



THE ASSOCIATION OF CHINESE TEACHERS
FOUNDED IN 1969

TACT FOUNDING PRINCIPLES

The year 1969 was a year of rapid change. Immigration quotas had just been repealed and San Francisco schools were deluged with English Language Learners. Although few social services existed, Chinatown was not included as a target population in the Federal War on Poverty. Citywide, no official of Chinese descent had ever been appointed to the school board or held any elected office. On college campuses, students demanded Ethnic Studies classes to address the needs of their communities. Amidst the call for social change, the Association of Chinese Teachers (TACT) was founded with the following organizational goals:

- To pursue those aims that would produce educational excellence in our community,
- To participate in the educational policy-making of our community,
- To participate actively in making known the educational needs of our community to the school district and to legislative bodies,
- To promote liaison and cooperation between the educational policy making organizations in our community, and
- To promote the professional growth and development of educators in our community.

The following have contributed to our legacy:

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION

The Fight for Parity

- Testified to the California Fair Employment Practices Commission about SFUSD discrimination in hiring, 1970
- Met with Mayor Joseph Alioto about under-representation on the appointed school board, 1971
- Lobbied for affirmative action as part of the District's desegregation plan

- Protested inconsistent hiring practices for administrators with the Association of Chinese American Administrators (ACAA), 1988
- Worked with Association of Asian American Administrators (AAAA), formerly ACAA, to recruit/support teachers into administration. Professional Development, 1986- present
- Monitored ethnic breakdown of teachers and students with the Office of Equity, ongoing

Teacher Layoffs

- Protested "last hired, first fired" policy with Ethnic Minority Educators (EME), 1975
- Organized a community boycott to protest seniority as the only criterion for teacher retention, 1976
- Provided legal defense for Chinese teachers with Chinese for Affirmative Action (CAA) in 1971, 1974, 1976, 1979, 1980, 1991, 2004, 2005
- Promoted "program need" as an additional criterion for teacher retention, 1979

BILINGUAL EDUCATION

English as a Second Language (ESL)

- Advocated for ESL classes, provided buses for parents to speak at school board meetings, 1969
- Promoted ideas that Bilingual Education should not be a compensatory program and that students should not be placed in continuation high schools like Samuel Gompers, 1970

District Guidelines: Lau v. Nichols

- Member of Bilingual Community Council to develop/oversee master plans for bilingual education resulting from *Lau v. Nichols* court decision, 1974-present
- Participated on Bilingual Education Task Forces, 1987, 1993, 1994

Testimony Supporting Bilingual Education

- Spoke at 1974 State Commission on Teacher Preparation and Licensing national hearings, and met with the undersecretary of U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare (HEW) regarding poor implementation of Lau regulations, 1974
- Spoke at State Commission on Bilingual Education, 1984, 1986

Bilingual Teacher Training Programs

- Met with President Robert Corrigan of San Francisco State University (SFSU) in conjunction with CAA to restore the Chinese Bilingual program and to hire full-time faculty for the program, 1989, 1993
- Called for improvements in SFUSD training for Chinese teachers, including vocabulary lists, test preparatory guides, scope and sequence, 1988-1994
- Met with Jacob Perea, Dean of School of Education, SFSU, to maintain Chinese Bilingual Cross-cultural Language & Academic Development (BCLAD) credential program, 2012

Bilingual Parent Outreach

- Recommended hiring Chinese bilingual personnel at all levels, from school clerks to principals and Central Office, 1969-1999
- Coordinated and participated in radio program on educational issues for parents, 1998-2000
- Advocated and succeeded in hiring Chinese bilingual personnel at the Office of Family Voice, 2013/2014

Bilingual Education Model Program

- Wrote grant for Cantonese Bilingual Academic Lab Program at Daniel Webster Elementary School and supported its implementation, 1996-1998
- Participated on founding committees of the Chinese Immersion Program at West Portal Elementary School, 1984

CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT

Films and Filmstrips

- *Understanding Chinese Americans*, Grades K-3 filmstrips, 1974-1976
- *Chinese Americans, Realities and Myths*, high school filmstrip, 1976-1978
- Emmy award-winning series, *Bean Sprouts*, Grades 4-6, 1977-1979

