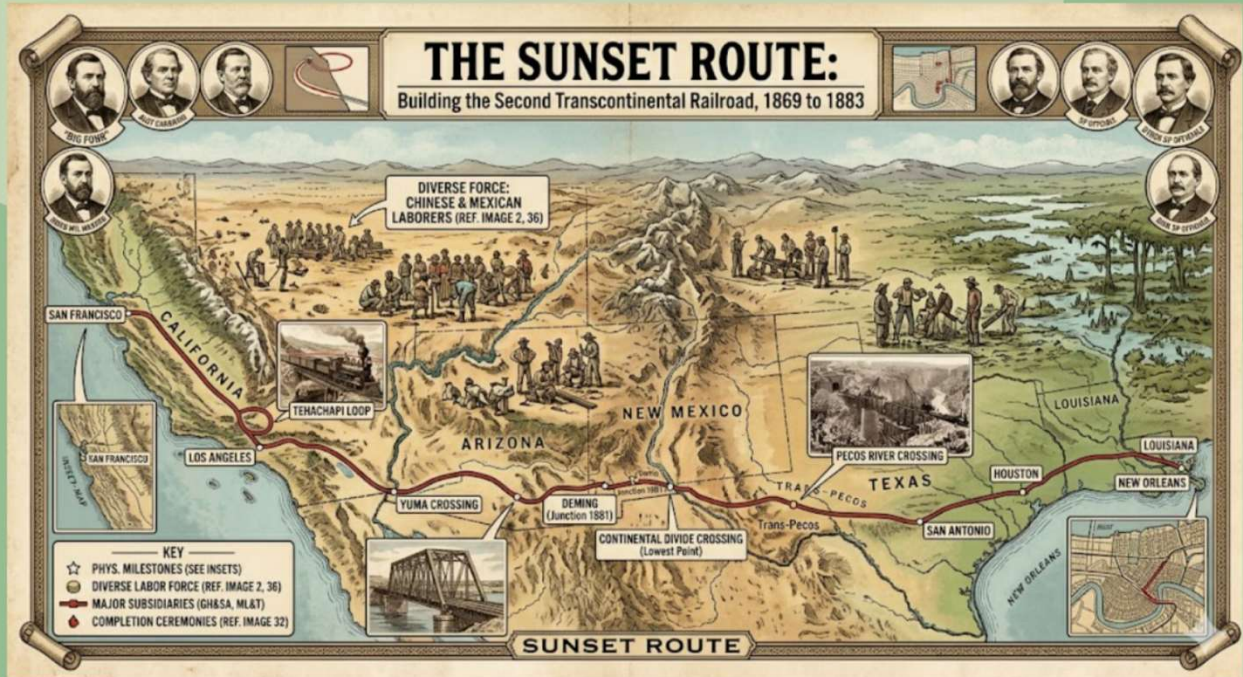


June 2026



THE SUNSET ROUTE

ENGINEERING AND THE LEGACY OF THE SECOND TRANSCONTINENTAL RAILROAD

This program details the strategic and technical challenges of building the Southern Pacific's Sunset Route between 1869 and 1883. It highlights engineering marvels like the Tehachapi Loop and San Fernando Tunnel, while honoring the grit and sacrifice of the 3,000 Chinese laborers who made this transcontinental link possible.

**RSVP VIA EVENTBRITE ON CHSSC WEBSITE:
[HTTPS://CHSSC.ORG/](https://chssc.org)**



WEDNESDAY
June 3rd, 2026



TIME
7PM - 8PM



**RAYMOND
CHONG**



Chinese Historical Society
of Southern California

南加州華人歷史學會



Chinese Historical Society of Southern California

June 2026

MOVING FORWARD

As our 2025-2026 program year winds up, we must note that we will not stop moving. At our May 6 meeting, we heard a nice overview by David R. Chan of how our local Chinese American cuisine has been a leader in the evolution of food culture nationwide. But we also conducted our election of our board of directors for the coming 2026-2027 year. Your new president, Suse Ling, is really a veteran of CHSSC. She's been an at-large board member but has also over the years headed the editorial teams for many of our book publications, plus the annual Gum Saan Journal, (which I eagerly look forward to every January). The other three board officers will remain, while we elected a new at-large board member, Sam Chow. I will stay on as "at-large" for continuity. A hearty congratulations to our 2026-2027 board!

For the future, we will not stay still. There will not be a monthly program speaker for July and August, but we plan to return to Yosemite to undertake hikes to experience the wonders of the natural environment, hear stories about the work of the early Chinese in Yosemite, and see the historic Chinese Laundry. New board member Sam Chow will work with Yenyen Chan to plan the itinerary. If you or your friends are interested, contact Sam at slchow@yahoo.com.

