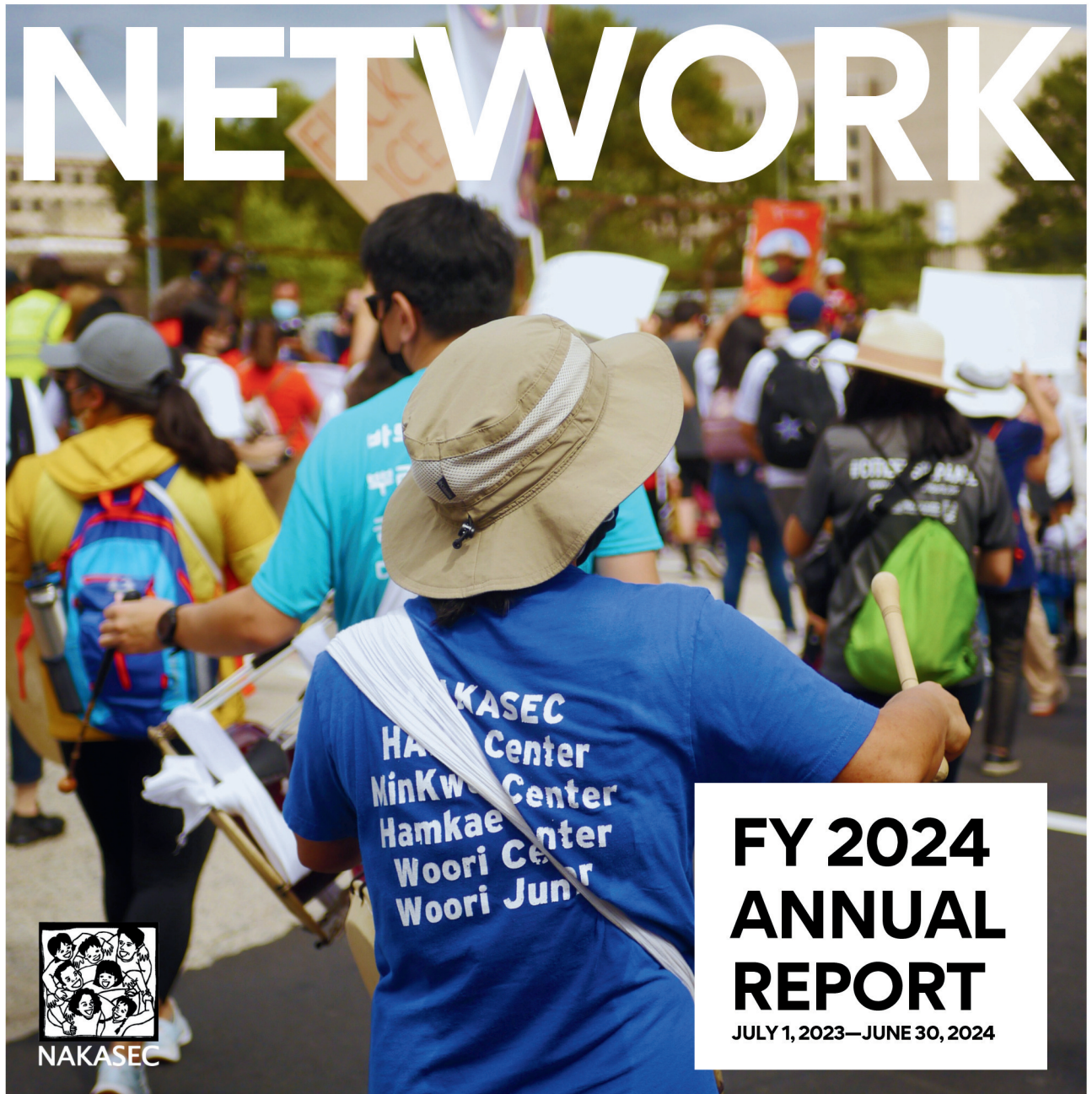


NAKASEC NATIONAL

NETWORK



NAKASEC

FY 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

JULY 1, 2023—JUNE 30, 2024

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NAKASEC'S FOUNDING CEREMONY
1994



