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ANNUAL



REPORT





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Cover Illustration "We Cover Each Other"
by [Timothy Singratsomboune](#)
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Photos courtesy of SEARAC

A WORD FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear community,

In the darkest of times, light prevails.

It was in the darkness of my parents' journey as boat people from Viet Nam that my mother fell in love with my father in a refugee camp nearly 50 years ago. That lesson—that love, hope, and possibility endure even in the most uncertain moments—guided us again in 2025, a year in which we experienced both profound joy and deep harm.

Together, our families endured terrifying and violent ICE raids and kidnappings in cities across the country. Fear and uncertainty rippled through our communities as basic rights and safety were stripped away.

At the same time, SEARAC brought to life [Our Roots, Our Power](#), our 50th anniversary campaign. Envisioned over the past five years in collaboration with partners across the country to commemorate this civil rights milestone, we worked to ensure that Southeast Asian American communities felt seen, heard, and valued at this historic moment. We told our own story by co-producing our first-ever docuseries, by drafting and advancing our own state and congressional resolutions, and by unearthing research by and for our communities. **Southeast Asian Americans have forever and fundamentally changed America.**

Together, we fought back. Against ICE raids and kidnappings. Against the dismantling of our community's access to education, health care, and critical government support. Against unlawful and unjust actions by the Administration—harms that will reverberate for years to come.

Together, we raised hope. Joyful and powerful screenings of our docuseries took place across 24 cities as violence and intimidation persisted. We cultivated the voices and leadership of new and seasoned advocates, bringing our community's demands to Capitol Hill. Through leadership development and advocacy, we strengthened solidarity, even as we navigated the longest government shutdown in history.

Together, we continued our legacy of refugee resilience.

SEARAC and Southeast Asian American communities have always held hope and light while navigating hostility, violence, and inequity. As we do every day, we drew strength from our ancestors and elders who fled their homes 50 years ago seeking safety, dignity, and opportunity for their families. **We honor their sacrifices by continuing their fight: for freedom, justice, and a future where the next generations can thrive.**

We present our 2025 annual report as a declaration of our shared power and potential for the next 50 years. This year reminded us of what we can build together, especially in the face of adversity.

The next 50 years begins now. Now more than ever, our communities and country need us. Thank you for your partnership, hope, and investment in our collective endeavor to build a just and equitable society for all.

In solidarity,



Quyên Đinh
Executive Director
SEARAC



WHO WE ARE



SEARAC was founded in 1979 as the “Indochina Refugee Action Center” due to concern about the genocide in Cambodia and large number of refugees fleeing Southeast Asia. After the war and bombings of Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia claimed millions of lives between 1955 and 1975, our founders advocated for the passage of the 1980 Refugee Resettlement Act, which created our nation’s first comprehensive and unified system of refugee resettlement and support.

Today, SEARAC is a national civil rights organization that builds power with diverse communities from Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam to create a socially just and equitable society. As representatives of the largest refugee community ever resettled in the United States, SEARAC stands together with other refugee communities, communities of color, and social justice movements in pursuit of social equity.

OUR COMMUNITIES

For SEARAC, Southeast Asian American is a political identity that comes from the shared experience of people who came to this country as refugees from the US occupation of Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam.

Southeast Asian Americans now number more than three million, and most arrived in the United States as refugees, are the children of refugees, were sponsored by refugee families, or arrived as immigrants.

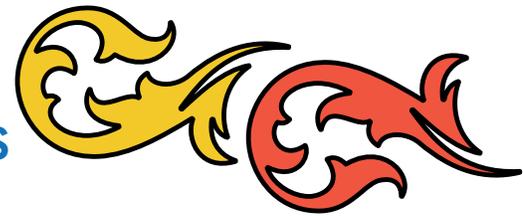
Southeast Asian Americans include people from dozens of diverse ethnic and language groups, including but not limited to:



SEARAC's work in 2025 was guided by our [2022-2026 strategic plan](#), which was informed by more than 30 partner organizations and community leaders, and which outlines our organizational direction and strategy through 2026.



