

SEPTEMBER 2022

Join the CHSSC September meeting as our summer interns discuss their work on our Five Chinatowns Community History Project documenting Los Angeles Chinese Americans before 1965.

**September 7, 2022 6:30pm-8:00pm**



**Miriam Chen**



**Keilani Coquia**



**Annalise Harlow**



**Fion Zhen**



**Stephanie Hu**



**Vi Truong**



**Lisa Ryou**



**Yi-Shen Loo**



**Sonia Xuan Liu**

**Free to attend. RSVP via Eventbrite on  
CHSSC website: <https://chssc.org>**



**Chinese Historical Society  
of Southern California**

**南加州華人歷史學會**



SEPTEMBER 2022

## President's Message

### SUMMER FINALE AND FALL FORWARD

The summer has sped by because we have been immersed in so many ongoing projects. At our headquarters on Bernard Street, on a given day, we may have one to six or eight people, and more for board meetings. Archivist interns are working on the collections, summer intern teams may be interviewing community members for the Five Chinatowns project, some of our volunteer board members such as Susan Dickson, Linda Bentz, and Bak Jong come to supervise interns, assist with oral history interviews, take care of office paperwork, and plan for ongoing and new projects, such as an upgrade of our computer network. New projects got launched, such as the online Storymap exhibition on Tyrus Wong's Murals at the Grandview Gardens Restaurant. To kick off the fall season, our summer interns are busily preparing for their September presentation of their work for the Five Chinatowns project.

Meanwhile, at the beginning of summer, we have reopened our Heritage Center at 411 Bernard to the public for limited hours, from 2-5 PM, on Sunday afternoons. Surprisingly, in addition to scheduled appointments by researchers who come in for our library, oral histories, and archives, we have also had a little bit of walk-in traffic. Some visitors are individuals, some are families. Sometimes they tell us "...I'm from L.A., and this is my first time in Chinatown", or "I've seen this place on your website, and I've always wanted to visit". Visitors might be from the local area, who have brought a visiting relative from Guadalajara or New York. It's always rewarding to be able to share Chinatown and Chinese American history, as there are many people out there who do want to learn about our community. In the past, volunteers such as Gilbert Hom, Cy Wong, and Ben Fong would regularly come in to share their knowledge with the visiting public. If any CHSSC members are interested in becoming a "docent", for say, once a month, please contact me, and we can work together on our public displays and our outreach.

To improve accessibility for all, we hired an architect to prepare plans for improvement of our restrooms and kitchen areas, and construction of wheelchair ramps. To support comfort for all, our capital improvement project will also include upgrades to the heating and air conditioning systems. Previously, our capital campaign raised \$100,000 to support this work, but we know that for final construction and painting, we will need to raise more. Board member Caitlin Bryant has been monitoring the design and plan check process, and we anticipate receiving bids in the coming month. We will then share our new capital target next month.

To close off the summer, please join our backyard picnic (invite friends!) on Saturday August 27; see the announcement in this newsletter. It will be a chance to see fellow members, new and old, and share in fellowship and food. Board members Gordon Hom and Bak Jong are working on delicious (guaranteed!) entrée items, but it is also a bring-potluck-item-or-pay format. Our picnic gatherings are always fun, for renewing friendships, and making new ones. So please RSVP today.

And to close off this report, I encourage all to also join in some of the celebrations of a couple of our sister organizations: The Chinese Family History Group is celebrating its 10 anniversary on Sat. Sept 24th, and the Historymakers Awards dinner for the Chinese American Museum on Wed. Sept. 28th. See the calendar on the last page for more details. In the meantime, stay healthy, and join us at our Aug. 27th picnic.

Eugene Moy

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Eugene Moy, President  
Ricky Leo, Vice President  
Susan Dickson, Vice President,  
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Linda Bentz  
Cindy Fong  
Gordon Hom  
Laureen Hom  
Bak Jong  
Angela Lancaster  
Grace Leo  
Felicia Tabing

### MISSION STATEMENT

The Chinese Historical Society of Southern California was organized in November 1975. The purposes of the Society are:

1. to bring together people with a mutual interest in the important history and historical role of Chinese and Chinese Americans in southern California;
2. to pursue, preserve, and communicate knowledge of this history; and
3. to promote the heritage of the Chinese and Chinese American community in support of a better appreciation of the rich, multicultural society of the United States.



SEPTEMBER 2022

## Five Chinatowns Community History Project

By Will Gow

CHSSC has been excited to host nine interns for the 2022 Summer Internship in Chinese American Community History for the Five Chinatowns project (<https://chssc.org/five-chinatowns/>). Over the past ten weeks, our interns worked as a cohort, learning from community elders under the guidance of our three project co-directors. Interns conducted and transcribed interviews, cleared existing transcripts, and produced edited transcripts for publication. This paid internship was made possible based on the generous donations of our members, without whom this project would not be possible.

