

International House NY

Yuxi (Jocelyn) Liu

Bridging Divides Through Peace Education and Art Integration

Wuhan, China

1. Background

COVID-19 two years on. 5.54 million lives lost. 328 million people have been infected across the world as of Jan 16, 2022 (Data source: WHO report). As the United Nations chief said: "This pandemic is the gravest disaster for humanity since World War II". Yes, the Covid-19 is one of the most dangerous challenges the world had faced in our lifetime. The coronavirus was first detected in the city of Wuhan, Hubei, China, in December 2019. Wuhan was then infamous the world over as it referred to as the "virus origins". "China Virus", "Wuhan Virus" has been proliferated on news sites and in political commentaries, which led to a tremendous increase in acts and displays of prejudice, xenophobia, discrimination, stigmatization, and violence against people of Wuhan, and broadly to a tsunami of Asian hate crimes and racism around the world.

I was born in a city close to Wuhan, and I witnessed firsthand stories from my relatives living in Wuhan about their sufferings, frustrations, and sorrows. One day, I was on a phone call with my nephew, a 5-year-old boy who came back from a summer boot camp. He told me he had a physical fight with his classmates, and I wondered what happened. He uttered that his classmates called him "Wuhan Bastard", and "People from Wuhan are not welcome here". I was shocked. While the whole world is trying to combat the pandemic's upheaval, the struggles and challenges of children's social life and emotional wellbeing have been disregarded. How did the pandemic affect the children? Where did the kids learn those words? How will kids be shaped by the coronavirus crisis? These questions drew my attention. As the world continues to experience the turmoil and unrest of the pandemic, I realized that now more than ever we need to teach and learn peacebuilding and conflict resolution. My project is to initiate a peace education project for children in the city of Wuhan, China, the original outbreak of the pandemic.

Mahatma Gandhi once said, "If we are to teach real peace in this world, we shall have to begin with the children." I believe that early years of peace education is critically important because it lays the foundation of how children view the world. Art is a miracle remedy for peace as it can be a great tool to heal, inspire and influence people and bring people together through its capacity to tell a community's shared story and form connections that transcend differences.

2. Description of the project

This proposed Davis Project for peace, in partnership with Yu Miao School located in Wuhan, China, aims to provide peace education with art integration to children in the city of Wuhan, and empower them with the conflict resolution skills and peaceful values that will lead them to a constructive process of peacebuilding in their own communities, and to a sustainable society of resilience, empathy, and positive transformation in these unprecedented times.

Yu Miao School is a pioneer elementary school in China integrating “Positive Education” into the classroom, which is very different from the traditional “Force-feeding Duck Style” teaching method which only focuses on the students’ grades. Yu Miao means “carefully planting and nurturing young sprouts” in Chinese. This Davis Project for Peace has been approved by the school principal and will be conducted on one of its campuses. A program coordinator for this project from the school has been assigned. The program will lead by Yuxi Liu, a graduate from Columbia University who majored in Negotiation and Conflict Resolution with extensive experience in the field, and a teaching certificate in China. Four volunteer educators from the Association of Conflict Resolution agreed to help design the program and contents. 15 teachers from Yu Miao School will be trained. The program is estimated to serve 200 participants aged from 5 to 12 years old.

The project will be implemented from June 27 to Aug 19th, 2022 (8 weeks) with two 4-week components: *Peace Education* (June 27 to July 22, 2022) and *Art Integration* (July 25 to Aug 19, 2022). The first is conflict resolution instruction and training delivered through workshops, speaker series, documentaries, and book discussions. Themes covered: “Conflict Resolution”, “Social-Emotional Competency”, “Non-Violence Communication”, “Peer Mediation”, “Bullying Prevention”, “Prejudice Reduction”, “Reconciliation” and “Character and Values”. The second component of the project will be art integration through a variety of forms, such as *writing, poetry, drawing, painting, singing, acting, storytelling, and filmmaking*. Through creativity, imagination, and fun learning activities, students will learn values like cooperation, respect, fairness, kindness, honesty, and ethics that build character.

3. Proposed Activities

Phase 1: Preparation (May 23 to June 24, 2022)

- Design curriculums, select and purchase books and other teaching materials.
- Reach out to volunteers and educators via virtual meetings and topic discussions.
- Design educational brochures, worksheets, questions, handouts, and toolkits.

Phase 2: Implementation (June 27 to Aug 19, 2022)

- Weekly educational workshops, and art activities and performances.
- Project showcase at the end of the project and a completion ceremony.

Phase 3: Evaluation (Aug 22 to Aug 31, 2022)

- Qualitative analysis throughout data collection, survey, focus group, and interviews.
- Quantitative analysis throughout participants numbers, satisfaction rate, etc.

4. Sustainability and Impact

This project is the first of its kind of peace education in China to increase conflict resolution awareness among young children in this unprecedented time. We hope at the end of the project, peace will become a possibility that transcends mere promises. The project will keep running going forward with the team members in the pilot group, and the peacebuilding curricula will become an integral part of peace education in the future classroom. Future sustainable ideas: build a mini library to share books in the peacebuilding and conflict resolution field; open an art gallery to exhibit students’ peace artworks on the school bulletin board.

