



# 2024 Impact Report

SHOOT FOR THE STARS



THE DRAGON KIM  
FOUNDATION

**BE MORE THAN A LEADER.  
BE A DRAGON.**

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THE DRAGON KIM  
FOUNDATION

# BE MORE THAN A LEADER BE A DRAGON A DRAGON...

knows life is a gift and lives it to the fullest  
believes life is what he makes it, and makes it amazing  
works hard to achieve what doesn't come naturally to her  
perseveres through adversity – even tragedy – to lift up others  
is quick to offer a hand and unafraid to ask for help  
inspires others to find the fire in their belly  
leads with head and heart  
empowers other dragons

*What if every person in the world lived like a dragon?  
What if we helped everyone discover his inner dragon?*

## TOGETHER WE CAN





# A LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

The 2024 Fellowship cohort, DKF-8, was our biggest yet. There is certainly no shortage of drive, passion, and innovation amongst the young leaders who take on the pressing issues directly affecting their communities. This year, 60 projects directly impacted 16,274 people and indirectly impacted over 1 million. To date since 2017, over 51,000 people have directly benefitted from the projects put on by our Dragon Fellows. While numbers aren't everything, they are proof of the exponential effect that our Fellowship Program has on the community. Allowing the Fellows to be the visionaries, while we provide advanced leadership training and behind-the-scenes support, means we can touch the lives of so many more people than going it alone.

Working with these bright young leaders always reminds me of why Dragon's mother Grace and I started the Foundation in the first place. In August 2015 during a family camping trip to Yosemite, a massive tree branch fell on the tent where our son, Dragon, and his dear friend, Justin Lee, were sleeping. They were taken from us in an instant.

Dragon was always the kind to put others before himself. We began the music program to realize his dream of providing local kids around his school with free music instruction and instruments. The Fellowship Program was a reflection of our desire for our kids to find what they love doing, giving opportunities to pursue their passions to those who may not readily get them.

Thank you for helping keep Dragon's dream alive. As we move forward into 2025, the Foundation's 10th year, I hope you continue to follow and support the Dragon Kim Foundation and the brilliant young leaders who want to challenge what the world thinks of them. The future is truly in good hands.

With love and gratitude,  
Daniel Kim  
Executive Director  
The Dragon Kim Foundation

# FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

The Fellowship Program provides:



## Advanced Leadership

Three full weekends of training



## Mentorship

Guidance throughout the process



## Funding

Up to \$5,000 grant per Project

## Fellowship Timeline



### Fall:

We reach out to high schools all over California, Nevada, and Arizona. Applications open October 1.

### Winter:

Students apply by the mid January deadline. Our Admissions Committee reviews all applications and interviews finalists to choose a class of Dragon Fellows.

### Spring:

The Dragon Fellows participate in three weekends of leadership training, weekly team check-ins, and meetings with their mentors to develop their project.

### Summer:

Dragon Fellows run their projects, helping others in their communities. They present their projects in early September, and the top projects compete in the Dragon Challenge to win continued funding and support.

## OUR MENTORS



Mentors are central members of the DKF family. They guide our Dragon Fellows to develop and implement their projects, and perhaps even more importantly, provide critical feedback and encouragement along the way!

# Examples of Fellowship Projects



Mālama



GalaxSEA Explorers



Let's Get the Ball Rolling

- *Mālama* - Sofia, Ava, and Caitlyn battled loneliness in Southern California elderly facilities by sharing Hawaiian dance performances and crafts.
- *GalaxSEA Explorers* - Brandon addressed a lack of hands-on exposure to space and astronomy education in underserved communities through interactive camps and take-home science kits.
- *Let's Get the Ball Rolling* - Yana and Aashni conducted a summer camp aimed at developing engineering skills through putt-putt courses, Rube Goldberg machines, and art made from recycled materials.

