



CHINESE
CULTURE
CENTER

2022-2023

THE FUTURE, SINCE 1965



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Welcome

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

The arts champion community ingenuity, equity, and cultural power.

Now more than ever, CCC is a pillar that boldly uplifts neighborhood identity by harnessing artists' creativity and engaging diverse communities in community building. When contemporary artists have opportunities to engage meaningfully with the community, Chinatown can be visible and celebrated.

2022-23 marks a shift to transformation - starting with the decades-long "Present Tense: Perilous Playground," nurturing an Artist-in-Residence in Ross Alley that anchors artists to be strong partners in economic recovery, neighborhood belonging, and social justice, to building coalitions and driving creative actions on solidarity. Together, our artistic interventions invigorate relevant dialogues and transformative change.

We invite you to be a part of this new cultural wave, kickstarted by historical investment for cultural equity from California State Senator Scott Wiener. We also recognize the significant support from the City of San Francisco Mayor's Office, San Francisco Arts Commission, Community Challenge Grants, and Office of Economic Workforce and Development to the arts and to Chinatown.

As a fiercely proud Asian womxn-led organization, we invite you to join us in forging our own narratives.

Onwards,



Jenny Leung
Executive Director





INTERNATIONAL
HOTEL
848

Asian American Community Heroes Mural Opening

Photographer: Joyce Xi

Chinese Culture Center

750 Kearny, THIRD Floor
CCC's headquarter for 50+ years and home to signature exhibitions and programming series such as: "WOMEN 我們," XianRui (Fresh and Sharp)," "Present Tense," and "Episode."



CCC creates impact through multiple sites throughout Chinatown, the City at large, nationally and abroad.

Dr. Rolland and Kathryn Lowe Community Bridge

A physical and symbolic bridge where one can bask in the hard-won sunshine of Chinatown. This iconic walkway hosts innovative permanent and temporary public arts such as "Sunrise," and "Sky Bridge" and serves as a healing site for vigils against racism.



Wentworth Place

Wentworth Place is one of the featured stops on CCC's new "Chinatown History and Art Tour" (C.H.A.T), the only tour of Chinatown centered on art, architecture, and social justice.



41 Ross & Ross Alley

An ongoing hub since 2014 for innovative place-making and community-based art projects where artists, small businesses, and residents converge.



Portsmouth Square

Every year, the public park is transformed into a concert hall through the "Chinatown Music Festival." As Chinatown's "living room," Portsmouth Square has also been an important site to numerous solidarity rallies against hate—from Black Lives Matter to Anti-Asian Hate.

CHINESE CULTURE CENTER



Waverly Place

From lindy hop to line dancing, "Dancing on Waverly" has been an annual staple that brings a groove and a "swing" to Chinatown youth and seniors.

Chinatown Rose Pak Station

CCC has played an integral role in ensuring that community voices are represented and celebrated in the new subway station through its public art commission. We celebrate the art of Hou Yumei, Tomie Arai, and Clare Rojas in a new Chinatown infrastructure.



800 Grant Ave.

Alongside organizations in the arts, housing rights, and civil rights, CCC is one of the six founding members of the Chinatown Media & Arts Collaborative, a new vision to build "Edge on the Square."



