

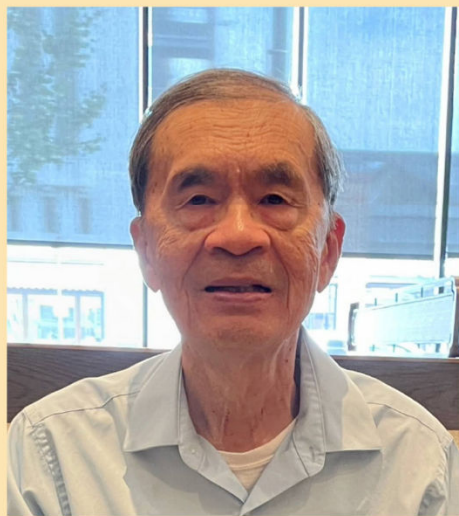


May 2026

**CHOW MEIN**  
(Fried Noodles)

Chicken with Chinese Peas . . . . .85

## HOW LOS ANGELES ROSE FROM OBSCURITY TO BECOME THE CHINESE FOOD CAPITAL OF THE UNITED STATES



**WEDNESDAY,  
MAY 6<sup>TH</sup>, 2026**

**7PM - 8PM**

**FREE TO ATTEND**  
RSVP via Eventbrite on  
CHSSC website:  
<https://chssc.org>

### DAVID CHAN

This program explains a complex tale, intertwining the entirety of the history of Chinese people in the United States, Los Angeles, Chinese food in America, and David's personal family history and experiences. In the end you will discover the tale is not one of where or what to eat, but involves the totality of the Chinese experience.



Chinese Historical Society  
of Southern California

南加州華人歷史學會



The China Society of  
Southern California



# Chinese Historical Society of Southern California

May 2026

## HONORING OUR HERITAGE

We have been sharing our Chinese American heritage in many ways. Recently, Janet Louie, a Harvard PhD candidate, approached us with questions for her documentary film project about the Sing Lee Theater on Spring Street in Chinatown. Fortuitously, one of our regular volunteers, Wilbert Lew, grew up in the Spring Street neighborhood because his mother, Margaret Dong Lew, managed the International Grocery and his father Tony Quon Lew, built and managed the Sing Lee a few doors down. Willie was able to share valuable personal recollections and family photos, which contributed to the production of a documentary film which screened in Westwood in January:

<https://cinema.ucla.edu/blog/sing-lee-theatre-collection-from-chinatown-to-ucla>

This past month, a small group of our members gathered to help clean our 19<sup>th</sup> Century Shrine at Evergreen Cemetery in Boyle Heights. We acquired the Shrine site in the 1990's and obtained grants and donations to restore it, but the site requires regular maintenance. As the Shrine, built in 1888, is the oldest Chinese-built structure remaining in L.A., we have an obligation to preserve and maintain it, especially since it's within one of L.A.'s oldest cemeteries. We honor our heritage by keeping the site clean and trimmed, we place flowers and light incense to honor our Chinese American pioneers.

In addition, we have been monitoring the final resting place, about 100 yards away, of Donaldina Cameron and her long-time assistant, Tien Fuh Wu. "Dolly" Cameron ran the mission and boarding facility in San Francisco from 1899-1934 and gained prominence by providing a refuge for many young Chinese girls. Because Dolly grew up with her family in Southern California, the family plot is in Evergreen. We honor her work, which aided many.

Eugene Wong 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

May 2026

## LA CHINATOWN'S LEGACY BUSINESSES

by Dorothy Fue Wong, PhD

*Since 2019, the author has been involved with the study and preservation of Legacy Businesses in Little Tokyo and LA Chinatown as both communities continue to face the negative effects of gentrification. Her one project was to insure that these historic businesses be protected under Los Angeles City's new Legacy Business program (officially approved by Los Angeles City Council in 2022 and implemented in 2024)*

*Beginning in 2022, the author worked closely with the Chinatown Service Center to establish procedures for LA Chinatown participation in Los Angeles City's Legacy Business program. She continues to seek other funding sources to support these businesses that are an integral part of LA Chinatown's history and culture.*

### **What is a Legacy Business, and why is it important to establish a special program to protect these local small businesses?**

Los Angeles City's definition of a Legacy Business is the standard one adopted by several cities across the nation. It is a business that contributes significantly to a community's history, culture, and identity. Los Angeles City further defined it as a business that has operated for 20 years (in contrast, San Francisco's definition is 30 years).

In 2022 after several years of study, the Los Angeles City Council established the Legacy Business Program. Little Tokyo Service Center, for many years, played a critical part by advocating for the adoption of this program.

The purpose of the Legacy Business program was to support local established businesses in order to stabilize and strengthen neighborhoods which were threatened by gentrification from outside corporations. In many cases, this gentrification would result in the erasure of a community's identity and displacement of its population.

The Los Angeles City Council also included an implementation budget of 4.9 million dollars. The largest amounts would be given in \$10,000 or \$20,000 grants to Legacy Businesses during three lotteries. It is estimated that approximately 245 Legacy Businesses would benefit.

In addition to the lottery grants, Los Angeles City would provide additional incentives. The first was placement in a Legacy Business Registry that gives recognition and publicity to a local business. The second is placement on Los Angeles City's preferred vendor's list for its operations. The third benefit is technical help that will help individual Legacy Businesses in their management.

