



## VALUES STATEMENT

**VAALA is a non-profit organization dedicated to Vietnamese arts and letters. We are committed to advocacy for the arts through an inclusive approach, honoring the wisdom of our ancestors and elders, while challenging racism, misogyny, homophobia, and elitism. We support freedom of expression through storytelling and strive for equitable access to arts programs. As a community that has experienced the traumas of war and refugee migration, we take a multigenerational approach in prioritizing self care, healing, and compassion. We foster partnerships with individuals, organizations, and companies that support our focus on community building, nurturing artists, and providing education for all.**

**Community - We believe in creating an inclusive and progressive community that nurtures safe spaces, representation, and belonging. We recognize that the arts can be a powerful platform for promoting creativity, connectedness and enhancing our lives.**

**Cross-Cultural Enrichment - We respect the diversity and complexity of our community at large. We believe in sharing our culture as well as welcoming other cultures through our programs as a bridge for increasing mutual understanding.**

**Communication - We believe in creating a trusting environment that fosters communication and upholds honesty and transparency within and outside the organization. Through open dialogue grounded in mutual respect, we can build a more sustainable future.**

**Collaboration & Partnership - We believe in creating a space for collaboration, both inside and outside the organization, in order to foster an environment of camaraderie and team-building. Through developing and maintaining strong partnerships, VAALA provides connections within and outside the Vietnamese American community. These strategic partnerships invite multiple perspectives, strengthen our programs, and broaden our reach. To uplift artists with whom we collaborate, we believe in treating them with respect and compensating them for what they are worth as we value artists and artistic career pathways.**