Korean American Youth Leaders in Training
Summer 2020

The K.W. Lee Center for Leadership is sponsoring an exciting leadership development initiative for high school students called the Korean American Youth Leaders in Training. Sa-i-gu (April 29, 1992 Los Angeles civil unrest), which serves as the impetus for this program, exposed many deep-rooted problems in the Korean American community, particularly the lack of leadership. The purpose of this program is to take deliberate steps to fill that void by developing and supporting a new generation of Korean American leaders. The program provides an opportunity for Korean American students to develop leadership skills, explore their culture and history, experience hands-on community organizing, and develop a larger perspective of themselves in relation to their own community as well as the larger public arena.

Who Should Apply?

High school students who have an interest in the Korean American community and want to develop their leadership skills to create social change may apply. Non-Korean applicants are encouraged to apply. Each program is limited to 20 high school interns. High school students must be at least in the 9th grade when applying for the program and will receive community service hours for their participation in the internship, if requested. The high school program tuition is $150.00 for the entire eight-week program.

Program Components

This year, the entire program will be conducted remotely through Zoom. High school interns will meet Monday through Friday from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

EDUCATION emphasizes community organizing, power, politics, cultural diversity, gender, and generational issues.

SKILLS DEVELOPMENT entails interviewing skills, coalition building, facilitation, and strategic planning.

COMMUNITY PROJECTS provide an opportunity to organize around critical issues facing the Korean American community.
Tentative Curriculum

Session 1: Orientation
Session 2: Site Visits to Koreatown Organizations (Domestic Violence, Immigrant Rights, Education Equity, Civic Engagement, Mental Health)
Session 3: Community Organizing v. Community Service
Session 4: Asian Gangs & Reentry
Session 5: Family Experience
Session 6: History of Koreatown
Session 7: Saigu (1992 Los Angeles Civil Unrest)
Session 8: Asian American Movement
Session 9: Workers' Rights
Session 10: Coalition Building
Session 11: Interview with K.W. Lee
Session 12: Divided Families
Session 13: Free Chol Soo Lee Movement
Session 14: Interview with Elected Official
Session 15: Personal Legacy

Application Timeline

Application Deadline: Rolling admission (email submission only)
Program Begins: June 15, 2020
Program Ends: August 7, 2020

Who is K.W. Lee?

K.W. Lee is a renowned journalist, having worked in the mainstream and ethnic media for 40 years as a reporter, editor, and publisher. He has covered such issues as civil rights struggles in the South in the early 1960s, massive vote buying practices in southern West Virginia, and the plight of Appalachian coal miners, but he is best known for authoring an investigative series on the 1974 San Francisco Chinatown gangland murder conviction of immigrant Chol Soo Lee, upon which the film “True Believer” was based. His five-year-long coverage with more than 120 articles led to a new trial and an eventual acquittal and release of the prisoner from San Quentin’s Death Row.

Inspired by the lifetime of service of civil rights activist K.W. Lee, the Center reflects his passion for community consciousness and his dedication to fostering young leaders. The mission of the Center is to train young people to take proactive steps toward improving and enriching the quality of life in their communities.

More Information

If you have questions or would like more information, please contact Do Kim at (213) 321-7220 or at dokim@kwleecenter.org.

853 S. Lucerne Blvd., #104, Los Angeles, CA 90005
tel: (213) 985-7451 • www.kwleecenter.org • email: info@kwleecenter.org
Korean American Youth Leaders in Training
High School Application

Name ____________________________________________
First ____________________________________________
Middle ____________________________________________
Last ____________________________________________

Address ____________________________________________ Telephone # ____________

Email ____________________________________________ Cell Phone # ____________

Birth Date ____________________________ Birthplace ____________________________ Gender ______

Name of High School ____________________________ Year of Graduation ____________________________

In Case of Emergency Notify ____________________________________________
Name ____________________________________________ Relationship ____________ Telephone # ____________

How did you hear about the program? ____________________________________________

I. Personal Statement

• Please tell us something you think we should know about you. How will you be able to contribute to this program? (2 pages)

• Please identify an issue in your community you feel is pressing? (1 page)

II. Reference

Please list the name and contact information for an individual who can provide a reference.

Name ____________________________________________ Title/Organization ____________

Telephone ____________________________________________ Relation to you ____________

III. Resume

Please attach a copy of your resume.

By signing this application, I am stating that all of the information provided is true to the best of my knowledge.

Signature ____________________________________________ Date ____________

Completed applications can only be submitted by email to: info@kwleecenter.org.