



2024 Democratic National Convention

## Narratives That Build Power: Teaching AANHPI How to Reach Their Communities by Narrative Storytelling

Monday, August 19th

1 – 2:45 pm CDT



Anika Fassia is the co-founding Co-Executive Director of We Make The Future (WMTF) and We Make The Future Action (WMTFA). WMTF/A launched in early 2021 to combine strategic communications and coalition building to implement race forward narratives that motivate our base and persuade the middle for wins that allow all our communities to thrive. Anika leads WMTF/A's strategic direction and engagements in partnership with researchers, content creators, labor and community based organizations to bridge narrative and practice through creative implementation.

Anika was the former Director of Race Class Narrative Action where she led the outreach and partnerships of organizations spanning seven Midwestern states. Prior to Race Class Narrative Action, she managed the inception of Race Class Narrative which originated through a collaboration between Ian Haney López, ASO Communications, Lake Research Partners, Brilliant Corners, SEIU and Demos. In 2016, Anika also became a Registered Nurse

and continues to practice pediatric and community health nursing to stay grounded in the impact of our policies on the lives of children and families.

### **Anika Fassia**

Co-Executive Director, We Make The Future Action



Dennis Chin is the Chief Strategy Officer of We Make The Future (WMTF) and We Make The Future Action (WMTFA). In this role, he supports the WMTF/A team in integrating and executing our strategies - internally and externally - to ensure maximum impact. Previously, he served as the Vice President of Narrative, Arts, and Culture at Race Forward, where he co-designed and implemented Race Forward's narrative strategy for use across its program areas.

He also co-launched HEAL Together at Race Forward, a national campaign to advance honest, equitable, and fully funded public education. Based in Queens, NY, Dennis served on the Steering Committee of GAPIMNY, an organization that organizes queer and trans Asian Pacific Islanders to create positive change, and served on the Board of Directors of CAAAV:



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Organizing Asian Communities, an organization that builds grassroots community power across working-class Asian immigrants and youth in New York City.

### **Dennis Chin**

Chief Strategy Officer, We Make The Future Action



Ashley Cheng grew up in Austin, slinging egg rolls at her parents' Chinese restaurants. Today, she's a communications strategist, creative activist, and marketer for movements. Recent client causes have included clean air, reproductive rights, Medicaid expansion, and the statewide rollout of the COVID-19 vaccine in Texas. Ashley took a non-traditional path to activism, involving stops as an ice cream entrepreneur, yoga therapist, and a 15-year stint as a corporate PR pro. She is the co-founder and board president of the nonpartisan nonprofit Asian Texans for Justice.

Named a 2022 Austin Under 40 winner for civic and government affairs and 2020 Tribeza Magazine Person of the Year, she has a master's in social work from the University of Texas at Austin and a bachelor's in communication from Boston University. She serves as a Democratic National Committee member, dog mom to Eleanor Roooosevelt, and human mom to Cash.

### **Ashley Cheng**

Democratic National Committee Member