

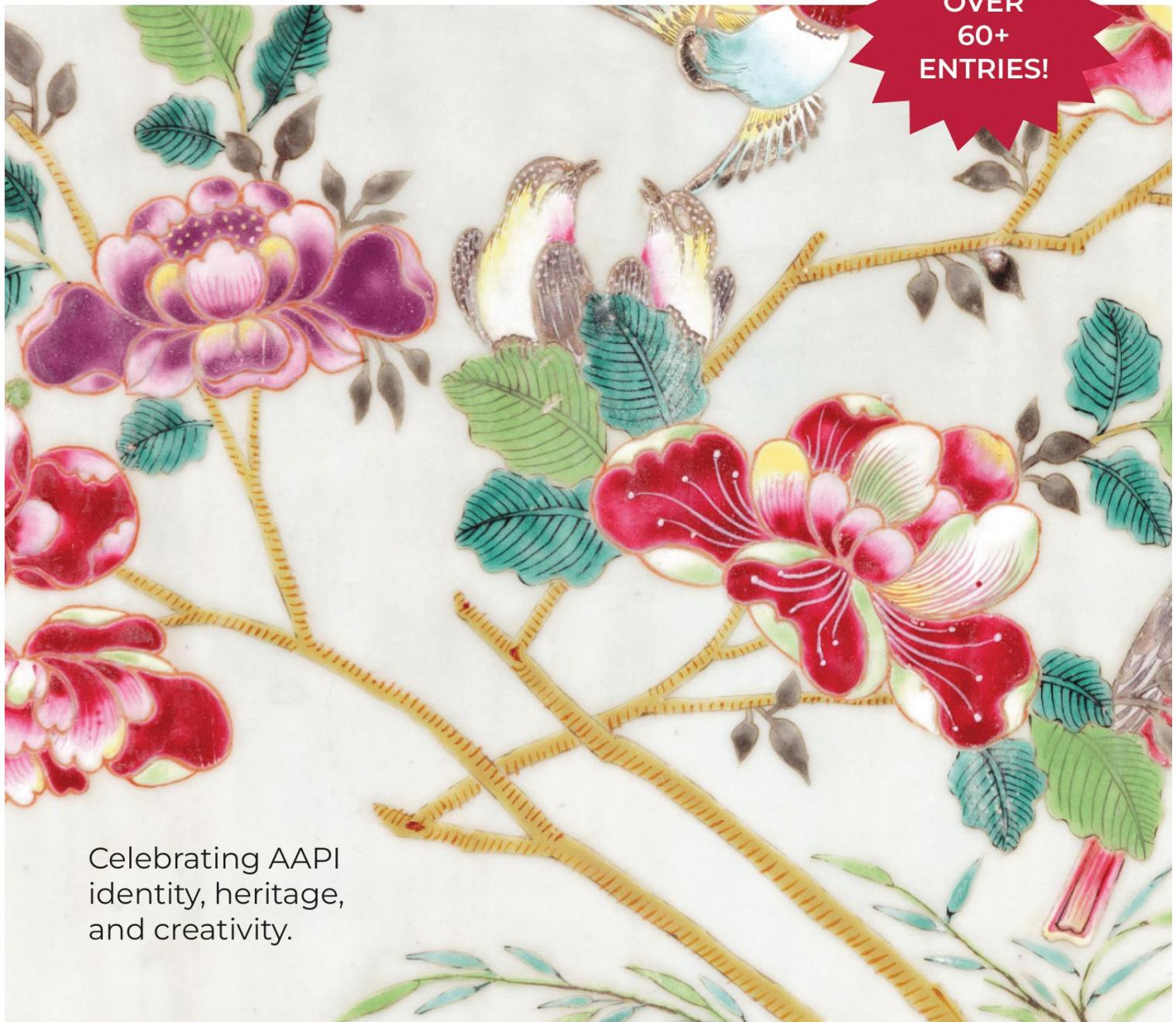
Spring 2025

ISSUE 01