Be sure to mark Saturday, August 15 on your calendar also for our annual summer potluck. It will be a nice opportunity to catch up with friends, and I hope to invite some special guests and have a short program.

In the meantime, the board has approved the repainting of our historic Victorian houses. Our contractor will have started by the time you read this. Come for the picnic, admire the fresh look!

Eugene Moy

Board of Directors

Officers

Eugene Moy, President
Robert Chong, Vice President
Isaac Chu, Secretary
Anthony Miu, Treasurer

Members at Large

Linda Bentz
David Castro
Susan Dickson
Gordon Hom
Victoria Hong
Angela Lancaster
Susie Ling

Mission Statement

The purpose of the Chinese Historical Society of Southern California, Inc. shall be:

- to advocate for a wider understanding of the significance of the role of Chinese and Chinese Americans in the history of Southern California;
- to bring together people with a mutual interest in the Southern California history of Chinese and Chinese Americans;
- to perform all the functions required to acquire, preserve, and communicate knowledge of this important history; and
- to promote a better appreciation of our rich multi-cultural society.



Chinese Historical Society of Southern California

June 2026

June Program

Program Title: *The Sunset Route: Engineering and the Legacy of the Second Transcontinental Railroad*

Program Description: This program details the strategic and technical challenges of building the Southern Pacific's Sunset Route between 1869 and 1883. It highlights engineering marvels like the Tehachapi Loop and San Fernando Tunnel, while honoring the grit and sacrifice of the 3,000 Chinese laborers who made this transcontinental link possible.



Speaker Bio:

Dr. Raymond Douglas Chong is a Professional Engineer, Senior Roadway Manager, and Public Historian. President of Generations, LLC, he is an acclaimed journalist, filmmaker, and poet. His work bridges technical expertise and historical research, focusing on transportation systems and the essential legacy of Chinese labor in America.

Passing of Marian Chew

Marian Chew, who was hired by Dr. Wing Mar, began working for CHSSC while CHSSC was writing the *Portraits of Pride II*. Not only did Marian do the book design, she worked on getting it printed in China, and sending the books out to schools and libraries throughout the U.S.

Below is a posting by her husband Pete Chun on March 21, the day after Marian passed.

I lost the love of my life last night due to cancer. My Marian passed after I held her hand and talked about all the fun things we did together. She is at peace now. She was an amazing soul, full of joy and appreciation for all the good things in her life despite fighting so many health battles with grace and dignity. She brought indescribable happiness to my life and will continue to inspire me. She had great fashion sense and studied fashion design in college. I'm so fortunate she tolerated her husband's habit of wearing black cargo shorts and grey t-shirts almost 365 days a year. I know she is laughing about that right now. We are both of faith and believe we will be reunited in His kingdom. I kept telling each other the past week it won't be a goodbye but more like "see you later."

I miss her terribly but take great comfort she is a better place. I'll see you later my darling.

Pete





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LISA SEE

Join us for a joint July program sponsored by China Society of Southern California & Chinese Historical Society of Southern California : banquet and book talk with best-selling author Lisa See on her newest book, *Daughters of the Sun and Moon*.

Thursday, July 9, 2026

Registration & book signing @ 5:00 pm

Banquet @ 6:00 pm

Book Talk @ 7:00 pm

Location: Golden Dragon Restaurant

960 N Broadway

Los Angeles, CA 90012

Tickets: \$45/person*

Purchase tickets at:

<https://chssc.org/july-2026-program>

* Tickets are non-refundable



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The China Society of
Southern California



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Donations

Carey Quan Gelernter
Costco Workplace Giving
Bennie Lim
Margaret Nicholson
Dong Wong
Foundations Ours Prayer Mission
Center

In Memory of Mariah Chew

Yvonne Chang
Susan Dickson
Anna Gee



Volunteers at CHSSC



Tom Eng with USC film student Miao Hao



Researcher Mia Hao with Riona Tsai.



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LA Chinatown's Legacy Businesses

by Dorothy Fue Wong, PhD

In the last issue, the author described Los Angeles City's new Legacy Business program. Its purpose is to strengthen local businesses, and thus help maintain the identity and culture of local communities during rapid changes in the greater Los Angeles area. This program is particularly relevant to LA Chinatown.

How does the Legacy Business Program benefit LA Chinatown?

Starting in 2024, the Chinatown Service Center's (CSC) business team has supported 87 Chinatown Businesses (based on a city-provided list of approximately 130 potential candidate) with the Legacy Businesses program certification process. As a result, these certified businesses may have been given increased visibility and access to grant opportunities along with tailored technical assistance.

