

# Tapestries: Interwoven voices of local and global identities

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## Sprouting SEAD: Exploring Youth Southeast Asian Leadership Towards Abolitionist Futures

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### Keywords:

Southeast Asian, youth, organizing, queer, activism, abolition

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# Sprouting SEAD: Exploring Youth Southeast Asian Leadership Towards Abolitionist Futures

*Haley Le-Vien*

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## *Abstract*

After a whirlwind summer with the Southeast Asian Diaspora Project, I reflect on my experiences there as a young Southeast Asian woman who is in youth work. Through analyzing the potential of queer activism, the history of Asian activism, the Stop AAPI Hate movement, and Asian solidarity with other BIPOC specifically right after the murder of George Floyd, I aim to provide suggestions for how Southeast Asian youth organizing could look like in the future to maintain an abolitionist vision and a strong dedication to the community. I emphasize the importance of grounding future activism outside of identity, the potential of horizontal leadership, and why youth must be the leaders of these future movements. I also provide examples of current Southeast Asian or BIPOC and queer organizations like PrYSM and Freedom Inc that are youth led that are good signs for the future. This is only the beginning of a much longer conversation and I intend to take my findings from this paper to apply to my own curriculum building for youth leadership programming.

## **Keywords:**

Southeast Asian, youth, organizing, queer, activism, abolition

## **Biography**

Haley is a proud daughter of Vietnamese immigrants who made Oakland, California their home. She is a first-generation college student who is a senior American Studies major at Macalester College. Haley is an aspiring educator who currently works with the Saint Paul Youth Commission and doesn't see her time in youth work coming to an end any time soon.

### *Further Reading*

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