

**2001
Annual
Report**

Promoting the personal development of children, youth and adults through Hmong cultural education while providing resources that enhance cross-cultural awareness and understanding between Hmong and Non-Hmong people.



KOOM HAUM HMOOB KAB LIS KEV CAI



HMONG CULTURAL CENTER

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HMONG CULTURAL CENTER

Koom Haum Hmoob Kab Lis Kev Cai

The Hmong Cultural Center, Inc. (HCC) is a non-profit organization 501 [c] [3] located in the Frogtown area of Saint Paul, Minnesota. HCC was established in 1992 by a council of the 18 different clans in the Hmong community. The organization was formed to serve the entire Hmong community and be a leading force in promoting Hmong culture to all generations. HCC's mission is to promote the personal development of children, youth, and adults through Hmong cultural education while providing resources that enhance cross-cultural awareness and understanding between Hmong and Non-Hmong people.



Ser Lee,
President of
the Hmong
Cultural Center's
governing
18 Clan Council



Hmong
Cultural
Center's
Award
Winning
Dance
Troupe

HMONG CULTURAL CENTER PROGRAMS

Citizenship and Functional English Program: Prepares Hmong adults for their citizenship exams by teaching them about American laws, history and government while tutoring them for their citizenship interviews.

Hmoob Kab Lis Kev Cai (Cultural Customs): This program teaches adults traditional songs and rituals associated with the Hmong wedding and funeral ceremonies.

Niam Nkauj Cuam Sim (Dance): This program offers Hmong, Lao, and other traditional Asian dance instruction to children and youth aged 6 to 16.

Qeej Musical Instrument: This program teaches children and youth, aged 6 to 18, how to play the qeej musical instrument and traditional qeej songs, and how to perform qeej dances.

Nuj Sis Ntxiag (Mentorship): This program matches children and youth aged 8 to 18 with an older Hmong mentor for the purpose of sharing Hmong cultural traditions including the Qeej Musical Instrument, Kev Ua Tsaug (Traditional Ways of Saying Thank You, Mej Koob (the traditional Marriage Ceremony) and Kev Pam Tuag (Funeral Customs).

Hmong Resource Centre: the Hmong Cultural Center's Resource Centre is one of the most comprehensive centralized collections and lending libraries of Hmong-related books, PhD dissertations, indexed articles and Hmong language literature in the United States. The collection also includes several exhibits of Hmong cultural artifacts.

Major Program Accomplishments in 2001

- 224 Students participated in the Hmong Cultural Customs Program, 147 have successfully completed the program.
- 120 Students attended the Citizenship/Functional English Program, 50 passed the INS exam and became US citizens.
- The Niam Nkauj Cuam Sim Dance Troop took second place at the Minnesota Hmong New Year Celebration.
- 52 Students enrolled in the Qeej Music Program, 50% of whom successfully completed and graduated from the program in 2001.
- More than 300 people attended HCC Annual Picnic at Thompson Park.
- 300 hours of cultural education classes were offered on weekends for the community.
- The organization established new partnerships with the Minnesota Humanities Commission's Motherread/Fatheread Hmong Translation Initiative, the Saint Paul Public School's Hmong Dictionary Project, Best Buy Children's Foundation, Marbrook Foundation, & the Bush Foundation. HCC maintained good relationships with previous and current partners.
- Resource Centre added many new books, dissertations, articles, periodicals, videos, and artifacts to build one of the largest and most comprehensive centralized collections of Hmong-related literature and research materials anywhere.
- More than 930 people visited the Hmong Resource Centre, more than 200 of whom checked out materials. Out of town Visitors came to view and use the collection from Wisconsin, Illinois, North Carolina, California, China, Australia, and France.
- The Resource Centre completed 30 Hmong Subject Bibliographies for the cultural center website and an annotated bibliography of Hmong-related sources published between 1996 and 2001.
- The Resource Centre published a Hmong Census 2000 Report that was purchased by more than 130 libraries, service providers, academic institutions, and researchers throughout the United States.

