

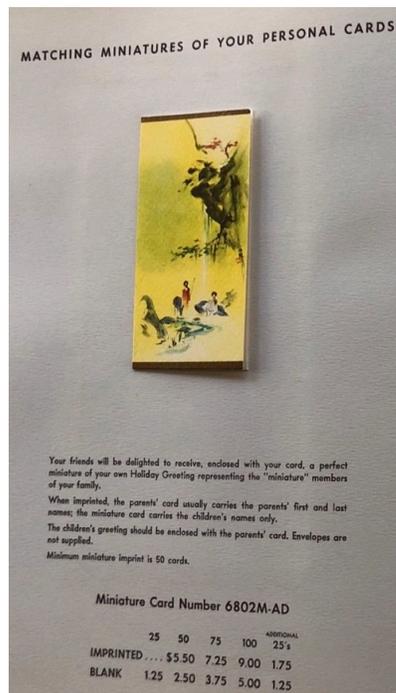
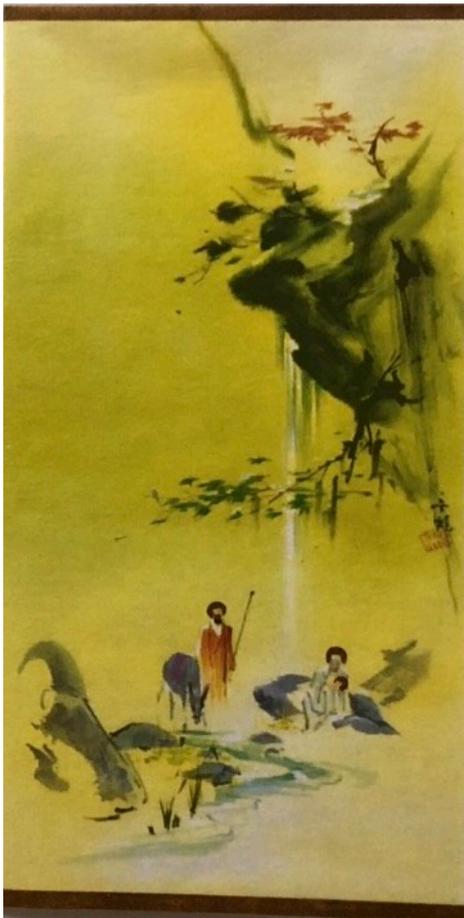
APRIL 2021

The Best-Selling Christmas Cards of Tyrus Wong

Elaborating on her recent [Smithsonian article](#), researcher and writer Karen Fang will speak about the Christmas cards designed by longtime LA artist Tyrus Wong. During the 1950-1970s, Wong's seasonal greeting cards were a cultural and commercial phenomenon, and both an important part of his fascinating career as well as a telling glimpse into the changing place of Chinese culture in American society. In this special CHSSC presentation, Professor Fang will speak about Wong's innovative fusion of Asian aesthetics with western holiday traditions, as well as the personal and regional influences informing his unique cards.



[Karen Fang](#) is a film scholar and cultural critic who writes about the intersection of eastern and western aesthetics. A faculty member at the University of Houston (Houston, Texas), Fang has been published by Stanford University Press and the *Los Angeles Review of Books*.



**CHSSC Meeting
will be online on
Zoom:
Wednesday, April
7, 2021
Program: 7:00 PM
To register, go to
chssc.org.**



President's Letter

The countdown to the launch of our first curated online exhibit has started. The online exhibit, which is being curated by Sonia Mak, will focus on Y.C. Hong's office in New Chinatown and the Tyrus Wong painting created for that space. This visual exhibit will explore how the two men's lives intersected as well as the history of the times they lived in. The generous funding for this exhibit was provided by the Louie Family Foundation.

Tyrus Wong's long and varied career included designing commercial Christmas cards. This month Karen Fang will discuss the design elements as well as the popularity of these cards. April 20th, the Chinese American Citizens Alliance, CHSSC, and the Chinese American Museum will have a Zoom panel discussion on the documentary created by Rick Quan about the life of Y.C. Hong. Lastly, join CHSSC on May 5th for our panel discussion about our new online exhibit.

