



## LEADERSHIP PROFILE

### The Korea Society

### President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO)

---

*The Korea Society is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization with individual and corporate members that is dedicated to the promotion of greater awareness and understanding between the people of the United States and the Republic of Korea.*

---

# A Unique Opportunity

**The Korea Society (TKS) is an independent U.S. nonprofit** that promotes awareness, understanding, and cooperation between the people of the United States and Korea. In pursuit of its mission, the Society creates events, exchanges, briefings, and research on topics of vital interest to both countries.

**This is a time of promise and challenge for The Korea Society.** Korea's global prominence in policy, business, education, and arts and culture is experiencing geometric growth, fueling interest in all things Korea. The U.S.-Korea Alliance has never mattered more. At the same time, both countries are navigating political disruptions, economic uncertainties, and sweeping societal changes.

**The Korea Society is a go-to resource** on issues relevant to the U.S. and Korea, spanning policy, business, education, the arts, security, and intercultural relations. Based in New York City, TKS educates, inspires, and communicates about the U.S.-Korea relationship, serving audiences across the country directly and through outreach and strategic alliances in the U.S. and Korea. The Society raises its \$5 million operating budget through contributions by individual and corporate members, corporate partners, foundations, program fees, and endowment income.

**President and CEO Thomas J. Byrne** will conclude a decade of distinguished leadership at the end of 2025, and the new CEO will start on January 1, 2026. The Korea Society is fortunate to have an engaged, influential [Board of Directors](#), led by Ambassador (ret.) Kathleen Stephens. Board members are current and former leaders in business, the military, academia, government and public affairs. The Advisory Council is comprised of leading public figures in Korea and the U.S.



---

The Korea Society is a go-to resource on issues relevant to the U.S. and Korea, spanning policy, business, education, the arts, security, and intercultural relations.





The CEO will be a dynamic, big-picture leader with superior cross-cultural competency and geo-political savvy, leadership and management experience in policy, business, and the U.S.-Korea relationship.

## The Mandate

**The new President and CEO will be a leader of strategic vision, depth, and influence.** The CEO will foster growth in The Korea Society's financial resources and its profile at the epicenter of the U.S.-Korea relationship. The CEO will inspire growing audience participation and diversification, partnerships and programs within and beyond NYC and Washington, DC.

The CEO will be a dynamic, big-picture leader with superior cross-cultural competency and geo-political savvy, leadership and management experience in policy, business, and the U.S.-Korea relationship. The CEO will enthusiastically embrace the Society's mission and potential for greater influence, value, and impact; and will advance its role as the go-to source for insights, insider perspectives, access, and community.

The President and CEO will:

**Envision and lead TKS into a thriving next era.** The CEO will be an inspiring, strategic, and collaborative leader of the organization, with passion for the Society's mission and potential. In partnership with an outstanding Board and staff, the CEO will:

- Provide visionary, strategic leadership that increases the Society's value, role, and impact at the epicenter of the U.S.-Korea Alliance.
- Inspire and engage the staff, Board, donors, and stakeholders.
- Lead an inclusive, bold strategic planning process that guides the Society into its next exciting chapter.
- Harness the power of the Board to advance external opportunities, and empower staff to manage the organization.
- Be a thought leader on strategy, growth, and the strength of the U.S.-Korea Alliance.
- Provide exemplary leadership internally and externally.

**Build public profile and presence.** The CEO will be a visible, frontline external representative able to access powerful leaders in the U.S. and Korea. The CEO will:

- Be a charismatic, compelling, persuasive face of the Society.
- Advance the organization's relationship-building, communications, storytelling, media, and social media capabilities.
- Deploy marketing, branding, and audience development strategies.
- Foster external partnerships that augment TKS's work and impact.
- Expand in-person, virtual, quantitative and qualitative audiences for TKS offerings, events, and messages in NYC, DC, and beyond.

**Grow resources and membership.** The CEO will increase and diversify funding and members. The CEO will:

- Broaden, deepen, and diversify funding relationships, leveraging current and new connections in the U.S. and Korean communities.
- Cultivate corporate, foundation, and major donor relationships, support, and revenue-generating partnerships.
- Grow both philanthropic and earned revenue opportunities.
- Build corporate and individual membership, enhancing the value proposition, offerings, and benefits.

**Be a collaborative manager and culture-builder.** The CEO will have business and financial acumen, management, and culture-building skills and will:

- Run the business effectively and creatively.
- Build on TKS's positive culture of excellence, agility, and collaboration.