FUNDING SUMMARY

2001 Total Revenue - \$253,249

2001 Corporate and Governmental Supporters

Saint Paul Community Literacy Consortium, McKnight Foundation, Saint Paul Foundation, Otto Bremer Foundation, HRK Foundation/Pinewood Trust, Saint Paul Companies Inc. Foundation, Grotto Foundation, General Mills Foundation, Bush Foundation, Frogtown's Leap Forward for Children, 3M Foundation, Children, Families and Community Initiative, Best Buy Children's Foundation, Medtronic Foundation, Marbrook Foundation, Minnesota Humanities Commission in cooperation with the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Minnesota State Legislature.

2001 Individual Donors and Members

Mary Vidas, Kim Cermak, Niki Lee Carlson, Bella Hanson, Pauline Mitchell, Amy Bartlett, Judy A. Rantala, Kathryn McGraw Schuchman, Diana Hawley, Ron Mazurowski, D'Ann Lesch, Pao Xiong, Melanie Adams, Chongsheeyee Gabe Lee, May Lee Xiong, Jose-Luis Gallagher, Dr. Marcie Parker, Jessica Franklin, Linda A. Miller, Nicki Lee Carlson, Professor Jeremy Hein, Professor Sally Hunter, Lee Vong Xiong, Chai Vue, Jennifer Blomme, Pao Lee Vue, Wilder Foundation, HM Metro Realty, Bee Lee, PajTsheng Vang, Ronald Hubbs Center for Learning, Dinner Club 2000, Sina Lee, Alice Neve, Koshoua Xiong, Lyfoung Foundation, Mankato State University, Professor Dia Cha & Kao Xiong, Mark Thompson, Michael Dixon, Marty Cushing, Jane Viste, Xue Lee, Caroline Thompson, Sunrise Market, Guaranty Choice Mortgage, Yeng Yang, Connect/US-Russia, District 2 Planning Council, Hmong Youth Project-Thailand, and Bethel College.

2001 Program Statistical Report

Total People Served: 1,493

By sex: Female: 678 (45.4%) Male: 815 (54.6%)

By race: Hmong: 930 (62.3%) Non-Hmong: 563 (37.7%)

By age: 6-8: 20 (1.3%) 9-13: 148 (9.9%) 14-19: 306 (20.5%)
20-35: 679 (45.5%) 36-64: 307 (20.6%) Over 65: 33 (2.2%)



TXONG PAO LEE

Executive Director

Txong Pao became Executive Director of Hmong Cultural Center in June 2002. Txong Pao was born in Laos, he moved to the United States and Saint Paul with his family in 1984. He attended Como Park High School. He graduated with a Bachelor's in Business Administration from Mount Senario College in Lady-smith, Wisconsin in 1995.

Txong Pao has several years of experience working with the Hmong community in Saint Paul. From 1996 to 1999, Txong Pao was the Citizenship Program Coordinator at the Hmong Cultural Center. From 2000 until Spring 2002, he served as the Hmong Outreach Coordinator at the District 2 Planning Council in St. Paul. Txong Pao has also been active as Treasurer of the Lee Clan Association in Minneapolis-St. Paul.

MARK E. PFEIFER, PHD

Hmong Resource Centre Director



Mark holds a Bachelor's Degree in Urban Affairs from Marquette University in Milwaukee, an M.A. in Urban Studies from Temple University in Philadelphia, and a PhD in Geography from the University of Toronto. He has extensively researched the adaptation of Southeast Asian immigrants and refugees in North America. His latest projects have included a study of Hmong residential trends across the U.S. and a bibliography of Hmong-related works published from 1996 to 2001.

Mark came to the Hmong Cultural Center in April 2000. Since this time he has built up the Hmong Resource Centre collections, developed a Hmong Cultural Center website and written grant proposals for the cultural center. Before coming to HCC, Mark worked with the Hmong community in St. Paul as a volunteer tutor at the Lauj Youth Society. Mark lives in Saint Paul in the Lexington-Hamline area.

