



## 2009-2010 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

### CENSUS OUTREACH

- Met with U.S. Census officers and local community leaders to increase response rate among Indian American population
- Authored articles in local newspaper (Austin South Asian) regarding 2010 Census
- Received pass-through grant from Census for outreach material (flyers, tote bags, etc.)
- Disseminated outreach materials to community through local places of worship, small businesses, community organizations, and other high-traffic areas
- **Notable:** IACT's outreach efforts were recognized in *Austin American-Statesman* article regarding census outreach (March 13, 2010 article)

### ENGAGING THE POLITICAL PROCESS

- Organized Candidate Forum for Austin City Mayoral election
- Cosponsored (with NAAO) a Town Hall Meeting with Austin Mayor Lee Leffingwell; this town hall meeting had an incredible turnout (600+) that signaled the importance of working with other Asian American groups
- Held meetings with legislative and policy staff of federal elected officials (e.g., Sen. John Cornyn [Chairman of Senate India Caucus], Rep. Lamar Smith)
- Approached by Capital Area Asian American Democrats (CAAAD) and Travis County Democratic Party for AAPI Outreach efforts
- Prepared and disseminated election issue summaries for IACT membership and *Austin South Asian* readership
- Met with Austin City Councilmember Randi Shade on behalf of IA community
- Voiced concerns through public and private channels concerning unfounded accusations against one of the longest-tenured Indian Americans working for the City of Austin. After investigation, this individual was fully exonerated and returned to his high-ranking position with the City.
- Continued voter registration efforts (ongoing)

### COMMUNITY AWARENESS AND PARTICIPATION

- Through Census outreach efforts, IACT board members met with numerous Indian-owned small businesses to understand their needs

- Coordinated meetings with leaders of numerous community organizations serving the Austin-area Indian American community
- Worked with ICC (Indian Community Center) on common goals to improve communication among Indian American community
- Assisted ICMCA in attracting local public officials to event raising funds for local nonprofits
- Individually and as an organization, IACT board members have written numerous letters to the media and to community leaders regarding portrayal of Asian Americans or Indian Americans (e.g., racial profiling, negative stereotyping of Indian Americans or immigrants generally, etc.).

### **ASIAN-AMERICAN RESOURCE CENTER (AARC)**

For several years, IACT members have played an active role in steering the scope, vision, and mission of the AARC, a multi-million project funded in part by the City of Austin. Within the last year, IACT has:

- appointed one of our IACT members to the AARC Board of Directors
- received input from community members and leaders as to the needs and expectations of the Indian American community with respect to the AARC project
- Participated through NAAO (Network of Asian American Organizations) in “An Evening in Asia,” a gala event to raise funds and awareness about AARC

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For more information about any of these activities, please contact Mr. Ashwin Ghatalia, IACT President, at [ashwin\\_ghatalia@yahoo.com](mailto:ashwin_ghatalia@yahoo.com) or (512) 327-4343.