2025 BY THE NUMBERS



members of our growing [SEAA Collaborative](#) in California



rising leaders trained at our annual [Leadership and Advocacy Training](#)



meetings with Federal policymakers



meetings with California policymakers and agency staff



Congressional Briefings on Capitol Hill to share community needs and solutions



screenings of [Southeast Asian American Journeys](#) in 24 cities



followers across our social media channels



[news stories](#) uplifting Southeast Asian American communities, in outlets including The Hill, The Guardian, NBC News, AsAm News, and more



endorsing organizations on our national [50th anniversary resolution](#)



COMMEMORATING 50 YEARS OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT

2025 marked the 50th anniversary of Southeast Asian refugee resettlement in the United States, and SEARAC spent the year uplifting the remarkable stories of our community members and their indelible contributions to the country, states, cities, and neighborhoods they now call home.

Reflecting on a year of *Our Roots, Our Power*

MARCH 2025:

- SEARAC launched the [Our Roots, Our Power](#) campaign with a new website.

APRIL 2025:

- SEARAC Executive Director Quynh Dinh was a part of a [roundtable discussion](#), hosted by Rep. Derek Tran, to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Fall of Saigon and uplift the needs of Southeast Asian American communities today. Participants included members of Congress, human rights activists, and nonprofit leaders.
- SEARAC celebrated the diversity of Southeast Asian Americans in a weeklong campaign via our email list and social media. Featured communities included [Cambodian Americans](#), [Hmong Americans](#), [Lao Americans](#), and [Vietnamese Americans](#).

MAY 2025:

- SEARAC proudly premiered three episodes of [Southeast Asian American Journeys](#) at [CAAMfest](#) in May. Produced by award-winning filmmaker Quynh Nguyen-Le, in association with SEARAC and the Center for Asian American Media (CAAM), the award-winning, five-part documentary film series explores the stories of five local SEAA refugee communities.
- Together with Sera Koulabdara, CEO of [Legacies of War](#), SEARAC Executive Director Quynh Dinh penned an op-ed, [During AANHPI Heritage Month, Remember the Refugees America Forgot](#), published by AsAm News.

SEPTEMBER 2025:

- [Southeast Asian American Journeys](#) marked its full premiere of all five episodes in a special [coast-to-coast celebration](#).



OCTOBER 2025:

- In Sacramento, CA, SEARAC supported [SCR 96](#), a resolution in the California Legislature commemorating 50 years of the Southeast Asian American experience. SEARAC thanks Sen. Aisha Wahab for introducing this important recognition of the stories and experiences of the 1.1 million Southeast Asian Americans who have made California their home. It calls upon the legislature to pursue comprehensive policies for all immigrant and refugee communities, including in education, health and mental health, and language access.

DECEMBER 2025:

- SEARAC was thrilled to support a bicameral [commemorative resolution](#) on Capitol Hill, recognizing 50 years of Southeast Asian refugee resettlement in the United States. The bill was introduced in the House by Rep. Derek Tran (CA-45) and in the Senate by Sen. Mazie Hirono (D-HI). We celebrated this groundbreaking moment with a virtual community celebration, featuring elected officials, community leaders, and SEARAC staff.
- Following more than three dozen screenings across the country, and even internationally, *Southeast Asian American Journeys* was joyfully livestreamed to a national audience via a community-centered [virtual screening and panel](#).



POLICY ADVOCACY HIGHLIGHTS





DEFENDING SOUTHEAST ASIAN AMERICANS FROM UNJUST DEPORTATION

2025 saw a dramatic increase in detentions and deportations of Southeast Asian Americans, including unprecedented and unjust deportations of individuals to [third countries](#) – places they had never previously set foot in – without due process. SEARAC mobilized our community to fight back on a variety of fronts, including:

- Launching a [virtual resource hub](#) for Southeast Asian American refugees facing deportation
- Convening the Southeast Asian Deportation Defense Network to connect individuals and families with legal support and resources
- Uplifting pardon and clemency campaigns with letters of support and social media outreach



BUDGET RECONCILIATION BILL OPPOSITION AND ANALYSIS

- The passage of H.R. 1, the budget reconciliation bill, in early 2025 has potentially devastating consequences for the Southeast Asian American community. We mobilized 34 rising leaders through our LAT program and hundreds of other community members and allies nationwide to tell their stories and push back against the harmful provisions of this bill. Despite our efforts, the bill was signed into law, and SEARAC shifted our focus to analyzing the bill and its impacts on the community.
- We hosted a community informational webinar in September 2025 and released a [two-page fact sheet](#) illustrating the bill's impact on SNAP, Medicaid, Medicare, and the Affordable Care Act, programs that are vital to the health and economic security of SEAA communities.

