

**ENGAGE  
ASIA**

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# ANNUAL REPORT



**2018-19**

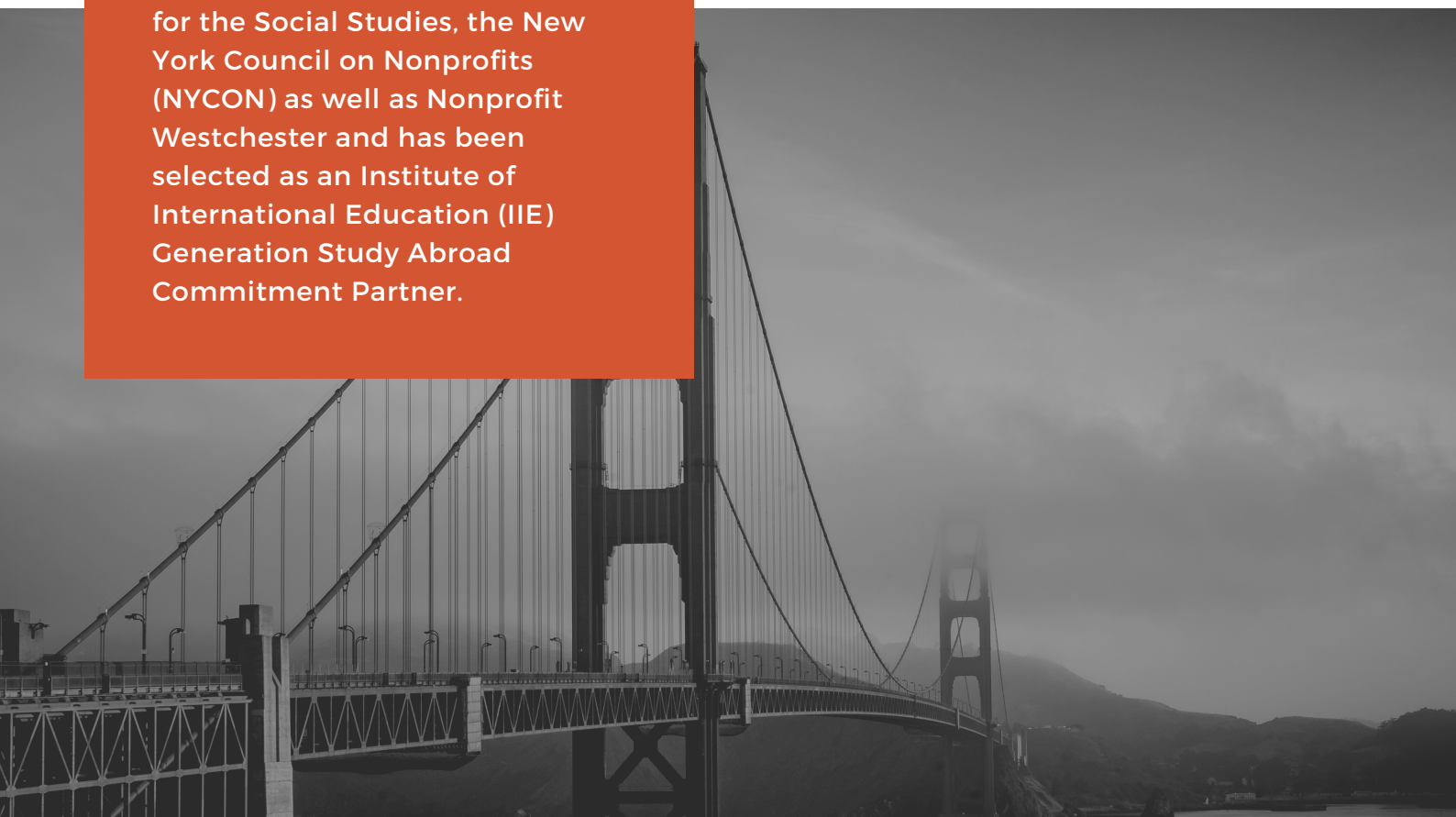
[WWW.ENGAGEASIA.ORG](http://WWW.ENGAGEASIA.ORG)

# ABOUT US

EngageAsia is a not-for-profit corporation with a mission of engaging teachers in innovative programs that build cross-cultural understanding and foster community throughout the Pacific Rim. As an educational incubator, we seek to spark new ways to teach and learn, and also engage in activities designed to promote dialogue on these topics.

