
Hmong Cultural Center 2008 Annual Report



**Hmong Cultural Center
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Message from Txong Pao Lee, Executive Director



April 2, 2009

Hello community. I have been the Executive Director of Hmong Cultural Center for almost 7 years. My role at the cultural center is to help the organization maintain and implement programs that further its mission of promoting the personal development of children, youth, and adults through education while also providing resources that enhance cross-cultural awareness and understanding among and between Hmong and non-Hmong persons.

I would like to thank all of the foundations and individual donors who have supported Hmong Cultural Center over the past year. Without your support we would not be able to continue to offer the heavily utilized programs that we have provided to the community for many years including those that teach the Hmong cultural arts to youth and the English language and the U.S. Citizenship process to refugee adults as well as the provision of Hmong Resource Center library resources to the general community.

As Hmong Cultural Center enters its 17th year of existence, I would like to highlight some of the key developments the organization has been involved with over the past year. We are very pleased that in 2008 we received a 3 year grant to support our 3 youth programs (Men's Circle, Qeej and Dance) from the McKnight Foundation and also received a 2 year grant from the Patrick and Aimee F. Butler Foundation to support the Qeej music instruction program. At the end of 2008, we received a new grant from the Mardag Foundation to support the Men's Circle program and its partnership to provide youth leadership development activities to Hmong male teens at White Bear Lake High School. We are working on forming additional partnerships between the Hmong Men's Circle program and additional school districts. In addition, in the Spring of 2008, the center was pleased to receive a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts to support its Hmong Funeral Songs classes.

Also in 2008, the center received new 2 year grants from the Saint Paul Foundation and the F.R. Bigelow Foundation to support the Hmong Resource Center library. We are very grateful that this important support has allowed us to keep the library staffed and to continue to add to the comprehensive library collections which attract the patronage of hundreds of college and high school students, scholars and community members each year. The center's long established Adult Basic Education programs continue to serve large numbers of Hmong refugee adults with ESL and Citizenship instruction. In fact, we are pleased to now see many of the Hmong refugees resettled from Wat Tham Krabok beginning in 2004 come to our center for assistance with the U.S. Citizenship process. For more than a decade, Hmong Cultural Center has been a key organization providing citizenship education classes and citizenship application-related services to the Hmong community. These programs are very important in helping Hmong residents of the Twin Cities achieve the important milestone of U.S. citizenship status.

In 2009, the board, staff and clients of Hmong Cultural Center will engage in an extensive strategic planning process to help guide the organization's future. We welcome your feedback in this process to set goals for Hmong Cultural Center's future. You can visit the Hmong Cultural Center at: www.hmongcc.org

I would like to wish everyone a great year.

Txong Pao Lee
Executive Director of Hmong Cultural Center

Established in 1992, Hmong Cultural Center's Mission is *to promote 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 persons.*

Multicultural Education and Race Relations Outreach Program to Promote Cross-Cultural Understanding Between Hmong and non-Hmong

Hmong Resource Center: The Hmong Resource Center is a library that provides community outreach activities related to multicultural education for the purpose of promoting positive race relations in the Minneapolis-Saint Paul community. Hundreds of individual college and secondary school students and community members such as educators, health and medical professionals use the Resource Center each year to find information about the Hmong. The Resource Center also publishes a Hmong Studies scholarly journal and compiles and disseminates its own Hmong-related social science research in relation to important socioeconomic and social justice issues. All of these activities are intended to improve understanding and group relations between Hmong and non-Hmong while also improving the ability of core institutions in the mainstream society to serve Hmong-American in a culturally competent manner.

Building Bridges

Teaching about the Hmong in our communities program: To respond to the need for community education about the Hmong refugee experience, and Hmong contributions to Minnesota and the United States. The Hmong Cultural Center's Building Bridges race relations outreach program provides comprehensive and interactive multicultural education presentation about the Hmong to groups in the Twin Cities community, Greater Minnesota and Wisconsin. The Building Bridges Program is intended to promote dialogue and understanding and reduce stereotypes that divided our communities.

Adult Education and Literacy Programs

This program is to promote the personal development and self-sufficiency of Hmong adults in American society. The citizenship program prepares adults for their citizenship exams by teaching them about American laws, history and government while tutoring them for their citizenship interviews. The English as a Second Language program teaches adults basic English vocabulary and grammar as well as workforce skills such as computer keyboarding.

Cultural Enrichment Programs

The goal of these programs is to promote the personal development, self-esteem, and social skills of children, and youth. The Qeej Musical Instrument program is an after school program teaches children and youth, aged 6-18, how to play the Qeej instrument, traditional Qeej songs, and how to perform Qeej dances. The Qeej is an important cultural identifier for the Hmong people and plays an intrinsic role in the Hmong funerals. This program helps reconnect children and youth to the culture of their parents. The Qeej program also includes guest speakers on important youth issues and academic enrichment activities for children and youth. The dance program provides instruction to children and youth in traditional Hmong and Asian dances.

