

52nd Gala Rooted to Rise

6:00 PM March 7, 2025 Ziegfeld Ballroom

Gala Program Rooted to Rise

Cocktail Hour

Dinner & Program

Welcoming Remarks

Danny Kim

KCS Board Chair

Honorees

Edward Lee Peter Jongho Na, MD, MPH

Performers

KCS Dance Team Jazz

Emcee

Vivian Lee

CeFaan Kim

Auctioneer

Edward Pokropski Kathleen Kim





Letter from the President

Dear Friends and Supporters,

Welcome to the 52nd KCS Gala: Rooted to Rise—a celebration of our shared commitment to strengthening and uplifting our community. For over 50 years, Korean Community Services of Metropolitan New York (KCS) has been dedicated to providing essential services in healthcare, education, social services, and senior care. Tonight, we honor that legacy while looking ahead to a future of even greater impact.

This year marks an exciting milestone as KCS joins forces with the Korean Community Center (KCC) in New Jersey. This merger strengthens our ability to serve more families and expand essential services across state lines, ensuring a lasting impact for generations to come.

None of this would be possible without you—our friends, donors, and partners—who believe in our mission and empower us to grow. Your steadfast support fuels our work, enabling us to break barriers, foster integration, and build a stronger, more inclusive community. On behalf of KCS, I extend my deepest gratitude for your generosity and trust. Thank you for being part of this journey.

Sincerely, Myoungmi Kim President & CEO





Our Mission & Vision

Our envision is a world where immigrant communities remain grounded in their heritage and work together with the broader community to build a better society at large. Our mission is to be a bridge for Korean immigrants and the wider Asian community to fully integrate into society and overcome any economic, health and linguistic barriers so that they become independent and thriving members of the community.



Honorees

HONOREE



Edward Lee Chef

2025 KCS 52nd Annual Gala Chef Edward Lee is a Korean-American chef, author, and restaurateur. He was born in Brooklyn.

He is currently the chef and owner of 610 Magnolia in Louisville, Kentucky, and Shia in Washington, D.C.

Recently, he appeared on Netfl ix's Korean cooking competition show "Chef's Table: Korea," where he reached the fi nals, demonstrating his deep understanding of Korean culture and cuisine.

Dr. Peter Na is a renowned psychiatrist and Yale University professor celebrated for his profound impact on mental health through his research and community work.

He has appeared in numerous media outlets, including interviews with TIME and BBC, where he has called for a concerted national effort to tackle the stigma surrounding mental health and mental health services. Dr. Na is also the author of two best-selling books in Korea.

HONOREE



I KCS

Emcees



Vivian Lee

2025 KCS 52nd Annual Gala

Vivian Lee is an Emmy-winning TV journalist, creative director, and host of The 5 Of Us Podcast.



CeFaan Kim

2025 KCS 52nd Annual Gala

Cefaan Kim is a talented correspondent at ABC News.



ANDY KIM NEW JERSEY

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

January 26, 2025

To the Korean Community Services of Metropolitan New York (KCS),

I want to extend my heartfelt greetings and appreciation to you all as you gather for the 52nd KCS Annual Gala and reflect upon your distinguished commitment to serving immigrant communities. Your work for over five decades has touched the lives of so many across New Jersey.

KCS has played a unique and profound role in the Korean immigrant and wider Asian community. As the son of immigrants whose parents came to America from Korea 50 years ago, I know first-hand the pivotal role our community has played across all sectors of life in the United States. The contributions made are not only as entrepreneurs, business owners, and leaders, but also as community organizers and public servants. The work you have done in strengthening the impact of the Korean immigrant community, as well as connecting people to their Korean heritage, is inspiring.

I am honored to be the first Asian American Senator to serve the state of New Jersey, and the only Korean American to serve in the United States Senate. I know my story isn't an outlier - it is a thread in the fabric of Korean Americans across this great nation, as I'm sure many in your organization can attest to.

Though I unfortunately could not be with all of you tonight, I hope you accept my warmest wishes. You are all so important to the story of Korean Americans across the nation, and I wish you lasting success in achieving your organization's mission.

Sincerely,

Andy Kim United States Senator







CHAIR NYC EDUCATION COMMITTEES EDUCATION FINANCE HIGHER EDUCATION JUDICIARY RULES TRANSPORTATION

March 7, 2025

President and CEO Myoungmi Kim The Korean Community Services of Metropolitan New York, Inc. 203-05 32nd Ave. Bayside, NY 11361

Dear Friends,

It is with great pleasure that I extend my warmest congratulations and best wishes on the occasion of the Korean Community Services of Metropolitan New York's landmark 52nd Anniversary Gala.

