting Section at the U.S. DOJ, where she focused on language access for AAPI voters. Her passion combined with her personal experiences as an AAPI in the South prompted her to respond to the need for increased grassroots efforts to support the rapidly growing AAPI community.

**Ricky Leung**, *Program Director and Co-Founder*

**David Chang**, *Field Organizer*

**Danica Lee**, *Youth Advocacy Organizer*

**Xiaojuan Ping**, *Program Associate*

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## **SPECIAL THANKS**

NCAAT would like to thank all of our speakers and presenters for our first ever Youth Leadership Institute as well as the following venues and food providers:

The North Carolina Justice Center  
The LGBT Center of Raleigh  
HQ Raleigh

Yellow Dog Bread Company  
Vimala's Curryblossom Cafe  
The Lunch Box... and more  
Zenfish  
Rashida Khursheed

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