Directed by top experts in US-Asia relations, EngageAsia is headquartered in the United States with 501(c)(3) tax exempt status from the IRS governed by an independent Board of Trustees. EngageAsia is a member of the National Council for the Social Studies, the New York Council on Nonprofits (NYCON) as well as Nonprofit Westchester and has been selected as an Institute of International Education (IIE) Generation Study Abroad Commitment Partner.

EngageAsia's programs  
aim to transform  
teachers to ultimately  
impact students,  
schools, and  
communities.



# OUR APPROACH

EngageAsia provides educators with transformational experiences that aim to build empathy and impact students, schools, and communities. In the spirit of anthropologist Clifford Geertz, EngageAsia's programs prioritize learning about how people actually live their lives in other cultures over the study of abstract theories of globalization.

Our educational philosophy is rooted in experiential education and critical thinking. The organization's programs utilize project based learning, design thinking, and service-learning approaches in order to provide educators with hands on experiences allowing them to learn about other cultures and societies first-hand.

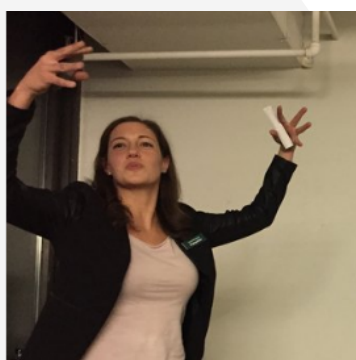


Fieldwork as part of 2018 Taiwan program





Ms. Aimee Ferguson



Ms. Tania Riccoboni

In 2018, EngageAsia launched its first teacher professional development program that curated a rich program in Taiwan for two teachers from the Hudson Valley in NY and a cohort of teachers in Taiwan.

**“ I FEEL SO LUCKY TO HAVE BEEN PART OF THIS EXPERIENCE. I AM EAGER TO CONTINUE CELEBRATING MY TRIP AND CARRYING OUT ENGAGEASIA’S VISION AND MISSION. ”**

For the 2018 program, we selected two US teachers to travel to Taiwan: Ms. Aimee Ferguson (Jefferson Elementary School) and Ms. Tania Riccoboni (North Rockland Middle School). Ms. Ferguson's research theme was medicine and wellness in Taiwan while Ms. Riccoboni's research theme was art and photography in Taiwan.

# 2018 PROGRAM





Ms. Zheng and Ms. Lee with Ms. Ferguson in NYC

In 2019 EngageAsia held its second in-person teacher professional development program that curated a special program for two Taiwanese teachers (who had been engaged in our first program) in Harlem and Washington Heights, NYC. Hosts included teachers involved in our first program who had traveled to Taiwan.

**“ ENGAGEASIA’S PROGRAM GUIDED ME TO REVIEW MY OLD IMPRESSIONS, TO EXAMINE MY PRECONCEPTIONS, AND FINALLY TO RECONSTRUCT MY OWN IMAGE OF NEW YORK CITY. ”**

The 2019 program involved two Taiwanese teachers: Yu-Chung Zheng and Yi-Tzu Lee.

# 2019 PROGRAM



Event poster

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In 2019, EngageAsia began the Film+Makers Series in partnership with The Aligned Center in Irvington, NY, to engage audiences in discussions about Asia with filmmakers and creatives

The inaugural film in the series (August, 2019) was Paper Lanterns, a film about Shigeaki Mori and his quest for reconciliation after Hiroshima. Filmmakers Barry Frechette and Peter Grilli spoke at the event and engaged with the audience in a powerful discussion.

# FILM+MAKER SERIES

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# OUR IMPACT



Ms. Riccoboni conducts an interview with an interpreter for her fieldwork

“ WITH HANDS-ON EXPERIENCE, THE STRANGE AND UNFAMILIAR CULTURE CAME CLOSE, ALIVE, AND FRIENDLY...THIS IS EXACTLY WHAT A GOOD LEARNER MUST BE EQUIPPED WITH-- ADJUSTING MINDSETS, COURAGEOUSLY FACING UNCERTAINTY, AND MAINTAINING FLEXIBILITY. IN THIS WAY, I CAN RENEW MYSELF AND REKINDLE LEARNING ENERGY. I BELIEVE WHEN I AM A GOOD LEARNER, I CAN BE A GOOD TEACHER.

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