

Helen Zia Fellowship for Social Change



Named after the award-winning API journalist, author, and activist, the Helen Zia Fellowship for Social Change will train the next generation of Asian and Pacific Islander (API) community leaders to effectively advocate for the community's needs and interests. Be part of a progressive API movement in California that promotes public awareness and mobilizes people to action to advance issues important to API communities.

This fellowship will support the work of progressive organizations that are advocating for fairness and justice in California, including API Equality and Asian Americans for Civil Rights & Equality (AACRE). API Equality is committed to working in our API communities for equal marriage rights and fair treatment of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) couples and families through community organizing, public education, media outreach, and legal and legislative advocacy.

AACRE is a progressive voice advocating for state legislation and funding on behalf of our diverse API communities and empowers community members to be an active and engaged force in advancing civil rights and social justice. Building upon the expertise of its three partners (Chinese for Affirmative Action, Asian Pacific American Legal Center, and Asian Law Caucus), AACRE primarily focuses its advocacy efforts on areas such as civil rights, language rights, and immigrant rights.

About Helen Zia

A second generation Chinese American, Helen Zia has been both an activist and a journalist throughout her life. She began her activism as a student in high school and college during the heyday of the civil rights, anti-war, and women's rights movements. A graduate of Princeton University's Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs, Zia was a member of the university's first graduating class of women. She quit medical school after completing two years, then worked as a construction laborer, an autoworker, and a community organizer, after which she discovered her life's work as a writer.

As a magazine writer, editor and investigative reporter, Zia's special passion involved stories of ordinary people in pursuit of social change and justice. She became the Executive Editor of Ms. Magazine, where she received numerous journalism awards. Her investigation of date rape at the University of Michigan led to campus demonstrations and an administrative overhaul of its policies, while her research on women who join neo-Nazi and white supremacist organizations provoked new thinking on the relationship between race, gender, and sexual orientation in hate-motivated violence.

Zia has been outspoken on issues ranging from human rights and war to racial profiling and hate violence. In 1997, she helped author a complaint and gave testimony before the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights for racially discriminatory treatment against Asian Americans. Zia traveled to Beijing in 1995 to the UN Fourth World Congress on Women as part of a delegation of journalists of color. Her work on the Asian American landmark civil rights case of anti-Asian violence is documented in the Academy Award-nominated film, "Who Killed Vincent Chin?"

Zia is the author of *Asian American Dreams: The Emergence of an American People* (Farrar Straus and Giroux, 2000) and a finalist for the prestigious 2000 Kiriya Pacific Rim Book Prize. She is also co-author, with Wen Ho Lee, of *My Country Versus Me* (Hyperion, 2002), about the Los Alamos scientist who was falsely accused of being a spy for China in the "worst case since the Rosenbergs." She is currently at work on a book about the 1949 exodus from China after the Communist Revolution—and working on any number of other causes.

Fellowship Description

The four-month fellowship program will provide Fellows with the training and experience to raise public awareness and organize their peers in support of issues that are important to API communities.

WHEN: January 15, 2008, to May 15, 2008

- WHO: Applicants must be students based at a California college or university. In addition, preference will be given to:
- Applicants who are sophomores and juniors, although exceptional first years, seniors, and graduate students will be considered;
 - Applicants who have a strong interest in social justice issues and a demonstrated commitment to supporting API communities; and
 - Applicants who exhibit outstanding leadership potential as demonstrated by previous leadership roles.
- WHAT: Fellows will participate in and lead a wide variety of public education and community organizing activities:
- Participate in a leadership training in San Francisco on January 11-13, 2008, that will equip fellows with the tools to be effective advocates and organizers;
 - Attend the statewide API Policy Summit in Sacramento on April 15-16, 2008, to meet with API public officials and community leaders throughout California;
 - Participate in a closing event in San Francisco upon the end of the fellowship (date to be determined);
 - Organize one campaign to advance an issue of the fellowship group's choosing that is important to API communities (e.g. civil right, immigrant rights, and language rights);
 - Organize one campaign to advance an issue of the fellowship directors' choosing that is important to API communities (e.g. marriage equality for same-sex couples);
 - Implement activities to promote support for campaign issues. Activities may include: voter registration drives, letter writing efforts, panel discussions, conferences, etc.;
 - Build coalitions with other student groups and mobilize other students to help advance campaign issues; and
 - Establish enduring interest in campaign issues either by founding student groups that will continue advancing them or integrating them into the agendas of existing groups.
- HOW: Fellows will be provided a stipend of \$1,500 for their participation in the Fellowship. It is anticipated that Fellows will be working approximately 5-8 hours per week from January to May. In addition, Fellows will receive transportation and housing for attendance at the leadership training and API Policy Summit and support to implement campaigns.

Application Process

APPLICATIONS ARE DUE BY 11:59 PM ON SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2007.

Completed applications must include:

- Attached application form
- Resume
- Contact information for one reference from a peer/colleague
- Contact information for one reference from a non-peer (e.g. professor, work supervisor, etc.)¹

Selected applicants will be invited to participate in a phone interview in November, and successful applicants will be notified by the end of November.

QUESTIONS:

If you have any questions about the Fellowship, please contact:

Andy Wong
(415) 274-6760 x316
awong@caasf.org

CAA is an equal opportunity employer and is committed to diversity in its workplace.

¹ Note: References will only be contacted for selected applicants.

Application Form

Name: _____ Date: _____
Last First

Mailing Address: _____
Street City State Zip

Permanent Address: _____
Street City State Zip

Current Phone: _____ Home Phone: _____

Email Address: _____ Gender: _____
Notices may be sent via email, so please be sure that your account is active and checked regularly.

Date of Birth: _____ Country of Citizenship: _____

Current Institution: _____

Year in School (Circle One): First Year Sophomore Junior Senior Graduate

Major/Concentration: _____

2nd Major/Concentration/Minor: _____

PLEASE INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS ALONG WITH THIS APPLICATION FORM:

- Current resume
- One essay (typed, 500-1000 words) answering the following:

Name one issue that is important to API communities that you are passionate about. What personal or professional experiences led you to this interest? How would you work towards making others support this issue?

REFERENCES:

List below two persons (one peer reference and one non-peer reference) who have knowledge of your extracurricular involvements, professional activities, or academic performance within the last two years and can speak thoughtfully about you in any of these areas (please use good judgment when selecting your references):

Peer Reference:

Peer Reference Name: _____
Last First

Address: _____
Street City State Zip

E-mail: _____ Telephone: _____

Relationship: _____ Number of Years Acquainted: _____

Non-Peer Reference:

Non- Peer Reference Name:

Last

First

Address:

Street

City

State

Zip

E-mail: Telephone:

Relationship:

Number of Years Acquainted:

VOLUNTARY DISCLOSURE OF SELF-IDENTIFICATION:

It is important for CAA to include a diverse constituency in its programs. Your answers to the following demographic questions would greatly help gauge the success of these efforts.

Hometown:

Sexual Orientation:

Primary Language:

Place of Birth:

Other Languages Spoken:

Ethnicity:

Political Party Affiliation:

Religion:

In the space provided, please tell us any additional aspects of your background or identity that you would like to share:

SEND YOUR COMPLETED APPLICATION VIA E-MAIL TO ANDY WONG, AWONG@CAASF.ORG.