

# HMONG CULTURAL CENTER 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

## 2023 Hmong Cultural Center Program Accomplishments

**Adult Basic Education Program (Citizenship, ESL and Occupational English Classes for Adults)**  
251 adult immigrant and refugee students served with 14,250 hours of instruction

**Qeej Musical Instrument Program**

47 students served with instruction in the Hmong Qeej instrument and Qeej songs played in the traditional Hmong funeral ceremony

**Wedding and Funeral Songs Program**

30 students served with instruction in traditional Hmong Wedding and Funeral Songs

**Museum and Library Visitors**

**From January 1 to December 31, 2023:**

Physical Visitors

1409 Total Physical Visitors toured the museum or used the Library

**Hmong 101 Program**

Sample of Groups Served with educational information about Hmong culture and history:

Canadian Consulate General

Minnesota Humanities Center Learning in Community

Plymouth Schools Teachers

Cargill Corporation

Minnesota Department of Human Services



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**Hmong Cultural Center**  
375 University Avenue, Suite 204  
Saint Paul, MN 55103  
[www.hmongcc.org](http://www.hmongcc.org)  
651-917-9937

***Cultural Arts Education, Multicultural Education,  
Adult Basic Education***

*It is the mission of the Hmong Cultural Center to promote the personal development of children, youth, and adults through education while providing resources that enhance cross-cultural awareness and understanding.*

# HMONG CULTURAL CENTER

## Hmong Cultural Center Programs

**Adult Basic Education Program** - The Adult Basic Education Programs at Hmong Cultural Center include English as a Second Language (ESL) Classes, Occupational English Classes, Job Counseling Services and Citizenship Classes. Hmong Cultural Center is a member of the Saint Paul Community Literacy Consortium. Citizenship and some ESL classes are available online.

**Hmong Wedding and Funeral Songs Program** - This 31 year old program at Hmong Cultural Center teaches adults and youth traditional orally recited songs and procedures associated with MeejKoob (the traditional Hmong Marriage Ceremony) and Kev PamTuag (Funeral Ceremony) in order to help ensure the survival of Hmong culture and traditions.

**Qeej Musical Instrument Program** - The popular afterschool Qeej classes at Hmong Cultural Center teach students in the art of the Qeej - a traditional instrument widely known as a cultural symbol of Hmong identity. Lessons include playing and dancing with the Qeej instrument.

**Hmong Resource Center Library** - The collections of the Hmong Resource Center library include more than 800 Hmong-related books, 700 Hmong-related theses and dissertations, more than 1000 Hmong-related academic journal articles and over 3,500 Hmong-related newspaper articles. The library likely has the largest collection of Hmong-related theses and dissertations and journal articles of any institution in the United States. The library also hosts a growing virtual library collection on the internet ([www.hmonglibrary.org](http://www.hmonglibrary.org))

**Museum** - The Hmong Cultural Center Storefront Museum provides a growing selection of interactive exhibits and interpretive materials that teach visitors about Hmong culture and history with an emphasis on the experiences of Hmong Minnesotans and the rich Hmong folk arts tradition. Exhibits include 35 museum-quality display panels, 6 interactive stations and numerous display cases of Hmong cultural objects along with an online exhibit ([www.hmonghistorycenter.org](http://www.hmonghistorycenter.org))

**Hmong 101 Program** - To respond to the need for community education about the Hmong experience, Hmong history and culture and Hmong American contributions to the U.S., the Hmong Cultural Center provides comprehensive and interactive and online presentations about the Hmong to groups in Minnesota, the Upper Midwest and the entire U.S. ([www.hmong101.com](http://www.hmong101.com))

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## MESSAGE FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TXONGPAO LEE

Dear Community:

2023 was a great year for Hmong Cultural Center!

Our Adult Basic Education programs (ESL and Citizenship) continued to expand after the multi-year disruption of the pandemic. We were pleased to serve many Hmong newcomers from Vietnam, Laos and Thailand in these programs along with immigrants and refugees from many other communities.

