



Asian Americans/Pacific Islanders
in Philanthropy

NATIONAL GENDER AND EQUITY CAMPAIGN

PRESS RELEASE

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Asian American and Pacific Islander community organizations in Minnesota receive \$220,000 in grants from the National Gender and Equity Campaign

MINNEAPOLIS (November 26, 2007) - The National Gender and Equity Campaign (NGEC), a demonstration project of Asian American/Pacific Islanders in Philanthropy (AAPIP), is pleased to award \$220,000 in grants to twenty-two AAPI organizations to participate in community engagement activities through April 2008.

The NGEC was created as a result of conversations with over one thousand women and men across the country, including Minnesota, on the book, *Asian American Women: Issues, Concerns, and Responsive Human and Civil Rights Advocacy*, published in 2002. The result of these conversations were a call to action to strengthen and build AAPI community infrastructure to contribute to the building of a more just and equitable society. Minnesota and California were chosen as pilot states for the NGEC's work.

"AAPIP's National Gender and Equity Campaign provides an important opportunity to support Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in our quest for social justice and to strengthen the infrastructure of institutions that will make this quest successful" says Valerie Lee, Senior Program Officer of The Minneapolis Foundation and AAPIP board member. "Personally and professionally, I am honored to support this effort."

The community engagement process supports Minnesota's AAPI organizations to better understand their community's assets, challenges, and needs; assess their organizational development needs; and explore the future direction of their organization to affect lasting change. YoonJu Park, Executive Director of Korean Service Center, a grant recipient shares, "these funds will enable our organization to initiate the Korean immigrant community in working together to help families and individuals in the Korean American community in Minnesota. We respect the philosophy and motivation of AAPIP and the leadership of their staff."

On October 26, 2007, forty-five representatives from the selected grantee organizations participated in an orientation session at the Rondo Community Outreach Library to share goals for their community engagement work. All of the organizations are choosing a variety of activities to engage their stakeholders, and many remarked about the need to explore intergenerational leadership issues, understand changing community needs, and learn about new ways to advance community issues that can result in a more equitable society.



A participant and leader from one grantee organizations shared, "We are excited about this process to explore how to build sustainability in our community through growing leadership and momentum. We are also looking forward to hearing ideas from other organizations in this partnership."

Over the next six months the NGEC will provide technical assistance, capacity building resources, and learning and sharing opportunities for the organizations.

The NGEC's current philanthropic partners in Minnesota include: The Saint Paul Foundation, The Minneapolis Foundation, Northwest Area Foundation and St. Paul Travelers Foundation.

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The twenty two organizations awarded with community engagement funds are:

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| Adopsource | Hmong Women Achieving Together |
| Ananya Dance Theatre | Korean Service Center |
| Asian Media Access | Lao Advancement Organization of America |
| Asian Pacific Cultural Center | Lao Assistance Center of Minnesota |
| Association for the Advancement of Hmong Women in Minnesota | Mu Performing Arts |
| Center for Asian Pacific Islanders | national asian pacific american women's forum - St. Cloud Chapter |
| Center for Hmong Arts and Talent | SEWA Asian Indian Family Wellness |
| Filipino American Women's Network Minnesota | Shades of Yellow |
| Hmong 18 Council | United Cambodian Association of Minnesota |
| Hmong American Institute for Learning | Vietnamese Broadcasting of Minnesota |
| Hmong American Partnership | Vietnamese Social Services of Minnesota |

AAPIP is a national membership and philanthropic advocacy organization dedicated to advancing philanthropy and AAPI communities. AAPIP engages AAPI communities to address unmet needs; serves as a resource for and about AAPI communities; supports and facilitates giving by and to AAPI communities and incubates new ideas and approaches for social justice philanthropy. The organization's two principle strategies are building community philanthropy to promote and facilitate giving by AAPI individuals through giving circles and philanthropic advocacy.

The NGEC Minneapolis-based office is located at 2801 21st Avenue South, 132-C, Minneapolis, MN 55407. For more information on the NGEC in Minnesota, please contact Minnesota NGEC managers, Kayva Yang at (612) 729-2548 / kayva@aapip.org or Megan Powers at (612) 729-2542 / megan@aapip.org.