In addition, this team's efforts have supported the application process for \$360,000 in two grant rounds for the LA City Legacy Businesses (2024 and 2025). Each winning business received a grant of \$10,000 or \$20,000 (depending on its size). The City is expected to hold another grant round, subject to program funding and schedule.

Other than economic benefits, the certification of these Legacy Businesses supports and further enhances LA Chinatown's rich and complex historic and cultural heritage. For example, many Legacy Businesses (certified and potential candidates) are located along the historic Route 66, which is celebrating its 100th birthday this year.

Route 66 runs the length of Chinatown's Broadway—beginning at Cesar Chavez to North Broadway (passed the Buddhist temple of Xuan Wu San) before traveling to Dodger Stadium and merging into Sunset.

Another example where Legacy Businesses are an integral part of historic LA Chinatown is the Central Plaza, which is national in historic significance (and still to be officially certified). It is the first planned community created by Chinese Americans in North America.

Also, the Central Plaza includes the office (and a four-decade Legacy Business) of former pioneering attorney Y.C. Hong—he played a pivotal role in overturning the 1882 Exclusion Act (1943). Previously, Chinese Americans unsuccessfully filed over 10,000 cases in federal courts (beginning in the 1880s) to overturn this discriminatory legislation.

Who helped to establish LA Chinatown's Legacy Business program?

1. Chinatown Service Center

During a five year period, Peter Ng, CEO at the Chinatown Service Center (CSC) has offered continual support for the Legacy Business program. He attended the first meeting of LA Chinatown and Little Tokyo on promoting Legacy Businesses (March 3, 2021). The author organized this session during the pandemic on zoom.

CSC's small business program has served local businesses since 1999. When the City of Los Angeles implemented the Legacy Business Program, CSC's existing small business technical assistance



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infrastructure was well positioned to support Chinatown businesses with outreach, language access, and application assistance.

Under Program Manager Jon Lin, CSC's business counselors, including Shengfei Gan and Johnny Huang, assisted Chinatown businesses with understanding eligibility requirements, gathering information, navigating the online application process, and accessing related business resources. This support was especially important for long-standing small business owners who may face language, technology, or administrative barriers.

In addition to Legacy Business application assistance, CSC's small business program continues to provide business counseling, workshops, referrals, and announcements about relevant business opportunities for Chinatown and other small businesses served by CSC.

3. Kenneth Chan of Phoenix Bakery

The Phoenix Bakery was the first Legacy Business application that CSC supported, and the experience helped inform later application support efforts. The author first interviewed Kenneth Chan on the history of the Phoenix Bakery. Then she wrote the history within a detailed electronic application format, along with some required data about this business.

CSC's team supported with completing the application process and Kenneth Chan was able to upload it to LA City. This process began in March 2024 and completed in June 2024. CSC's small business team later developed a more streamlined process to support additional Chinatown businesses with Legacy business applications.

4. Nyssa Buck, Director of Los Angeles City's Legacy Business Program

The author contacted Nyssa Buck in June 2024 when she inquired about the status of the Phoenix Bakery application. Nyssa volunteered to come to CSC and help guide LA Chinatown's efforts in certifying its Legacy Businesses. The meeting was held on June 26, 2024 with Nyssa (and her staff member) and the Chinatown Service Center's business team. She presented a list of 130 candidates in LA Chinatown for the Legacy Businesses program, along with a GIS mapping of their locations. Nyssa also discussed further the Legacy Businesses program, and made a commitment to help LA Chinatown.

5. Little Tokyo Service Center and Little Tokyo Historical Society

For many years, the Little Tokyo Service Center was a major force in convincing the Los Angeles City Council to adopt the Legacy Business program in 2022 (which was later implemented in 2024).

In 2019, Bill Watanabe (with USC intern Caroline Calderon) of the Little Tokyo Society began an inventory of Little Tokyo Legacy Businesses. Their format was later adopted by LA Chinatown. Bill is the founder of the Little Tokyo Historical Society, and also founding director of the Little Tokyo Service Center.

In 2021, Mike Okamura (president of the Little Tokyo Historical Society) organized the Legacy Business Committee and appointed the author as co-chairman. His support advanced the Legacy Business program in Little Tokyo.

Later, the author transferred the lessons and strategies learned at Little Tokyo to LA Chinatown with the important involvement of the Chinatown Service Center.

Jon Lin contributed to this article.



Chinese Historical Society of Southern California

411 Bernard Street, Los Angeles CA 90012

Community Events

July 29-30, Tentative Yosemite Pilgrimage

July 31, August 1-2, Yosemite Backpacking trip

August 15, CHSSC Summer Picnic: Noon – 2PM. Bring dish for 8 people or pay \$20. 411-415 Bernard Street, Los Angeles