Publications

- *Chinese Americans, Past and Present*, Grade 4 stories about Chinese American history, 1977
- Pictorial Calendars: *1982 Chinese History in America*, *1985 Chinese Women in America*, and *1991/92 ABC Calendar*
- *Crossing Boundaries: Asian & Pacific Islander Americans*. Booklet of 20 biographies/portraits,

distributed to school libraries in San Francisco, Oakland, and Berkeley, 2010

Workshops

- Teachers Teaching Teachers Monthly Forums, 1995-97
- Beginning Teacher Events, 1997-2000
- Chinese American Book Read, 1998
- Share Fair, 1999, 2010
- Bilingual Summer Teacher Institute with SFSU and SFUSD, 1999
- Bus trip to Sacramento Delta town, Railroad Museum, 2007
- Lunar New Year: Court Cases/Brush Painting/Lion Dance, 2008
- Lunar New Year: Counterparts: African Americans/Asian Americans, 2009
- Book Launch for *Crossing Boundaries*, Review of Asian American Poetry Books for K-12, Poetry of Angel Island, the Filipino Farm Workers and the Japanese American Internment, Nellie Wong Poetry Reading, Poetry in the State Standards, 2011
- China Camp State Park trip and Student Work Projects co-sponsored with Asian American Studies at SFSU, 2012
- Presidio Trust Teachers' Night. Distributed curriculum at annual gathering of non-profit organizations, 2011, 2012, 2013
- Celebrate Asian Pacific Islander Heritage Month: Merced Branch Library with Asian American Studies at SFSU, 2013
- Teachers Teaching Teachers (TTT) Workshops, ongoing.
 - TTT: Language Acquisition and Engagement Strategies, Online Research, Mathematical Thinking, 2012
 - TTT: Effective Listening and Speaking Skills, Response to Intervention (RTI); High School Graduation Requirements, Incorporating History into literature, 2014
 - TTT: Research Techniques by Ruthanne Lum McCunn, Lorraine Dong and Jeannie Woo, Chinese Brush Painting, Red Envelope Lanterns, and *Gok Jai* (Chinese New Year cookies) Cooking Demonstration, 2015

- SF Main Branch Library: co-sponsored with Asian American Studies at SFSU, SF Main Library: Magazines and Newspapers Center, Children’s Center and Filipino American Center – APIA Heritage: biographies, children’s activities, multi-media presentations, 2014
- Celebration of Asian American Heritage Month 2015 focusing on APIA Women: Breaking History, Wall of Fame, Selected Biographies, Books Authored by APIA Women for Children, Hands-on Activities for All Ages, 2015

EDUCATIONAL POLICIES

Desegregation

- Helped to plan desegregation efforts, talked to parents about the purposes of desegregation, 1970
- Spoke at the Redesign Plan hearings against closing Chinatown schools, 1977
- Testified on the “Education and Designation Plan,” 1991

Textbook Review

- Reviewed over 2,000 textbooks for historical accuracy, 1970
- Urged State Board of Education to require accurate information in textbooks, 1990
- Conducted review of controversial textbooks and sent findings to the State Curriculum Commission and Houghton Mifflin Publishing Company, 1990
- Testified at the State Curriculum Commission and State Board of Education hearings with Chinese for Affirmative Action and the Chinese Historical Society, declaring that “We cannot and will not accept being sidebars in textbooks.” 1990
- Interviewed by the *San Francisco Chronicle*, *San Francisco Examiner*, *San Jose Mercury News*, *World Journal*, *Channel 26* (Chinese TV) and *KQED Radio* about need for more diversity in the curriculum, 1991

School Climate

- Expressed concern over the high suspension rate, inadequate counseling and unrepresentative hiring patterns at Galileo High School, 1969
- Attended task force on school environment with police and fire department representatives about

ways to decrease racial animosity in high schools, 1978

- Met in partnership with CAA to discuss school hate crimes with Superintendent Waldemar Rojas and School Board Commissioners, 1993

Superintendent Search Committee

- Appointed to the Citizens Review Committee to recommend a new superintendent, 1985, 2007
- Organized a community meeting with incoming Superintendent Ramon Cortines, 1986

