

Pearl Buck's Footprint and Influence in Korea:
Centering on the "Sosa Opportunity Center 1030 Project"

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1. Preface

The "Sosa Opportunity Center 1030 Project" is an attempt to restore the footsteps of the Sosa Opportunity Center, the crown jewel of Pearl Buck's philanthropic work in Korea in the 1960s. The research project was conducted by Bucheon City and the Bucheon Pearl S. Buck Memorial Hall for three years from 2018 to 2020 and conducted a comprehensive historical restoration from various perspectives, including mixed-race individuals, local residents, and local officials.

(The number "1030" in the project name refers to the number of names of those who once lived at the Sosa Opportunity Center written on the back of the landscape painting that Pearl Buck received from the center as a gift to celebrate her 80th birthday.)

The Sosa Opportunity Center, a social welfare facility operated by the Pearl S. Buck Foundation Korea in the 1960s, provided educational opportunities and economic support to mixed-race children and their mothers in Korea. It also encouraged mixed-race children who had nowhere else to live to enter the Sosa Opportunity Center or seek overseas adoption. These programs laid the foundation for private social welfare practices for multicultural families in Korea. The Bucheon Pearl S. Buck Memorial Hall has collected and systematized historical data on the Sosa Opportunity Center through the "Sosa Opportunity Center 1030 Project." They also visualized the concrete results of Pearl Buck's good influence on Korea.

As of 2024, the Bucheon Pearl S. Buck Memorial Hall is carrying out various projects to continue the valuable legacy that Pearl Buck left us for the next 60 years. Various commemorative projects are held every year, such as the Pearl S. Buck Memorial Ceremony, the Pearl S. Buck Birth Anniversary Drawing Contest, and the Pearl S. Buck Memorial Literary Award. In addition, they continue to operate cultural diversity education programs to inherit Pearl Buck's philanthropic spirit and conduct research projects to spread Pearl Buck's legacy, such as the "Sosa Opportunity Center 1030 Project."

In conclusion, through this International Symposium, they intend to revisit her life in Korea and share objective data on her philanthropic activities in Korea. Furthermore, I would like to examine how Pearl Buck's good influence is being realized in Korea, especially in Bucheon City.

2. Foundation of the Sosa Opportunity Center

Pearl Buck visited Korea in November 1960 at the joint invitation of the Chosun Ilbo and Yeowon Magazine. We may judge that it was her first visit to Korea according to the interview with her, saying, "This is my first time visiting Korea, but I am very happy to be here." Her purpose in visiting Korea was for women, orphans, and mixed-race children in the country. Among the highlights of her visit, her lectures at Ewha Girls' High School and Sookmyung Girls' High School were prominently featured.

During the lecture, Pearl Buck reportedly spoke about the importance of women in Korea, women's rights as equal to men, adventurous women, and the need for women to achieve world peace. In addition, she visited Daegu, Busan, and Gyeongju, and we can imagine the vivid appearance of the time she visited through the article by journalist Lee Kyu-tae, who accompanied her in the meantime.¹

