

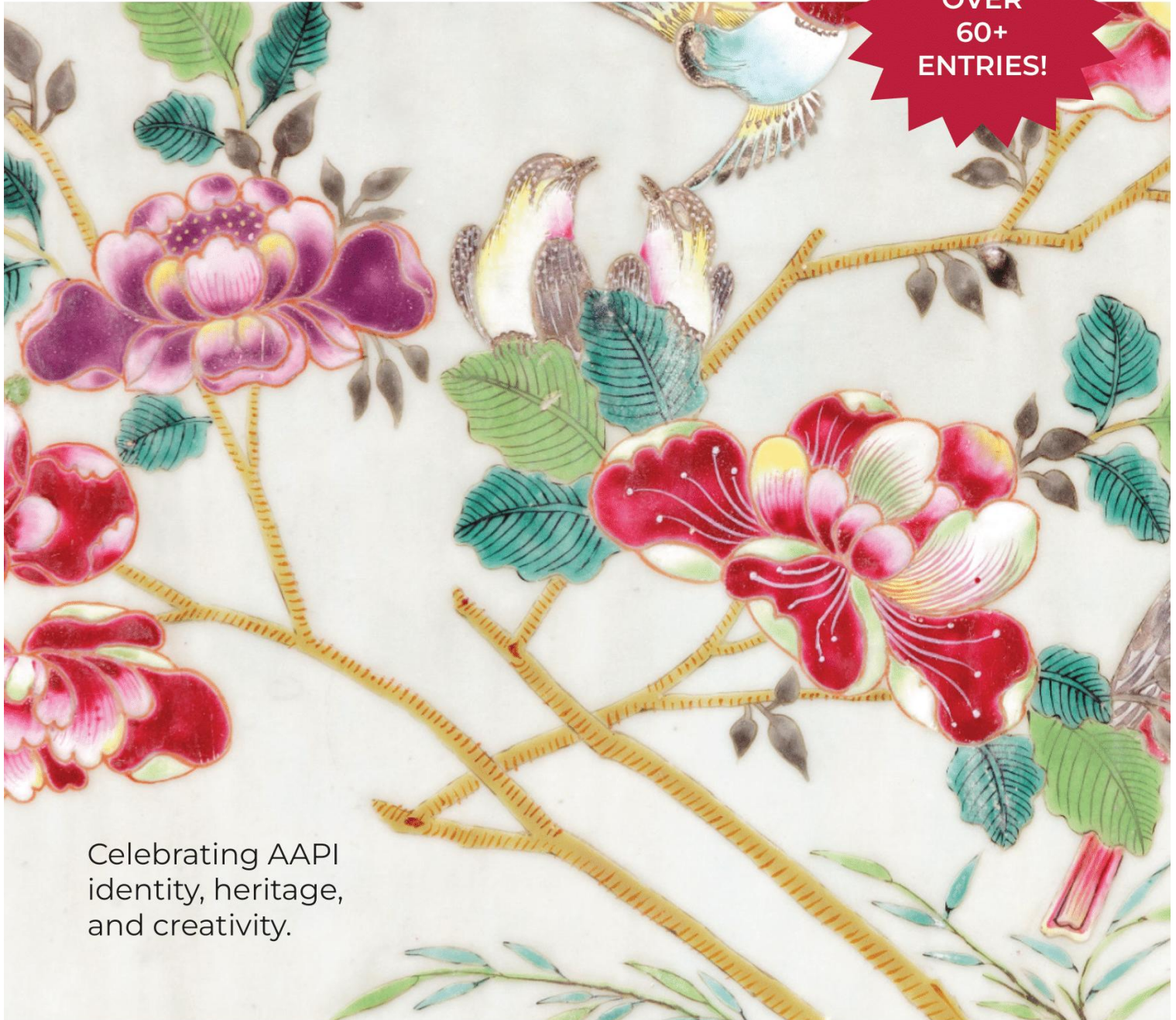
Spring 2025

ISSUE 01

# KCS AAPI ART

## COMPETITION GALLERY

OVER  
60+  
ENTRIES!



Celebrating AAPI  
identity, heritage,  
and creativity.



# KCS AAPI ART COMPETITION

Gallery Booklet



Spring 2025 | ISSUE 01

# Contents

Theme

About AAPJ: The Art of Belonging	3
----------------------------------	---

Welcome

Congratulatory Messages	4
-------------------------	---

Competition Overview: Behind the Scenes	8
---	---

Winners List	10
--------------	----

Gallery

Grand Prize	11
-------------	----

Category Winners	12
------------------	----

Honorable Mentions	14
--------------------	----

Participants	16
--------------	----

Acknowledgements	21
------------------	----

This was made possible through the generous funding provided by the YS Kim Foundation.

