



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** November 28, 2022

**Media Contact:** ECPR Texas

Matt Grilli

MGrilli@ECPRTexas.com

630.800.9533

## **Greater Austin Asian Chamber of Commerce honors local leaders with annual community awards**

*Winners to be recognized at Ovation X gala on December 3*

AUSTIN, Texas—Today, the Greater Austin Asian Chamber of Commerce announced the recipients of its annual business and community awards. The awards recognize individuals and companies in Austin's Asian Pacific American community—the fastest-growing demographic segment in Central Texas—that have contributed to the region's economic success and enabled it to thrive. The winners will be honored during the organization's annual gala, Ovation X, on December 3.

"For years, the growing Asian business community in Austin has played a critical role in making our region the economic powerhouse it is today," Fang Fang, president and CEO of the GAACC, said. "To bring the Asian community together for a night to celebrate achievements and look ahead to the vast potential of the next 10 years makes the Ovation X gala truly special. It's the best Asian party in town!"

The list of award winners includes:

- [Chi'Lantro BBQ](#), a Korean barbecue-inspired restaurant, as the winner of the **Robert Lee Business of the Year**, which recognizes an Asian Pacific American-owned business that has been operating for more than five years and achieved growth and success with a legacy for emulation.
- [SOAL Technologies](#), a global workforce solutions company, as the winner of the **Paul Kim Emerging Business of the Year**, which is awarded to an Asian Pacific American-owned business that has been in business for five years or less or has shifted the focus of their enterprise within that span, and has high growth and potential for continued success and job creation.

- [Austin Venture Association](#), a non-profit supporting Austin's startup ecosystem, as the winner of the **Ying McGuire Community Organization of the Year**, which is presented to an Asian Pacific American entrepreneur or group in the creative field.
- [Kaiju Cut and Sew](#), a custom bags and wares company showcasing Japanese fabrics, is the winner of the **Creative Arts Entrepreneur of the Year Award**, which recognizes an Asian Pacific American entrepreneur in the creative field.
- Ali Khataw, the president and CEO of Encotech Engineering Consultants, is the winner of the **Lifetime Achievement Award**, the organization's highest individual honor. Khataw is the former board chair and current chairman emeritus of the GAACC. In 2012, he and Mr. Jim Yatsu formed the Greater Austin Asian Chamber of Commerce by merging two Asian organizations in Austin—the Texas Asian Chamber of Commerce and the Austin Asian American Chamber of Commerce. Khataw is also a member of the University of Texas at Austin's Academy of Distinguished Alumni.

Robert Lee, Paul Kim and Ying McGuire will receive "Pillar of the Community" awards for demonstrating exceptional support for the GAACC and the Asian Pacific American community since the inception of the Greater Austin Asian Chamber of Commerce in 2012. Lee, Kim, and McGuire all served on the GAACC board of directors until 2022. These three awards were renamed in their honor this year, designations that will remain in place for the next five years.

Ovation X is the annual celebration of Asia Pacific American heritage and accomplishments hosted by the Greater Austin Asian Chamber of Commerce. As this year marks the 10-year anniversary of the GAACC's establishment, the gala will look back on the incredible achievements of the Asian Pacific American business community throughout the past decade, while looking ahead to imagine what Austin will be like in 2032. The event will begin at 6 p.m. on December 3 at the JW Marriott in downtown Austin.

For more information on Ovation X or to purchase tickets, visit [www.OvationGala.org](http://www.OvationGala.org).

### **About the Greater Austin Asian Chamber of Commerce**

The Greater Austin Asian Chamber of Commerce (GAACC) engages with members of the Central Texas business community, with governmental entities, and with nonprofit organizations to help drive local economic growth for businesses with ties to or allyship with Asia and Asian Americans. GAACC works to develop Austin's global business connectivity while promoting regional economic equity for all. To learn more, visit [www.AustinAsianChamber.org](http://www.AustinAsianChamber.org).