Beyond

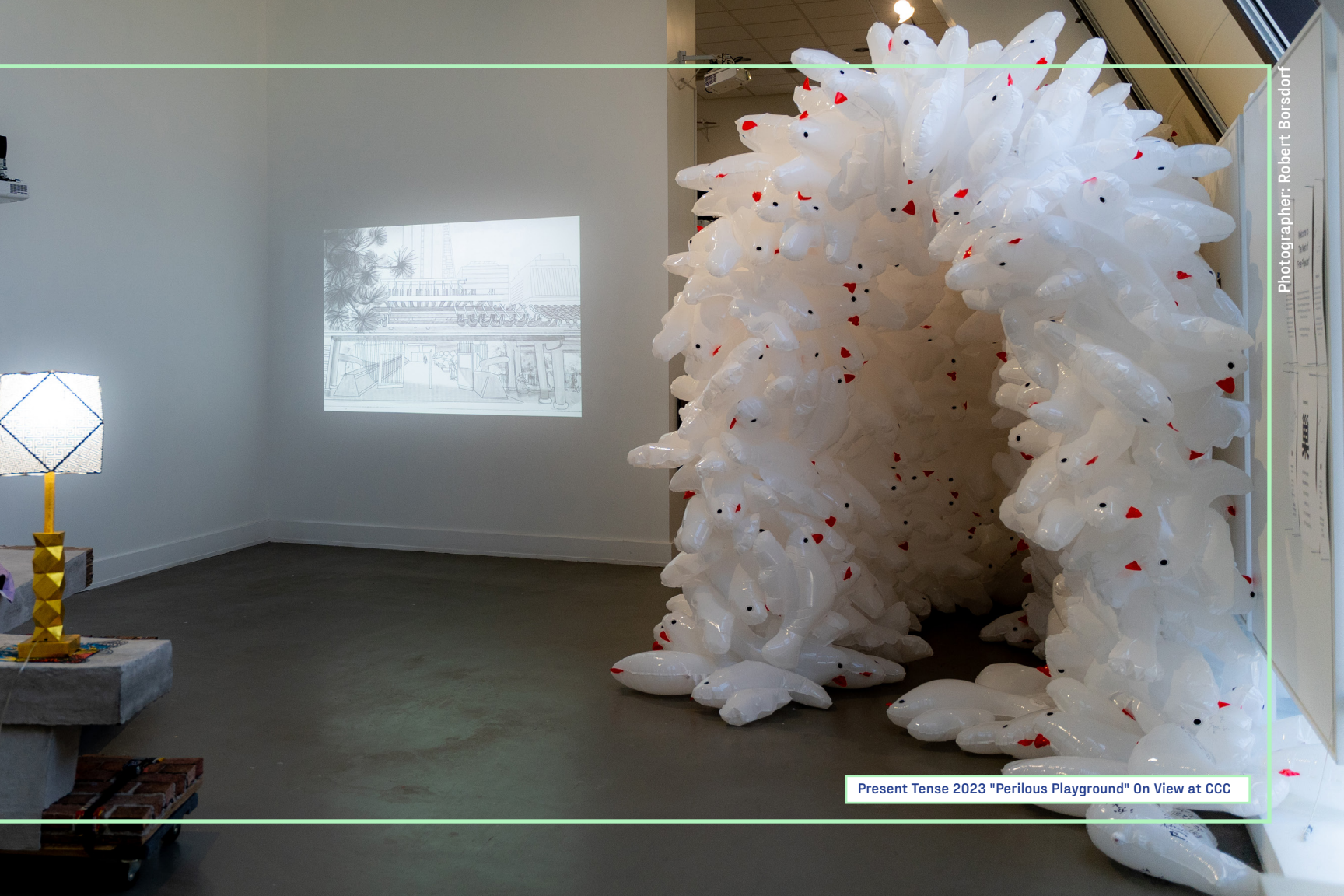
Through engaging in international dialogue via exhibitions, working groups, and symposiums, CCC is a bridge between Asian America and the Asian Diaspora, between Chinatown and beyond.

(Image: WMA Space, Hong Kong)

BOLD ART WITH SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION

As incidents of Anti-Asian racism mounted on since the pandemic, a narrative of fear and disempowerment also slowly stripped away at our hope and humanity. In this condition where survival is pressing, CCC's artistic programming such as "XianRui," "Present Tense," "How I Keep Looking Up," and more are intentional efforts to ignite the community's soul, humor, and joy. By embedding artists to inspire and create alongside community members, our artistic programming sparks a renewed sense of imagination, care, and agency.





Photographer: Robert Borsdorf

Present Tense 2023 "Perilous Playground" On View at CCC

Making History?

How I Keep Looking Up/Como Sigo Mirando Hacia Arriba/仰望 is a trilingual, cross-community, public art action that engages 16 working-class immigrant women in creating flags that represent their power and resilience. This project is led by artist Christine Wong Yap and supported by the Kenneth Rainin Foundation's Open Spaces Program.

Immigrant women representing the under-resourced Chinese and Latinx workforce in Chinatown and Mission share their migration journeys, develop design skills, and create flags alongside one another.

The flags were unveiled at the 2023 Chinese New Year Parade, carried by the designers and their families, making history as the first contemporary art project in the iconic Chinese New Year Parade.





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Latino culture and Asian culture are often put at odds with each other... It was important for us to create this collaboration and participate in it, so we can bridge those gaps and start dismantling some of the stereotypes that are out there.

