

**Asian Community  
& Cultural Center**

# ANNUAL REPORT 2023



# LETTER FROM THE CEO

## Board of Directors

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Marti Lee

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Sheila Dorsey Vinton

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Tracy Bohaboj

César García

Matt Hansen, J.D.

Brittany Planos

Raul Sarmiento

Danny Nguyen

Amanda Knight

Dear Friends,

In 2023, the Asian Community & Cultural Center celebrated 31 years of service to Lincoln's newest neighbors. Thanks to the generosity of funders, donors, and volunteers like you, we were able to serve a record-breaking 2,100+ clients.

Our dedicated staff and volunteers provided over 27,000 hours of essential support to immigrants and refugees who call Lincoln home. These many hours of service build connection and trust with newcomers, helping them to integrate and acclimate to life in our community.

Our clients are from all over the globe, representing 32 different countries. This rich tapestry of cultures brings so much talent, ambition, and beauty to our city! Thank you for the part you play in welcoming our new neighbors by supporting the Asian Center.

With gratitude,



**Sheila Dorsey Vinton**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/CEO



## Mission

The Asian Community & Cultural Center supports and empowers all refugees and immigrants through programs and services, and advances the sharing of Asian culture and other cultural heritages of our clients with the community at large.

# WHO WE ARE

## STAFF

### Executive Director/CEO

Sheila Dorsey Vinton

Khamisa Abdalla

Mushtaq Aldhaher

Sadaqat Abdulrahimzai

Samantha Plenty Chief Christiansen

Samia Ahmed Abdel Mawla

Sarah Lies

Linh Bui

Tiffany Bui

Nyabuoy Chan

Lanetta Edison-Soe

Lee Ling Chiam

Andrew Farias

Meherafroz Ghani

Lisa Guill

Kaspar Haake

Laila Hasan

Thuy Ho

Hsa Eh K'lu Soe

Ommohal Koko

Thu Le

Xinxin Li

Fariha Mohamond

Hser Moo Paw

Roel Navarrete

Kim Nguyen (National Able)

Joy Oyebefun

Marwa Parwani

Alina Pestushko

Ghazia Popalzai

Donna Reed

Rebecca Reinhardt

Nilofar Saidi

Sabrina Salrin

Lwe Say

Josie Shea

Maria Elena Villasante

Natalie Wiebelhaus

Jenn Worley

**39 STAFF MEMBERS**

**132 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE  
WITH THE ASIAN CENTER**

**20 LANGUAGES SPOKEN**

**18 ETHNICITIES REPRESENTED**

**67 VOLUNTEERS**



## HEALTH LITERACY CHAMPIONS

In 2023, the Asian Center was awarded the Health Literacy Champion certificate! Every day, our advocates bridge cultural and linguistic barriers to help local immigrants understand the complicated health system and empower clients to navigate their health journey with confidence.

This honor from the Nebraska Association of Local Health Directors recognizes the hard work, expertise, and excellence of Asian Center staff in the public health realm. It represents more than 400 hours of training, study, and practice.



# HIGHLIGHTS

**2,110 total clients served,  
representing 32 ethnicities**

**1,140 new clients**

**Over 27,200 hours spent  
supporting, teaching,  
and empowering  
New Americans**

**3,000+ Lincolnites attended  
cultural events**



## AREAS OF FOCUS

**Youth** **Citizenship Classes** **Health**  
**Mental Health** **Family Resources**  
**Cultural Events** **Women** **Seniors**





# CULTURAL PROGRAMS GROW & BUILD BRIDGES



Rebecca (JueYeZi) Reinhardt has been part of the Asian Center team for 10 years, serving as Cultural Program Coordinator and Chinese Community Advocate. She came from China to Nebraska in 1999 with more than a decade of experience in Chinese radio and a great curiosity about American culture.

“I had to be fearless using English with people. It was hard, but people were so patient with me,” says Rebecca.

Under Rebecca’s leadership, cultural programs have grown significantly to include two major community events and dozens of smaller cultural presentations each year, as well as cultural performance groups.

In 2023, Rebecca was honored at the 45th Annual Mayor’s Arts Awards for her excellence in leading and growing the Asian Center’s Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Celebration and Harvest Moon Festival.

