



Welcome to

AAFE's 51st Annual Gala



DCTV Firehouse
June 11, 2025

With special thanks to our Documentary Screening sponsor, Valley Bank.





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Click above or visit the link below to donate.

<https://www.aafe.org/donate/>





AT A GLANCE

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Welcome to AAFE's 51st Annual Gala!

For fifty-one years, AAFE has remained steadfast in our purpose: to advance racial, social, and economic justice for Asian Americans and other systemically disadvantaged communities in New York City. This evening, we honor the progress we've achieved as one community, and we look ahead to the critical work that still lies before us.

We've designed a program that reflects the vibrancy and strength of our community. With our honoree ceremony, an exciting virtual auction, live cultural performances, and the premiere of our film documentary highlighting AAFE's leaders and their deep connections with the communities we serve, tonight promises to be a memorable and uplifting experience.

We are deeply grateful to have you with us tonight. Your presence and support this evening reflect a shared belief in equity and opportunity for the thousands of New Yorkers we proudly serve each year. Surrounded by dedicated partners, allies, advocates, and friends, we are reminded and energized by the collective strength behind our mission.



Our staff are here to help with any questions! Look for event volunteers with "Staff" on their name tags.

Honorees

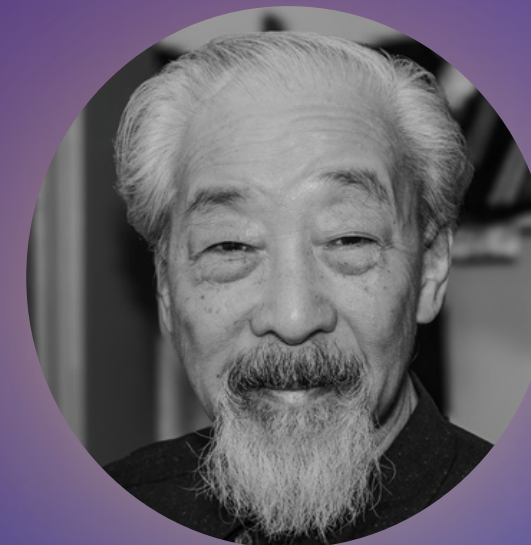
Celebrating the leaders
shaping our communities.



Carlina Rivera

City Councilwoman, District 2

Born and raised on the Lower East Side, Carlina Rivera is a passionate community organizer and City Council Member representing District 2. Over the span of her career, she has been a powerful advocate for affordable housing, small business empowerment, and equitable community development—values that are deeply rooted in AAFE’s mission. Our partnership with her has delivered lasting impact, including 44 new permanently affordable apartments at East Village Homes, preserved housing at 73 Avenue C, and 44 renovated co-op homes in historic tenement buildings.



Bob Lee

Co-Founder & Curator of Asian
American Arts Centre

As Co-Founder and Curator of the Asian American Arts Centre (AAAC), established in 1974, Bob has played a pivotal role in preserving and promoting Asian American art. He created the first public digital archive of over 1,700 Asian American artists and led award-winning arts education programs and national cultural advocacy for people of color in the arts. Now, as AAAC transitions into a new Asian American Art Research Center in Flushing in collaboration with ThinkChinatown and AAFE, his enduring legacy continues to shape the field.



Dinner Menu

KIMBAP SESAME
COLD NOODLES

SUSHI

ASSORTED SLIDERS

EMPANADAS & ARROZ CON POLLO

Dessert

ITALIAN PASTRIES & BROWNIES

COFFEE & TEA

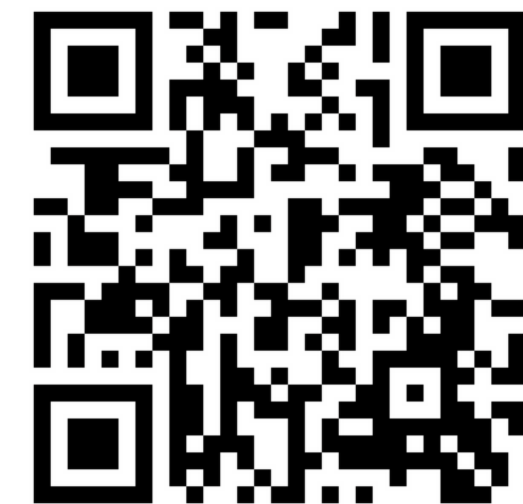


Virtual Auction

Bidding open until June 13

Featuring an incredible selection of items and experiences.