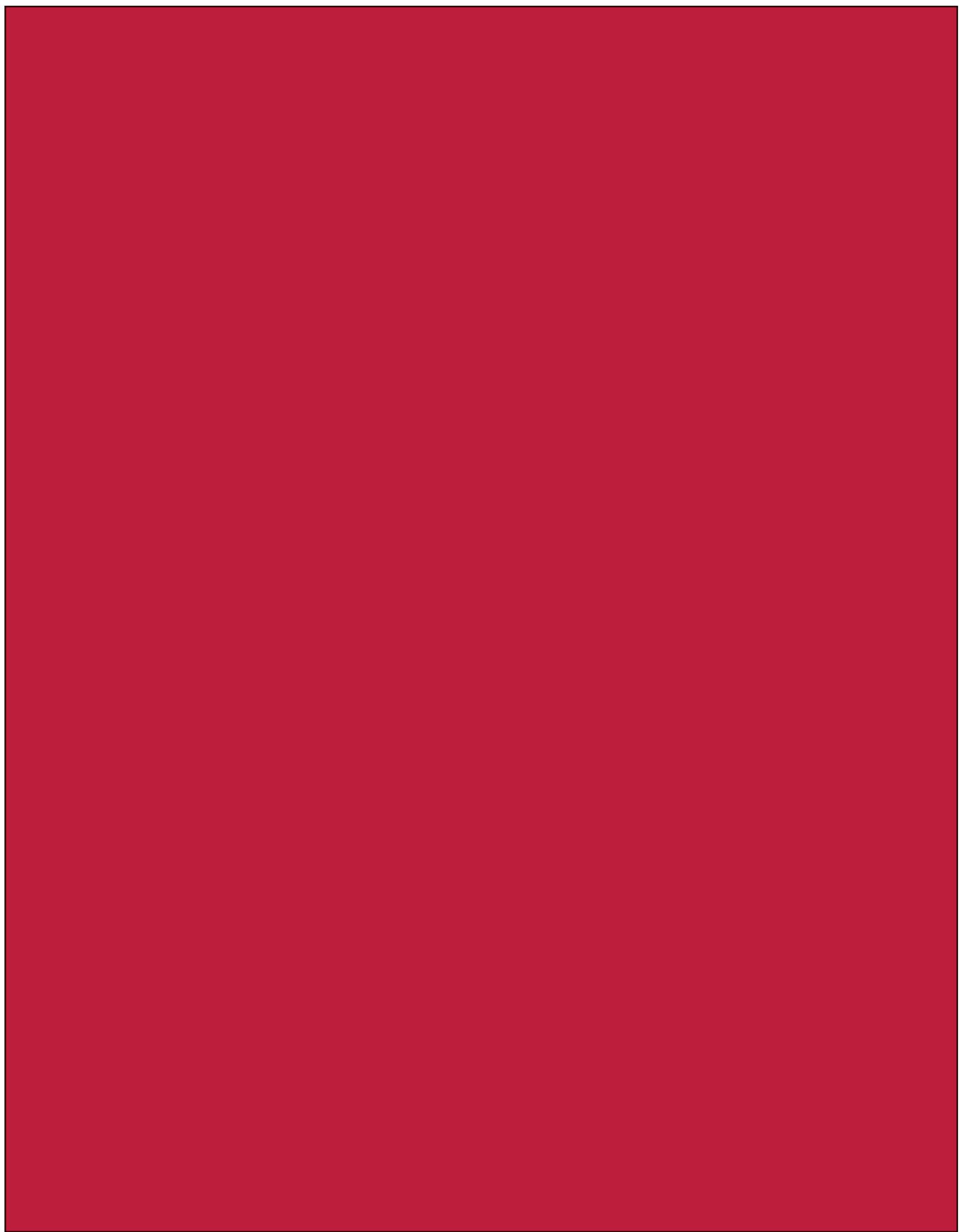
KCS AAPI ART

COMPETITION GALLERY

OVER
60+
ENTRIES!