Hmong Men's Circle Program

The Hmong Men's Circle provides after school activities and instruction for youth 13 - 18 related to self-esteem, leadership, preparation for education beyond high school, destructive behaviors to avoid as a teen (sexually transmitted diseases, causing pregnancies, drug and alcohol abuse, gangs etc.), bring in culturally-specific guest speakers, cultural education, and field trips to promote positive social development for Hmong and non-Hmong youth.

Cultural Customs Programs (Kab Lis Kev Cai)

This 17 year old program teaches adults and youth traditional songs and rituals associated with Mej Koob (the traditional Hmong Marriage Ceremony) and kev pam tuag (Funeral ceremony) in order to help ensure the survival of Hmong culture and tradition.

Adult Basic Education Stats in 2008

Adult Basic Education classes

Total Numbers of Students: 115

Male: 30%

Female: 70%

Educational Programs Stats in 2008

Marriage (Meej Koob) Ceremony Class

Total Numbers of Students: 16

Male: 100%

Female: 0%

Funeral (Kav Ywm thaib Txiv Xaiv) Ceremony Class

Total Numbers of Students: 39

Male: 100%

Female: 0%

Qeej Classes

Total Numbers of Students: 26

Male: 100%

Females: 0%

Dance Class

Total Number of Students: 25

Male: 12%

Females: 88%

Hmong Men's Circle

Total Number of participants: 24

Male: 100%

Female: 0%

Volunteers Stats in 2008

Total Number of Volunteers: 14

Male: 57%

Female: 42%

Multicultural Education at the Hmong Resource Center in 2008

The Hmong Resource Center is a primary provider of multicultural education resources and race relations outreach activities related to the Hmong people and the groups in the Twin Cities area and the Upper Midwest. The Hmong Cultural Center serves as the Hmong representative organization on the Council of Advisors of Tolerance Minnesota.

2008 Hmong Resource Center user stats from January 1, 2008 - December 31, 2008.

Total number of visitors: 723

% of Hmong: 49%

% of non-Hmong: 51%

Over the age of 18: 93%

Under the age of 18: 6%

Local resident: 92%

Non-local resident: 8%

Academic or User (Affiliate with college and University): 34%

Number of Hmong Resource Center Visitors Affiliated with Universities or College 1/1/08 - 12/31/08.

Minnesota-Based

Augsburg College - 1

Carleton College - 1

Gustavus Adolphus College- 1

Herzing College - 1

Macalester College - 12

Minneapolis Community and Technical College - 2

Rasmussen Community College - 1

The College of Saint Catharine - 8

University of Minnesota – Duluth - 1

University of Saint Thomas - 50

Bethel University - 9

College of Saint Scholastica - 8

Hamline University - 6

Inver Hill Community College - 4

Metropolitan State University - 20

North Hennepin Community College - 3

Saint Cloud State University - 4

University of Minnesota - 56

University of Minnesota – Morris - 2

Out of State Based

University of Wisconsin - Lacrosse - 1

University of California - Los Angeles - 1

University of Wisconsin - Stout - 1

University of Chicago - 1

University of Wisconsin - River falls - 11

Texas A&M University of Corpus Christi - 2

University of California - Berkeley - 11

San Francisco State University - 1

Ohio State University - 1

University of Wisconsin - Madison - 2

Des Moines University - 11

International Based

University of Posseu, Germany - 1
Hosei University, Japan - 1

In addition, more than 821 persons attended the Building Bridges Multicultural Education workshops about the Hmong Culture and History from the Hmong Cultural Center in 2008. The presentation was also given throughout the state of Minnesota. The Majority of these participants in the presentation were Educators, Healthcare providers, or in the Social Services field. The entire Building Bridges program curriculum may be viewed online at www.learnabouthmong.com in the "Hmong 101 presentation" section.

Scenes from the Hmong Cultural Center



Presenter and participants in the Building Bridges workshop.

Scenes from the Hmong Cultural Center



Hmong Cultural Center Resource Library.



Hmong Cultural Center Exhibition Room.

Scenes from the Hmong Cultural Center



ESL (English as a Second Language) students study in the morning class.



ESL students learning English.

Scenes from the Hmong Cultural Center



ESL students study in the morning class.



Hmong Cultural Center students took a field trip to the Minnesota State Capitol in the summer of 2008.

Scenes from the Hmong Cultural Center



Giving away Christmas gifts.



2008 Christmas Potluck

Scenes from the Hmong Cultural Center



Hmong Cultural Center dance troupe performed at the farmer's market.



Dance troupe performed at the Dragon Festival in 2008.

Scenes from the Hmong Cultural Center



Hmong Men's Circle participants at the White Bear Lake School District.



Special guests from Thailand with HCC staff.

Scenes from the Hmong Cultural Center



Dr. Chia Youyee Vang (Keynote Speaker, a professor from UW-Milwaukee) and local artist Seexeng Lee at the banquet.



Qeej students performed at the annual banquet.

