

intercultural outreach program (icop)



The Korea Society engages Americans and Koreans in a multifaceted effort to promote understanding and tolerance by building bridges of interaction across lines of race, culture and ethnicity.

Project Bridge 2003-04

2003-04 List of Participants

New York City Students

Johanna M. Anchundia
Norman Thomas High School

Christine M. Curella
High School of Fashion Industries

Ammon Ford
Long Island City High School

Samuel K. Darguin
Hillcrest High School

Kelly Maby
Richmond Hill High School

Gurwinder Singh
Flushing High School

Alfred Siu Bun Tang
Forest Hills High School

Daniela M. Vasquez
Bronx High School of Science

Los Angeles Students

Anna Hoang
Gabrielino High School

Eddy Lam
Gabrielino High School

Stephanie Martinez
Gabrielino HS

Miles Prince
Gabrielino High School

Helen Shi
Gabrielino HS

Sophia Sou
Gabrielino High School

Alejandra Gillette-Teran
Downtown Magnets High School

Michael Trinh
Gabrielino High School

Raymong Truong
Gabrielino High School

Julie Tu
Gabrielino High School

New York Group Leaders

Matthew Gologor
English as a Second Language Teacher
John Bowne High School

Sara Yaffee
Assistant Principal
Bard High School Early College

Los Angeles Group Leaders

Lecia Brooks
Principal Consultant
Diversity Matters

Lisa Sueki
Owner
Professional Development Group

Program Coordinators

Rebecca Brabant
program associate
The Korea Society

Jungho Kwak
consultant
The Korea Society

Project Bridge, an intercultural youth leadership program centered on a study tour to Korea, is the major activity of the ICOP project.

The project's objective is to foster understanding between Americans of diverse ethnic backgrounds through a yearlong program of intercultural educational activities. Nearly 200 high school students, from six major urban areas in the U.S., and accompanying teachers or other group leaders have participated in the Project Bridge program since its inception in 1993.

During the 2003-2004 academic year, eighteen high school students—eight from the New York City area and ten from the Los Angeles area—were selected to participate in the program. Four group leaders, two from each of the locations, and two program coordinators accompanied them.

Project Bridge activities in Los Angeles are funded and organized by the Pacific Century Institute, Inc. (PCI), which is The Korea Society's counterpart organization for this program in Los Angeles.

The program included a series of workshops held on a monthly or semimonthly basis throughout the school year in both locations.



2003 Activities

The Korea Society arranged the following activities in New York. The Pacific Century Institute arranged similar activities in Los Angeles.

November 21 • Workshop 1: Welcome and Orientation

The first workshop for Project Bridge 2003-04 in New York provided an opportunity for the students, group leaders and program coordinators to get to know one another and begin to develop an awareness and appreciation for the diverse array of cultural and ethnic traditions represented in the group. The workshop also included an overview of the schedule of the program and expected outcomes.

December 12 • Workshop 2: Sa-I-Gu, Part 1

The Los Angeles Incident of April 29, 1992, known in Korean as Sa-I-Gu, was the pivotal event that led to the establishment of the Project Bridge program. The Workshop began with a screening of Sa-I-Gu, a 1993 documentary film by the Korean-American filmmaker Dai Sil Kim-Gibson. During the discussion after the screening, the group explored the underlying causes of the Incident and its continuing relevance to the objectives of the Project Bridge program. Background reading on the state of inter-ethnic relations in Los Angeles since 1992 was assigned for a follow up workshop.

December 19 • Workshop 3: A Korean Opera Singer in New York

Suh Byung-Sul, a New York-based opera singer, spoke about the challenges he encountered as a recent Korean immigrant to the United States in pursuing his career. His presentation offered interesting insights into some of the cultural differences between Korea and the United States. Suh also sang selected excerpts from his repertoire for the group and discussed his views on opera.





2004 Activities

January 16 • Workshop 4: Sa-I-Gu, Part 2

David Ryu, a specialist on inter-ethnic relations from Los Angeles, led a discussion of the lingering aftermath of Sa-I-Gu with a focus on the underlying issues of race, discrimination and prejudice. Ryu skillfully engaged the group in a series of role-playing exercises designed to highlight the situations that give rise to inter-ethnic conflict and to suggest effective strategies for its peaceful resolution. Ryu also spoke about his work to foster better inter-ethnic relations in Los Angeles under the auspices of the 4.29 (Sa-I-Gu) Center, a project of the Korean American Coalition that was launched with the support of The Korea Society and the Martin Luther King Legacy Association.

January 23-25 • Workshop 5: Weekend Retreat

The group spent a weekend together at Camp Bernie, a YMCA facility in Northwestern New Jersey. The program included a combination of community-building exercises, including both indoor and outdoor sports activities, a series of guided discussions on topics related to Korea, the screening of a Korean film, and a 3-hour intensive introduction to Korean language.

February 6 • Workshop 6: Student History Presentations

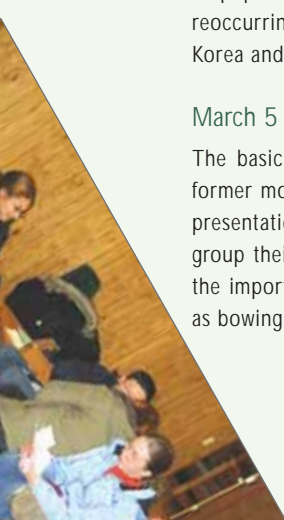
Each student participant gave a 15-minute oral presentation based on an independent research project. The presentations covered a diverse array of topics including the division of Korea, traditional Korean music, the history of the Korean government, Korean immigration to the United States, the modernization of Korea, religions in contemporary Korea, the Comfort Women issue, and the Korean educational system.