Join us at our September meeting to learn more about our interns' experiences, to hear stories of the various Chinese American communities in Los Angeles before the passage of the 1965 Immigration Act and to learn how you can support our project. This meeting will start earlier, running from 6:30-8:00, to allow time for all the experiences to be heard.

### Project co-directors

**Will Gow** is an Assistant Professor of Asian American Studies at Sacramento State. Entering his 20th year as a volunteer with the CHSSC, he previously oversaw the Chinatown Remembered Project in 2007-2008 and co-produced the CHSSC documentary *Revisiting East Adams* in 2004.

**Kelly Fong** is a Continuing Lecturer in the Asian American Studies Department at UCLA. She has been involved with CHSSC since 2005, and has served as CHSSC Board Member, Golden Spike Gala co-organizer, and member of the archives committee.

**Isabela Seong Leong Quintana** is an Assistant Professor of Asian American Studies at UC Irvine, where she researches and teaches about Asian American and Latinx women's histories. She has been an author for the Gum Saan Journal and has participated in various CHSSC events over the years.

### Interns



**Miriam Chen** currently studies History and International Studies at Texas A&M University. She grew up in Houston, Texas surrounded by a large Asian population. She has always felt connected to Chinese culture and her Asian American background has been an integral part of her identity. Attending Texas A&M University, a predominantly white institution, compelled Miriam to seek an Asian community on campus. She became involved in the Department of Multicultural Services and is the Director of Advocacy for Asian Presidents' Council. She is working to establish an Asian American Studies program, which she finds necessary as communities become increasingly international and globalized. Her passion for social justice issues affecting Asian Americans has encouraged Miriam to pursue an internship with CHSSC - she hopes to better understand Asian American history while gaining oral history research skills. After college, Miriam hopes to attend law school to further create social change for marginalized communities.



**Keilani Dalena Coquia** (She/They) is a Los Angeles based Filipinx-American scholar and activist. Their educational pursuits and organizing work reflect their commitment to putting theory learned in the classroom into practice in order to improve the conditions of their community. She recently graduated from UC Irvine with two Bachelor's degrees in Asian American Studies and Film and Media Studies.

As an undergraduate student, Keilani served as the "Community Advocacy Co-Coordinator" for the Filipinx-American student organization, Kababayan at UC Irvine. Outside of campus, she organizes with the grassroots anti-imperialist Filipino women's organization, GABRIELA Los Angeles. Keilani will be pursuing their Master's degree in Asian American Studies at the University of California, Irvine this coming fall as a part of the 4+1 Asian American Studies program. Her intended topic of research focuses on the diasporic and transnational activism of Filipina/x activists in the National Democratic movement.



**Annalise Harlow** (she/her) is a recent graduate of Sacramento State University, having received a B.A. in Sociology and minor in Asian American Studies. Born in the Guangdong Province of China, Annalise was adopted as an infant by white American parents and grew up in El Dorado County, California. Annalise's identity and lived experiences as an Asian American international adoptee has been fundamental in igniting her passion to pursue Asian American studies and organize around the broader movement for ethnic studies.

As an aspiring ethnic studies educator, Annalise is looking to continue her studies in graduate school. Her research interests include: Asian international adoption, Chinese immigration, and racial/ethnic formation. Her experience as an Asian American adoptee continues to inform both her scholarly and community-organizing work, and she is driven by her goal to grow the "space for adoptees to be heard and to speak" within Asian American Studies and communities.





SEPTEMBER 2022



**Stephanie Hu** is an incoming freshman at Harvard University and is pursuing government. She was born in Corning, New York, but has also lived in Taiwan, China, and Southern California. Stephanie is the founder and executive director of Dear Asian Youth, an Asian advocacy organization with over 180 chapters worldwide. It has expanded to include a podcast, workshops, conferences, and over 100k social media followers. She has also led other powerful social justice and advocacy initiatives, including Capistrano Unified School District Against Racism. The organization called for a more inclusive school district, culminating in the creation of an ethnic studies course. In October 2021, Stephanie hosted the Women of Color conference, a 2-day virtual conference that united 4,850 women of color across the globe.

Stephanie hopes to be involved in the Institute of Politics at Harvard and participate in Asian American organizations to stay in touch with her heritage.

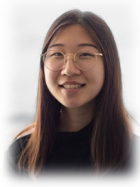


**Sonia Xuan Liu** was born on March 30th, 2002, in Abilene, Texas. Her mom was from Jakarta, Indonesia while her dad was born in Fuzhou, China. Her hobbies include reading, writing, and streaming TV shows.

