

2024

Newsletter

BANTEAY SREI



retrospective



Nourish and Flourish

PROGRAM MANAGER, Hamida Yusufzai

Banteay Srei had a sweet and stable year, marking a major milestone: our 20th Anniversary—a time to celebrate not only our longevity but the significance of our mission. Banteay Srei was born out of the clinics of Asian Health Services in response to a public health crisis, and two decades later, we remain deeply committed to serving low-income Southeast Asian women and girls. We experienced a marked (unexpected) increase in the number of young women seeking our services and community. As we've been bouncing back from the pandemic, we've faced challenges with in-person participation and retention, but those dynamics have shifted for the better.

We continue to conduct outreach in some of the most marginalized communities and provide long-term, wraparound services to those in need. This includes victims and survivors of exploitation, poverty, human trafficking, and mental health challenges. More than ever, we're receiving calls and referrals from our allies and pathways deeply connected to the community. In response, we've leaned into this work with all our love and expertise.

This year, our capacity grew significantly. We welcomed a new Community Health Advocate, brought on 21 volunteers, engaged four MOVE fellows, and expanded our programs to additional schools. While our programs were originally designed to center exclusively on Southeast Asian women and girls, we recognized the limited resources available to students in the schools we serve. In the spirit of love, understanding, and a deep commitment to equity, we made the decision to open our after-school programming to all low income young women of color.



Sista Joy <3



Saucy Summertime



20th Anni at Disney!

THE SISTAHOOD

Interns, Volunteers and More <3



Leilani Do
HCI Intern



Gabby Torres
HCI Intern



LJ Canonizado
HCC Intern



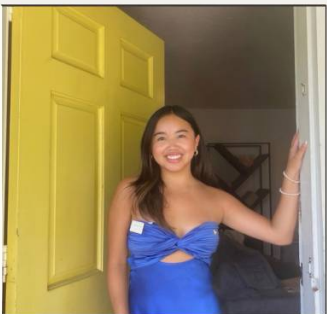
Michelle Vong
Summer Intern



Kaylee Dang
Summer Intern



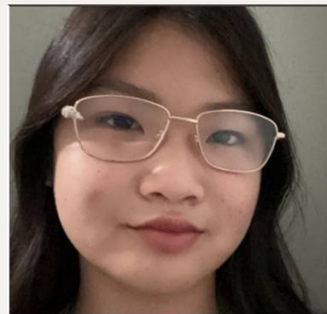
Melissa Co
Summer Intern



Jasmine Gatus
Summer Intern



Jamie Gatus
Summer Intern



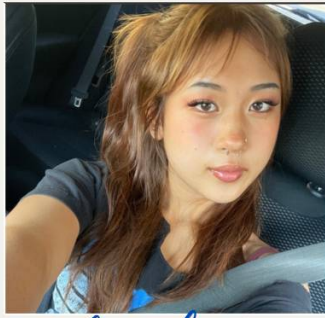
Mi Luong
Summer Intern



Samantha Bey
Summer Intern



Myka Soriano
BONG SREI



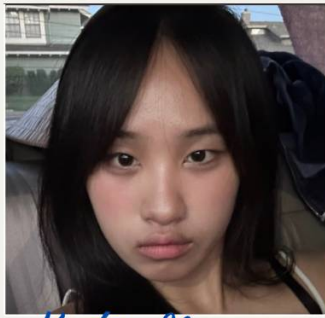
Deborah Dang
BONG SREI



Vivian Li
BONG SREI



Natalie Chu
BONG SREI



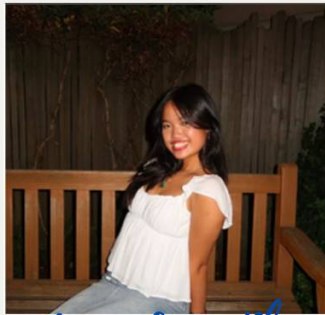
Katie Nguyen
BONG SREI



Emma Le
MOVE Fellow



Zoie Wong
MOVE Fellow



Jamie Lynn Phan
MOVE Fellow



Delia Zhou
Volunteer Goddess



Rita Phang
Volunteer Goddess



SISTA SPOTLIGHT: *Audrey Inuoye*

Audrey Inuoye is Banteay Srei's Indigenous Doctor-in-Residence and queen of holistic healing! With a combination of experience in both Western and Eastern healing studies, Audrey brings so much love, wisdom, and care to the young women at Banteay Srei. Drawing on her own Japanese and Korean heritage, Audrey always centers our connection to our ancestors and the importance of honoring our cultural traditions. As a leader in the Wellness Wednesday program, Audrey is the ultimate holistic big sista and guides young women as they balance their spiritual, mental, emotional, and physical health!