NAKASEC'S NATIONAL CONVENING
2023



Dear Friends of NAKASEC,

September 2024 marked NAKASEC's 30th anniversary! As we look back over the last three decades, we are proud of our network's accomplishments such as offering high quality social services, rich community education programs, and robust community organizing, advocacy and civic participation programs that directly engage over 100,000 community members annually. We have had the great privilege of supporting the development of hundreds of multi-generational Korean and Asian American leaders who are now agents of change for our communities at the local, state and national levels. The NAKASEC Network, now composed of five affiliates across six states, ensures that Asian Americans play a leadership role in national immigrant justice dialogues and campaigns, and in building a movement for a better and more equitable world for all communities.

While we celebrate our many wins and progress in the immigrant justice movement over the years, we remain vigilant since our Korean, Asian and immigrant communities continue to be impacted by harmful policies at the local, state and federal level. Those in positions of power are intent on trying to erase our histories, silence our voices and pit us against other marginalized groups, but we know: When we organize, we win!

In April 2023 we strengthened the power of the NAKASEC network by organizing our first national convening since the pandemic in Houston with more than 150 intergenerational staff, board members and volunteers representing all five of our affiliate member organizations. This convening reinvigorated our commitment to the immigrant justice movement, and just two months later we returned to Texas to defend the DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) program by organizing a rally and press conference with other immigrant justice organizations at a crucial hearing at the U.S. Southern District Court. These two events at the end of our Fiscal Year 2023 propelled our drive to carry out all of the achievements we present to you in this annual report for Fiscal Year 2024—not least of which are our civic engagement programs.

This year was perhaps the most important election year our country has ever seen, and we remain steadfast in growing local people power at the grassroots level toward national impact. Throughout the work of our five affiliate organizations plus our national entity, we provided direct services for 30,000 of our most vulnerable community members, and engaged over 700,000 more through organizing, advocacy and civic engagement across the country.

NAKASEC is one of few Asian American-led organizations in the U.S. that amplifies progressive values—and our network is growing. As our capacity grows, so, too, does our impact. In this report we are excited to share the strides we've made throughout Fiscal Year 2024, and our work towards building out our organizational structure to sustain our movement for generations to come.

In Community,

Rev. Eunsang Lee, Board Chair

Becky Belcore and Jung Woo Kim, Co-Directors

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OVERVIEW



MISSION AND VISION

NAKASEC's mission is to organize Korean and Asian Americans towards racial, economic and social justice. We envision a future in which the marginalized become the change-makers to dismantle systems of oppression and reimagine a more equitable society for all.

AFFILIATE ORGANIZATIONS

NAKASEC is one of the only national progressive Asian American networks. Today, we are composed of five grassroots community-based organizations in six states:

- Hamkae Center (Virginia)
- HANA Center (Illinois)
- MinKwon Center for Community Action (New York, New Jersey)
- Woori Center (Pennsylvania)
- Woori Juntos (Texas)

30,000

Community Members Served

\$12.5M

Combined Budget

109

Full-time Staff

12

Part-time Staff

350+

Volunteers

ORGANIZATIONAL GROWTH

In the fall of 2023, NAKASEC was invited to join the Ford Foundation's prestigious BUILD initiative. The goal of this initiative is to build out an organizational ecosystem infrastructure that will sustain our network's recent growth and position us for future opportunities to build local and national power for our community. We made steps towards establishing Butterfly, a back-office entity to provide financial, accounting, fundraising and operational support for our ecosystem. Additionally, we will launch the Organizing & Research Institute (ORI), a think tank offering strategic initiatives and training and coaching for our multi-generational affiliates. With support from the Ford Foundation and other funders, NAKASEC began the rollout in FY2024 by creating and hiring for key positions to strengthen infrastructure, including Chief Operating Officer, Operations Manager, Operations & Administrative Associate and Development Associate. The NAKASEC network will continue fundraising for our five-year ecosystem buildout.