Celebrating AAPI
identity, heritage,
and creativity.



KCS AAPI ART COMPETITION

Gallery Booklet



Spring 2025 | ISSUE 01

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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.

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 AAPi 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 AAPi Heritage Month. Open to AAPi 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 AAPi 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,



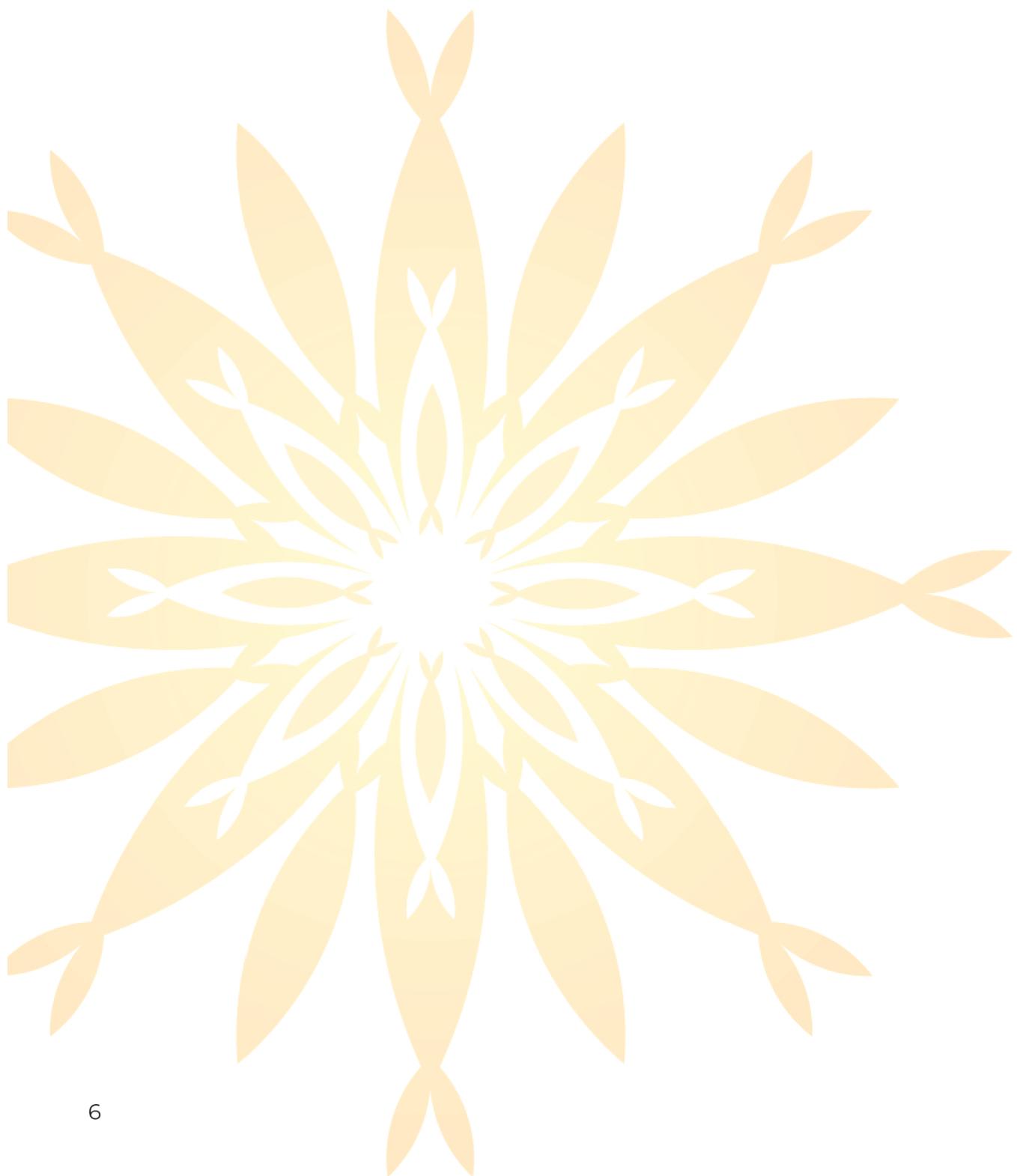
Myoungmi Kim



Welcome



AAPi Art Competition Spring 2025



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