In 1964, Pearl Buck founded the "Welcome House" in Philadelphia, the United States, to broker the adoption of mixed-race Asian children. In 1965, she founded the Pearl S. Buck Foundation Korea in Gahoe-dong, Seoul, Korea. In 1967, she visited Korea with Harris, the then-president of the Pearl S. Buck Foundation, and presented a plan for the Sosa Opportunity Center. The programs included technical training for young people, rehabilitation for mixed-race individuals over the age of 20, and vocational training for their mothers to stabilize their livelihoods. In the celebration of Pearl Buck's 75th birthday, the Pearl S. Buck Foundation Korea held a press conference to announce the construction of the Sosa Opportunity Center on the land owned by Yuhan Corporation in Simgok-ri, Sosa-eup, Bucheon-si. The Sosa Opportunity Center was then divided into an aptitude analysis department, a private tutoring department, an art department, and a rehabilitation department and established on a land of more than 10,000 *pyeong* (33,000 m²), including medical facilities, restaurants, recreation centers, offices, and orchards. The aptitude analysis department was to assess the aptitudes of children, the private tutoring department was to tutor children with developmental delays, the art department was to provide special guidance for children with talent in performing arts, and the rehabilitation department was to provide vocational training such as dressmaking, typing, and telephone exchange operation to help mixed-race mothers and adult mixed-race individuals find jobs². From September 1967, the Sosa Opportunity Center was managed by Delbert T. Amos, but its connection to the Pearl S. Buck Foundation Korea was not clearly identified by the media at that time. In 1968, around 20 Korean employees of the Sosa Opportunity Center, including Kim Jae-hyung, staged a protest demanding improvements in its management and also sent an open letter to Pearl Buck.³ Consequently, it was reported that Pearl Buck visited Korea in October 1968 for the fifth time.⁴ In 1969, Pearl Buck visited Korea as part of her tour of seven Southeast Asian countries.⁵ In May 1969, about 30 mixed-race individuals staged a sit-in against racial discrimination.⁶ This protest escalated, leading the mixed-race individuals to demand the resignation of Harris, the then President of the Pearl S. Buck Foundation Korea.⁷ Due to these ongoing issues, the authorities in Pennsylvania refused to renew the business license of the Pearl S. Buck Foundation, and the Ministry of Health and Social Affairs in Korea also revoked the accreditation of the Korean branch.⁸ In July 1971, following a resolution by the board of directors, the Pearl S. Buck Foundation Korea closed down the Sosa Opportunity Center. In 1969, the organization already faced financial difficulties due to lack of support from the headquarters, resulting in 13 remaining mixed-race children being transferred, with 7 going to their relatives and 6 to the Holt Children's Services Korea.

The Sosa Opportunity Center operated for a short period of time and had to close due to various

¹ "Mrs. Pearl Buck Shed Tears over a Warm Welcome from Seoul" (November 1, 1960) *The Chosun Ilbo*; "Mrs. Pearl Buck Gave Her Lecture Over Korean Women at Ewha Girls' High School" (November 11, 1960) *Kyunghyang Shinmun*.

² Satirical Cartoon: The "Shelter for Mix-Race Children" in Korea. (June 3, 1967) *The Chosun Ilbo*.

³ "Twenty Employees of the Pearl S. Buck Foundation Korea Staged a Sit-In" (March 12, 1968) *The Dong-A Ilbo*.

⁴ "A March of Mix-Race Children Showed Their Unyielding Will" (May 20, 1969) *The Chosun Ilbo*.

⁵ "Mrs. Pearl Buck's Eighth Visit to Korea" (January 15, 1969) *The Chosun Ilbo*.

⁶ "Controversies Over the Color Discrimination in Korea" (May 10, 1969) *The Dong-A Ilbo*.

⁷ "A March of Mix-Race Children Showed Their Unyielding Will" (May 20, 1969) *The Chosun Ilbo*.

⁸ "The Sosa Opportunity Center's License Was Cancelled" (August 5, 1969) *The Chosun Ilbo*.

problems. Regarding the situation at that time, specific historical data has been collected through the “Sosa Opportunity Center 1030 Project.” In this article, I intend to introduce some of them.

3. Sosa Opportunity Center 1030 Project

In 2018, the Bucheon Pearl S. Buck Memorial Hall conducted a study for the comprehensive historical restoration of the Sosa Opportunity Center, and in 2019, it collected comprehensive historical data on the Sosa Opportunity Center and established an archive system. They conducted data research in three areas: first, the planning, collection, and management of historical data to restore; second, data collection by genre; and third, data collection by time and space. The research aimed to secure valuable data to restore the history of the Sosa Opportunity Center, the forerunner of the Bucheon Pearl S. Buck Memorial Hall. The research was conducted by Professor Song Do-young and his research team at the Department of Cultural Anthropology at Hanyang University for three years.

