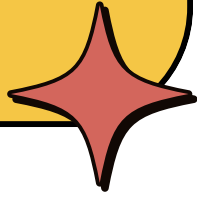




iHub at D-I-C-E's Unforgettable Journey at the 2024 UCA Youth Convention



Reliving the Spirit of 2022: iHub's Debut

Our journey with the UCA Youth Convention began in 2022, marking iHub's exciting debut. That year, iHub participated in both the showcase and a key presentation centered around our core message of "allyship." Our trio—featuring UCA Youth Leadership awardee **Christina Lu**, iHub Fellowship awardee **Sophia Wang**, and iHub's Founder & Managing Director **Jaclyn Lee**—brought back invaluable learnings and feedback. Since then, we've proudly collaborated on numerous major programs and events with UCA NJ, continuing to build on our initial success and making a lasting impact.



The 2024 UCA Convention: A New Horizon

The enthusiasm and dreams we ignited then have only grown stronger, fueling our return to this year's convention with renewed energy and a clear mission in mind. The 2024 UCA Convention was a whirlwind of energy, featuring five dynamic tracks designed to ignite, educate, and inspire:

- Youth
- Mental Health
- Community Building & Civic Engagement
- AANHPI Political Action
- Entrepreneurship and Career Growth.

This year's event was particularly momentous, celebrating the 80th anniversary of the Chinese Exclusion Act's revocation and the 60th anniversary of the Civil Rights Act. To mark the occasion, President Biden himself sent a congratulatory letter to UCA.

iHub's delegation was larger and more diverse than ever, showcasing top-notch students ranging from high school to college, supported by passionate parents and professionals. Together, we brought a wealth of perspectives and energy to the convention, amplifying our mission and making a significant impact.

- Student Lead: **Justin Jiang**, Carnegie Mellon University
- Youth Delegate: **Sophia Wang**, Northeastern University
- Youth Delegate: **Andrew Ikemoto**, Rutgers University
- Youth Delegate: **Bob Yang**, Rutgers Preparatory School
- Youth Artist: **Angelina Xi**, New York University
- Youth Artist: **Nimo Ren**, Abington Friends School
- Professional Delegate: **Belle Lu**
- Operation Support: **Vivian & Weli Yang**
- Delegation Lead: **Jaclyn Lee**

Optimizing Our Convention Experience: iHub's Strategic Approach



To maximize our valuable experience at the convention — networking, showcasing, connecting, and learning — iHub meticulously prioritized our delegation planning and production. We focused on ensuring the team's readiness through detailed and inclusive preparations: from crafting strategies to managing logistics, our pre-convention work was comprehensive.

We centered our showcase around the theme of “storytelling,” carefully designing elements that would bring this theme to life. Each planning session strengthened our team dynamics and honed our approach. With five thorough planning meetings completed, we ensured that every aspect of our delegation was perfectly poised to make a significant impact. Special acknowledgement goes to our remote youth delegates **Angelina** and **Nimo**, whose vital efforts in producing video and webpage content advanced our digital engagement and extended our success at this year's convention.



Day 1

APAPA and UCA Congressional Advocacy Day: Capitol Hill Highlights



Our delegation, alongside 300+ fellow AAPINHer, made a remarkable impact on Capitol Hill during Congressional Advocacy Day. We engaged in strategic visits to numerous congressional offices, effectively presenting our community's crucial legislative priorities directly to staffers and members of Congress.

The day featured two types of meetings: pre-arranged and what we referred to as "storming," the latter involving impromptu visits. With no pre-arranged meetings for NJ, our delegation embraced the "storming approach." Briefed by the APAPA team on effective tactics, we navigated our assigned turfs with determination.

A notable highlight was our meeting with NJ House Representative Rob Menendez (District 8) and his Chief of Staff. Congressman Menendez, a strong advocate for mental health, resonated deeply with our concerns about the shortage of mental health professionals. Congressman Menendez's willingness to engage with us and his attentive response to pressing issues stressed the importance of our legislative priorities and underscored the urgent need for enhanced support in this critical area.

Despite the day's challenges, including shifting assignments and filling in the various roles of lead speaker, storyteller, note-taker, and photographer, our team (consisting of delegation members **Jaelyn Lee, Justin Jiang, Sophia Wang, Andrew Ikemoto**, Vivian Wang, Stone Li - student at Race Univ. and Stephanie Sun, national board member of UCA) managed to enter 9 offices and present several crucial Asian/Chinese-related bills, leading to meaningful conversations with the staffers. For the first time an AAPINHer Congressional event of this scale has taken place, we can confidently say that the event concluded with valuable connections and successful advocacy.