# About AAPI: The Art of Belonging



Through this year's theme, students in grades 1 to 12 throughout New York State shared their personal interpretations of belonging, shaped by family, culture, and community. It challenged them to consider how identity is shaped not only by heritage, but by the moments of connection, resilience, and self-discovery that define their lived experiences as Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) youth.

"The Art of Belonging" encouraged students to express their identities through creativity, drawing from cultural memory, family traditions, and personal growth. The artworks in this exhibition reflect a wide spectrum of interpretations, each offering a heartfelt glimpse into how these young artists see themselves and their place in the world.

AAPL Art Competition Spring 2025

# Korean Community Services of Metropolitan New York

## A Message of Congratulations from Our President & CEO

Dear Artists, Families, & Supporters,

It is a pleasure to welcome you to the 2025 AAPL Art Exhibition & Ceremony, presented by Korean Community Services (KCS).

As President & CEO of KCS, I want to recognize all the students who participated in this special statewide competition, held in celebration of AAPL Heritage Month. Open to AAPL students in grades 1 through 12, the contest received over 60 submissions from across New York State. Your work around the theme "The Art of Belonging" reflects creativity, individuality, and a deep connection to culture and identity. Through your artwork, you have expressed the beauty and complexity of AAPL experiences and offered perspectives that deserve to be seen, shared, and valued.

This event honors your voice, your heritage, and the ideas you have chosen to express through art. At KCS, we are proud to support you as you share your story and help broaden understanding across generations and communities.

Thank you to all the families, educators, and supporters who nurtured these young artists along the way. We look forward to continuing this important work together.

