

ASIAN AMERICAN PACIFIC ISLANDER SHOWCASE



AJAY BHATT

Computer Architect



Ajay Bhatt is an Indian-born computer architect who co-invented the USB (Universal Serial Bus). He went to college at the Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda in India, where he received a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering. He then moved to the United States and earned a master's degree in electrical and electronics engineering from The City University of New York.

In 1990, Bhatt started working at Intel Corporation. While there, he helped develop many important computer innovations - his most famous being the USB port. After his wife and daughter had trouble printing homework from their home computer, he was inspired to make the process easier. The development of the USB port made it easier to connect devices like printers, cameras, and phones. Although Bhatt and Intel could have made a lot of money from this invention, they decided to allow anyone who wanted to adopt the technology standard for free. This made it easier for different companies to make products that worked with computers and made technology more accessible to consumers worldwide.

In addition to the USB, Bhatt has more than 132 U.S. and international patents for other inventions. His inspiration from his family revolutionized how we build computers, and he continues to advise the tech industry as a leader in technical knowledge and industry experiences.

ASIAN AMERICAN PACIFIC ISLANDER SHOWCASE



DR. EDWARD TSANG LU

Physicist and
NASA Astronaut



Born in 1963, Dr. Edward Tsang Lu is a Chinese American who spent much of his childhood in Honolulu, Hawaii, and Webster, New York. Dr. Lu's career in science and engineering began at Cornell University, where he earned a Bachelor's degree in electrical engineering. He then went to Stanford University, where he earned his doctorate in applied physics, a degree focused on solving physics-related problems in science and engineering. This training prepared him well for his next big move: being accepted into NASA's astronaut program.

In 1997, Dr. Lu flew his first mission as a NASA astronaut. He flew two more missions, spending over 206 days (about seven months) in space during his twelve years as an astronaut. Dr. Lu conducted experiments and research in space, including studying the Earth's atmosphere and the behavior of liquids in microgravity.

After he retired from NASA, Dr. Lu became a research scientist in solar physics, astrophysics, plasma physics, and planetary science at various institutions. Focusing on his interest in asteroid deflection, he co-founded the B612 Foundation. This foundation protects the planet from asteroids that could impact Earth. Dr. Lu still works with this foundation today, where they innovate technology, inform others, and advise governments on deflection missions.

ASIAN AMERICAN PACIFIC ISLANDER SHOWCASE



DR. KAZUE TOGASAKI Medical Doctor



Dr. Kazue Togasaki was born in 1897 and was described as “strong-willed” by her large, Japanese American family. Her path into medicine was inspired by catastrophe when her hometown in San Francisco was decimated by an earthquake (and the fires that followed). At just nine years old, Dr. Togasaki helped her mother turn a church into a makeshift hospital, cared for the wounded there, and helped translate for Japanese American women at the hospital.

After getting a degree in Zoology from Stanford University, Dr. Togasaki struggled to find work as a Japanese American woman. Persevering, she finished at the top of her class in a nursing program at a children’s hospital. Even after this, she was shocked to learn that no one would hire her in the area. Challenging herself and society’s conventions further, she graduated from medical school in Philadelphia in 1933. Returning to her hometown, she finally opened her practice and began making a life for herself as a doctor.

Dr. Togasaki would face adversity and discrimination again as the world plummeted into World War II, but she never lost her perseverance or the desire to care for others. After decades of caring for others regardless of their financial means, Dr. Togasaki passed away in 1992.

ASIAN AMERICAN PACIFIC ISLANDER SHOWCASE



MAI NGUYEN

**Climate Scientist &
Agriculture**



Mai Nguyen first learned how to grow plants alongside her grandmother as a child and later went to college to study geography, atmospheric physics, and soil science. She spent her twenties in a lab studying the atmosphere and soil along the West Coast of the United States but began to worry that someone needed to be working more directly to protect the planet. Nguyen later realized that the solution was to be the someone she was hoping for, and soon adopted the title of “Farmer Mai.” She reviewed and pursued every resource she could find and eventually felt confident enough to start her farm using practices she knew would protect the environment.

Nguyen was surprised that while California was home to millions of Asian Americans much like her, many farm advisors tried to deter her from growing Asian crops in the state. Searching for solidarity, she founded the Asian American Farmers Alliance, which not only brought Asian Americans together but also enabled the group to work towards better recognition for farmers from diverse backgrounds. Today, Nguyen works to improve the environment and promote awareness of the ethics surrounding farming in the United States.