

October 23, 2020

## ***Summary of Activities Since March 18, 2020 After COVID-19 Forced the Lockdown***

From the onset of COVID-19 in late February and in the midst of preparing for USPAACC's 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, we began to adjust our planned celebration of this milestone, not knowing what was coming and kept adjusting. Eventually, we changed our 3-day in-person conference to an extended months-long activity. They have and will consist of educational and business development programs, one-on-one business matchmaking meetings, innovation competitions, and recognition of corporations, governments, nonprofits, and Pan Asian American\* and other diverse businesses who are the reasons for our growth and success.

In early March, we called on President Trump, Senate Majority Leader McConnell and Minority Leader Schumer, House Speaker Pelosi and House Minority Leader McCarthy to urge passage of the CARES Act. On March 18, we closed the office and worked from home.

### **Working from home right after the lockdown**



\*Include East, South, Southeast and Pacific Islander Americans

On March 30, three days after President Trump signed the CARES Act into law, we launched our [LiveTALK online video broadcast](#) to inform our members, supporters, and the public about the PPP and EIDL federal loan assistance program. It was one of the most welcomed public program

Since then, we produced 16 **LiveTALKs** seen by more than 65,000 viewers. They covered [diverse topics](#) :

1. SBA Disaster Loan Application
2. Be Ready for Paycheck Protection Program
3. Uber's COVID-19 Response: Opportunities for Small Businesses
4. Strategies for Short Term Cash Flow
5. Optimism and Opportunities, Small Business Grants from Goldman Sachs and Facebook
6. How to Continue Business During COVID-19
7. Rebooting Our Economy
8. Realistic and Responsible Plan to Reopen the Economy
9. Doing Business with the US Department of Treasury
10. FOCUS: From Start-ups to Established Businesses
11. How to Do Business with Kroger and Kellogg's
12. Race Relations, A National Conversation
13. How to Do Business with the Federal Reserve System
14. How Small Businesses Excel During COVID-19
15. *E Pluribus Unum*, Out of Many, One
16. How We Partner for Business Success

In April, we began to connect our Asian American and other minority and diverse members to corporate members, and federal and state government agencies in need of PPE.

In May, we held a [CPO Council Roundtable](#) with 9 CPOs and a CDC Senior Scientist. Our CPO program was launched 9 years ago.

We held five 1-on-1 Business Matchmaking Meetings. This is a nationally popular business development program that USPAACC brought to the market in 1999.

As founding members of the Chamber Leadership Alliance, USPAACC, National LGBT Chamber of Commerce, US Black Chambers, and US Hispanic Chamber

of Commerce provided 6 public training sessions on nonprofit governance, leadership, programming, and fundraising to a national audience, [Chamber Leadership Development Program](#). There will be two more to come.

In September, we held our annual small business executive training and development program, [Business Express: Ready? Let's Grow!](#)

We also held our Employee Business Resource Group (EBRG) Leadership Caucus Meeting for our corporate members' employees. Uber and Novant Health subject matter experts addressed [Managing Mental Health & Well-Being While Working Virtually](#), a welcomed breather from the long lockdown.

34 entrepreneurs competed in our 6<sup>th</sup> Annual [What's Your Pitch Innovations Meet the Market Competition](#). On September 24, eleven finalists pitched their innovative ideas, solutions and products to a panel of expert judges. It took four hours, an exhilarating and fun event. The winners will be introduced at our December 8<sup>th</sup> 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Jade Jubilee Awards & Recognition Dinner. Come and meet them!



This week, October 21, we held our 16<sup>th</sup> annual Supplier Diversity & Procurement Leadership Caucus, known to be the best program in the industry designed for supplier diversity and procurement professionals to share best practices in

advancing the use of under-represented businesses as suppliers to corporate buying entities. Under the leadership of Co-Chairs Jackie LaJoie of Trane Technologies, John Weithman of Nationwide, and Chi Pak of T-Mobile, this was the best virtual gathering of Supplier Diversity and Procurement Professionals in history!



To continue our **35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** activities, please join us on November 16<sup>th</sup> when we will kick off **Unity Week** with our signature **CPO Forum** during our **Financial Services Brunch**, followed with small group meetings with procurement leadership. **Unity Week** is a collaboration of members of the country's 10 most dedicated and diverse nonprofit organizations for supplier diversity, equity and inclusion. Join us, the more the merrier!

On December 8<sup>th</sup> our **CIO & CTO Forum** during the *Business Leaders & College Scholarship Brunch* is a must-attend event.

Then the finale! The **Jade Jubilee Awards & Recognition Dinner** - please reserve the date, December 8, to be with us as we present for the first time in our

35 years' history, **USPAACC's Best 50 Corporations for Advancing Diversity, Equity & Inclusion.** You will find the finest of the country's advocates for equal opportunity, fairness and compassion.

### ***Finishing Thought***

Since the Novel Coronavirus was declared a pandemic, we have continued to spend fulltime, resources, and energy in what we do best — being nimble, focused and effective — to develop and match Asian American and other diverse businesses with opportunities in corporations, governments, and large nonprofits. Although 2020 threw us a curveball, we hit it and we think it is slowly landing out of the park.

See you on November 16<sup>th</sup> at the CPO Forum in Unity Week, and December 8<sup>th</sup> our 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Jade Jubilee Awards & Recognition Dinner. They are designed with you in mind. For more information, [www.uspaacc.com](http://www.uspaacc.com)

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