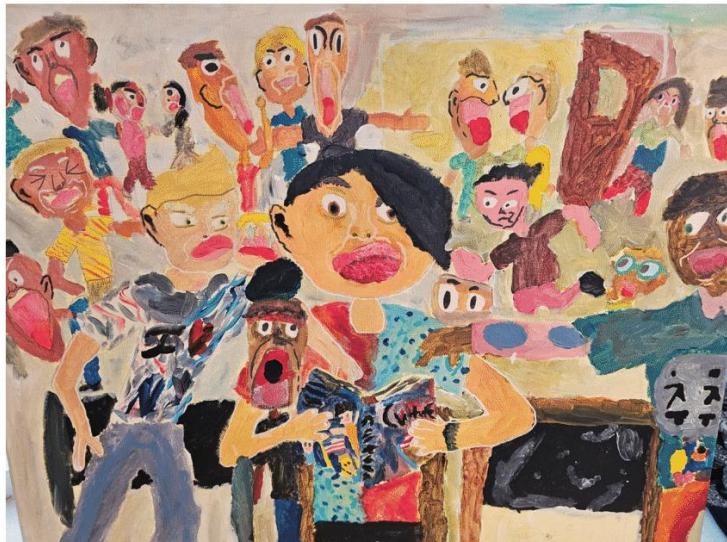
Color pencils, watercolor art pens, sharpies, gel color pens, pencil, and newspaper

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 newspaper word collage in the hair 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

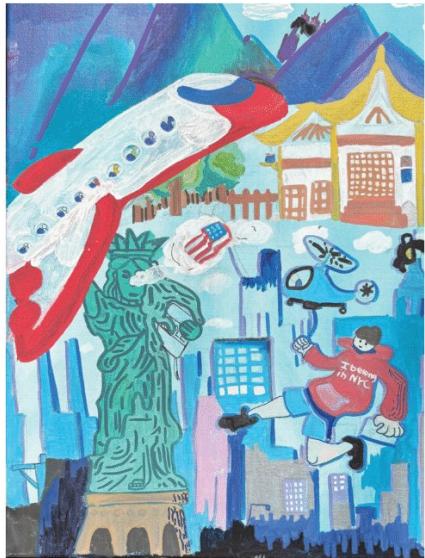
Eliana Hong
Grade 9

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

It features the taegeuki (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.

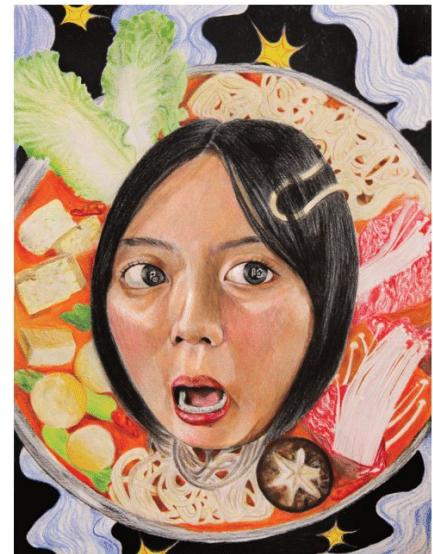
Gallery



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



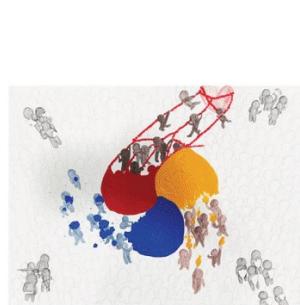
Under the Glow of Lanterns
Victoria Deng
Grade 8



