

The Collection



Power in Diversity

OCTOBER 22, 2022

SAINT PAUL RIVERCENTRE

freshCHAT 
TRADITIONS

The background of the image consists of soft, ethereal purple smoke or clouds that drift from the top and bottom edges towards the center, creating a dreamlike atmosphere. The colors range from light lavender to a deeper, muted purple.

WELCOME TO...



Fresh Traditions is a program of Center For Hmong Arts and Talent (CHAT).

CHAT exists to nurture, explore, and illuminate the Hmong American Experience through artistic expression. CHAT envisions a vibrant community where Hmong American are inspired to share their perspectives, values for their creative contributions and empowered to challenge life's boundaries. CHAT addresses social injustices through Hmong American artists and youth that express their inner truths through contemporary arts be 1) raising awareness, 2) initiating action, and 3) building community.

Visit us at www.aboutchat.org

Theme & Challenge

The Collection: Power in Diversity was chosen to showcase the bold and different styles derived by the diversity within the Hmong ethnic group. Not only is it important to see the different styles of each subgroup but to also remember that every person is different in age, shape, and size and how each individual is unique even under one ethnicity.

Highlighting the Hmong subgroups, designers are designated to a subgroup to learn the importance of detail, style, and patterns used in their group that distinguishes them from other subgroups into their designs. How Hmong subgroups got their name originated from the color(s) and designs of the women's clothing. Such indications can be seen on their skirt, sleeve, pants, etc.

FRESH TRADITIONS XV PROGRAM

Opening - Bee Vang & Chenue Her (Emcees)

First Half - Fashion Show

Cynthia Lee

Va Xee Moua

Kaozong Thao

Ava Chang

Mai Sia Yang

Performance by Sai Cedric Vang

Intermission

First raffle drawing

Performance by Maiyia Vwj

Second half - Fashion Show

Xiong Mee Vang

Nkao Hle Hang

Yenna

Chao Xiong

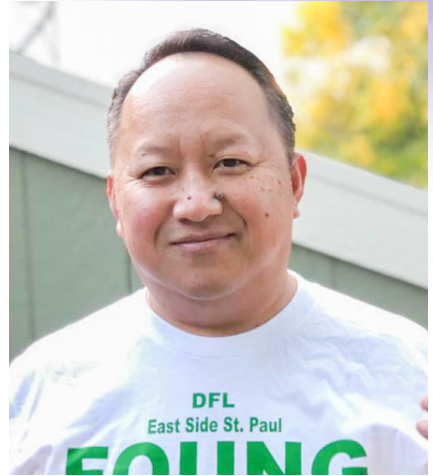
Second raffle drawing

Designer's Challenge Award

MEET THE TEAM



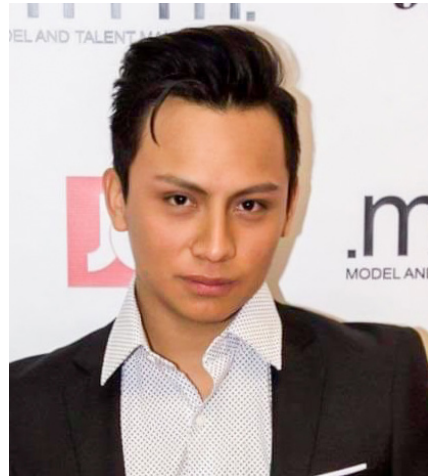
Project Manager
Maikang Lee



Operations/Logistics
Coordinator - Steve Thao



Vendor/Volunteer
Coordinator - Vanh Thao



Model Instructor
Edduar Daniel Peralta



CYNTHIA LEE

Cynthia is a self-taught designer based in Saint Paul, MN. She divides her time by running multiple businesses, tackling the daily activities of her four children, and keeping her two fur babies active. Her debut collection with Fresh Traditions Season XV, MODERN MAUM PAS, pays homage to the eclectic styles of the 80's whilst incorporating the aesthetic of the Hmong - American boss babes.



VA XEE MOUA

Va Xee Moua's passion lies with designing. She began her sewing journey periodically as a hobby and eventually declared it her goal to design clothes flattering to plus-size women like herself. Currently a graphic designer, photographer, and creator of her own business Create by Va Xee Moua, she is expanding to showcase her own collection of unique Hmong textile designs. For Fresh Traditions XV, The Collection: Power in Diversity theme, Va Xee will be utilizing her design collection with inspiration from the style of the subgroup Hmong Myanmar/Burma.



KAOZONG THAO

Kaozong Thao is currently a student pursuing a degree in Business Administration. However, she has previously modeled and handmakes Hmong jewelry as a creation to her jewelry line called Zoo Designs. Expanding her way into fashion designing, Kaozong will be taking on the subgroup Hmong White for her collection in Fresh Traditions XV “The Collection: Power in Diversity.”



