

# The Asian American Center for Media and the Arts

## Funny Asian Women Kollektive

### Our Story

Founded in 2014, Funny Asian Women Kollektive 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 women-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

\$2.6 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 three Bush Leadership Fellowships, 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.

[www.fawkollektive.com](http://www.fawkollektive.com)

### Our Community

**FAWK's work of centering Minnesotan stories is important because:**

**72% of Americans agree that arts helps them understand other cultures better. - Americans for the Arts**



**Artists are vital part of Minnesota's economy, as we contribute \$12.2 billion. -Americans for the Arts**



**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**

