

Funny Asian Women Kollektive

HF 2382

Our Story

Founded in 2014, Funny Asian Women Kollektive (FAWK) exists to combat the invisibility and dehumanization of Asian Pacific Islander Desi American women (APIDA). We use comedy, performance art, and storytelling to navigate controversial issues such as race, gender, and patriarchy. Our past programming includes curating live performances, professional development workshops for emerging artists, using comedy to combat microaggressions, touring, keynote panels, talks, and videos around race, art, gender, and justice. We are based out of St. Paul's East Side neighborhood and our audience, leadership, and roster of artists is inclusive of folks from a wide spectrum of Asian American identities.

Our Vision

To create the first Asian American womxn-led state-of-the-art multimedia and performing arts center open to all. The Asian American Center for Media and the Arts (AACMA) will have a dope soundstage, recording studios, 300-seat theater, community rooms, and gallery. We know there is a community need for more art centers in the Eastside (and Saint Paul): spaces that hold collaborations, performances, creative and economic incubation, mentorship, workshops, gatherings, resource pantries, and more.

Our Ask

\$1 million: To fund the acquisition of property, predesign, design, site preparation, preconstruction services, and possible renovation of an arts center in the city of St. Paul.

Our Leadership Team

Our founding members Saymoukda Vongsay, Naomi Ko, and May Lee-Yang are writers, performers, filmmakers, cultural producers, and teachers. Between them, they have a combined 30+ years of experience in artmaking and administration in the Twin Cities. They have individually and collectively won over 50 grants and honors that include one Bush Leadership Fellowship, three McKnight fellowships, two Ordway Sally Awards, two Jerome Hill Artists Fellowships, and grants from the Knight Foundation, the Metropolitan Regional Arts Council, the MN State Arts Board, the National Performance Network, the Jerome Foundation, Forecast Public Art, The Headwaters Foundation, and elsewhere.

Our Community

FAWK's work of centering APIDA stories is important because:

APIDAs are the country's fastest growing racial group nationwide.
- Pew Research Center



The Twin Cities is home to one of the most diverse APIDA populations and home to the largest concentration of Hmong in the U.S.



APIDAs comprise 32% of the East Side, yet less than 2% of East Siders reported working in the Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation industry.
- MN COMPASS



www.fawkollektive.com