

December 2017

A RETROSPECTIVE OF 2017



Youth and staff with Oakland councilmember Abel Guillen

News & Activity Spotlight

BY HAMIDA YUSUFZAI, PROGRAM MANAGER

So many exciting, wonderful achievements this year. A HUGE win for us and the state of California was Senate Bill 1322, legislation aimed at protecting underage sex trafficking victims. As of January 1, 2017, children are no longer to be arrested for their exploitation and abuse. Behind the scenes at Banteay Srei, we are continuing our work to push for comprehensive services for commercially sexually exploited children (CSEC) and contributing to the enhancement of the intensive case management component used to address the economic and emotional needs of Southeast Asian young women suffering from sexual exploitation.

We want to share all the great news with you, but there isn't enough physical space. So, here are some teasers.

- Youth attended the "Listen to the Silence Conference" at Stanford University, an annual Asian American issues Conference in January.
- Our Valentine's Day fundraiser was a hit! Massage salves are now available for purchase for the holidays.
- We brought in the Lunar New Year at The Spot with lots of food, fun, and UC Berkeley's Vietnamese Student Association Lion Dancers.
- Gabriela USA (grassroots based alliance of Filipina activists) presented a workshop to our youth on Violence Against Women. There was great discourse on the topic of patriarchy, misogyny, and systemic violence.
- For Asian and Pacific Islander Heritage Month, Councilmember Abel Guillen presented us with a proclamation for outstanding services for survivors/victims of sexual exploitation.

Meet the Bong Srei

Youth Facilitators 2017-18



IVY

Hello, I'm Xiao Hui Chen and most people recognize me as Ivy. I'm an Asian American young woman and is raised in Oakland. I was born in China and immigrated to United States at the age of 6. I'm currently a junior attending Oakland Technical High School. I'm excited to be a Bong Srei this year because I enjoy helping others and want to expand my leadership skills. Being here helps shape my identity.



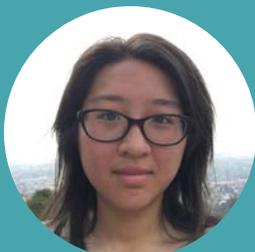
JENNY

My name is Jenny. I'm a junior in Oakland Charter High School. I love helping out and being proactive in my community. This is my second year in Banteay Srei as a Bong Srei. I enjoy being in this space because I can learn more about my cultural identity. I'm looking forward to get more of our female leaders involved.



KATHY

I'm a student at Oakland Technical High School, and I'm from and born in Oakland. I'm an aspiring artist who's really passionate about self-expression and creativity. I also love getting involved in my community and learning about my API culture. I am excited to lead Banteay Srei as a Bong Srei this school year and hope to contribute a lot!



KIM

Hey!!! My name is Kim Ngo and I'm a junior at Alameda High. I love cats, but unfortunately I am not allowed to have any pets. I often speak Mandarin, Cantonese, and Taishanese with my parents. Engineering is my jam. My most interesting project was making an automatic water irrigation to water plants. I look forward to meeting everyone of you guys and have fun together as sisters.

Education through Art

BY RHUMMANEE HANG, COMMUNITY HEALTH SPECIALIST

I was a teenager when I auditioned for and landed a spot in a youth performance company. For five years, up until I left for college, I did dance, theatre, and spoken word with this group. We came up with our own material to be part of an original production, pieces that focused on social issues, understanding our identities, and our dreams for the future. It was here that I found my voice and it was here that I saw how art is education. Needless to say, I know the power of the arts.

At Banteay Srei, art is an important part of our programming. Vulva puppets were introduced to me as something that had been done for several years here as a way of teaching about the female anatomy. I wanted to continue that tradition, especially since it was popular among the young women. So, they learned how to sew. We have also explored jewelry making, painting, and poetry. I have taken them to see "The Vagina Monologues" and a couple of other theatrical productions. Not only are these events and workshops good exposure to learning about other topics, it is an awesome way to explore and learn about yourself. I'm looking forward to seeing what other creativity comes from this year's group.

POETRY CORNER

UNTITLED

Anonymous, youth participant

I Love My Vagina
My vagina helps me through the better or worst
She runs her own show but she keeps me in the loop
She lets me know what about to happen and if I'm healthy
She and I are very similar, we're both germ phobic
We make sure we're clean at all times
She knows that everything is for herself and nobody else
She's good at what she does, Ladies can agree
I Love My Vagina!

KHMER

Salyn, youth participant

My culture is wonderful. The food, outfits, and jewelry are nice. I am proud to be Cambodian. I am darker than other Asians. I have big eyes and long lashes. We stand out more. Not many people know about Cambodians. Our foods are different from any other Asian foods. We have many different outfits to wear. If we're going to sleep we would wear a sarong with a tank top. To a temple you would want to wear a scarf and wrap it around your shoulder and then around your waist. My favorites are the outfits you wear on your wedding day. There is so much gold or silver. They are hard to put on so it's best to pee before wearing the outfit. On TLC New Year I go to the temples with my mom or grandma and we usually look at jewelry because they are nice and they both love gold. Gold makes everything look nice and expensive.



"When I'm here, I know what I'm doing, I feel focused. When I'm elsewhere, even school, sometimes I feel confused. But when I'm with Banteay Srei - I feel happy and clear."
- Jenny, youth participant

Dreams for the future...

We would like Banteay Srei to grow and have a presence in Oakland schools and in the local and national community, so everyone knows we are a resource for SEA young women and girls.



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