



**For Immediate Release**

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## **Ann Curry, Jonathan Gold and Judith Hill To Headline Digital Media Event June 20-21**

LOS ANGELES – Broadcast journalist Ann Curry, Pulitzer Prize-winning food critic Jonathan Gold and singer-songwriter Judith Hill will be honored at the 2014 V3 Digital Media Conference, presented June 20-21 in celebration of Asian American contributions to media and culture.

The third annual conference, presented by the Los Angeles Chapter of the Asian American Journalists Association, recognizes the “Vision. Visibility. Voice” of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in digital and social media, with the goal of showcasing the most influential and interesting Asian Americans online while connecting diverse communities and building new media skills.

The two-day event, which drew more than 500 attendees in each of its first two years, will consist of a gala evening awards reception Friday, June 20, to be followed by an all-day conference on Saturday, June 21, both at the Japanese American National Museum in Little Tokyo in downtown Los Angeles.

“As in past years, we are privileged to bring together such prominent and influential honorees,” said Jocelyn “Joz” Wang, founder and executive director-advisor of V3con. They have taken diverse paths toward a common destination of advancing the stature of Asian Americans and our culture.”

The three “V” awards given at V3con recognize the contributions, talents and values of path-breaking individuals who have enabled Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders to become recognized as a significant force in media and the broader community. This year’s recipients will be recognized at the Friday event for their roles in significantly raising the profile of the AAPI community in the mainstream.

### **Vision Award: Ann Curry**

The Vision Award is given for a career spent covering or promoting Asian America. V3con organizers cited Curry’s distinguished reporting from around the world.

“Like few others in the news industry, Ann Curry has given a voice to underserved subjects and brought visibility to underreported stories, traveling to the remotest corners of every continent to deliver essential accountability journalism,” V3con organizers said.

Curry has been a familiar and popular presence on our screens from shows such as “Today,” “Dateline NBC” and other prominent assignments at NBC News since 1990. Her many datelines through the years have included Chile, Congo, Darfur, Haiti, Iran, Kosovo, Lebanon, Serbia and Sudan. She has interviewed figures as diverse as the Dalai Lama, Lance Armstrong and Wen Ho Lee, with whom she secured the first broadcast interview after he was cleared of charges of espionage against the United States. Curry follows past Vision winners Jeff Yang (2012) and Roy Choi and Richard Lui (2013).

(MORE)

## **Visibility Award: Jonathan Gold**

The Visibility Award recognizes media personalities and artists who are helping Asian Americans become accepted as part of the mainstream popular culture. In honoring Gold, a Los Angeles Times restaurant critic, V3con organizers cited his role in bringing wide recognition to Asian cuisine and restaurants.

“His focus on ethnic food has elevated the visibility of the Los Angeles Asian culinary scene, pointing followers to new, unusual and exceptional dining,” V3con organizers said.

Before returning to the Times in 2012, Gold was a restaurant critic for L.A. Weekly and Los Angeles, Gourmet and California magazines. He has won seven James Beard Awards for his reviews and in 2007 became the first food writer to win a Pulitzer Prize for criticism. He can be heard sharing his restaurant picks each week on KCRW-FM’s “Good Food.” Gold follows previous Visibility winners David Choi and Lisa Ling (2012) and Grace Lee Boggs (2013).

## **Voice Award: Judith Hill**

The Voice Award honors a recipient who gives voice to Asian Americans and helps others find their voices.

“This year, we mean ‘voice’ quite literally, recognizing a singer-songwriter who has inspired others by stepping to the front of the stage,” V3con organizers said.

Hill first gained recognition as a backup singer for Michael Jackson, Stevie Wonder, Elton John and Josh Groban, among others. Music fans around the world watched her move into the spotlight as one of the featured subjects in the Oscar-winning 2013 documentary “20 Feet From Stardom,” which told the story of the singers behind some of the music industry’s greatest legends.

Hill has also won acclaim for her performances on NBC’s “The Voice” in 2013, on the soundtrack to Spike Lee’s 2012 film “Red Hook Summer” and in “This Is It,” the 2009 documentary about Jackson’s plans to return to the stage, which were cut short by his death. Hill follows past Voice winners Jocelyn “Joz” Wang (2012) and Gil Asakawa (2013).

## **Event Information**

Opening Awards Reception  
Friday, June 20, 6 to 9 p.m.

V3 Digital Media Conference  
Saturday, June 21, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Japanese American National Museum  
100 N. Central Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90012

## **About V3con**

V3con is the only digital media conference centered on AAPI mainstream journalists, digital media journalists, bloggers and those interested in social media. The conference is an opportunity for those communicating on multiple digital platforms, including social media and blogs, and their audiences to interact, engage in person and inspire those who are interested in communicating online. Visit <http://v3con.com> for full conference details.

## **About AAJA-LA**

The mission of the Asian American Journalists Association is to provide a means of association and support among Asian American and Pacific Islander journalists; provide encouragement, information, advice and scholarship assistance to AAPI students who aspire to professional journalism careers; provide to the AAPI community an awareness of new media and an understanding of how to gain fair access; and research and point out when news media organizations stray from accuracy and fairness in coverage of AAPIs. The Los Angeles Chapter, established in 1981, is the organization’s founding chapter. <http://aaja-la.org>.