



1882
FOUNDATION

our stories, our voices, our strength

devoted to uncovering and sharing our American story



2021 ANNUAL REPORT

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The 1882 Foundation, 508 I Street NW, Washington DC, 20001, www.1882foundation.org

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The 1882 Project Foundation promotes public awareness and understanding of the history and continuing significance of the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882. Office address: 508 I Street NW, Washington DC 20001, Mail address: PO Box 2492, Fairfax, VA 22031. Current officers and Senior Advisors are Ted Gong, Wei N Gan, Ting-Yi Oei, Stan Lou, Jenn Low, May Cheh, Franklin Odo, Sojin Kim, and John Kusano. The 1882 Foundation is a nonprofit 501(c)3 organization.



THE 1882 FOUNDATION OF WASHINGTON DC – 508 I Street, NW, Washington DC 20001

Annual Report for 2021 -- 2022 An Inflection Point

Overview

The Year 2021 saw stubborn covid-induced restrictions affect our programs and goals. However, we also became comfortable with digital processes and innovations. Our professional networks strengthened. We built new collaborations and adapted public programming and research methods. It is now hard to imagine going forward without considering zoom, live-streaming, or digital displays and teleconferencing. That said, the restrictions on public presentations, the limitations on personal interviews, and closures of story sites and archives for research and networking markedly dampened program effectiveness in 2021 such that the prospects of restoring pre-covid operations while continuing the successful digital work-around's promise a productive and creative 2022. We are optimistic. And, excitingly, a \$500,000 grant from the Andrew W Mellon Foundation in September affirmed our mission objectives and operational approaches. For the first time, we will be able to hire staff to augment the talent and expertise of passionate volunteers to manage the expansive growth in number and complexity of projects. We

will lease and fit out spaces to enhance programs and community collaborations.

Indeed, collaborations have been our approach to operations since the beginning of the 1882 Foundation over ten years ago. It remains the fundamental organizing principle going forward –inextricably part of the 1882 corporate character.

Talk Story

Our signature program “Talk Story Events” has grown in number and complexity. Since January, we produced 19 events with titles ranging from “Walking the Mountain: Rites and Rituals at Qing Ming” to “Pacific Crossings: Chinese Explorers on US Naval Expeditions.”¹ We covered themes from attitudes and priorities of Asian American youth to historical and current issues on Immigration. We continue to seek out topics that highlight diversity within our own community such as the “Three Wallas” that covered Chinese Americans whose families came to U.S. through India.

The year of covid-induced closures was useful in many ways. We are now

comfortable using zoom as a platform for our Talk Story events. And we are experimenting with hybrid in-person-zoom processes to include taking the event “on the road.” We “broadcasted” live from Fairfax City as part of the “Asian Festival on Mainstreet.” We worked with MEEPS for a table and window shop display on Adam’s Morgan Day to pre-stage a project called “If Buildings Could Talk” for Chinatown storefronts. We also provided open mic sessions at the Congressional Gold Medal (CGM) events at Crystal City September 28-29 and in Fairfax October 1. We coordinated with the Chinese Community Church and Chinese American Citizens Alliance for a third CGM event on December 4 in DC Chinatown to include recorded comments from Congresswoman Judy Chu and speakers from the mayor’s office, Ward 2 council, Maryland Senate, and the Whitehouse Initiative on APIA communities.

We are renewing our arrangement with Gould Properties which had generously provided pro bono use of its community conference room on 600 Mass Avenue. We want to re-start where we had left off pre-covid –with a Talk Story and fun event in Spring 2022 on “Mahjong: Building Bricks to Tradition” or “What Was That Scene in Crazy Rich Asians?” followed by an American Graffiti review of “Muscle Cars in Chinatown.” In 2022, we want to restore the “personal touch” of our original Talk Story community events while refining the digital advantages of zoom and live streaming.