## MENTOR TESTIMONIALS

*"It's been my pleasure to serve three times as a mentor for the Dragon Kim Foundation's Fellowship Program. In my experience, mentorship was as much a benefit to myself and my fellow mentors as it was to the teens we have mentored. It was rewarding to help teens take chances in a safe environment that perhaps might have hobbled them otherwise. Overall, I found it a rewarding experience that proved to be a wonderful way to give back to the community."*

*"Helping youth achieve their dreams is exciting to watch and even more thrilling to see it come to life"*

# DRAGON CHALLENGE

This year, a whopping SIX teams were chosen after the Fellowship Program to compete at the Dragon Challenge. Here, six distinguished judges conduct a “Shark Tank” type of interview, and the top team is awarded \$5,000 to continue work on their project.

In 2024, we were joined by these talented judges:

- Carol Lee: Tax Managing Director, Deloitte Tax LLP
- Craig Thrasher: Portfolio Manager & Senior Research Analyst,
- Farrah Khan: Mayor, City of Irvine
- Jacques Ballard: Director of Field Operations, Cox Communications
- Tony Drockton: Chairman & CEO, Hammitt
- Vikki Shepp: CEO, Girl Scouts of Orange County

## 2024 Challenge Sponsors



*meet*



## OUR 2024 CHALLENGE WINNER: HEART-TO-ART

Heart-to-Art, founded by Ashima Sharma and Vedant Dayal, brings the transformative power of expressive arts to cancer patients, survivors, and their families. Their exceptional passion, dedication, and creative approach left a lasting impression on our judges, earning them an additional \$5,000 in recognition of their work. We applaud Ashima and Vedant for their tireless commitment to making a meaningful difference in their community and eagerly anticipate the continued impact they will have in the future.



## THANK YOU TO OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Our Dragons execute their projects in partnership with wonderful community partners. We've had the privilege of working with over 100 organizations, including:



### PARTNER SPOTLIGHT



Cox Communications was named our Community Partner of the Year! With Cox, we've created a TV commercial that has been aired over 7,630 times since July, equating to an in-kind value of over \$763,000! We are honored to have partnered with Cox to spread the message of the Dragon Kim Foundation and grow our community.

### OCSA and CSArts-SGV

We've continued to partner with Orange County School of the Arts and California School of the Arts - San Gabriel Valley to further develop and expand our Music Program. By working together, we've continued to improve access to arts in our communities.



# COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Making change in local communities takes many hands. We're extremely grateful to our 150+ community partners who lent a helping hand in bringing our Fellowship projects to life this year.