Currently, Los Angeles City is working on providing contracts or connections to the Olympics 2028 for Legacy Businesses. It is estimated that 9 to 12 billion in business revenue will be generated in Los Angeles County.

*In coming NNN issues, watch for articles by the author on specific legacy businesses.*



# Chinese Historical Society of Southern California

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## Three Films, Three Voices in Harmony

On 25 March 2026, CHSSC featured three films on their Webinar:

*Revisiting East Adams* (2004) by Jenny Cho

*Chinatown Two-Step* (1975) by Eddie Wong

*Celebrating Tyrus* (2022) by Pamela Tom

It really was a beautiful program as the films and the filmmakers brought us all together to commemorate family, community, and optimism as Chinese Americans.

East Adams was a racially-mixed suburb in Los Angeles that was home to a community of Chinese Americans around the 1930s onwards. Many dads worked at the nearby City Market area. Here, Chinese Americans built a thriving community around the Chinese Presbyterian Church (now Alhambra True Light), Chinese language schools, and the CFO Gas Station that was a symbolic “hang out”. Director Jenny Cho and co-producer Will Gow captured the precious voices of about a dozen former residents who lived in that community. It was a timely film, as several of the interviewees have passed away.

*Revisiting East Adams* jogged Eddie Wong’s 76-year-old memory. Although he grew up in a Chinese laundry in the predominantly Jewish Fairfax area, Eddie’s dad would visit an old village classmate on 29th Street in East Adams. Eddie would listen to his “cousins” argue about why Motown was better than the Beach Boys and the Beatles. Eddie also attended many Toisan weddings at New Moon Restaurant located at 912 S. San Pedro Street, across the street from the City Market. It was established by Pamela Tom’s grandfather, Dick Tom. Eddie said, “My dad would walk through the kitchen at Man Fook Low [also on San Pedro Street], and he seemed to know everyone.” It was that Toisan bond.

Fifth generation Pamela added, “Our family also had a market called Wing Chong Lung, which was originally in Old Chinatown on Alameda St. and moved to San Pedro St (between 9th and 10th) after the demolition of Old Chinatown. It was located next door to the New Moon and was well known for its *char shiu*. We also had a market in the East Adams district called Uptown Market on Olympic Blvd, between Western and Normandie.

In 1975, Eddie Wong was a cool hippie learning to use expensive 16mm cameras. He admits he had trepidations focusing on the Los Angeles Chinese Drum and Bugle Corps – the Imperial Dragons. He said, “These were middle class Chinese parents and pretty straight Chinese American kids.” But Eddie spent time to know that team, and their dedication to family and community comes through in his film. “Two-step is a basic dance move,” explained Eddie. “Quick quick slow slow...”

Emmy-winner Pamela Tom spent 17 years filming artist Tyrus Wong for her feature film, *Tyrus*. *Celebrating Tyrus* (2022) focuses on Tyrus’ work on the Disney animated classic *Bambi* and his passion for kite making. Tyrus Wong was born in Toisan, raised in Old Chinatown, and designed murals, signs and other artwork for businesses in New Chinatown. He married Ruth Ng, former secretary to attorney



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Y.C. Hong, and they raised their three daughters in Sunland. His youngest, Kim Wong, was on this Webinar too. Tyrus said, “I used to go fishing a lot...except in fishing, you look down. Now, I fly kites. In kite-flying, you always look up.” Kim often went kite-flying with her dad and has been instrumental in maintaining the legacy of her father.

Tyrus ate at New Moon and Man Fook Low too. It was - and is - that Chinese American bond.

*Revisiting East Adams* (26-min version): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xSGOzdLQsZs>

*Chinatown Two-Step* trailer: <https://www.newday.com/films/chinatown-2-step>

Clips from *Tyrus* (2015): <https://www.pbs.org/wnet/americanmasters/tyrus-about-the-film/8917/>

## **2026-2027 CHSSC Slate**

Additional nominations to the Board will be made at the May program meeting.

President: Susie Ling

Vice President: Robert Chong

Secretary: Isaac Chu

Treasurer: Anthony Miu

## **Members at Large**

Linda Bentz

David Castro

Susan Dickson

Gordon Hom

Victoria Hong

Angela Lancaster

Eugene Moy

Sam Chow

Eugene Moy's term as president expires June 30, and at-large board of directors member Susie will step up to serve as President beginning July 1. All other board members have volunteered to continue serving. Below is a brief bio for new at-large board candidate Sam Chow. Sam is an ABC and Alhambra native that co-founded the Chinese-American Student Association (CASA) at USC. He summited Sing Peak twice in 2025 after first attending the Yosemite Pilgrimage several years prior.



# Chinese Historical Society of Southern California

May 2026

## Ching Ming Event at Evergreen Cemetery





# Chinese Historical Society of Southern California

May 2026

## The Story of Tyrus Wong's Grandview Gardens Murals



Top photo and bottom left ©OC Lee  
Middle photos and bottom right ©Vinson Soo-Hoo



## Chinese Historical Society of Southern California

411 Bernard Street, Los Angeles CA 90012

### May Program Speaker: David Chan



#### **DAVID CHAN**

David R. Chan is a charter member of the Chinese Historical Society of Southern California (officially member #8). As a member of the Society's Board of Directors, he also represented CHSSC with speaking and media appearances on Chinese American historical topics. After a decade long hiatus for his career as a tax attorney and familial responsibilities, he re-emerged as a writer and observer on Chinese food in the United States, weaving in aspects of our Chinese-American history into today's Chinese foodie world.