At several levels, the digital platform’s flexibility and extended public reach have facilitated a re-imagination of joint programing efforts. Two collaborations with Think!Chinatown illustrated this best when we shared zoom capabilities and mail lists with the New York-based cultural organization. We integrated a Talk Story event (“Three Chinatowns and Street Art”) and participated in panels into a week of activities by Think!Chinatown. We also initiated and partnered with MLK Library, the Mayor’s Office, and Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association on several events including the production of a “Digital New Year Parade” complete with historical film clips and community commentary about lion dances and images of past parades in DC. This activity contributed to several other projects including the APIA Context Study with the DC Preservation League, Love Letters to Chinatown, and Humanities DC’s Oral History Collaborative. Furthering collaborative approaches, we partnered with OCA/DC for a Moon Festival rooftop reception (to introduce a new event space at the historic Chinatown Garden Restaurant renovated from funds we obtained on the restaurant’s behalf from AMEX and NTHC to help covid-affected businesses) and with the National Portrait Gallery and MLK Library on an experimental hybrid program “Art After Works” featuring artist Hong Liu and author Maxine Hong Kingston.

The year saw us work with Chinese American Citizens Alliance (C.A.C.A) chapters in San Francisco and Portland on screenings of the

“Deep South Far East” and “YC Hong” documentaries. We partnered with Hebrew Union College on the Talk Story “JewAsian.” We organized lectures on anti-Chinese legislation historically for the Palisades Village and Dominion Electric and participated as panelists on Asian Hate issues for the National Police Enforcement Memorial Foundation. We supported rallies against Asian American Hate organized on the National Mall and Freedom Plaza, distributed yellow whistles at several other events as part of the APA Justice’s national “Yellow Whistle Campaign.”

With CAMdc, we co-presented a six-part series of virtual programs “Quiet Before: Unearthing Anti-Asian Violence” organized by New York’s Womankind (co-sponsors were Eaton Workshop, 1882 Foundation, Honolulu Theater for Youth, and Smithsonian Asian Pacific American Center).

“History is never quiet. But, we often don’t hear the stories because they are hidden or forced into whispers so that we no longer remember, and we don’t understand why they break out today. The series “Quiet Before” tries to fill gaps in our understanding.” -TKGong, May 2021

Returning to street engagements, we organized with OCA/DC a lunch delivery to isolated residents of the Wah Luck House through funds provided by the Noor Corporation to address covid-related community and business issues. We filled gift bags for immigrant mothers provided by a private individual and distributed yellow

whistles at information tables with AALead at the Chinatown Community Church and neighborhood events.



Yellow whistle campaign and BLM Matters Rally

For Year 2022, we will continue much as before. In addition to monthly Talk Story Events, the occasional “Timeless Echoes” series will grow in the vein of September’s “Page Act: A Through Line to Atlanta” (supported by Panda Express) and planning with MLK Library for joint programs tentatively called “1882atMLK.” We see this to be a quarterly hybrid “talk show” focused on literature and film, with discussions and panelists to draw out intersectional themes. Topics under discussion include conversations with documentary film producers on Vincent Chin’s killing, Corky Lee’s passing, China Initiative, growing up Chinese in Jim Crow South, and colored superheroes. These will be for 2022.

Three Initiatives Plus a Fourth

Currently, the 1882 Foundation carries out activities and projects under three programming initiatives. The first is “Talk Story” that records oral histories and works on preserving sites and storytelling. Talk Story is about uncovering and embracing

community and identity. The second initiative is “Curriculum and Lesson Plans.” This is related to educational projects and engaging with state officials and local school districts. Third, we have the “1882 Symposium” initiative which seeks to build collaborations and best practices among museums and historical societies around the country. This is a fast-growing area with a rush of opportunities to build stronger national networks of APIA museums. A proposal to exhibit the Jake Lee Paintings (now in storage at the Chinese Historical Society of America in San Francisco) in July 2022 at CAMdc and organized as a traveling exhibit afterwards will serve this purpose. We expect the annual 1882 Symposium in May 2022 to be a stronger partnership effort with MOCA, Angel Island Foundation, and CHSA, possibly with the 1882 Foundation assuming a secretariate role for the network going forward.

