


The Minnesota China Friendship Garden Society Directors & Advisors

2021-2022 MCFGS ADVISORS

[Revised 9/8/2021]

MCFGS CHINESE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

 <p>Chair</p>	<p>Chen Zhou is Chair of the MCFGS Chinese Advisory Committee and current Vice President of MCFGS. He was a board member of US-China Peoples Friendship Association-MN Chapter for 6 years. In 2018, Chen along with a number of Chinese volunteers planned and executed a grass roots media campaign. Through their efforts, there have been over 10 Chinese articles published in a short period time in various media: local newspapers, WeChat links, World Journal, etc. Chen and his team also organized a sister-city gift Reveal party for 300 guests, helped organize the 2019 Grand Opening Gala Banquet, mobilized a grass roots donation campaign that resulted in tens of thousands of dollars in donations, and has supported various Chinese activities. Chen is regarded as one of the leaders in the Chinese community. Chen was invaluable in using his engineering knowledge and Chinese and English language skills during the Phase I construction.</p>
<p>Secretary</p>	<p>Advisor Fiona (Fangyu) Kan moved to Minnesota from China in 2001. She got a Bachelor degree in English from Beijing Foreign Studies University when she was in China. She received master degrees in both sociology and biostatistics from the University of Minnesota. The unique background of liberal arts, social science and STEM shaped her passion for cultural exchange, and developed her critical thinking and problem solving skills using science and technology. Currently, she works at Medtronic for clinical research. In her spare time, she is active in the Chinese community and local community. She serves as a board member in non-profit organizations such as Meadow Ridge Elementary School and Elm Creek Crossing Homeowners Association. She is also a PTO board member at Minnesota Yucai Chinese School. Most recently, she, together with some Chinese friends, organized a grassroots fundraising campaign in the Chinese community for St. Paul-Changsha China Friendship Garden project.</p>
 <p>Community Outreach</p>	<p>Advisor Jing Li has been active in promoting Chinese culture and cultivate US-China people's friendship in schools and communities for many years. She has led and organized International Night events in an elementary school for three years, serviced a Chinese summer camp five years, and served as board members in local Chinese school and dance studio several years in the past. In the year of 2020 and 2021, she has supported numerous events in fighting the pandemic and bridging understanding between US and Chinese people. She is also an environment protection activist and has raised awareness in her community by sharing, teaching, and leading for many years. In 2018, touched by Linda's story, she and several Chinese volunteers started spreading words about the Chinese Friendship Garden to the local Chinese community, and helped this project in all aspects: promotion, donation, event planning, garden design, volunteering etc. In her leisure time, she enjoys traditional Chinese dance, gardening, and outdoor.</p>
 <p>Publication</p>	<p>Advisor Christina Deng Morrison has been a MCFGS Chinese Advisory Committee member since 2017 and joined the MCFGS Board in 2021. She is the Founder and President of TJI International, a multilingual communications agency. She has been an MCFGS Chinese Advisory Committee member since 2017 and worked extremely hard to help promote the Chinese garden project via her Minnesota Chinese World Chinese language platform. As the Editor in Chief, Christina has personally written or published a good number of Chinese articles and news reports about the Chinese garden, contributed many sound and constructive suggestions and ideas to the Advisory Committee. Minnesota Chinese World was awarded "The Best Media" in 2019 at the Garden Grand Opening Gala Banquet. As one of the prominent local Chinese community leaders, Christina also serves as the President of Sino-American Neocultural Exchange and the Vice President of Chinese American Business Association of Minnesota. She has</p>