When Sonia was young, she considered jobs ranging from an animator to doctor. Sonia's previous work experience revolved around the food service industry. She now works for UCLA's Campus Assault Resource Education Center and a clothing store called Free People and interns for the CHSSC. Sonia also attends UCLA, double-majoring in Public Affairs and Asian American Studies and minoring in Global Health and hopes to pursue law school to advocate for those who don't have a voice. Sonia spends most of her time focusing on her studies and working in student organizing and leadership with the Asian Pacific Coalition and the Association of Indonesian Americans at UCLA.

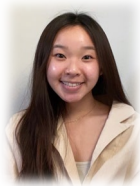


Born and raised in Los Angeles, **Yi-Shen Loo** identifies as a second-generation Singaporean-Chinese and Japanese American. She is a recent graduate from the University of California, Berkeley with majors in Asian American and Asian Diaspora Studies and Ethnic Studies, as well as a minor in Japanese. In her time at Berkeley, she was the co-chief editor of the Asian American Research Journal and a member of the AAPI Community COVID Archival Project. With a background in transcription on several Asian American oral history projects, Yi-Shen is excited to continue this work on the CHSSC's Five Chinatowns Project. Currently, Yi-Shen is a fellow at the Asian American Journalists Association (AAJA), where she is working on another oral history project to document the association's original founders and key members. In her spare time, she can be found playing the violin and baking.



**Lisa Ryou** is a second-generation Korean American and lives in the north suburbs of Chicago. Even with a lack of diversity in her neighborhood and a Eurocentric public education, she was able to maintain a strong connection with her Korean culture. As a rising senior, Lisa currently studies at the University of Michigan as a double major in History and American culture, with a sub-major in ethnic studies and a minor in museum studies. While pursuing a career as a museum curator, Lisa also sees a potential to further her education and explore the field of academia by achieving a Ph.D.

In her last year of undergraduate, Lisa is in the process of writing her honors thesis focusing on Asian American K-12 social studies curriculum, a concern she noted in her own primary education. Through the CHSSC internship, she hopes to develop her skills in oral history while learning about the community more intimately.



**Vi Truong**, a summer 2022 graduate from the University of California, Los Angeles, grew up and currently resides in an expansive Asian American community in Southern California. While she always felt connected to her Vietnamese heritage, she only became empowered by her Asian American identity through Asian American studies courses at UCLA. As such, Vi is excited to continue expanding her knowledge and research skills in Asian American history with CHSSC.

Her culture has also impacted her professional ambitions. After overcoming an unprecedented virtual undergraduate experience, Vi impressively graduated from her program in two years with a BA in Psychology and minor in Asian American Studies. She plans to earn her Master's in Social Work to continue working in under-resourced communities, especially in the mental health sector. Vi hopes to help fill this space and make important social contributions where resources are scarce and subjected to cultural barriers.



**Fion Zhen** grew up in Richmond, British Columbia and is a first generation Chinese Canadian. Her parents immigrated from Guangdong, China and both speak Cantonese. Fion is now an incoming third year at McGill University, pursuing a joint honours in philosophy and history. She specializes in gender and sexuality, twentieth-century China, and the Chinese diaspora. Since Fion enjoyed her first editing position on McGill's *Historical Discourses* tremendously, she will be joining *Orientations*' team as the journal's history section editor this fall. The Five Chinatowns project is Fion's first internship and she is thrilled to be involved in oral history work. She feels that the fields of Asian American and Asian Canadian history remain relevant as important areas of study because so many histories are underdeveloped and streamlined into dominant narratives that are widely accepted. Without the historians who continue to question these narratives, Fion says, these histories would be lost.

## WE DID IT! 10th Yosemite-Sing Peak Pilgrimage!

By: Eugene Moy

This year, we had a well-organized program planned over a period of 6-7 months, for a gathering on the weekend of July 29-31, with hikes and talks, to be followed by an optional ascent of 10,554' Sing Peak on August 1-3 by backpackers. Cabins and campsites were booked, a group meeting space was secured, and many people would be seeing the restored Chinese Laundry building for the first time. We had over ninety reservations. One highlight hike would have been on the Washburn Trail, a restored segment of the original stage road built in the 1870's by Chinese workers from Wawona to the Mariposa Grove of Giant Redwoods. But alas, on July 7, just 21 days before we were all due to arrive, the Washburn Fire





SEPTEMBER 2022

broke out right on the restored trail next to the Mariposa Grove. So the planning committee scrambled for a Plan B to avoid fire and air quality problems. Luckily many people, from both Southern California, the Bay Area, and Sacramento, jumped in to make it work.

