

# សន្និសីទជាតិខ្មែរអាមេរិកាំង



## Cambodian American National Conference: *Bridging Cambodian American Generations*

អង្គការខ្មែរអាមេរិកាំងប្រចាំសហរដ្ឋអាមេរិក

July 12-14, 2019

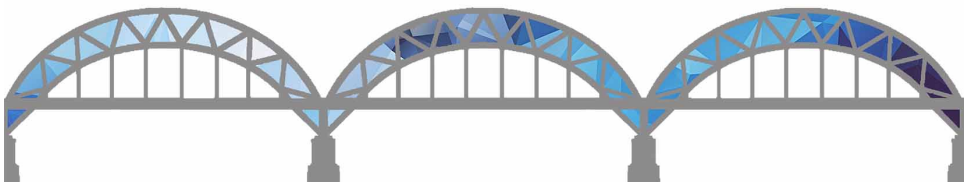
Clark College, Gaiser Hall, Vancouver, WA  
1933 Fort Vancouver Way, Vancouver, WA 98663

Hosted by the National Cambodian American Organization  
& the Cambodian American Community of Vancouver, WA



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# Welcome Message

សូមស្វាគមន៍ លោក អ្នកស្រី ព្រមទាំងញាតិមិត្តទាំងអស់ដែលអញ្ជើញមកចូលរួមក្នុងពិធីសន្និសីទជាតិខ្មែរអាមេរិកាំង! យើងខ្ញុំដែលរស់នៅក្នុងទីក្រុងវ៉ែនយូអ៊ែរ រដ្ឋវ៉ាស៊ីនតុន ទីក្រុងដែលប្រកបទៅដោយសោភ័ណភាពដ៏ស្រស់បំព្រងក្នុងតំបន់ប៉ាស៊ីហ្វិកទិសពាយព្យ មានកិត្តិយសណាស់ដែលមានឱកាសរៀបចំជាដំបូងនូវព្រឹត្តិការណ៍ពិសេសនេះ។ ថ្ងៃនេះ វាគ្មាននិងភ្ញៀវរបស់យើងដែលមានការចាប់អារម្មណ៍ ការយកចិត្តទុកដាក់ បានអញ្ជើញមកពី California, Colorado, Illinois, Iowa, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Missouri, Nevada, Oregon, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Texas, Virginia, Washington State, Washington D.C., Wisconsin និងប្រទេសកម្ពុជា។ យើងទាំងអស់គ្នា បាននាំយកមកនូវសេចក្តីស្រម័យនិងសេចក្តីសង្ឃឹមរបស់យើងមកផ្តួចផ្តើមប្រឌិតអាណាគតមួយ ហើយបង្កើតឱយមានរូបភាពពិតប្រាកដនូវសហគមន៍ខ្មែរអាមេរិកាំងទូទាំងសហរដ្ឋអាមេរិកដែលពួកវាស្រដៀងគ្នា ដើម្បីបង្កើនកម្លាំង សមត្ថភាព និងអំណាច ដើម្បីប្រឈមមុខ រកដំណោះស្រាយចំពោះបញ្ហាសំខាន់ៗ ដែលធ្វើឱយប្រែប្រួលប៉ះទង្គិចជីវិតប្រចាំថ្ងៃរបស់យើង៖ ផ្នែកសេដ្ឋកិច្ច សុខភាព ការសិក្សា របរអាជីវកម្ម ការបំរើសង្គម ល។និងល។

បេសកកម្មនៃសន្និសីទរបស់យើងគឺដើម្បីបង្កើតស្ថានទំនាក់ទំនងសំរាប់ខ្មែរអាមេរិកាំងគ្រប់ជំនាន់ ទូទាំងសហរដ្ឋអាមេរិក ស្ថានដែលរំពឹងទៅលើកម្លាំង “ឆ្លងវប្បធម៌” និងការដឹកនាំដើម្បីកសាង ទ្រទ្រង់គ្រួសារនិងសហគមន៍ដ៏មាំមួនរបស់ខ្មែរអាមេរិកាំង។ គោលបំណងសន្និសីទគឺដើម្បី ចែកជូននូវការអនុវត្តន៍និងធនធានចំណេះវិជ្ជាដ៏ប្រសើរ ការជម្រុញចិត្តឱយស៊ើបសួរទាក់ទងនិងបង្កើតបណ្តាញទំនាក់ទំនង ការអប់រំបណ្តុះបណ្តាលអ្នកដឹកនាំខ្មែរអាមេរិកាំងគ្រប់ជំនាន់ ហើយនឹងបង្កើតឡើងនូវការដោះស្រាយរួមរបស់សហគមន៍ខ្មែរអាមេរិកាំង។

យើងខ្ញុំសូមស្វាគមន៍លោក អ្នកស្រី និងញាតិមិត្តទាំងអស់ ដែលចាប់អារម្មណ៍យកចិត្តទុកដាក់រៀនអំពីវប្បធម៌ខ្មែរ ហើយចូលរួមជួយផ្តល់ផ្លូវដោះស្រាយដល់បញ្ហាទាំងឡាយដែលសហគមន៍ខ្មែរយើងជួបប្រទះទូទាំងសហរដ្ឋអាមេរិក។

សូមអរគុណដែលបានអញ្ជើញមកចូលរួមជាមួយយើងខ្ញុំក្នុងថ្ងៃនេះ ហើយជួយធ្វើឱយសន្និសីទយើងប្រកបទៅដោយអត្ថន័យ ដែលអាចចាំជាប់ជានិច្ចតរៀងទៅ។

ដោយកតវេទិតា

ក្រុមប្រឹក្សាអង្គការខ្មែរអាមេរិកាំងប្រចាំសហរដ្ឋអាមេរិកនិងគណកម្មាធិការរៀបចំសន្និសីទលើកស្ទួយ ផ្សព្វផ្សាយ អគ្គសញ្ញាណ មោតនភាព និងសាមគ្គីភាព

# Welcome Message

Welcome to the first Cambodian American National Conference! We are honored to host and spearhead this groundbreaking event in Vancouver, WA, nestled in the beautiful Pacific Northwest. Today, passionate speakers and guests will be converging from communities throughout California, Colorado, Illinois, Iowa, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Missouri, Nevada, Oregon, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Texas, Virginia, Washington state, Washington, D.C., Wisconsin, Cambodia, and beyond. Together, we strive to make real a vision of the future where Cambodian American communities are united and empowered to address critical issues that impact our daily lives, challenges that pertain to the economy, health care, education, employment, social services, and beyond.