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Susana Rojas,
Community Partner, Executive Director of
Calle24 Latino Cultural District



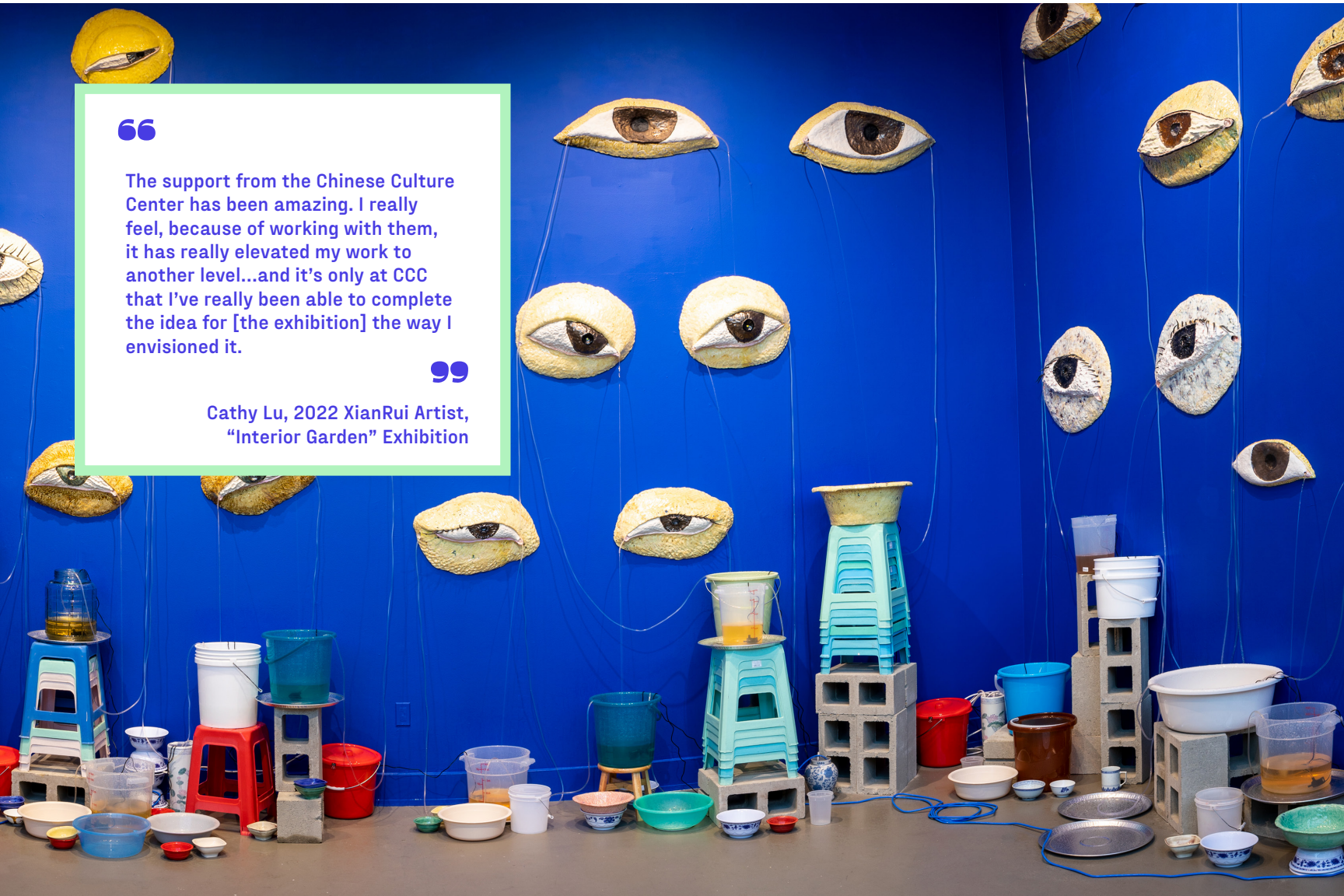
Photographers: (L) Robert Borsdoff (R) Aaron Stark

