



A Community Foundation

January 2012

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the Asian Pacific Fund Board of Directors, I am delighted to announce the selection of Audrey Yamamoto as our new President and Executive Director. Audrey will be succeeding our founding Executive Director Gail Kong in taking the helm of our 18-year-old organization. With the Asian Pacific Fund poised for its next phase of growth, the Board unanimously agrees that Audrey has the right combination of skills to be our next leader.

Audrey comes to the Fund from her current position as Executive Director of the Children's Creativity Museum in San Francisco, an organization where she has worked since 2003, starting as Director of Marketing and Development, then becoming Director of Programs and Experience before stepping into the Executive Director position in 2008. During her executive tenure, Audrey marshaled resources and expertise to lead the organization through a rebranding strategy (from Zeum to Children's Creativity Museum) and expansion of the target audience from its previous 6 to 12 age group to include 3 to 5-year-olds. This resulted in the overnight and sustained growth of museum membership and daily visitor attendance numbers.

Prior to her work at the Museum, Audrey was Director of Development and then Chief Operating Officer at Plugged In, a non-profit in East Palo Alto that provided art and technology programs for the families of East Palo Alto.

After receiving a BA in Economics from University of California, San Diego, she joined Pacific Bell's Accelerated Management Program before earning her MBA from the UCLA Anderson School of Management.

A Bay Area native and fourth generation Japanese American, Audrey has established relationships with many leaders in the Asian American community. She looks forward to forging many more relationships in her new role at the Asian Pacific Fund.

"I am thrilled to be joining an organization that will enable me to give back to the Asian American community in ways I had never imagined," says Audrey. "I'm extremely privileged to build upon the tremendous work of the founding Executive Director, Gail Kong, who has laid an incredible foundation for growth. I look forward to working closely with the impressive Board of Directors to continue to strengthen the Asian Pacific Fund's presence and impact throughout the Bay Area."

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Gail M. Kong

We are deeply grateful to our founding Executive Director, Gail Kong, for her 18 years of fine work and extraordinary devotion. She has dedicated herself tirelessly to our mission of linking Asian donors to important needs in our community, and played a vital role in creating one of the largest endowments of any Asian American organization in the country.

As she looks forward to a well-deserved retirement, Gail shares these thoughts:

“Helping to build the Asian Pacific Fund has been a unique privilege as well as a lot of hard work. We had to take care of all the basics: creating a framework to support a community foundation, operating high quality programs, and recruiting a leadership group to govern the Fund. This work has been greatly enhanced by talented board members and staff, a small army of volunteers, plus family and friends when the going got rough. The Fund is now positioned to go to the next level. Audrey brings all the right skill sets and experience to lead us there so that many, many more people can learn about our services and resources, and discover new ways to give back.”

During our six-month nationwide search for Gail’s successor, the Board’s Search Committee interviewed many exceptional candidates, all of whom offered substantial talent, experience and energy. In the end, it was Audrey’s combination of executive experience, intelligence, warmth, outreach skills, strategic abilities and commitment to non-profit work that earned the Board’s endorsement.

Audrey starts in her new position at the Asian Pacific Fund on March 12th. Please join us in welcoming her and in congratulating Gail for the legacy she has built, which is poised to become a permanent resource for the Bay Area’s Asian American community.

Warm regards,

Emerald Yeh