AMPLIFYING ASIAN AMERICAN POWER: 2024 CIVIC ENGAGEMENT WORK

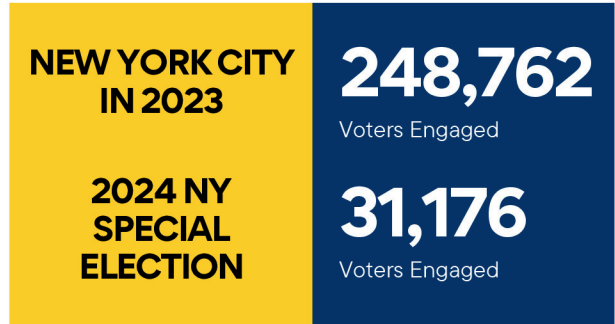
- * Asian Americans are the fastest growing racial group and electorate in the United States; we make up 7 percent of the population, 5.6 percent of the electorate and we are projected to surpass 9 percent of the population by 2060.
- * NAKASEC's community-based organizations are positioned to provide culturally and linguistically appropriate education to raise awareness about key local, state and federal issues, increase voter engagement and ultimately empower Asian Americans to broaden and deepen participation in our democracy.

700K

Asian American Voters
Mobilized in FY2024
Nationwide



MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS



2024 PRIMARIES



Our civic engagement work will power through the general elections with each affiliate focused on specific geographies and districts within their states where we can maximize Asian American voter participation.

UNDOCU-SUPPORT & CITIZENSHIP4ALL



UNDOCU RETREAT

In August 2023, we hosted our first in-person Undocu Retreat since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. Forty community members in the NAKASEC Network had the opportunity to travel to California and spend time together building community, strengthening bonds and practicing self-care, the value of which cannot be understated.

Recognizing the constraints posed by immigration status and stress caused by anti-immigrant policies and rhetoric that pervade our society, these retreats provide a rare opportunity for those who are undocumented to step away from their daily lives, momentarily set aside their worries and experience the simple joys of rest and fun.

VALUE OUR FAMILIES

NAKASEC is a co-convener of the Value Our Families Coalition, a network of local and national community-based advocacy organizations that aims to protect, preserve and strengthen the family immigration system and promote an immigration system informed by love and justice.

In September 2023, NAKASEC and Value Our Families launched the *Hearts@Home* Campaign. It included:

- Co-organizing a rally in December to push the Biden Administration to recapture almost 500,000 family-based visas that were lost during the Trump administration.
- Organizing meetings with administration officials including the Domestic Policy Council; the White House Initiative on Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders; and the Office of Science and Technology Policy to advocate for family-based immigration.



DEFERRED ACTION FOR CHILDHOOD ARRIVALS (DACA)

The NAKASEC network has long organized to defend DACA and advocate for a pathway to citizenship for DACA recipients and all undocumented immigrants.



IN 2024, THE NAKASEC NETWORK

- Launched *Secure Our Futures: Automatic DACA Extension Now*, a campaign to raise awareness and demand policy changes for the DACA renewal process, including clearing the existing backlog and the creation of a policy that automatically extends DACA status for recipients who have submitted a renewal application.
- Commemorated the 12th anniversary of DACA by hosting various events as part of the Home is Here coalition, including:
 - Testifying before 20 congressional staff members to advocate for automatic DACA extensions.
 - Holding a Home Is Here press conference in Washington, D.C.
 - Conducting an info session on DACA and Texas's anti-immigrant legislation known as SB4
 - Hosting a community art build to create traditional Korean banners, nonggi, to celebrate the power and dignity of immigrant communities.

ADOPTEES FOR JUSTICE



2

Advocacy Trips to Washington D.C.