Projects for Peace Budget Template

Name: Yuxi "Jocelyn" Liu
Project Name: Bridging Divides Through Peace Education and Art Integration
School: International House New York

TOTAL FUNDS REMAINING:
0

Total Additional Funding:				
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TOTAL EXPENDITURES:
10000

Student Expenses					Project Expenses				
Travel (Including Airfare)	Lodging	Communications	Food (Biweekly)	Miscellaneous	Non-Student Travel and Lodging	Direct Equipment and Supplies	Marketing and Event Support	Staffing Costs	Miscellaneous
\$3,500	\$1,200	\$200	\$500	\$200	\$0	\$1,500	\$1,000	\$1,500	\$400
Total	Total	Total	Total	Total	Total	Total	Total	Total	Total
3500	1200	200	500	200	0	1500	1000	1500	400

Total Student Expenses:
5600

Total Project Expenses:
4400

This form should be used to prepare your final budget and submitted with your project's final report.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Chinatown Manpower Project (CMP)

New York, NY
Aug 2020 - Present

Business Counselor

- Supported over 600 businesses through counseling, technical assistance, and business education workshops; assisted over 200 businesses received Covid-19 relief loans and grant applicants; Secured \$2.6 million of small business recovery relief aid
- Conducted Covid-19 small business impact survey analysis and report, in partnership with Rotary Club of New York, and suggested a strategic action plan to the state senators, city councils, philanthropic sectors, and community advocates
- Provided one-on-one counseling, and referred clients to partnering resources for legal services, finance, government assistance, etc

Insomnyak

New York, NY
Aug 2019 - May 2020

Co-founder

- Spearheaded business development focused on supporting revenue generation, resulting in 200% YoY growth
- Implemented strategies to target decision-makers of various small businesses and delivered client-tailored pitches
- Negotiated 5+ partnerships and helped our clients' businesses grow by developing and delivering the best product solutions, 70% of which resulted in strong continued client-partner relationships

Association of Conflict Resolution – Greater New York Chapter

New York, NY
Jan - June 2019

M&A Capstone project

- Conducted qualitative research in post-merger synergy in change management process and performance evaluation metrics; and designed development and execution of the post-merger integration plan and action resolution
- Identified and evaluated potential sources of risk in future M&A transactions and develop remediation strategies to mitigate and manage those potential risks; managed development and execution of the post-merger integration plan and issue/action resolution
- Presented the research project work at ACR-GNY annual conference to 300+ audiences

Huae Capital Management

China/United States
2014 - 2017

Investor Relations and Business Development Manager – Private Equity

- Fundraised and marketed a \$150 million late-stage TMT private equity fund financed by commercial banks, trusts, FOFs and high-net-worth individual investors
- Proactively contacted 100+ investment targets through industry analysis, professional interviews, industry conferences, financial analyst referrals; tracked prospective investor pipeline from initial screening to investment stage
- Managed deal team in the due diligence process for 18 projects, functioning as a primary liaison for third-party partners, coordinated various workstreams with internal management, investment bankers, financial institutions, and legal and compliance
- Performed valuations and built financial models to forecast sales, cost composition, net income, and IRR of the investment deals under various scenarios

China Life Insurance Company HQ

Beijing, China
2010 - 2013

Senior Associate Headquarters – Customer Service

- Developed and formulated customer experience strategies that align with corporate, brand, and financial objectives by conducting needs assessments, performance reviews, capacity planning, and cost/benefit analysis in 36 nationwide branches
- Led a cross-functional team to provide training to 2,000+ call center representatives to optimize the customer-facing service processes and improved customer satisfaction rate from 96% to 98%
- Designed a newsletter highlighting best practices among 600,000 agents and honored as the industry benchmark case, collected feedbacks to help drive insights, and defined the communicate customer service standards
- Planned and implemented 25 valued-added events for 200+ VIP customers; collaborated with external partners to deliver 2011, 2012, and 2013 annual “Customer Experience Day”; negotiated 30+ vendor contractors to ensure maximum cost savings

EDUCATION

Columbia University

New York, NY

M.S. in Negotiation and Conflict Resolution

The University of Hong Kong

Hong Kong, HK

Postgraduate in finance and portfolio management

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Key Skills: Project management, partnership building, problem-solving, negotiation and conflict resolution

Language and Computer: English (Proficient), Mandarin (Native); proficient in MS office and Video call software

Awards: Top 3 winner of talent TV show “New Women Challenge”, China Dragon TV 2010; Youth Entrepreneurship Social Welfare Award 2011; International House Resident Fund Awards 2018, 2019

Interests: Dance music, standup comedy, pool, design, health and wellness, hiking, international traveling

Jan 16, 2022
International House NY
155 Claremont Av
New York, NY, 10027

To Davis Project for Peace Selection Committee,

My name is Fuping Yan, the principal at Yu Miao School. I'm writing this letter to support Yuxi's application for the Davis Project for Peace in summer 2022.

Our Yu Miao group was founded in 2006, with 8 campuses in Hubei province with more than 7,500 students from Pre-K to high school education. We're a pioneer in Chinese schools integrating "Positive Education" into our classrooms. We rooted in the conviction that students' mental health and well-being are more important than the students' grades, and "peace education" is needed more than ever now when the world is still experiencing an unprecedented pandemic.

After speaking with Yuxi about the idea of Davis Projects for Peace, I was very impressed by Yuxi's strategic thinking and thorough plans in implementing this peace project in our school. The creative idea of integrating arts and social-emotional skills for students is what we appreciated. We hope this project will provide our students with opportunities to explore new perspectives, make healthy relationships, and develop critical skills to navigate a changing world.

We welcome you to pilot this project at our school. We'll willing to provide the classroom, teaching equipment, teaching facilities, or funding as needed.

I believe Yuxi's educational background and expertise in the conflict resolution field, her bilingual skills in English and Mandarin, her capability to utilize the resources, and her willingness to serve our community will make this project very successful.

I'm very looking forward to working with you on this project!

Good luck with Yuxi's application.

Sincerely,

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