The CEO will be a visible, frontline external representative able to access powerful leaders in the U.S. and Korea.






---

The Korea Society traces its roots to 1957.

- Be a “people person” -- a listener, communicator, and relationship builder.
- Be a source of ideas, support, and solutions.
- Advance internal communications, teamwork, and synergies.
- Foster organizational processes and infrastructure that optimize effectiveness and collaboration.

**Position TKS for long-term success.** The CEO will lead TKS into a financially vibrant future with dynamic, growing constituencies and funding. Together with staff and the board, the CEO will:

- Inspire innovation and entrepreneurial initiatives.
- Amplify value and significance as a go-to source of insider information, connections, access, insights, and community.
- Innovate in new areas, such as research, programs, and expansion of its national and regional footprint.
- Increase next-generation participants, donors, and advocates.
- Enhance data analysis, knowledge management, and use of technology.
- Position TKS for deeper impact as “one TKS” by building the culture, financial base and supportive infrastructure.

## The Organization

The Korea Society traces its roots to 1957. A group of prominent Americans, led by General James A. Van Fleet, who commanded the U.S. armed forces in the final phase of the Korean War, established the first U.S. nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting friendly relations between the people of the U.S. and Korea "through mutual understanding and appreciation of their respective cultures, aims, ideals, arts, sciences, and industries."



The New York-based U.S.-Korea Society and the DC-based U.S.-Korea Foundation merged in June 1993, to form The Korea Society as it exists today.

**TKS has grown in size and scope in recent years.** It has a staff of 19 and a budget of \$5 million, with programs generating thousands of impressions and hundreds of in-person participants. The Society advances vibrant U.S.-Korea ties and engagement through initiatives and programs that include policy, business, education, and arts and culture:

- **Policy:** The Society organizes programs that address important strategic issues around the U.S.-Korea Alliance, such as denuclearization diplomacy, Korea's regional relations, and North Korea's challenges.
- **Business & Economics:** Programs advance awareness, understanding, and focus on U.S.-Korea business and build connections among leaders in government, business, finance and other fields with prominence in the U.S.-Korea relationship. Economic, trade, and technology policies are key topics.
- **Education:** The Society offers events and resources to support Korean Studies educators, plus a Korean Language Program that provides eight levels of Korean study. The Society's longest-running program, [Project Bridge](#), is an academic year enrichment program for select high school youth ambassadors.
- **Arts & Culture:** Programs include exhibitions, performances, and lectures on traditional and contemporary Korean culture, such as literature, K-pop, films, and cuisine.
- **Special Events:** The Korea Society's development team hosts special events, including an annual gala dinner that raises significant funds, a golf tournament, Global Financial Leaders Forum, membership events, the Start Up Program, and Young Professionals' Night.



The Society advances vibrant U.S.-Korea ties and engagement through initiatives and programs that include policy, business, education, and arts and culture.





The Korea Society's development team hosts special events, including an annual gala dinner that raises significant funds, a golf tournament, Global Financial Leaders Forum, membership events, the Start Up Program, and Young Professionals' Night.

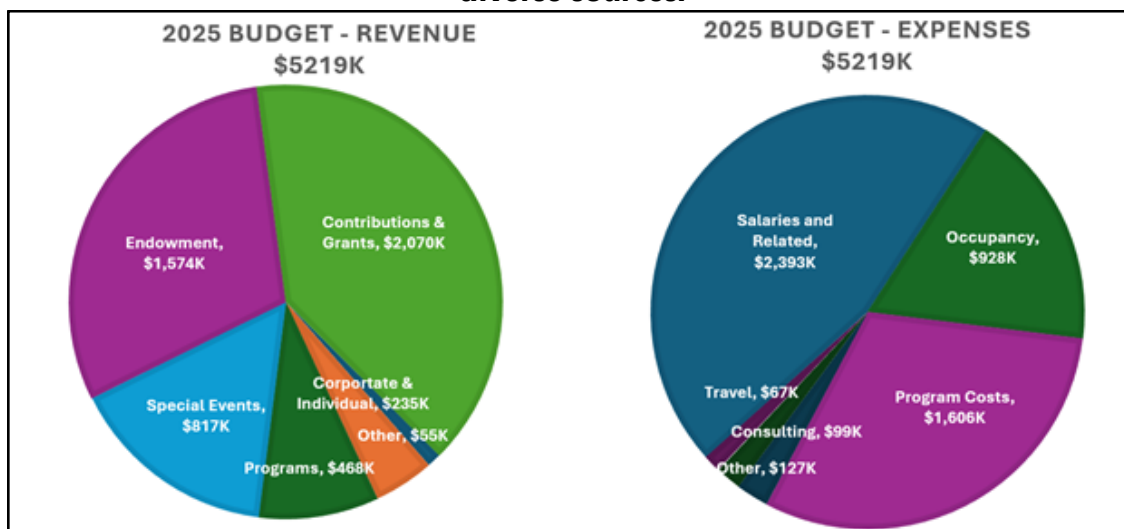
A new program series, Women's Leadership in the U.S.-Korea Relationship, is designed to elevate the impact of Korean and Korean-American female leaders in the U.S. and abroad.

