



# Bulletin 簡報

CHINESE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA MUSEUM

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## The Way Forward for CHSA: A Moment to Reflect & Envision the Future at 2018 Gala

By Hoyt Zia

CHSA BOARD PRESIDENT

*The Chinese Historical Society of America launched our 55th anniversary celebration at our annual gala on March 31, 2018. This year's gala theme, "Chinatown: Past, Present, Future" signals CHSA's intention to reflect on its past achievements and milestones, while charting the way forward towards its future. The following is excerpted from Board President Hoyt Zia's 2018 Gala remarks:*

**W**hile it's still a little premature to talk about grand plans for the future, as Board president I know this much: we are celebrating our 55th anniversary as a Chinatown organization this year, and we owe it to the founders and benefactors of CHSA, like the great Phil Choy whose memory we are honoring tonight, to maintain what they created and perpetuate the vision they had for CHSA. This begins with CHSA continuing to preserve the iconic history of SF Chinatown and working with other Chinatown and SF organizations to protect and achieve its future—whatever that may be—in these fast-changing times. More directly, it means restoring as quickly as possible normal museum operations, restarting new programs and events, planning new exhibits, and rebuilding our staff starting with finding a new permanent Executive Director.

It also means implementing new programs and exhibits that tell the history and stories of not only the earliest Chinese Americans but of the current history that's being made every day and that reflects the changing demographics of Chinese immigration as well as the new experiences and contributions made to the community, and that is relevant to each new generation of Chinese Americans. It means expanding our reach to share our history not only with those willing to climb the hill up Clay Street



Photos: Bob Hsiang

(top) Board President Hoyt Zia & Interim Executive Director Jane Chin receive recognition from San Francisco Mayor Mark Farrell. (bottom) Dignitaries & guests attending CHSA's 2018 Gala included Gordon Chin, State Senator Scott Weiner, Supervisor London Breed, Mrs. Anita Lee, Jason Chan, Mayor Mark Farrell, Lawrence and Gorretti Lui, the Honorable Mae Woo, and Francis Tsang.

to our museum but instead finding new mediums through which that knowledge can be accessed as well as taking our exhibits to where they may be accessible more easily to more people.

You know, there are at least a half dozen notable museums of Chinese American history in the country along with a couple of dozen other Chinese historical preservation

groups—basically wherever there's been a Chinatown or Chinese American community, it seems someone is trying to preserve that history—and it's time that we all connect and start sharing our collective histories to create a national presence for the contributions of Chinese to American history. That is part of the vision we have for

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# Chinese American Women Pioneers

## CHSA's next exhibit coming December 2018

The Chinese Historical Society of America (CHSA) announces a new exhibition coming December 1, 2018: *Chinese American Women Pioneers: Continuing to Build California's Economy*. This six-month long exhibition, sponsored by PG&E, will be on view at CHSA (965 Clay Street, San Francisco, located in San Francisco's Chinatown) from December 1, 2018 through May 31, 2019.

The stories of the early Chinese women pioneers, in particular, were largely unspoken simply due to their gender. Yet all throughout California his-



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tory, Chinese American women have contributed to the economy of our state and this exhibit

intends to highlight just a few of their accomplishments.

"The broader sharing of the untold stories of Chinese women pioneers is long overdue," said CHSA Interim Executive Director Jane Chin. "CHSA is proud to have this chance to feature their historic contributions."

Programs, panel discussions, cultural performances, and a curriculum guide will be produced in connection with *Chinese American Women Pioneers*. After May 2019, the exhibition will be made available for loan to reach beyond the audiences of San Francisco.

## Upcoming Events

### 2018 Asian Pacific American Heritage Awards, honoring CHSA

WEDNESDAY, MAY 2, 2017 @ 5:30PM

HERBST THEATRE, 401 VAN NESS AVENUE, SAN FRANCISCO



In Memory of Mayor Edwin Mah Lee, the APA Heritage Celebration Committee is launching the annual Edwin Mah Lee Public Service Award. To be presented at the APA Heritage Awards Ceremony each year, this award is established to honor Mayor Lee's legacy of service to the City and to the underserved communities. CHSA is honored to be among this year's organizations receiving special recognition for having achieved significant community impact. Reception at City Hall immediately following ceremony. Details & RSVP at [apasf.org](http://apasf.org).

