

Board Chair Minh Tran FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: October 25, 2024

Executive Committee

Naoko Cole Helen Haman Shanaz Hemmati Jessica Huynh Rashed Islam

Board Members

Pilar Castillo Clifford Chiu Min Choe Mojdeh Gharbi Kannan Kaliyur Ali Khataw Harrison Kim Wan Kim Ahmed Moledina Sharad Mudhol Kurian Panicker David Teo Yuen Yung

Advisory Board

Anbu Anbarasu Angelos Angelou **Bradley Compere** Jimmy Ferguson Michele Glaze Larry Graham Dr. Russell Lowery-Hart Jeff Hahn Debbie Hiott **Brandon Janes** Ali Khataw Paul Kim Robert Lee Anna Panossian Amu Patel Colin Pope Eddie Rodriguez Miguel Romano

President & CEO Mark Duval

Amber Warne Byron Wilkinson

Austin's Asian Chamber honors Dear Asian Americans host Jerry Won

Won to appear live in Austin at the Ovation gala on November 16

AUSTIN, Texas—The Greater Austin Asian Chamber of Commerce (GAACC) today announced that Jerry Won, Asian-American creative entrepreneur and podcaster, will deliver the keynote address at <u>"Awaken The Dragon," the 2024 Ovation gala</u>, presented by GT School, to be held at the Hyatt Regency Austin on November 16th.

Won is the Founder and CEO of Just Like Media, an innovative storytelling company and home to the award-winning *Dear Asian Americans* podcast - whose guests include Vice President Kamala Harris - and the Asian Creator Awards. He is a renowned keynote speaker focusing on storytelling, personal branding, and Asian American leadership. He has been featured in *Forbes*, *Business Insider*, LinkedIn, and more.

Won will be honored with an Achievement Award at GAACC's Ovation gala alongside four deserving businesses and individuals in the 2024 GAACC Business Awards. These prestigious recognitions are awarded each year in four categories to Asian-owned or Asian-oriented businesses or organizations and to individuals who embody forward-looking growth and prosperity among Greater Austin's Asian and Asian-American communities:

APA Community Organization / Leader of the Year
Entrepreneur of the Year
Emerging Business of the Year
Business of the Year

These awards signify excellence in business, community engagement, and cultural visibility. Nominations closed on Wednesday, October 23.

The annual GAACC Ovation gala celebrates Asian-Pacific American accomplishments across Central Texas. In Chinese astrology, 2024 is the Year of the Dragon, said to be a time of growth, innovation, and abundance. This year's Ovation theme - "Awaken The Dragon" - reflects these principles to



inspire Greater Austin's Asian business community to continue its astounding growth and success.

The event will be emceed by Jenni Lee, midday anchor and veteran investigative reporter with KVUE-TV, Austin's ABC affiliate. Lee will oversee an energetic program of entertainment and celebrations to include performances by the Texas Dragon/Lion Dance Team, Sway With Pray (Bollywood dance), DJ Steady B, and more.

Awaken The Dragon is presented by GT School. GT School has revolutionized the classroom by replacing traditional teachers with dedicated guides who serve as mentors, providing both motivational and emotional support and invaluable insights garnered from their esteemed positions in academia and industry.

For more information about Awaken The Dragon, visit <u>www.ovationgala.org</u>.

MEDIA CONTACT:

Erich Pelletier Greater Austin Asian Chamber of Commerce <u>erichpelletier@austinasianchamber.org</u>

###

About the Greater Austin Asian Chamber of Commerce

The Greater Austin Asian Chamber of Commerce (GAACC) engages with members of the Central Texas business community, with governmental entities, and with nonprofit organizations to help drive local economic growth for businesses with ties to or allyship with Asia and Asian Americans. GAACC works to develop Austin's global business connectivity while promoting regional economic equity for all. To learn more, visit www.austinasianchamber.org.