



# Bulletin 簡報

CHINESE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA MUSEUM

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## Cecilia Chiang inspires CHSA supporters at inaugural Above & Beyond Chinatown Gala



Launching a new Chinatown tradition, CHSA Museum welcomed over 300 guests on September 19, 2015 into the museum for CHSA's first-ever "Above & Beyond Chinatown" gala, hosted by KCBS' "Foodie Chap" Liam Mayclem.

The attendees, which included many first-time museum visitors, experienced entertainment throughout the Julia Morgan-designed YWCA Building, and sampled a wide variety of local wines (courtesy of Zinfandel Advocates & Producers) and dishes from San Francisco's finest restaurants: AsiaSF, b. patisserie, Chino, Crystal Jade, M.Y. China, Original Joe's, Palio d'Asti, Twenty Five Lusk, Tacolicious, & Yank Sing.

This year's gala honoree, legendary restaurateur and food luminary Cecilia Chiang, mingled with guests and chefs alike at the event. As a woman business owner and non-Cantonese speaker, Cecilia Chiang opened The Mandarin on Polk Street outside of Chinatown in 1960. She persevered and helped to transform Chinese food and dining in America. In so doing, she has created an enduring legacy among chefs, critics, entrepreneurs and the public at large with her unique vision, mentorship and style. Accepting her award, Cecilia thanked CHSA, saying she learned so



Photos: Steven Underhill; Darrell Corti  
**Highlights from CHSA's "Above & Beyond Chinatown" 2015 Gala.**

much and is "so glad to get involved with the Museum and the Society."

Please see Page 3 for list of Gala sponsors!



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# Stanford University Library preserves key papers from CHSA Collections

The Stanford University Library and CHSA entered into an academic partnership in September 2015, facilitating access to archival materials and to encourage research, teaching, and publication on topics relating to Chinese American history. As part of this agreement, the Stanford Libraries will make available the following archival collections to researchers, in its Department of Special Collections in Green Library:

- **The Tom Hsieh, Sr. Papers:** the papers of San Francisco's third Chinese American supervisor; appointed in 1986 and re-elected twice.
- **The Paul Louie Papers:** the papers of a pioneering Chinese American Presbyterian minister, activist, and historian
- **The Ah Louis Papers:** receipts and correspondence from the Chinese American banker, labor contractor, farmer, and shopkeeper in San Luis Obispo, California during the late 19th and early 20th century.
- **David R. Chan Collection:** Bound copies of *East West Newspapers* from 1967–1989.

These CHSA collections occupied a keystone place alongside other important archives documenting the Chinese American experience in the Stanford University Libraries, including the Alice Fong Yu Papers, the Shau Wing Chan Papers, the Emory Lee Papers, the Wylie Wong-May's Studio

collection of photographs, and the Chinese American Citizens Alliance Archives.

Gordon H. Chang, Olive H. Palmer Professor in the Humanities and Professor of American history at Stanford University, and co-director of the Chinese Railroad Workers in North America project, has noted:

"CHSA holds a treasure-trove of unique, one-of-a-kind historical materials that are invaluable for the study of Chinese American history. Individuals, families, and organizations made their private collections available to the CHSA over

**"CHSA holds a treasure-trove of . . . historical materials that are invaluable for the study of Chinese American history."**

—PROFESSOR GORDON CHANG

the years, and now they will be accessible to scholars and the interested public. These materials are the foundational building blocks of histories that future generations will read. This is an extraordinary gift from CHSA!"

## Upcoming Events at CHSA Museum

Events are free to the public at CHSA Museum 965 Clay Street, San Francisco. For up-to-date event listings, please visit [chsa.org/events](http://chsa.org/events).

### CHSA Museum Anniversary Celebration

**NOVEMBER 7, 2015, 11AM-4PM**

CHSA is celebrating the 14th anniversary of the opening of the museum at our permanent home in the Julia Morgan-designed Chinese YWCA building! At this year's celebration, we will unveil our new "Voices From the Railroad" exhibit kiosk, featuring video interviews of Chinese railroad worker descendants on an interactive display (part of CHSA's "Work of Giants: Chinese Railroad Worker Project").

Other highlights include: live music performance by Francis Wong & Ensemble; film screenings; our current exhibitions "Under-

ground Chinatown: Racism at the Fair" & "Evolution of the Qipao Part III: Turning Heads." Anniversary cake and light refreshments will be served.

