Janelle Wong received her PhD from the Department of Political Science at Yale University. She holds a joint position in the Departments of American Studies and Government & Politics at the University of Maryland and is a core faculty member in the Asian American Studies Program there.

Janelle Wong is author of Immigrants, Evangelicals and Politics in an Era of Demographic Change (2018), Democracy’s Promise: Immigrants and American Civic Institutions (2006) and co-author of two books on Asian American politics. The most recent is Asian American Political Participation: Emerging Constituents and their Political Identities (2011), based on the first national survey of Asian Americans’ political attitudes and behavior. This groundbreaking study of Asian Americans was conducted in eight different languages with six different Asian national origin groups. Wong has received research funding from the National Science Foundation, Russell Sage Foundation, Irvine Foundation, and Carnegie Foundation. Wong’s research is on race, immigration, and political mobilization. As a scholar and teacher, Wong has worked closely with social service, labor, civil rights, and media organizations that serve the Asian American population.
Mee Moua

Mee Moua is the Principal of InterDependent Group, LLC, which provides training, facilitation and coaching support for individuals and organizations in planning, leadership, and transformation. She is passionate about democracy building, heart leadership and making visible the interconnectedness among peoples. Some of her clients are local and State elected officials, community and national foundations and non-profit organizations undertaking organizational transformation.

She was the President and Executive Director of Asian Americans Advancing Justice-AAJC, a leading national civil rights organization based in Washington, D.C. Prior to her work in Washington, DC, she was an attorney and a member of the Minnesota State Senate. She was the first Hmong American to be elected to a state legislature in the United States, served three terms before retiring in 2010, and served as the Chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee in her final term.

Mee was born in Laos and came to the United in 1978 as a refugee. She grew up in the mid-west, attended Brown University, received her MPA from the LBJ School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas at Austin and earned her JD from the University of Minnesota Law School.

She is a recognized public speaker, leadership mentor and relationship weaver. She currently works and lives in Maryland with her husband and their three children.
Chanda Parbhoo

Chanda founded SAAVE TX in 2017 to enable more effective South Asian progressive political organizing in Texas. The group is the largest South Asian outreach organization in the state and helped to triple voter turnout in midterm elections from 13% to 43% in 2018. She developed a comprehensive field program for outreach and helps candidates successfully reach the South Asian community in a way they were not able to previously. By building coalitions with other groups, she has formed strong networks that both enhance the efforts of SAAVE TX and promote active collaboration.

She also founded Texas Deserves Better, a grassroots organization committed to increasing voter turnout through sustained, community-level work. She has increased voter turnout in her district by 30%. She has also worked directly with progressive candidates on fundraising, and outreach including Beto O’Rourke. Plano Magazine featured her in their “Girl Boss 2017” profiles as a “local female maverick,” for “toiling relentlessly with little regard for acclaim or celebrity, shaping our community from their various platforms and making life in Plano better.”
Tavae Samuelu

Tavae Samuelu is the daughter of a pastor from Leulumoega and a nurse from Saleimoa in Sāmoa. As the Executive Director of Empowering Pacific Islander Communities (EPIC), she’s a passionate advocate for Native Hawaiians & Pacific Islanders and is committed to liberation for all. Tavae was born and raised in Long Beach and moved to the Bay to attend UC Berkeley where she majored in Ethnic Studies. Before joining EPIC, she served as the Development Director for the RYSE Youth Center in Richmond and has since become a member of RYSE’s Board of Directors.
Chai Moua lives in Stevens Point with her husband Phong Vang and their four children. She has a Bachelor’s Degree in Human Services Management and is currently pursuing a Master’s Degree in Organizational Leadership. She holds a Family Development Specialist Certification from the National Resource Center for Family Centered Practice and the University of Iowa School Social of Work. Chai started off her work in community organizing with one of Madison’s most isolated neighborhood. This is where she realized her passion to fight for racial and gender equity. She has over 15 years of expensive experience working with low to no-income communities, especially the Hmong community.
Jigme Ugen became the first Tibetan refugee in the world elected as a labor union officer in 2007, the Executive Vice President of SEIU Healthcare Minnesota. He was born in India and immigrated to the US in 2002 and worked in Late Senator Paul Wellstone’s re-election campaign.

Ugen has been involved in some of the largest union campaigns and successful political elections in the country. He serves as a board member for several local and national non-profits. In 2013, Ugen co-founded the Tibetan National Congress, an independent Tibetan political party and was elected its President for his second term. As a labor leader and a renowned Tibetan activist, Ugen is committed to fighting for and centering the voices and experiences of refugees, immigrants and people of color around worker’s rights, civic engagement, immigration, environmental and racial justice.”