With gratitude,

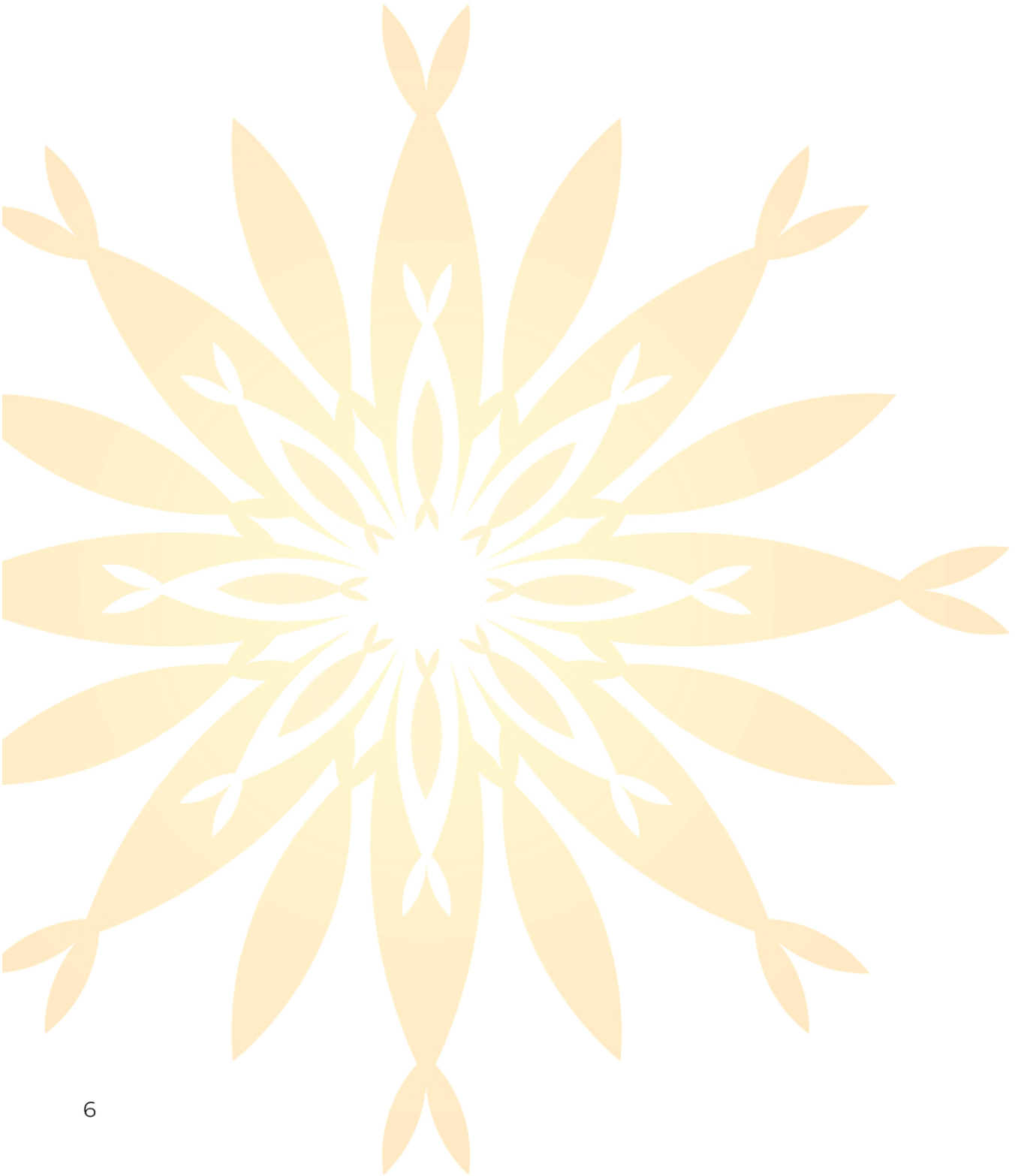


Myoungmi Kim



Welcome





Welcome

# YS Kim Foundation

## A Message of Congratulations from Our Foundation

Dear Young Artists, Supporters, and KCS Community,

Thank you for having the YS Kim Foundation be part of the 2025 KCS AAPI Art Competition and its Exhibition and Ceremony today, May 17th, during AAPI Heritage Month. It is a great honor to be among all the talented AAPI young artists of New York State who have submitted their masterpieces on what “The Art of Belonging” means to each artist, showcasing one’s unique perspective on AAPI identity, heritage, and creativity.

The YS Kim Foundation’s mission is to support, mobilize, and open new pathways of success to artists, children, young leaders, communities, and organizations. One way of building a thriving collective community of next-generation Korean American leaders is through sponsorships to great organizations and programs, such as the Korean Community Services of Metropolitan New York, Inc. (KCS) and the AAPI Art Competition.

The YS Kim Foundation is proud of all the young artists who participated in this art competition, sharing their voices and exploring and expressing their AAPI identity and culture. We look forward to many great things and to seeing your masterpieces in world-renowned art and cultural institutions around the world in the near future. We thank KCS, the families, and the supporters for partnering with the YS Kim Foundation to support, empower, and celebrate today’s youth to be tomorrow’s great leaders for a brighter, better future.

Congratulations!

YS Kim Foundation

# Competition Overview: Behind the Scenes



**Andrew Lam**  
Art Enthusiast

Andrew Lam is a New York City native who currently works as an architectural designer at DSM Design, an affiliation of Marx Development Group. He is also currently a teaching artist at Febrer Arts, where he works with students to develop their artistic skills and techniques for the creation of fine art portfolios.

Throughout his time working with students, he believes in the value of a strong technical design education in helping students develop critical and analytical thinking skills. It is through architecture that the notion of having a well rounded foundation can produce thoughtful design and good art.

**Alexa Gross**  
Professional Artist/Art Educator

Alexa Gross is an artist and educator dedicated to supporting creative learning and mental health, especially for AAPI youth. She has led workshops across museums, print studios, community centers, and art fairs. Her interdisciplinary practice explores intergenerational memory, driven by her fascination with the mind, emotions, and what it means to be human. Born and raised in the Bay Area, Alexa currently lives in Queens, NY and works at Print Center New York. She holds a BA in Studio Art and Neuroscience from Wellesley College.



## Competition Overview

### Emily Man Art Educator/Professor

Emily Man is a passionate art educator and visual artist with over two decades of teaching experience. She currently teaches at Great Neck North High School, where she instructs a range of classes in Drawing and Painting, Sculpture & Ceramics, Digital Art, and Photography.

As a proud AAPI educator and artist, Emily is honored to serve as a judge for this year's AAPI art competition, where she is excited to support and celebrate the creative and powerful voices of AAPI student artists.



### Mark Wang Professional Artist/Art Educator

Mark Wang is an Illustrator and comic artist originally from Tucson, Arizona, but is currently located in the fabled NYC. Client list includes the New York Times, New Yorker, Wall Street Journal, Washington Post, etc. Sometimes his drawings are funny, and sometimes they're not. Go figure huh. He also teaches adjunct at the Fashion Institute of Technology.