On this anniversary, KCS' theme **"Rooted to Rise"** clearly demonstrates a steadfast commitment to serving our community with diligence, persistence and excellence. This gala commemorates the past achievements of the last 52 years while looking forward to the future with hope and determination to continue building bridges within our communities. KCS has provided exceptional social services to the Korean American community in New York City and has expanded to provide services in Aging, Education, Immigration, Workforce Development, Public Health, and Mental Health in Queens, Manhattan, Westchester, and New Jersey. Its growing multilingual capabilities in English, Korean, Mandarin, and Spanish show how ready KCS is to take on the next 52 years of service.

Congratulations to tonight's honorees and all the individuals and organizations who have contributed to making tonight's celebration a success and for continuing to build bridges here with KCS!

On behalf of the New York State Senate, I commend KCS for its essential services to our community. Thank you for your tremendous contributions to the City and State of New York. Please accept my best wishes for another 52 years of continued success!

Sincerely,

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L DISTRICT OFFICE 142-29 37TH AVE., 1ST FL. FLUSHING, NEW YORK 11354 PHONE (718) 445-0004 FAX (718) 445-8398

LALBANY OFFICE ROOM 913 LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING ALBANY, NEW YORK 12247 PHONE (518) 455-3461 FAX (518) 426-6857 STAVISKY@NYSENATE.COV



TOBY ANN STAVISKY Senator, 11th District VICE CHAIRWOMAN



CHAIRWOMAN COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

COMMITTEE MEMBER EDUCATION ETHICS AND INTERNAL GOVERNANCE FINANCE JUDICIARY PROCUREMENT AND CONTRACTS RACING, GAMING AND WAGERING

March 7, 2025

Korean Community Services of Metropolitan New York, Inc. 203-05 32nd Avenue Bayside, NY 11361

Dear Friends:

I am delighted to congratulate you as you celebrate the 52nd anniversary of the Korean Community Services of Metropolitan New York's (KCS)'s founding and dedicated service to the community.

The theme of this year's gala, *Rooted to Rise*, reflects Korean Community Services of Metropolitan New York's (KCS) success throughout the decades. Since its founding in 1973, KCS has been empowering the Korean American community by providing vital social services, health programs, workforce development, senior care and immigrant support. I would like to commend Myoungmi Kim and her team at KCS for amplifying the Korean American voice so that it is heard by all elected officials. You all have made remarkable contributions to the greater Korean American community, and to all New Yorkers.

I wish you every measure of success as you continue to promote the legacy of Korean Americans and their contributions.

With kindest regards, I am,

Sincerely yours,

& A Stavisy



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COMMITTEES Corporations, Authorities, and Commissions Labor Rules Ways and Means

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March 7, 2025

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> EMAIL rozicn@nyassembly.gov

REPRESENTING Flushing, Briarwood, Queensboro Hill, Hillcrest, Fresh Meadows, Aubumdale, Oakland Gardens, Bayside



Congratulations to Korean Community Services of Metropolitan New York (KCS) on the occasion of your 52nd Anniversary! It is an honor to celebrate this milestone and recognize over five decades of dedicated service to the Korean-American and immigrant communities.

Since its founding in 1973, KCS has been a driving force in delivering essential social services, health programs, workforce development, and senior care—empowering individuals and strengthening communities across New York City.

This year's gala, themed *"Rooted to Rise,"* reflects KCS' enduring mission and its bold vision for the future. It is also a moment to celebrate the remarkable individuals and partners who have been instrumental in sustaining and expanding this

important work for generations to come.

A heartfelt recognition goes to KCS President and CEO, Myoungmi Kim, whose tireless advocacy and efforts have been pivotal in advancing KCS's mission. Her leadership has not only fueled the organization's success but has also helped foster the continued growth of the entire community.

To the leadership, staff, and supporters of KCS, I extend my deepest gratitude for your dedication and impact. I look forward to celebrating your continued success in the years ahead.

Sincerely,

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Nily Rozic





THE ASSEMBLY STATE OF NEW YORK ALBANY



CHAIR Corporations, Authorities and Commissions Committee

> COMMITTEES Health Judiciary Rules Ways and Means

March 7, 2025

Ms. Myoungmi Kim, President/CEO Korean Community Services of Metropolitan New York, Inc. 203-05 32nd Avenue Bayside, NY 11361

Dear Ms. Kim:

My congratulations and best wishes are with you and your staff as you celebrate your 52nd Anniversary Gala, "Rooted to Rise."