The project has three objectives: 1. Systematic preparation for the advancement of the Bucheon Pearl S. Buck Memorial Hall through joining the UNESCO Creative Cities of Literature Network); 2. Discovery of valuable content to restore the history of the Sosa Opportunity Center, the forerunner of the Bucheon Pearl S. Buck Memorial Hall; and 3. Establishing an archive framework to classify and organize collected data so that they can be continuously expanded and effectively managed. The overall direction of this research is as follows:

- Conducting comprehensive and systematic historical research of the activities and memories of the Sosa Opportunity Center and Pearl Buck that are related to Bucheon City
- Restoring historical data on the Sosa Opportunity Center, Bucheon City, and Pearl Buck related to them to create immersive historical content from a total historical and holistic perspective
- Utilizing the strengths of existing local and oral histories to establish data collection strategies for comprehensive historical restoration
- Presenting a framework for establishing and operating an archive system, including the classification work for the active utilization of collected data

The research conducted accordingly consists of a study of literature related to the Sosa Opportunity Center and Pearl Buck; a study of historical data related to mixed-race individuals of the Sosa Opportunity Center; a study of restoring the Sosa Opportunity Center; a historical study of the Pearl S. Buck Memorial Project in Bucheon City; and a mid and long-term vision and recommendations for the Pearl S. Buck Memorial Project. As a way to utilize the results, the report suggests securing and systematizing more historical data and relics of the Bucheon Pearl S. Buck Memorial Hall; establishing its local cultural identity with Bucheon’s local communities; securing its status as the center of Pearl Buck-related international projects through archive and systematic data services; and spreading its influence worldwide.

3-1. Status of Mixed-Race Individuals

The actual data of the Sosa Opportunity Center during the 1960s and 1970s was documented in the book *The Amerasians: A Study and Research on Interracial Children in Korea*, written by Sveinung J. Moen, the supervisor at that time, in 1974⁹. The activities and conditions of the Pearl S. Buck Foundation Korea during the 1980s and 1990s were summarized based on the thesis written by Han Kyung-ah¹⁰,

⁹ Sveinung J. Moen. (1974). *The Amerasians: A Study and Research on Interracial Children in Korea*. Seoul and Los Angeles: Taewon Publishing Company.

¹⁰ Han Kyung-ah. (1994). “The Interracial Problem in Korea: Focusing on Korean-American Individuals Registered with the Pearl Buck Foundation Korea” [Master’s thesis, Hyosung Women’s University, Graduate School].

who was a social worker at the Pearl S. Buck Foundation Korea at the time.

The data Moen used in his writing were the registration cards and administrative records of 2,300 mixed-race individuals registered at the Pearl S. Buck Foundation Korea between 1969 and 1973. In addition, Moen personally surveyed 100 individuals about their relationship with Koreans, their sense of belonging, their memories of their fathers, and their health conditions, using the survey data for analysis. Each registration card contains information such as the name, case number, age, gender, place of being found, date of birth, height, weight, race, status of birth registration (family register), and other personal information. According to the data Moen used, mixed-race children were most often from the Gyeonggi-do region, with 56% male and 46% female. By race, 71% were half-white, and 27% were half-black, with 64.1% living with their mothers and 15.5% living with both parents. According to a separate survey of 100 people, 70% of respondents answered that Koreans do not like them, are indifferent to them, and treat them coldly. In addition, 60% of mixed-race individuals answered that they do not feel like they belong to Korea. The support they most wanted at the time was support for living expenses, followed by housing support.

Even after the Sosa Opportunity Center was disbanded, the Pearl S. Buck Foundation Korea continued its activities as a US foreign aid foundation officially registered with the Ministry of Health and Social Affairs. During the 30 years from 1964 to 1994, the number of mixed-race individuals registered with the Pearl S. Buck Foundation Korea was approximately 4,500, of which an estimated 3,000 were adopted abroad. According to data from 1994, of the 625 registered mixed-race individuals, 61.7% were male and 38.3% female, with 407 half-white, 178 half-black, and 40 half-blood of other races. This suggests that there was a predominance of half-white people, like the time when the Sosa Opportunity Center was operated. In 1994, there were 70 preschoolers, 120 elementary school students, 60 middle school students, 40 high school students, and 2 university students. Most lived in monthly rented housing or leased houses on a deposit basis, except for 5.4% who owned their own homes. Most were employed in temporary jobs, and a quarter were unemployed.