Budget Protests

- Sponsored bus trips to Sacramento for teachers and parents to protest budget cuts to education, 1987, 1989, 1992
- Appeared on panel discussion and interviews on Chinese television about issues such as school vouchers, Proposition 227 which placed limits on bilingual education, student assignments, and budget cuts, 1993, 1998

Candidates’ Nights

- Co-sponsored candidates’ nights in school board and general elections, but did not endorse specific candidates or issues

Ties to China

- Organized trips to China, 1973, 1979
- Spoke against Tiananmen Square repression in 1989

Teacher Morale

- Designed T-shirts, sweatshirts, caps, lunch bags, lanyards and mugs to salute teachers

Lunar New Year Holiday

- Lobbied the school district to recognize Lunar New Year as a holiday observed by Chinese, Korean and Vietnamese students, 1992

Student Programs

- Participated in Close-Up Program to send immigrant students to Washington, D.C., 1989-1994
- Supported Annual Language Olympics and Bilingual Symposiums, 1998-2009
- Chinese American History Summer Camp Programs, 2007-2009

Ethnic Studies

- Supported Ethnic Studies requirement for high school students, 2010

PARTNERSHIP WITH COMMUNITY

- Meet and consult with CAA on key education issues
- Advocated for multilingual, multicultural materials in the face of much opposition
- Supported specialized public library services including multilingual books and staff, 1970s
- Consortium with Ethnic Studies in developing curriculum and holding joint meetings and events
- Worked with AAAA on “hot topic” issues, e.g., “long-term English Language Learners”
- Supported name change of SFPL Chinatown Branch to Him Mark Lai Chinatown Branch Library, 2010

FUNDRAISING

Student Scholarships

- Over 200 (\$500-\$2000 each) scholarships have been awarded by TACT and co-sponsoring community/family memorial funds, 1975-present
- Walkathons, Auctions, Raffles, Garage Sale, Dances, Dragon Boat Events, Fashion Shows, Annual Scholarship Dinners. Proceeds are donated to student scholarships.
- San Francisco Chinatown Ghost Walk Tour. Proceeds donated to student scholarships, 2014
- Partnered with the Mayor’s “I Am the Future” Scholarship Award. TACT forwarded finalists/semifinalists to Mayor’s scholarship award program, 2014

Community Donations

TACT has also fundraised for the following community organizations:

- Chinese for Affirmative Action (CAA), \$1000 toward a building fund in recognition of its legal work in support of bilingual teachers during the layoffs, 1979
- Chinatown Branch of the San Francisco Public Library, \$5000 for its renovation funds, 1994
- Chinese for Affirmative Action, \$5000 for its building fund, 1994
- Chinese Historical Society, \$5000 for its building fund, \$5000 for its library, 1994
- China Camp State Park, 2012
- North Beach Branch Library renovation, 2014

CONFERENCES

Bilingual/Bicultural Education, Not Remediation

- Held a conference, “ESL/Bilingual/Bicultural Dreams and Priorities: Are ESL and bilingual education exclusive of each other?” 1970
- Participated in *Lau v. Nichols* 20th Anniversary Conference, 1995

Parent Conferences

- Held bilingual parent conferences, “How to Help Your Child,” 1987, February 1993, December 1993

Teacher Recruitment

- Conducted panels with Asian American Studies at San Francisco State University (SFSU) regarding the teaching profession, November 1985, March 1986, March 1990, November 1993

Administrator Recruitment

- Co-sponsored forums with AAAA, formerly ACAA, to encourage teachers to consider administration, 1986, 1989, 1993, 2005

Conferences

- Participated on panel on “Break the Silence” Conference to fight anti-Asian sentiment
- Testified at Asian Pacific Task Force of the National Education Association
- Addressed the National School Boards on Early Childhood
- Co-sponsored “50th Anniversary of the Repeal of the Chinese Exclusion Act” with the Chinese Historical Society and Asian American Studies at San Francisco State University
- Co-sponsored conferences California Association for Asian Pacific Bilingual Education (CAFABE), 1986, 1987 and California Association for Bilingual Education (CABE), 1992