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Local Creatives, Facilitators to Launch First AANHPI Artist Collective in Kansas City

Kansas City, MO – September 24, 2025 – Third Pine Collective (TPC), Kansas City's first-of-its-kind **AANHPI labor-sharing artist collective**, announces its official launch on September 24, 2025. Spearheaded by Kansas City-based artist, curator, and independent art writer **Xiao Faria daCunha**, KCAI alum and multi-media artist **Chaneryna Thach**, and local creative enthusiasts **Alicia, Tomomi**, and **Emi Suenaga**, Third Pine Collective aims to elevate AANHPI visual artists and small businesses in different career stages by significantly expanding their reach, capacity, and potential through labor-sharing between members.

"It is still very challenging for AANHPI artists, especially working-class and self-taught artists, to navigate through the *art scene* where Asian folks remain under-represented and disconnected. By coming together as a collective, we can amplify our voices and gain more visibility without draining our capacity. At Third Pine, we want to make sure members have this connective space to collaborate, brainstorm, imagine, experiment, and communicate, so we can all grow together," said Tomomi Suenaga Summers, Chief Strategy Officer of Third Pine Collective.

Formerly Third Pine Gallery, the project transformed from a floating gallery concept created by the Suenaga Family in early 2025, which debuted during the "Art of Being AANHPI" festival at Zhou B Art Center in Kansas City on May 31, 2025. Almost four months later, the concept re-emerges as a platform to amplify AANHPI creative voices in Kansas City and beyond via a mutual aid and resource-sharing structure.

"I was part of the Third Pine booth back in May, and I immediately felt this concept could have so much potential if it ran as a collective instead of another gallery/curatorial concept. I've always enjoyed my experience being involved in labor-sharing collectives in Chicago. Most artists you encounter are going to be working-class artists, many of whom, without formal training on how to approach galleries, apply for art fairs, etc. And we all have our hands full with jobs, family duties, or just life in general. The labor-sharing structure frees everyone from having to do everything themselves. Instead, you have this massive team where each member only handles a small piece in the larger process. Nobody is burned out, and we all benefit from our collective efforts," said Xiao Faria daCunha, Executive Director of Third Pine Collective.

Third Pine Collective is actively seeking community, business, gallery, and organizational partners to collaborate with on programming and core initiatives. The collective is also seeking funding from private and public sources to ensure quality services to its members and the public it engages with.

“We are not a non-profit at this point. Instead, it’s just a bunch of like-minded people coming together, helping each other. We aim to make AANHPI voices heard not only in the art world, but in civic engagement, community development, space-building, policymaking, using our art and creativity as the vessel,” said Chaneryna Thach, Director of Member Relations and Program Support at Third Pine Collective.

ABOUT THIRD PINE COLLECTIVE

Third Pine Collective is Kansas City’s one and only AANHPI labor-sharing artist collective, aiming to amplify Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander voices in the arts and through art. The collective’s core programming includes member exhibitions, cultural sessions, AANHPI book clubs, film screenings, and seasonal vendor fairs.