- Abby's House
- Agave Pediatrics
- All Sports Tucson
- Amanda Hope Rainbow Angels
- Anaheim YMCA
- Arizona Forensics Coaches Association
- Arts in Action Community Charter School
- Assemblymember David Alvarez
- Association Designers and Artists
- Barnard College
- Bay Area Community Resources
- Bayshire Yorba Linda
- Bell Bottom Bakery
- Boys & Girls Club
- Boys & Girls Club of Costa Mesa
- Boys & Girls Club of Cypress
- Boys & Girls Club of Irvine
- Boys & Girls Club of Laguna Beach
- Boys & Girls Club of Long Beach
- Boys & Girls Club of Pasadena
- Boys & Girls Club of RSM
- Boys & Girls Club of Santa Ana
- Boys & Girls Club of SJC
- Boys & Girls Club of the Valley
- Boys & Girls Club of Tustin
- Boys Hope Girls Hope
- Breakthrough
- Buena Park Senior Center
- Build-A-Bear
- Burbank Elementary School
- Cactus Day Camp
- CalOptima
- Cambridge Community Center
- Cancer Support Community Arizona
- Capistrano Unified School District
- Carr Intermediate
- CCSD School District
- Center for Good Grief, Memphis
- CHEC Family Resource Center
- Children's Hospital of Los Angeles
- Children's Hospital of Orange County
- Children's Museum of Phoenix
- Chino Valley Healthcare Center
- Chipotle
- Community Action Partnership
- Community GI Physicians
- Comunidad Unidad Al Aire Limpio
- Congressional Office of Rep. Young Kim
- Connecting to Cure
- Crohn's and Colitis Foundation
- Crossfit DTSA
- Day One Organization
- Delhi Center
- Dig This Volleyball Club
- DISCOVERY Children's Museum
- DoorDash
- El Sol Academy
- Escondido Helping Hands Compact
- EUSD Expanded Learning Team
- Explore Prime Academy
- F.A.C.E. SAUSD
- Families Forward
- Floss Dental
- Foundation Christian Center
- Girls Inc.
- Godinez Fundamental High School
- Good Shepherd Integrated Healthcare Services
- Groundswell
- Hands Together OC
- Happy Acres Children's Home
- Hero's & Hearts
- Heroes Elementary
- Higher Ground Youth and Family Services
- Hillside North Orange County
- Illumination Foundation
- Jellycat
- Joyful Gut Cooking
- Kidworks Santa Ana
- KLAS 8 News Now
- Koreatown Youth & Community Center
- LA County Library
- Latea Boba
- Laura's House
- LGBTQ Center OC
- Little Tokyo Service Center
- Little Tokyo Towers
- Logan Heights Library
- Logan Memorial Education Campus
- Loma Linda Veteran Affairs Hospital
- Loma Vista Elementary School
- Long View Community Center
- Madison Elementary School
- Masonic Homes
- Meadows Mall
- Meridian Anaheim Hills
- Mission Basilica School
- MIX Academy
- National Alliance on Mental Illness
- Sonoma County
- New East West
- New Life Church of La Habra
- Newhall Community Center
- North Tempe Multi-Generational Center
- Nova Spero
- Nueva Summer
- OC Animal Allies
- OC Rescue Mission
- OCSA
- OCSA Calls 4 Care
- Office of Child Development Camp
- OGHS College & Career Center
- One.n.ten
- Our Reflections
- Panda Express
- Panera Bread
- Parkdale Recreation & Senior Center
- Party Rentals, CA
- Pasadena Senior Center
- Pasadena Village
- Perkins Elementary School
- Phoenician Pain & Rehabilitation Center
- Qoheleth Ministries
- Rahma Center
- Rancho Pico Junior High School
- Ricardo's Nursery
- Saddleback High School
- San Diego Girl Scouts
- San Rafael Police Department
- Santa Ana City Council
- Santa Ana High School
- Santa Ana Valley High School
- SAUSD
- Senator Rubio's Office
- Senegence
- Shower of Grace
- Soar Balloons
- SOC Family Resource Center
- Speed Cube Shop
- St. Margaret's Episcopal School
- Sunnyslope Community Center
- Sunrise Kids OC
- Sunshine Kids
- Target
- The Meadows School in Las Vegas
- Three Sycamores
- Tilly's Life Center
- Trader Joe's
- Tustin Public Schools Foundation
- Twin Oaks
- Unidos South OC
- UNLV School of Dental Medicine
- Valle del Oro Summer Camp
- Vista Heritage Global Academy
- Walnut Recreation Center
- Western University of Health Sciences
- Whitney Recreation Center
- Whole Foods
- Windcrest Community Center
- Women and Children's Shelter



Thanks to all our community partners who helped us this year!



# OUR MUSIC PROGRAM

We're *Bringing Music to Life!* Our Music Program's vision is to strive for musical excellence, prioritize arts for those in need, and carry on Dragon's spirit by honoring his commitment to service.



## We offer 6 different classes!

The music program has come a long way since 2015! We offered students six different instruments to choose from this year so they could find their favorite. Whether it be violin, cello, flute, trumpet, clarinet, or ukulele/voice, our goal to bring the gift of music to kids in need has remained *free of charge!*



## A fan favorite!

Students are welcome to join our Music Program classes regardless of skill level. In fact, we have many students who return each semester to continue and hone their skills on an instrument, or even learn new ones!