Visit the QR code to view and bid now until Friday, June 13 at 9pm.



Virtual Auction Items



JERSEY SIGNED BY JALEN BRUNSON

Retail Value: \$800
Donated by the New York Knicks



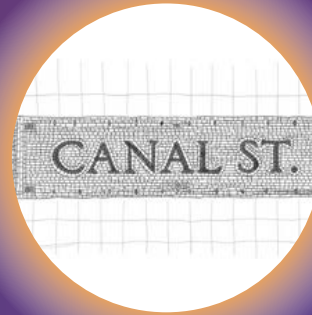
CHINATOWN WALKING TOUR WITH AAFE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR THOMAS YU

Retail Value: \$1,500



\$500 GIFT CARD TO GUI KOREAN STEAKHOUSE

Retail Value: \$500
Donated by GUI Korean Steakhouse



CANAL STREET SUBWAY MOSAIC ART BY SAMMY YUEN

Retail Value: \$1,200
Donated by Sammy Yuen



PRIVATE MUAY THAI & KICKBOXING LESSON + PAIR OF GLOVES

Retail Value: \$200
Donated by Kit Yeung



CUSTOM PET PORTRAIT BY KIMBERLY FONDU

Retail Value: \$320
Donated by Kimberly Fondu



HEIRLOOM CHINESE VEGETABLE SEED BANK

Retail Value: \$300
Donated by local Toisanese gardeners



Our Evening's Entertainment



Paul "Sabor" Rivera & The Afro-Latineers

This electrifying Afro-Latin jazz band will bring a lively fusion of Afro-Latin jazz, filling the night with high energy rhythms and soulful sounds.



Ming Liang Lu: Master 3D Paper Portrait Cutter

Shanghai-born artist Ming Liang Lu will create lifelike 3D paper portraits in under 5 minutes—a mesmerizing fusion of traditional Chinese paper cutting and modern portraiture.



Hand-Rolled Cigars by La Casa Grande

Experience the artistry of hand-rolled cigars from one of New York's oldest cigar factories, La Casa Grande. Watch artisans in action, who will be crafting premium cigars for perfectly aged tobaccos.



Live Sugar Painting Artists

Enjoy the delicate beauty of Chinese sugar painting, where molten sugar is transformed into edible, intricate works of art before your eyes.



Traditional Clay Sculpture Artists

Watch as a master clay artist sculpts charming animal figures rooted in Chinese folk art. These hand-crafted treasures will be gifted to guests as unique keepsakes of the evening.



Who We Are

Through community development, Asian Americans for Equality advances racial, social and economic justice for all, regardless of background, guided by our experiences as Asian Americans and our commitment to civil rights.

35,000

Individuals access AAFE services each year

\$450M

In mortgage financing deployed for first-time homebuyers

\$70M

In small business loans provided by Renaissance

1,200+

Affordable rental units created across our city.

140k

Pounds of food distributed by our food pantries annually

“

AAFE helped me apply for SNAP (food stamp) benefits. My SNAP application was approved within 10 days. All the services AAFE provided are free of charge to us (low-income and elderlies). This makes our lives much easier!

— Ho Choy
Flushing client

“

My experience with AAFE has been the best. [The staff] took my case and helped me organize and send the necessary documentation to participate in the Housing Connect housing lottery. After 3 months I finally signed my rental contract. Eternally grateful to the AAFE staff.

— Norma B.
Jackson Heights client



Board of Directors

NAME	TITLE	AFFILIATION
Catherine Kim	Chair	The M2M Project
Lydia Tom	Vice Chair	Enterprise Community Partners, Retired
Peggy Chan	Treasurer	Cathay Bank
Grace Alster	Secretary	Community Preservation Corporation
Connie Lee	Board Member	NY/NJ Port Authority Human Resources division
Donna Chiu	Board Member	Mobilization for Justice
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Lina Lee	Board Member	Connecticut Bar Association
Lisa Talma	Board Member	Deutsche Bank
Turney (Toby) Singh Baba	Board Member	Santander Bank



AAFE Affiliates

Providing an expansive breadth of services.



