

CelebrASIAN 2021 Turns into a Goldmine of Supplier Diversity information, Re-assures of Inclusion & Opportunities

CPOs and D&I Leaders share Market Intelligence & Roadmap to Supplier Diversity & Procurement Opportunities for Small and Diverse Businesses

WASHINGTON D.C., DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, UNITED STATES, June 11, 2021 /EINPresswire.com/ -- As USPAACC completed a 3-day flagship CelebrASIAN Business + Procurement Conference, Agility and Adaptability were the key takeaways for the small, minority, and diverse business community.

Now on its 36th year, USPAACC assembled 66 speakers from Fortune 1000 Corporations, Federal Agencies, Chamber Leadership Alliance Presidents, CEOs, and Founders, and Pan Asian American suppliers and entrepreneurs over 25 sessions for the CelebrASIAN Conference. More than 800 participants tuned in on the virtual platform, held June 8 – 10.

The third day of the conference built upon the substantive business development forums and discussions of the previous two days, also focused on opportunities in the supply chain, latest best practices, strategies, and the big picture on procurement.

Congresswoman Young Kim (R-CA) started off the day with encouraging remarks on how minority communities supported each other during the pandemic. Subash Iyer, Chief Counsel, Federal Transit Administration of U.S. Department of Transportation, shared his insights on how jobs are the centerpiece in the re-opening of the economy especially through increased infrastructure funding. Edith McCloud, MBDA, U.S. Dept of Commerce applauded USPAACC's work and effort and shared her agency's mission in expanded help for the minority business community.



CELEBRASIAN 2021 Business + Procurement Conference

- Biden Administration
- U.S. Congress
- Diverse Chambers of Commerce
- Asian American Leadership
- Chief Procurement Officers

Hon. Ben Cardin U.S. Senator (D-MD) Chairman, Senate Small Business & Entrepreneurship Committee	Hon. Mark Takano U.S. Representative (CA) Chairman, House Veterans Affairs Committee; Member, Education and Labor Committee	Hon. Judy Chu U.S. Representative (CA) Member, House Small Business Committee, and Ways & Means Committee	Hon. Young Kim U.S. Representative (CA) Member, House Small Business Committee, and Science, Space & Technology Committee
Hon. Isabella Guzman Administrator U.S. Small Business Administration	Edith McCloud Acting National Director, MBDA, U.S. Department of Commerce	Subash Iyer Chief Counsel, Federal Transit Administration U.S. Department of Transportation	Erika Moritsugu Deputy Assistant to the President & AAPI Senior Liaison, The White House
Susan Au Allen National President & CEO US Pan Asian American Chamber of Commerce IF	Ramiro Cavazos President & CEO US Hispanic Chamber of Commerce	Justin Nelson Co-Founder & President National LGBT Chamber of Commerce	Ron Busby President & CEO US Black Chambers, Inc.
Eric Toda Global Head of Social Marketing Facebook	Rachel Kutz Vice President, Customer Supply Chain & Global Logistics J&J Retail Group	Wassell Lewis, Jr. Vice President, Strategic Sourcing & Procurement W&M	Shahid Javed Chief Procurement Officer TIAA
Kevin O'Brien V.P. IT Chief Financial Officer, Chief Procurement Officer, & Senior Manager, IT & Finance New York State Thruway Authority	Chuck White Vice President of Procurement Walmart	Mark Reed Chief Procurement Officer Walmart	Jessica Rostman VP of Procurement Caption Entertainment
Amr Anjali Regional Manager Rampal Khanna	Namita Trishit Co-Founder & Chief Procurement Officer Rampal Khanna	Namita Trishit Co-Founder & Chief Procurement Officer Rampal Khanna	Namita Trishit Co-Founder & Chief Procurement Officer Rampal Khanna

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At the second round of the popular CPO Forum Rachel Kutz, VP, Global Connections Supply Chain Strategic Initiatives, AT&T said, "Organizations are being intentional in their approach and MBEs should show up well." She encouraged minority businesses to know their financial capabilities, learn how to respond to RFPs, and ask for help when necessary. "We are [here](#) to mentor," Kutz added. Talking about the evolution of the supply chain and current trends in procurement, Shahid Javed, CPO, TIAA, said, "Don't be a generalist, be a specialist. MBEs should be demanding." Wassel Lewis, CPO, Aflac, emphasized risk management as a prerequisite.

Jalayana Bolden, Director, AT&T, shared key tips for prospective suppliers to major corporations: "Get certified and register with organizations like USPAACC and build a portfolio. Sell us the solutions, not just your products. Share ideas on how to save money and increase efficiency. Help us help you get into our supply chain."

Clayton Judge III, Global D&I Lead, Nike, shared the corporation's plans to increase participation from diverse communities: "We are starting a mentorship and internship diversity program called the Nike Academy. We focus on connection, innovation, competition, and impact for our Diversity and Inclusion initiatives."

Gigi Dixon, Executive VP & Head of External Engagements, Wells Fargo and USPAACC National President & CEO Susan Au Allen closed the virtual conference in a candid conversation about how far the two organizations' collaborative work has come. "It is not a conclusion but an intermission, and we will continue our series of innovative D&I programs. We will keep expanding our efforts for small and minority businesses with the help of corporations and the Biden government," Allen said. "We thank our sponsors, speakers, and participants for helping to make CelebrASIAN conference a big success."

To learn more about CelebrASIAN Business + Procurement Conference, follow the link [here](#). For more information about USPAACC, click [here](#).

ABOUT USPAACC: Founded in 1984, the US Pan Asian American Chamber of Commerce Education Foundation (USPAACC) promotes, nurtures, and propels economic growth, innovation, and job creation by opening doors to procurement, educational and professional opportunities for Pan Asian Americans and their business partners in corporate America, the federal, state and local governments, and the small and minority business communities in the United States, Asia-Pacific, and the Indian Subcontinent regions. National office in the Nation's Capital | Regional Chapters: CA, TX, GA, NY, IL, DC-MD-VA.

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