82

Congressional Offices Met



\$27K

Mutual Aid Distributed

Adoptees for Justice is an intercountry adoptee-led project of NAKASEC, whose mission is to educate, empower and organize transracial and intercountry adoptee communities to achieve just and humane adoption, immigration and restorative justice systems. Its current focus is securing citizenship for all intercountry adoptees and building community resources for adoptees without citizenship. Progress in FY2024 included:

- Reintroduced the Adoptee Citizenship Act into Congress in June. If passed, it will enable thousands of adoptees to access essential support, including disability benefits, Social Security, housing and education loans, and provide a pathway for deported adoptees to return home. The bill passed the House in the 117th Congress and continues to gain strong bipartisan and bicameral support.
- Launched *California Is Home* campaign to aid two Asian American adoptees in their 60s denied Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security due to incomplete naturalization. The campaign seeks public support for Governor Newsom to pardon them, helping reinstate their permanent resident status; learn more at pardonjudyandemily.com
- Established a monthly community call for adoptees without citizenship to check in with each other, practice self-care, and build community in a space just for them.

WOORI UJIMA

Woori Ujima is an initiative created by NAKASEC and the UndocuBlack Network, and its name uses Korean and Swahili to mean, “Our Collective Work and Responsibility.” As our respective organizations continue to fight for immigrant and racial justice and dismantle the systems that oppress us, we believe that transformational solidarity between our communities—in the face of countless attempts to divide us—is key to our collective liberation.



In summer 2023, NAKASEC and the UndocuBlack Network participated in the Dream Summer program organized by the University of California Los Angeles Dream Center and hosted Woori Ujima Dream Fellows. With the intention of strengthening ties between Black and Asian communities and building resources for our undocumented community members, our interns worked together and identified that a “green book” for undocumented immigrants would be most helpful to residents of Chicago and Houston.

With the support of UndocuBlack and NAKASEC staff, the Woori Ujima interns also co-organized an in-person leadership convening of Woori Ujima In October 2023 in Colorado; a group of 21 leaders from UndocuBlack Network and NAKASEC gathered for a strategic planning session to further institutionalize Woori Ujima within and between our organizations, build relationships between each other, deepen community and prepare for the 2024 election aftermath.



NAKASEC



NETWORK


AFFILIATES





 **15**
FT Staff

 **8**
Board Members

 **500+**
Community Members Served

 **75**
Volunteers

\$1,200,000
Annual Budget

In 2012, Hamkae Center, formerly known as NAKASEC VA, was founded to collectively build power with Korean and Asian American communities in Northern Virginia. Guided by community members, Hamkae Center meets immediate needs, builds community power to make long-term systemic changes that address the root causes of these needs and centers human connections.

Hamkae Center has offices in Annandale and Centreville, and serves community members in Fairfax, Loudoun, Prince William and Henrico counties, as well as the cities of Fairfax, Manassas and Richmond in Virginia; Hamkae Center also serves communities in Montgomery, Howard and Prince George’s counties in Maryland.

2024 HIGHLIGHTS

- Hamkae Center advocated at the Virginia General Assembly, winning a budget allocation of \$2 million for VA state agencies to improve language access for linguistically marginalized communities.
- Hamkae Center championed a bill to extend the validity period of Driver Privilege Cards (which allow undocumented Virginians to drive without fear of being stopped and deported) from 2 to 7 years; though the bill passed with bipartisan support, it was later vetoed by Governor Youngkin.
- Five Hamkae Center members had conversations in-person with their legislators for the first time.



37
FT Staff

4
PT Staff

10
Board Members

7,000+
Community Members Served

184
Volunteers

\$4,145,000
Annual Budget

HANA Center was created as a strategic merger of two Korean American organizations in Chicago in 2017. HANA means “one” in Korean, symbolizing unity and wholeness. HANA Center’s mission is to build the power of Korean American and multiethnic immigrant communities through social services, education, culture and community organizing to advance human rights.

With community centers in Chicago and the northwest suburb Prospect Heights, HANA Center serves community members in Cook, Will and Lane counties in Illinois.

