

UCLA Institute of American Cultures

ANNUAL REPORT 2023–2024



**American Indian Studies Center
Asian American Studies Center
Ralph J. Bunche Center for African American Studies
Chicano Studies Research Center**

Message from the Vice Provost



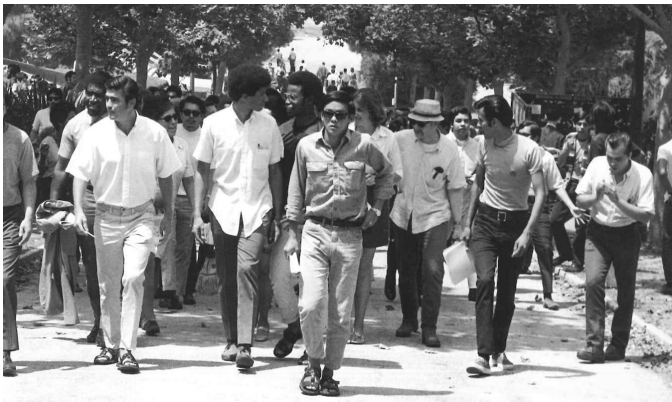
In a time when ethnic studies and inclusive excellence have been under attack, we are immensely grateful for Helen and Morgan Chu's landmark pledge of \$10M to the Institute of American Cultures and our ethnic studies centers. Their engagement and leadership, which started when they were undergraduates at UCLA, has spanned decades. Their support ensures that our work will continue for many years to come, bolstering UCLA's public mission to serve all of the people of California and beyond. These are indeed extraordinarily difficult times, and we do not take the future for granted. That said, we have stood the test of time for over fifty years and our commitment to advance research for social justice is unwavering.

Sincerely,

David K. Yoo
Vice Provost & Professor

Institute of American Cultures - iac.ucla.edu

- Helen and Morgan Chu, whose student activism in the late 1960s helped launch UCLA's ethnic studies centers, pledged \$10 million to the UCLA Institute of American Cultures, the largest gift ever made to the institute.
- The IAC and the ethnic studies centers continued to administer [UC Chancellor's Postdoctoral Fellowships](#), in partnership with the [Office of Research and Creative Activities](#) (ORCA) as well as part of the [Rising to the Challenge](#), [Hispanic Serving Institution Infrastructure](#), and the [Bruins Rising](#) initiatives. The IAC and the Chicano Studies Research Center have further benefitted from the support and leadership of ORCA on UCLA research seed grant programs focused on racial and social justice and Latinx studies.
- UCLA received the Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-Serving Institutions Program (AANAPISI) designation from the U.S. Department of Education as part of its Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs) programs that include Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSI), Tribal Colleges, and Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU).
- IAC partnered with [Gold Shield Alumnae](#) in sponsoring four undergraduate student summer internships that involved working with community partners in advancing inclusive excellence.
- The UCLA Asian American Studies Center and the Institute of American Cultures supported research on the Sugahara Papers that are part of the UCLA Library Special Collections as part of a pilot [UCLA Sugahara Project Archival Fellowship](#).
- [View a complete list](#) of the 2023–24 IAC Visiting Scholars, Graduate/Predocctoral Fellows, Research Grant Awardees, and the Shirley Hune Awardee.



Donors Helen and Morgan Chu's connection to ethnic studies at UCLA dates back to their days as undergraduate activists in the 1960s.

Pictured: Morgan Chu at the center of a group of students marching up Bruin Walk.

American Indian Studies Center - aisc.ucla.edu

Personnel

- Assistant Director Pamela Grieman retired on July 1, 2024, after serving over 20 years at the UCLA American Indian Studies Center.
- Director Shannon Speed was named UCLA's inaugural Paula Gunn Allen Chair in Gender Studies.
- Incoming AIS Faculty: Professor Vicente Diaz, Theresa Ambo
- Incoming AISC Associate Director for Community Engagement, Vicente Diaz

Highlights

- UCLA American Indian Studies Center and Film & Television hosted a screening of **Reservation Dogs** in the Billy Wilder Theater on November 4, 2023. The event included an in-person Q&A with producers-writers-directors Sterlin Harjo and Tazbah Rose Chavez, moderated by David Delgado Shorter, UCLA Professor of World Arts and Cultures/Dance.
- UCLA AISC planned an Alumni Reunion to bring together different generations of Native Bruins but had to pivot due to the protests on campus. Instead, a smaller scale luncheon was hosted for the special honorees.
- Native American and Pacific Islander Bruins Rising Initiative: the beginning of the new initiative to provide faculty.



