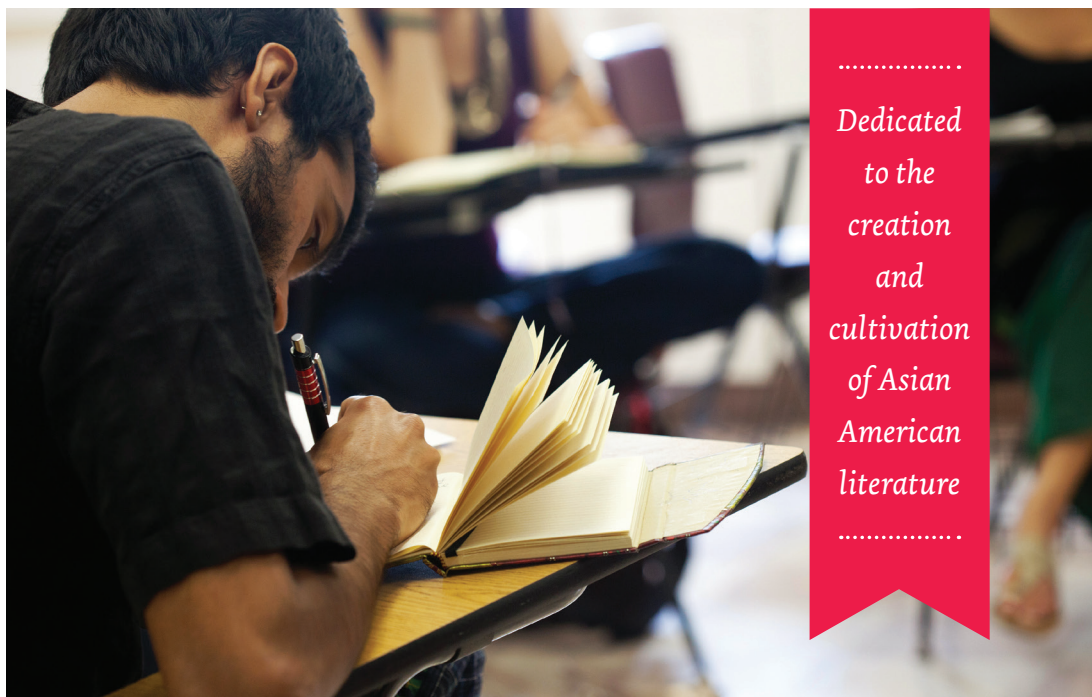




KUNDIMAN



.....
*Dedicated
to the
creation
and
cultivation
of Asian
American
literature*
.....



Kundiman creates an affirming and rigorous space where Asian American writers can explore, through art, the unique challenges that face the new and ever changing diaspora. We see the arts as a tool of empowerment, of education and liberation, of addressing proactively what legacy we will leave for our future generations as individuals and as a community.



PROGRAMS



Workshop Retreat at Fordham University

In order to help mentor the next generation of Asian American writers, Kundiman sponsors an annual Workshop Retreat where nationally renowned Asian American writers conduct workshops with fellows. Readings, writing circles and informal social gatherings are also scheduled.



The Kundiman Poetry Prize

The Kundiman Poetry Prize is dedicated to publishing exceptional work by Asian American poets. Winner receives \$1,000 and book publication.



Kavad

A community-based storytelling program comprised of interviews, public readings, online media, and new creative writing by Asian American writers. Kavad not only employs ethnological modes of preserving Asian American history but also helps to re-create and re-invigorate our communities through creative work and community dialogue. Through Kavad, Kundiman brings forward the writer as witness, historian, and social activist.



Reading Series

Kundiman's national reading series has featured over a hundred Asian American writers (many of whom have just published their first books).

What does Kundiman mean?

Kundiman is the classic form of Filipino love song—or so it seemed to colonialist forces in the Philippines. In fact, in Kundiman, the singer who expresses undying love for a beloved is actually singing for love of country. As an organization dedicated to providing a nurturing space for Asian American writers, we find in this name inspiration to create and support artistic expression.



IMPACT

Asian Americans are the fastest growing minority population in the United States. However, Asian Americans are severely underrepresented in the arts, with less than 1% of all published works by writers of Asian American descent.

Kundiman ensures that the vital contributions of Asian American writers are fostered and heard by the public. Fellows report first-time publication in national literary journals, finalist distinction in literary awards and a greater sense of confidence in their pursuit of literary excellence.

Kundiman fellows have published work in *Best American Poetry*, *Ploughshares*, *Denver Quarterly*, *The Virginia Quarterly Review*, *Fence*, *The Colorado Review*, *Pleiades*, *McSweeney's Internet Tendency*, *The Beloit Poetry Journal*, *Women Studies Quarterly*, *Crab Orchard Review*, *The Best of the Net*, *The Cortland Review*, *Third Coast*, *Spoon River Poetry Review*, *Nimrod International Journal*, *The Drunken Boat*, *MiPOesias*, *Poetry Southeast* and *Sou'wester*. They are attending MFA and doctoral programs at The Iowa Writers' Workshop, Brown University, New York University, Stanford University, The University of Houston, The University of California, Riverside and The University of California, Berkeley.

Fellow Publications since 2004: 36 Books 30 Chapbooks

Selection of Presses: Stanford University Press, Alice James Books, University of Pittsburgh Press, Kaya Press, Four Way Books, Tinfish Press, Red Hen Press, University of Southern Illinois, Prairie Schooner, Futurepoem.

Support the next generation of Asian American writers

Kundiman offers a comprehensive spectrum of arts programming dedicated to Asian American writers and the Asian American community. Together we are re-mapping the American literary landscape, building community, and making history. To support Kundiman, go to **kundiman.org/support**.



TESTIMONIALS

“ What I saw at the Kundiman retreat was an image of what a true community of Asian American writers might look like. Remarkably enough, there was nothing predetermined, dogmatic, or doctrinaire about what being Asian American meant in this setting—in part because of the diversity of the participants, who came to the retreat from a wide range of ethnic, geographic, and educational backgrounds. Instead, the Asian American was present as a kind of confidence behind everything, a sense of being able to present one’s best self and riskiest work without fear.

– Timothy Yu

“ My first workshop at Kundiman was without a doubt, the best poetry workshop I have ever had in my life. I left the classroom that day feeling like I had just come out of the most marvelous tornado- windblown, so alive, and in awe.

– Doreen Wang

 **KUNDIMAN**

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Photography by Rachel Eliza Griffiths
Brochure design by Monica Ong

“ As Kundiman seeks funding to develop and grow, I affirm it is an organization that deserves your support. As applications to the retreat have increased by two-fold each year, it is clear that Kundiman fills a crucial gap in services to the Asian American community and that the excellence of its programming is reaching the diverse and ever-growing Asian American population.

– Arthur Sze

“ I experienced a profound shift in my creative process, due in part to the intensity of the workshop, but even more significantly because of the nourishing spirit that characterized the faculty and fellows I met at Kundiman. Everything I’ve written since the retreat: lyric, elegy, translation, prose poem, has in some way been a love song to these soulful, meticulous readers. They approached my poetry with such generosity and insight, I can’t help but write my poems for them. I no longer feel like a solitary voice speaking into the void, hoping vaguely that someone might deem me interesting, or worthy, or in possession of some unique spark. Thanks to Kundiman, I now have a community that will genuinely receive my poems—and even better, I have their poems as well: their love songs to me.

– Mia Malhotra