MEDIA ADVISORY

Korean American Artist Meet and Greet

Korean American Artist Awarded Major Grant for Site-Specific Public Art Project in Koreatown

WHEN:
Wednesday, March 11, 2020
- 11:30 a.m. – Program
- Noon – Lunch
- 12:30 p.m. – Media Interviews

WHERE:
Korean American Federation of Los Angeles
981 South Western Avenue, #100
Los Angeles, CA 90006

WHO:
- Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas
- Artist Suzy Taekyung Kim
- Korean American Federation of Los Angeles President Dr. Laura Jeon
- Trammell Crow Company Managing Director Greg Ames
- LA County Arts Department Director Kristin Sakoda
- LA County Department of Mental Health Director Dr. Jonathan Sherin
WHAT:

Korean American Artist Suzy Taekyung Kim has been awarded $165,000 from the Los Angeles County Department of Arts and Culture for a unique public art project that will welcome visitors to a new 21-story building coming to Koreatown.

This new building will serve as headquarters for the Los Angeles County Departments of Mental Health and Workforce Development, Aging and Community Services. The lobby where Suzy Taekyung Kim’s artwork will be showcased, will host a peer resource center and walk-in mental health services, utilizing a ground-floor clinic and office space. With access to the Metro Vermont/Wilshire Red Line Station, Los Angeles County residents will be able to access an array of mental health services.

The civic art project, entitled Canopy of Blooms, uses a base layer of old Korean script which will be sealed and covered by flowers from Koreatown, embracing the fragility and strength of those who will pass through the future lobby.

Canopy of Blooms is a multilayered painting that celebrates hope and healing. Situated in the grand lobby of the Vermont Corridor Building, this 53 x 10-foot artwork is at the entry point of the Department of Mental Health and Department of Workforce Development, Aging and Community Services and warmly welcomes all. The painting reflects the unique identity of Koreatown through the analogy of an infinity loop of blooming motifs native to Los Angeles County. This artwork celebrates multi-generational life stories through the metaphor of natural elements. Throughout the artwork, the cascading waterfall background gradually changes colors mirroring the changing seasons. The imagery starts as a bubbling seed of dreams that become buds of growth, twisting vines, blooming flowers, and, finally, fallen petals and foliage. This change is rhythmic with improvisational elements forming an infinity loop, symbolizing the endless cycle of life. Conceived by Suzy Taekyung Kim, the painting highlights life’s journey through the metaphor of nature’s birth, growth, and death.

The artist will available for interviews to discuss her project and process.

Finally, all media in attendance will be treated to food, drink, and exclusive interviews.

The event is being organized by the Office of Los Angeles County Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas along with the Korean American Federation of Los Angeles.

RSVP:

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