2024 HIGHLIGHTS

- HANA Center helped win One Driver’s License for All to create one standardized driver’s license for every person in Illinois regardless of immigration status; this offers greater protection to undocumented people.
- Through the Healthcare for All Campaign, HANA Center advocated for access to healthcare for people ages 18-42 regardless of immigration status—an age group that has not been included in previous legislation.
- HANA Center launched the People’s Academy, where 25 intergenerational community members explored topics such as immigration history, Asian American history, civil rights and anti-Blackness. The sessions featured guest speakers and provided live Korean interpretation.



Founded in 1984 as the Young Korean American Service and Education Center, MinKwon Center for Community Action changed its name in 2009 to MinKwon meaning “civil rights” in Korean. This name change reflects the organization’s history of service and organizing by and for their community. MinKwon Center’s mission is to empower the Korean American community and wider Asian American and immigrant communities to achieve economic and social justice for all.

MinKwon Center has an office in Flushing, NY and Palisades Park, NJ, and serves community members in all five boroughs of New York City, Long Island, Upstate New York and New Jersey.

2024 HIGHLIGHTS

- MinKwon Center advocated for the extension of Cover All Kids, a program that offers Medicaid coverage for all children in New Jersey regardless of immigration status, and for the Reuniting Families Act to help the nearly 4 million people caught in family immigration backlogs to reunite with their family members.
- MinKwon Center staff and volunteers regularly attended naturalization ceremonies at the Eastern District of New York courthouse in Brooklyn to reach new voters. Since 2004, MinKwon Center has registered over 90,000 new immigrant voters in New York State.
- MinKwon Center collaborated with the New York Immigration Coalition and other allies to advocate for the Access to Representation Act, which aims to provide legal counsel for immigrants facing deportation.



5
FT Staff

1
PT Staff

9
Board Members

465
Community Members Served

57
Volunteers


\$514,725
Annual Budget





With roots in Korean American organizing in the 1990s and founded in 2018, Woori Center takes its name from the Korean word for “us” or “we,” reflecting their work to uplift their whole community and work in unity with other marginalized groups. Woori Center empowers Korean and Asian Americans in the Greater Philadelphia area, envisioning a society in which everyone thrives together based on mutual understanding and respect.

Woori Center’s office is located in Lansdale, PA and serves community members throughout Greater Philadelphia, including Philadelphia, Montgomery and Bucks counties.

2024 HIGHLIGHTS

- Woori Center's *Drivers Licenses for All* campaign helped introduce HB 769, allowing all Pennsylvanians to obtain a driver's license regardless of immigration status. Woori Center held 5 legislative meetings, participated in 2 Harrisburg Actions with the Driving PA Forward coalition, and organized 2 educational and letter-writing sessions for high school students.
- Woori Center launched the Language Access in Elections campaign in Montgomery County to include more languages, including Korean, on election materials to better serve the diverse communities in the area.
- Woori Center held two citizenship clinics in FY2024, offering naturalization services to limited English proficient community members. They partnered with Fragomen, the largest U.S. immigration law firm, and HIAS PA.

 10 FT Staff	 6 PT Staff	 3 Board Members	 775 Community Members Served
 5 Volunteers	\$1,000,000 Annual Budget		

Woori Juntos was founded in 2021 by first generation Korean immigrant women with decades of experience as community organizers. The name Woori Juntos is interpreted as, “We Rise Together,” in English and Spanish, reflecting our commitment to solidarity, inclusion and collaboration. Woori Juntos’s mission is to achieve social, economic and racial justice for Asians, im/migrants and all Texans.