In the 1980s and 1990s, the Pearl S. Buck Foundation Korea received commissions from the Ministry of Health and Social Affairs to provide monthly livelihood support of KRW 38,000 to mixed-race individuals, in addition to covering educational expenses, tuition fees, and school support fees. The foundation also provided scholarships to students who went on to university, and from 1983, 15 students who excelled in arts were awarded government scholarships. Since 1991, the Department of Health and Social Affairs has empathized with the need for specialized services for mixed-race individuals and provided financial assistance for the salaries of some social workers at the Pearl S. Buck Foundation. At that time, the Pearl S. Buck Foundation raised awareness in the United States about the difficult circumstances faced by mixed-race individuals, provided counseling to mixed-race individuals and their families on family, career, and other issues, and helped them access more educational opportunities and cope with basic livelihood and medical issues.

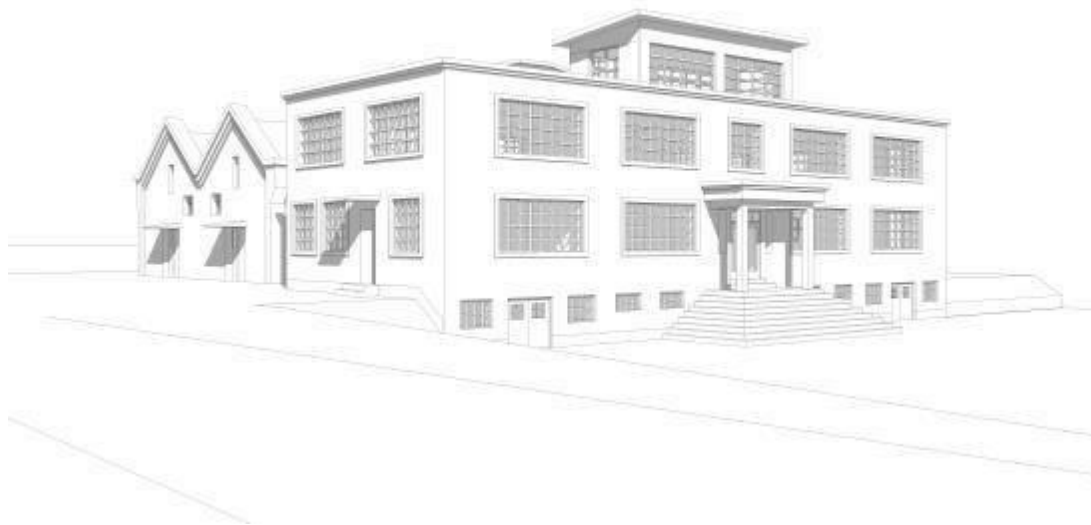
Representative activities at the time included exchanging letters and birthday gifts with foreign sponsors; motivational programs through group activities such as summer training camps and Christmas parties; bowling, picnics, and Easter parties in conjunction with the Amerasian Children's Association, a volunteer club registered with the US military, as well as promotional activities for improving awareness of mixed-race individuals; arrangement of study abroad; adoption and immigration sponsorship programs; and seminars on welfare issues for mixed-race individuals. As explained above, even after the dissolution of the Sosa Opportunity Center, the Pearl S. Buck Foundation Korea has continued to carry out various activities in cooperation with government agencies to give better treatment to mixed-race individuals and help them live in a good environment.