### Riding with the Wind—Book talk with Fay Hoh Yin

MAY 5, 2018 @ 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM AT CHSA



CHSA presents a book talk with Monona Yin, editor and publisher of the new memoir *Riding with the Wind: Three Generations of My Family in China*. Yin will share stories from the book and describe the creative process with her mother, which followed a serious health crisis two years ago. Q&A will follow. Copies of the book will be available for sale and signing. RSVP at [chsa.org/events](http://chsa.org/events).

### CHSA Membership Drive Event:

### Paper Sons—Book reading with author Dickson Lam

MAY 11, 2018 @ 6-8:30PM AT CHSA



Set in a public housing project in San Francisco, *Paper Sons* explores Lam's transformation from a teenage graffiti writer to a high school teacher working with troubled youth while navigating the secret violence in his immigrant family's past.

During this event, we will have discounted pricing for one night only on new CHSA memberships. If you're already a CHSA Member, renew for another year, or bring a friend to take advantage of this special offer! RSVP at [CHSA.org/events](http://CHSA.org/events).

# San Francisco dignitaries pay tribute at CHSA's 55th Anniversary Celebration

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the future; we're excited to be at this transition point when we usher in the start of CHSA's next 50 years!

Finally, we want to make Chinese American history count for something and not just be a relic that is kept in the museum. It's axiomatic that those who don't learn the lessons of history are doomed to repeat them, and the racism and discrimination we Chinese endured, such as being the first nationality group to be specifically prohibited from immigrating to America under the Chinese Exclusion Act, is not something we can allow to be repeated or visited upon any other group of people, whether they're immigrants or other minorities or just the powerless. It's vitally important that we play a role in making sure that these lessons of our history are taught and learned so history does not repeat itself.



Photos: Bob Hsiang

(l) The Honorable Willie Brown recalls the late Mayor Ed Lee at CHSA's 2018 Gala. (r) Mrs. Anita Lee accepts from Bill Tamayo the Phil & Sarah Choy Community Service Award on behalf of Mayor Edwin M. Lee.

## Rick Quan & CHSA seek funding for new documentary about Mayor Ed Lee

By Barbara Koh  
CHSA CONTRIBUTOR

**O**n the heels of last month's gala honoring Ed Lee, CHSA is making a film about the humble nature and extraordinary impact of San Francisco's first Chinese American and Asian American mayor.



Photo: Bob Hsiang

Rick Quan at CHSA's 2018 Gala.

With Bay Area co-producer and Emmy winner Rick Quan, CHSA hopes the documentary will chronicle for posterity the life and character of the son of

working-class immigrants, lawyer-activist for Chinatown tenants and garment workers, habitual punster, self-sacrificing civil servant, reluctant-turned-enthusiastic mayor, consensus builder, golf aficionado and San Francisco Giants and Golden State Warriors loyalist.



Courtesy Rick Quan

A trailer of the film was a hit at CHSA's 55th anniversary gala in March. As Lee's former Asian Law Caucus colleagues recalled how they pitched in for his food and rent, and Steph Curry expressed gratitude for Lee's support for him personally and for the Warriors' upcoming arena, many gala attendees were brought to tears, including his widow Anita Lee. As Curry says, a film embracing

"all the people [Lee] touched along the way" would be a slam dunk and an invaluable record.

The approximately one-hour film, with the working title "Ed Lee: The People's Mayor," is projected to be completed in the fall of 2018. **Donations are needed for ongoing filming and editing, plus publicity and distribution. To contribute, please contact Jane Chin**



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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Photo: Harry Jew, 1968. CHSA Collection

## HERE TO STAY! Donate today so CHSA continues its work for the next 55 years & beyond!

2018 marks CHSA's 55th Anniversary as the oldest non-profit organization dedicated to promoting the legacy and contributions of Chinese in America. Your participation enables us to share these untold stories with a broad international audience, and ensure the place of our history within the American multicultural narrative.

**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).** Gifts of \$1,000 or more will receive special recognition in CHSA's Legacy Gallery. Employer-matches are welcomed; ask your employer or contact us about how to participate. All contributions are tax deductible (Federal tax ID #94-67122446).