*This program made possible with support from: San Francisco Arts Commission; Tom E. Dailley Foundation; Portsmouth Square Parking Garage Foundation*

### Celebrate the Year of the Monkey at CHSA

**SAVE THE DATE: SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2016**

Join the CHSA Museum before the Chinese New Year Parade for a full day of programs to welcome the Year of the Monkey. Usher in the New Year at CHSA with a full day of family activities including live music & performances, exhibits, and more!

# Open Gallery: Exploring fresh approaches to experiencing history



CHSA's Main Gallery is currently featuring pop-up exhibits illustrating the history & development of San Francisco's Chinatown.

Since our 2001 arrival in our permanent home at 965 Clay Street, CHSA Museum has been proud to share the rich history of the Chinese in America through the museum's founding exhibition, "The Chinese of America: Towards a More Perfect Union," and its vibrant series of rotating exhibitions, publications & public programs.

In recent years, this history has been rewritten and revitalized thanks to the recovery of new stories, including national recognition of Chinese railroad workers and their descendants in 2014, the unprecedented 2013 U.S. Congressional apology for the Chinese Exclusion Act, and the ascendancy of new Chinese American leaders in American society, politics, and culture. CHSA has been at the forefront of preserving and promoting these stories, while integrating them into our exhibition's historical narrative.

As we approach our 14th year in the Chinese YWCA Building, CHSA is transitioning its Main Gallery into a new space that honors the past while looking towards the future. The "Above & Beyond Chinatown" Gala in September 2015 marked the beginning of CHSA's efforts to overhaul its main gallery space. During this transition period, CHSA has put in place the **Open Gallery**, a series of pop-up exhibits about the Chinese in America today.

In place today are pop-up multimedia pieces that illustrate the story of Chinatown:

- **Architecture of Chinatown:** a traveling exhibit exploring Chinatown's mid-19th century beginnings to becoming a tourist destination.
- **Earthquake: The Chinatown Story:** a traveling exhibit detailing firsthand accounts from the people who lived through this disaster.
- **Chinatown Miniatures by Frank Wong:** Intricately detailed scenes from the artist's memory of his childhood.

In the meantime, we are in the planning stages for a brand new permanent exhibition in keeping with our mission to promote the social, cultural, and political history and contributions of the Chinese in America. In creating something new and sustainable, we will be in discussions with historians, educators, key supporters close to the museum . . . and *you*.

Over the last 14 years, you have seen our growth as an organization and as a museum, and we strive to elevate our content. We aim to be transparent in the planning process, beginning with this article. Be sure to follow us on Facebook and Twitter and subscribe to our weekly emails to stay updated.

## ABOVE & BEYOND CHINATOWN: GALA 2015 SPONSORS

CHSA would like to thank the following sponsors who made our 2015 Gala a huge success!

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The *CHSA Bulletin* is published multiple times throughout the year. To contribute articles about Chinese American community and historical news and events, please submit articles to [info@chsa.org](mailto:info@chsa.org).

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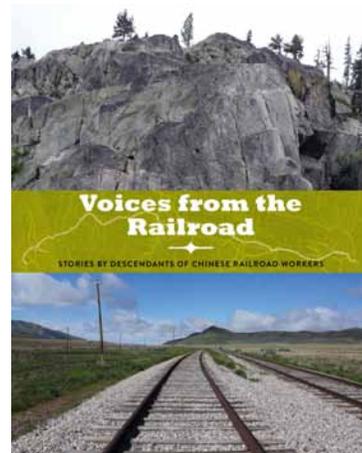


### *Your participation in the achievements of CHSA has been inspiring!*

As we conclude yet another banner year, we ask you to consider a year-end gift to help CHSA to continue its excellent programming in 2016. We are excited to bring to the public these significant initiatives:

- **Voices from the Railroad Oral History Project:** Documenting and sharing stories from descendants of the workers who completed the first Transcontinental Railroad.
- **Open Gallery:** Pop/up multimedia exhibits exploring fresh approaches to experiencing history in the future—today!
- **New Voices Series:** Programs that share new narratives & new voices within the diverse Chinese American & Asian American community
- **Flex Fusion Spaces:** Modernizing spaces & deploying new immersive technology for public gatherings & programs in our Julia Morgan-designed Museum and Learning Center

Your participation this year would enable us to share the untold stories of Chinese in America with a broader international audience, and ensure the place of our history within the American multicultural narrative.



We invite you to make a year-end donation of \$1000 or more (all donation levels welcome!). Employer-matches are encouraged! **DONATE TO CHSA TODAY** at [chsa.org/support](http://chsa.org/support), or by calling (415) 391-1188 or emailing [info@chsa.org](mailto:info@chsa.org). All contributions tax deductible (Federal tax ID #94-67122446). Thank you!