Model Curricula



Vietnamese American Experiences



Hmong History and Cultural Studies



Cambodian American Studies



Native American Studies

CALIFORNIA K-12 ETHNIC STUDIES CURRICULUM ROLLOUT AND DEFENSE

- SEARAC participated in several ethnic studies rollout conferences in California throughout 2025 to promote the new [model K-12 curriculum](#) on the experiences of Cambodian, Hmong, and Vietnamese American communities in California. These were vital opportunities to engage with educators, administrators, students, and community members about these groundbreaking curriculum modules that uplift the history and experiences of Southeast Asian American communities.
- [SEARAC's advocacy](#) was also crucial to the defense of ethnic studies in the California State Legislature during the 2025 legislative session. SEARAC helped to improve multiple versions of AB 715 this year through detailed written feedback, meetings with legislators, and collaboration with education experts. We thank our advocacy partners and ethnic studies educators for working together on this bill. We look forward to addressing remaining concerns next year.

Curricula illustrations by Minnie Phan



PROTECTING SEAA STUDENTS' RIGHT TO EDUCATION

Several actions taken by the administration in 2025 threaten Southeast Asian Americans' equitable access to education. SEARAC mobilized community members to push back against the [ongoing dismantlement](#) of the Department of Education. We also condemned the Trump administration's [defunding of Minority-Serving Institutions \(MSIs\)](#), including Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander-serving institutions (AANAPISIs). AANAPISIs and MSIs have helped millions of students of color, including Southeast Asian Americans, access higher education. These programs have been essential for low-income and first-generation college students, and they have improved how colleges and universities educate students of color.

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT SEARAC'S [EDUCATION](#),
[DATA EQUITY](#), [HEALTH](#), AND [IMMIGRATION](#) WORK,
CLICK THE LINKS TO VISIT OUR WEBSITE.

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT SEARAC'S WORK
IN CALIFORNIA, VISIT OUR [WEBSITE](#).



LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

For our 26th annual [Leadership and Advocacy Training \(LAT\) program](#), SEARAC was honored to be joined by a diverse cohort of 34 participants, representing 13 different states and ranging in age from 18 to 50. Our cohort included leaders from Cambodian, Hmong, Lao, Mien, Vietnamese, and other Southeast Asian and ally communities. During the three-day program, we celebrated the Southeast Asian American legacy, explored the impact of civic engagement on our communities, and empowered a cohort of advocates to share their stories with elected officials. In addition to calling for Congress to vote no on the reconciliation bill, our participants also advocated for issues specific to their interests and professional experiences, including data disaggregation in education, access to quality health services, and protecting family immigration.

2025 FINANCES

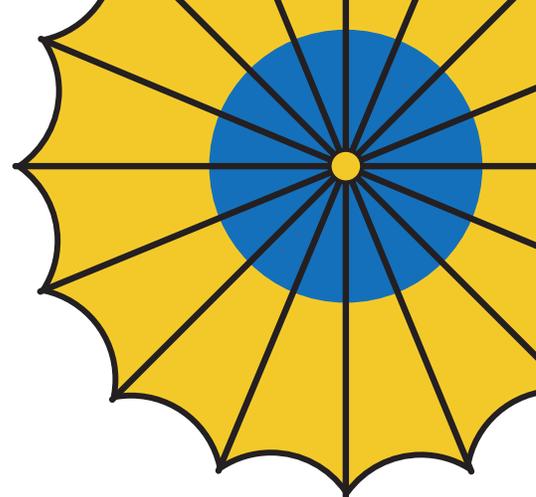
REVENUE	2025	2024	2023
Grants - Foundations/Nonprofits	\$1,005,632.00	\$2,348,988.00	\$1,804,391.00
Individual Contributions	\$26,805.18	\$39,697.84	\$42,618.05
Corporate Contributions	\$5,019.00	\$9.00	\$5,624.66
Nonprofit & Foundation Contributions	\$26,820.00	\$126,099.00	\$0.00
Government Contracts	\$16,646.15	\$162,462.18	\$151,340.00
Program Sales	\$177,125.00	\$15,950.00	\$1,000.00
Other Income	\$1,181.86	\$657.42	\$2,339.21
Investment Income	\$244,071.36	\$306,295.23	\$159,234.89
Total Revenue	\$1,503,300.55	\$3,012,790.67	\$2,262,733.50