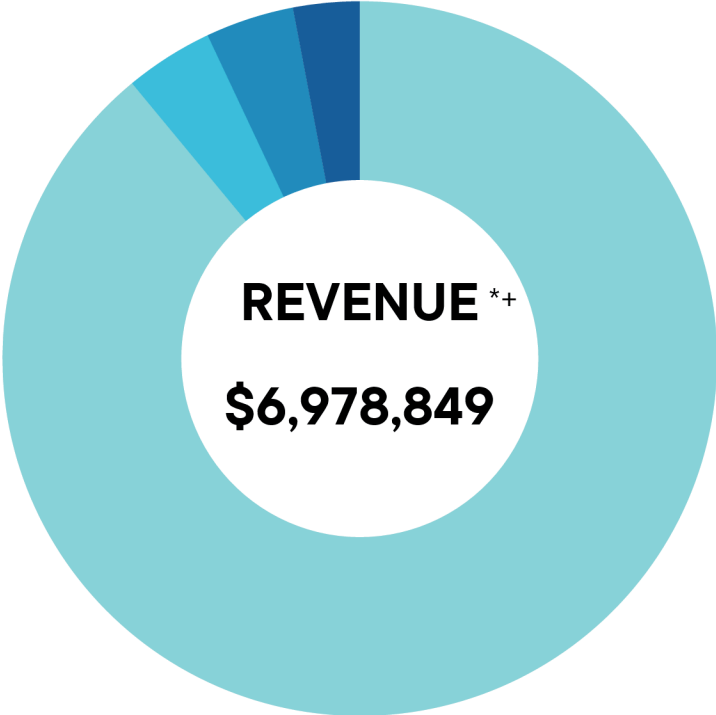
Woori Juntos has an office in Houston and serves community members in Greater Houston and Harris and Fort Bend counties in Texas.

2024 HIGHLIGHTS

- Woori Juntos advocated against SB4, severe anti-immigrant legislation that grants local law enforcement the authority of ICE to increase detention and removal orders. Woori Juntos held Know Your Rights and a Train the Trainer sessions in Korean and Vietnamese, and a provided a toolkit translated into 11 languages.
- For the FY2025 City of Houston Budget Cycle, Woori Juntos’s advocacy for language access led to the City Council introducing a budget amendment to create a new Language Access Coordinator position within the Department of Neighborhoods.
- Woori Juntos advocated to save and expand the Holistic Assistance Response Teams (HART) program in Harris County, which consists of unarmed first responder teams trained in behavioral health and on-scene medical assistance. Their advocacy led to an additional \$2.2 million being allocated to the program.

