

IMMIGRANT HISTORY INITIATIVE

ANNUAL REPORT 2021



know history
know self
make change

immigranthistory.org



IMMIGRANT
HISTORY
INITIATIVE

DEAR FRIENDS,

2021 was a year of transformation at the Immigrant History Initiative. The two of us started the organization in 2017 in the basement of the Yale Law School because we saw the increasingly urgent need for Asian Americans and children of immigrants to see themselves represented and understood in the classroom, in the media, and in public discourse.

Sadly, since 2020, we have seen the devastating consequences of invisibility and historically-rooted prejudice across the United States and the world. On top of the pervasive fear of racial violence against their communities, Asian Americans also confronted a disruptive global pandemic and the devastating loss of millions of lives.

During this time, we at IHI were determined to do as much as we could to support our communities. We transformed our in-person work into online workshops, lesson plans, guides, and trainings, so that educators, institutions, and Asian American families can be better equipped to confront the dual challenges of racism and the pandemic. We trained hundreds of educators to support their students and families. We created Youtube videos, Instagram posts, and online guides to raise awareness that the current moment is not new, but the tragedy of history repeating itself.

Since 2020, IHI has worked with a growing group of amazing parents, educators, and young people. We are proud to support these leaders, who gave their time, energy, and love to respond to a crisis in their communities. Looking ahead, we know that one or two years is not enough to address hate against Asian Americans. We need systemic solutions to solve systemic problems, and that includes empowering more Asian Americans to speak out and to lead.

In fall 2022, we will launch a community program to nurture the next generation of youth and parent leaders for the Asian American community. The program will transform Asian American families into sites of change through intergenerational dialogue, historical learning, and collaborative community action projects. Our objective is for this family program to reach every community where there is a need for learning and healing, from New Jersey and Connecticut to South Carolina and South Dakota.

In spite of the darkness of the last two years, we are inspired by our network of collaborators, communities, and supporters, whose input is reflected in the creation of our new program. We look forward to a brighter, more empowered future.

Sincerely,

Kathy Lu & Julia Chang Wang
Co-Founders of Immigrant History Initiative



OUR WORK IN 2021



In 2021, Asian American communities continued to face an upsurge in anti-Asian violence that escalated rapidly in 2020 with the COVID-19 outbreak and fueled by the pervasive normalization of xenophobic and anti-immigrant rhetoric in the last decade. As an organization that seeks to empower youth and communities, we were particularly alarmed by the rise in racialized bullying among school-aged children. Reporting showed that 25% of Asian American youths had self-reported some form of racialized bullying since the pandemic. We saw this statistic reflected in the number of parents who reached out to us about their children experiencing racist incidents at school, often without intervention. As we eased out of pandemic isolation and began to regroup as a society, we continued to receive an unprecedented number of requests for help from parents and educators seeking resources and support in helping their children navigate Asian American identity and racism.

In January of 2021, in collaboration with mental health expert Dr. Jenny Wang and parent leaders Yukiyo Iida and Regina Belen of West Hartford, Connecticut, we launched our first online workshop, Talking to Kids about Asian American Identity and Racism. In this space, we connected parents, families, and educators to actionable strategies and resources on how to engage in thoughtful and productive dialogue around issues of anti-Asian racism with their children. The workshop, and the [accompanying multi-language parent guide](#), unpacked Anti-Asian racism through the lens of Asian American and immigrant history and drew upon age-appropriate, trauma-informed practices.

Throughout 2021, we have led 14 workshops for parents of children of all ages, educators, and members of the community. Through collaboration with expert consultants, we've developed a toolkit of well-researched and nuanced resources, allowing us to cater to diverse needs and cover topics ranging from implementing restorative justice practices in classrooms and educational spaces, understanding xenophobia and racism in times of crises, trauma-informed parenting, and the rich and complex history of the Asian diaspora—from migration to discrimination, from resistance to activism, and centuries of history that forged the diverse Asian American and Pacific Islander term.

why now?

1 IN 5

AAPIs have experienced racism

>10,000

reports of anti-Asian hate since 2020

AAPIs are the fastest growing demographic. We need a systemic solution beyond a "quick fix."



1/3 ASIAN PARENTS with a child targeted by hate

GUIDES AND LESSON PLANS



We published 8 new publicly available lesson plans that were accessed thousands of times by learners seeking to know more about Asian American history and identity.

The 1965 Immigration & Nationality Act and Model Minority Mythology

with
ANTIRACIST APUSH

This lesson plan, fully aligned with APUSH standards, teaches about the groundbreaking Immigration and Nationality Act of 1965 and the development of the model minority myth.