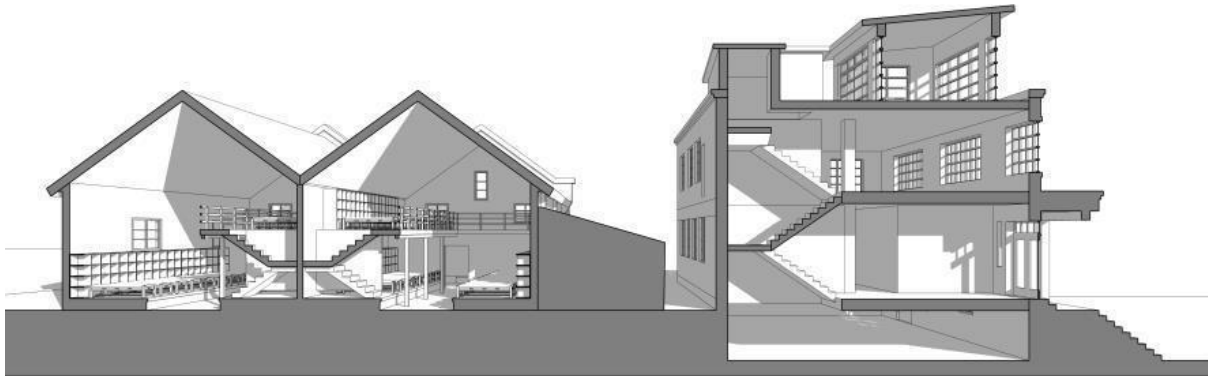
In addition to the activities of the Pearl S. Buck Foundation, it is also worth noting the activities of the Have American Papa Association (HAPA) Club, which was voluntarily organized by mixed-race individuals at the time. According to the interview, the HAPA Club is said to have developed from a gathering of a few mixed-race individuals in the late 1960s. At the time, the gathering was called the "Dandelion Club," which means "We may be discriminated and stepped on but will never yield and will rise again, like a dandelion." We may assume that it became the HAPA Club as the gathering grew around 1971. The HAPA Club had its own code of conduct, which is as follows: 1. Stand together, 2. Protect individuals and groups from discrimination, 3. Help each other to adapt to the society, and 4.

Strive to find jobs. One of the HAPA Club's main projects was immigration to the United States. The 1982 Amerasian Immigration Act opened the door for mixed-race individuals to immigrate to the United States. In order to immigrate to the US, a guarantor from the US mainland was required, and the HAPA Club looked for an organization that could be connected to the US mainland through the Eighth US Army and was able to connect with the Korean-American Wives Association (KAWA). This allowed about 690 people to immigrate to the United States between 1982 and 1994. In addition, the organization arranged study abroad at Gonzaga University through the Pearl S. Buck International (PSBI) and interacted with organizations such as the Amerasian Children Association (ACA) within the US military bases in Korea.

3-2. Restoration of the Sosa Opportunity Center

The Sosa Opportunity Center 1030 Project conducted years of research while simultaneously restoring the space of the Sosa Opportunity Center of that time. The site of the Sosa Opportunity Center is now occupied by apartments and villas, leaving no trace of its past. The only remaining legacy is the Bucheon Pearl S. Buck Memorial Hall. In 2019, the research team restored the space of the Sosa Opportunity Center through interviews, drawing production, oral history collection, and spatial structure creation based on data provided by the PSBI in the United States. The materials provided by the United States included the building layouts, images of the main building, and panoramic photos, and the research team also utilized photographic data from the National Archives of Korea and the city of Bucheon. In addition, interviews with people who once lived at the Sosa Opportunity Center allowed for a vivid reproduction of the interior. The image below is the Yellow Building, which the research team restored through the photo and interview materials.