Congressional Reception: A Night to Remember

The evening reception in Congress was a stellar event, featuring influential speakers with the likes of APAPA CEO Mary Yin, UCA President Haipei Sue, and VIPs such as Asian American congress members Judy Chu, Grace Meng, Ted Lieu, and Andy Kim, along with Texas State Representative Gene Wu.

Thanks to the congressional visit's briefing, our iHub delegation had the opportunity to work with APAPA Campaign Manager Andrew and meet their visionary CEO, Mary Yin. Meeting Texas State Representative Gene Wu was particularly inspiring; his passion for civic engagement among the next generation of Asian Americans on the national level was truly eye-opening.

We were also honored to speak with Congressman Andy Kim and thank him for his support and encouragement for our Gen Z Masterclass program in 2023, which many of our delegation members participated in. By connecting with such leaders, our delegates gained invaluable insights and established new alliances.

UCA Reception/Youth Talent Show: A Night of Harmony and Fun

Our delegation was able to make an early exit from Capitol Hill, thanks to our wonderful delegation guardians **Mr. and Mrs. Yang**, who chauffeured us throughout the day. This allowed **Andrew**, one of our youth delegates and a talented musician from Heal4Music, to fit in some rehearsal time before his major talent show performance. As we unloaded luggage and set up in the lobby of the Omni Shoreham Hotel in DC, **Andrew's** spontaneous cello practice captivated a growing crowd of curious hotel guests. It was teamwork at its finest! We even jokingly considered setting up a donation box in front of his cello!

The Youth Talent Show, kicked off by Youth Convention Chair Ms. Min Liu and hosted by UCA Youth Convention Student Chair William Li, was a standout event where iHub truly shone, as one of only three organizations participating. **Andrew** captivated the audience with two acts: the first movement of Saint-Saëns' Cello Concerto No. 1 and a vibrant rendition of the Habanera from Carmen by Bizet, featuring a dynamic jam session with Dr. YZ, a UCA board member and iHub Advisor.

The evening was further enlivened by Lucas Li's remarkable San-sein performance and a stunning saxophone duet by brothers Will and Mark. The show ended on a high note, showcasing iHub's remarkable presence and leaving everyone inspired and entertained!



Day 2

iHub in Community Showcase: A Burst of Creativity and Connection

Thanks to the Youth Convention Co-Chair Hong Qi, iHub had the exciting opportunity to showcase once again this year. Building on our previous success and **Jaclyn's** multicultural marketing flair, our booth became a lively showcase of creativity. Adorned with eye-catching banners, trifold presentations, a variety of flyers, and posters co-created by our talented delegation students, it buzzed with energy and perfectly embodied iHub's mission to amplify voices, connect with others, and drive change.

Our giveaways were a crowd-pleaser, featuring strawberry marshmallows from Japan, Ninja stress relief balls, and Chinese Hawthorn candies for a delightful cultural touch. In line with our storytelling theme, we highlighted a miniature cello to underscore our musical narrative focus and displayed stunning art from our 2021 Calling for Allyship program, thanks to leading student artist **Angelina**. Award-winning photos from our student videographer **Nimo** added a visual punch, each of the works earning praise and relatable remarks from passersby.

To create a more interactive area within the showcase room, we rolled out a "Tell Your Story" table topic activity. Guests picked topics from Life Stage cards prepared by our delegate **Bob** and shared their thoughts on camera, with **Justin** and **Bob** as enthusiastic facilitators. Our booth quickly became the go-to spot for sparking conversations, making new friends, and soaking up feedback. Youths from other stands, outside attendees, and even adults flocked to join the fun, chat with us, and dive into our activities. To top it off, our delegates had the special thrill of being interviewed by a convention speaker, adding a memorable twist to our successful showcase campaign.

Welcoming New Talent: Embracing Feedback and Building Connections

We truly appreciate all the encouragement and feedback we received. A memorable moment of our trip was when students joined us on the spot, excited to become part of our community! We were thrilled to welcome new members and build connections with outstanding allies. Among our new additions were the exceptional fellow exhibitor Justin Xu and the remarkably talented international student from Sydney, Evan Tong.



Special Mentions of our allies:

- Justin Xu's booth drew significant attention.
- Rachel Yuan captivated visitors with her Lunar New Year booth.



iHub's Dinner Meeting: Celebrating Connections

Our evening capped off with a hearty brown bag of Uber Eats hot food from Evan's mom, Xiaohong, as we headed to the Roundtable venue. In the lobby, we gathered to savor the meal while talking more with the new friends our team had made during the day. We celebrated our achievements and discussed exciting future plans, including our upcoming 5th-anniversary celebration.



