

## **Event Title: Writing Ourselves into Existence: Taiwanese American Voices**

### **Event Description:**

Taiwan is the twentieth-largest economy in the world and a modern democracy, but it is blocked from membership in the United Nations and World Health Organization and can't even compete in the Olympics under its own name. China thwarts Taiwan's sovereignty not just through diplomacy but through language, by censoring perceived dissent and controlling the narrative. Taiwanese American writers can tell their stories from a safe distance; their words are urgent and necessary to counteract this erasure.

### **Event Category: Nonfiction Reading**

### **Event Organizer and Moderator: Grace Loh Prasad**

### **Event Participants and Short Biographies:**

#### **Moderator:**

- **Grace Loh Prasad** received her MFA in creative writing from Mills College and is an alumna of VONA and Tin House. Her writing has appeared in *The New York Times*, *Longreads*, *Catapult*, *KHÔRA*, and elsewhere. She is currently seeking a home for her memoir-in-essays, *The Translator's Daughter*.

#### **Participants:**

- **Yi Shun Lai** is the author of two books, and a columnist at *The Writer* magazine. Her work appears in *Brevity* and *Electric Lit* of late and she teaches in the MFA program at Bay Path University. She is a diversity, equity, inclusion, and access educator for CanIPlayThat.com.
- **Grace Hwang Lynch** is a journalist and essayist whose work has been published by Tin House, *Catapult*, and NPR. The anthologies *Lavanderia: A Mixed Load of Women*, *Wash and Word* and *Mamas and Papas: On the Sublime and Heartbreaking Art of Parenting* have included her work. She is writing a memoir.
- **Lisa Chiu** is a writer whose work has appeared in *McSweeney's Internet Tendency*, *People* magazine, and anthologies including *Cheers to Muses*:

*Contemporary Works by Asian American Women and Who's Your Mama?: The Unsung Voices of Women and Mothers.* She is currently working on a memoir, *Hungry Ghost*.

**Event Structure:**

The Moderator will introduce the event and how it came together, then she will introduce each reader one by one. Each reader will read for 6-8 minutes. Following the readings, the panelists will engage in a brief craft discussion.

Questions we will address:

- How does Taiwanese identity show up in your writing?
- How do you approach using Taiwanese or other languages in your work?
- How much do you try to explain Taiwanese culture versus leaving things unsaid?
- What's it been like pitching pieces about Taiwaneseeness? What problems or pushback do you face and how do you handle that?