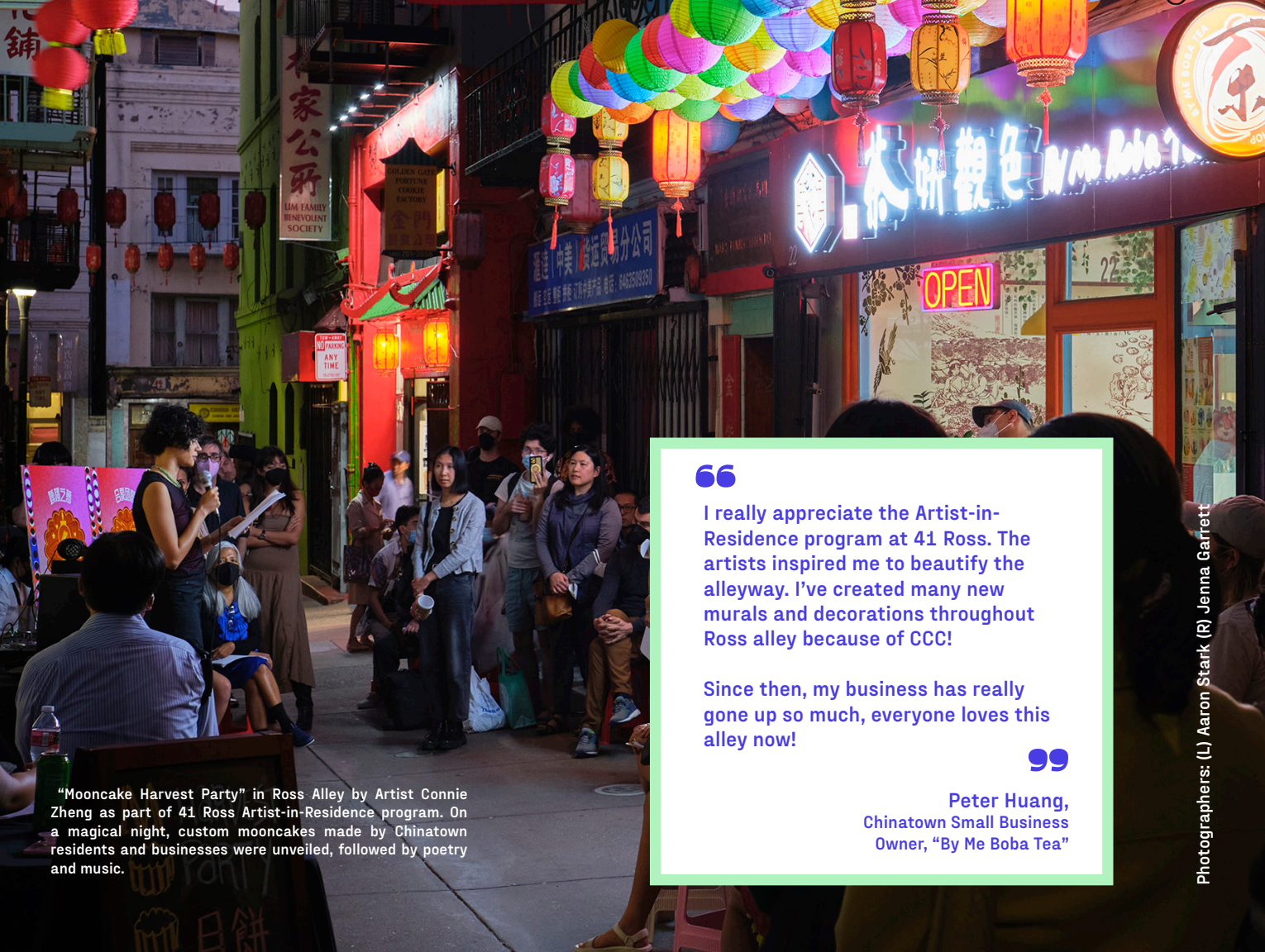
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The support from the Chinese Culture Center has been amazing. I really feel, because of working with them, it has really elevated my work to another level...and it's only at CCC that I've really been able to complete the idea for [the exhibition] the way I envisioned it.

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Cathy Lu, 2022 XianRui Artist,
"Interior Garden" Exhibition





"Mooncake Harvest Party" in Ross Alley by Artist Connie Zheng as part of 41 Ross Artist-in-Residence program. On a magical night, custom mooncakes made by Chinatown residents and businesses were unveiled, followed by poetry and music.

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I really appreciate the Artist-in-Residence program at 41 Ross. The artists inspired me to beautify the alleyway. I've created many new murals and decorations throughout Ross alley because of CCC!

Since then, my business has really gone up so much, everyone loves this alley now!

