



THE GALLERY

Yearly report 2025



The Gallery's DNA

The reality

Hundreds of talented professionals move to Seoul each year as expat spouses. Many arrive with impressive credentials and ambitious career goals. Too many come to feel professionally diminished, disconnected, and unsure of their next steps.

Our response

The Gallery brings expat spouses together to explore leadership through talks with inspiring leaders and practical workshops. We organize high-quality professional lectures where career transitions are legitimized and global experience is reframed as a strength. We show that expat partners do not have to choose between supporting their family's international journey and maintaining their own professional identity. Both are possible.

How we work

- Monthly events with distinguished leaders, entrepreneurs, and changemakers
- Small-scale format that builds trust and encourages honest dialogue
- Professional quality that matches corporate leadership programs
- Community-driven, volunteer-led, open to all nationalities and experience levels



2025 IN NUMBERS

20 different events

547 people attended through the year

Brings us to more than 1.200 people since our beginning

More than 30 nationalities represented



Executive summary

In 2025, The Gallery strengthened its position as a trusted professional network within Seoul's international community, staying true to our volunteer-led, community-driven DNA while creating high-quality spaces for reflection, learning, and connection.

The Gallery's unique contribution lies in how we frame leadership and professional growth. Rather than promoting linear career progression, we legitimize transition, pause, and reinvention particularly relevant for expat partners navigating visa restrictions, career gaps, and professional reinvention. Through carefully selected speakers and facilitated conversations, participants gained language, confidence, and perspective to apply their global experience as a professional strength.

Throughout 2025, The Gallery deepened its role as connector across communities. Collaborations with embassies, chambers, and organizations strengthened our visibility and reinforced our position as a neutral, trusted platform for dialogue. These partnerships remain informal by design, preserving agility while building credibility.

Overall, 2025 demonstrated that The Gallery delivers measurable value through consistency, trust, and relevance to a community that continues to grow.

IMPACT GOALS

The Gallery mission is:

The Gallery offers a space to empower expat partners in Seoul through professional development and meaningful connections. Our supportive community helps those navigating a career abroad to stay inspired and engaged.

We aim to do this through these 5 impact goals

Through our work we support the UN Sustainable Development Goals by creating a space where learning, leadership and community thrive across cultures and gender.

- 1 Build career clarity
- 2 Develop confidence
- 3 Inspire with purpose
- 4 Create connections
- 5 Expand global perspective

Our Impact – Building Career Clarity

Building career clarity

The goal: Help people navigate non-linear career paths and identify their next professional steps

What we did:

- Christina Ahn (executive recruiter at Korn Ferry) showed how AI can democratize career development tools
- Professor Betty Chung opened doors to Korea University's educational opportunities
- Featured speakers who are themselves former expat partners, Penelope Kim, Nicola Weir, Christina Ahn, serving as living proof that career disruption can lead to reinvention

What participants said:

"Super relevant, interesting and inspiring. A great combination of a fascinating topic, a speaker who has been in our shoes, and lessons we can instantly apply."

"I felt like being 'seen' in my role as expat spouse/partner."

"A community for exploration and learning."

Our Impact – Developing Confidence & Creating Connections



Building Confidence

The goal: Give participants the inspiration, skills, and self-assurance to pursue new opportunities

What we did:

- Elspeth Stewart explored empowerment through leadership
- Kumjoo Huh emphasised mentorship as a leadership tool
- Lewis Phillips taught strategic thinking as a practical tool
- Nicola Weir introduced ESG frameworks relevant across sectors

What participants said: *"It is keeping us relevant. A preparation for when we go back to work or how to start your own thing here."*

"At Gallery events I never feel I participate because I am a spouse with free time, but because these are good events where I learn and have something to give. I feel valuable."

Creating Connections

The goal: Build a professional network that travels with people across postings

The impact: 547 participants created new professional relationships in 2025. Some connections led to collaborations, including two community members who launched a professional development circle based on moral ambition, using The Gallery to recruit fellow participants for their 2026 cohort.

What participants said: *"A forum where we can share frustration and accomplishment."*

"It is the most focused forum I have found, which attracts only like minded people."

"A safe community where I feel like I can contribute and share my point of views."

Our Impact – Leadership & Global Perspective



Connecting with Inspiring Leaders

The goal: Provide access to founders, leaders, and changemakers who model values-driven leadership

What we did: Sister Gerardine Ryan (Myongdo Welfare Center founder) and Pinky Lilani (Women of the Future Awards founder) shared how they've driven social change across cultures. Nicola Weir introduced ESG as a leadership imperative. We partnered with SIWA, AWC, and BASS to host UN Women's Special Representative to Afghanistan on women's rights.

What participants said: *"It's my brainfood."*

"Being part of The Gallery, I have changed my mindset."

Expanding Global Perspective

The goal: Deepen understanding of Korean business culture and cross-cultural leadership

What we did: Every speaker brought Seoul based experience. Penelope Kim decoded Korean workplace culture and its historical roots. Sister Gerardine shared Korea's evolving perspectives on disability and inclusion. Every event opened a window into professional life in Korea.

Why it matters: Throughout surveys, participants cite "gaining deeper understanding of Korea" as a primary motivation for joining. We deliver on that promise.