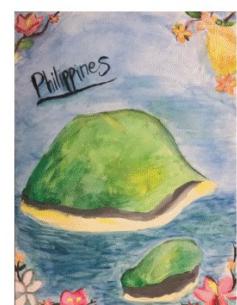
Beauty of Hanbok
Jia Kim
Grade 6



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

AAPi 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
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Senior Program Coordinator

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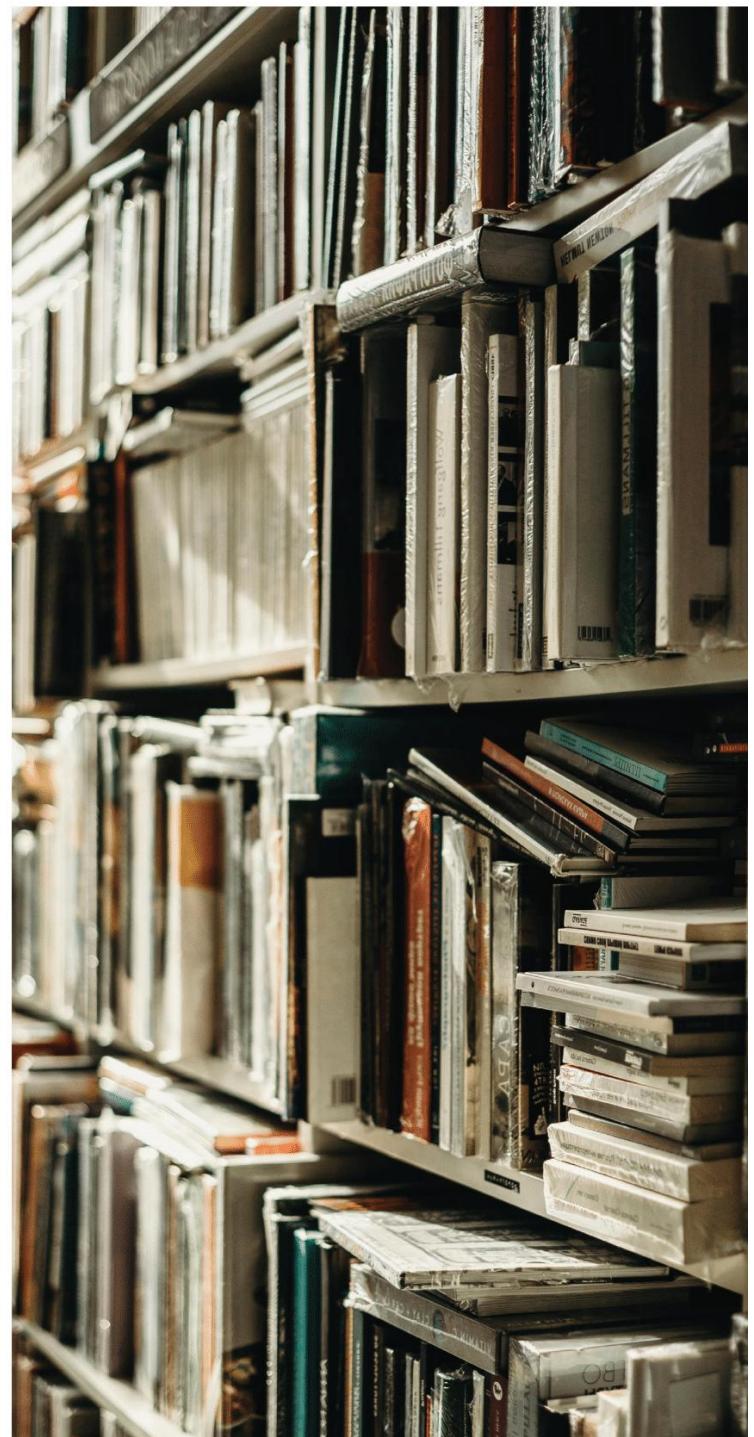
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Kathie Lee
Director of Community Building



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



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Public Health &
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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

