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21 Cultural Nonprofits Across Minnesota Receive Grants to Strengthen Their Organizations

St. Paul, MN, January 26, 2018 – In the 2017 legislative session the Coalition of Asian American Leaders (CAAL) formed a broad base of over 40 cultural and infrastructure nonprofits and secured \$1 Million for the Nonprofit Infrastructure Grant Program. The program is being administered by Propel Nonprofits through the Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED).

“We led the creation of this program because in our survey of Asian American nonprofits we learned that many were not receiving the kind of investments they needed to become strong. Even though many were providing some of the most important services to meet the needs of their community they most often had the most fragile infrastructure in the sector. That’s unacceptable given our state’s commitment to small businesses, diversity and addressing racial inequities,” states Bo Thao-Urabe, CAAL’s Network and Executive Director.

CAAL found similar patterns of organizational instability from lacking investments in other people of color and Indigenous communities. Given that information CAAL worked with their leaders and legislators to address the challenge, eventually reaching out to Propel Nonprofits to be the implementation partner given their expertise in building nonprofit infrastructure.

Yesterday’s [announcement](#) of the 21 organizations from across Minnesota selected by Propel Nonprofits moves the work of ensuring cultural nonprofits strengthen their organizations to become strong employers with effective programs that meet the needs of Minnesota’s diverse communities forward.

KaYing Yang, CAAL’s Director of Programs and Partnerships reflects that, “We know that when work across communities we all benefit. The coalition worked hard to build bipartisan support in the Minnesota Legislature. The 21 groups selected and the people they serve will benefit from the financial support.”

Yang adds, “This is only the tip of the iceberg. More than 180 applications were received, indicating the great need to grow this program for other deserving organizations.”

“We believe this first group will show that when organizations from communities of color and Indigenous communities are strengthened they will help make Minnesota better. CAAL plans to continue working to ensure that Minnesota leverages the community and linguistic assets of cultural communities to strengthen our national and international economic competitiveness which often reside within the nonprofits in our community,” Thao-Urabe said.

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About CAAL: The Coalition of Asian American Leaders (CAAL) is a network whose mission is to harness the collective power of Asian American leaders to improve the lives of community by connecting, learning, and acting together. www.caalmn.org.