

MEMORANDUM



TO: MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS
FROM: DANIELLE MAHONEY, ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER
SUBJECT: YOUNG SOUTHEAST ASIAN LEADERS INITIATIVE
PROFESSIONAL FELLOWS PROGRAM (PFP)
DATE: APRIL 25, 2024

Mayor and Council –

We are excited to participate in the YSEALI program. Sodavy of Cambodia arrives in Novi this Saturday and staying with us for four (4) weeks.

- Victor

The Young Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative (YSEALI) Professional Fellows Program (PFP) is sponsored by the U.S. State Department and Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA). The YSEALI PFP brings emerging leaders to the United States for intensive fellowships designed to broaden their professional expertise. The YSEALI PFP affords promising young professionals the opportunity to have first-hand experiences in and exposure to United States offices working on various issues related to economic empowerment, governance, and society, civic engagement, sustainable development, and the environment. The International City/County Management Association (ICMA) partners with American Councils to implement the program; there is no cost to host a YSEALI Fellow. US placement hosts are also eligible to apply for a US Department of State funded Reciprocal Exchange where they can travel to their YSEALI Fellow's home country and support the design and implementation of a local project.

For the first time, the City of Novi is serving as a host city for a YSEALI Fellow. We are thrilled to share that beginning Monday, April 29, Sodavy Nhong of Cambodia will be with us for a four-week fellowship. Sodavy is a researcher at the Cambodia Development Resources Institute, where she is engaged in pioneering research focused on achieving zero carbon for Cambodia. She holds a Development Studies degree specializing in Natural Resources Management and Development. With a professional interest in environmental economics, she balances her theoretical knowledge with hands-on experience, actively participating in community initiatives and volunteer work. Sodavy is driven by a passion for interdisciplinary collaboration, which is evident in her efforts to establish a knowledge hub that bridges the gap between research and policy. Eager to refine skills and broaden her expertise, she views the YSEALI Professional Fellows Program as a transformative opportunity to contribute globally and become a catalyst for local change.

We are excited to host Sodavy and provide her with a fulfilling fellowship experience, including getting a head start on FY 24-25 Council goals in the areas of innovation, environmental sustainability, and social equity. She will also be fully immersed in the day-to-day activities of the City Manager's Office, so you can expect to see her at upcoming Council meetings and community events.

If you have any questions or would like to set up a time to meet with Sodavy, please reach out to Assistant City Manager Danielle Mahoney.