Q&A with producers-writers-directors Sterlin Harjo and Tazbah Rose Chavez, moderated by David Delgado Shorter, UCLA Professor of World Arts and Cultures/Dance.



Dancers at the UCLA Annual Pow Wow.



The Class of 2024 stands with keynote speaker, Gary Farmer, at the UCLA Native Graduation.

Asian American Studies Center - aasc.ucla.edu

The Asian American Studies Center (AASC) accomplished major breakthroughs in the 2023–24 academic year. The hard work and dedication of the staff along with support from faculty, students, donors, and the many constituencies associated with the AASC deserves much recognition. The three main priority areas—The Native American and Pacific Islander Bruins Rising Initiative, AAPI Policy Initiative, the AAPI Multimedia Textbook Project—reached many milestones this year. Here are the highlights:

Native American and Pacific Islander Bruins Rising Initiative (BRI)

Professor Keith Camacho was appointed Associate Director to oversee the initiative. The AASC began implementation of the BRI starting with the hire of Associate Professor Lisa Uperesa in the Asian American Studies Department joining UCLA in Fall 2024. Kyle Yoshida (Mechanical Engineering), Angela Robinson (Theater) and Rebecca Delafield (Community Health Sciences) will be joining the UCLA faculty in 2025. We will conduct 2024–25 faculty searches with the Department of Public Health Policy and Administration in the Fielding School of Public Health and a school-wide search across all 7 departments in the School of Engineering.

AAPI Public Policy Initiative

On March 8, 2024, over 220 people gathered at UCLA for the second AAPI Policy Summit themed “Moving from Collective Knowledge to Action.” This was a culmination of two years of faculty engagement in policy research since the AASC received California state funds through Assembly Bill 85 (Chapter 4, Statutes of 2021). The 2024 Summit brought together policy makers, researchers, community based organizations, and members from the philanthropic and corporate sectors to discuss pressing issues affecting AAPI populations. Co-organized with the CA AAPILC and the CA Commission on APIA Affairs, the summit featured sessions on “Critical Advocacy for Higher Education,” “AAPI Hidden Homelessness,” “AAPI Political Power in 2024 Elections,” “Call to Action: Policy Recs & Bringing Community to the Capitol,” and a special lunch keynote address by California Attorney General of California, Rob Bonta.



2024 Asian American & Pacific Islander Policy Summit “Moving from Collective Knowledge to Action” on March 8, 2024, at the UCLA Meyer and Renee Luskin Conference Center.

(L to R): CA Assemblymember Al Muratsuchi, Isa Whalen (CA AAPI Legislative Caucus), Natalie Masuoka (UCLA Political Science Professor/AAPI Policy Initiative Director), Melany De La Cruz-Viesca (UCLA AASC Deputy Director), David Yoo (UCLA IAC Vice Provost and Professor), Karen Umemoto (UCLA AASC Director and Professor), Lois Takahashi (SJSU Associate Dean of Research and Faculty Success)

AAPI Multimedia Textbook

In June 2022, the California State Legislature allocated \$10 million to the AASC for the creation of an online multimedia textbook. Entitled **Foundations and Futures**, we scaled up work on the textbook that will help teachers who want to integrate Asian American and Pacific Islanders histories and experiences and create inclusive classroom dynamics by providing free media-enriched readings and lesson plans in history and social studies. This past year, we completed recruitment and onboarding of over 80 authors to write and curate 50 chapters. The staff facilitated work to receive the first 25 chapters, developed the digital platform, refined a prototype, conducted outreach to teachers and educational organizations, began teacher trainings and discussion of a training and outreach strategy, and entered a contract with a third party to work on licensing and permissions for multimedia objects. We received \$275,000 from the Luce Foundation and began a fundraising assessment and campaign to complete the project.



AAPI Multimedia Textbook Quarterly Meeting on December 11, 2023, at UCLA Hershey Hall Salon. Pictured are UCLA Asian American Studies Center and AAPI Multimedia Textbook Project Staff along with special guests.

Events Programming

AASC hosted and co-sponsored over 30 events, including *Never Forget: Filipinx Americans and the Philippines Anti-Martial Law Movement* art-making workshop, Oceanic Studies Book Forum, an event for Tritia Toyota's new book, *Intimate Strangers: Shin Issei Women and Contemporary Japanese American Community, 1980-2020*, and *Foundations and Futures AAPI Multimedia Textbook: Championing Ethnic Studies towards Solidarity*. We also hosted a Tribute for Min Zhou, Walter and Shirley Wang Endowed Chair in U.S.-China Relations and Communication, recognizing Professor Zhou's 15 years as the Wang Chair.