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Peter Huang,
Chinatown Small Business
Owner, "By Me Boba Tea"

BUILDING VOICE & POWER

As an intersectional art center, CCC collaborates with cross-sector partners in social justice and social service as an integral practice to shift the dominant narrative. In 2022, CCC hosted rallies, youth conversation with Jesse Jackson, held space for the Commemoration of the 140th Anniversary of the Chinese Exclusion Act, recognized Asian American Community Heroes (Mural at 730 Jackson Street in Chinatown), and drove advocacy through the forum of API Council.

On the artistic front, CCC is a strong advocate for arts equity, having historically participated in fights for resources for art & culture, ensuring that Asian American and Chinatown artists are represented in City funding while creating structural opportunities.



10 years ago, CCC played an integral role during the art commissioning process to celebrate the creative voices of Hou Yumei, Tomie Arai, and Clare R.



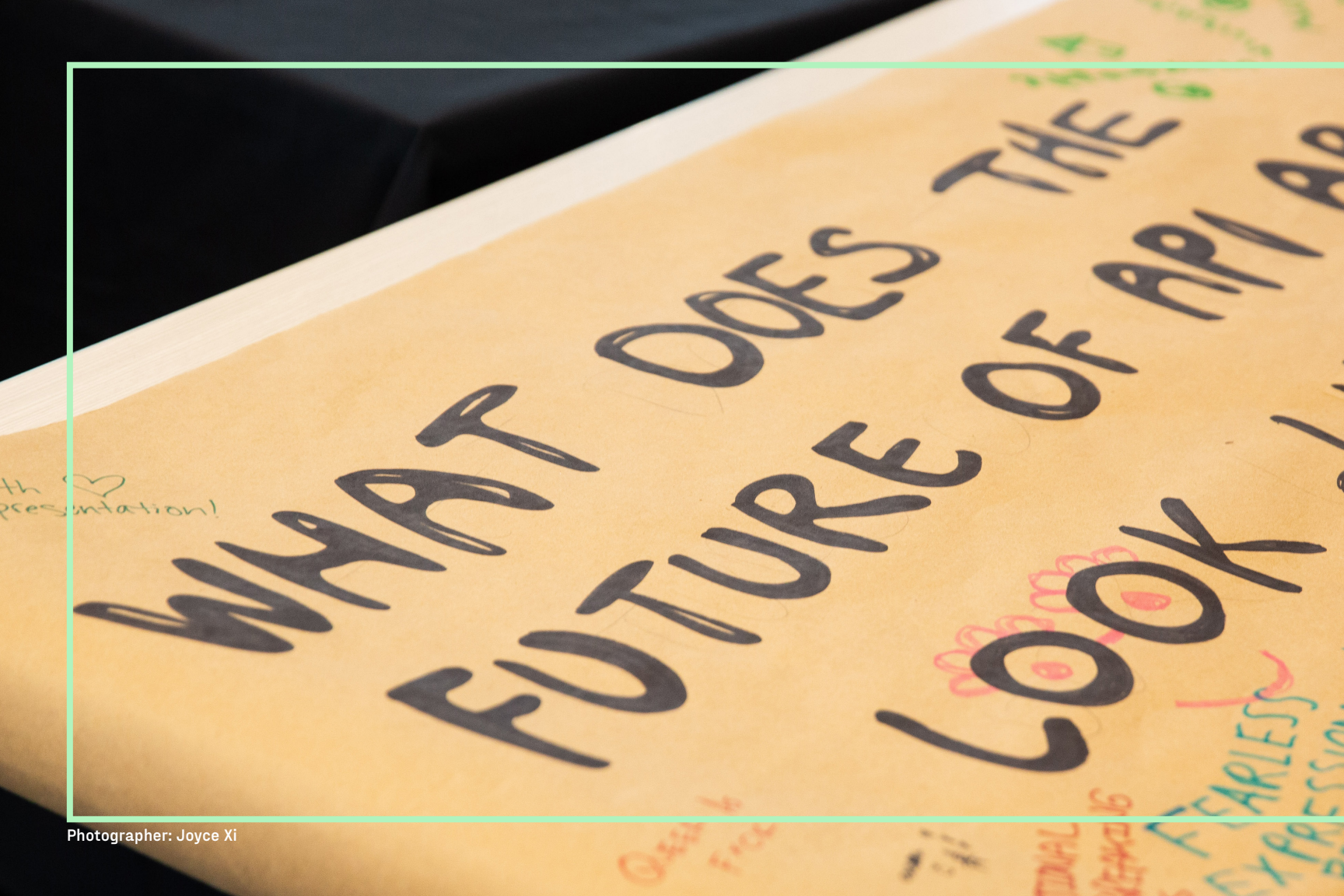
art commissioning process to ensure that community voices are amplified in the new subway station. In a lasting legacy, we are proud to and Clare Rojas that represent Chinatown's relentless spirit of connection and collaboration in the new Chinatown Rose Pak Station.