## PHOTOS AND VIDEO!

Many people took and shared photos of our activities. A few are shown here, but more will be added to the CHSSC website as they come available. CHSSC VP Ricky Leo and board member Bak Jong recorded video of most of the activities. Their videos, or a blended video, will also be prepared and posted on the CHSSC website. In addition, we were fortunate to have Darren Yee (supported by his family) join us to record much of the fun. See the last page of this newsletter for links to videos posted by Darren.



Group photo at May Lake - Photo courtesy of Ricky Leo



Chef David Soo Hoo  
Photo courtesy of Grace Leo



Artist and Writer Rich Lo



Thanks Bak & Karen Jong for  
hosting the Hotdog Social



Ranger Yenyan Chan  
Photo courtesy of Elizabeth Bassirian





SEPTEMBER 2022

## Tie Sing Honored by 22 Backpackers

By Jack Shu

This year's hike almost did not happen due to two nearby fires that began just weeks before our planned start date. But the spirit of Tie Sing continued to help us. The Forest Service Closure Order for the Mariposa Fire was lifted August 1st, our first day on the trail which made sure we had no restrictions on routes to Sing Peak. The air quality and weather were fine as well for the 22 climbers who made it.

This was the tenth official Sing Peak Pilgrimage. Ten consecutive years that a group of hikers made it to the top of the 10,554' [ed. note: this is 2 miles above sea level!] mountain peak to commemorate the contributions of Tie Sing and other Chinese Americans in Yosemite NP and the Sierras. It has now become an event that many backpackers look forward to doing. Some who are making it for the first time and others who have gone many times before. Sing's spirit and many others who are not often recognized for what they did should be smiling.



*Photo courtesy of Jack Shu*

The backpacking team who summited Sing Peak on Tuesday August 2, 2022 were:

***From So Calif:***

Dennis Arguelles, Yenyen Chan, Kyla Chung, Dominique Fong, Kira Hum, Leroy Johnson, Frank Lai, Gina Masequesmay, Jack Shu, Julia Shu, Jocelyn Song, Jessica Steiner, Linda Wang, Krystal Yan, Justin Yee, and Michael Yee

***From the Bay Area:***

Lorin Bacon, Bruce Chin, Gia Lee, Josephine Lee, Paul Lee, and Wendy Ung



SEPTEMBER 2022

# CHSSC SUMMER PICNIC

After more than 2 years, we are finally getting together.  
Join us for fellowship and good food.

**Saturday, August 27, 2022**

**11:00 AM -2:00 PM**

Bring a dish for 8 or pay \$5.00 at the door.

**Please email [info@chssc.org](mailto:info@chssc.org) if you plan to attend**

**There will be a book giveaway**

CHSSC Heritage and Visitors Center

411-415 Bernard Street

Los Angeles, CA 90012

Nearby parking available at Bamboo Plaza and Mandarin Plaza.  
Street parking is also available.



## Donations for July and August

### ***In Memory of Walter SooHoo***

*Eugene Moy and Susan Sing*

*Bonnie and Roland SooHoo*

### ***In Memory of Mildred E. Woo***

*Judy Sai*

### ***Donations***

*Bak Jong*

*Angela Lancaster*



## Chinese Historical Society of Southern California

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Website: [www.chssc.org](http://www.chssc.org)

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email us to indicate your preference for an online newsletter at [info@chssc.org](mailto:info@chssc.org).*

### Upcoming Events

Sat. Sep. 24 Chinese Family History Group 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary. South Coast Chinese Cultural Center, Irvine.  
[https://chinesefamilyhistory.org/inspire\\_events/10th-anniversary/](https://chinesefamilyhistory.org/inspire_events/10th-anniversary/)

Wed. Sep. 28. 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Historymakers Awards Gala. Westin Bonaventure Hotel and Suites, Los Angeles.  
<https://camla.org/upcomingevents/>

Every Thursday, 3:00-7:30 PM. L.A. River Farmers Market, at south end of L.A. River State Historic Park, 1245 N. Spring St., Chinatown, just north of the Gold Line station. Support fresh produce and prepared food vendors, local artisans. <http://lariverfarmersmarket.org/>

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Videos by Darren Yee

*Why do we pilgrimage?:* [https://youtu.be/AT\\_f41jfa7c](https://youtu.be/AT_f41jfa7c)

*Rich Lo, artist:* <https://youtu.be/-mjREXhg9Mc>

*Darren Yee is a fourth generation Chinese-American and Sacramento native who works at the California Department of Public Health. He enjoys spending time outdoors backpacking, hiking, running, and making new adventures with his family. You can follow him at @YeeFitAdventures on Instagram or check out his YouTube channel, YeeFit Adventures.*