Binny's Diwali

with
@maistorybooklibrary

This K-5 lesson resource, based on a picture book written by Thirty Umrigar & illustrated by Nidhi Chanani, takes a delightful look at the holiday of Diwali: Festival of Lights.



choose your own BYSTANDER INTERVENTION

Our Bystander Intervention simulator allows children to practice safely and effectively intervening in racist incidents as a bystander.

teaching about xenophobia & public health during the COVID-19 pandemic



This lesson plan for grades 6-12 uses historical case studies to teach students about racial scapegoating during public health crises like COVID-19.

WHAT'S THE MESSAGE?

images of anti-Asian racism in epidemics, both past & present

with
TIME KIDS

IHI collaborated with Time for Kids to create an interactive activity for grades 3-6 on analyzing political art and racial biases.

GUIDES AND LESSON PLANS



talking to kids about

ASIAN AMERICAN IDENTITY & RACISM

a guide for parents

Our parent guide, *Talking to Kids about Asian American Identity & Racism*, was translated into 6 languages—Hindi, Korean, Mandarin, Nepali, Tagalog, and Vietnamese—delivering much-needed in-language support to Asian American communities.



THE REVOLUTIONARY '60S & '70S

Cross-Racial Solidarity Movements & the Formation of Asian American Identity

This lesson plan for grades 9-12 teaches students about forgotten histories of the revolutionary 1960s & 1970s, highlighting cross-racial solidarity movements like Yellow Power that gave birth to the Asian American identity.

Contextualizing the Immigration Act of 1924:

The Most Racist Immigration Law in U.S. History?

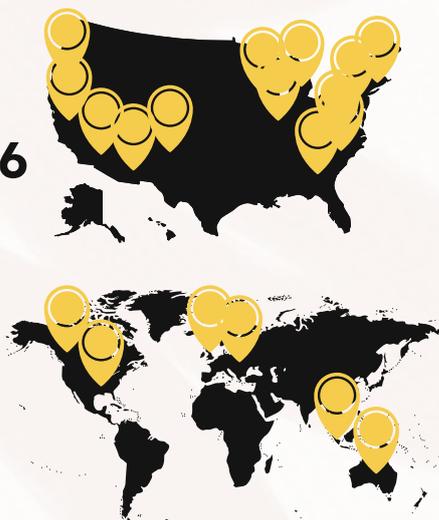
with

ANTIRACIST APUSH

This lesson plan, aligned with APUSH key concepts and skills, focuses on the the Immigration Act of 1924, its nationality quotas, and the effect on racial demographics, providing students with a complex understanding of the roots of American immigration policy.

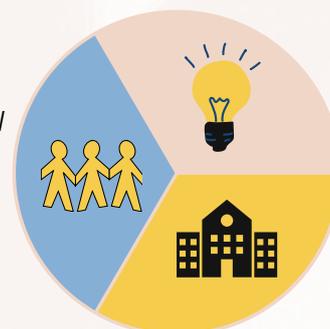
>15K actively engaged with our resources & programming in 2021

15 states & 6 countries using our resources



Our Audience

- AAPI families
- Educators/professional
- Institutions



ONLINE EDUCATIONAL CONTENT



A selection of educational content from our social media accounts and blog posts.



ONLINE EDUCATIONAL CONTENT



100K

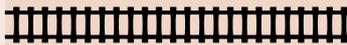
Reached through our website
& social media platforms

for Black History Month & beyond, check out resources on

AFRICAN DIASPORA HISTORY



Chinese Workers' Strike



Lost from our Textbooks:
Labor Activism & the
Transcontinental Railroad

from OPEN to
GATEKEEPING

the evolution of
America's broken
immigration
system

The graphic features a blue background with a white cloud at the top. Below the title, there is a black rectangular box with white text. The background is decorated with a pattern of small white 'x' marks.

How did U.S. Immigration Become So Restrictive?



DID YOU KNOW...
**Undocumented
Youths**
HAVE A CONSTITUTIONAL
RIGHT TO
Public Education?



DID YOU KNOW...
Public Benefits
CAN'T BE RESTRICTED BY
STATES BASED ON YOUR
Citizenship Status?



OUR IMPACT



Our workshops, teaching resources, and curriculum saw a wide reach in 2021. We were heartened and moved by engagement and interest from parents of children of all ages, educators, school administrators, librarians, researchers, activists, policy makers, community members, and allies of diverse backgrounds.

In the words of our communities...



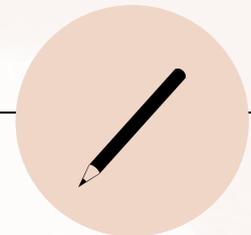
Parents

"[IHI] put the problem in real words. Being the model minority, there is a high price we pay, many unnoticed: family relations, mental health problems under the pressure to perform."