Our storefront museum again reached a new all-time high with more than 1,400 visitors. This included more than 60 schools, churches and other youth groups visiting for tours. These visitors came not only from Minnesota but also several communities in Wisconsin and even further afield including California and France.

Our annual Qeej and Hmong Arts Festival, unique in the United States, also continued to grow in its second year held in May 2023 at Landmark Center in downtown St. Paul.

In 2024, we have big plans including a major museum expansion and moving our annual Qeej and arts festival to a new larger venue so it can continue to grow.

We would like to thank you all of you for your ongoing support of Hmong Cultural Center!

Txongpao Lee, Executive Director

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**HMONG CULTURAL CENTER, INC. FINANCIAL STATEMENT  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023**

<b>INCOME</b>	<b>Total (\$)</b>
Grants-government	\$325,638
Donations, Private Grants	\$190,541
Contributions	\$12,840
Fundraising	\$6,088
Other Income	\$84
Museum Income	\$8,881
<b>TOTAL INCOME AND SUPPORT</b>	<b>\$544,073</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>	
Payroll	296,236
Postage/Shipping	0
Supplies	1,717
Rent Maintenance	60,334
Insurance	6,506
Contract Services	23,815
Equipment	4,856
Travel/Transportation	8,131
Community Outreach	1,155
Service Charges	229
Miscellaneous	745
Depreciation	16,392
Program Expenses	82,368
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$502,483</b>
<b>NET ORDINARY INCOME</b>	<b>\$41,589</b>
<b>TOTAL OTHER INCOME</b>	<b>\$31,674</b>
<b>NET INCOME</b>	<b>\$73,263</b>

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**HMONG CULTURAL CENTER MAJOR PROGRAM EXPENSES 2023**

Adult Basic Education	\$248,714
Museum and Library	\$124,459
Hmong Cultural Arts Education Program	\$79,800

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**BALANCE SHEET**

Total Liabilities	\$26,067
Total Current Liabilities	\$26,067
Total Assets	\$369,187
Unrestricted Net Assets	\$343,120

**Copies of the organization's most recent audit and Hmong Cultural Center's Form 990 are available on the organizational website at [www.hmongcc.org](http://www.hmongcc.org)**

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**2023 Corporate, Governmental, and Foundation Supporters of  
Hmong Cultural Center's Programs**

**American Online Giving Foundation**

**City of Saint Paul Cultural Star Grant**

**Institute of Museum and Library Services**

**The McKnight Foundation**

**Minnesota State Arts Board. This activity is funded, in part, by the arts and cultural heritage fund as appropriated by the Minnesota State Legislature with money from the Legacy Amendment vote of the people of Minnesota on November 4, 2008.**

**Minnesota Department of Education**

**Minnesota Humanities Center. This activity is funded, in part, by the arts and cultural heritage fund as appropriated by the Minnesota State Legislature with money from the Legacy Amendment vote of the people of Minnesota on November 4, 2008.**

**Minnesota Department of Administration. This activity is funded, in part, by the arts and cultural heritage fund as appropriated by the Minnesota State Legislature with money from the Legacy Amendment vote of the people of Minnesota on November 4, 2008.**

