

In partnership with Laotian American National Alliance

Local Grown COMMUNITY DINNER

NOVEMBER 16, 2023
5:30 PM - 9:00 PM

IRCO Community Center
10323 NE Glisan St, Portland, OR 97220

Brought to you by:



Food Provided By:
Khao Niew

Videography by
Jerrell Waddell

Photography by
Theresa Nguyen

Sponsored by:



Program Details:

- 5:30 Doors Open
- 5:50 Greetings
 - Daniel Peredo - Local Grown, Deputy Director
- 6:00 White Lotus Foundation Lion Dancers
- 6:15 Words from the Executive Director
 - Sam Phan - Local Grown, Executive Director
- 6:20 Words from Elected Officials
 - State Representative Thuy Tran
 - State Representative Hoa Nguyen
- 6:35 Words from Toc Soneoulay-Gillespie, Director of Immigrant and Refugee Advancement
- 6:45 Food Dismissal.
 - Food provided by Khao Niew
- 7:00 Zomi Community
 - Sian Dim Lun, Hmong Community Group 1
- 6:55 Mien Community
 - Lani Saechin and Nivea Chin, Rose City Girls
- 7:10 Khmer Community
 - Thidapech Lam, Hmong Community Group 2 and 3
- 7:25 Lao Community
 - Vanisa Khamkhosy, Stephanie Vongphachanh
- 7:40 - 9:00 - Social Hour/Lam Vong

Local Grown Organizers



Executive Director - Sang Tzun Phan

Sang Tzun Phan or Sam is a first-generation Lu-Mien American currently working as the Chief of Staff to Representative Hoa Nguyen. He is also serving as the Co-Chair for the Oregon Commission for Asian Pacific Islander Affairs and is a member on the Advisory Council for IRCO's PIAFC. He is passionate about advocating for communities of color.



Deputy Executive Director - Dany Peredo

Dany Peredo, a first-generation Mexican-American, embodies a commitment to his Oregon roots. Armed with a degree in Cybersecurity & Networking, Dany is not just a professional in the tech world; he's a dedicated advocate for community upliftment. As a key figure in Local Grown, he leverages his expertise to give back to the very community that shaped him. Beyond his role on the Board of Directors, Dany's mission is twofold: to contribute meaningfully to his lifelong home and to nurture the aspirations of the next generation through mentorship, exemplifying the essence of Local Grown's vision for a thriving and interconnected community.

Presenters and Performers



State Representative Hoa Nguyen

Representative Nguyen was born and raised in New Orleans, LA in a Vietnamese ethnic enclave called Versailles located about 12 miles east of the French Quarter. Growing up, she was surrounded by a village of grandparents, aunts, uncles and plenty of cousins who all took care of each other. Her family created a community of family support after fleeing the Vietnam War in 1975 and settled in New Orleans along with many other Vietnamese refugees. Her parents owned a neighborhood food mart and she spent most of her childhood helping her parents at the store and her siblings with school as the “chị hai” or oldest sister in the family. Representative Nguyen is one of the first few Vietnamese legislators elected in Oregon State History and currently represents House District 45.



State Representative Thuy Tran

Representative Tran’s family came to this country when she was a young child. Growing up in a low-income household she saw why it is critical that we support families to ensure they succeed. Through hard work and community investments, Representative Tran was able to earn a doctoral degree in Optometry and open her own business – serving the residents of the Hollywood neighborhood. She has given back, serving on the Parkrose School Board and as a Lieutenant Colonel in the Oregon Air National Guard, and now as a State Representative for House District 45.

Presenters and Performers

Toc Soneolay-Gillespie

Toc Soneolay-Gillespie (she/her/sao) is a 1.5 generation refugee from Laos. Her lived experience being resettled to the U.S. and navigating the various systems provides a unique perspective on acculturation and the concept of success. Her life's work has been centered on advocating for communities impacted by inequitable systems and structures of oppression. Toc is also a consultant and trainer who is deeply committed to raising awareness about meaningful language justice through a workshop grounded in the intersectionality between power, privilege, and access. She has had the privilege of serving as a commissioner on the Oregon Commission on Asian Pacific Islander Affairs and was a council member on the Governor's Behavioral Health Advisory Council. Toc was appointed Director of the Office of Immigrant and Refugee Advancement by former Governor Kate Brown. Prior to this appointment, she served as the Director of Community Health at Healthcare Share of Oregon. Before transitioning to healthcare, she served as the Director of Refugee Resettlement at Catholic Charities of Oregon. Toc holds a Bachelor of Science in Anthropology/Sociology from Eastern Oregon University and a Master of Social Work from the University of Alaska Anchorage.



Lani Saechin

Lani Chin is a first generation college graduate. She graduated from Portland State University with a Bachelors Of Science in Biology on the Pre-Medicine track in 2021. In the last few years she has been building her resume by working on a level I Trauma unit at Legacy Medical Center and volunteering once a week at a welcome center alongside a doctor servicing asylum seekers. She also works at a private clinic with this doctor to assist immigrants and refugees that were just like her parents. With the remaining free-time she has, she coaches two soccer teams she used to play for, when she was younger. Lani is currently in the process of applying to medical school to become a doctor and open up her own practice to give back to her community and get them the healthcare they vitally need.



