Dear Supporter,

The Council of Korean Americans (CKA) is a national Korean American organization with nearly 250 community leaders, pioneers, and trailblazers. Our members, board of directors, and staff have worked tirelessly to advance the national voice, interest, and influence of the Korean American community.

2018 was a pivotal year for CKA. First, we embarked on a leadership change and an important transition to strengthen CKA's management team. Dr. Abraham Kim was installed as the new executive director in December 2018 and has since launched an ambitious, multi-year plan for the organization to become the premier national voice for Korean Americans.

Second, under the effective interim leadership of Jessica Lee, CKA expanded its active programming and outreach across the country throughout 2018. CKA gathered community leaders in Los Angeles and Washington, DC for two high-profile galas that drew over 1,000 people combined to celebrate the extraordinary contributions of the Korean American community. CKA also forged groundbreaking partnerships with African American and Jewish American communities to discuss race relations and the future of U.S.-North Korea engagement, ensuring that Korean American voices are heard on issues of national consequence.

Third, we continued our critical investment in the next generation of Korean American leaders. 2018 marked the third year of the CKA-KALCA Public Service Internship Program, which funded and placed nearly 30 college students with summer internships in government offices and nonprofit organizations throughout Washington, DC and New York City.

Finally, CKA deepened its connections with policymakers, elected officials, and the national media through consistent outreach and educational events. CKA members and staff served as expert commentators and critical sources of information for major U.S. and international media outlets, such as the Washington Post, BBC World News, and New York Times.

We have made great strides, but we have much more to do. We will continue to empower the Korean American community and cultivate the next generation of leaders to ensure our voice continues to be heard.

We can only accomplish these endeavors through supporters like you.

Thank you for standing with us in this transformational work.

Sincerely,

Paul Kim
Board Chair (2019-2020)

Abraham Kim, Ph.D.
Executive Director (2019 - present)
OUR GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Representation
We believe that more Korean American voices must be included in national conversations.

Collaboration
We believe that positive change can only be achieved by working together with others.

Nonpartisanship
We believe in promoting the common good rather than a political agenda.

Generosity
We believe in the importance of giving back to others in need.

Boldness
We believe standing up for what is right.

MISSION

CKA’s mission is to advance the national voice, interest, and influence of the Korean American community through education and collaboration.

We connect, equip, and push forward leaders for greater impact and public engagement.

We promote collaboration with other ethnic, racial, and international groups in order to advance the interests of the 1.8 million Korean American community.

VISION

At CKA, we envision a community that invests in each other and in future leaders.

We aspire for a world in which Korean American leaders serve at the highest levels in society.

We strive for a world in which Korean Americans forge alliances across racial, ethnic, and geographical divides so that our pursuit for the common good is amplified.
In 2018, 31 Korean American leaders joined CKA for a year end total of 217 members.

- New members include the Chief Technology Officer of the U.S. Army, Vice President of Toshiba, a synthetic biologist, and the head of International Business Development at the Major League Baseball.

- In May, CKA hosted INSPIRE, a community celebration gala that drew 350 guests, including celebrities, musicians, and professional athletes of Korean descent.

- Of the funds raised from INSPIRE, $45,000 was distributed to six organizations as unrestricted gifts to further their causes in the Los Angeles community.

- In partnership with Korea Foundation, CKA organized two public educational events at the George W. Bush Institute in Dallas, TX and the University of Washington in Seattle, WA that were attended by more than 200 people combined and featured renowned Korean American experts, such as Dr. Victor Cha of Georgetown University and Philip Yun of Ploughshares Fund.
• In November, CKA hosted its 4th annual National Summit & Gala at the Ritz Carlton, in Washington, DC. Over 600 people attended the black-tie gala celebration to honor the Korean American community’s diverse achievements throughout society and hear from House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi, Ambassador Joseph Yun, actor Daniel Henney, and other high-profile speakers.

• Our National Summit featured prominent Korean American leaders in technology, government, media, and business, attracting over 300 attendees.

• As part of the National Summit, CKA hosted an educational briefing at the U.S. Senate featuring representatives from Congress, Congressional Research Service, State Department, and CIA.
LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT & MENTORSHIP

Our third annual CKA-KALCA Public Service Internship Program funded and placed 27 interns across New York City and Washington, DC.

