**Grantee Name:** Borim Song  
**Title of Project:** Exploring Artistic Innovations and Traditions through Service Learning: Bridging North Carolina Visual Arts and Korean Cultural Heritage  
**City, State:** Greenville, NC  
**Grant Period:** Sept 2013 - Feb 2014  
**NAEF Grant Amount:** $1,500.00 (McMullan)  
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**Related Webpage:** www.ecu.edu/news/arteducation.cfm

**Project Description:**  
We conducted a three-month service learning pilot project in which pre-service art teachers instruct Korean-American students in grades K-5 at a Korean Language School about the cultural connections between North Carolina’s rich artistic tradition and Korea’s cultural heritage. Highlighting four innovative artists, two from the Black Mountain College arts movement in mid-20th century U.S. and two from 18/19th-century Korean art history, both the college students and elementary students explored the real meaning of cross-cultural and community-based art education—learning from one another’s cultures to enrich their own cultural understanding and to empower their sense of community. East Carolina University (ECU) Students, Laura Frye, Brittany Brisson, Lisa Snead, and Michelle Oldani participated in this project.

**Project Goals and Objectives:**  
1. To provide the pre-service art teachers with an opportunity to understand the meaning of cultural diversity and to create a personal connection between other cultures and their own everyday life experiences; 2. To encourage the pre-service art teachers to go beyond stereotypical community service learning and to build a healthy attitude toward collaborative community building.

**Description of Activities Supported by this Grant**

1. **Classroom teaching:** Seven classes about Black Mountain College of NC and Korean traditional art were offered at the NC Greenville Korean Language School.
2. **Lesson preparation and reflection sessions:** The four ECU students met to get prepared for teaching and to reflect on their classes.
3. **The NC Greenville Korean Language School student exhibitions:** Three student art exhibitions were offered at: 1. ECU Joyner Library; 2. ECU School of Art and Design; and 3. NC Greenville Korean Language School.
4. **Guest speaker’s lecture:** Two lectures by Dr. Brian Butler, Chair of the Black Mountain College Museum + Arts Center, were presented at ECU and the Korean Language School.

![](image1.jpg)  
My Tiger (influenced by Korean traditional tiger paintings): Rachel  
![](image2.jpg)  
My Tiger (influenced by Korean traditional tiger paintings): Michelle
Results: Lessons Learned or Findings of Research

1) The Expansion of Knowledge about Multicultural and Cross-Cultural Art Education

We found the importance of creating a personal connection between multicultural topics and the students’ everyday life experiences. The participating pre-service art teachers appreciated an opportunity to deepen their knowledge about cross-cultural art education and to expand their experiences with teaching with cultural diversity. They learned a lot by connecting North Carolina’s rich artistic tradition, Black Mountain College movements, and Korean traditional paintings by artists such as Kim, Hong-Do and Kim, Chong-Hui.

2) The Exploration of Culture-Based Art Education in Community Settings and through Service Learning

The community setting of NC Greenville Korean Language School gave the pre-service art teachers an exceptional opportunity to truly understand and practice cross-cultural art education through service learning through visual art. Artworks by three students at the Korean language school created through this project were later selected for national-level and state-level exhibitions. The students also were able to fully understand that community empowerment through visual arts can lead to mutual understanding among different groups of people, and in this way, people of diverse backgrounds can move forward together to a better future.

Grantee Biography:

Borim Song is Associate Professor of Art Education at the School of Art and Design of East Carolina University, Greenville, NC. She holds her Ed.D. and Ed.M. from Teachers College, Columbia University in New York City. Her scholarly interests include community-based art education, digital art instruction, contemporary art in K-12 curriculum, and cross-cultural and intercultural movements.

About the National Art Education Foundation

NAEF supports visual art educators and promotes the teaching of art through professional development, research, and program sponsorship. As an independent, philanthropic organization, NAEF assists with efforts to represent the teachers of art in America, improve the conditions of teaching art; promote the teaching of art; encourage research and experimentation in art education; sponsor institutes, conferences, and programs on art education; and to publish articles, reports, and surveys about art. The Foundation has supported 277 projects since its inception in 1985. NAEF funding supports a wide variety of professional activities, including research in art education, scholarships for professional development, promotion of art education as an integral part of the curriculum; establishment and/or improvement of art instruction in public and private K-16 schools; promotion of the teaching of art through activities related to the instructional process, curriculum, student learning, student assessment, classroom behavior, management, or discipline; purchase of art equipment and/or instructional resources. Donations in support of NÆF, a 501(c)3 tax exempt organization, are tax deductible and greatly appreciated.