	<p>successfully planned, hosted, or organized numerous large-scale Chinese cultural events in the Twin Cities since 2009. She is well respected by the Chinese community and the Chinese Consulate General of People’s Republic of China in Chicago. Christina has a Bachelor’s degree in English, a Master’s degree in Communications and a Master’s degree in Eastern European Literature. She has extensive knowledge of Chinese history, literature, education, and other key Chinese cultural elements.</p>
Artistic Consulting	<p>Advisor Yudong Shen was born in Northeast China. He artistic abilities at a young age and that started his pursuit of art as a hobby and later career. He went to art school and his works have shown in Japan, Hong Kong and the United States. His Chinese Ink painting have won national awards in both China and the U.S. He was a judge for the national Sumi-e Society of America Annual show and runs workshops for Chinese Art lovers all over the state. He was honored to be a judge for the Minnesota State Fair Fine Art Exhibition and has won numerous awards over the years. His works were collected by various art collectors and by the Beijing National Museum. Believing art is for everyone, he founded his MeiLin Art studio in Minnesota, teaching painting and drawing. Besides art, Yudong has been very much involved in the Chinese community, and has supported many charities, culture, and networking events. His good rapport with many community organizations also brings valuable asset in his commitment of serving the community.</p>
Hunan Folks Outreach	<p>Advisor Ping Wang holds a Ph.D. of Microbiology. He was a full professor of Huazhong Agricultural University, editorial board member of Acta Pedologica Sinica, Standing Director of Soil Science Society of China, and Vice president of Micro-Ecology Society of Hubei Province. Currently, he serves as an editorial board member of Acta Microbiologica Sinica, Vice president of Chinese American Association of Minnesota, President of Hunan Folks Association of Minnesota; and is involved in the visa and passport services for Minnesota Chinese community.</p>
Food, Student Outreach	<p>Advisor Tony (Gaoxiang) Yang 杨高享 and his family are originally from Kunming, China. He studied Marketing and professional leadership at University of Minnesota. He has lived in the United States for over 9 years and has over 8 years of global market and business management experience from global leading brands such as Compass Group & Alibaba Group. His adventurous personality allowed him to find his true passion and became a serial entrepreneur after leaving the corporate world. He is the founder of multiple companies including Legendary Spice, Lao Sze Chuan Minneapolis, SynoPay, and Shenzhen Information Technology Co. Outside of work, he enjoys participation in community activities, and has a strong connection with the student organization.</p>
 <p>Community Outreach</p>	<p>Advisor Melody (Shu) Zhou holds a Master of Business, University of Western Sydney, Australia, Master of Business Administration and IT, Schiller International University. Currently, she is the Principal of Minnesota International Chinese School, President of CIAC Travel, Executive Director of Chinese Community Center, Director of Shandong Folks Association and board member of USCPFPA MN chapter. She has coordinated many large-scale travel groups and community cultural activities, including the annual Minnesota Spring Festival and numerous Passage to China event at the Mall of America.</p>
Community Outreach	Advisor Jijun He
Community Outreach	Advisor Susan Lei Liu

MCFGH HONG ADVISORY COMMITTEE



Chair

Chair Advisor Ying Chuyangheu was born in a small village in Northern of Laos, and is the son of a City Council man, and the grandson of a Royal Councilman under the title “Phia Xai” from the King Sisavagvong of Laos. Ying earned his Master’s degree in the Major of Law and Administration from the Institute Royale de Droit et Administration (IRDA) in Vientiane. Due to the Vietnam War, Ying was not able to pursue a legal degree. Subsequently, he left Laos with tears for Thailand in 1975, and then France in 1976. He and his family emigrated to the U.S in 1991. During his entire life, he has worked for non-profit organizations, and has been deeply involved in Hmong and Lao Cultural celebration events in the U.S and internationally. He is currently serving as the President of Hmong Heritage Preservation, Inc. He is also a serial entrepreneur with businesses domestic and international, including the Kacham WaterFall Resort in Luang Prabang Province, Laos, Hmong MN Senior Center in Little Canada, Minnesota, and 2Y Rental, Inc in St. Paul, MN.



Secretary

Advisor Francis T. Thao currently serves as Secretary for the MCFGH Hmong Advisory Committee and Hmong Heritage Preservation, Inc. He currently works as an Early Childhood Professional and Personal Care Assistant. He resides on the East Side of St. Paul, Minnesota. He has been an advocate volunteer to assist Hmong Community Non-Profit Organizations from 1987 to the present time and has served as Treasurer, Secretary, Economic development, Event Organizer, and President. His hobbies: Photo and Videography, Photos and Videos Editing, Hiking, Hunting, Fishing, and Traveling.