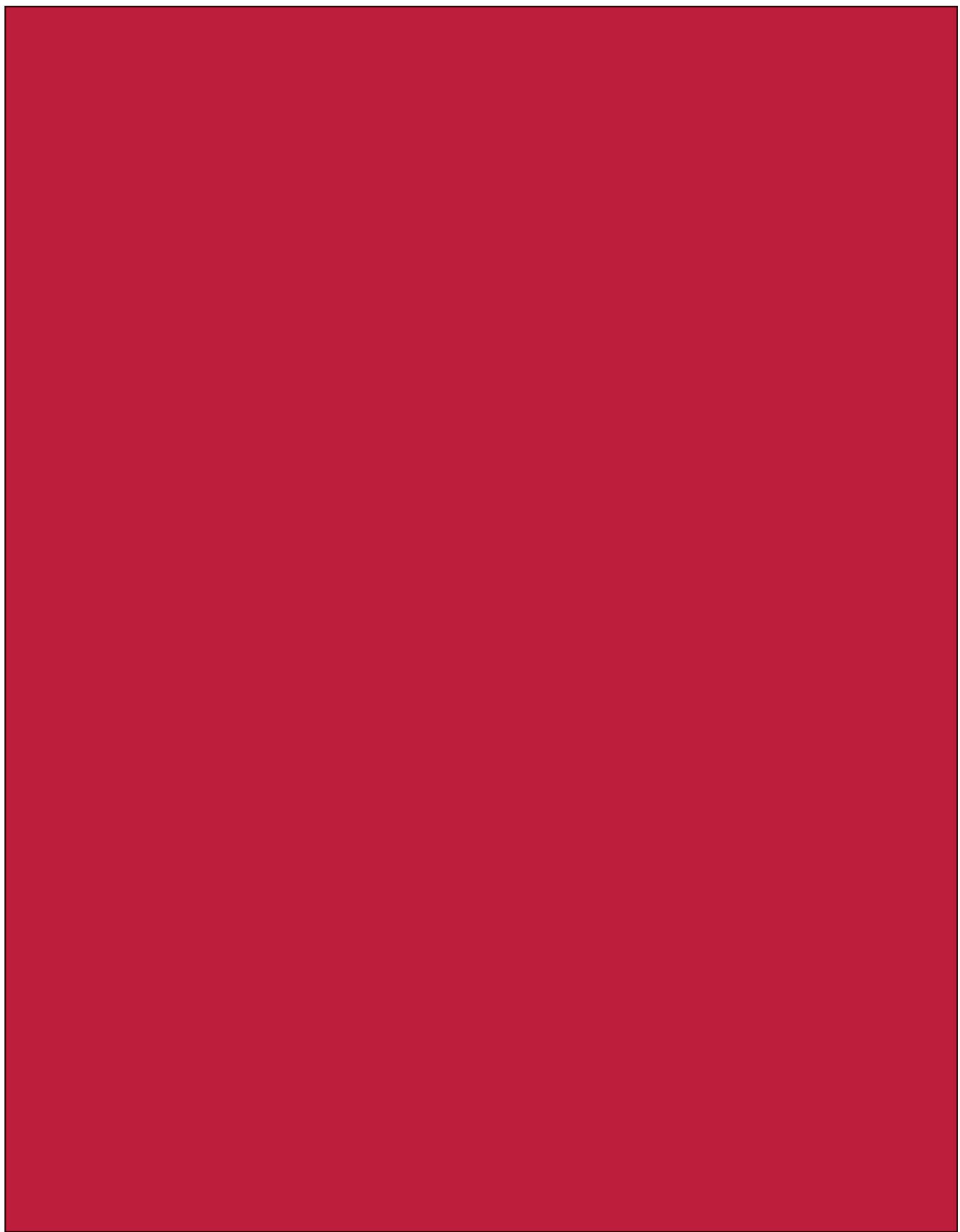
Canal Projects

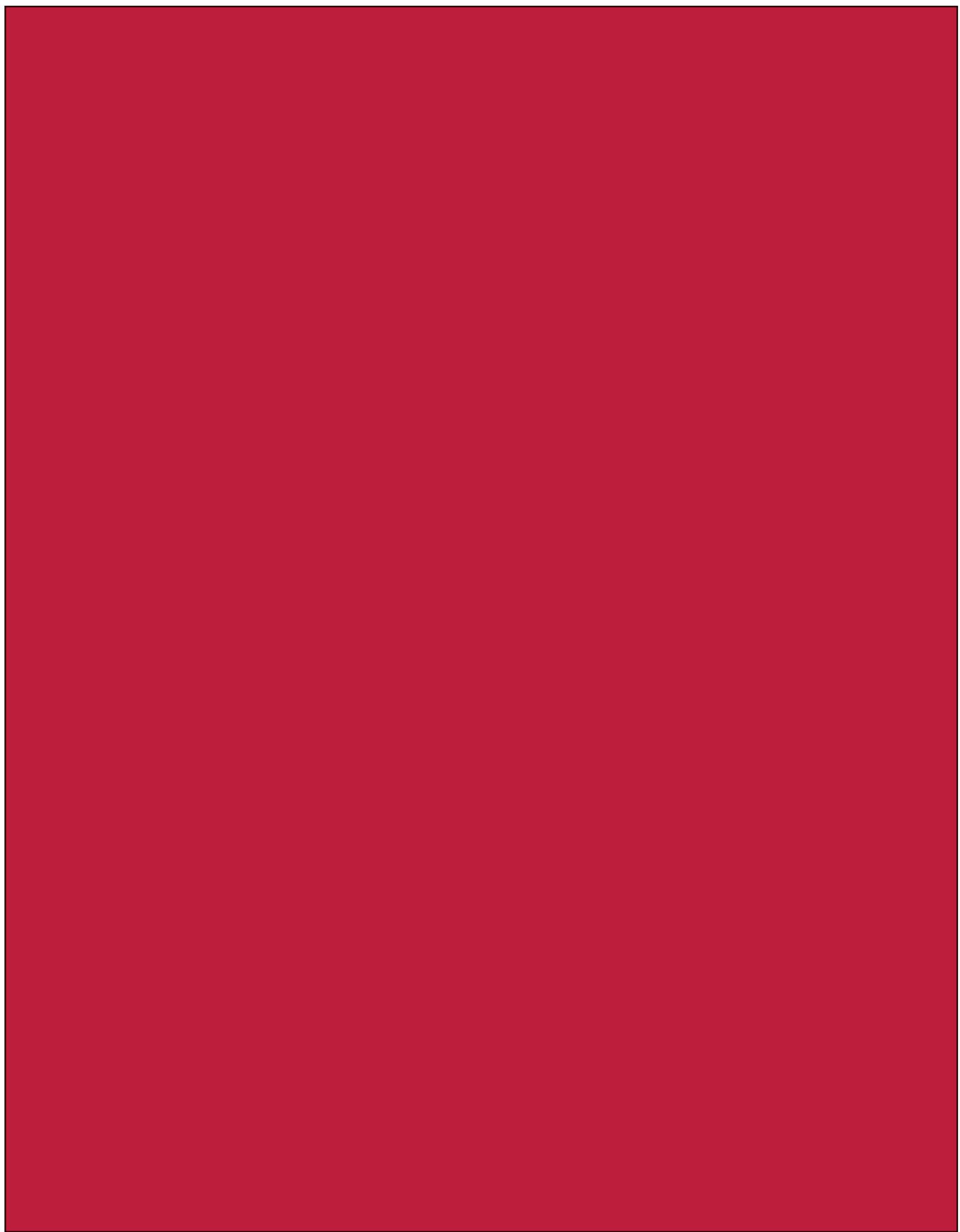
YS Kim Scholars

YS Kim Innovation Lab

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www.yskim.org
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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 프로그램



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



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