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# CKA GALA

Reclaiming Our Narrative | Redefining Our Future

OCTOBER 23, 2021 | 5:30 PM PT • 8:30 PM ET

**15** COUNCIL OF  
KOREAN  
AMERICANS  
CELEBRATING 10 YEARS

1875 K Street, NW, Suite 400,  
Washington, DC 20006 • 202.660.0900



# WELCOME

## Welcome to the Council of Korean Americans 10th Anniversary Gala!

Thank you for gathering with us to celebrate the Korean American community and honor our heroes during this time of significant change in the United States. Our theme this year, Reclaiming Our Narrative, Redefining Our Future, recognizes how Korean Americans have shown courage, initiative, and innovation to amplify the voice and advance the visibility of our community nationally.

Tonight's honorees are a great inspiration to us all. They have applied their substantial talents to promote humanity and understanding across cultures. We are thrilled to be honoring six outstanding individuals this year: John Suh (Former CEO of LegalZoom & Entrepreneur) with the Empower Award; Justin Chon (Actor, Screenwriter & Director) with the Trailblazer Award, Eric Nam (Singer & Songwriter) with the Embrace Unity Award, Chloe Kim (Olympic Gold Medalist & Snowboarder) with the Inspire Award, and Daniel Dae Kim (Hollywood Actor) with the Voice and Leadership Award.

This evening's program would not be possible without the generous support, enthusiasm, and leadership of our sponsors, donors, and members. We especially want to recognize our gala sponsors: Cooley LLP, Bank of America, Altos Ventures, Overseas Koreans Foundation, Verizon, Comcast, Rutan & Tucker LLP, Howard Moon, Catalyst, Alexis and Stanley Shin, Larson LLP, Good Neighboring Foundation Inc., David and Christine Lee, Robin-Hwajin, Yoon Kim Foundation, Perry Ha, Truist, Randy and Sue Sim, Covington & Burling LLP, Mary and Bill Kim, Soo K. Venkatesan, LimNexus, Baker Botts LLP, Brian Byun & So Yong Park, Peter and Jihee Huh, Hosea Chang, Inovio, Lucy Nam, Susan Kim, Korean Community Service Center of Greater Washington, Juliet K. Choi, Eric Kim, Dr. Mu Hong & Won Kim, Jeffrey & Mihae Stefani, Marie Oh Huber, Songyee Yoon, Bonnie Oh, Google, Salle Yoo & Jeffrey P. Gray, Korea Times, Thomas Kim, Ken Kim, Michael Yang.

Special thanks to Gimga Group, Hyatt Regency-Tysons Corner Center, and Tiato Kitchen + Garden for their commitment and support for our mission.

While we regret that we cannot all gather in one location this year, this gala is a celebration of our triumphs as a community, boldly enduring the unexpected challenges of a global pandemic and the backlash of hate and violence against our community. For that we thank you for taking the time to join us - virtually or in-person, to celebrate our kinship, recognize our bravery in the midst of challenge, and be empowered to reimagine what we can do as individuals and as a community to make this world a better and safer place for us all.

With warmest regards,



**Gloria Lee**

*Gala Co-Chair*

# ORDER OF EVENTS



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THE LIVE GALA](#)

<b>WELCOME REMARKS</b> 5:30PM PST   8:30PM EST	<b>Jeanie Chang</b> , Co-Emcee, CKA Virtual Gala <b>Chil Kong</b> , Co-Emcee, CKA Virtual Gala
<b>CKA 10TH ANNIVERSARY &amp; MISSION VIDEO</b>	
<b>CKA BOARD CHAIR: WELCOME REMARKS</b>	<b>Michelle Rhyu</b> , CKA Board Chair
<b>IGNITENEXTGEN PROGRAM</b>	<b>Shine Lee</b> , 2020 IgniteNextGen Fellow <b>Hyunmin Kim</b> , 2021 IgniteNextGen Fellow
<b>INSPIRE &amp; EMBRACE UNITY AWARDS</b>	IgniteNextGen Alumni <b>RECIPIENT OF INSPIRE AWARD:</b> <b>Chloe Kim</b> , U.S. Olympic Snowboarder – Gold Medalist <b>RECIPIENT OF EMBRACE UNITY AWARD:</b> <b>Eric Nam</b> , Singer/Songwriter and Co-Founder, DIVE Studios
<b>WATCH PARTY CHECK-IN</b>	<b>Monica Kang</b> , Co-Emcee, Washington, DC Watch Party <b>Lisa Yang</b> , CKA Gala Committee Member & Board Member
<b>CELEBRATING NETKAL &amp; EMPOWER AWARD</b>	<b>Gloria Lee</b> , CKA Gala Co-Chair & Board Member <b>RECIPIENT OF EMPOWER AWARD:</b> <b>John Suh</b> , Senior Advisor and Former CEO, LegalZoom
<b>PADDLE RAISE - SUPPORTING OUR FUTURE LEADERS</b>	<b>Abraham Kim</b> , Ph.D., CKA Executive Director
<b>TRAILBLAZER AWARD</b>	<b>Jinhee Ahn Kim</b> , CKA Gala Co-Chair & Board Member <b>RECIPIENT OF TRAILBLAZER AWARD:</b> <b>Justin Chon</b> , Director, Writer, Producer, and Actor
<b>VOICE &amp; LEADERSHIP AWARD</b>	<b>Susan Kim</b> , CKA Gala Committee Member & Board Member <b>RECIPIENT OF VOICE &amp; LEADERSHIP AWARD:</b> <b>Daniel Dae Kim</b> , Actor, Producer, and Activist
<b>CLOSING REMARKS</b> 6:45PM PST   9:45 PM EST	<b>Jeanie Chang</b> , Co-Emcee, CKA Virtual Gala <b>Chil Kong</b> , Co-Emcee, CKA Virtual Gala