Treasurer

Advisor Jay Her has been an East Side Saint Paul resident for more than a decade. He is an active participant in East Side community activities and its electoral processes. Besides volunteering as a member of the MCFGS Hmong Advisory Committee, he is also currently a volunteer member of Hmong Heritage Preservation, Inc. It is a non-profit organization with a mission to research, collect and preserve Hmong traditions, culture and identity. He is the Chair of the International Relation Committee of the Hmong Heritage Preservation. Jay has a medical degree from the University of Latin America -School of Medicine, and is a certified medical language facilitator at Regions Hospital. His most compassionate life-long interest is the pursuit of self-rediscovery.



Public Relations

Advisor Kong Sue Xiong is the Founder and CEO of Asian American Broadcasting, LLC (KFXN AM690) and Manager for KS Fortune Investment, LLC (real estate business) in the Twins Cities. He speaks Hmong, Lao, Thai, and English. He received his BA with double majors in Education and Psychology from Concordia University, St. Paul, MN. Additional professional and community activities include: 1. Main host for KFXN AM690 (a serious talk show of “Hmong in the modern time”); 2. Member of Multicultural Media , Telecom and Internet Council (MMTC) and Entrepreneur of the year 2015; 3. Hmong cultural and language expert and researcher since 2000; 4. Co-Founder of Hmong Mojthem, a special overseas Radio program 2006-2009; 5. Drug and Alcohol Counselor for Hennepin County 2002-2009; 6. Parent Education and Empowerment for Minneapolis School District 2002-2003; 7. Bible translator for Luther Church sponsored by Concordia University 2000.



Media

Advisor Dona Vu Yang is proud to be a Christian Hmong Woman and the oldest child of 10. She is currently a board member for Hmong Cultural Heritage Preservation Inc. and a member of the Hmong Advisory Committee for the Minnesota China Friendship Garden Society. Her ancestors were from China. She was born in Laos. She lived in Thailand for 2 years, then in France for 11 years. She speaks Hmong, Lao, Thai, French, and English. She got her Bachelor’s degree in computer science degree in Spokane, Washington, in 1992. She currently works as an Office Manager at the Wellness Adult Day Care in Saint Paul, MN. Her past experiences include 13 years as School Counselor at Saint Paul Student Placement Center, 2 years as Teacher Aid, 15 years as Hmong New Year Board Member in Minnesota, 8 years as Real Estate Agent, 20 years as Event Planner and Decorator, and 4 years as Multicultural Advisory Committee with Mental Health Department in Spokane Washington. Her hobbies are Hmong song writing, sewing, flowers arranging and traveling.

Culture



Advisor Ciecileann Nkauj Zoo Lis

Design



Advisor Vallen K. Her

Hmong 18 Representative

Advisor Song Neng Her

 <p>Legal Counsel</p>	<p>Advisor Ma Manee Moua is an Attorney who possesses a broad base of legal experience in both the public and private sectors. Prior to establishing her own private practice, she was an Assistant Attorney General with the Wisconsin Department of Justice in its Civil Litigation Department. She is licensed in both Minnesota and Wisconsin. Attorney Moua practices in the following legal areas: criminal law, personal injury/civil litigation, and family law. She is admitted to practice in the following courts: State of Wisconsin, United States District Court for the Eastern District of Wisconsin, United States District Court for the Western District of Wisconsin, United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit and the State of Minnesota.</p>
 <p>Board Liaison</p>	<p>Advisor Pa V Thao has been a MCFGS Hmong Advisory Committee member and joined the MCFGS Board in 2021. See complete bio above.</p>
	<p>Advisor Richard Som</p>