Intimate Strangers: Shin Issei Women and Contemporary Japanese American Community, 1980-2020. Book talk and signing with author Tritia Toyota on March 3, 2024, at West Los Angeles Buddhist Temple.

(L to R): Connie Yahata (West LA Buddhist Temple Member), Tritia Toyota (Author/UCLA Adjunct Professor), Marji Lee (UCLA AASC Librarian), Valerie Matsumoto (UCLA History Professor)



Celebration of Professor Min Zhou's 15 years of service as the Walter and Shirley Wang Chair in U.S.-China Relations and Communications (2009-2024), as well as her recent induction into The American Academy of Arts and Sciences and The National Academy of Sciences, on November 14, 2023, at UCLA Faculty Club.

Grant, Fellowship, Scholarship, Internship and Academic Prize Awards program

The AASC funded 39 awards for both graduate and undergraduate students for a total amount of \$169,950. Additionally, \$60,000 was awarded through the IAC predoctoral and graduate student fellowship and research grants programs. The Center also hosted two ORCA-IAC Chancellor's Postdoctoral Fellows.

Ralph J. Bunche Center for African American Studies - bunchecenter.ucla.edu

- Secured ongoing annual funding of \$3 million in the California State budget beginning in the 2024–25 fiscal year. Since 2018, state funding has supported faculty-led initiatives such as the Black Policy Project, Million Dollar Hoods, and the Bunche Fellows Program. In AY 2023–24, state funding also supported the Hip Hop Initiative, the Department of African American Studies, the Arthur Ashe Oral History Project, the Prison Education Project, as well as the IAC’s ongoing work in ethnic studies curriculum, including K-12 teacher training and resource development through the Ethnic Studies Certificate Program.
- Secured over \$2 million in private donations.
- Partnered with the California Legislative Black Caucus (CLBC) on the [2024 State of Black California Conference \(SOBC\)](#) in spring 2024. The SOBC 2024 was a resounding success, with an audience of about 200 policy, advocacy, business, academic, civic and community-based attendees all discussing how to build a thriving Black California.



Pictured: State of Black California on April 13, 2024, at the UCLA Luskin Conference Center.

(1st row, L to R): Bridgid Coulter Cheadle, Dr. Lorrie Frasure, CA Assemblymembers Dr. Corey Jackson and Lori Wilson, The Honorable Karen Bass - Mayor of Los Angeles, U.S. Representative Sydney Kamlager-Dove, CA Senator Steven Bradford, CA Assemblymembers Isaac Bryan and Christopher Holden, and The Honorable Yasmine-Imani McMorrin - Mayor of Culver City

Photo credit: Nathan Brown



(2nd row, L to R): Dr. Lorrie Frasure, CA Assemblymembers Reginald Byron Jones-Sawyer, Dr. Marcus Hunter, CA Secretary of State Dr. Shirley N. Weber, Kamillah Moore, J.D., and Steven Bradford

Photo Credit: Leroy Hamilton



(3rd row, L to R): Image from Road to Reparations Panel: California’s Leadership & How It Can Lead to National Reconciliation

Photo Credit: Leroy Hamilton

- The [Collaborative Multiracial Post-election Survey \(CMPS\)](#) moved to the Bunche Center in AY 2023–24. Now in its fifth cycle, the CMPS is a non-partisan, cooperative, multiracial, multiethnic, multilingual, post-Presidential election online survey in the United States that promotes better understanding of civic health and socio-political life. The project team secured a new \$849,995 research grant from the National Science Foundation for the 2024 CMPS, which will also include a large sample of California.
- The Mark Q. Sawyer Summer Institute in Race, Ethnicity and Politics, funded by the UC Office of the President’s UC-Historically Black College and University (HBCU) initiative, also moved to the Bunche Center in AY 2023–24. The Sawyer Summer Institute continued to partner with Howard University, training a new cohort of outstanding political science undergraduate students in quantitative research methods via a 6-week summer program at UCLA.
- The Hip Hop Initiative (HHI) named Joan Morgan the new artist-in-residence for the 2024–25 academic year focused on Hip Hop Feminism.
- HHI also continued its California Love Project through a series of panels and dialogues focusing on the West Coast’s influence on the cultural landscape of Hip Hop.
- The Bunche Center continued to administer three programs as part of the Rising to the Challenge (RTC) initiative, support the Department of Anthropology and African American Studies in securing new faculty hires, providing ten graduate students with summer funding, and selecting five recent PhDs as Chancellor’s Postdoctoral Fellows.