Being a non-profit organization requires continual fund-raising. Despite the recent generosity of our renewing members, I have to put out my hand again. CHSSC needs paid interns. Last quarter, as part of their coursework for last quarter, six UCR interns researched the Chinatown in East Adams for our upcoming book project which we are doing in partnership with UCLA. CHSSC would like to fund five interns at \$1,000 each to continue with the research necessary to understand the five LA Chinatowns. If you are able to fund the entire cost of an intern or donate towards that cost, CHSSC would greatly appreciate it.

Susan Dickson

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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.

Chinese American Citizens Alliance invites you to a virtual program:

Post Film Panel Discussion with Director Rick Quan

A CHINESE AMERICAN GIANT: THE Y.C. HONG STORY

Tuesday, April 20, 2021, 5:00 PM PDT

RSVP at <https://ychongdoc.eventbrite.com>



Film director Rick Quan, award-winning journalist, documentarian, and TV news anchor, will participate in a post-film discussion of **A CHINESE AMERICAN GIANT: THE Y.C. HONG STORY** (2020). Your Eventbrite registration for this event also entitles you to see a free viewing of **A CHINESE AMERICAN GIANT: THE Y.C. HONG STORY** prior to the panel discussion.

Participating panelists will be:

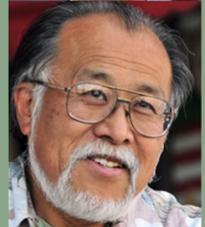
Nowland Hong

Corporate attorney and son of You Chung Hong
Past Grand President of C.A.C.A.
Founding member of the Southern California Chinese Lawyers Association



Eugene Moy

Community historian



Li Wei Yang

Curator of the Pacific Rim Collection,
The Huntington Library, Art Museum,
and Botanical Gardens



Major Donors

James Louie \$1,000

Chuimei Ho Bronson

March Donors

Kelly Chan

Cynthia Carter

Linda Lum

Smile (Amazon)

Betty Wong

Gay Yuen



APRIL 2021

Archives Spotlight

BY LINDA BENTZ

The Archives at the Chinese Historical Society of Southern California's have been closed to the public for over a year due to the pandemic. However, we have stayed very busy during these quiet times. Here is a list of the activities that have occurred in the Archives over the past year.

- Coryn Hardison, our UCLA Andrew J. Mellon intern, completed the finding aid for the Robert A. Nash collection. It is now uploaded on the Online Archive of California at <https://oac.cdlib.org/findaid/ark:/13030/c8dr315m/dsc/?query=Robert%20A.%20Nash%20Collection#dsc-1.2.9>. Coryn is currently creating a finding aid for the Ella Yee Quan Collection
- Videos from the Chinatown Remembered Project were digitized.
- UCR Public History interns used City Directories, historical photographs and newspaper accounts to document the East Adams community.
- Technology specialist Aaron Hernandez and MLIS graduate student David Castro are putting the final touches on our new Digital Library.
- We copied discharge papers for WWII veterans from the Duty & Honor Collection. These were used to assist veteran families in submitting applications to be recognized by the C.A.C.A. Chinese American World War II Veterans Congressional Gold Medal Recognition Project
- We provided support for graduate students studying Evergreen Cemetery and the origins of the Chinese American Museum
- While creating a virtual walking tour of New Chinatown, many digital assets have been used to illustrate and enhance the experience.

Our doors were locked during the past year, but we are proud that we have been able to support graduate students and WWII veterans, increase our internet presence, continue progress on the Digital Library, digitize our collections and begin to design a virtual walking tour to be shared with students across America.



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March Meeting

BY SUSAN DICKSON

As people have been staying home for the past year, little information about Los Angeles Chinatown has been available. Our four panelists, who have remained actively engaged with the Chinatown residents during this time, gave updates on the challenges facing Chinatown businesses and residents.