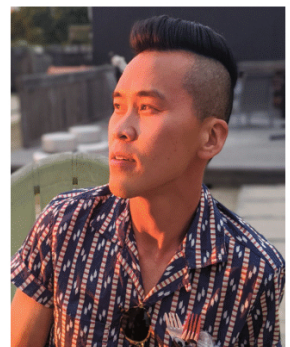


### Jason Raish Professional Artist/Art Educator

Jason Raish is a freelance illustrator based in Brooklyn and teaches at the Fashion Institute of Technology. He's lived and worked in Beijing, Tokyo, Barcelona, London, Paris, and Seoul and now lives in Park Slope

As a Korean American, I was happy to help out KCS and the AAPI community with something I'm a little knowledgeable about. Growing up in rural western New York state was quite an experience, so this competition's theme of belonging really resonated with me. It was really tough choosing winners because there was so much great work.

Congratulations to everyone who participated.



# Winners List

## Grand Prize

David Chung  
Grade 6

## Category Winners

### Elementary School

Victor Kang  
Grade 5

### Middle School

Angela Liu  
Grade 7

### High School

Eliana Hong  
Grade 9

## Honorable Mentions

Lael Lee  
Grade 3

Avery Capitly  
Grade 5

Isabel Poyaoan  
Grade 10

Kristin Lau  
Grade 12



# Grand Prize



## Blossoming as a Korean American

*Color pencils, watercolor art pens, sharpies, gel color pens, pencil, and newspaper*

### David Chung | Grade 6

This artwork is meant to show how the roots seep from the soil of American and Korean cultures and blossom into a Korean American person.

The patterns from the roots are repeated throughout the flower body to show that the person is Korean American, and the mixture of red and blue in the stem shows that the two cultures are merging into one to form an AAPI person. Also, the arrows from the face to the butterflies represent the new Korean American culture spread by the flower to other nationalities. And the arrows represent the new Korean American cultural traits, such as "belongs", "탄생(Born)", "new friends", etc., that influence the community the flower belongs to. Lastly, the background represents the diverse skin tones of different countries that the flower impacts.