- Continued implementing a \$3.6 million grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation for “Archiving the Age of Mass Incarceration,” a three-year collaborative project between Million Dollar Hoods and the UCLA Institute of American Cultures. The grant enabled the digitization of over 400,000 records obtained from the Los Angeles Police Department and the collection of numerous oral histories and community artifacts presenting a counternarrative to the dominant narrative historically presented by police agencies.
- Through the Bunche Fellows Program, the Bunche Center supported 20 faculty-led research projects in a program of 60 total participants including faculty mentors, undergraduate fellows, and graduate fellows participating in the program. The Program welcomes Dr. Courtney Thomas Tobin, who will co-direct the 2024–25 program along with Dr. Ketema Paul.
- The Black Policy Project (BPP) released its [State of Black California 2024 Report](#) outlining the socio-economic standing of Black Californians, including a comparative analysis of Black Californians’ well-being across key indicators between 2000 and 2020.
- BPP was also awarded a contract through the City of Los Angeles Mayor’s Office of Community Safety. This work aims to design, develop, and implement a research and community engagement process to explore, identify, and document current perspectives, needs, and visions for community safety in City neighborhoods while fostering meaningful community dialogue.
- The Bunche Community Fund awarded \$78,000 in small grants to support faculty-led events and activities that enhance the intellectual community for African American Studies at UCLA and within Los Angeles.
- The Bunche Center awarded over \$200,000 in scholarships and awards to UCLA graduate and undergraduate students.
- The Bunche Center hosted a special event, at the Blackbird House, to recognize the installation of Director Lorrie Frasure as the inaugural Ralph J. Bunche Endowed Chair and to commemorate the 20th Anniversary of the naming of the Ralph J. Bunche Center for African American Studies. The event brought together campus leadership, faculty, staff, community partners, and several members of the Bunche Family including Ralph J. Bunche III. The event recognized Ms. Audrey M. Harris for her efforts to lead fundraising to establish the Ralph J. Bunche Chair in 1981. The Bunche Center announced the establishment of the Audrey M. Harris Change Agent Award, for undergraduate students interested in social change through philanthropy and development. The event also recognized, the extraordinary contributions of the inaugural Bunche Center director, Robert (Bob) Singleton who also attended the event with his family.

**Bunche 20th Anniversary Naming Celebration/
Endowed Chair Installation on May 2, 2024, at
The Black Bird House in Culver City, CA.**

**Top left (L to R): William James, Dr. Lorrie Frasure,
June Baldwin, and Audrey Harris**

**Top right (L to R): Ralph J. Bunche III, Stephen Taylor,
Karen Sutton, Coralyn Taylor, Nancy Taylor, Dr. Lorrie
Frasure, Peter Taylor, Allyson Taylor, and Terence
Keel**

**2nd row (L to R): EVCP Darnell Hunt, Dr. Claudia
Mitchell-Kernan, Helen Singleton, Dr. Lorrie Frasure,
Dr. Belinda Tucker, Dr. Richard Yarborough, and
Dr. Robert Singleton**

Photo credit: Sedgwick McCray



- The Bunche Center launched a multimedia archival and oral history research project to celebrate and uplift our Bunche Center directors and leadership. To date, using videography and in-depth interviews, we have captured the stories of Bunche Center directors Robert Singleton, Claudia Mitchell-Kernan, Belinda Tucker, Richard Yarborough, and Lorrie Frasure, with many more video interviews to come.

Chicano Studies Research Center - chicano.ucla.edu

HSI Latinx Infrastructure Initiative

The UCLA Hispanic-Serving (HSI) Latinx Infrastructure Initiative launched in 2021–22. In 2023–24, the CSRC continued its leadership role in the initiative by assembling faculty committees who:

- Helped lead four successful recruitments of faculty across campus whose work and/or experiences contribute to Latinx life at UCLA, plus an additional five potential hires pending offers, including a Senior HSI STEM Faculty Director. For this search, the CSRC collaborated with the Division of Life Sciences, Division of Physical Sciences, and Samueli School of Engineering.
- Selected the third cohort of UCLA Chancellor’s Postdoctoral Fellows (HSI). The incoming five fellows will be hosted in the Departments of English; Earth, Planetary, and Space Sciences; Chicana/o and Central American studies; Neurosurgery; and the Institute for Research on Labor and Employment.
- Reviewed applications for the third cohort of Latinx Studies Seed (LSS) Grant recipients and will award in total up to \$250,000 in research support.