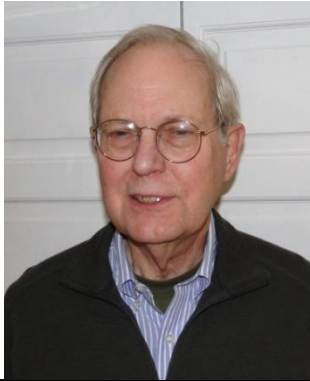
MCFGS HONORARY ADVISORY COUNCIL

	<p>Advisor Former Mayor George Latimer was the Mayor of St. Paul from 1976 to 1990. He is known for his redevelopment of St. Paul's downtown core, serving as mayor during a period when St. Paul's population was declining somewhat as some residents moved to suburban areas while the city's ethnic diversity increased as, among others, Hmong refugees from Vietnam and Laos resettled in Saint Paul. He served as dean of Hamline University's law school from 1990 to 1993. Latimer was also CEO of the National Equity Fund, which manages and provides affordable housing in 35 cities. He also worked in the business world, served as a Regent of the University of Minnesota, and worked as an arbitrator.</p>
	<p>Advisor Dr. Robert D. Jacobsen, Ph.D. is the founding curator of Asian art at the Minneapolis Institute of Arts (MIA) where he is currently Chair of the Department of Asian Art Emeritus. He received his PhD in Asian art history with a minor in Chinese language and literature at the University of Minnesota. His dissertation concerned The Inlaid Bronzes of the Warring States Period and Their Revivals. He served as a research fellow in the Department of Antiquities at the National Palace Museum in Taipei, Taiwan and was an adjunct professor at the University of Minnesota in the Department of Art history. He worked with KTCA public television in the production of a six-part series on the art and culture of China: Made in China, which he narrated, that premiered in 2002. His recent books include <u>Classical Chinese Furniture in the Minneapolis Institute of Arts</u>, <u>Imperial Silks: Ch'ing Dynasty Textiles in the Minneapolis Institute of Arts</u>, <u>Appreciating China: Gifts From Ruth and Bruce Dayton</u>, and <u>Celestial Horses and</u></p>

Long Sleeve Dancers: Ancient Chinese Tomb Figurines. In 2008 Dr. Jacobsen was granted the Outstanding Achievement Award by the Board of Regents of the University of Minnesota in recognition of notable professional attainment. During his tenure at the MIA, Dr. Jacobsen organized 42 special exhibitions, expanded the Asian collections to over 15,000 objects, wrote 34 articles and books on Asian art and delivered over 300 public lectures. In 2006 he supervised the expansion of the Asian galleries from 22 to 43 galleries with the space devoted to China amongst the largest in the country.



Advisor Carol Brash is an Associate Professor of Art History at the College of Saint Benedict/Saint John's University, where she has taught in the Department of Art and the Asian Studies Program since 2008. She has also served as Director of the Asian Studies Program. Dr. Brash holds a PhD from the University of Minnesota. Her dissertation was "Keeping the Past Present: Representations of Ming Dynasty Gardens." She has presented at a number of conferences on the topic of Chinese Gardens and Landscapes. Her related publication is, "Classical Chinese Gardens in Twenty-first Century America: Cultivating the Past," *ASIANetwork Exchange: A Journal for Asian Studies in the Liberal Arts* Vol 19, No 1 (2011):17-29.



Advisor N. Walter Graff was a founding board member (2005-2021) and former Secretary of the MN China Friendship Garden Society. He practiced law first in Boston and then for about 42 years at Best & Flanagan in Minneapolis, concentrating principally on development and management of real estate. At various times, he has served as an Adjunct Professor at the U of M Law School, a Chancellor of the Episcopal Diocese of Minnesota, a 20-year member of the Bar Association's ad hoc committee on common ownership, a longtime member of US-China Peoples Friendship Association-MN [where he met his wife, Margaret Wong], board member of Yinghua Academy, Board Chair of the first accredited school of acupuncture and oriental medicine in Minnesota ["MIAHS"], and for the last 14 years, Trustee of Northwestern Health Sciences University into which MIAHS merged.