# Category Winners

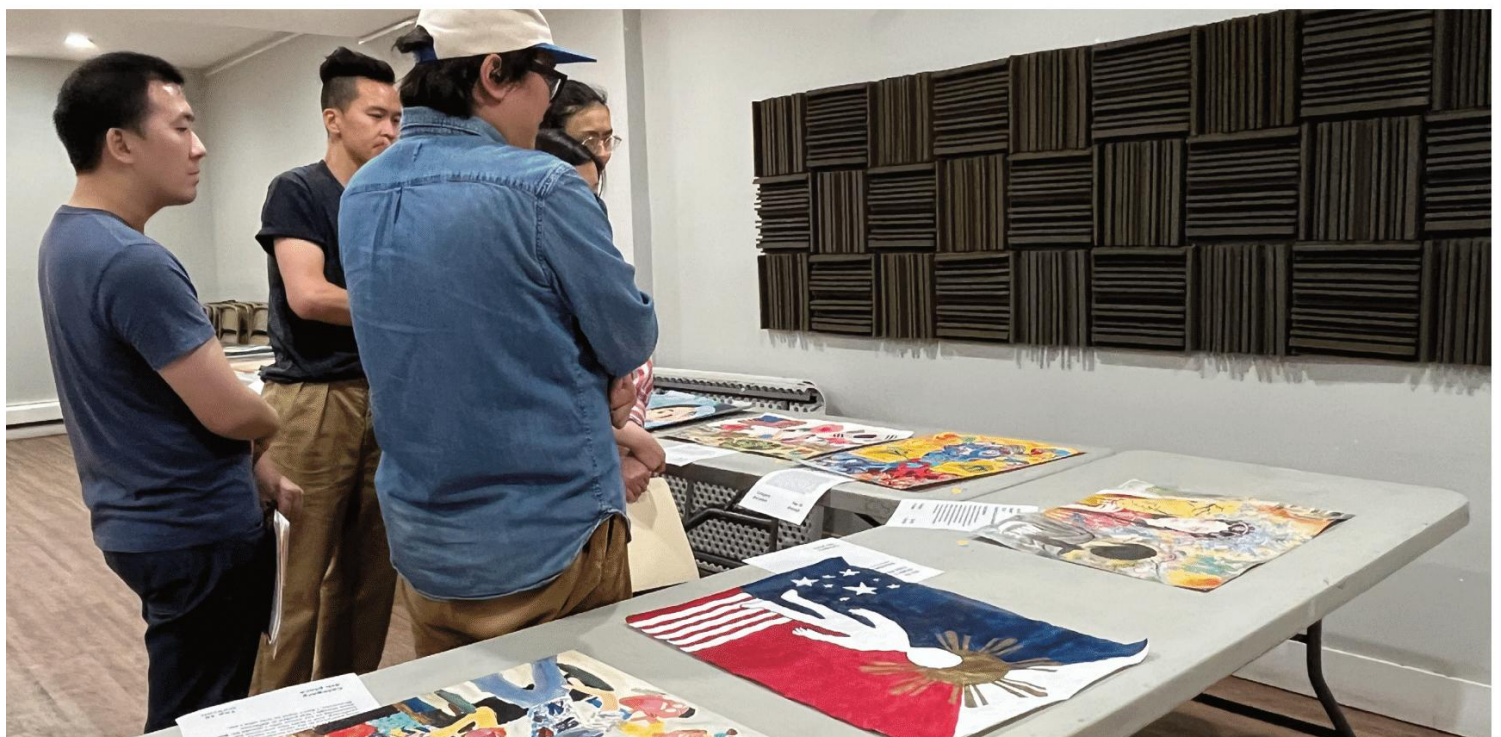


**Confused**  
*Acrylic paint on canvas*

**Victor Kang**  
Grade 5

Sometimes I feel different from my friends because I speak Korean at home, sing Korean songs, and eat Korean food.

In this picture, I painted myself trying to understand and fit in with everyone in my class. It's noisy and confusing, and it feels like everyone has something to say about who I should be. But even though I feel pulled in different directions, I don't want to lose who I am.



**Ancient Grace in  
Modern Lines**  
*Watercolor*

**Angela Liu**  
Grade 7



This work combines the elegance of traditional Chinese opera with modern art. The modern girl holding a paintbrush—myself—uses painting as a way to connect her cultural heritage with her present-day identity, while also exploring the richness of tradition. Through elements like plum blossoms, mountains, clouds, and gauze curtains, these elements reflect the heritage of Asian Pacific culture.



**The Taegeuk Within:  
Threads of Identity**  
*Acrylic*

**Eliana Hong**  
Grade 9



This artwork is a personal reflection of my Korean heritage, expressed through meaningful cultural symbols.

It features the taegeukgi (Korean flag), mugunghwa blossoms (national flower), the Siberian tiger, a magpie (representative animal of South Korea), and a norigae, which is a traditional Korean ornament. In the center of the piece stands a girl in her hanbok (traditional dress), holding a translucent heart imprinted with the taegeukgi, symbolizing a deep, internalized connection to my Korean roots.

Through this cultural depiction, I illustrate the theme of the "Art of Belonging," as the gesture of holding the heart and the other symbols signify a sense of belonging that was created from my personal journey of learning to proudly embrace my Korean-American identity.

# Honorable Mentions



**The Two Sides**  
*Acrylic paint on canvas*

**Lael Lee**  
Grade 3

I belong in NYC, with the Statue of Liberty and the tall skyscrapers! Still, I'm Korean, so the airplane represents my connection to Korea. When we visit Korea, we go to the mountains to play in the streams, eating watermelons that are cooled in the water (I also added a little Godzilla on the top of a mountain for fun!). The traditional buildings in Korea are very different from NYC, but that is also a part of who I am!

These are my two sides!

**Flowers for Melba**  
*Color pencil*

**Isabel Poyaoan**  
Grade 10



This piece is dedicated to my grandmother, Melba, who immigrated to the United States with my mother and uncles from the Philippines in the 2000s.

I wanted to represent my family's hope through the golden sun symbol of the Philippines flag, while surrounded by two women, in red and blue. While red and blue are the colors of the Philippine flag, I wanted to symbolize the anger and love in red and the peace and sadness of blue. The bright colors remind me of my family's optimistic and determined mentality despite their hardship, and how important it is to live with hope and appreciation for who I am.

I felt like the outlier, often being the only Filipino in class growing up, while others had people to share their culture and language with. Still, my culture and relatives have shaped who I am and have worked hard to provide me with opportunities to pursue. The flowers on the bottom are gumamela, my mother's childhood flower, and now my favorite, while the flowers on top are Sampaguita, the national flower of the Philippines.

**Cooked**  
*Color pencil*

**Kristin Lau**  
Grade 12



As an Asian American, exceptional academic achievement has always been an ingrained cultural expectation. This narrative self-portrait comically illustrates my state of mind throughout my high school years. I took a common Gen Z slang, "I'm cooked", and turned it into a visual metaphor. The phrase is often used to express being burnt out or a sense of doom, which resonated with me as I dealt with academic and cultural pressures.



**Philippine Son**  
*Marker and acrylic paint*

**Avery Capitly**  
Grade 5

Feet in 2 worlds.