## A COLLABORATIVE ADVANTAGE



Our volunteers also benefit from being a part of the Music Program! The high school student teachers gain invaluable hands-on experience by working with young learners under the mentorship of master teachers. Through weekly feedback, lesson planning guidance, and the opportunity to develop best teaching practices, these students received a level of support and professional development typically not available until post-secondary education—often six years into their careers. This one-of-a-kind program has allowed our student teachers to build real-world teaching skills, deepen their passion for music education, and gain confidence in their ability to inspire young musicians.

# Our People

## Meet our Staff



**Daniel Kim**  
Executive Director



**Amber Serafin**  
Program Director



**Joy Loo Kim**  
Operations Director



**Maliyah Mason**  
Communications  
Specialist &  
Grant Writer



**Orion Tang**  
Administrative  
Assistant



**Angeline Villar**  
Fellowship  
Coordinator

## Board of Directors



**Jack Toan**  
Chairman



**Daniel Kim**  
Board Member



**Grace Tsai**  
Board Member



**Stacy Handley**  
Secretary



**George Figueroa**  
Treasurer



**Bonnie Carlson**  
Board Member



**Teren Shaffer**  
Board Member



**Kerri Sonenshine**  
Board Member



**William Tate**  
Board Member

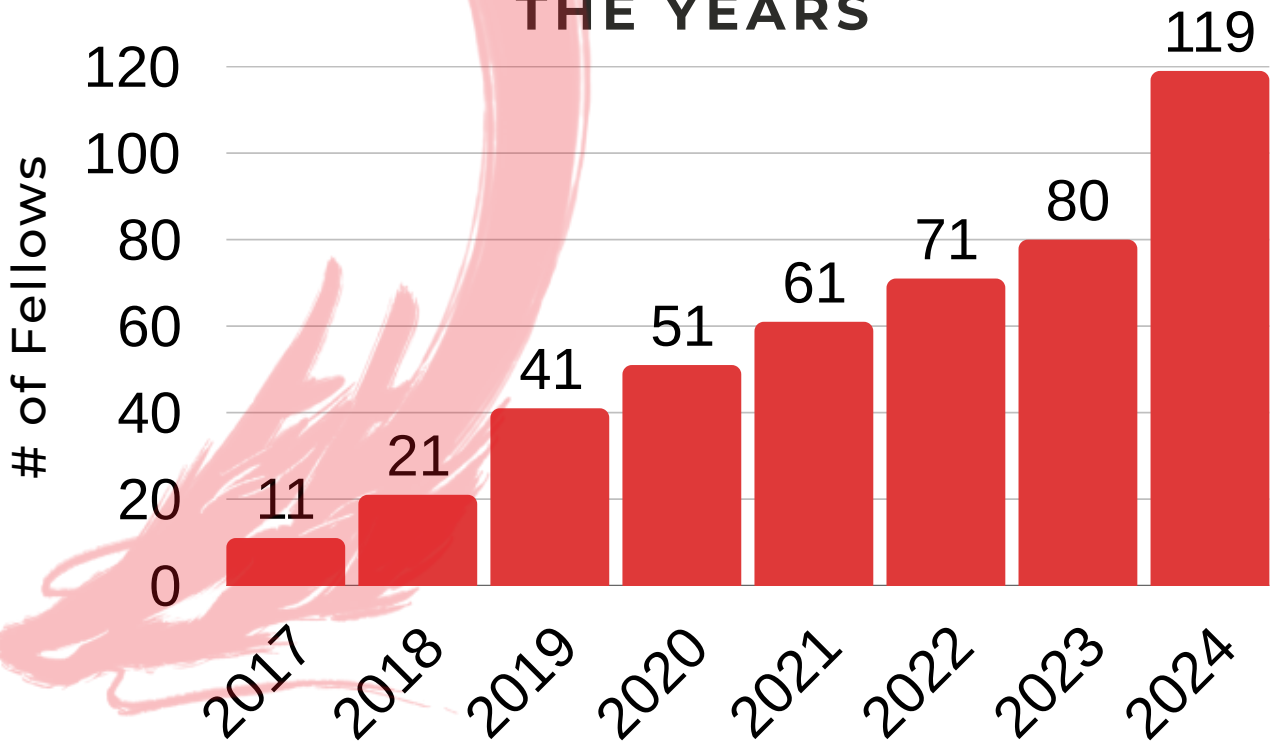


**Helen Yi**  
Board Member



**Thao Ngo**  
Board Member

## OUR FELLOWSHIP NUMBERS OVER THE YEARS



When we started the Fellowship Program in 2017, we had 11 eager students in our first cohort. This past year, we were able to accept 119 Fellows into the Fellowship Program. These Fellows go on to impact thousands upon thousands of people in their own communities. We look forward to seeing what next year has in store!

## THANK YOU DONORS!

We are thankful for each and every one of our donors, big and small, whose gifts have made such an impact. Your contributions have allowed us to take on more Fellows each and every year.



# Thank you to our Grantmakers!

These funders have supported our Music Program and Fellowship Program, allowing us to reach more communities than ever before. Grants go toward supporting program costs, events, operating costs, and wages/salaries.

## Impact Giving

**Henry L. Guenther Foundation**

**OneOC**

**OCCF Jane Deming Fund**

**Orange County Power Authority**

**Sun Family Foundation**

**U.S. Bank Foundation**

**Edwards Lifesciences Foundation**

**Wingstop Charities**

**Dwight Stuart Youth Fund**

**DevTo Support Foundation**

The generous donations from these grantmakers allow us to create opportunities in our programs, by teaching kids the power of music, showing teens that they can be the change they want to see, and funding do-good projects across communities