Advisor Barbara Harrison was a founding board member of the MN China Friendship Garden Society (2005-2021). She has been a member of US-China Peoples Friendship Association-Minnesota (USCPFA-MN) since 1979, USCPFA-MN President 1989-1991, and USCPFA-National President 1991-2005. In 2005, USCPFA bestowed its highest award, the Koji Ariyoshi Award on Barbara. In 2004, Barbara was the 5th American awarded the title of Friendship Ambassador by the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries, Beijing, China. She holds AA and BA degrees from the University of Minnesota and was named a U of MN College of Liberal Arts Notable Achievement Honoree. Barbara is a lifetime U of MN Alumni Association member. Since 1986, she has traveled to China more than 25 times, the most recent being in November 2018 to attend the Friendship Forum in Hainan, China.



Advisor Joyce C.Y. Yuan Hsiao (Mrs. C.C. Hsiao) was a founding board member of the MN China Friendship Garden Society (2005-2021), as well as of US-China Peoples Friendship Association-MN. She is one of the major financial contributors to the China Garden project. She is a retired scientist, who holds a Bachelor's Degree in Chemistry from Fu Jen University, now Beijing Normal University, and received her Master's Degree in Chemistry and Ph.D. in Biochemistry from the Pennsylvania State University. She conducted research at the University of Pittsburgh and the University of Minnesota. She was a visiting scholar in Nobel Laureate Lord Todd's laboratory at Cambridge University, England. During her extensive travels in Europe and Asia, she was particularly enamored by the beauty of the gardens, which has inspired a lifelong interest in gardening. She was the first Asian American appointed by the Governor of Minnesota to serve as a member of the Minnesota Governor's Residence Council.



Advisor Carole Hyder is an internationally recognized consultant, speaker, teacher, author and trainer in the field of Feng Shui. Her Integrated Spaces Strategy™ combines ancient practices with modern research to create superior environments in both commercial and residential settings. Carole has been a Feng Shui consultant since 1992, having studied with His Holiness Grandmaster Thomas Lin Yun, Her Holiness Crystal Chu Rinpoche, and Roger Green, all master teachers in their respective philosophies of Feng Shui. Her innovative work has been incorporated in hundreds of residential and commercial environments. In 1998, Carole founded The Wind and Water Center which offers programs and classes for those interesting studying Feng Shui. Carole has written three books: Wind and Water; Living Feng Shui; and Conversations with Your Home. She has also produced a video/DVD entitled The Science of Feng Shui. Her recent collaboration with Grammy-winning producer and musician Jeff Bova has produced two CDs: Harmonize Your Home and The Bridge Home, both created with the express intention of incorporating positive Feng Shui principles in the space. Carole received an MA in East Asian Studies from the U of MN in 2006.



Advisor Brenda Fong is a strong advocate for diversity both at work and with the MN communities and has a wealth of fund-raising experience. Brenda joined and helped form an “Asian Connection Team Members Network” at Wells Fargo in 2003. She was Chair in 2006 and 2007, and stayed as an advisor after 2008. The purpose of Asian Connection is to bring the rich Asian cultures to Senior Management and to promote awareness to all. Brenda joined forces and partnered with Target, Best Buy, Medtronic, Ameriprise Financial and General Mills to form the “MN China American Business Association” from 2005-2008, and helped raise funds to host 2 events each month to promote awareness and increase opportunities for Asian Americans within their companies. Brenda’s most passionate project is the Phalen Park Dragon Festival. She joined the Dragon Festival in 2003, participating on the boat team and as the funding manager for Wells Fargo. She was selected as the Dragon Festival Chair and Co-Chair for 2004 to 2007 and as the Funding Manager and Advisor to coach the new Chair since 2007. She helped promote and raise funds of up to \$90,000.00 each year. Brenda’s latest project is to help and coach the Chinese Senior Citizens Society’s Leadership team on raising funds and continuing the support of the Chinese Senior Citizens Society to ensure the monthly luncheons and the free services can happen and help these seniors maintain their independence.