# Participants



**The Jade Temple at Sunrise**  
Hannah Wang  
Grade 4



**Our Colorful Forest**  
Ellie Chung  
Grade 4



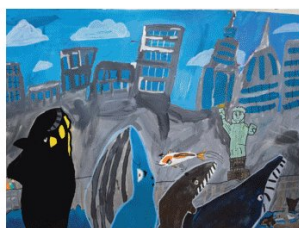
**Juggling**  
Ethan Kang  
Grade 4



**My Self Portrait**  
Janet Haang  
Grade 4



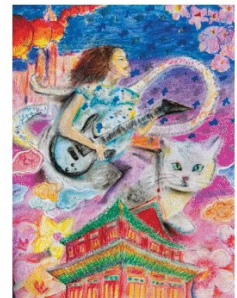
**Smiles Between Worlds**  
Paris Zheng  
Grade 2



**Carp Meets the NYC Whales**  
Ryan Kim  
Grade 5



**We Are Together**  
Hannah Park  
Grade 5



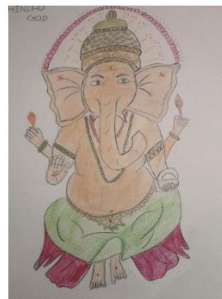
**Look Where I'm Going**  
Siena Cheung  
Grade 5



**About Me**  
Ariana Lee  
Grade 1



**An Old Korean House**  
Emma Hanna Kimble  
Grade 1



**Hindu God**  
Dheya Mohanraj  
Grade 4



**Traditional Bow Down With My Grandparents**  
Christina Yuna Kimble  
Grade 4

## Gallery



**Bridging Two  
Countries to One**  
Grace Chung  
Grade 4



**Red Light - Green Light**  
Taylor Kim  
Grade 3



**Korean Fan Dance**  
Emma Won  
Grade 2



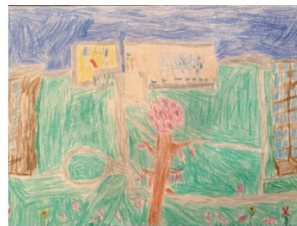
**My Flying Kite**  
Joanne Hwang  
Grade 3



**Culture Cats**  
Kaci Cho  
Grade 1



**My Lunch**  
Samantha Byun  
Grade 3



**The Heart of the  
Neighborhood**  
Tyler Kim  
Grade 3



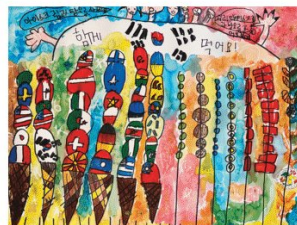
**Food + Family = Love**  
Celeste Lin  
Grade 4



**Essence of India**  
Reeva Karnavat  
Grade 5



**Our Traditions**  
Olivia Zheng  
Grade 1



**Let's Eat Together!**  
Timothy Chung  
Grade 1



**Together**  
Mason Sim  
Grade 2

## AAPI Art Competition Spring 2025



**I Love New York.**  
Woojin Oh  
Grade 2



**The Universal Language of Delicious**  
Henry Han  
Grade 4



**My Family Heritage**  
Charlie Liu  
Grade 1



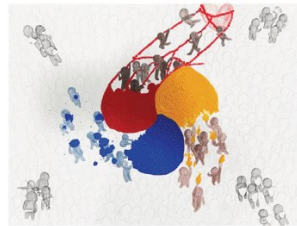
**Under the Glow of Lanterns**  
Victoria Deng  
Grade 8



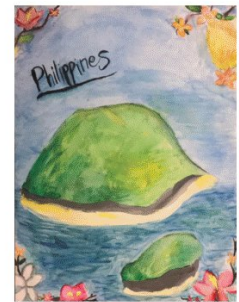
**Beauty of Hanbok**  
Jia Kim  
Grade 6



**Identity**  
Brooks Farley  
Grade 8



**The Heart of Korea**  
Esther Kim  
Grade 8



**Picturesque Philippine Island**  
Audrey De Leon  
Grade 6



**The Different Aspects**  
Kathleen Lee  
Grade 8



**This is Me**  
Elle Na  
Grade 6



**My Mother Language**  
Jaein Kang  
Grade 7



**Home is More than One Place**  
Noori Na  
Grade 8

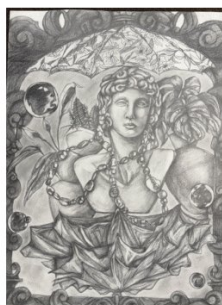
## Gallery



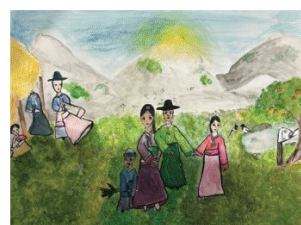
**Like Salad**  
Esther Park  
Grade 7



**Sri Lanka**  
Shenmaya Mohanraj  
Grade 7



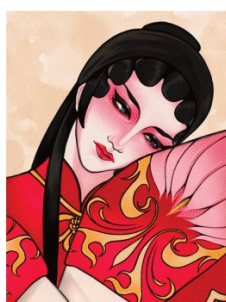
**Artfully Crafted Sandwich**  
Ashley Jeun  
Grade 8



