



Committee of 100



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COMMITTEE OF 100 SPEAKERS FORUM BRIEF

ASIAN AMERICAN PHILANTHROPY: STRATEGIC INVESTING FOR SOCIAL IMPACT



At the third Committee of 100 Speakers Forum, speakers explored the role of Silicon Valley philanthropic leaders and assessed the outlook of community-based and globally-focused impact investing.

Click [here](#) to watch the full event, and follow [@Committee100](#) and [#C100Forum](#) for information on upcoming C-100 Forums.

SPEAKER PERSPECTIVES



STEVE CHEN, CO-FOUNDER, AVOS AND YOUTUBE

As more Asians and entrepreneurs start giving back to the community, they are going to create pathways that will inspire others and guide others who want to do the same – much in the way that PayPal or Netscape have guided a lot of the start-ups in this area. They were the firsts in their fields, and their employees learned how to start companies through working for them. That's Silicon Valley, and that's the way I think we can get more people to give. I have confidence that Silicon Valley is still in its kindergarten years and that as it ages and as the CEOs and co-founders identify with causes they believe in, the ratio of net worth to donations will start converging on the same amount. I think people's minds are in the right place, but they don't know what direction to take or what the first step is in that direction. I think technology can help connect donors with purposes that they care about.



JENNY MING, PRESIDENT AND CEO, CHARLOTTE RUSSE

For me, giving is pretty emotional — a cause has to tug at my heart strings. Personally, it is not just about writing a check, but also about giving time because I want to see the impact first-hand. Working with women and girls is near and dear to my heart. There is an old Chinese saying that women hold up half of the sky, and in many developing countries it is the women who are charged with getting a family out of poverty. For instance, I was in Pakistan, and in many of these villages there is no work for the men so it is up to the women to create income. The microfinancing that you see there can be used by women to buy beads or fabric, make and sell goods like embroideries, and use that money to buy more beads and fabric. Having women educated to do this is a way out of poverty that I have seen first-hand.



AUDREY YAMAMOTO, PRESIDENT AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, ASIAN PACIFIC FUND

Within the Asian community, many are giving out of a sense of reciprocity; they feel that they have come from very humble beginnings, struggled here [United States] as a new immigrant, or that their parents struggled here as new immigrants, and they want to do what they can to give back. There are a variety of ways through which that is happening, both through dollars and time. I hope that as Asian Americans think about being philanthropic, they consider giving back to our community. Asian Americans make up almost a quarter of the Bay Area population, so we are part of the fabric of this community. Four out of the five ethnic groups with the highest rates of poverty in the Bay Area are Asian. So there is real need in terms of giving back and making a difference for those who are most vulnerable.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS



Executive Director Angie Tang and C-100 Members (bold) with Forum Speakers (L-R): **Chi-Foon Chan, Steve Chen, Jenny Ming, Lawrence Low, Dominic Ng, Clarence Kwan, Audrey Yamamoto, Jay Xu, Joan Chen,** and Dien Yuen.

Over 160 people attended the Forum held at the San Francisco law offices of Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe. Viewers joined the discussion online through Twitter and the C-100 UStream Channel.

The Committee of 100 is a leadership organization of prominent Chinese Americans in business, government, academia, and the arts. The Committee seeks to strengthen collaboration between the United States and China and further Chinese American contributions in the U.S. through educational exchange, public diplomacy, and leadership development. For over 20 years, the Committee has served as a substantive bridge in the U.S.-China dialogue by fostering regular exchanges with the leadership of Beijing, Taipei, and Washington. Members of the Committee of 100 are leading U.S. citizens of Chinese descent who leverage their collective influence, resources and experiences to address important topics shaping U.S.-China relations as well as issues affecting the Chinese American community.



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