The “Fourth Initiative” merges several program lines. The first is a weekly book club program formed several years ago as the “Literature Corner.” It was built around the interests of student volunteers from Georgetown University. It stalled as students graduated and left the DC area, but the program was revived as a monthly online “Lit/Film Corner” led by summer Interns from Stanford, Columbia and William and Mary separated because of covid but joined together through zoom. Because Zoom does not need participants to be co-located, shared interests can continue easily beyond the summer into a second year or

more. For our summer intern program, this resulted in ideas on bi-racialism and proposals of hybrid in-person/zoom programs with the DC Public Library called “1882atMLK” at the renovated MLK Library adjacent to DC Chinatown. We will explore this program further in 2022.

In the longer term, institutionally, these activities and interests share a digital character augmented by in-person programming. They can be grouped together as a “Fourth Initiative” standing in contrast to the other three initiatives which are in-person programs augmented by digital tools.

Our desire for the Fourth Initiative is to establish a digital space that encourages young adults regardless of their physical location to explore ideas focused on uncovered and emerging themes in literature, film, and humanities in the arts. The Fourth Initiative addresses cross-generational and cross-community issues. We hope it will attract youth into our largely history-oriented programs, and we want to have a space where creatives can experiment with form and expressions of ideas. The Fourth Initiative will be linked with our Summer Intern Program.

Again, prevented from meeting in person because of covid, the summer intern program was mostly completed through zoom connections. Originally started to accommodate students wanting community credit for school requirements at Georgetown and American Universities,

interns have become strong contributors to our mainstream programs. Each year for the last three years, we have had 9 unpaid interns from Stanford to Amherst and 3 to 5 of them have continued to work on specific projects throughout the year as “associates.” We will be strengthening the management of the program in 2022, particularly as we expand our educational projects with OCA.

Continuing Project Priorities

A priority for several years and continuing into the new year is to work with U.S. Forest Service and public/private stakeholders to conserve the Summit Tunnel RR site in California. We want to elevate the visibility of Chinese American contributions and enhance the site’s educational value for all Americans. Because of our efforts, the National Trust for Historic Preservation selected the Summit Tunnel RR Site in June as one of its “11 Most Endangered Historical Places in the United States.” We are promoting the site be listed as a National Landmark through an archeological survey (we helped to form) to be completed early next year and fast-tracked through the Department of Interior within two years. As the nomination moves steadily forward, we are actively seeking to establish an Interpretive Center on site for which we have registered a 501(c)3 organization “Summit Tunnel Conservation Association” to be the locus of efforts. We see our role to be facilitating the formation of a public-private association of federal and local stakeholders to manage the conservation of the site and

to lay the groundwork for a permanent research and archiving facility.

More immediately, we are reviving a Summit Heritage Tour with U.S. Forest Service for Fall 2022 and developing half-day tours for the summer and assisting in proposals for a film project sought by the Bureau of Land Management and USFS like the highly successful production of “Legacy” two years ago. For these purposes and to promote support generally for federal funding of Asian American historical projects, we organized a reception and hybrid Talk Story event on “Legacy” with CAMdc on December 17, 2021 anniversary of the rescission of the Chinese Exclusion laws.

The new year 2022 should see more collaboration with CAMdc to create permanent exhibits about the RR at the museum. In the meantime, we are contributing to national magazines and news organizations on articles about the Summit site. These publications will heighten public interest in the February 2022 time frame (with a publication we expect from National Geographic), for which we must prepare additional information material with USFS and local stakeholders. Our intention for 2022 is to build on the experience being acquired from the Summit Tunnel effort and strengthen our staffing to both support this ongoing historical preservation project and to recommend others for which we will be taking our lead from the DOI APIA Theme Study edited by our Senior Academic Advisor several years ago.

Along that line, we will propose multi-year joint projects with a perennially close collaborator the Chinese American Citizens Alliance. Three specific projects involve an outreach tour of the Veterans Oral History Project of the Library of Congress, a nomination for national historic registration of a segregated one-room schoolhouse in Greenville, Mississippi, and strategies to promote federal support for APIA historic sites and educational programs. In 2022, we hope to form additional collaborations for heritage tours beyond the RR and Mining experience. This includes to shrimping villages and wineries north of San Francisco and to Pacific Grove and Monterey Bay related to the early fishing industry.