**The Season of Dandelions**  
Arielle Park  
Grade 6



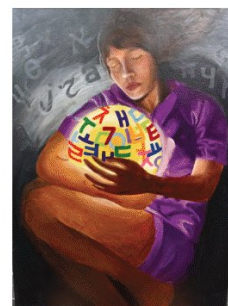
**Centuries Back, I've  
Been Here.**  
Anna Huang  
Grade 11



**Preparing**  
Katrina Lin  
Grade 12



**Finding My Place**  
Yumin Joung  
Grade 12



**Holding My Roots**  
Erin Jo  
Grade 9



**Flowering**  
Cheuk Fei Li  
Grade 10



**Family Legacy in My DNA**  
Hana Kim  
Grade 10



**The Girl I See**  
Caitlin Lee  
Grade 12



**Fanned Reality**  
Hannah Chen  
Grade 11

## AAPL Art Competition Spring 2025



**The Lily Pond  
From Home**  
Xuan Xuan (Cindy) Wu  
Grade 11



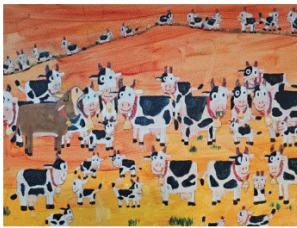
**Evening Julia**  
Sae Meh  
10th Grade



**Proud to be Korean American**  
Allison Lee  
Grade 9



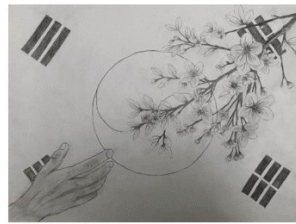
**For My Dad**  
Claire Choe  
Grade 9



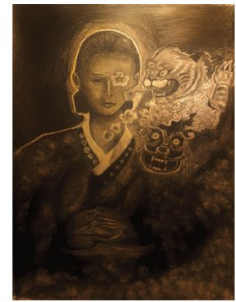
**The Ugly Bull**  
Justin Kown  
Grade 9



**Listen to the Song: Melodies of  
the Chinese Song Dynasty**  
Shihan Wang  
Grade 10



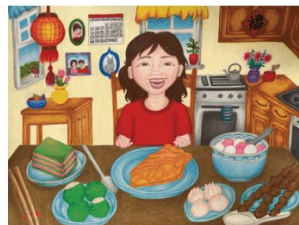
**The Hand of the Little Korean Girl Who  
Gave up on Her Dreams Thirty Years  
Ago to Come to America and Now  
Packs My Lunch Every Morning**  
Allen Lee  
Grade 11