### The Korea Society's 2022-2026 strategic plan addresses six areas:

- 1. Policy:** Strengthening diplomatic and security relationships.
- 2. Education:** Advancing Korean cultural and language studies.
- 3. Arts & Culture:** Supporting arts and artists.
- 4. Business & Economics:** Building national audiences and bringing greater awareness of and focus on business relationships between the U.S. and Korea.
- 5. Fundraising:** Revenue growth and diversification; sustainability and endowment performance.
- 6. Organizational capacity:** Staff retention, membership growth, media coverage, building an Advisory Board, and overall organizational effectiveness.

The new President and CEO will develop the strategic plan for 2026-2031.

### During 2025, The Korea Society is projected to raise over \$5.2 million from diverse sources:



# The Candidate

TKS seeks a President & CEO who is experienced and respected in U.S. and Korean contexts. The board is open to candidates with diverse skill sets including relevant corporate, nonprofit, government, military, or academic backgrounds. In addition to these assets and passion for the mission and work of TKS, the ideal candidate will bring a background that includes:

## Professional Experience

- Leadership experience, vision, and strategic acumen
- Organizational and change management
- Fundraising
- Business and budgeting acumen
- Culture-building
- External representation including traditional and social media, public speaking, and presentation skills in the U.S. and internationally
- Marketing, awareness building, and audience engagement
- Demonstrated success in diverse cultural settings, including U.S. and Korean contexts

## Personal Assets

- Personal enthusiasm for the mission and growth potential of TKS
- Gravitas and a dynamic, inspiring personality
- An innovative, entrepreneurial approach to ideas and solutions
- High emotional intelligence, listening, and relationship-building skills
- Communication, storytelling, and persuasion skills
- Self-confidence and humility



---

TKS seeks a President & CEO who is experienced and respected in U.S. and Korean contexts.





The ideal candidate will have a collaborative, inclusive, welcoming demeanor that values and centers people.

- A collaborative, inclusive, welcoming demeanor that values and centers people
- Ability to build consensus, and to make and sustain tough calls
- Passion for teambuilding, mentoring, and lifting up others
- Competency with technology

## The Relationships

**The President and CEO manages a staff of 19 across multiple parts of a complex, fast-paced organization. The CEO:**

<b>Reports to</b>	the Board of Directors
<b>Manages</b>	<p>the Board and Staff Liaison and the leaders of departments, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Program Directors leading Policy, Business &amp; Economics, Education, and Arts &amp; Culture</li> <li>• Development</li> <li>• Finance, Administration, and IT</li> <li>• Communications</li> <li>• Creative</li> </ul>
<b>Collaborates closely with</b>	<p>stakeholders in the U.S. and Korea, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Peer organization leaders and partners</li> <li>• Corporate and individual members</li> <li>• Donors and prospective donors of all types</li> </ul>



---

The President and CEO is expected to live in the New York metropolitan area and work daily in the Society's mid-Manhattan office.

## The Location

The Korea Society is based in midtown New York City. The President and CEO is expected to live in the New York metropolitan area and work daily in the Society's mid-Manhattan office.

The CEO will travel to Korea, and to TKS program locations and meetings with funders across the U.S.

## The Compensation

A competitive compensation package of salary and full benefits will be offered to attract an outstanding candidate. Anticipated base compensation is between \$285,000-\$325,000, with a potential annual performance bonus.

---

**For potential consideration** or to suggest a prospect, please email:

**[KoreaSociety@BoardWalkConsulting.com](mailto:KoreaSociety@BoardWalkConsulting.com)**

or call Kathy Bremer or Patti Kish at  
404-262-7392

---