“I love cultural event planning! I get to connect with so many people in the community. We bring in performers, food, and activities for the whole family,” says Rebecca.

Rebecca is passionate about the value of cultural programs. “I always tell people, the Asian Center is the bridge. On one side are immigrant and refugee newcomers. On the other side are long-time residents. We are the bridge to bring both sides together.

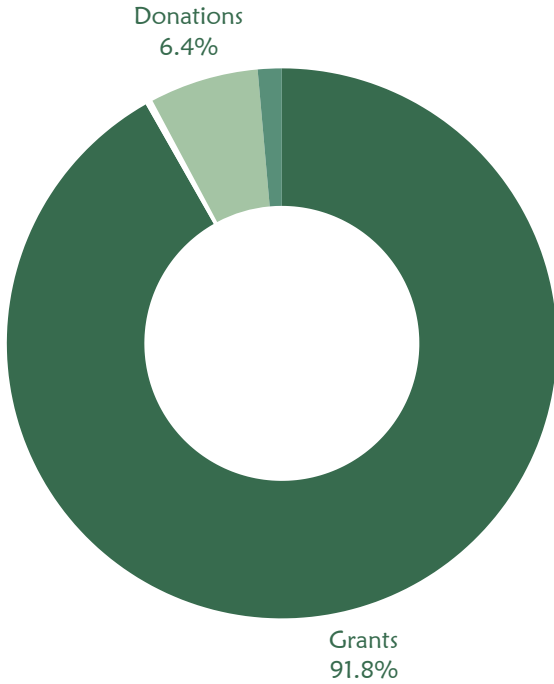
“Being the bridge builds connection and acceptance between newcomers and long-time residents. I see more and more people participating every year, families from all backgrounds throughout our city. I love it!” says Rebecca.

For the full story visit [lincolnasiancenter.org/stories/rebecca](https://lincolnasiancenter.org/stories/rebecca)





# FINANCIALS

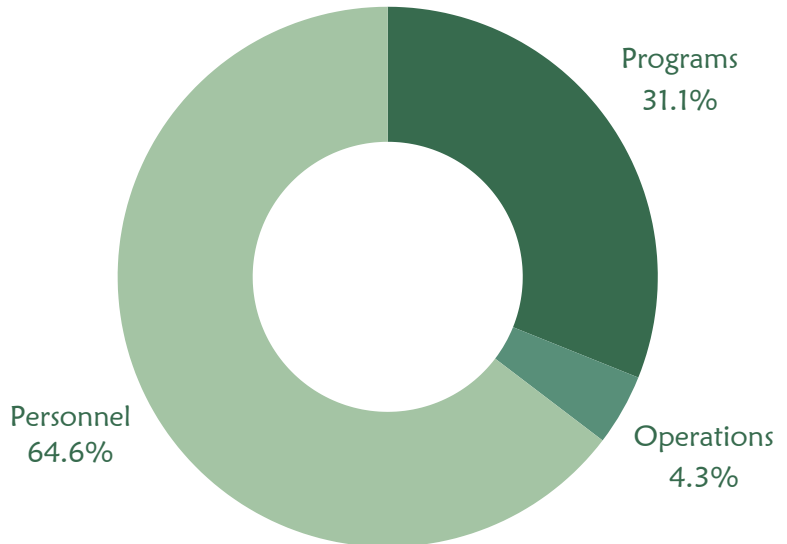


## TOTAL INCOME \$2,518,406.00

Grants: \$2,310,976.85  
Donations: \$160,960.27  
Fees for services: \$11,082.80  
Other income: \$35,386.08

## TOTAL EXPENSES \$2,049,457.35

Personnel: \$1,324,826.28  
Programs: \$637,023.46  
Operations: \$87,607.61





# 2023 PARTNERS

**Huge thanks to the dozens of funders and partners who supported the Asian Center's work in 2023!**

## FUNDERS

Acklie Foundation | Allstate Foundation | City of Lincoln/Aging Partners | Community Health Endowment | Control and Prevention | Cooper Foundation | Department of Health and Human Services | Department of Justice: Office for Victims of Crime | Family Services | Health Department | Humanities Nebraska | Lancaster County Human Services | Lancaster County Joint Budget Committee | Legal Aid of Nebraska | Lincoln Arts Council | Lincoln Community Foundation | Nebraska Academy of Sciences | Nebraska Arts Council | Nebraska Crime Commission | Nebraska Wesleyan University | Partnership for Healthy Lincoln | Region V Systems | Sherwood Foundation | Tyson Foods | United States Citizenship & Immigration Services | United Way | Urban Institute | Voices of Hope | Woods Charitable Fund