Renaissance Economic Development Corporation

Small business lending and technical assistance.

Manhattan Office:

2 Allen Street, 7th Floor
New York, NY 10002

Queens Office:

133-29 41st Avenue
Flushing, NY 11355



AAFE Community Development Fund (CDF)

Homebuyer education and loan facilitation.

Office:

2 Allen Street, 7th Floor
New York, NY 10002



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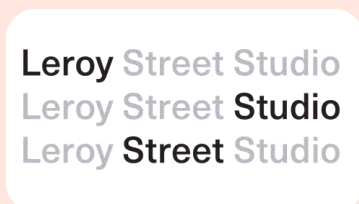
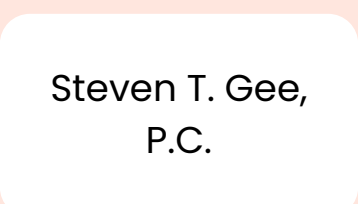


Thank You to our Sponsors

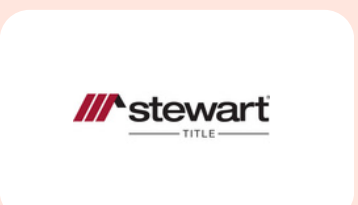
CHAMPION



FRIEND



SUPPORTER





Congratulations honorees!

Valley Bank would like to recognize **Asian Americans for Equality** and their mission to build a more inclusive, and equitable city.

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Congrats to **Asian Americans For Equality**
51st Annual Gala
and to the 2025 Honorees



Your community friends at

Carlina Rivera

NYC Councilwoman

Bob Lee

*Co-founder & Curator
Asian American Arts Centre*



CHUNG PAK

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Goldman Sachs

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Asian Americans for Equality
51st Annual Gala

The Goldman Sachs logo, featuring the words "Goldman Sachs" in white serif font on a blue square background.

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Sachs

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Asian Americans
for Equality

51ST ANNUAL GALA



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TITLE AGENCY, LLC

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**A strong community
makes all the difference.**

Bringing the community together helps all of us move forward. At PNC, we proudly support the people, events and institutions that help to strengthen the places we call home and the world around us.

Yasmin Peña

yasmin.pena@pnc.com

732-220-3140

pnc.com/communitydevelopmentbanking



GROOMBRIDGE WU
BAUGHMAN & STONE



**We are proud to support and sponsor
AAFE's 51st Anniversary Gala**

Congratulations to the 2025 honorees:

Carlina Rivera

New York City Councilwoman

Bob Lee

Co-Founder & Curator, Asian American Arts Centre

New York | Washington, D.C. | Tokyo

www.groombridgewu.com



We proudly sponsor the
**Asian Americans for Equality
51st Annual Gala**

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GOLDSTEIN HALL IS PROUD TO SUPPORT

AAFE'S 51st ANNUAL GALA

CONGRATULATIONS TO THIS YEAR'S HONOREES:

CARLINA RIVERA, DISTRICT 2 COUNCILWOMAN
BOB LEE, CO-FOUNDER & CURATOR OF ASIAN
AMERICAN ARTS CENTRE

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NY

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LIIF + AAFE:
Uplifting communities by building
affordable housing and economic opportunity.



**Congratulations
to AAFE for 51
years of service!**

Follow along as we bring
this tenement building
into the 21st century.
Instagram @walchitects



WALCHITECTS
Architecture & Design



Santander applauds AAFE
for 51 years of creating positive
community change and building
a stronger, more inclusive city.

Community happens here.

santanderbank.com

M&T Bank. Understanding what's important.

At M&T Bank, understanding what's important means realizing the role a bank plays in people's lives. And then living up to those responsibilities, by helping families, businesses and communities thrive. It's what we've been doing for more than 160 years. [Learn more at mtb.com.](https://mtb.com)

M&T Bank is proud to support Asian Americans for Equality, Inc. Thank you for continuing to serve our vibrant and dynamic NYC communities!

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