WORKSHOPS *and* DELIGHTS



From the genius mind of Goddess Rita Phang, “Everyone Wants the Right Person, Without Being the Right Person” made its official debut. Co-facilitated by another goddess, Lily, this workshop explored the importance of conversations around relationships in the larger picture of comprehensive sex education. With 17 youth attending, this workshop was a beautiful intergenerational support system free of judgement and full of education. Participants got answers to the hard questions, had opportunities to ask questions themselves, and ultimately learned that all healthy relationships start with the one you have with yourself!

Relationships Workshop

The “See Me As I Am” zine began as an idea last summer, and blossomed into a shining youth-leadership project. The young women who made the zine wanted to uplift the long and rich history of Asian American activism—an often overlooked and underappreciated pillar of the Asian diaspora—by taking deeper dives into some of the most historic activist movements spearheaded by different Asian communities in the US. In addition to launching the zine with a community event, contributors also led a panel discussion about the zine’s content and its importance in preserving and honoring our collective cultures.



AS I AM Zine Launch



The Women’s World of Nutrition series was an amazing three-part series led by the fantastic Myung Sistas! Riss and Emeline led participants through a radical exploration of the intersections of nutrition and society, particularly those that impact women’s lived experience. The Myung sisters’ demonstrated how the parallel between colonialism’s exploitation of the Earth’s resources and its treatment of women is rooted in the systemic patterns of domination, extraction, and dehumanization. This summer was the first time the series was offered fully in-person, and brought in over 20 participants!

Womens World of Nutrition

The movie gave staff a valuable opportunity to explore emotional growth, mental health, and self-awareness in a relatable, engaging, and age-appropriate way with youth. It was nice to see this at a community theater and sit together and feel cozy. Inside Out 2 is more than just a movie—it’s a tool for personal growth, self-awareness, and emotional learning. By watching the film together, our youth could gain a deeper understanding of themselves, learn how to navigate the ups and downs of life, and feel empowered to embrace their emotions as an integral part of who they are.



Inside Out 2 @ New Parkway

SUMMER LOVIN



The SAUCY Summer Series served as a deeply healing experience for our participants this year. Through our partnership with 18 Reasons, we hosted five workshops featuring a vibrant selection of Southeast Asian-inspired dishes that offered more than just delicious bites—it fostered cultural connection, emotional well-being, and community building.

Each session encouraged mindfulness and joy, as participants learned new skills, explored traditional recipes, and engaged in meaningful conversations. From the sista-hood of rolling Vietnamese spring rolls to the nostalgic aromas of Malaysian curry with roti, the workshops provided an opportunity to nourish not only the body but also the soul.

The series emphasized the therapeutic value of cooking as a creative and grounding activity. It created an environment of empowerment and connection, allowing participants to process emotions, celebrate their heritage, and find a sense of belonging.



SAUCY Summer Series

Summer at Banteay Srei was vibrant, dynamic, and bursting with energy—just how we love it! This year, we had 12 Interns, who brought their passion, creativity, and unique perspectives to our programs. As part of their transformative journey with us, interns had the opportunity to either contribute to impactful staff-led projects led by their inspiring "big sistas" or take the lead by creating and executing their own initiatives. The results were nothing short of amazing. Individual projects included zines exploring queerness among Southeast Asian girls, powerful workshop series on body image and food fear, and stunning mega-sized art installations that beautifully honored the experiences of Asian youth growing up in Oakland.