# Individual Donors

Much thanks to our donors who share our vision. Your support means the world to us and to the communities uplifted by our programs.

Adrian Jimenez  
Allan Sanjongco  
Amber Hamilton  
Anand, Pramila, and Uday  
Gupta Charitable Fund  
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Angela DeCuir  
Anna Aguirre  
Arthur Atinizian  
Baoping Liu  
Barbara Lea  
Bradley Sher  
Brian Bailey  
Bronnie Lee  
Carrie Elizabeth Johnson  
Carrie Mayhew  
Charley Zeches  
Charlotte Bourke  
Chiena Choe  
Cindy Felton  
Claudia Martinez-Jensen  
Dan Lee  
Dan Pittman  
David Kim  
Dena Anderson  
Dodge & Cox  
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Elizabeth Tilford  
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Houng Tran  
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Ilana Rosenblatt  
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Jane Doe  
Jenny Yi  
Jeremy Worden  
Jesse Cho  
Jesse Mulholland  
Jinhwi Eo  
Joe Carland  
Joe Doe  
Jong Limb  
Josephine Chen  
JP Dym  
Julia Wang  
Julie Meggers  
Kavitha Murugayan  
Kayne Anderson Rudnick  
Kenneth Kim  
Kevin Lee  
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Liqing Sun Family Foundation  
Lisa Bancroft  
Lisa Isola  
Lori Solomon  
Lynn Kim  
Mackenzie Sandler  
Maneesh Goyal  
Mari Deitcher  
Maureen Pechacek  
Metanoia Church of South  
Bay  
Mike and Molly Perry Trust  
Mina Yu  
Nancy Sutorius  
Nathan Lee  
Navpreet Dhaliwal  
Neal Rickner

Nellie Garcia  
Nichole Moreno  
Nicole Pham-Bailey  
Nicolette McIntyre  
Nitika Thawani  
Nitin Bajaj  
OneOC Fiscal Sponsorship  
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Phil Chap  
Phillip Gomez  
Quinn Tran  
Rakhi Dayal  
Regina Lee  
Rosa Galindo  
Sam Garg  
Sameena Habib  
Samuel Koh  
Sandy Lee  
Scarlett Zhai  
Shana Lee  
Sharon Kim  
Shimul Sahai  
Shreeti Patel  
Sita Haq  
Stacy & Gary Handley  
Sunyoung Park  
Sylvina May  
Teren Shaffer  
The Bauldauf Family Fund  
The Figueroa Cagnina Fund  
The Huret Dulski Charitable  
Fund  
Virgilio Villacorta  
Wenying Guo  
Zahra Motahari  
Zheng Shen

# SPECIAL EVENTS AND MEDIA

Our programs and participants have received significant local and national media coverage. Here are just some of the highlights of 2024, along with our community partners and special events. We're grateful for the chance to bring more awareness to our programs!