Education and Curriculum Development

We have made great strides nationally through an engagement (already two years old) with OCA and C.A.C.A. on Asian American studies in K-12 grade levels state by state and at the Virginia and local school district primarily through the Virginia Humanities Council and the Virginia Department of Education. In September and October, we organized a series of on-line programs with the Department of Education on issues related to teaching Asian American topics in Virginia. We will complete a current project to build a “tool kit” of resources and lesson plans for educators and we plan to expand the scope of that project to establish “The 1882 Education Forum” that includes a website of resources and dialogue for educators nationally. We have

opened talks with stakeholders at the DC Public Schools for teacher workshops for professional credit, like the workshops we have offered to school districts surrounding DC.

In other collaborations, we are optimistic about strengthening relationships with for-profit distributors of educational material such as DBQ Project and Full Spectrum Features. They add tested professionalism and an expansive reach to school districts throughout the country. Additionally, we are discussing with the Valentine Museum in Richmond a project like the “50 Objects” project we carried out with the Tenement Museum in New York three years ago. We are renewing our stalled efforts to establish joint Chinatown walking tours with the Capital Jewish Museum and have opened talks with Smithsonian Associates about an APIA-themed bus tour in DC for 2022 which we see as a test-run for a larger, more engaging program for 2023.

We want to pursue opportunities with the Pulitzer Center and with others on civics education through programs based on the report “Educating for American Democracy.” We will be building partnerships and submitting a proposal (due February 2022 for implementation in 2023) to NEH’s “The Landmarks of American History and Culture.” Our proposal will bring educators from around the country to DC to understand the issues of laws and policies that affected Chinese Americans and all immigrants historically and today.

Because of reactions to the Black Lives Matter Movement and concern over rising Anti-Asian hate, there has been more attention and public and private funding for educational programs than ever before. We believe we are well-positioned to take advantage of this funding based on our track record of educational projects. In 2022, we intend to pursue funding opportunities energetically and strengthen collaborations with educational entities. Our long-term objective is to establish the 1882 Foundation as a nationally recognized institute on public education about the Chinese American experience.

DC Chinatown: A National Story Center

A core priority remains conserving and reinforcing the cultural significance of DC Chinatown. Continuing projects include: “APIA Context Study” with the DC Preservation League now entering a second year of an 18 month project (extended because of COVID); the “Chinatown Off H Street Project” which seeks funds to incentivize a private collaboration to renovate three shop spaces --a TCM/acupuncture shop, a Buddhist Temple, and the convenience market at corner of H and Sixth Streets-- in a way that prospers their private operations while preserving their historical/cultural character (using the Wong on Wo model in New York and the AMEX-NTHP grant provided to the Chinatown Garden Restaurant as examples); the “If Buildings Could Talk” project which seeks public-private collaborations for

creating historic exhibits in street window spaces; and the “506 Project.”

The “506 Project” is a Mellon Foundation award of \$500,000 to lease and fit-out the



I Street Frontage of the 506 Project

building at 506 I Street next to our current basement office in the Moy Family Association building. The Project will create a Storytelling Center and a social workspace for nonprofit APIA cultural organizations to encourage interactions, incubate ideas, build collaborations, and draw cultural and educational activities to Chinatown.

Linked with the “Chinatown Off H Street Project” (and considering two stalled small area proposals –for the Chinatown Park by the Urban Land Institute and the “Chinatown Green Street Project” envisioned by the Association of American Landscape Architects), the 506 Project is a catalyst for forming a cultural block that can transform Chinatown’s urban look and developmental trajectory. It can shift the locus of DC Chinatown from the commercially cluttered archway intersection of H and Sixth Streets to community activities revolving around the I Street Chinatown Park. This shift addresses

perennial concerns about the “gentrification” of Chinatown and its erasure. Downtown Bid, ANC, and the DC Historical Society have expressed interests for this project’s impact on tourism, safety/sanitation, and cultural preservation.

The confluence of interests from multiple agencies is promising. It offers a holistic approach to maintaining Chinatown as the unique cultural destination that city planners consistently assert to be a City

priority. To galvanize the interests further, we will be proposing public-private collaborations to create exhibits in street-facing window spaces within a project tentatively called “If Buildings Could Talk.” This becomes an actualization of concepts discussed in 1882 Symposiums since the first symposium as “museums without walls,” “history in places,” and “community-centric museums.”