## ORGANIZATIONS

Aging Partners | Bluestem Health | Bryan Health | Catholic Social Services | Center for People In Need | Civic Nebraska | Community Action | Cultural Centers of Lincoln Collaborative | Dreamweaver Foundation | ECHO Collective | Educare Lincoln | El Centro de las Américas | Food Bank for the Heartland | Friendship Home | Good Neighbor Community Center | Indian Center, Inc. | League of Women Voters | Legal Aid of Nebraska | Lincoln Commission on Human Rights | Lincoln Literacy | Lincoln Public Schools | Lincoln Public Schools: Bilingual Liaison Program | Lincoln Transportation & Utilities | Lutheran Family Services | Malone Center | Multicultural Coalition | MyCity Academy | Nebraska Appleseed | Nebraska Children and Families Foundation | Nebraska Civic Engagement Table | Nebraska Coalition to End Sexual and Domestic Violence | Nebraska Wesleyan University | NeighborWorks Lincoln | New Americans Task Force | Partnership for Healthy Lincoln | Ponca Tribe of Nebraska | Southeast Community College: Adult Education | SSG, US Army Lincoln Career Center | UNL: Diversity and Inclusion | UNL: Global Integrative Studies | UNL: Modern Languages & Literatures | Voices of Hope | Yazidi Cultural Center



# 2023 DONORS

## Kind Neighbor Society

The Kind Neighbor Society was founded in 2021. Kind Neighbor supporters enable the ACCC to strategically meet emerging needs and expand our capacity.

Thank you to our 2023 Kind Neighbor Society donors for your generous support!

### 229 Kind Neighbor Society Donors in 2023

#### Compassionate Neighbors \$3000+

Connie & Todd Duncan\* | Duncan Family Trust | Eagle Printing & Sign | First Interstate Bank | NEBCO, Inc.

#### Gracious Neighbors \$1000-\$2999

ALLO | Angie & Dan Muhleisen | Anonymous | Brent & Robin Korte | Candace & Noah Eno | Claire H Baker | Curtis E. Maynard | Dai Shizuka & Alice Kang\* | Drone Amplified | Heartland Optical | Hiruth Haile | Interfaith America | Jennifer & Brian Cintani | Jim Calonic & Patti Meyer\* | Kayla Abel | Marilyn Cintani\* | Michael & Courtney Brunz | Montooth-Meiklejohn Family | Pinnacle Bank | Rhonda Seacrest\*

#### Caring Neighbors \$500-\$999

Ameritas | Assurity\* | Bennie R Shobe, Jr. & Kate Heltzel\* | Brown Immigration Law & Fly - A Fitness Revolution\* | Bryan Health | Cait Naberhaus\* | CHI Health Foundation/Nebraska Heart | David & Marilyn Moore\* | David Quade | Deanna & Mark Hutchins | Eastridge Presbyterian Church | Erin Dobesh | Frances O'Leary | iSoft Data Systems | Lisa & Russ Guill\* | Mapes | Marti Lee\* | Riggs & Associates, CPAs PC | Samspon Construction | Scott Bulfinch | Sinclair Hille | Spreetail LLC | Stephen Hsu | Tammy Halverson | Thomas Dummermuth | Todd Karges\* | Union Bank & Trust

