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**Korean American Foundation Partners with Korean American Institute
to Launch a Comprehensive Survey of Korean Americans**

Los Angeles, CA [March 25, 2025] – Korean American Foundation (KAF) is proud to announce its partnership with the Korean American Institute (KAI) to undertake the “Korean American Community Research Project,” a first-of-its-kind comprehensive survey designed to understand the current state of Korean Americans.

The year 2028 will mark the 125th anniversary of Korean immigration to the United States, and a record number of over two million Americans of Korean ancestry living here today. Yet, despite being the fifth-largest Asian American group, Korean Americans remain underrepresented in the policymaking process, public discourse, and in other influential arenas. The KAF-KAI project seeks to address these inequities by generating insightful information about our community to decision makers for their action.

Led by KAI and a team of accomplished scholars and leaders, this groundbreaking research will take place in phases over the next two years. As data is collected and analyzed, the research team will present its findings periodically to update the Korean American community and interested stakeholders.

“For decades, Korean Americans have contributed immensely to American history, economy, and culture, but the lack of comprehensive data about us has hindered more effective integration,” said **Mark Keam, President of KAI**. “Our partnership with KAF will create important research that will help our community explain our needs and aspirations to decision makers so that Korean Americans can be fully recognized and supported in the years ahead.”

KAF has committed substantial financial support to KAI and to facilitate this crucial research, ensuring that accurate data informs policies and programs that impact Korean

Americans. With the generous support of an anonymous donor, KAF will provide a phased distribution of over \$1.5 million in funding to KAI, with \$60,000 specifically allocated to this research project. To date, \$540,000 has been distributed, with another \$500,000 to be provided in March 2025.

“Our mission is rooted in improving the lives of the most vulnerable and marginalized members of our community, and this partnership with KAI reflects our commitment to creating lasting impact,” said **John Lim, Chair of the KAF Board of Directors**. “As we work toward building a \$100 million endowment by 2030, innovative projects like this ensure that our efforts are informed, effective, and responsive to the needs of our diverse community.”

To celebrate this collaboration, KAF will present this year’s \$500,000 grant to KAI at a press conference at **2:00 PM on March 25, 2025, at EK Art Gallery (1125 Crenshaw Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90019)**. Media representatives are invited to attend by RSVPing by March 21 to info@koreanamericanfoundation.org.

About the Korean American Community Research Project

The Korean American Community Research Project seeks to address the evolving challenges and opportunities within the Korean American community. The study will focus on key areas, including:

- **Identity Formation & Civic Engagement:** Understanding how Korean Americans navigate their social and political integration in American society.
- **Health & Well-being:** Assessing disparities in physical and mental healthcare access, with an emphasis on aging populations and youth mental health.
- **Economic & Social Mobility:** Evaluating poverty levels, educational and professional advancement, and transnational movement between Korea and the United States.

Led by KAI and an expert team of academic researchers from institutions such as U.C. Riverside, University at Albany, Princeton University, and Baylor University, this research will culminate in a set of widely disseminated publications that will inform policy makers, community leaders, and the general public.

About Korean American Foundation (KAF)

Founded in 2018, Korean American Foundation (KAF) is the first community foundation dedicated to raising and stewarding charitable funds for the Korean American community in Southern California. Guided by a mission to inspire a culture of giving and empower future generations, KAF supports local nonprofits with proven impact through grants. Since 2020, KAF has distributed over \$1.75 million in grants to over 30 organizations.

For more information about KAF or to learn how you can support its mission, please visit: www.KoreanAmericanFoundation.org

About Korean American Institute (KAI)

The Korean American Institute is a nonprofit organization that produces insightful and actionable research to improve decision-making on issues facing Korean Americans. Established in 2022, KAI aims to promote a democracy where Korean Americans matter.

Support the Korean American Community Research Project. Learn more at: www.ka.institute

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