Advisor Bill Harrison is a Civil Engineering graduate from University of Minnesota and a lifetime member of the Alumni Association. He is a registered Structural Engineer in Minnesota, Florida, Colorado and Wisconsin. Although Bill has retired as Vice President of Construction for Target Stores, he is currently President of Harrison Development, Inc. He has developed hotels, office buildings, warehouses, banks, shopping centers, a marina, clinics and condominiums. He is a Construction consultant for Target Stores and Bob Ulrich, former CEO of Target Stores. Projects include Target’s downtown Minneapolis headquarters; office buildings in Phoenix, Arizona; office buildings and data centers for Target in Brooklyn Park, Minnesota; office space for Target in downtown Manhattan, New York; the Musical Instrument Museum for Bob Ulrich in Phoenix, Arizona; partial remodel of the Minneapolis Institute of Arts (MIA) and the addition of the new Target Wing; and various high end residences in Minnesota and Arizona. The MIA expansion of Chinese galleries in 2006 resulted in the naming of Gallery 201 as The William and Barbara Harrison Gallery.



Advisor Caroline Hsiao Van is an independent advisor based in Hong Kong and the USA. Her career experience includes business development, senior management, sales and trading, and strategic planning at Morgan Stanley, Citibank, Bankers Trust, First Chicago Bancorp, and advisory roles at internet startups. She holds a BA from Yale and an MBA from the University of Chicago. A veteran in volunteer services, she has worked on boards of educational, environmental, and music organizations, and served on the Board of Governors of the Yale Alumni Association, and as President of the Yale Club of Hong Kong. She is the Director for Hong Kong of the Yale Alumni Schools Committee. Her interest in US-China friendship began during a family trip to China in 1973 sponsored by the U.S. Academy of Sciences and National Science Foundation. A passion for the environment and youth empowerment led her to co-found China's Green Long March movement for sustainable development. She was first exposed to open space management while working successive summers for the St. Paul District, U.S. Army Corp of Engineers.



Advisor Weiming Lu is an Urban Designer and former President of Lowertown Redevelopment Corporation and a former trustee of the Minneapolis Foundation. He is our chief advisor for the China Garden projects. He has a proven track record locally and internationally for completing large-scale projects and obtaining funding. His work includes Mears Park (a calm oasis in downtown St. Paul with a band shell, a stream, and landscaping; \$ 1.8 million), the Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary (\$8.3 million to date), his role as an advisor to the Beijing Olympics, among many other projects. His many awards include the Presidential Award for Design Excellence, and the Community Design Excellence Award from the Minnesota Chapter, American Society of Landscape Architects, and the River Steward award from the Riverfront Corporation. In 2013, he published The Tao of Urban Rejuvenation: Building a Livable Creative Urban Village, in Chinese and English (Beaver's Pond Press). His experience continues to be invaluable to this project. Read Weiming's publications: "Deepening Our Roots" and "Shan Shui Spirit in Chinese Garden."



Advisor Bill Pesek is a member of the American Society of Landscape Architects, ASLA and is a licensed landscape architect in the State of Minnesota. His professional experience spans over 40 years with the St. Paul Parks and Recreation Design Section and involves numerous parks and playground projects including Phalen Park, Como, Highland and Crosby Farm Park. He was author of the Como Conservatory Master Plan and co-author of Street Tree Master Plan and project manager/landscape architect for Highland Park Redevelopment, \$13M Restoration of the Como Conservatory, \$17M Oxford Community Center Development, and Restoration of the Charlotte Ordway Japanese Garden in Como Park and now continues in his own landscape architectural practice. His work has taken him to Japan and China where he collaborated with a Master Landscape Architect, Masami Matsuda from Nagasaki on the restoration of the Japanese Garden in Como Park. Over the last 10 years, he has been working with China Garden Society, and selected and recommended a building site and was instrumental in having the Chinese Garden concept and site location included in the Phalen Regional Park's Master Plan of 2011. He has received numerous awards and traveled to China in 2008 to witness the signing of a historic Sister City Friendship Rededication Declaration with Changsha, while serving as an official Mayoral delegate with Mayor Chris Coleman.