Presenters and Performers

Thidapech Lam



Thidapech Lam, who goes by the name "Thida", is a first generation Khmer Krom-American that is eager to shine a spotlight on her Cambodian heritage. Throughout her early high school years, she fundraised money to build a basketball court and school for young children in Battambang, Cambodia. She also collaborated with the Department of Education in Salem, Oregon to help create a curriculum for an Ethnic Studies bill that was passed in 2016. Her goal at the time was to highlight underrepresented communities and give them the representation they deserve from a non-Eurocentric point of view.

Today, she aspires to bridge the gap between the old and new generation in the Khmer community in an attempt to break generational cycles and trauma. She hopes to one day inspire the younger Southeast Asian diaspora to do the same.



Stephanie Vongphachanh

Stephanie Vongphachanh is a first generation thai/lao american born and raised in portland, oregon. She is currently in school in hopes of pursuing a career in nursing. She is a proud member of the Lao Women Association and has been dancing for over 10 years.



Nivea Chin

Nivea Chin is a first generation in her family to be multiracial. Recently, she graduated from Centennial High School in 2022 and is currently working at a coffee shop with the intention of attending beauty school in January 2024.

Presenters and Performers

Sian Dim Lun



Sian Dim graduated with her bachelor's degree from the University of Oregon in June of 2023, majoring in Planning, Public Policy, and Management with minors in Business Administration and Nonprofit Management. She is also currently working on her master's degree in Nonprofit Management through UO's accelerated master's program and is expected to graduate with her masters in June of 2024.

She has previously interned for the Oregon Community Foundation as the Community Impact intern through the Emerging Leaders Internship Program. This summer she has the ability to intern at Partners in Diversity as the 2023 NW Equity Summit Intern through the Portland Internship Experience.

She believes in a place-based approach, where she meets communities where they are to best understand their needs. She is a proud Oregonian and recognizes that every individual has a form of privilege and a choice in how they use their privileges. Sian Dim believes in actively using her privileges to be the change that she wants to see in the world.



Vanisa Khamsouky

Vanisa is a proud Lao American, born to first generation Lao refugees. She graduated Magna Cum Laude from Portland State University in 2022 with a Bachelor's of Science in Marketing and Advertising Management, with a certificate in the Athletic and Outdoor Industry. She currently works as a Front Desk Supervisor at the ilani Hotel in Ridgefield, WA. Vanisa is also an independent singer-songwriter who has a song titled "August" that has surpassed 1.4 million streams across all streaming platforms.

Community Partners

Laotian American National Alliance



In 1999, community leaders with roots from Laos gathered to establish a national organization. Today, as a national community-based non-profit, we amplify the underrepresented voices and empower our multi-ethnic community through education, visibility, and collaboration.. Their goal is to help promote civic participation, education, and leadership across the Laotian American community, and advocate for social justice, equal opportunity, and fair treatment for all multi-ethnic groups from Laos.

The White Lotus Lion Dancers

White Lotus first came together as a group of inspirational young individuals that wanted a way to not only spread cultural awareness but to make every celebration a memorable one.

Our shared objective is to cultivate tradition and performing art through entertainment that every generation can enjoy. We are the largest dragon & lion dance team in all of Oregon — providing exciting performances throughout the Pacific Northwest for Chinese New Years, weddings, grand openings, corporate events, banquets, and more.

instagram: @whitelotusliondance



Our Streets

Our Streets was formed in June 2020 to support the local community while promoting the ideals and goals of the Black Lives Matters movement through community events, education and resource provision.

OUR STREETS

Community Partners



Rose City Girls

Rose City Girls formed as a Portland based dance group in 2018. All members have Lu Mien descent and range in ages from 7 to 16 years old. The group was originally formed for the purpose of performing their traditional dance routines at their community's New Year events. As an effort to introduce their culture, they have often times performed at several other community events.

Over the years it has become an important and valuable way for us to educate our kids about our traditional dance and culture. It has also created an opportunity for our youth to learn team building skills and showcase their talent as performers.

Tonight we have Addisyn Chao, Morgan Tzeo, Nikaiya Saechao, Liberty Tzeo, Tylanni Thilavanh, Arielle Saechao, Nai Tern, and Sabrina Chao. Unfortunately our whole group couldn't make it tonight but hope you all enjoy their performances.

Teachers:

Jennie Saechao, Lai Tzeo, Aimey Tzeo, May Saechao
Karen Saechao, Sarah Pharn, Amanda Mouang Saetern, Samantha Saepharn, Meuy Saesin

Community Partners



Theresa Nguyen Photography
@theresanguyenphoto



@Jae.Vision

Media production service serving the PDX area.
Founded by the Jae Waddell.

SCAN TO VISIT OUR WEBSITE



DONATION PORTAL