Since its founding in 1973, Korean Community Services of Metropolitan New York, Inc. (KCS) has been assisting Korean Americans and other immigrant communities by offering services in fields including aging, public health, youth and family, immigration, and job training. KCS operates a community center in my district, helping to ensure Northeast Queens residents of all ages can thrive. Through the efforts of its board, staff, and volunteers, KCS continues to improve the quality of life of our community.

I congratulate your honorees for this evening: Edward Lee, Chef, and Peter Jongho Na, MD, MPH.

With every best wish for a joyous and memorable 52nd Anniversary Gala, I remain

Yours truly,

Edward C. Braunstein Member of Assembly

DISTRICT OFFICE: 213-33 39th Avenue, Suite 238, Bayside, New York 11361 • 718-357-3588, FAX: 718-357-5947 ALBANY OFFICE: Room 422, Legislative Office Building, Albany, New York 12248 • 518-455-5425, FAX: 518-455-4648 EMAIL: braunsteine@nyassembly.gov





NEW JERSEY LEGISLATURE

ELLEN J. PARK ASSEMBLY MEMBER, 37th District 96 Engle Street Englewood, NJ 07631 COMMITTEES Parliamentarian Judiciary, Chair Budget Commerce, Economic Development & Agriculture

March 7, 2025

Korean Community Services of Metropolitan New York, Inc. 203-05 32nd Avenue Bayside, NY 11361

Dear Friends,

Please accept my best wishes to everyone gathered for the Korean Community Services of Metropolitan New York, Inc. (KCS) 52nd Anniversary Gala!

KCS embodies the generous spirit of the tri-state area. The staff and volunteers make this organization unique in the New York-New Jersey area, serving thousands of individual needs, be that in the arena of Aging, Education, Immigration, Workforce Development, Public Health, and Mental Health. The activities and programs KCS offers, strengthens communities and creates a network of vital support which are invaluable to the lives of so many people.

Thank you for all of the important work that you do. I salute you on this special day, themed "Rooted to Rise" and wish you all the best!

Very Truly Yours,

Selin J. Park

Ellen J. Park Assemblywoman – District 37



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THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK VICKIE PALADINO COUNCIL MEMBER, 19TH DISTRICT, QUEENS COMMITTEES GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS, HOSPITALS PARKS SANITATION AND SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT SMALL BUSINESS TECHNOLOGY VETERANS

January 16, 2025

KCS 52nd Gala Committee 203-05 32nd Ave Bayside, NY 11361

Dear KCS 52nd Gala Committee,

Congratulations to Korean Community Services (KCS) on your 52nd Annual Gala and decades of dedicated service to immigrant communities. This year's theme, "Rooted to Rise," reflects your lasting impact and commitment to building a brighter future for generations to come.

Your work enriches our city and strengthens the Korean-American community, exemplifying resilience and unity. I commend the Board, Staff, and Gala Committee for your efforts in making this event a success.

Best wishes for a memorable and inspiring celebration. Thank you for all you do for our community.

Warm regards,

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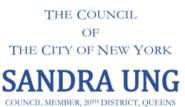
Vickie Paladino Council Member, District 19 New York City Council



CHAIR STANDARDS AND ETHICS

COMMITTEES GENERAL WELFARE CULTURAL AFFAIRS, LIBRARIES, AND INTERNATIONAL INTERGROUP RELATIONS PARKS AND RECREATION SMALL BUSINESS SANITATION AND SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT







March 7, 2025

Korean Community Services of Metropolitan New York, Inc. 203-05 32nd Avenue Bayside, NY 11361

Dear Friends,

It is my honor to welcome everyone to this celebration marking 52 years of tireless advocacy in our immigrant communities on the part of the Korean Community Services of Metropolitan New York.

Founded in 1973, KCS is the oldest, and now the largest, nonprofit organization serving the Korean American community in the New York City area, including the amazing work they do on behalf of my own constituents in Flushing and Murray Hill. Over time, KCS has expanded its reach beyond the Korean American community, offering their critical services in Mandarin and Spanish, in addition to English and Korean, recognizing rich diversity of our great city.

I would be remiss if I didn't offer congratulations to tonight's deserving honorees, chef Edward Lee and Dr. Peter Jongho Na, true leaders in the Korea-American community.

On behalf of the New York City Council, please accept my sincere gratitude to Korean Community Services of Metropolitan New York on over a half-century of selfless work in our communities, and my wishes for many more years of success.