The mission of our conference is to Bridge Cambodian American Generations across the U.S. by leveraging our cross-cultural strengths and leadership in order to build and sustain strong families and communities. Our conference goals include: sharing best practices and resources, encouraging outreach and networking, cultivating intergenerational Cambodian American leadership, and establishing community joint resolutions. We welcome all who are interested in learning about Cambodian culture and motivated to help contribute solutions to important issues facing our communities all over the U.S.

Thank you for joining us today to help make this conference a memorable and meaningful event!

With gratitude,

- NCAO Board of Directors &  
Conference Planning Committee

*Promoting Khmer Identity, Pride, and Unity*



# Overview of NCAO

## អង្គការខ្មែរអាមេរិកាំងប្រចាំសហរដ្ឋអាមេរិក

NATIONAL CAMBODIAN AMERICAN ORGANIZATION (NCAO)  
A NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION

*Promoting Khmer Identity, Pride & Unity*

### សេចក្តីសង្ខេប: អង្គការខ្មែរអាមេរិកាំងប្រចាំសហរដ្ឋអាមេរិក

ចាប់តាំងពីការតាំងលំនៅឋាននៃជនកៀសខ្លួនឆ្នាំ១៩៧៥, សហគមន៍ខ្មែរអាមេរិកាំងបានរីកចម្រើន មានចំនួនជាង ៣០០,០០០ នៅគ្រប់រដ្ឋធំៗ។ ក្នុង៣១សវត្សរ៍កន្លងមកនេះ យើងបានកត់សម្គាល់នូវភាពជោគជ័យ ព្រមទាំងឧបសគ្គជាច្រើនទៀតផង។ ខ្មែរអាមេរិកាំង បានធ្វើវិភាគទានដ៏សំខាន់ចំពោះ នយោបាយ សេដ្ឋកិច្ច ចំណេះដឹងនិងជីវិតវប្បធម៌។ ក្នុងចំណោមជនជាតិអាមេរិកាំងទាំងឡាយ ខ្មែរអាមេរិកាំងមានសភាពទន់ខ្សោយ ជាងគេ ទាំងផ្លូវសង្គមកិច្ច និងសេដ្ឋកិច្ចផងដែរ។ ទោះបីយ៉ាងណាក៏ដោយ ខ្មែរអាមេរិកាំង នៅតែគេមើលមិនឃើញ ជាពិសេសសកានិកិបញ្ញត្តិ។ បញ្ហានិងសេចក្តីត្រូវការទាំងឡាយ ត្រូវបានគេកត់សម្គាល់និងចាត់ទុកថ្នាក់ទាបបំផុត នៃជនជាតិអាស៊ីអាមេរិកាំង “គំរូភាគតិច”។

អង្គការខ្មែរអាមេរិកាំងប្រចាំសហរដ្ឋអាមេរិក បានកើតឡើងនៅ ខែកក្កដា ឆ្នាំ ២០១០ដោយមេដឹកនាំខ្មែរអាមេរិកាំង ពីដំបូងជាយសមុទ្រខាងលិច ជាយសមុទ្រខាងកើត និង ដែនដីកណ្តាលនៃសហរដ្ឋអាមេរិក បានទៅជួបជុំគ្នានៅក្រុង ឈីខាហ្គ រិះរកដំណោះស្រាយរួមគ្នា និងដើម្បីលើកស្ទួយ រក្សាសំឡេងនៅសហរដ្ឋអាមេរិក។ នៅឆ្នាំ២០១៦ អង្គការខ្មែរអាមេរិកាំងបាន សំរេចលើកស្ទួយគោលការ ៣ ប្រការគឺ **អត្តសញ្ញាណ, មោទនភាព និង សាមគ្គីភាព** ដើម្បីពង្រឹងនូវបេសកកម្មទៅរកផលប្រយោជន៍ និងសុខុមាលភាពនៃជនជាតិខ្មែរនៅសហរដ្ឋអាមេរិក តាមរយៈបណ្តាញទាក់ទង និងប្រមូលមូលសំឡេងទាមទារតវ៉ា នូវបញ្ហាដែលប៉ះទង្គិចមកលើសហគមន៍ខ្មែរយើង។

NCAO's Headquarters: 2831 West Lawrence Avenue, Chicago, IL 60625  
Tel. (773) 878-7090; Fax: (773) 878-5299



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nationalcao.org

# Overview of NCAO

## អង្គការខ្មែរអាមេរិកកំចាត់ប្រចាំសហរដ្ឋអាមេរិក

**NATIONAL CAMBODIAN AMERICAN ORGANIZATION (NCAO)**  
A NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION

*Promoting Khmer Identity, Pride & Unity*

Since the initial resettlement of refugees from Cambodia in 1975, the Cambodian American community has grown to over 300,000, with a presence in virtually all the major states in the US. The last three decades are marked by both notable achievements and persisting challenges. Cambodian Americans have made significant contributions to American political, economic, intellectual and cultural life. They are also among the most socially and economically vulnerable populations in the US. Despite both their achievements and their challenges, Cambodian Americans remain virtually invisible, especially to policy makers. Their issues and concerns are masked by the homogenizing rubric of the Asian American “model minority”. The National Cambodian American Organization (NCAO) was born out of this frustration with the persisting invisibility and voicelessness of our community. In July 2010, a group of dedicated Cambodian American leaders and advocates from the West Coast, East Coast, and Midwest came together in Chicago to seek a collective solution for promoting and maintaining a national Cambodian American voice. A national organization was formed.

