



## Press Release

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## CACF ANNOUNCES HONOREES OF INAUGURAL CATALYST FOR CHANGE AWARDS

**NEW YORK, NY** (October 25, 2017) - The **Coalition for Asian American Children and Families (CACF)** recognizes its honorees today, Wednesday, October 25<sup>th</sup> at the inaugural **Catalyst for Change Benefit and Awards Gala**, hosted in espace (635 West 42<sup>nd</sup> Street) beginning at 6:00 p.m. Bringing together over 300 community advocates and professionals across industries, Catalyst for Change is a celebration not only of CACF's dedication to empowering Asian Pacific American children and families, but also of those whose work and leadership have transformed lives and communities. Proceeds from the gala benefit CACF's leadership training programs and policy and advocacy campaigns.

CACF Co-Executive Director **Vanessa Leung** states, "CACF is building a movement, and we cannot do this on our own. We create strong coalitions of organizations to establish a unified pan-Asian voice for change. We build social justice leaders by training on the skills to identify community issues, develop solutions, and influence change."

CACF Co-Executive Director **Anita Gundanna** adds, "We envision an Asian Pacific American (APA) community with strong leaders who understand our community's strengths and challenges, and who are willing to push for change and address inequities. This evening, we are celebrating honorees that reflect CACF's guiding principles of fostering collaboration, promoting community leadership, and building collective voice."

Please see below for the 2017 Catalyst for Change honorees:

**Lisa Ling** is currently the executive producer and host of "THIS IS LIFE" on CNN. Previously, she was the executive producer and host of OWN's "Our America," a field correspondent for "The Oprah Winfrey Show," and the first female host of National Geographic's "Explorer."



**Suyin So** is the founder and executive director of Central Queens Academy Charter School, whose student outcomes have distinguished it as the highest performing charter school in Queens. “To be recognized by CACF, our community’s staunchest advocate for health and family policy equity, is a deep honor,” she thanks. “I congratulate my fellow distinguished honorees on their accomplishments on behalf of our community and CACF on its groundbreaking work.”

The founder of Practice for Architecture and Urbanism and author of “A Country of Cities: A Manifesto for an Urban America,” **Vishaan Chakrabarti** teaches architectural design studios and urbanism seminars at Columbia University’s Graduate School of Architecture, Planning & Preservation. “I am humbled to receive this wonderful award, among extraordinary fellow honorees, from this great organization so dedicated to the well-being of our youth in this great, but challenged, metropolis,” Vishaan shares. “These are trying times for all of us, particularly those of us who feel some sense of otherness; CACF reminds us that we are all in this together.”

Founded by **Sayu Bhojwani** in 2010 in direct response to anti-immigrant state policies, **The New American Leaders Project** trains first- and second-generation Americans to run for office and govern effectively once elected, fostering national discourse around inclusive democracy. Sayu says, “I am excited to be honored by the CACF, who shares our mission to create systems for long-lasting impact on Asian Pacific American and immigrant communities.”

Emcees for the evening are **Ernabel Demillo**, Reporter/Host of "Asian American Life" and Contributing Reporter for "Arts in the City" and "Science and U" on CUNY-TV; and **Cefaan Kim**, Reporter on WABC-TV Channel 7 Eyewitness News. A live auction and a pledge auction led by auctioneer **Charles Antin** take place after the awards ceremony.

The Catalyst for Change Benefit and Awards Gala is sponsored in large part by the Ong Family Foundation, Abigail E. Disney & Pierre Hauser, Bloomberg Philanthropies, and Edward Pauly & Barbara Turvett. Please visit [www.cacf.org](http://www.cacf.org) for a complete sponsor listing. Tickets start at \$500.

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*CACF is the nation's only pan-Asian children and families' advocacy organization bringing together community-based organizations as well as youth and parents to fight for equity for Asian Pacific Americans (APAs).*

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