**National Endowment for the Arts**

**Otto Bremer Trust**

**Saint Paul Community Literacy Consortium**

**Saint Paul Foundation**

**TOM'S Shoes**



HCC's Qeej Troupe Performs at Lake Phalen

**HMONG CULTURAL CENTER, INC. BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**Shuly Her, Chair**

**Kamai Xiong, Vice- Chair**

**Vong Thao, Treasurer**

**Dr. Maiyia Kasouaher, Secretary**

**Chad Lee**

**HMONG CULTURAL CENTER STAFF**

**Txongpao Lee, Executive Director**

**Dr. Mark Pfeifer, Director of Programs**

**Lynne Croese, Adult Basic Education Instructor**

**Sonja Ihlenfeldt, Adult Basic Education Instructor**

**Kang Vang, Adult Basic Education Instructor**

**Coconut Bay, Driver**

**Christopher Hang, Cultural Programs Instructor**

**David Hang, Cultural Programs Instructor**

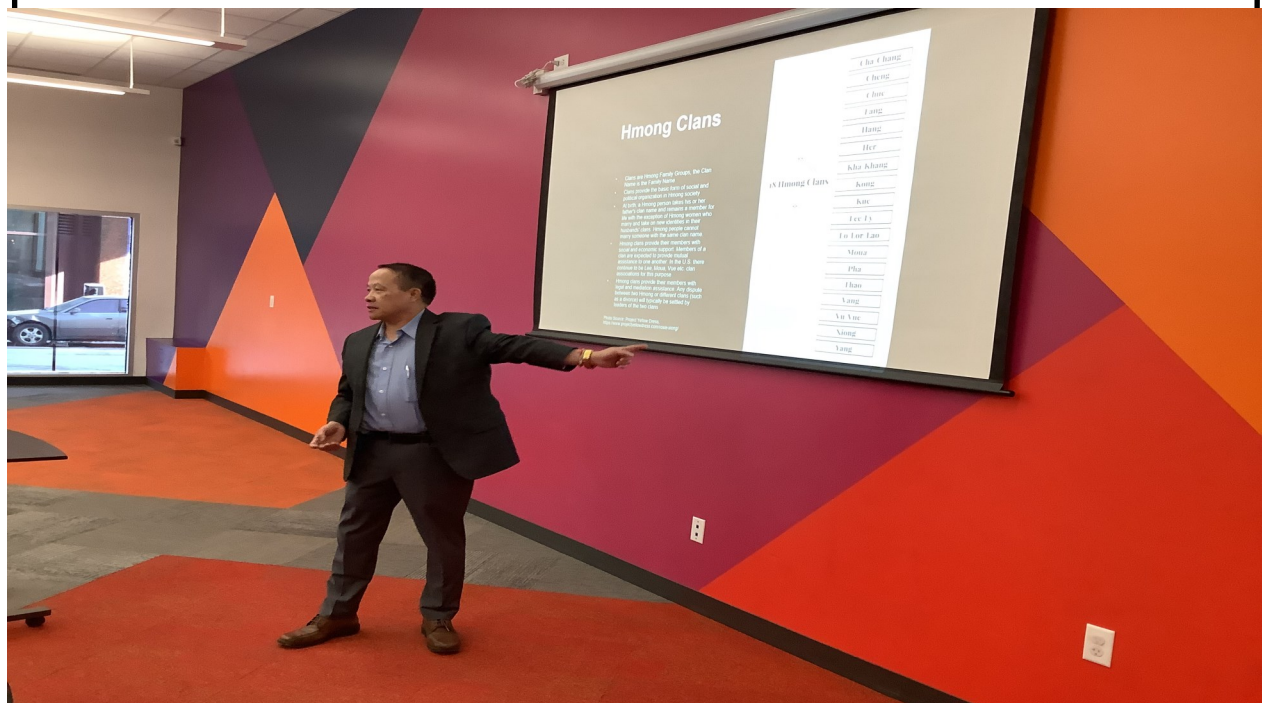
**Soua Sou Lee, Cultural Programs Instructor**

**Gao Yang, Museum Marketing Specialist**

**Kingston Lee, Museum Tour Guide**

**Pa Soua Vue, Museum Tour Guide**

**Alex Yang, Museum Tour Guide**



Txongpao Lee gives a Hmong 101 presentation to a staff inservice at the Children's Museum of Minnesota





A college class tours the Hmong Cultural Center Museum



Ojulu Nyigwo became a naturalized U.S. Citizen after taking a Citizenship Class at HCC!