Scenes from the Hmong Cultural Center



Dance Students danced at the banquet.



2008 annual banquet audience.

Scenes from the Hmong Cultural Center



Dr. Vang received recognition.



Qeej students preformed at the banquet.

Hmong Cultural Center Board of Directors

Sean Lee, Chair (U.S. Bank)

Kamai (Dao) Xiong, Vice Chair (Southeast Asian Parent Advisor, PACER)

Dr. Gale Mason-Chagil, Secretary (Cultural Inquiry Consulting and Adjunct Professor, Metropolitan State University)

Khue Yang, Treasurer (Assistant Vice-President, University National Bank)

Kin Vang, Capital Tax Consulting

Nao Thao (Hmong Culture and Language Program, Concordia University-Saint Paul)

Bounthavy Kiatoukaysy Thao (Saint Paul Public School)

Dr. Gerald Fry (Professor, College of Education, University of Minnesota)

Dr. Mark E. Pfeifer, Advisor to the Hmong Cultural Center Staff and Boards

Hmong Cultural Center Staff

Txong Pao Lee, Executive Director

Tougeu Leepalao, Cultural Arts Programs Instructor

Thai Vang, Adult Basic Education Instructor

Pa Vang, Adult Basic Education Instructor

Mee Yang, Adult Basic Education Coordinator

Xai Lor, Adult Basic Education Instructor and Librarian

Cher Vue, Librarian

Ray Murray, Volunteer Librarian

Nai Christopher Lo, Librarian, Outreach and Youth Coordinator

Mexai Xiong, Qeej Instructor

Txu Xiong, Qeej Instructor

Tou Thoj, Qeej Instructor

Blia Lee, Dance Instructor

The 2008 Hmong Cultural Center fundraising banquet was held at Foodsmart Restaurant in Saint Paul, MN on Sunday, November 9, 2008. It was a great success. Almost \$4,000 was raised from the community to support the cultural education programs (Qeej, Dance, and the Hmong Resource Library) at the Hmong Cultural Center.



Personal and corporate contributors to the 2008 Hmong Cultural Center Fundraising Banquet Included:

Dr. Mark Pfeifer	Asian Home Care, Inc
Ashley Vang	Cher Vue
Bounthavy Kiatoukaysy Thao	Drew V. Xiong
Chou Vang	Dr. Gale Mason-Chagil
Tsw Fong Lor and Nao Thao	Ka Mai Xiong and Drew V. Xiong
Dr. Gerald Fry	Kazoua S. Kong-Thao and Chang M. Thao
Kao Yang	Khue K. Yang and Cyndy Hang
Ker Thao	Kong Moua
Kin Vang	Lia Yang
Koua Lee	Mai Yang
Long Cheng, Inc	Mee Vang
Dr. Maydeu Ly	Ray Murray
Nhia Neng Vang	Sean S. Lee and Mai See Lee
Sally Baas	Seu Vang
Seexeng and Iriya Lee	Sou Dao Thao
Sheng Lee Yang	Soua Yang
Soua Sue Lee	Toua Vang and Mayka Leepaolao
Steve Moua	Vang Thao
Txong Pao Lee and Hlee X. Lee	Xao Thao
Xai Vang Xiong	Drew V. Xiong
Xai Lor	Steve Moua
Mee Yang	

Hmong Cultural Center, Inc. Financial Statement for the year ended December 31, 2008

Income (\$)	Total (\$)
Government Grants	\$ 246,040
Foundation Grants	\$ 91,063
Personal and Corporate Contribute	\$ 11,230
Fundraising	\$ 8,380
Misc. Revenue	\$ 1,291
Total Income (\$)	\$ 358,004
Expenses (\$)	
Payroll Expenses	\$ 225,957
Program Support Expenses	\$ 94,912
Direct Program Expenses	\$ 35,040
Total Expenses	\$ 355,910
Net Income	\$ 2,094

The Hmong Cultural Center Conducts an annual audit of its finances. Copies of the audit and the form 990 area available for review in the Hmong Cultural Center office .

2008 Corporate, Governmental, and Foundation Supporters of Hmong Cultural Center's Multicultural Education Programs and Adult Education

Travelers Foundation
www.travelers.com

Patrick and Aimee Butler Family Foundation
www.butlerfamilyfoundation.org

Mardag Foundation
www.mardag.org

Saint Paul Foundation
www.saintpaulfoundation.org

Saint Paul Foundation Asian Pacific endowment
www.saintpaulfoundation.org/page32217.cfm

Blue Cross/Blue Shield Foundation of Minnesota
www.bluecrossmn.com

Otto Bremer Foundation
www.ottobremer.org

McKnight Foundation
www.mcknight.org

Western Union
www.westernunion.com

F.R. Bigelow Foundation
www.frbigelow.org

National Endowment for the Arts
www.nea.gov

Saint Paul Community Literacy Consortium
www.spclc.org

City of Saint Paul Cultural Star Grant Program
<http://www.ci.stpaul.mn.us/index.asp?NID=1166>