Sincerely,

Sandruckne

Sandra Ung Council Member District 20



DISTRICT OFFICE 73-03 BELL BOULEVARD OAKLAND GARDENS, NY 11364 TEL: (718) 468-0137 FAX: (718) 468-0178

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> > CO-CHAIR QUEENS DELEGATION



Korean Community Services of Metropolitan New York 203-05 32nd Ave Bayside, New York

Dear Friends,

Greetings to everyone gathered to celebrate 52 amazing years of Korean Community Services of Metropolitan New York. I especially want to congratulate President and CEO, Myoungmi Kim, and the rest of the Board for their leadership as they continue the impactful work on behalf of New York's growing Korean and AAPI community.

As former President, KCS has a very special place in my heart. During the height of the pandemic, KCS stepped up to provide the essential services our communities needed in the time of crisis. Today, KCS continues to advocate for our communities through various efforts including older adult outreach, language access, and impactful work through its mental health clinic. I am proud of the work of KCS and I am privileged to continue to call this organization a community partner as we work collectively to uplift the lives of New Yorkers.

Please accept my well wishes and congratulations on 52 years!

Respectfully,

Linda Lee Council Member 23rd District New York City Council





March 7, 2025

Dear Friends,

Congratulations to KCS on their 52nd anniversary!

I applaud the Korean Community Services for its commitment to and dedication in empowering immigrant communities over so many decades! The theme of this year's gala, 'Rooted to Rise' gives me hope that through resilience, growth, and solidarity, we will continue to rise towards a bright future for generations to come across the Korean-American community as well as other immigrant communities.

I also want to acknowledge the KCS's Board of Directors and staff for their hard work and incredible contributions over the last 52 years. Your dedication is an inspiration to all of us to continue uplifting each other. We also commend the gala committee for their hard work in ensuring the gala is a success. Congratulations to all.

In Solidarity,



Shekar Krishnan Council Member, 25th District



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January 13, 2025

Korean Community Services of Metropolitan New York, Inc. (KCS) 203-05 32nd Ave Bayside, NY 11361

To our friends at Korean Community Services (KCS),

Congratulations on your 52nd Anniversary Gala, celebrating your years of service, dedication, and contributions to our Korean-American neighbors and wider immigrant community across the city.

The gala theme of "Rooted to Rise" is so fitting for your organization's mission to serve and advance our city's immigrant communities. For over five decades, the dedicated team at KSC has worked to provide comprehensive services across aging, mental health, education, immigration, public health, and more to support thousands of our neighbors.

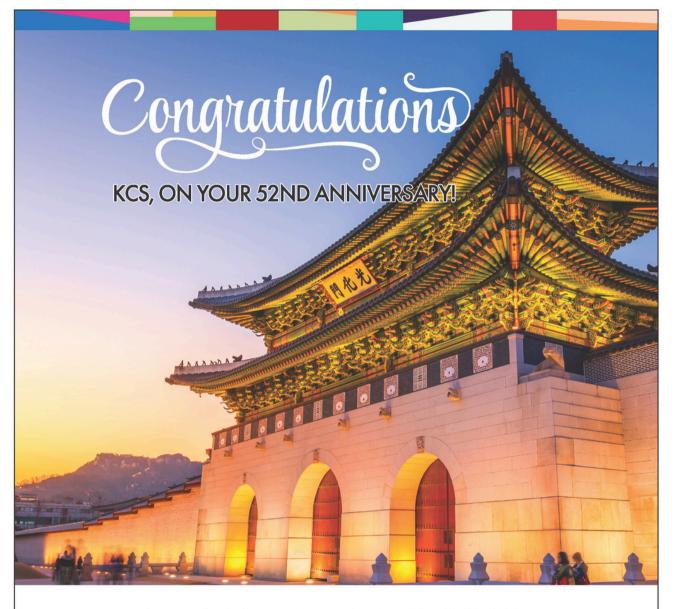


As one of the first Korean-Americans elected to the City Council, I am proud of the work that KSC has accomplished and the legacy of service you have built. I wish you more years of success in the upcoming years!

Sincerely,

Council Member Julie Won 26th District New York City Council





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We are grateful for your rooted history in solidarity and look forward as you continue to rise to new challenges.

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yskim.org



YS KIM FOUNDATION is honored to celebrate and support the work of KCS in supporting out community to thrive. Congratulations on 52 Years of KCS – Honoring Legacy, Empowering the Future!

Congratulations to KCS and all honorees for your dedication and passion in building and serving our community!







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