

# Lily Yeh



Artist and  
Social Activist

For over nearly 20 years, **Lily Yeh** served as the co-founder, executive director, and lead artist of The Village of Arts and Humanities, a non-profit organization in North Philadelphia with the mission to build community through art, learning, land transformation and economic development. Under her leadership at The Village, a summer park building project developed into an organization with 20 full-time and part-time employees, hundreds of volunteers, and a \$1.3 million budget. The Village worked on local, national, and international projects, and was a leading model of community revitalizations throughout the country. Yeh developed a unique methodology for using the arts as a tool for community building and personal transformation during her tenure at the Village.

Lily Yeh's book *Awakening Creativity* is the story of her inspiring metamorphosis of a run-down factory on the outskirts of Beijing into a vibrant school for children of migrant workers. With over 275 photos and candid narrative, *Awakening Creativity* details the five-year process of Yeh's work building the Dandelion School in engaging hundreds of students, teachers, and volunteers in painting, mosaic, and sculpture projects.

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