

## Chef Evi Catering & Events, LLC



Evi Yeh, head chef and owner of Chef Evi Catering & Events LLC. (Photo Credit: Evi Yeh)

PACE helped Chef Evi Catering & Events LLC, a woman-owned business impacted by the entertainment strike in Los Angeles, secure a \$10,000 grant to sustain her business and retain workers.

Chef Evi Catering has weathered the storm of the pandemic and entertainment industry strike, and the business is thriving. Evi Yeh, head chef and owner of Chef Evi Catering & Events LLC, recently received a grant of \$10,000 from the California Restaurant Foundation Resilience Fund that helped the business stay open and retain workers.

“The current economic climate in Los Angeles for small businesses, especially those vulnerable to shifts in the entertainment industry, impacted many businesses like mine starting with COVID and continued to drown us throughout the strikes due to the lack of industry events. Many of us were shut down or had to take every opportunity on, regardless of the rates, to stay afloat and keep our teams employed,” Evi said.

Evi contacted the Hollywood BusinessSource Center to seek access to capital counseling. Her business has been impacted by the Hollywood strikes for several months, and most of her bookings were canceled or postponed. Business/Loan Counselor Elaine Pang knew about a grant that was meant for catering and food businesses and urged Evi to apply.

“When Elaine reached out to us with the opportunity to apply for this grant, we thought it was a long shot, but we’re willing to take a chance on anything. When we learned we had won it, it was life-changing in many ways,” Evi said.

Besides catering for weddings, a 500-person industry event, and family or birthday parties, Evi also does private cooking for a date night. The grant came just in time for Evi, and now she can purchase new equipment that makes the operation flow more smoothly. “...Knowing our doors would be able to stay open, and lights would remain on, the emotional rollercoaster ride I had been on trying to ensure fair wages for my team members, whom I consider like family, finally became more bearable. We are so thankful for all the help we’ve been given and look forward to continuing our efforts toward making the world a happier place, one tummy at a time,” Evi said.