

Diverse books to be delivered to two Twin Cities schools through The Very Asian Foundation, partners

Two Saint Paul schools will receive a total of more than 70 books by AANHPI authors that share stories about AANHPI experiences.

When: Tuesday, Mar. 7 at 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.

Where:

Jie Ming Mandarin Immersion Academy (10:30 a.m.)

Address: 1845 Sheridan Ave.

Saint Paul, MN 55116

Phalen Lake Hmong Studies (1:30 p.m.)

Address: 1089 Cypress Street

Saint Paul, MN 55106

The Very Asian Foundation (VAF) in partnership with We Need Diverse Books are proud to deliver more than 70 books to two Twin Cities schools through The May Book Project. The project aims to help schools and libraries build and maintain robust Asian American youth literature collections for all readers, and provides funding to donate books to at-need libraries.

The project is inspired by St. Louis high school students who asked their schools for more Asian American literature during Asian Pacific American Heritage Month last year and were largely ignored. The May Book Project is a vetted, high-quality, and free resource to help libraries support readers.

Former Twin Cities journalist Gia Vang and St. Louis-based journalist Michelle Li, both co-founders of The Very Asian Foundation, will be on hand to deliver the books with the organization's executive director Soogi Hong.

"Students told us it would greatly impact their mental health to be seen in the places where it matters most. We are proud to help young people see themselves and learn about others while giving libraries free resources to choose what works for them," Li said. "We want to solve problems as journalists, women, moms, and aunties, and be a part of meaningful change for a kinder future," she said.

"I have 15 nieces and nephews and I am also now a great aunt and I realize that libraries are an important gathering space for schools," Vang said. "I want my family to grow up knowing that they can not only see their stories reflected in these books, but begin to imagine a brighter future because of it," Vang said.

The Very Asian Foundation turned a racist voicemail sent to journalist Michelle Li on New Year's Day in 2022, into a movement to shine a light on Asian experiences through advocacy and celebration. To learn more about the foundation, visit [its website](#). To learn more about the May Book Project, [visit this page](#).

Media Contact:

Soogi Hong, The Very Asian Foundation Executive Director

soogi@veryasianfoundation.org