EXPENDITURES	2025	2024	2023
Program Expenses	\$1,881,755.92	\$2,019,927.42	\$1,720,105.70
Administrative Expenses	\$386,720.46	\$585,794.11	\$641,067.92
Fundraising Expenses	\$194,463.45	\$128,213.60	\$175,606.41
Total Expenses	\$2,462,939.83	\$2,733,935.13	\$2,536,780.03

NET ASSETS	2025	2024	2023
Net Assets Beginning of Year	\$5,563,206.73	\$5,296,982.76	\$5,468,785.14
Net Change in Assets	-\$959,639.28	\$278,855.54	-\$274,046.53
Net Assets End of Year	\$4,603,567.45	\$5,575,838.30	\$5,263,636.91

Note: These numbers are based on SEARAC's fiscal year calendar which runs from October 1 - September 30. 2023 and 2024 data are based on our final audited financial statements. Our FY25 audit is currently in progress.

THANK YOU TO THE PHILANTHROPIC, CORPORATE, AND COMMUNITY FUNDERS WHO GENEROUSLY SUPPORTED SEARAC'S WORK IN 2025:

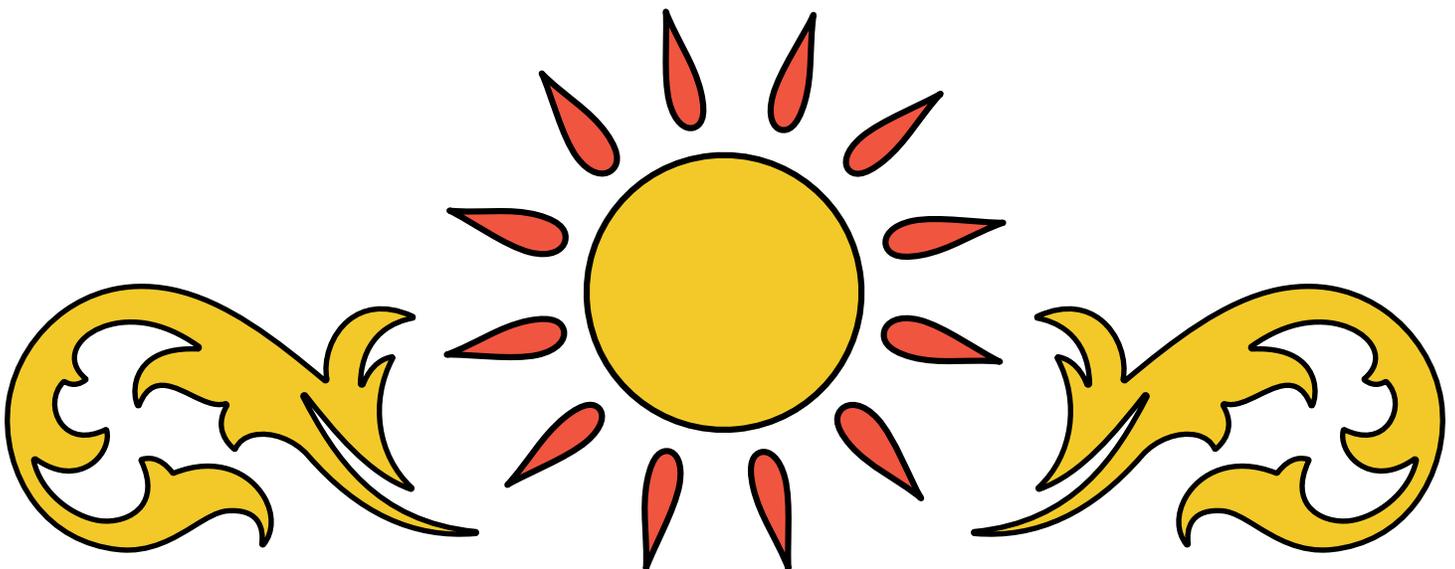


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- Asian Pacific American Institute for Congressional Studies
- California Endowment
- California Wellness Foundation
- Central Valley Community Foundation
- District Capital Management
- Diverse Elders Coalition
- ECMC Foundation
- First Rate Living Fund
- Gates Foundation
- Illumina Foundation
- IMC Foundation
- Immigrant Legal Resource Center
- Intel Foundation
- Kresge Foundation
- The Leadership Conference Education Fund
- MacKenzie Scott
- McUlsky Health Force
- National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum (NAPAWF)
- National Education Association
- Next50 Foundation
- NEO Philanthropy / Four Freedoms Fund
- Orange County Department of Education
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- State Farm
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