EMPOWER AWARD HONOREE



JOHN SUH

Senior Advisor and Former CEO, LegalZoom

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# EMBRACE UNITY AWARD HONOREE



## ERIC NAM

Singer / Songwriter and Co-Founder, DIVE Studios

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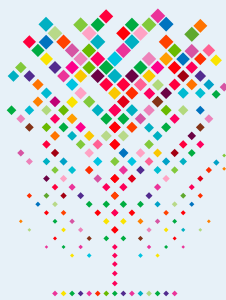
A photograph of a family of five walking through a park. From left to right: a young girl, a young man, a young boy, a young woman, and an older man. They are all smiling and walking on a grassy path with trees in the background. The image is framed by a thin white border.

**Verizon is a proud supporter of  
the Council of Korean Americans  
as they continue to advance the  
Korean American community.**

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A decorative graphic in the top left corner consisting of several small, colorful diamond shapes in red, green, yellow, and pink, arranged in a cluster.

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**2021 VIRTUAL  
CKA GALA**  
OCTOBER 23, 2021

# INSPIRE AWARD HONOREE



## CHLOE KIM

U.S. Olympic Snowboarder – Gold Medalist

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# THE POWER TO work together

Bank of America is proud to support the Council of Korean Americans' 10th Anniversary Gala. Congratulations to all award recipients on your well-deserved recognition.





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# TRAILBLAZER AWARD HONOREE



## JUSTIN CHON

Director, Writer, Producer, and Actor

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# VOICE & LEADERSHIP AWARD HONOREE



## DANIEL DAE KIM

Actor, Producer, and Activist

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Covington is proud to support the

# Council of Korean Americans 10th Anniversary Gala

We applaud the Council's efforts to advance the national voice and influence of the Korean American community through collaboration and leadership development.

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# ABOUT CKA



**The Council of Korean Americans (CKA)** is the leading nonpartisan, national leadership organization for Korean Americans. Our mission is to advance the national voice and influence of the Korean American community through collaboration and leadership development. We aspire to a world in which Korean American leaders serve at the highest levels in society.

CKA achieves its mission and carries out its programming based on four main priorities: 1) amplify the Korean American voice; 2) build communities; 3) celebrate our identity; and 4) develop leaders. Focused on these priorities, our work seeks to highlight and promote the creativity, talent, and cultural richness of the Korean American community throughout the United States. Through our members, our efforts encourage public service, building bridges across boundaries, and advancing the interest of the Korean American community.

Since 2011, the Council of Korean Americans has been building these initiatives and mobilizing a movement. Today, CKA has 280+ members and a global network of partner organizations and supporters working for a better world and the growth of the Korean American network.

We invite you to join us as we lead our community toward a brighter future where our leaders contribute in transformative ways, and our voices are being heard.

For more information, please visit our website at: [www.councilka.org](http://www.councilka.org) or email us at: [membership@councilka.org](mailto:membership@councilka.org)

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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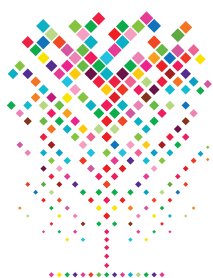
**Gideon Yu**, Co-Owner & Former NFL President, San Francisco 49ers

**Philip Yun**, President & CEO, World Affairs Council of Northern California

## MEMBERSHIP

Only by representing the broader Korean American community will CKA be fully equipped to accomplish its mission. With a growing membership, we are strengthening our visibility and influence. The strength of CKA lies in our community, our membership, and our network of supporters. Our members represent diverse sectors and professions, from business, medicine, law, and academia to the arts and entertainment. By joining CKA, our members serve as ambassadors of the organization.

The Council of Korean Americans accepts qualified Korean American individuals to become CKA members based on a formal application process and current members' recommendations. If you are interested in becoming a CKA member, we highly encourage you to reach out to current [CKA members](#) you may know, expressing your interest.



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