Gay Yuen, community activist, influential leader in the field of education, and current president of the board of directors of the Chinese American Museum, discussed the challenges of the museum that has been closed for the past year. A wide range of online programs has been initiated. Despite the year-long closure the museum will be celebrating 150 years since the Chinese American massacre in Los Angeles and the 39th year since the Vincent Chin massacre. These stories resonate with today's current events.

Phyllis Chiu, retired Castelar teacher and community activist, currently focuses on civil rights and justice issues to support the betterment of the community. Phyllis explained problems facing the current residents: rising rents, inability to access senior housing due to long waiting lists, substandard SRO dwellings, and the lack of nearby family support.

King Cheung, who is retired from the Division of Labor Standards Enforcement, expressed his concern of the gentrification of Chinatown which is causing rapid displacement of the residents. The shortage of affordable housing has been exacerbated due to the fact that affordable housing built 30 years ago with covenants that required them to remain affordable are expiring. The market rate rents will be unaffordable to the current tenants. City Councilman, Gil Cedillo, has tried to get the city to purchase the Hillside Villas affordable apartments in order for it to remain affordable housing. King hopes to raise funds for a land trust that would sell property to the community. He is looking for a site for affordable housing and a cultural center.

Rick Eng is currently a program manager for Special Service for Groups, Inc., which is dedicated to building and sustaining community-based programs that address the needs of vulnerable communities. SSG provides rapid response to victims with medical needs, mental health issues, shelter, and food. Rick discussed the rise in anti-Asian attacks. He works with law enforcement, with young people and the community in order to create a safe, tolerant, and respectful environment, and is a community liaison for "L.A. vs Hate", a program of the L.A. County Human Relations Commission.

This program began a conversation with community activists that described a rapidly changing Chinatown. We hope to continue the conversation with future programs on Chinatown and the Chinese/Asian American community.



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A Vision of Justice: Tyrus Wong & The Cultural Continuum of New Chinatown

In Los Angeles' New Chinatown, in a lovingly restored blue building that flanks Central Plaza, a watercolor painting by Tyrus Wong, entitled *Confucius as a Justice*, hangs majestically in a beautiful office away from public view. CHSSC has invited curator Sonia Mak of Art Salon Chinatown to organize an online virtual exhibition about this important artwork that has never been exhibited. The exhibition will launch May 1, 2021 to celebrate the start of Asian Pacific Islander Heritage Month.

As Ms. Mak states, “This exquisite piece calls out Confucius (551–479 BCE), a seminal figure from Chinese antiquity, whose philosophy was the progenitor of China’s most enduring humanistic ideals and cultural values. More than just a depiction of the ancient sage, this artwork also signifies a friendship between two twentieth-century pioneers in the Asian American community who called Los Angeles home: immigration lawyer You Chung Hong (1898-1977) who fought racist legislation against Chinese and played a central role in the establishment and creation of New Chinatown, and Tyrus Wong (1910-2016), one of the most prominent Chinese American artists in the US. The exhibition centers this numinous painting as a richly layered nexus that draws together the life and work of these icons, situated within the genesis of New Chinatown in the late 1930s.”



This virtual exhibition is possible through the generous support of the Louie Family Foundation.



APRIL 2021

Ching Ming (Qing Ming)

The Ching Ming festival is a traditional Chinese holiday that goes back more than 2000 years. Families gather to honor their ancestors by sweeping their graves and making offerings such as food and paper money. It was believed that the ancestors' spirits have to be at peace and that the spirits of those who are not taken care of could cause trouble in the mortal world.

CHSSC members won't be able to gather at the historic 1888 Chinese shrine in Evergreen cemetery this year for Ching Ming to honor the ancestors. Our memories of prior celebrations remain with us.

The photos shown below are from the 2011 Ching Ming at Evergreen Cemetery.





Chinese Historical Society of Southern California

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Website: www.chssc.org

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Check out the CHSSC YouTube Channel to view
recordings of past programs:

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WPUjvR2ZF1w](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCW08j4AEWMzBWPUjvR2ZF1w)