- Since 2016, CKA has been supporting top-performing college students who are considering careers in government and the public sector.
- Each student received up to $5,000 to support their unpaid summer internships and attended weekly seminars arranged by CKA.
- Internship placements in New York City included MinKwon Center for Community Action, StoryCorps, New Leaders, the Brooklyn District Attorney’s Office, Legal Aid Society, and the Asian American Federation.

In September, CKA hosted an all-day mentorship conference at University of Southern California to mentor Korean American students with panels ranging across law, medicine, business, government, and entertainment.

- The 27 interns attended weekly CKA-sponsored events in DC and NY throughout the summer, the U.S. House of Representatives, Aspen Institute, Google, and Manhattan Borough President’s Office.
EDUCATION & ADVOCACY

In September, CKA’s Interim Executive Director Jessica Lee spoke at a conference called “Uprising to Uplifting” on implicit bias in support of our local community coalition partner, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

- In 2018, CKA dramatically expanded its presence in mainstream media, appearing over 150 times in print and broadcast media.
- CKA organized member-constituent meetings for Korean Americans to engage their elected officials, including House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-CA-12) and Senator Rand Paul (R-KY).
- In November, CKA’s Interim Executive Director Jessica Lee visited South Korea at the invitation of International Republican Institute to train North Korean defectors on concepts of civil society and democracy.

CKA members and staff served as a trusted, nonpartisan resource for the White House, State Department, and Congress on national issues, such as the need for greater humanitarian assistance for the people of North Korea and the need for reunions for Korean Americans with family in North Korea.
In 2018, CKA raised a total of $1.78 million, a 5% increase from the previous year. Expenses grew by 20% compared to 2017 due to costs related to the executive director transition and new staff hires. CKA’s financial outlook, however, remains strong with eight multi-year Vision Fund Donors who have pledged support for CKA, a growing national membership, and an increase in corporate and foundation support.

**2018 REVENUE**

- Contributions & Grants: $678,887
- Gala Sponsorship & Tickets: $404,921
- Inspire 2018: $285,332
- Dues & Membership: $262,308
- In-Kind: $231,858
- Other: $17,329

**TOTAL: $1,779,496**

**2018 EXPENSES**

- G&A:* $535,025
- Educational Programs: $401,254
- Gala: $237,537
- In-kind, incl. Legal Counsel: $231,858
- PSI & Leadership: $187,431

**TOTAL: $1,919,907**

*G&A includes staff salary, transition-related expenses, accounting, and other indirect costs that support program activities.

**GROWTH IN REVENUE**

- 2015: $860,170*
- 2016: $983,474*
- 2017: $1,688,939*
- 2018: $1,779,496**

*Audited  **Un-audited but approved by accountant to use
“The causes that we fight for in our community are the causes and issues everyone in this country are fighting for. It’s important for us to **embrace our identity and community** while **building strong coalitions** across this country to fight for **justice and equality** for everyone in this country.

- Congressman Andy Kim (NJ-3) at CKA’s 2018 Gala & Awards Dinner; First Korean American Congressman in 20+ years

“CKA was founded so that we can combine our voices for a more **full, social, cultural, and political participation and equality** in America. CKA does this by **mentoring our new, young generation**, and we **educate and advocate** on issues that are important to our whole community.”

- Catharina Min, CKA’s 2018 Summit & Gala Co-chair

“My mom is the strongest, most courageous champion of me and of Korean culture that I ever met. She told me growing up here at a young age that people are going to say things. She taught me to say that I should be **proud to be Korean**. And that helped me my whole life.”

- Daniel Henney, Recipient of CKA’s 2018 Image Award and Actor
Our donors make this critical work possible. Thank you to the following donors and partners who supported our organization in 2018:

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- Michelle Rhyu & Stephen C. Neal

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- Toni Ko Foundation

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- Soo Kim

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- Mike Joo
- Myong Ho (Lucy) Nam, M.D., Medical Director, ICL
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Acknowledgments
We would like to thank the following 2017-2018 Board Officers for their service to CKA:

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