In the summer of 2016, the NCAO adopted the guiding principles of Promoting Khmer Identity, Pride and Unity to further strengthen its mission of advancing the interests, concerns, and well-being of Cambodians in the US through networking, collaboration, coordination, advocacy, and community mobilization around critical initiatives.

**NCAO's Headquarters: 2831 West Lawrence Avenue, Chicago, IL 60625**  
Tel. (773) 878-7090; Fax: (773) 878-5299



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[nationalcao.org](http://nationalcao.org)

# NCAO Board of Directors



Connie Mom-Chhing  
President  
(WA)



Yorn Yan  
Secretary  
(MN)



Kompha Seth  
Board Member  
(IL)



Phavann Chhuan  
Board Member  
(MD)



Joseph Hing  
Treasurer  
(WA)

# NCAO Advisory Board



Van Sar  
Advisor  
(WA)



Khatharya Um  
Advisor  
(CA)

## Conference Planning Committee



**Thavy Mom-Hing**

Chair, Planning Committee

Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor

**School:** MS in Rehabilitation Counseling Education, Portland State University; BA in Political Science, University of Washington

**Hobbies:** Gardening, hiking, spending time with friends and family

**Message:** "I hope this conference will provide a chance for all to learn from each other, build stronger connections through networking, and establish new friendships. I am excited to find ways to support each other to make Cambodian American communities stronger for all generations!"



**Darin Chhing**

Chair, Planning Committee

Healthcare/Community Organizing

**School:** BA in Molecular & Cell Biology; minor in Public Policy, University of California, Berkeley

**Hobbies:** Piano, music composition, film, cooking

**Message:** "I look forward to promoting khmer pride and fostering stronger connections among younger generations of Cambodian Americans."



**Charmony Chhing**

Chair, Conference Logistics

Student

**School:** Clark College/Evergreen High School

**Hobbies:** Playing the violin and watching sitcoms

**Message:** "I hope to learn more about the challenges and successes of Cambodian Americans from communities all across the country."



**Corey Hing**

Chair, Public Relations/Communications

Student

**School:** Clark College/Evergreen High School

**Hobbies:** Music and sports

**Message:** "I'm excited to create new bonds and lasting memories with other Cambodians!"

# Conference Planning Committee



**Davin Hing**

Chair, Budget & Fundraising  
Student

**School:** Clark College

**Hobbies:** Playing tuba and trombone, composing music, exploring video games (Xbox and Nintendo Switch)

**Message:** "I hope this conference can help raise awareness of our Cambodian American community, such that we gain greater recognition throughout the nation. Let's get more people interested in learning about Cambodian history and culture."



**Phin Yeang**

Chair, Food & Catering  
Firmware Technician

**School:** Administrative Specialist, Clark College

**Hobbies:** Dancing and singing

**Message:** "I am excited to see younger and older generations of Cambodian Americans coming together for a brighter and stronger future!"



**Arnold Ou**

Chair, Public Relations/Communications  
Student

**School:** Heritage High School

**Hobbies:** Playing the clarinet and PC video games

**Message:** "I look forward to learning more about my heritage, in addition to finding ways we can address language barriers between younger and older Cambodian generations."



**Jesalynn Prom**

Food & Catering  
Student

**School:** Clark College/Evergreen High School

**Hobbies:** Baking cookies, playing ukulele and piano

**Message:** "I can't wait to make new connections and meet different people of all ages!"



# 7 Conference Subcommittees

## Public Relations/Communications:

Corey Hing (Chair), Arnold Ou (Chair), Charmony Chhing, Darin Chhing, Lisa Son, Laurie Son, Linda Son, Lucy Son

## Budget & Fundraising:

Davin Hing (Chair), Thavy Hing, Joseph Hing, Phin Yeang, Nathaniel Mom

## Food & Catering:

Phin Yeang (Chair), Thavy Hing (Chair), Corey Hing, Jesalynn Prom

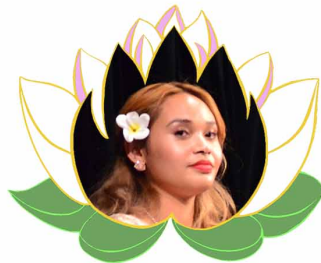
## Conference Logistics:

Charmony Chhing (Chair), Darin Chhing, Thavy Hing, Davin Hing, Corey Hing, Arnold Ou, Jesalynn Prom, Phin Yeang, Connie Mom-Chhing

