

Traditional Guilin Noodle



It was our privilege working with the SBA office and PACE after the unexpected mass shooting in the City of Monterey Park during the Lunar New Year celebration of 2023, which affected many small business owners within a couple blocks radius of the incident including our business, the Traditional Guilin Noodle. Since then, we have been working closely with PACE to brainstorm how our business stays afloat and apply for grant opportunities. Since then, our business has been awarded a \$5,000 grant from the SoCal Gas Restaurant Care Foundation, in addition to \$20,000 from the LA County Economic Opportunity Grant for small businesses.

With the continued support of PACE, our business is recovering slowly. Currently, we are experiencing a plateau in growth, but it is sustainable considering the current economic climate. Thanks to the grants, we have enough capital to weather another year, maybe two at current averages. However, we are hopeful that we can reach beyond and achieve stability without external

financing—that's our present goal, at least. With PACE's connection, we got invited to the White House to celebrate the Lunar New Year event in late January 2024 and the opportunity to meet our Vice President Kamala Harris and our Congresswoman Judy Chu.

I would like to express my deepest gratitude to Congresswoman Judy Chu for her recommendation and to the Office of Vice President Kamala Harris for the invitation to this year's 2024 Lunar New Year celebration. It was an honor and a privilege to celebrate the Year of the Dragon with fellow Asian community leaders and small business owners alongside members of the AAPI Power Fund and congressional leaders in the home and presence of Vice President Harris and Second Gentleman Mr. Emhoff.

Together, we discussed and celebrated our AAPI heritage, bonding over our similar yet unique upbringings that helped shape who we are today. It was a surreal experience—one that inspires and cultivates a sense of unity and pride in the company of such wonderful people.

The morning after the Lunar New Year celebration, we were invited to the AANHPI Small Business and Community Leaders Briefing hosted by the Office of the Vice President. The meeting detailed an abundance of available resources through the Small Business Administration and its many subsidiary programs and grants focused on supporting and helping small businesses succeed. We want to help spread the word and connect business owners with the resources at the SBA to create a more prosperous Year of the Dragon for all.