AVA CHANG

Located in Michigan, Ava Chang is a stay-at-home mother that loves to read, watch movies, and does hand and machine sewing. Her inspiration for her designs in *The Collection: Power in Diversity* portrays the emotions everyone goes through. Ava's design will express happy to sad, anger, etc. with the inspiration from colorful patterns from Hmong subgroups in Vietnam that has changed over time to distinguish them as Hmong people from Vietnam.



MAI SIA YANG

Mai Sia Yang, born from Thailand and moved to Wisconsin, graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Stout. She loves the technical and engineer side of apparel design. Mai Sia is an associate tech designer for men and kids wear. Her designs in The Collection: Power in Diversity are inspired by The Nutcracker as a relation to the history of the Hmong at war with her subgroup being of the Hmong people from Thailand, or Hmong Thai.



XIONG MEE VANG

Xiong Mee Vang is new to designing but has learned her ways. This has been a dream for her to follow the tradition and her mother's footsteps of making Hmong clothes. For The Collection: Power in Diversity, she will be balancing her ideas of a modern look with the French style to her Hmong subgroups that are located in French Guiana. While designing for this collection, she is balancing between being a mother, her current pregnancy, and sewing.



NKAO HLE HANG

Nkao Hle Hang graduated with her bachelor's degree at the University of Wisconsin Stout in Fashion Design and Studio Arts! She is currently a Freelance Designer working on many design projects. She's most inspired when she surrounds herself with many creatives, artists, and the people she's designing for. What keeps her driven is knowing what she stands for. Fashion is impactful when there's a story being told and a purpose follows. Aside from designing, Nkao Hle enjoys blogging, traveling, and photography. She also loves setting aside time to spend at the café, beach, and go on a scenic drive.



YENNA

Yenna resides in Milwaukee, WI and is a self taught fashion designer and participated in multiple pageants. Yenna believes fashion has a deep influence in our mental health. For this year's collection, Yenna's Roaring Blossom collection was influenced by the subgroup Hmong Miao. It will tell the story of the Pomegranate Mother who's pure and innocent. A being true and loyal to her companions. Her trust and innocence destroyed by violation that eventually consumed her.



CHAO XIONG

Chao Xiong was one of the last few refugee from Thailand she was located to Minnesota as a child. Growing up, she was always into fashion. She is currently pursuing a degree in Apparel Tech AAS. With her collection in The Collection: Power in Diversity, she is taking on the subgroup Hmong Chinese. With the influence of their designs, Chao wants to create luxurious clothing that are ready to wear.

THANK YOU

Swag Bag/Raffles

Anna Her
Exotic Creations By Her
HogMasters
Phoua
Tory Envy

Photographers

Cam Lee
Harry Vue
Jeramie Neth
Joe Lemke
Tha Her
Wong Lee

Videographers

Kou Lee
Mitch Lee - 3HmongTV
Padee Yang - 3HmongTV
Yao Lee - 3HmongTV

MUA/Hair Stylists/Assistants

Ahkai Lee
Brianna Yang
Fue Yang
David Xiong
Johnny Yahn
Ka Yang
Kalia Vang
KaoYong Yang
Kelly Lee

Matthew Drake
PaNhia Yang
Pkay Vang
Tommy Khang
Vene Lee
Yuping Hang
Zensai Team

Models

Ace Tub Yiag Vaj
Aiden Yang
Angela Yang
Anna Hang
Anna Her
Calia Thao
Chakong Thao
Chalee Yang
Cherie Xiong
Chonnar Yang
Christine Vang
Chutima Xiong
CiaSiab Xiong
Dej Nixhee Xiong
Destiny Xiong
Diary Vue
Ena Lor
Evelyn Lee
Fancy Xiong
Gaoja Yang
Izabelle Lo
Joseph Yantz

Kaitlyn Cafferty
Kaosheng Thao
Keng Pheng Vang
Kenzie Yang
Kou Vang
Lia Vang
Lychiana Xiong
Mayer Hang
Martin Hang
Maya Vang
Mee Vang
Mee Yang
Monica Moua
Nalee Her
NK Vang
Norah Yang
Nungkeo Yang
Pa Nthia Khang
Pa Ntsais Khang
Pang Chia Yang
Patha Vue
Ricky Ly
Rity Xiong
Rose Vang
Samantha Kong
Sandy Vang
Sarah Vang
Sarah Vang
Sathena Thao
Selina Xiong
Seng Xiong

Shoua Xiong
Shue Vang
Sonethanou Kounlabout
Sooya Xiong
Soshina Lee
Suabnag Lee
Sue Xiong
Thitinan Xiong
Tonny Yang
Tristen Xiong
Tsai Thao
Tyler Phay
Tyler Vongphachanh
Valentina Vang
WaMee Vang
Xang Thao
Yer Lor
Yer Xiong
Yer Yang
Yong Cha Yang
You Vang Lee
Ywj Kheej Xiong
Zouapang Yang

SPONSORS OF FRESH TRADITIONS XV



SOS
Sexual Violence Services

A Program of
 RAMSEY COUNTY



Walser | Toyota



The Wokery



HERIZON BUILDERS

★ VENLAA ★
WWW.VENLAA.COM

 ZENSAI


REALTY