February 27 • Workshop 7: Korean Youth Today

This workshop introduced the group to some of the day-to-day preoccupations of their peers in Korea with a specific focus on the topics of education and pop culture in Korea. HanNa Kim, a former Project Bridge coordinator, drew on her experience as an instructor at an alternative high school in Seoul to explain how its program of study differed from the course of study offered at an average Korean high school. June Mee Kim, who is a doctoral candidate in Asian American studies at Harvard University, gave a brief introduction to popular culture in South Korea. She stressed the importance of understanding why reoccurring themes exist and why there may be similarities between popular culture in Korea and popular culture in the United States.

March 5 • Workshop 8: Buddhism in Korea

The basic tenets of Korean Buddhism and its liturgical practices were explained by a former monk of Haein Temple, one of the premiere Buddhist monasteries in Korea. The presentation got underway with the screening of a film on Haein Temple, which gave the group their first systematic exposure to images of rural Korea. The monk also explained the importance attached in the Korean Buddhist tradition to disciplinary practices such as bowing and meditation.



March 19 • Workshop 9: Preparation for the Study Tour

The program coordinators reviewed the itinerary of the study tour, explained its ground rules and offered practical tips on logistical issues. The session ended with a refresher drill on common Korean phrases.

March 27 • Information Session for Parents

The logistics of the study tour, its expected outcomes, and pertinent contact information was shared with the parents of the student participants. Frederick F. Carriere, executive director and vice president of The Korea Society, spoke to the parents about his experiences in Korea and answered their questions about Korea and the logistics of the trip.



Highlights of the 2003-2004 Project Bridge Study Tour *April 2-13, 2004*

Friday, April 2

Arrive in Seoul
Tour of World Trade Center
Orientation at the Fulbright office
Dinner with Fulbright scholars

Saturday, April 3

Tour of Seoul
Performance at Seoul Arts Center
Dinner hosted by The Korea Foundation

Sunday, April 4

Arrive in Suwon
Tour Folk Village
Visit Hoam Art Museum

Monday, April 5

Arrive in Kyongju
Tour of Kyongju

Tuesday, April 6

Tour of Kyongju (con.)
Arrive in Ulsan

Tour of Hyundai Motor Company
Tour of Hyundai Heavy Industries

Wednesday, April 7

Arrive in Pohang
Tour of POSCO
Arrive in Hapchon
Vespers at Haein Temple

Thursday, April 8

Matins at Haein Temple
Visit Haein Temple
Return to Seoul

Friday, April 9

Workshop at The Institute of Royal Cuisine
Tour the Secret Garden
Visit Banpo High School
Home stay with Banpo HS students

Saturday, April 10

Tour Korean War Museum
Visit the DMZ

Tour of Insa-dong District

Sunday, April 11

Presentation on Christianity in Korea
Easter Sunday service at Songbuk Central Presbyterian Church
Dance workshop with In Young Sohn
Visit Traditional Music Institute
Dinner with TKS Spring Fellows

Monday, April 12

Tour of Itaewon District
Briefing by AMCHAM-K
Visit Korean Stock Dealers Association
Visit Cherry Blossom Festival on Yoido

Tuesday, April 13

Debriefing session
Depart for the U.S.



April 30 • Workshop 10: Study Tour Debriefing Session

Two weeks after the study tour, the group reconvened at The Korea Society to reflect on their shared experiences and to prepare for their community presentation. They discussed their most memorable experiences in Korea, explained the insights they had gained about themselves, and outlined their goals for the future. The workshop ended with an evaluation session.

June 18 • Workshop 11: Community Presentation

The community presentation was the final component of the 2003-2004 Project Bridge program. It brought to an end the group's eight-month commitment to the program. Friends, family, classmates and teachers were invited to participate in the community presentation. Each student chose one aspect of the study tour and spoke about what they had taught them. The group took questions from the audience. The workshop came to an end with a closing ceremony in which the group leaders presented each student with a certificate of completion from The Korea Society as well as an award that reflected a unique aspect of the students' personal makeup.





Project Bridge Group Photo

Other Activities

UNESCO International Youth Camp (IYC) Collaboration

Two young professionals were recruited for participation in the 38th International Youth Camp (IYC), a thematically focused series of camp workshops that are organized each year by the Korean National Commission for UNESCO, for young people from many countries around the world. Over one hundred students from 20 or more countries are selected to participate in the IYC program each year. The program this year was held over a fifteen-day period from August 3-16.

Sand: Voices from LA Ten Years Later

USA, 2003, 60mins, Video, Color, English, Spanish and Korean w/E.S. USA, 2003, 59mins, Video, Color, English, Spanish and Korean (with English subtitles); Director/Producer/Writer: Dai Sil Kim-Gibson; Cinematographer: Charles Burnett; Editors: Charles Burnett & Richard Kim; Sound: Jon Oh; Music: Stephen James Taylor.

The Korea Society provided logistical and financial support for the production of a provocative documentary film on the 1992 LA Incident by Korean American filmmaker Dai Sil Kim-Gibson. In her film, which commemorates the 10th anniversary of the Incident, Kim-Gibson returns to LA to explore its aftermath through the stories of its victims and witnesses from multi-ethnic communities. The film presents lives forever transformed, and lays bare the deeply rooted flaws of American society that Kim-Gibson argues are an ultimate cause of the Incident she initially documented in a powerful and stark film titled SA-I-GU. The World Premiere of *Wet Sand* was held on March 10-11, 2003 in San Francisco, CA at the 21st SF International Asian American Film Festival. The film also was screened on September 23, 2003 in Los Angeles in conjunction with the Asian American International Film Festival and the Pan African Film Festival. The New York Premiere was held on July 22, 2004 during the Asian CineVision International Film Festival.