Summer Interns + Pup Love



Transit and Traffic

For her first summer with Banteay Srei, Big Sista Lily made an incredible impact by creating "Transit and Traffic: A Youth Guide to Getting Mobile!", a program designed to empower young Southeast Asian women with the knowledge and tools they need to move safely and independently. Over the summer, Lily ran the program as a pilot, ensuring it was youth-informed and tailored by gathering valuable feedback from summer interns.

BANTEAY SREI

on the move!



P2D Conference in SF and Oakland visit



Banteay Srei staff and volunteer Big Sistas teamed up to work with Power 2 Decide—a private, non-profit organization centering pro-choice education and resources for young people—and had the honor of hosting a portion of their San Francisco convening with a day spent together in Oakland. This partnership highlighted Banteay Srei's commitment to bridging generational gaps, centering youth voices, and fostering community-driven learning environments that empower participants across various stages of advocacy and education.



LA Youth Summit Trip

Banteay Srei had the privilege of being invited to the Center for the Pacific Asian Family's (CPAF) Youth Summit in May this year. The summit was a beautiful celebration of culture, diversity, and the strength of togetherness, all being led and executed by the CPAF youth advisory board. Banteay Srei youth also attended and participated in the summit workshops.



ARP Grantee Convening



We attended the National Organization of Asians and Pacific Islanders Ending Sexual Violence's (NAPIESV) Convening in Hawaii. 35 other culturally specific grantees attended the too, sharing stories, resources, and wisdom, all while building community and compassion together. Olohana Foundation hosted us; they support native and underserved communities on the island.



Davis Field trip to MONDAVI Theater

In support of Banteay Srei's amazing partner Claudine Naganuma, big sistas and youth attended an amazing modern dance performance at the MONDAVI Performing Arts Theater on the UC Davis campus. The performance took an innovative and feminist approach to Anti-Asian Hate and the impact it has on our communities. We enjoyed a wonderful night of masterful dance, delicious Burmese food, and a tour of the UCD university campus.



20th Anniversary Disneyland Trip

In honor of Banteay Srei's 20th Anniversary, an intergenerational cohort of leaders and participants embarked on a transformative strategic planning retreat. We were able to have a youth centered agenda and incorporate fun team building activities at Disneyland, Anaheim. This retreat served as an opportunity to reflect on Banteay Srei's legacy and envision the next chapter of its growth and direction. We celebrated two decades of impact while fostering connection, reflection, and forward-thinking strategies for the future. Intentional conversations shared over home-cooked family-style meals, reinforced the core values of Banteay Srei: cultivating joy, sisterhood, and resilience among Southeast Asian women and girls.



Banteay Srei

ARTISTS' CORNER



MYKA SORIANO: OAKLAND ROOTS

Banteay Srei's youth Artist-in-Residence, Myka Soriano, took on honoring the experiences of Southeast Asian young women in Oakland in a BIG way. Using a 72x60in canvas, Myka painted a giant, rooted oak tree decorated with folded origami butterflies, which she hand-sewed into the canvas. Myka chose paper butterflies because she felt they embodied the hopes, dreams, and lives of SEA youth growing up in Oakland, as well as the diversity of the community. The Oak tree of course represents the rich and beautiful history of the city Banteay Srei calls home.

NYIA LUNA: BANTEAY SREI TURNS 20



Banteay Srei's Artist-in-Residence, Nyia, created a gorgeous and modern take on the Apsara dancer for our 20th Anniversary this year. Luna masterfully blended Oakland youth culture with the rich tradition of Apsara, perfectly representing Banteay Srei's herstory as a youth development organization. We continue to be blessed by Nyia's amazing creativity and artistic finesse--and we couldn't be more grateful for her!



Help us continue our programming!

We invite you to support our vision of creating a generation of fierce, independent and self-empowered young Southeast Asian women. Please volunteer some time or connect us to other foundations — every source of support impacts the lives of the young women we work with. Without your support, Banteay Srei would not be able to thrive.

You can make a tax-deductible donation securely online (banteaysrei.org/support/) or by mail with check payable to Banteay Srei Asian Health Services. Or Venmo using the QR code:



venmo

Banteay Srei
310 8th St. Suite #102
Oakland, CA 94607

Email: banteaysrei510@gmail.com
Website: www.banteaysrei.org
Instagram: @BanteaySrei.510
Twitter/FB: @BanteaySrei510