# Conference Masters of Ceremony



Nathaniel Mom

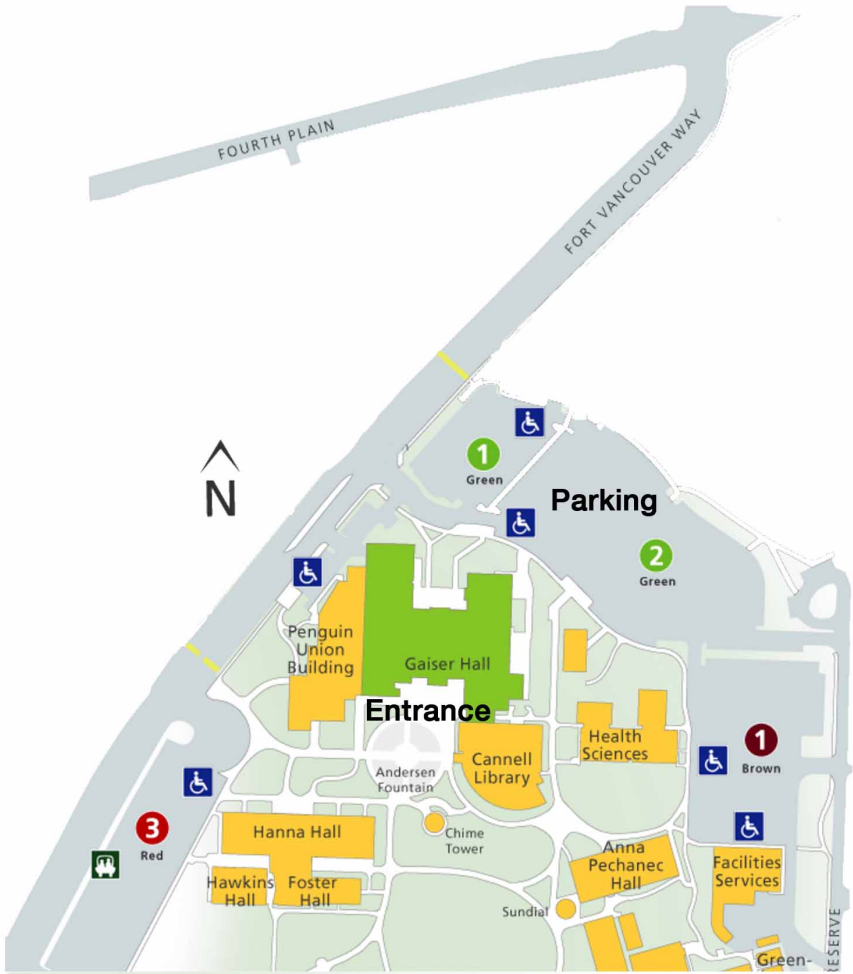


Vannari Sang

# Volunteers

Yamony Waller, Jonathan Waller, Pong Neariroth, Sokha Chhing, Chandara Mom, Rossalyn Ou, Alexis Yeang, Angie Dilschneider, Thach El, and Chakriya Lim.

# Map of Clark College



## CLARK COLLEGE

1933 Fort Vancouver Way, Vancouver, WA 98663-3598

Gaiser Hall highlighted in Green

# Conference Schedule

## Friday, July 12

### 5:00 PM – Evening Reception

*Community Room, Firstenburg Community Center*

Evening reception for NCAO Board, Planning Committee, Subcommittees, and conference attendees.

NCAO Board's welcoming remarks by:

**Connie Mom-Chhing – President**

**Yorn Yan – Secretary/Former President**

**Van Sar – Advisory Board**

### 7:00 PM – End of Reception

## Saturday, July 13

### 8:15 AM – Registration

*Gaiser Hall, Clark College*

Registration, continental breakfast and networking

Welcome video

### 9:00 AM – Welcome

*Gaiser Hall*

National anthems: USA: **Jenny Chan** (PSU Student);

Cambodia: **Tevy Chea** (CACO)

Conference Masters of Ceremony:

**Nathaniel Mom; Vannari Sang**

Opening remarks by Conference Planning Committee Chairs:

**Thavy Mom-Hing; Darin Chhing**

Welcoming remarks by the Mayor of Vancouver, WA:

**Anne McEnerny-Ogle**

### 9:30 AM – Overview of NCAO

**Connie Mom-Chhing, DM, MPA**

*Board President, NCAO*

# Conference Schedule

10

**9:50 AM – Keynote: *Acknowledging Our Past and Co-creating a Thriving Cambodian American Community***

***Sarah Kith, MSOD***

*Associate Ombudsman; Narrative Coach (WA D.C.)*

Prepare to be inspired to lead, harnessing the strengths and contributions of all generations to make a difference; prepare to be challenged and nudged to let go of stories about one another that divide, and embrace a narrative of unity that fosters connections.

**10:15 AM – Morning Break**

**10:30 AM – Concurrent Youth & Adult Dialogues**

*Gaiser Hall (Adult session); Room 258A (Youth session)*

Two concurrent dialogue sessions on issues impacting youth and adult generations.

Youth Moderator: ***Sarah Kith***

Adult Moderator: ***Yorn Yan***

**11:30 AM – Organization Exhibit, Networking,  
Vendor Tables, and Silent Auction**

*Gaiser Hall (throughout the day)*

**List of Organizations/Academic Institutions attending:**

- Cambodian American Friendship Foundation
- Cambodian American Literary Arts Association
- Khmer Student Association Uni. Washington
- Angkor Association Inc. (VA/DC)
- Asia Pacific Cultural Center (WA)
- Berkeley Cambodian Student Association (CA)
- Cambodian American Community Council of WA
- Cambodian American Community of Oregon
- Cambodian Association of Illinois
- Cambodian Mutual Assistance Association (MA)
- Cambodian Cooperative of Seattle
- Khmer Buddhist Organization of Pacific NW
- Ohio State University KhSA
- Oregon State University CSA
- Portland State University CSA
- United Cambodian Association of Minnesota
- University of Virginia
- Western Washington University KhSA
- And more!

# Conference Schedule

## 11:45 AM – Lunch/Networking

*Gaiser Hall*

Lunch: Free of charge (donations welcomed!)

Volunteer/Conference Sponsors Recognition

## 12:15 PM – Lunch Panel: *A Dialogue on Civic Engagement & Deportation*

**Sina Sam, BA**

*Commissioner, Washington State Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs (CAPAA)*

**Keo Sanh**

*Founder/President, Eazy Duz It CC-King County*

**Sok Krouch**

*Community Member, Khmer Anti-deportation Advocacy Group (KhAAG); Formerly Incarcerated Group Healing Together (F.I.G.H.T)*

**Stefan Saing, BS**

*Civic Engagement Coordinator, Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization (IRCO) (OR)*

*Moderator: **Connie Mom-Chhing***

*Democracy starts with us and in everyday life within local communities. This panel will address the importance of empowering community members to engage in civic duties to impact changes that we want to see in our communities. Panelists will also provide an overview of recent efforts and accomplishments in mobilizing communities in addressing deportation, which impacts the lives of many Cambodian Americans.*

## 12:50 PM – Khmer Angkor Dance Troupe of Vancouver, WA

## 1:00 PM – *Intergenerational Transmission of Trauma: From Hopeless to Hopeful*

*Gaiser Hall*

**Samuel Keo, PSYD**

*Clinical Psychologist, Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health (CA)*

Dr. Keo begins with a brief history of the Khmer Civil War and the 1970-1979 Genocide to illustrate how these historic events contributed to the pain and suffering of current and future Khmer generations. Next, he examines the symptoms and behaviors that could be transferred to the vulnerable children of parents with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). Finally, Dr. Keo discusses how Attachment Theory applies to Cambodian children of parents with PTSD, presenting a case study on intergenerational conflicts of trauma.