New UCLA faculty and postdoctoral scholars at the HSI Faculty Welcome on October 2, 2023.

External Affairs

- In 2023–24, the CSRC received \$150,000 in new grants and contracts for the [Thriving Youth Study](#).
- The CSRC received 148 individual gifts for a total of \$2,064,294 for CSRC projects and student support. This includes the CSRC allocation from the historic \$10 million gift to the IAC from Helen and Morgan Chu.

Research

- For the CSRC’s Thriving Youth Study, which launched in Oxnard in 2022–23, researchers spent 2023–24 gathering and synthesizing data to inform health, education, labor, and civic interventions to help youth thrive. With support from the California Endowment, the Stuart Foundation, the Weingart Foundation, the Edward James Wood Family Foundation, and the McCune Foundation, this project has now been enacted statewide, including Oxnard, Lompoc, Santa Maria, East Coachella Valley, Imperial Valley, and Santa Cruz County.
- CSRC continued the youth-centered research project [California Freedom Summer \(CFS\)](#), which through university-community partnerships trained and placed students aged 16–21 as Summer 2023 interns and action researchers with 501(c)3 nonprofit organizations throughout the state. Students were selected from UCs, community colleges, and high school communities.
- [The Latina Futures 2050 Lab \(LFL\)](#), spearheaded by the CSRC in partnership with the UCLA Latino Policy and Politics Institute (LPPi) and supported by a \$15 million state budget allocation, entered its second year. In 2023–24, LFL published its strategic plan, made significant strides toward building its infrastructure, held groundbreaking public events, commissioned research from junior scholars for a Latina Futures anthology, and strengthened partnerships internal and external to UCLA, including with the UCLA Labor Center, UCLA Center X, the Williams Institute, the UCSC Dolores Huerta Research Center, and the USC Equity Research Institute, among many others.



Mathias Taylor, Lompoc youth researcher and transfer student at UC Davis, talks with KEYT reporter about his engagement with the CSRC's Thriving Youth Study and its significance in local political campaigns.

CSRC Library and Archive

- With support from the Latina Futures 2050 Lab and additional grants, the Library hired three new librarians to better steward women and LGBTQ collections, streamline reference services, and manage digital assets, preservation, and services for greater accessibility.
- Eight museum and community partner exhibitions in the US utilized images from CSRC archival collections, as did a combined twenty books, articles, television specials, documentaries, and other publications released during 2023–24. The CSRC Library hosted two guest-curated exhibitions, including [Be in the Moment: Portraits from L.A. Lowrider, Goth, and Punk Cultures](#).

CSRC Press

- The CSRC Press published [one printed book](#), four research reports, three issues of the CSRC electronic newsletter, one post on the CSRC Post, and two issues of [Aztlán: A Journal of Chicano Studies](#), which in 2023–24 became a copublication of CSRC Press and University of California Press.
- [Christina Fernandez: Multiple Exposures](#), a copublication with UCR Arts, earned the prestigious ALAA-Thoma Foundation Exhibition Catalogue Award and a Silver Medal for Best Arts Book and a Bronze Medal for Best Cover Illustration or Photo in the 2023 International Latino Book Awards.

Community Relations

- The CSRC welcomed new partners for collaborative research projects, including Youth Leadership Institute, Alianza Coachella Valley, Imperial Valley Equity and Justice Coalition, Imperial Valley College, Santa Cruz Community Action Board, Monterey Bay Labor Council, UCSC Center for Labor and Community, Cabrillo College, and the UCSC Institute for Social Transformation.



- In 2023–24, the CSRC organized or co-sponsored fifty-six events, including Latina Equal Pay Day and Día de los Muertos in Fall 2023, the symposium “Latina Futures: Transforming the Nation through Law and Policy” and the Inaugural Afro-Isthmus Symposium in Winter 2024, and a UCLA Medal event honoring Antonia Hernández in Spring 2024.

Antonia Hernández, a champion of Latina/o civil rights, was awarded the UCLA Medal, the university's highest honor, on April 23, 2024. The CSRC nominated Hernández for this award.

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