The site of the Sosa Opportunity Center is where Korea's first pharmaceutical company, Yuhan Corporation, was founded, and it is an architecturally and historically significant space used as the Sosa Opportunity Center since 1967. It is significantly meaningful that the research could secure oral testimonies from people who remember this space while they are still alive. Based on the Bucheon Pearl S. Buck Memorial Hall's system to collect and manage artifacts, develop stories, and establish future plans, Professor Song Do-young and his research team emphasized the need to connect the ideal of enabling the mixed-race, interracial, multiethnic, and multicultural population to adapt and live in Korean society without discrimination. With this, we should organize an operating entity that allows people from diverse racial, ethnic, and cultural backgrounds to communicate and engage with local to communicate and engage with local residents. The research team also argued that it is urgent to establish stable storage, relevant facilities, and a budget for meaningful collection, management, and research of artifacts. Hence, we should foster skilled professionals with an international mindset, authenticity, and competence who will spearhead these initiatives.

4. History of the Bucheon Pearl S. Buck Memorial Hall¹¹

The concept of establishing the Bucheon Pearl S. Buck Memorial Hall was initially mentioned by Congressman Hong In-seok during the plenary session of the 3rd Bucheon City Council in 1999. The Bucheon Mayor's Office then convened a meeting of the "Bucheon Pearl S. Buck Memorial Hall Promotion Task Force," and in 2000, the office conducted a feasibility study for the construction of the Bucheon Pearl S. Buck Memorial Hall, planning to complete it by 2002. However, the proposal was rejected due to the lack of exchanges with the Pearl S. Buck Foundation in the United States and the lack of relics in the collection. In 2001, Bucheon City's project team conducted a benchmarking study in the United States, visited the Pearl S. Buck Foundation headquarters, and interviewed the Chairman. In December 2000, Mrs. Lee Hee-ho, wife of then President Kim Dae-jung, was awarded the Woman of the Year Award by Pearl S. Buck International (PSBI), and at the ceremony the following year, then Bucheon Mayor Won Hye-young attended and reported on the construction of the Bucheon Pearl S. Buck Memorial Hall. This accelerated the construction process, and they invited Mr. Richardson, President of Pearl S. Buck International (PSBI), Ms. Julie Henning, the adopted daughter of Pearl Buck, and the then head of the Pearl S. Buck Foundation Korea to inspect the construction site.

¹¹This article is based on "Current Status and Issues of the Bucheon Pearl S. Buck Memorial Hall" Bucheon Museum (2023).

On September 30, 2006, the existing old building was demolished, and the Bucheon Pearl S. Buck Memorial Hall was established. In March 2008, it was registered as a first-class specialized museum and has been operating as a museum. The museum operates various exhibitions, education and experience programs, the Pearl S. Buck Memorial Literary Award, and the Pearl S. Buck Birth Anniversary Drawing Contest to promote Pearl Buck nationwide and conduct activities for all ages to participate. In 2018, the Bucheon Pearl S. Buck Memorial Hall signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Pearl S. Buck International (PSBI), West Virginia University (WVU), and the Zhenjiang Pearl S. Buck Research Association, China, to conduct various exchanges such as academic research. The following is a summary of the history of the Bucheon Pearl S. Buck Memorial Hall to date:

Special exhibitions are being carried out on a small scale by allocating some space in the permanent exhibition hall. However, it is necessary to secure a flexible space through remodeling and improve it into a space where special exhibitions can be carried out in the future. In 2022, a VR exhibition environment was established, allowing exhibitions to be enjoyed online, and in 2023, Bucheon City Government's urban regeneration department initiated the Pearl S. Buck Cultural Street AR project, helping the organization adapt to the evolving environment.

Around 2017, when Bucheon City was designated as a UNESCO Creative City of Literature, there were changes in the business direction of the Bucheon Pearl S. Buck Memorial Hall. Rather than focusing on Pearl Buck's social contribution activities, the museum chose to focus more on her as a literary figure and increased its emphasis on international exchange and academic research. Since the Zhenjiang Pearl S. Buck Memorial Hall visited the Bucheon Pearl S. Buck Memorial Hall in 2015, their international exchange project began, and in 2017, they visited China to share information and build a network. Hence, an international symposium could be held in Bucheon City to introduce researchers from related organizations and citizens from the United States and China to their research on Pearl Buck worldwide. The conference was attended by Janet Mincher, President of Pearl S. Buck International (PSBI); Kwon Taek-myung, Executive Director of the Pearl S. Buck Foundation Korea; Peter Cohn, author of the critical biography of Pearl Buck; and Julie Henning (Goo Soon), the adopted Korean daughter of Pearl Buck, as well as international researchers of Pearl Buck and representatives from the Philippines, Taiwan, Vietnam, and Thailand under the umbrella of Pearl S. Buck International (PSBI), making Bucheon City the hub of an international network centered on Pearl Buck. Since then, three countries, Korea, the United States, and China, have agreed to organize an international symposium every year, and the international exchange project continues to this day.