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Arts and cultural work are often not recognized enough for the important role it plays in communities... [such as] in community planning, in public safety, in workforce development, and in organizing to improve the lives of all of our communities, and particularly, our most vulnerable ...

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Aaron Peskin
San Francisco President of
the Board of Supervisors



Photographer: Joyce Xi



Unprecedented Investments

During the height of Anti-Asian hate, the Chinese Culture Center of San Francisco (CCC) advocated with the City and State to empower API voices through investment in artists. This resulted in the establishment of the API Artists Futures Fund to empower creativity and build cultural infrastructure for underserved API artists in San Francisco.

The API Artists Futures Fund is an artist-centered and accessible funding model that recognizes and supports existing cultural work and resilience in the City. Unrestricted grants and a low-barrier application process are among its unique grantmaking features to address the invisible barriers that API Artists face.

In 2023, 28 exceptional San Francisco API artists from diverse disciplines and neighborhoods were awarded the inaugural API Artists Futures Fund, hailing from neighborhoods like: Chinatown, Tenderloin, SoMA, Sunset, Excelsior, and Visitacion Valley, and more. The program underscores the importance of API artists in envisioning a future that is free of anti-Asian hate—with hope, joy, and creativity.

CULTIVATING ALL GENERATIONS

CCC brings together diverse audiences, welcoming all to experience Chinatown's cultural vibrancy and boost economic activity.

The inaugural Hungry Ghost Festival and other annual dance and music festivals celebrated cultural tradition while creating inclusive public spaces; the Chinatown History & Art Tour (C.H.A.T) and Generation Chinatown Youth Artist-in-Residence Program immerse students and visitors into the neighborhood's art and social justice history. In doing so, we create opportunities for people to build intergenerational and inter-community connections.



Photographer: Robert Borsdorf



2023 SF Chinatown's Hungry Ghost Festival





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Something I learned is that even though it is tough for Chinese Americans to live with racism and discrimination, they still have many ways to resist and celebrate their culture.

”

5th-grade student reflecting on the C.H.A.T Walking Tour



“

It is critical that all students have access to highly relevant community-based arts education. It was empowering for my students to understand the extensive history and contributions of the Chinatown community through the visual stories of resilience, courage, and activism highlighted in this program.

”

Tiffany Long,
5th-grade teacher



THANK YOU

Government Support

California Natural Resources Agency
California Department of Social Services
Institute of Museum and Library Services
National Endowment for the Arts
San Francisco Arts Commission
San Francisco Community Challenge Grants
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San Francisco Office of Economic and Workforce Development
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Chinatown Community Development Center
Chinese for Affirmative Action
Chinese Chamber of Commerce
Community Youth Center
Gum Moon Women's Residence Hall
Yerba Buena Center for the Arts

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List of donations as of July 2023



CCC's "A New Wave" gala honored transformational leaders in the arts and cultural equity - California Senator Scott Wiener and Gorretti Lo Lui, and three Visionary Artists, Tomie Arai, Clare Rojas, and Hou Yumei—who created permanent artworks for the Central Subway.



Photographer: Joyce Xi

“

CCC consistently raises the bar!

I'm so proud to be a part of this family.

”

Cynthia Tongson
Board of Directors



Photographer: Robert Borsdorf

About CCC

The mission of the Chinese Culture Center of San Francisco (CCC) is to elevate the underserved and be a voice for equality. CCC is a space dedicated to centering artists as integral to healthy communities and advancing social justice. Founded in 1965 by the Chinese American community to challenge racist perceptions, CCC emerged from the Civil Rights Movement to be an artistic pillar for Chinatown, the San Francisco Bay Area, and the Asian Diaspora.

As the home and foundation of CCC's work, San Francisco's Chinatown is at the frontier of immigrant rights, neighborhood preservation, and racial equity, representing one of the most important neighborhood models in the world. By creating opportunities for contemporary art to engage the neighborhood and marginalized voices, CCC contributes to the cultural legacy and artistic impact of San Francisco.

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Cover Image by Robert Borsdorf