

Austin Asian Chamber Receives Grant for Minority Business Program

GAACC has been awarded a micro-grant from the U.S. Pan Asian American Chamber of Commerce Education Foundation

AUSTIN, TEXAS, USA, May 24, 2016 /EINPresswire.com/ -- The <u>Greater Austin Asian Chamber of</u> <u>Commerce</u> (GAACC) is proud to announce that it has been awarded a micro-grant from the U.S. Pan Asian American Chamber of Commerce Education Foundation (USPAACC).

USPAACC's mission is to be a gateway to corporate and government contracts, Asian American suppliers, and information about Asian Americans and the Asia and Indian Subcontinent markets. Their Micro-grant Program is sponsored by Wells Fargo and it seeks to assist a local or regional Asian American chamber in expanding capacity and technical assistance of an existing program targeted toward strengthening their small business members.

USPAACC was founded in 1984 by Susan Au Allen, who still serves as the CEO of the organization. "We believe your organization has done incredible work advancing its mission over the last years, and we would love to supplement your efforts with this investment," stated USPAACC in their announcement of the award to GAACC.

GAACC was in the inaugural class of awardees in 2015. The funding supports GAACC's minority business program, Connect Forum. It allowed GAACC to expand the program from an annual event to a quarterly series of certification workshops followed by roundtable networking with procurement agencies, corporations, prime contractor and any other organization with a minority enterprise initiative looking to connect with Asian American, women, and other disadvantaged businesses.

"The concept of minority business programs is new to many Asian American business owners. Connect Forum seeks to educate the Central Texas community about the opportunities that exist not just locally, but at the state and federal levels," says GAACC executive director, Marina Bhargava. "And we don't just want to get our members certified, we are supporting them in their effort to win contracts and the renewal of this award allows us to continue that effort," she adds.

Connect Forum is one of the many small business programs offered by GAACC. Others include Business Basics which covers fundamentals of starting a business, and Business Buzz which is on marketing. In addition, GAACC manages the City of Austin's ATX+PAK program to connect the startup ecosystem in Austin and Pakistan. The first cohort of technology firms recently completed their three week training program in Austin. GAACC also supports the regions trade relationships to Asia.

GAACC is a non-profit member based organization that educates, advocates for, and connects people to the Asian Pacific American business community in Central Texas. <u>www.AustinAsianChamber.org</u>

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