In addition to international exchanges, the Bucheon Pearl S. Buck Memorial Hall has been conducting its own research activities. Starting in 2018, for three years, through the Institute of Globalization and Multicultural Studies at Hanyang University, they interviewed those who once lived at the Sosa Opportunity Center, local residents who lived during the time when the center was operated, and local government officials to partially restore how the Sosa Opportunity Center was operated and what it was looked like. They also continued to translate international academic materials so that they could share the research results of each country with domestic researchers and citizens. In addition, they strive to play a role as the center for Pearl Buck research by holding the Pearl S. Buck Humanities Academy and domestic academic conferences to aggregate the research of domestic researchers.

The spirit that Pearl Buck exemplified through the Sosa Opportunity Center is a value that is still regarded as important today as the number of multicultural families increases. Since its opening, the Bucheon Pearl S. Buck Memorial Hall has conducted a variety of educational programs on the themes of multicultural families, immigrant families, and cultural diversity. They also invited immigrant instructors to provide an opportunity to learn about foreign cultures and develop a non-discriminatory perspective. However, since the existing educational experience programs were focused on educating children of Korean nationality about multiculturalism, there was a lack of opportunities for children from multicultural families to benefit from the education. Hence, it is necessary to make a place for multinational children to visit the Bucheon Pearl S. Buck Memorial Hall to understand Pearl Buck and Korean culture. The educational experience program, which was suspended due to factors such as COVID-19, was reinstated in 2023 with "Summer Vacation Expedition" and "Harmonious Mosaic," and various educational programs are currently being conducted. With this, the Bucheon Pearl S. Buck Memorial Hall once again continues its tradition of cultural diversity education.

In order to honor the spirit of Pearl Buck, a Nobel Prize winner in literature and a woman who contributed to society, and not to forget her legacy, the Bucheon Pearl S. Buck Memorial Hall holds three Pearl S. Buck Commemorative Projects annually as follows: the “Pearl S. Buck Birth Anniversary Drawing Contest” to commemorate her birth date (June 26, 1892), the “Pearl S. Buck Commemorative Project” to honor her death date (March 6, 1973), and the “Pearl S. Buck Memorial Literary Award” for students to write and submit various literary works. The “Pearl S. Buck Memorial Service” is an event to create a memorial space and remember her legacy on the anniversary of her death. Depending on the situation, it is held at the Bucheon Pearl Buck Memorial Hall with people from all walks of life, or it is held online to honor her death date. The “Pearl S. Buck Birth Anniversary Drawing Contest” started in 2008 and is held annually for kindergarten and elementary school students outside the building. The children’s artwork is used for various promotional materials and souvenirs at the Bucheon Pearl S. Buck Memorial Hall and is also utilized for promotional materials production at the Pearl S. Buck Foundation Korea. In 2023, children’s artwork was used as the main image of the 13th Pearl S. Buck Festival held by the Pearl S. Buck Culture Festival Promotion Committee. Various works are exhibited every year, and after the winners are selected, a separate exhibition of the winning works is also held to attract visitors. The “Pearl S. Buck Memorial Literary Award Contest” started in 2008 and is currently sponsored by the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism, Gyeonggi-do Office of Education, Gyeonggi-do Province, and Bucheon City. It is a literary award that is highly esteemed, with the Minister of Culture, Sports and Tourism’s award for the winning high school student and the Gyeonggi-do Governor’s Award for the winning young adult, attracting many students to participate every year. In 2023, a joint award ceremony was held with the “Suju Literary Award” and “Bucheon New Writers Award” during the week of the Suju Literary Festival. Hence, it is necessary to seek ways to draw the attention of literary people through cooperation with literary awards projects and to create synergy effects in Bucheon City, a UNESCO Creative City of Literature.

