



POLICY PLATFORM

Reimagining San Francisco's API Community's Safety Net and Socioeconomic Prosperity

San Francisco is renowned for its diversity and multicultural vibrancy, home to significant Asian and Pacific Islander (API) populations centered in neighborhoods like Chinatown, Japantown, SOMA, Tenderloin, Bayview, Visitacion Valley, Sunset, and Richmond. These areas, rich in cultural heritage and community activity, serve not only as homes for residents but also as pivotal economic and social hubs for the city at large.

This policy platform is focused on creating sustainable socio-economic prosperity through specific policy measures that honor and strengthen the unique cultural heritage and address the acute needs of API communities across neighborhoods such as Chinatown, Japantown, SOMA, Tenderloin, Bayview, Visitacion Valley, Sunset, and Richmond. We must continue to sustain the focus on *low-income and underserved API communities* who are the largest community impoverished and in need in San Francisco while uplifting their enduring dreams to contribute to the city's vibrancy in place through an equity lens.

Key Priority #1: Sustain and Expand the API Safety Net

API Council will prioritize policy measures that address:

- ❖ **Unified Health and Wellness Services:** Consolidate food security, mental health, and general wellness services under a single Office for Community Health in the Mayor's Office that would advocate for culturally appropriate services across API communities. This office shall provide a clear, data-backed financial and operational plan within its first year, aimed at both immediate relief and long-term sustainability.
- ❖ **Safety Net Access:** expansion of safety net programs that provide vital life-linking services and also may build on systems approaches to mitigate the need for some of these services.
- ❖ **Non-profit Sustainability:** Sustain and expand the API Equity initiative to strengthen key existing or new nonprofit hubs and infrastructure that provide critical services and creative placemaking bridging belonging and connection. Revitalize this initiative to focus on 'fulfilling the promise' of long-term capital investments for API-serving nonprofits, ensuring they have the infrastructure to thrive post-pandemic and beyond. This includes a designated fund for capital improvements and a set strategy for navigating post-pandemic challenges.

Key Priority #2: Empower Economic Development

API Council will prioritize policy measures that address:

- ❖ **Creative Placemaking:** Sustain and expand creative placemaking - integrating community, arts, festivals, events, and people who live in the neighborhoods - to foster engagement and belonging along with attracting visitors.
- ❖ **Affordable Housing:** Ensure key priorities of APIs through a racial equity lens at the county level as it builds new housing, acquisitions, and preservation with a concurrent focus on neighborhood infrastructure.
- ❖ **Infrastructure Improvement:** Invest in pedestrian-friendly streetscapes, improved signage, commercial storefronts, and community policing to ensure a safe and welcoming environment for residents and visitors.
- ❖ **Safety and Security:** Build robust initiatives to fund community safety and security where San Franciscans and visitors work, play, and live.
- ❖ **Climate Change:** Leverage Inflation Reduction Act opportunities and others to promote local hire, green our neighborhoods and improve open space.

Key Priority #3: Comprehensive City-Level Reforms and API Representation

API Council will prioritize policy measures that address:

- ❖ **Leadership Representation:** Inclusive Representation: Ensure greater API representation at all levels of city governance. This includes structured community feedback loops that integrate API leaders in policy-making processes, with a detailed action plan for achieving increased participation. API leadership and representation that has deep understanding and experience in community services and development are reflected in leadership levels within the Mayor's office, department heads, commission appointments, and others. There continues to be an appointed API representative at the Mayor's office as a community liaison.
- ❖ **City-level Coordination:** City Administrator to city departments ensure API racial equity lens and indicators are applied systematically to policies, resource allocation, and requirements for application. This is coordinated and administered equitably across the departments.
- ❖ **Civic Engagement and Power building:** Expand meaningful ways to engage community and grassroots leadership to enhance inclusion and belonging into city priorities and actions.
- ❖ **Multiracial Collaboration and Equity:** Foster and provide resources for community collaboration across the BIPOC community coalitions to lift and unite the vibrancy of San Francisco on many key initiatives and issues. Strengthen resources for creating cross-community coalitions that drive citywide initiatives on social equity. Each department will outline annual benchmarks for collaboration and resource-sharing, with an API liaison appointed to oversee and report on progress.
- ❖ **Financial Strategy:** Identify new revenue streams, including leveraging public-private partnerships and federal grants focused on urban development to support this expansive vision. Establish an independent financial review committee to oversee the allocation and ensure efficient use of resources dedicated to API communities.

The focus on expanding and sustaining key services and the safety net continues to be a critical strategy for API low-income residents and their families to stay in place and be engaged in San Francisco's reimagining of their own neighborhoods. This platform recognizes the vibrant contribution of the API communities to San Francisco's fabric and proposes actionable, resource-backed initiatives that cater to their unique needs while fostering sustained economic growth and cultural vibrancy. API Council through its coalition members embraces this policy platform and looks forward to working with the City of San Francisco, as well as other relevant stakeholders, on these priorities.