Community Youth Roundtable: iHub's Dynamic Showcase of Storytelling and Collaboration

Thanks to the invitation from Youth Convention Chair Prof. Min Liu and Student Chair William Li, iHub was privileged to participate in this impactful youth roundtable and connect with like-minded organizations and youth leaders. Under the leadership of our Youth Lead **Justin Jiang**, our student delegates **Sophia Wang**, **Andrew Ikemoto**, and **Bob Wang** proudly demonstrated our distinctive approach to storytelling and intergenerational collaboration.

Significantly, our youth was involved in every aspect of the presentation—the iHub “amplifying voices” T-shirts worn at the convention and during the presentation were designed by our own delegation. Additionally, our presentation featured some of our booth’s previously mentioned items: **Angelina’s** compelling art pieces accompanied by **Andrew’s** miniature cello, representing iHub’s collective contributions and empowerment. Their presentations highlighted iHub’s dedication to AAPI youth empowerment and wellness advocacy, leaving a lasting impression on all attendees.

Jaclyn, iHub’s delegation lead and representative of the older generation, noted that the trip’s goal was to connect, learn, and explore collaborative opportunities for shared objectives. She emphasized iHub’s mantra of “calling for allyship,” highlighting the importance of standing up for one another and being each other’s allies. This experience provided iHub with not only the opportunity to connect and hear the voices of other driven AAPI youth groups, but also the honor of representing New Jersey as their sole representative.

Day 3



Convention Conclusion & Mental Health Summit

The final day of the convention was profoundly impactful, culminating in the Mental Health Summit, a notable highlight of the event. This summit featured an inspiring keynote by Norman Chen, CEO Of AAEF, who delivered a powerful address on the importance of mental health advocacy. His insights catalyzed thoughtful discussions and underscored the vital role of mental wellness in our communities.

The summit resonated with our ongoing commitment to mental health and set the stage for future initiatives. It was a day dedicated to deepening our understanding and reinforcing our advocacy efforts in this crucial area.

Dinner Gala & Cocktail Reception

As the sun set, we transitioned to an evening of celebration at the cocktail reception and dinner gala. The night was a whirlwind of excitement, featuring awards, speeches, and a spectacular lineup of performances. Alan Z's energetic rapping set the stage for an electrifying night, while Joe Huang's stand-up comedy had everyone in stitches.

The pinnacle of the evening was the thrilling final performance by Dr. YZ and his New Stone Age band. iHub's youth delegates – **Justin, Sophia,** and Justin Xu – enthusiastically invited new friends they'd met at the New Jersey Youth dinner table to join them in the front, taking turns playing instruments and dancing next to the stage. The band's captivating energy transformed the stage into a vibrant dance floor, unleashing the crowd's dance potential. Youth and older attendees alike eagerly joined in, mingling and dancing together, creating a lively and unforgettable atmosphere. The gala was a joyous celebration, with dance and laughter blending seamlessly, marking a triumphant and memorable end to an inspiring convention. It marked a night that will be remembered long after the music faded.



Day 4

3K Walk Honoring the Civil Rights Act's 60th Anniversary

The convention concluded with a historic civil rights march from the WWII Memorial to the Lincoln Memorial on June 30, marking the 60th anniversary of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. This landmark legislation, crucial in advancing equal rights, still profoundly impacts marginalized communities, including AAPI groups. Hearing about the march and the renewed commitment to equality reinforced the Act's ongoing relevance and highlighted the need for continued advocacy. This poignant moment served as a powerful reminder of our shared journey toward justice and the collective effort required to drive meaningful change.



Closing Thoughts & Forward Looking

The 2024 UCA Youth Convention was a remarkable experience for iHub. We connected with leaders, shared our stories, and forged new paths with many potential future collaborators. Our heartfelt gratitude goes to everyone who supported us, and we look forward to continuing this journey together!

Testimonials

"IHUB is a wonderful organization that utilizes storytelling of different mediums to advocate for people to be seen. They range from musical artists, painters, and so many more. Jacklyn Lee is an amazing leader that deserves all the praise and recognition that she receives. After spending just a few minutes with the students at the 2024 UCA convention, I could tell that this organization truly is trying to make a difference in this world, and I couldn't have been more thrilled to have had the opportunity spend time with them!"

- Aaron Hu, Film Director, Pratt Institute

"As an international student new to the U.S. and attending the UCA Convention for the first time, I was immediately welcomed by the iHub team. Jaclyn and her students were incredibly friendly. Participating in the iHub booth promotion was a fantastic experience for me. Thank you all!"

- Evan Tong, New York University

"作为一名来自澳大利亚的国际学生家长，有幸在2024 UCA青年大会期间，与iHub的Jaclyn老师和她的学生团队互动。iHub展台设计新颖独特，第一时间吸引了我们的目光。iHub学生们的热情和才华，Jaclyn老师的友爱，都给我留下了深刻的印象。祝孩子们前途似锦！"

- Hong, Evan's Mom