# Conference Schedule

**1:40 PM – Transition**

**1:45 PM – Best Practices Workshops: Round 1**

Three concurrent workshops featuring best practices from organizations across the nation

## **KhSA: A Community Promoting Education Throughout Generations**

*Room 258A*

**Michael Sea**

*President, KhSA University of Washington*

**Khatami Chau**

*Vice President, KhSA University of Washington*

**Judy Khun**

*Cultural Chair, KhSA University of Washington*

**Jenny Sun**

*Public Relations, KhSA University of Washington*

*Moderator: Thavy Mom-Hing*

Khmer Student Association UW was founded in 1982 as a student organization dedicated to fostering its students throughout their college careers so that they can adjust to the academic and social life at the University of Washington. KhSA is here to promote the Khmer culture amongst the people within the organization and the surrounding communities, bridging generations together. Discover how this organization seeks to inspire, promote, and support Khmer American students.

## **Mission-Oriented, Community-Driven, Holistic Solutions: MN Cambodian Communities**

*Gaiser Hall*

**Yorn Yan, MMA**

*Executive Director, United Cambodian Association of Minnesota*

*Moderator: Nathaniel Mom*

Discover how the United Cambodian Association of Minnesota achieves its mission to promote health, social, economic, and educational opportunities for all Cambodians and new Americans living in Minnesota. Learn about UCAM's 5 major programs: Adult Day Care, Elderly Independent Living, Youth Development, Health Education, and Immigration. Explore how mission-oriented, community-driven, holistic solutions help solve complex youth issues and critical community challenges.

# Conference Schedule

## 1:45 PM – CACCW: A Community Development Experience

*Room 258B*

### **William Oung, MBA**

*CoFounder, Cambodian American Community Council of Washington*

*Moderator: Charmony Chhing*

Following the August 2015 memorial event in Seattle entitled *Remembering the Past and Welcoming the Future: 40 Years since the Killing Fields*, a council was formed. Cambodian American Community Council of Washington's goal is to help facilitate efforts to build a stronger Cambodian community. William Oung will cover the Council's best practices, lessons learned, and offer recommendations to help support other communities.

## 2:35 PM – Workshop Transition

## 2:40 PM – Best Practices Workshops: Round 2

Three concurrent workshops featuring best practices from organizations across the nation

## Paths Towards a Healthcare Career: Cambodian American Stories

*Room 258A*

### **Lina Khoeur, MS**

*Medical Student, University of California, San Francisco*

### **Ashley Kourn, BS**

*Pharmacy Student, University of Washington*

### **Nim Uth**

*President, Cambodian Student Association,  
Oregon State University, SHPEP Scholar, Pre-med*

Moderator: **Darin Chhing, BA**

*CoPresident, American Medical Student Association*

# Conference Schedule

## 2:40 PM – Khmer Identity, Pride, and Unity

*Gaiser Hall*

**Kompha Seth, BA**

*Executive Director, Cambodian Association of Illinois*

**Phavann Chhuan, MBA**

*Board Member, NCAO*

Moderator: Connie Mom-Chhing

Kompha Seth and Phavann Chhuan will present on Khmer Identity, Pride, and Unity, drawing upon ancient inscriptions from the 9th century BC. Given these three guiding principles, they are excited to help bridge different Cambodian American generations and empower all families and communities to succeed towards a bright future.

## Running a Nonprofit in the Second Largest Cambodian Community in the U.S.

*Room 258B*

**Sovanna Pouy**

*Executive Director, Cambodian Mutual Assistance Association (MA)*

Moderator: Vannari Sang

Please join Sovanna Pouy, the Executive Director of the Cambodian Mutual Assistance Association based in Lowell, Massachusetts whose mission is to improve the quality of life for Cambodian Americans and other minorities and economically disadvantaged persons through educational, cultural, economic and social programs. Learn about the history, challenges, and success of an influential organization in the second largest Cambodian population in the United States.

## 3:30 PM – Afternoon Break

## 3:40 PM – Intergenerational Dialogue: *Cultivating Joint Community Resolutions*

*Gaiser Hall*

Facilitator: **Connie Mom-Chhing**

*President, National Cambodian American Organization*

This is an open intergenerational dialogue on joint resolutions for building and sustaining strong Cambodian American communities across the nation as we strive to improve the capacity for communities to harness differences as strengths.

# Conference Schedule

## 5:00 PM – Closing Remarks

*Gaiser Hall*

### **NCAO Board**

Group meditation

Conference Group Photo

## 5:30 PM – Dinner

*Gaiser Hall*

Dinner: Free of charge (donations welcomed!)

Lifetime Community Leadership Awards

Presentation: National Cambodian Heritage Museum and  
Killing Fields Memorial

Silent Auction Winner Announcement

## 6:30 PM – Evening Entertainment

*Gaiser Hall*

Wishing Dance by Mileena Kenora Ros of the Cambodian  
Dance Preservation of Olympia

Coconut Dance by performers from Seattle, WA

Khmer Poetry

Khmer musical instrument performance (Roneat Ek)  
by Punisa (Nisa) Pov

## 7:30 PM – Floor Dance

*Gaiser Hall*

Dance the night away with All-Star DJ!

## 10:00 PM – End

## Sunday, July 14

### 9:30 AM – Buddhist Blessing & Luncheon

*Khmer Buddhist Organization of Pacific Northwest  
(Watt Rattanak Raingsey)*

102 NE 179th Street, Ridgefield, WA 98642

### 1:00 PM – End of Conference

# Presenter Biographies



## Connie Mom-Chhing, DM, MPA

*Director of Integrated Managed Care, Community Health Plan of Washington*

Dr. Connie Mom-Chhing has been working in Healthcare Administration for the past 20 years. She is currently the Director of Integrated Managed Care at Community Health Plan of Washington (CHPW). Prior to joining CHPW, Connie was the Chief Behavioral Health Officer at Columbia United Providers, CEO of SW Washington Behavioral Health, and Administrator of the Regional Support Network (RSN) that administers Medicaid mental health services in SW Washington. As CEO, Connie was instrumental in positioning the SW Washington region as the state's only Early Adopter region for primary care and behavioral health care integration. Connie has presented at local, state, and national levels on integrated care, culturally competent systems of care, the mental health system, supported education, supported employment, recovery-oriented systems, and rehabilitation.

