James An

Board Member

James An served as the 36th-term president of the Korean American Federation of Los Angeles (KAFLA). Under An's leadership, KAFLA has been recognized as a 2024 Top 100 California Nonprofit and a 2022 California Nonprofit of the Year. An has led KAFLA's COVID-19 pandemic recovery efforts since March 2020, making it the lead agency in California to assist over 70,000 Korean American and neighboring community members to receive over $50 million in critical economic aid, housing and food security, healthcare, and other essential resources. An has spearheaded KAFLA's initiatives fostering partnerships with federal, state, and local entities such as the Employment Development Department, Small Business Administration, CDC Foundation, City and County of Los Angeles, Federal Bureau of Investigation, and United States Citizenship and Immigration Services. As a staunch advocate of the Korean American community, An has worked with representatives to help enact policies that promote language access, equity, and public safety, and seek justice for victims of racially motivated violence. As a member of the Forward Together Committee, An has helped strengthen inter-community relationships and understanding through collaborative efforts. An served on the Koreatown Redistricting Task Force, helping to enact Koreatown to be unified into a single district for the first time in history–strengthening its political representation at the local, state, and national levels.

An was born and raised in Glendale, CA, and attended California State University, Northridge. Before being elected to KAFLA's top post in 2021, he served on its Board of Directors since 2018. An has served as Secretary of the City of LA's Wilshire Center Koreatown Neighborhood Council and on the board of Keep Koreatown. As head manager and owner of Pipers Restaurant, he oversaw its operations and new business development for 22 years. An is a recipient of the 2020 President's Volunteer Service Award and the 2019 Neighborhood Council Spirit Award.