Cox Communications Television Commercial (2024)



PBS Local Heroes Nominee 2024



KCAL/CBS News TV Story on the Music Program



Illumination Foundation Carnival for Kids 2024



ABC Arizona TV Story on Fellowship Project "Arts Healing Hearts"



College Writing Workshops



Dragon Camp at the Mix Academy



LA Times/Daily Pilot Print Story on Fellowship Project "Feast of Flavors"

# SEE WHAT OUR FELLOWS HAVE TO SAY!

*"I would say the fellowship program changed the course of my life and showed me what else I can do with it. I think we need more people impacting their communities, especially the younger generation because those are the future leaders. Having leaders who actually care about world issues and making the world a better place would be amazing!"*

*"The Fellowship Program introduces you to a new version of yourself and your peers. They allow you to help your community and develop new business relations that's hard to find elsewhere. It changes you for the better."*

*"More leaders should participate in the fellowship to learn how to channel a cognitive empathy when directing initiatives, create reasonable plans to achieve success, and practice maximizing community impact."*

*With this program, there is no room for procrastination-- you are subject to months of pursuing a goal to better society, and you learn to develop and discover more about yourself.*

*"In a short amount of time participants can catalyze growth in their community and as leaders themselves."*

*"The fellowship offers more than just tools to start a community project; it's a journey of resilience, perspective, and growth that shapes who you become."*

*"It brings out the best leader in everyone."*

# OUR IMPACT



THE DRAGON KIM  
FOUNDATION

We're proud of the impact we've had this year inspiring the next generation of changemakers!

## FELLOWSHIP 2024

**17,989**  
Volunteer Hours



**16,274**  
Directly Impacted



**455** DRAGON FELLOWS SINCE 2017

**226** FELLOWSHIP PROJECTS SINCE 2017

## MUSIC PROGRAM

**50%**

of our students don't have access to music instruction in their communities



**100%**

*Fellowship alumni that go to college*



**58%**

*Fellowship alumni at top 25 colleges*



**40%**

*Of our 2024 Fellows have low S.E.S*

## COMMUNITY



**150+**

Community Partners



**60**

Mentors



# DONATE



Inspire and transform lives  
**GIVE TODAY!**

Want to help others pursue their passions? Consider donating to directly support our programs!

## Fellowship Program

Make an impact by giving high schoolers a chance to make a difference. Our Fellowship Program has remained entirely free of charge thanks to donors. That's 3 weekends of leadership training, professional mentorship, continued project support, funding, and more, at NO COST to our Fellows. Not only are you aiding a Fellow, you're aiding their communities as well. You can even fund an entire Fellowship Project!

## Music Program

Help children across the counties of Los Angeles and Orange get access to FREE quality music education. Your donation helps provide instruments, music books, and instructors so kids receive the opportunity to build critical musical skills and explore new interests. Our high school student instructors also gain valuable teaching experience and build their passion for music education.

We also provide many volunteer opportunities throughout the year, so there's many ways to get involved!

To donate, please visit [www.dragonkimfoundation.org/donate](http://www.dragonkimfoundation.org/donate) or email us at [info@dragonkimfoundation.org](mailto:info@dragonkimfoundation.org) to inquire about volunteering or about becoming a 2025 partner, featured in our marketing materials.



**Our mission is  
to inspire our youth  
to impact their  
communities  
while discovering and  
pursuing their passions**