Connie was born in Cambodia and has lived in Vancouver, WA for the past 30 years. She has been an active member of various Cambodian American non-profit organizations. She currently serves as President of the National Cambodian American Organization, President of the Khmer Buddhist Organization of Pacific Northwest, and Co-founder and Dance Instructor of the Khmer Angkor Dance Troupe of Vancouver, WA, dedicated to strengthening the richness of Khmer arts and culture.

Connie earned her BA in Industrial/Organization Psychology and French from Western Washington University, her Master's in Public Administration at Lewis & Clark College, and her Doctorate degree in Management in Organizational Leadership at the University of Phoenix. Connie completed her doctoral research on Towards Understanding Cambodian American Leadership Culture: a Grounded Theory Approach.



## Sarah Kith, MSOD

*Associate Ombudsman, National Institute of Health; Narrative Coach*

Sarah Kith was a child refugee from Cambodia and grew up in Washington DC. She earned her Master's in Conflict Analysis and Resolution from George Mason University, and later returned to American University to complete a Master's degree in Organization Development. She was a former Chair and Board of Directors of the Southeast Asian Resource Action Center (SEARAC). She is a Narrative Coach practitioner; Narrative Coach is experiential and supports the human's natural process of growing and developing. Additionally, she holds an Executive Certificate in Facilitation from Georgetown University and is a Certified Organizational Ombudsman Practitioner. Sarah aims to build capacity in people, communities, and organizations to address conflict and facilitate constructive dialogue that supports people of different backgrounds working effectively together. Her extensive work experiences include roles such as an ombudsman, convener, Alternative Dispute Resolution adviser and instructor, and educator and consultant for cultural competence.



# Presenter Biographies



## Sina Sam, BA

*Commissioner, Washington State Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs (CAPAA); Community Organizer*

Sina Sam is a proud 1.5 generation, Khmer American, refugee daughter of genocide survivors. She is an organizer with Formerly Incarcerated Group Healing Together (F.I.G.H.T.) and Co-Founder of the Khmer Anti-deportation Advocacy Group (KhAAG). Appointed by the Governor, she serves on the Washington State Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs (CAPAA). As a long-time partner of the Southeast Asia Resource Action Center (SEARAC) and Southeast Asian Freedom Network (SEAFN), Commissioner Sam provides facilitation and policy advisory also on a national platform. Most recently, elected as Chair for the Asian Pacific American Caucus of Washington State Democrats, she is the very first woman to lead in this political capacity.

Experienced as a community lobbyist and intersectional activist, she helps to facilitate campaigns, mobilization and visibility of our Southeast Asian communities. Her advocacy work centers especially on supporting community members and families impacted by the school-to-prison, and now, deportation pipeline. As a former teen parent herself, Commissioner Sam first earned a G.E.D. before attaining her A.A. at North Seattle College. Her studies continued at the University of Washington in Interdisciplinary Studies and completed with a Women's Studies degree at Washington State University. At WSU, she is an IT Specialist and advises for APAW and KhSA WSU. Her hope is that one day our younger generations will proudly carry our history and culture forward, unaffected by inter-generational trauma and thriving in ways that only our generation and elders could dream of.



## Keo Sanh

*Founder/President, Eazy Duz It Car Club, King County Chapter*

Keo Sanh is a father, community organizer, and founder of Eazy Duz It Car Club of Seattle which he uses as the vehicle to share the stories of the Khmer diaspora. He grew up in South Park and White Center area of Seattle, which boast some of the highest concentrations of Khmer Americans in the Seattle-Tacoma area, as well as nationally. With Mr. Sanh behind the wheel, Eazy Duz It CC has gone from a small group of friends to a nationally recognized social institution, garnering numerous accolades along the way. Eazy Duz It CC is the principal organizer for the Annual Jubilee Day Car Show in July, the largest festival in White Center held as part of the Seafair summer festivities. When he's not working on cars and building community, he's helping patients as a Radiology Technologist at Valley Medical Center.

# Presenter Biographies



## Samuel Keo, PSYD

*Clinical Psychologist, Los Angeles County  
Department of Mental Health*

Dr. Keo is one of 11 siblings that was flourished in Phnom Penh prior to the great fall in 1975. Sadly, he lost 5 of his siblings along with both parents. Dr. Keo came to the U.S. alone in 1981, determined to pursue a brighter future for himself and hoping to help his siblings who suffered from poverty. He found Counseling Psychology to be rewarding and of the most healing. Dr. Keo received his Bachelor's and Master's degree in Human Behavior from National University, and a Master's of Counseling Psychology and a Doctorate in Clinical Psychology from Alliant International University in 1999.

Dr. Keo has been serving as a mental health professional in his Cambodian community for more than 25 years and is currently working for the LA County Department of Mental Health as a Clinical Psychologist in addition to his private practice. He has appeared on NPR, Voice of America, and Cambodian TV to speak on mental health issues. In 2011, Dr. Keo published a book entitled *Out of the Dark – Into the Garden of Hope* which details his journey and his survival through the Cambodian genocide.



## Khatami Chau

*Vice President, KhSA University of Washington*

Khatami is a second-year student at the University of Washington intending to major in both Public Health and American Ethnic Studies. He is the Vice President for UW's Khmer Student Association. Khatami currently works with the Seattle Department of Transportation through the Transportation Equity Workgroup.



## Judy Khun

*Cultural Chair, KhSA University of Washington*

Judy is a second-year student at the University of Washington. She is the Cultural Chair for UW's Khmer Student Association.