#### Kind Neighbors \$100-\$499

Adelle Burk | Al Frank | Alex & CJ Lupori | Amanda Knight | Anonymous | Antoni Schutz | Arpi Siyahian | Art & Carol Thompson\* | Art & Chris Zygielbaum | Atlas Lincoln | Barbara Francis\* | Bill Hooks | Blome Family | Dentistry | Brian Fitzgerald | Brittany & Josh Planos | Bruce & Sanae Burris | Carol Russell\* | Catherine Ward | César García | Chandra Schwab | Chesterman Company | Chi Bui | Chris Pham | Christ United Methodist Women | Christina Smith-Murphy | CL Creations | Claude & Karen Berreckman\* | Connie Karges | Cornhusker Bank\* | Courtney (Van Hoosen) Makhmudzoda\* | Darcy & Jim Blosser | Kevin Boatright\* | David Hansen | Deb Higuchi\* | Deborah Arends | Denise Weimer\* | Dmitri Lombard\* | Don't Panic Labs | Dr. Mike & Susan Ferris\* | Dr. Robert Hitchcock | Dustin Oltman\* | Eric Savaiano | Erin Dobesh | Gary Riggs | Georgia L Stevens | Georgianne & Jim Mastera | Gerise Herndon\* | Glenn Friendt | Halley Kruse\* | Hannah Norman | Heather Brundieck\* | Heather Hallen-Adams | Holly Howell | Ingrid Kirst\* | INSPRO/Marsh & McLennan | Jacqueline Kehl\* | James ByBee | Jane Raybould | Jane Renner Hood | Janell Walther & Bryan Seck | Janet C. Chung\* | Jason Varga | Jay Storz | Jeanette Nakada | Jennifer Hagen | Jennifer Keshwani | Jessica Howland | Jim Caniglia | Joan Anderson | JoAnne Hranac\* | Joel Michaelis | Joel Ruiz | John Robbins | Joi Barksdale | Jolene Braymen\* | Joy Oyebefun | Judy Krueger | Julia Larson | Karen Barrett Bruce & Elizabeth Bavitz\* | Karen Helmberger | Kathleen Wingard | Kathryn Dolan | Kathy & Kevin Haake | Katie Mlady | Kayla Muhleisen | Kelen-Bloom Family | Kelli Bacon | Kelly Ross | Kelsey Lee | Kelsey Thiem | Kevin Draftz | Kevin Wailes | Kim Hillhouse | Kimberle Hall | Koyel Bhattacharyya\* | Kristen Goldsberry | Kristin Betrang | Kurt Elder | Lanetta Edison-Soe | Laura Tinnerstet | Laurel Erickson | Leah Droge | Linda Baer | Linda K Guill | Linda Robinson Rutz & Philip Mullin\* | Lindsay Limbach | Lindy Jameson | Lisa Miller | Liz Lange | Lois Baldwin\* | Maggie Dunlap | Marco Barker | Margaret Davis\* | Mark Hatten | Mary Hawk\* | Mary Pedersen\* | Mary-Lou Eden | Matt & Marjorie Bruck | Matt Hansen | Maureen Brase-Houchin | Mayor Leiron Gaylor Baird\* | Megan McGuffey | Michelle Paulk | Mike Echternacht | Mikki Sandin | Mimi & Jim Wickless\* | Molly & Ryan Wieber | Molly Coke | Nan & Lew Kaye-Skinner\* | Natalie Wiebelhaus | Nathan Pickerill | Nelnat | Nicole Mulcahy | Nicole Sexton | Office Interior & Design | Olivia Thiel | Omar Attaie | Pamela Williams | Partners for Insightful Evaluation | Pat Kurtenbach | Patricia French | Patricia Hawk\* | Patricia Ruth | Paula Christensen | Peggy & Kent Apthorpe\* | Rachel Garver | Rachel Hayes | Ramesh Laungani | Randy Arndt | Raul Sarmiento | Reagan Rodenburg | Rebecca Carr | Riley Williams | Rita & Lee Thompson\* | Rosemary & Fred Ohles\* | Ruth Sorilla | Sandi Karsten | Sarah Howell | Sarah Kvien Jensen | Scott Bulfinch | Shaina Allison | Shirley Sneve | Stefanie Geist | Stephanie Kersten-Rivera & Roy Rivera | Steve Colonna | Susan Ugai\* | Susan Wortmann\* | Tanessa Kubat | Tauni Waddington\* | The Moose's Tooth | Thomas Christie | Thomas Green | Tom Randa | Tracy Bohaboj | Tran Teri\* | Victoria Grasso | Vito Rodriguez | Whitney Fritzinger | Yuriy Nurbabayev

\*indicates founding member of Kind Neighbor Society



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



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[@lincolnasiancenter](https://www.instagram.com/lincolnasiancenter)



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