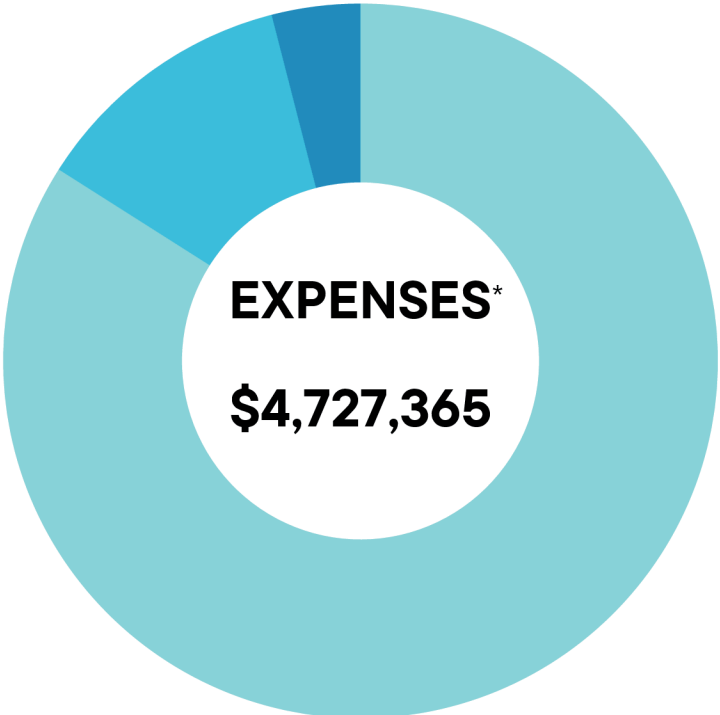
FINANCIALS

**Total Net Assets
\$10,255,191**



- Foundation 89%
- Grassroots 4%
- Government 4%
- Other 3%

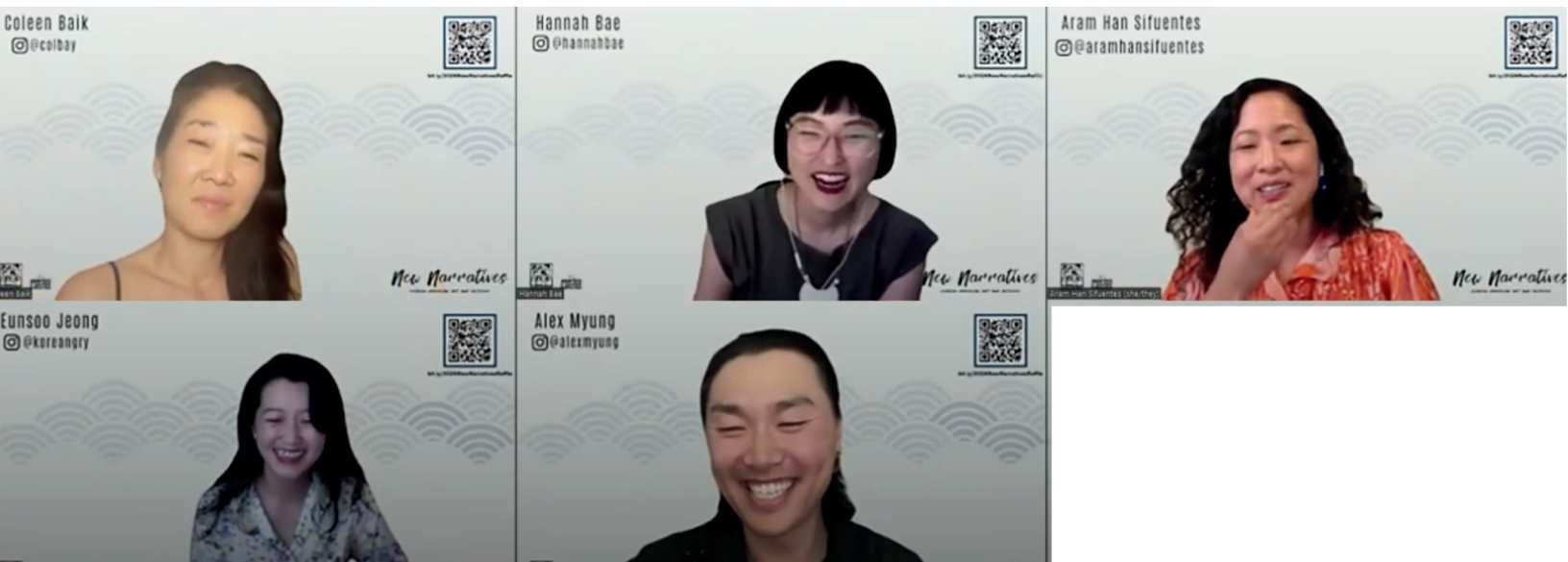
- Program 84%
- Management & General 12%
- Development 4%



* Includes NAKASEC National and fiscal sponsees Hamkae Center, Woori Center and Woori Juntos

+ Includes multi-year funding committed in FY2024

NEW NARRATIVES



On May 16, 2024, NAKASEC hosted its second annual virtual fundraiser, *New Narratives: Korean American Art and Activism*. We thank our esteemed panelists **Coleen Baik, Hannah Bae, Aram Han Sifuentes, Eunsoo Jeong, and Alex Myung** for sharing their time and talent. Together, we enjoyed an engaging conversation about identity, art and activism, and raised more than \$65,000!

We also extend our thanks to Korean American Artist Collective, SaeJin Lee, and Izzy Cho for their contributions toward the event, as well as our wonderful host committee, event sponsors and attendees acknowledged on the following pages.

FRIENDS OF NAKASEC

NAKASEC can only continue advancing the immigrant justice movement with passionate supporters who believe in our mission and share our values. Thank you to all of our generous donors.

The following list includes individuals who made gifts to NAKASEC national between July 1, 2023 and June 30, 2024; this list does not include gifts made to NAKASEC's affiliate organizations.

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