5. Conclusion

This article introduced the relationship between Pearl Buck and Korea through her first visit to Korea in 1960 and how the Sosa Opportunity Center was established. Mrs. Pearl Buck established the “Welcome House” to facilitate the adoption of mixed-race Asian children, established the Pearl S. Buck Foundation Korea in 1965, and the Sosa Opportunity Center in 1967. The Sosa Opportunity Center conducted training for mixed-race children based on their aptitudes and vocational training for their mothers. In 1971, the Pearl S. Buck Foundation Korea closed the Sosa Opportunity Center by the decision of its board of directors, and the remaining children at the time were handed over to the Holt Children’s Services Korea.

After the closure of the Sosa Opportunity Center, the Bucheon Pearl S. Buck Memorial Hall commissioned a research team led by Professor Song Do-young of Hanyang University’s Department of Cultural Anthropology to conduct the “Sosa Opportunity Center 1030 Project” for three years. The study aims 1. to systematically prepare to advance the Bucheon Pearl S. Buck Memorial Hall’s projects by becoming a UNESCO Creative City of Literature; 2. to discover valuable contents for the comprehensive historical restoration of the Sosa Opportunity Center, the forerunner of the Bucheon Pearl S. Buck Memorial Hall; and 3. to establish a framework for the archive of collected data to constantly expand and effectively manage the data collection scope while attempting to classify and organize it accordingly in the future. Through research such as literature and interviews with mixed-race individuals who once lived at the Sosa Opportunity Center, we could identify the actual situation of mixed-race individuals. The records of the Sosa Opportunity Center are based on the research of Sveinung J. Moen, and the activities of the Pearl S. Buck Foundation Korea during the 1980s and 1990s are based on the thesis of Han Kyung-ah, a social worker at the Pearl S. Buck Foundation Korea at the time. In addition, we found that many mixed-race individuals were given the opportunity to immigrate to the United States through the HAPA Club voluntarily formed by mixed-race individuals. In addition, through interviews and other sources, we could vividly restore the appearance of the “Yellow Building” and a dormitory that served as the main building of the now-defunct Sosa Opportunity Center. This will be a valuable resource for future projects of the Bucheon Pearl S. Buck Memorial Hall. Established in 2006 in Bucheon City, the Bucheon Pearl S. Buck Memorial Hall focuses on three main areas: exhibitions, education and commemoration, and academic research. Despite the physical limitations of holding an exhibition, efforts are being made to create exhibition environments to overcome space

constraints, such as a VR exhibition zone and the Pearl S. Buck Cultural Street AR project. Every year, the memorial hall continues to organize activities to keep the spirit of Pearl Buck alive through the Pearl S. Buck Memorial Service, the Pearl S. Buck Birth Anniversary Drawing Contest, and the Pearl S. Buck Literary Award. Educational programs that were suspended due to factors such as COVID-19 have also resumed, continuing the tradition of cultural diversity education. Their international symposium, which started in 2018, has been held every year and has been a big part of building the Pearl Buck international network, where researchers from Korea, the United States, and China share their research achievements. As the Pearl S. Buck Foundation Korea approaches its 60th anniversary, cultural diversity has never been more important to Korea. It is my hope that the Pearl S. Buck Foundation Korea, which has continued to work for mixed-race individuals and multiculturalism despite the harsh conditions of the time, and the Bucheon Pearl S. Buck Memorial Hall, which was established to honor Mrs. Pearl Buck's spirit, will work together to become an institution that will eventually respect and study cultural diversity globally in the coming multicultural society.