The 2016 election saw victories for the Asian and Pacific Islander (API) community. Especially exciting is the historic election of Kamala Harris as California’s new senator and the first Indian-American and second African-American woman elected to the U.S. Senate. On what issues do you want her to work, and how? What changes would you want to see happen? What advice do you have for helping your community, our country, and the world?

2017 CONTEST THEME: LETTER TO THE SENATOR

Entry Deadline: Friday, March 3, 2017

Use the following questions to help spark your creativity. You do not have to answer any of the questions below as long as your entry addresses the theme.

- What issues are important to you and your family? Why?
- What problems in the Bay Area or in California do you think she should address immediately? What are the solutions?
- What would you share with the senator if you had the chance to meet her?
- How can the senator help unify our country through differences in political parties, religion, cultures and ideologies?

PRIZES

- 3 ESSAY and 3 ART winners from each grade category will win $500 in cash and prizes.
- Up to 3 VIDEO winners will win iPad minis and have their videos featured online.

IDEAS FOR YOUR ENTRY

Use the following questions to help spark your creativity. You do not have to answer any of the questions below as long as your entry addresses the theme.

- What issues are important to you and your family? Why?
- What problems in the Bay Area or in California do you think she should address immediately? What are the solutions?
- What would you share with the senator if you had the chance to meet her?
- How can the senator help unify our country through differences in political parties, religion, cultures and ideologies?
Winning entries are selected based on creativity, originality and skill in the category. Winners are notified by the end of April. Awards will be presented at a ceremony on May 13, 2017 at the Asian Art Museum. Must be present to win.

Art (K-12)

Format: MUST BE 8-1/2” x 11”

Materials and Media: Anything two-dimensional. All paints, crayons, colored pencils, markers, photographs, computer generated graphics etc. are accepted. No sculptures or pop-ups, please.

Essay or Poem (K-12)

Format: 8-1/2” x 11” paper, 12 pt. font size.

Length: 500 words MAXIMUM. Hand-written essays accepted. Please print or write on one side only.

Video (6-12)

Only 6-12th grade contestants are eligible to submit video entries.

Format: Videos must be 1 minute MAXIMUM. 300MB (size) max. Video files must be in .avi, .mov, or .wmv.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- Students of all backgrounds and ethnicities are invited to submit entries.
- You must be in grade K through 12.
- You must live in Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Solano or Sonoma County.
- If you have won in previous years, you cannot submit an entry unless you are in a different grade/entry category now. The three grade categories are grades K-5, 6-8 and 9-12. The entry categories are Art, Essay and Video.
- Contestants cannot win a prize in more than one category (ex. Art and Essay).
- Children of contest judges or screeners are ineligible to submit entries.

Entries must be postmarked by Friday, March 3, 2017 or delivered in person by 5 P.M. No entries will be accepted by fax.

Submitting materials to the contest is considered a grant of license to the Asian Pacific Fund to use the materials in any manner, including the creation of derivative works without payment of a royalty. The Asian Pacific Fund is a tax-exempt non-profit organization and will only use these materials to further its charitable and educational mission.

CONTACT THE ASIAN PACIFIC FUND AT (415) 395-9985 x500 or e-mail contest@asianpacificfund.org. More information on Growing Up Asian in America is available online at www.asianpacificfund.org or www.nbcbayarea.com, search "Growing Up."