# Presenter Biographies



## **Yorn Yan, MMA**

*Executive Director, United Cambodian Association of Minnesota*

Yorn is the Executive Director of the United Cambodian Association of Minnesota (UCAM), a private nonprofit 501 (C) (3) organization. Its mission is to promote health, social, economic and educational opportunities for all Cambodians and new Americans living in Minnesota. He is also the President of UCAM Adult Day Care, which assists elderly participants and adults with disabilities to remain functioning in their community and while living at home with their own families.

Yorn is a former Managing Consultant at Wilder Center for Communities of A.H. Wilder Foundation. He provided consulting and training services to a wide range of refugee and immigrant leaders, organizations, and communities. Yorn's work focused on providing leadership, community and organization development, nonprofit management, strategic planning, collaboration building, executive coaching, project management, and cultural diversity training to government agencies and private companies. Yorn authored the book—*New Americans, New Promise: A Guide to the Refugee Journey in America*. He also holds 2 Bachelor's degrees in Human Services, and in Public Administration, as well as a Master's degree in Management and Administration.



## **William Oung, MBA**

*CoFounder, Cambodian American Community Council of Washington*

William Oung brings approximately 33 years of combined experience in the public and private sectors, including 2 years with a World Bank's project. With a BA in economics and an MBA in management, he has held various titles throughout his career, including: manager, inhouse technical advisor, economist, and credit analyst. Currently retired from the King County government, William Oung is excited to share his perspective at this conference and hopes to learn from the audience and other presenters.



# Presenter Biographies



## **Lina Khoeur, MS**

*Medical Student, University of California, San Francisco*

Lina Khoeur (they/she) is a 1st gen Cambodian -American, and the child of resilient Khmer refugees. Lina received her BA in Human Biology and MS in Community Health and Prevention Research from Stanford, and is currently pursuing an MD at University of California, San Francisco. In their experience and practice, Lina continues to study the ways the body interacts with place through medicine, art, and healing. During Lina's free time, she loves rock climbing, farming, using strategies from nature to organize community, and connecting people through food.



## **Ashley Kourn, BS**

*Pharmacy Student, University of Washington*

Ashley Kourn is a first-generation Cambodian American. She will enter her second year as a pharmacy student this fall at the University of Washington. Ashley interns at Northwest Hospital and Medical Center in the inpatient pharmacy, as well as at Bartell Drugs in an outpatient setting. Outside of school and work, Ashley enjoys dancing. Her love for dance stems from her early exposure at a young age to classical and traditional Cambodian dances. Ashley is very excited to share the insights of her journey with other Cambodian Americans!



## **Nim Uth**

*President, Cambodian Student Association, Oregon State University, SHPEP Scholar, Pre-med*

Nim Uth grew up in Beaverton/Aloha, OR. At Oregon State University, she is majoring in Biology and minoring in both Psychology and Chemistry with the goal of becoming a family physician. Through her service as President of OSU's Cambodian Student Association, Nim finds opportunities to engage in advocacy for low-income communities. She volunteers as a Clinic Coordinator at Community Outreach in addition to her involvement in activities that support cancer patients and research. As a Cambodian American woman, Nim hopes to address the adversity as well as the privileges that have shaped the course of her life. Nim will share how being involved with CSA OSU has helped her illustrate pride and acceptance for Cambodian culture. In addition, she is excited to highlight her participation in the Summer Health Professions Education Program at the University of Washington, which has played a part in preparing her to succeed on a path towards medicine.

## Presenter Biographies



### **Darin Chhing, BA**

*Chairman, Conference Planning Committee,  
National Cambodian American Organization*

Darin Chhing was born and raised in Vancouver, WA. He studied Molecular & Cell Biology and Public Policy at UC Berkeley, where he also served as CoPresident of the American Medical Student Association. A highlight of his college experience was serving as Conductor of the TEDxBerkeley Orchestra in 2017. Darin volunteers as a Dance Instructor at the Khmer Angkor Dance Troupe. At the National Cambodian American Organization, he is proud of and grateful for the Conference Planning Committee's hardwork and dedication.



### **Kompha Seth, BA**

*Executive Director, Cambodian Association of Illinois*

Kompha Seth is a well-respected leader with in-depth knowledge and working experience with Cambodian American community organizations. He is a founding member of the Cambodian Association of Illinois, and has been serving as Executive Director since 1980. He is also a found member of the Cambodian American Heritage Museum & the Killing Fields Memorial in Chicago, the Cambodian Network Council, and the National Cambodian American Organization.

Kompha Seth graduated from Buddhist University of Phnom Penh with a Bachelor's degree in Theology and Khmer Literature. His lifelong dedication to public service earned him national recognition with the Thomas Jefferson Award and the Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis award. Kompha Seth's recent work focuses on promoting Khmer Identity, Pride, and Unity.



# Presenter Biographies



## Sovanna Pou, AA

*Executive Director, Cambodian Mutual Assistance Association*

Born in Khao-I-Dang refugee camp, Sovanna and his family came to the U.S. in 1981 and resettled in Lowell, MA to reconnect with family. As a youth, Sovanna was part of Big Brother Big Sister's Adam Project that founded and coordinated the annual "Dance for Peace" event. For 12 years he worked at the United Teen Equality Center in a variety of roles, helping grow the organization to what it is today. Sovanna serves on the board of directors for many organizations including: the Community Teamwork Inc, Greater Lowell Health Alliance, Greater Lowell Workforce Investment Board, Jeanne D'Arc Credit Union, the Lowell Development and Financial Corporation and more. Fluent in both English and Khmer, he hopes to bring people together from all backgrounds to learn about the rich Cambodian culture, while running an organization that helps close the achievement and educational gaps within the community and its' people.



## Michael Sea

*President, KhSA University of Washington*

Michael is a fifth-year student at the University of Washington majoring in Civil Engineering. He serves as President of UW's Khmer Student Association. Michael is interested in pursuing a career in the construction industry.



## Jenny Sun

*Public Relations, KhSA University of Washington*

Jenny is a second-year student at the University of Washington interested in pursuing Informatics and Education as a major. She enjoys hiking, tennis, and exploring new places to eat, especially in support of local businesses and family-owned shops. Jenny serves as Public Relations at UW's Khmer Student Association.