Educators

"One of the best PDs I've taken in the 13 years I've been in the district, not just importance of information but also presentation."



Students

"This class was incredibly different in the best ways. It is so important to be able to learn about this history."



Professionals

"Participating in a RJ [restorative justice] circle was extremely helpful in modeling the process and helping us see how it might apply to our learning contexts."

FOSTERING SOLIDARITY



At IHI, we believe strongly in the power of discourse. Many of our workshop participants expressed a desire to initiate conversations with their own children and to apply new understandings to their research, workplace, and communities. As advocates of community-based education, we are excited by the possibilities that emerge as our participants go on to share knowledge, build solidarity, and empower others within their own communities.

"I teach in a predominantly Asian (Chinese) school and have had a lot of students ask questions about where do they fit in in terms of Chinese-American's in the racial divide evident in our society. I also am curious about **concrete ways to teach Chinese/East Asian students about AAPI solidarity with BLM/Civil rights** and help combat some of the anti-Black sentiments that are predominant in this community."

"I'd like to continue to develop my **understanding of history**, how it has shaped ideas and policies held today, and how I can **challenge systemic racism and further grow in my pursuit of bring anti-racist.**"

OUR PARTNERS & COLLABORATORS



In 2021, we worked with many wonderful institutions and local organizations and communities to uplift Asian American history and experiences.

Boston Public Schools

CT Commission on Children, Women, and Seniors

Dr. Jenny Wang (Clinical Psychologist, mental health advocate, and creator of the Asian Pacific Islander Desi American (APIDA) Therapist Directory)

The Immigrant Learning Center

Make Us Visible CT

Make Us Visible NJ

Princeton Public Schools

Re-Imagining Migration

Robbinsville Public Schools

Sidwell Friends School

Smithsonian Asia Pacific American Center

State Education Resource Center of CT (SERC)

Teach for America New Haven

Time for Kids

UCLA Asian American Studies Center

University of Connecticut Asian & Asian American Studies Institute

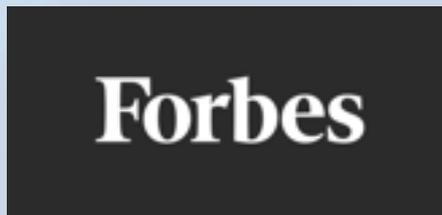
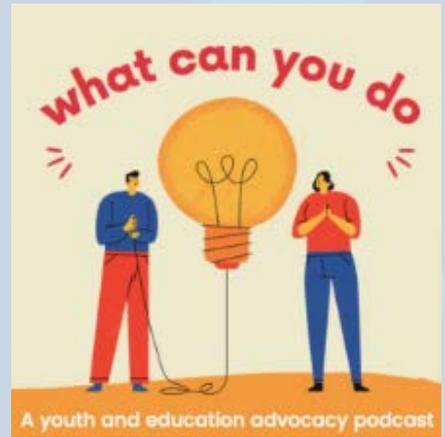
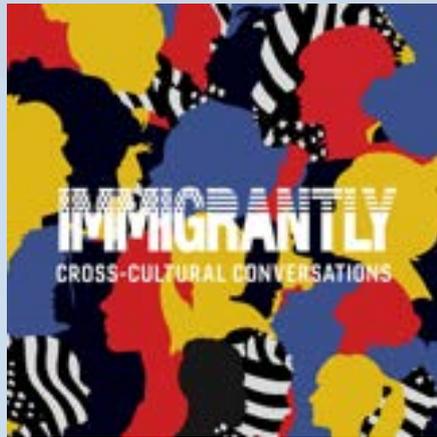
West Hartford Parent Community Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Groups

West Hartford Public Schools

Yale Davenport College

Yale-China Center

MEDIA COVERAGE



WHO WE ARE



Our Team

Sarah Appelbaum, *Restorative Justice Expert*
Junee Kim, *Volunteer Grants & Development Manager*
Kathy Lu, *Co-Founder & Co-Executive Director*
Sulynn Miao, *Curriculum Developer*
Nhi Nguyen, *Curriculum Developer*
Abby Sachar, *Fundraising & Communications Associate*
Julia Chang Wang, *Co-Founder & Co-Executive Director*
Odette Wang, *Executive & Operations Assistant*

Our Board

Matt Bewley
Song Kim
Kate Lee
Kathy Lu
Julia Chang Wang

Our Advisory Board

George Hsieh
Alison Lee
Ron Lee
Ted Lee
Susana Liu-Hedberg

Andy Parker
Swapna Reddy
Adam Strom
Nancy Yun Yang