Advisor Christine Podas-Larson is a recognized leader and innovator in the arts with expertise and broad experience in multiple-media public art production. In 1987 she founded the non-profit Public Art Saint Paul (PASP) and served as its President/CEO and Executive Producer for 28 years. She forged and sustained a nationally unique public/private partnership with the City of Saint Paul and was the chief author of Saint Paul’s cutting edge public art ordinance. She conceived of and nurtured growth of the unique City Artist program that brought forth award-winning projects such as Sidewalk Poetry, Urban Flower Field, and Meeting Fleet. Since retiring from PASP in 2015, Christine is a sought-after and compelling speaker and educator, offering expert perspective on the role of artists in shaping cities and in fostering social and environmental change. She produced the 2006 International Stone Carving Symposium that brought Master Lei Yi Xin and other artists from around the globe to carve sculptures from Minnesota rocks. The experience led directly to Master Lei’s commission to create the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial in Washington DC. In response to a hideous hate crime in 2008, she produced Marcus Young’s Unity Ceremony at Phalen Park, healing the community by turning “fear into fearlessness.”



Advisor Ming Tchou was born in Guangzhou, China, and came to the U.S. in 1953 with her husband. She is an entrepreneur, global thinker, and dedicated volunteer. She is a founding member of the Chinese Senior Citizens Society and was its first president for 10 years. Between 1984-1996, she led many group tours (over 10) to China, including the first one from the Midwest organized by the U.S. China People Friendship Association (USCPFA), another organization of which she was a founding member. She is the recipient of numerous awards, among them the leadership award from the Council of Asian Pacific Minnesotans. She is the founder of the Chinese Heritage Foundation established at the Minneapolis Foundation and the inspiration for the commissioning and funding of the “Dream of the Red Chamber” opera and its world premiere in San Francisco in September 2016. Under her leadership, the Chinese Heritage Foundation also hosts the annual Passage to China every year at the Mall of America, a two-day event celebrating the culture of China.



Advisor Jeff Ganying Vang is employed as an Insurance & Financial Services agent (independent agent). His native language is Hmong, and also speaks Thai/Lao, Mandarin Chinese, and English. He received a BA in East Asian Studies from the University of MN, Twins cities. He is an active volunteer for: 1) HBC TV host (Hmong Twins cities public Television) (since 2009); 2) Board member for Temple of Hmongism, a Hmong Traditional religious organization (since 2013); 3) Hmong Language and culture researcher (Hmong language Inc) (since 2012). He has been to China three times. One time as a student to Nankai University 1997 and two times in 2014 & 2015 to do research on Hmong/Miao language and culture in three provinces of Yunnan, Guizhou, and Guangxi. Jeff is the liaison for of the MCFGS Hmong Cultural Plaza Advisory Group.



Advisor Noah Vang is a community researcher and volunteer based in St. Paul, Minnesota. He is an author of a 412-page book entitled General Vang Pao: An Illustration of His Remarkable Life and co-curated the national award-winning exhibit “We Are Hmong Minnesota/Peabog Hmoob Minnesota” at the Minnesota Historical Society (2015). Vang is a Hmong history enthusiast. Throughout his research, he has gathered one of the largest Hmong photographic collections of his people’s experiences in China, Laos, in the refugee camps in Thailand and the United States; and he has contributed his works to several institutions nationally for their exhibits.



Advisor Walter S. Warpeha Jr. D.D.S. is a recently retired Prosthodontist with a 50 year career of private practice including Clinical and Adjunct Professor at the U of M School of Dentistry, Panel Member representing Prosthodontics at the Cleft & Craniofacial Clinics of the U of M and also Children's Hospital of Minneapolis, Prosthodontic Consultant for the MN Board of Dentistry and Delta Dental of Minnesota. His lifetime of contributions to the Specialty of Prosthodontics was nationally honored with the 2013 Distinguished Service Award from the American College of Prosthodontists. He also has been active in his community serving on the boards of Northeast Bank and East Side Neighborhood Services. His China connection is mainly through his wife's activities with US-China Peoples Friendship Association, Passage to China, and Sister Cities work with Harbin and Changsha, and traveling to China several times. He and Mary have offered their home to host numerous delegations including dignitaries such as the Major of Harbin, Conciliate Director, Chicago Region, and Changsha Sculptor Lei Yixin.