**Wonhwa**  
Polaris Kim  
Grade 10



**Chinese New Year  
Festivities**  
Nicole Lin  
Grade 9



**Kitchen of Memories**  
Megan Dymarkowski  
Grade 10

# Acknowledgements

## KCS Education Department

**Teresa Baik**  
Director

**Seungmin (Kathy) Kim-Cho**  
Senior Program Manager

**Alicia Chum**  
Senior Program Coordinator

**Kevin Oh**  
Senior Program Coordinator

**Danea Silkiss**  
Senior Program Coordinator

**Nicholas Kim**  
Program Coordinator

**Sue Mak**  
Program Coordinator

**Sophia Shi**  
Program Assistant

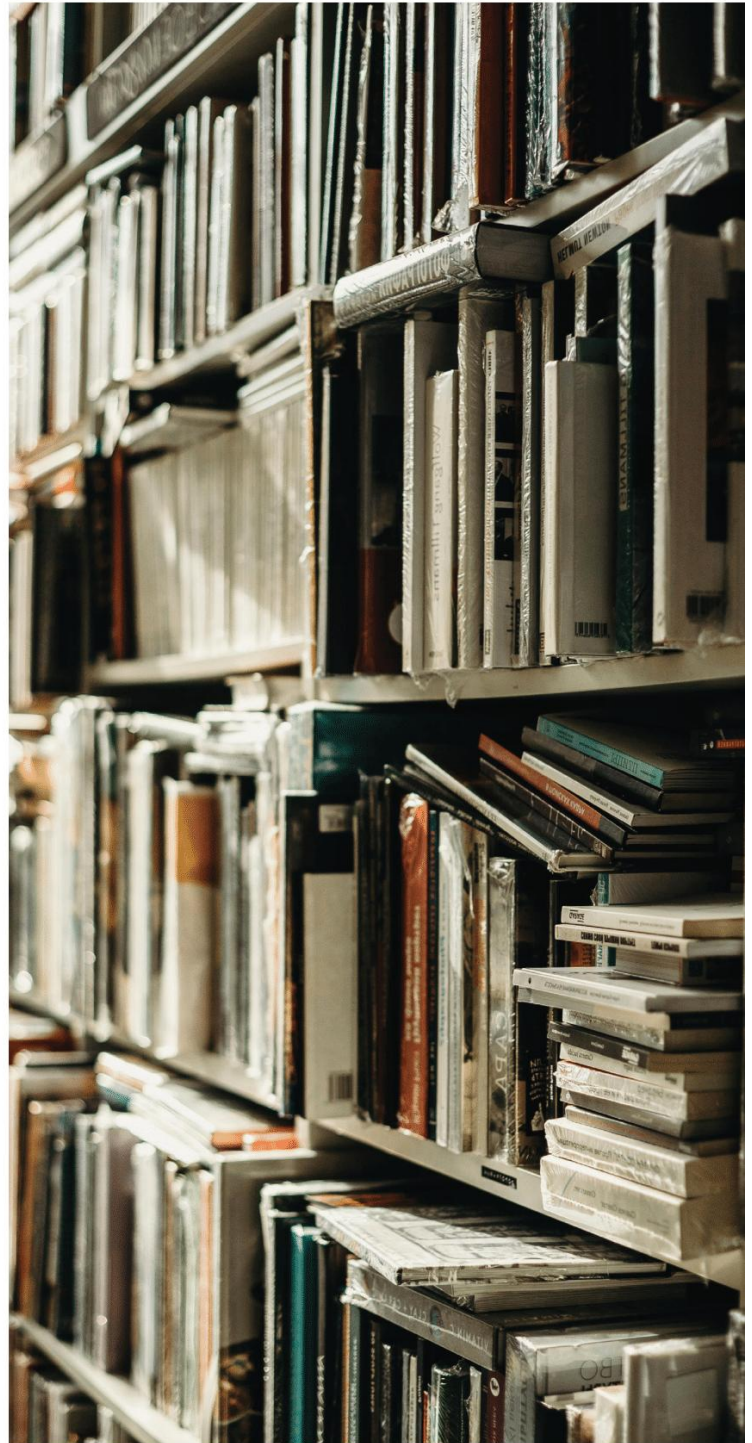
**Jiuen Baek**  
Program Assistant

**Geumsuk Yun**  
Program Assistant

## YS Kim Foundation

**Joy Wheeler**  
Managing Director

**Kathie Lee**  
Director of Community Building



AAPI Art Competition Spring 2025



## Supporting Our Community Since 1973

---

KCS envisions a world where immigrant communities remain grounded in their heritage and work together with the broader community to build a better society at large.



Education



Aging



Mental Health Clinic



Public Health &  
Research



Workforce Development



718-939-6137

[www.kcsny.org](http://www.kcsny.org)

203-05 32nd Ave. Bayside, NY 11361





YS KIM  
FOUNDATION

## Our Vision and Mission

YS Kim Foundation envisions a world where people and communities grow and flourish with culture, creativity, opportunities, and connection. Their mission is to support, mobilize, and open new pathways of success for artists, children, young leaders, communities, and organizations. They provide new initiatives, grants and scholarships to organizations and students in the Korean American community and beyond.

---

Camp Naru

Canal Projects

YS Kim Scholars

YS Kim Innovation Lab

---

info@yskim.org  
www.yskim.org  
2 Wooster St. 2nd Floor  
New York, NY 10013







# KCS Education Department Programs



## ESOL Classes

Free adult literacy English classes  
무료 성인 ESOL 프로그램



## Citizenship Classes

Free citizenship classes  
무료 시민권 인터뷰 준비 프로그램



## YASP (Young Adult Service Program)

Summer internship opportunities  
for high school & college students  
여름 방학 고등학생과 대학생 인턴십 프  
로그램



## Scholarship Program

For graduating high school seniors of  
Korean heritage, supported by Dr. Lee Hoon  
이훈 박사 후원의 한국계 12학년 고등학생을 위한  
장학 프로그램



## Korean Language Classes

Adult Korean classes over a 10 week  
period  
무료 성인 한국어 프로그램



## Cultural Programs

AAPI cultural programs & education  
AAPI 문화 프로그램과 문화 교육 프로그램



education@kcsny.org



718-939-6137