

Charlie Woo

Co-Founder & CEO, Megatoys

Charlie Woo is the co-founder and CEO of Megatoys, an international toy manufacturing company headquartered in Los Angeles. Woo started this business with his brother Peter in 1989 and they have grown it to the current size of having over 300 employees in the Los Angeles area. Woo is also known as the founder of the Los Angeles Toy District, and is credited with turning the once blighted industrial area in Downtown Los Angeles into a thriving international trade center where he helped hundreds of immigrant entrepreneurs start their businesses and create thousands of jobs.

Woo is a former Chairman of the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce and has been the only Asian American to head the 122-year old premier business organization. He currently chairs the Workforce Investment Board for the City of Los Angeles, a body that oversees the nation's second largest workforce development system and has been recognized as the model program for the country. He has been leading this commission under Mayors Bradley, Riordan, Hahn, and Villaraigosa, and is widely respected for his leadership in bringing business, labor, the diverse community and economic development groups together to develop innovative job training programs targeting growth industries. He previously served on the California Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander American Affairs and the State Commission for Economic Development.

Woo has found time to serve on the boards of many civic organizations. He is the Chair of Center for Asian Americans United for Self Empowerment (CAUSE), a non-partisan community group that provides leadership development, as well as voter education and registration programs for the APIA community. He previously served as chair of the Asian Rehabilitation Services and president of the Los Angeles Historic and Cultural Neighborhood Council. He is currently on the boards of Pitzer College, LA Police Foundation, and Southern California Public Radio, and was previously on the boards of LA Library Foundation, Town Hall Los Angeles, LA Inc., LA's Best, American Red Cross LA Chapter, and YMCA Metropolitan Los Angeles, and UCLA School of Public Affairs. He is a member of the Committee of 100 and the Pacific Council of International Policy.

Woo received numerous awards and recognition from many prestigious establishments, including the League of Women Voters, the Anti-Defamation League, the A&E Biography Network, the California Chamber of Commerce, the Asian Business Association, the Asian Business League, and the Chinese Chamber of Commerce. He was recently honored by the City of Los Angeles with "Dream of Los Angeles Award" and previously with the "Volunteer Citizen of the Year Award". He also received the "Outstanding Alumni Award for Excellence" from the UCLA Alumni Association, the "Pinnacle of Leadership Award" from the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce, the "World Trade Hall of Fame Award" from the World Trade Center Association, the "Excellence in Civic Leadership Award" from the Southern California Leadership Network, the "History makers Award" from the Chinese American Museum, and the "Life Time Achievement Award" from the Southern California Chinese Lawyers Association.

Woo came to the U. S. from Hong Kong at the age of 17 to attend UCLA where he graduated summa cum laude and received his master degree. He and his wife, Ying, reside in Rancho Palos Verdes. His two sons attend college at Stanford and UC Berkeley.