# Presenter Biographies



## Stefan Saing, BS

*Civic Engagement Coordinator, Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization (IRCO) (OR)*

Stefan Saing was born in Long Beach, CA, before setting down roots with his family in Beaverton, OR. The story of Stefan's parents migrating to America, their sacrifices and

efforts, have afforded him the opportunities that have helped shape who he is today. From folk dancing, to camping, to youth groups, and to board membership, there has always been a place for Stefan through his involvement with the Cambodian-American Community of Oregon (CACO). He currently serves on CACO's Board of Directors, voicing perspectives for the emerging-leaders generation. He serves his Cambodian community as a Community Engagement Liaison, advocating on behalf of critical issues. Stefan volunteers as co-Chair for the New Year in the Park event celebrating the Cambodian, Lao, Thai, and Burmese Buddhist New Years. In addition, he works as a Civic Engagement Coordinator at the Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization. In all these spaces, Stefan works to combat racial, health, and socioeconomic disparities and systemic functions that keep Cambodians and other communities of color down. He encourages younger generations to pursue higher education, find ways to express themselves, and to continue to be involved in their community in order to have more rounded life experiences.



## Sok Krouch

*Community Member, Khmer Anti-deportation Advocacy Group; Formerly Incarcerated Group Healing Together*

Sok Krouch is a community member with KhAAG (Khmer Anti-deportation Advocacy Group) and F.I.G.H.T (Formerly Incarcerated Group Healing Together). Sok was facing

deportation for the last 10 Years, but after coming forward with his story and receiving an unconditional pardon from Washington Governor, Jay Inslee this past June 2019, he is finally able to pursue citizenship and move on with his life without fear of being ripped away from his family and community. Sok has been working side by side with both organizations for many years, which has been instrumental in his pardon transition, and wants to continue the advocacy work for our Cambodian community; Especially, for people like him who face deportation and have legal options to fight back now.

Before returning to the community, Sok was incarcerated for 12 1/2 years. In 1997, Sok attended a gathering in Longview, WA with friends where there was a dispute. It escalated into an altercation and he has served time for his involvement. Since his release in 2009, he has changed his life around, giving back to the community, helping to create a positive path for our youth, and speaking out in public about his story. Sok loves his community. It's an honor for him to join this conference!

# Presenter Biographies



## **Phavann Chhuan, MBA**

*Board Member, National Cambodian American Organization*

Phavann Chhuan is an advocate for diversity and sustainable community development, promoting the participation by all individuals and organizations for the betterment of society. He is very active in the development and integration of the Cambodian and Asian American communities, bringing arts and culture into the mainstream society. Over the past 20 years, he has served in many leadership positions to promote the plight of Cambodian Americans as they resettle in the United States, after their exodus from the “Killing Field” of Cambodia in the late 70s. He has served on the Board of Directors of many national and local organizations including the Cambodian American Heritage, the Southeast Asian Resource Action Center (SEARAC), the Cambodian Radio of Washington, the Angkor Association, and Chairman of the Montgomery County, MD Diversity Council. Currently, he has served as the President of the United Cambodian American Resources for Enrichment (UCARE), President of the Cambodian Investment Group, and Board member of the Home Care Partners and the Cambodian American National Council (formerly Cambodian Network Council). He has organized national conferences, leadership development workshops and seminars, community citizenship meetings, cultural events and performances, including several Cambodian music and dance performances at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Washington, DC.

Professionally, Mr. Chhuan has over 35 years of senior executive experience in financial management, management of information systems and technology, and general business management. He has an MBA in Finance and an Advanced Graduate Certificate in Computer System Applications from the American University, Washington, DC. He also holds undergraduate degrees in Business Administration and Economics from the University of Phnom-Penh, Cambodia.

# Conference Sponsors

## Major Organizational Sponsors



Cambodian American Friendship Foundation



Watt Preah Song Khmer (Kent, WA)



Watt Rattanak Raingsey, Khmer Buddhist Org. of Pacific NW



Cambodian Buddhist Society



Khmer Angkor Dance Troupe of Vancouver, WA



Cambodian Association of Illinois

## Individual Sponsors

- Sokha Chhing & Family
- Yorn Yan
- Sar Van
- Joseph Hing
- Chhang Marith
- Charles Hing
- NCAO Food Committee



# Closing Message

On behalf of the National Cambodian American Organization and Conference Planning Committee, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all of you who have joined together here today from various Cambodian American communities across the nation. We brought together community members, leaders, and emerging leaders from community-based organizations, faith-based organizations, educational institutions, the healthcare industry, and government institutions for the purpose of pursuing a common goal, an ongoing endeavor, to build and sustain a strong Cambodian American voice at both regional and national levels. Your participation as conference speakers, attendees, sponsors and/or volunteers has enabled us to spearhead a highly fruitful conference. Together we have pioneered a national conference that united intergenerational Cambodian Americans and the broader communities for networking, resource-sharing, and dialogues on a variety of issues, such as education, healthcare, social services, civic engagement, deportation, culture, and traditions that are close and dear to our hearts.

Leveraging the strengths of all generations, we have pioneered a whole new approach to designing a groundbreaking intergenerational conference that included formal and informal dialogues, presentations, best practices breakout sessions, and cultural performances along with social media platforms, all of which can be replicated and implemented in your own communities. This conference was about bringing together Cambodian Americans of all generations and the broader community to collaborate across differences in order to achieve a united voice, promote inclusion, and foster intergenerational networks and dialogue. It was an example of a possibility that was achievable when we leveraged the knowledge, education, working experiences, cultural values, beliefs and practices, and wisdom of all generations for a common cause. Thank you so much for taking part in the *Bridging Cambodian American Generations* Conference. I wish you all safe travels and hope that your paths will cross again as we embark upon an intergenerational journey towards building and sustaining our Cambodian American community.

Sincerely,

Connie Mom-Chhing, DM, MPA  
President, NCAO Board