TONG VANG

Citizenship Instructor



Tong was born in Laos. She came to the United States with her family in February 1980. Tong grew up on the West Side of Saint Paul. She attended Humboldt Senior School and Hamline University.

Before coming to the Hmong Cultural Center, Tong worked for the Saint Paul Public Schools as an Educational Assistant for four years. Tong started teaching Citizenship and Functional English at Hmong Cultural Center in December 2000.

Tong lives in St. Paul's North End with her husband and young son.

TOUGEU LEEPALAO

Cultural Consultant/Cultural Customs Instructor



Tougeu was born in 1930 in Phau Lu, Laos. Following service as a major in the Hmong army during the War in Laos he moved to Thailand in 1976. In 1978 he moved to France and in 1982 he settled in French Guyana. In 1989, he came to live in Saint Paul with his family.

Tougeu was one of the founders of the Hmong Cultural Center in 1992. He is an elder widely recognized in the Hmong community for his expertise in the rituals associated with the Hmong marriage and funeral ceremonies and for his vast knowledge of the Hmong cultural arts including music and the oral folktale tradition.

Tougeu is a prolific writer and has written several volumes related to aspects of Hmong culture including the Hmong wedding ceremony, Hmong marriage and courtship, Qeej Music, and Hmong History and Legends for the cultural center's Hmong Resource Centre. Since 1993, more than 200 Hmong youth and young adults have successfully completed his Hmong Cultural Customs classes.

YER LO

Dance Instructor



Yer grew up in Green Bay, WI and Minneapolis. She graduated from Edison High School in Minneapolis and is a student at Hennepin Technical College where she is studying Computer Networking.

Yer has been the Dance Instructor at Hmong Cultural Center since January 1999. Her dance troupes have performed at many community festivals and have placed highly in numerous competitions at Hmong New Years in Saint Paul and Minneapolis.

Yer currently lives in Maple Grove with her husband.

MENG VANG

Qeej Music Instructor



Meng was born in Thailand. He grew up on Saint Paul's East Side where he still lives. Meng is a graduate of Harding High School in Saint Paul. He currently attends the University of Minnesota where is pursuing a major in Social Science and a minor in Psychology.

Meng started attending Qeej music classes at Hmong Cultural Center as a youth in 1994. Eventually he became an experienced Qeej Musician, performing at frequent community festivals and cultural events. Meng became the Qeej Music Instructor at the cultural center in 1998. He continues to perform solo and with the children and youth in the Hmong Cultural Center's Qeej Music Troupe.

ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD AND STAFF

18 Clan Council

Ser Lee, **President**; Lee Xiong Pao, **Past President**

Board of Directors

Cherpheng Thao, **Chair**; Sean Lee, **Vice President**; Theresa White Song,
Wang Chong Lo, Deu Lee, Chu Kou Heu, Shoua Sue Lee, Xiong Lao Vue

Administrative Staff

Txong Pao Lee, **Executive Director**; Mark E. Pfeifer, PhD, **Hmong Resource
Centre Director**; Tong Vang, **Citizenship/Functional English Instructor**;
Tougeu Leepalao, **Cultural Consultant/Cultural Customs Instructor**;
Yer Lo, **Dance Instructor**; Meng Vang, **Qeej Music Instructor**

BALANCE SHEET (12/31/2001)

Current Assets

Cash	\$108,849
Grants Receivable	\$16,556
Prepaid Expenses	\$1,312

Total Current Assets **\$126,717**

Property and Equipment

Equipment & Furniture	\$16,192
Library Books and Artifact Exhibits	\$6,488
Less Accumulated Depreciation	(\$12,084)

Total Property and Equipment **\$10,596**

Other Assets

Security Deposit	\$1,200
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Total Other Assets **\$1,200**

Total Current Liabilities \$9,795

Total Long Term Liabilities \$0

Total Liabilities **\$9,795**

Restricted Net Assets \$42,239

Unrestricted Net Assets \$86,479

Total Net Assets **\$128,718**

Total Liabilities and Net Assets **\$138,513**