Talk Story Topics in 2021

¹ Talk Story programs since January 2021: Legacy: Film Screening and Panel Discussion; WWII and the Asiatic Fleet; Bruce Lee: Impact on DC; The Page Act: Through Line to Atlanta; JewAsian (with Hebrew Union College); Deep South, Far East: (with C.A.C.A.); Three Wallas: Chinese Indian Americans; Walking the Mountain: Rites and Rituals at Qing Ming; Pacific Crossings: Chinese Explorers on US Naval Expeditions; On Selflessness: Richard Liu; 60 Years Later: The Failure of Asian American Studies (Timeless Echoes); Gold Medal for WWII Veterans with C.A.C.A.; Virtual Chinatown Lunar New Year Parade with CCBA and DCPL; Angel Island History and Operations; Conversations on Chinese New Year in the 60’s with Tom, Ted and Jerome; Immigration 1924-1965: Past Struggles, Current Issues; Made for Food: Chinese American Restaurants, Architecture and Interior Design; Y.C. Hong Story with C.A.C.A.; DC Chinatown: Past Views, Future Visions.

Talk Story Events shun formality. Their goal has been since its first event in 2011 of a handful of storytellers has been to strengthen individual awareness within a sense of community. We are guided by an understanding that “the life of our community comes from the power coming together to remember and share stories.”

Projects for 2022

This is a list of major projects we plan to undertake in 2022 assuming adequate staffing and funding . The amount listed after each project is a funding target that we hope to obtain from grants and donations.

- Chinatown Off H Street – Establish a program to incentivize business collaboration and raise funds to

conserve three operations (Traditional Medicine and Acupuncture, Buddhist Temple, and neighborhood market) at corner of H and 6th Streets, using AMEX/NTHP at Chinatown Garden as example-- \$200,000

- Talk Story and Timeless Echoes – Hire a team leader to organize 12 programs and continuously upgrade technology, appearance, and processes -- \$24,000.
- 1882 at MLK – Coordinate with MLK Library for 4 programs and 1 film screening -- \$5000
- Summit Tunnel RR site – Complete archeological survey of Summit RR workers camp and nominate it for National Landmark status, organize 1 Heritage Tour to Summit Tunnel and 3 half-day guided visits, register a Summit Tunnel Conservancy to coordinate stakeholder meetings to establish an Interpretive Center on site, raise \$200,000 for starting-up the Center -- \$50,000 (committed by USFS).
- The 506 Project – Lease and fit-out 506 I Street over a 3-year period for an APIA social workspace and Storytelling Center, and to promote projects and collaborations that activate the adjacent Chinatown Park and Alleys (to add to \$500,000 already obtained from Mellon Foundation) -- \$50,000
- If Buildings Could Talk – Promote among Chinatown business and Downtown Bid the creation of storytelling exhibits in window display areas and for storytelling situations such as supper clubs at Chinatown Garden Restaurant and second floor tours. -- \$5,000.
- Educational Institute – Establish paid Program Director and team positions of a secretariat that supports projects and programs through public and private grants related to school curriculum and teacher training. A two year project. -- \$125,000.
- National Conferences – Organize annual 1882 Symposium (\$10,000) and Asian American Studies in K-12 Conference (\$10,000)-- \$20,000
- Summer Intern and Associates Program – Provide stipends and support for projects and activities for 9 summer interns, 4 associates, and 1 summer team leader -- \$9,000.
- Youth and Community Programs – Facilitate collaborations among youth and young adults in creative and leadership programs by Chinatown Arts Studio, AALead, Chinatown Service Center, CYC and regional youth organizations, to include Chinatown New Year Parade (February), Double Seventh Street Art (July), and Mid-Autumn Moon Movie on the Park (October) -- \$9,000 -
- Range 99 – Complete landscaping of memorial for Chinese pioneers at the Congressional Cemetery, organize a dedication event – (\$12,000 of private donations committed from previous years)

Concepts and Evolving Objectives & Goals
Drawing from Remarks at 1882 Symposium VIII, May 2021
The Symposium as Secretariat for the Network

The annual 1882 Symposium gathers museum and public educators from around the country to share best practices and strengthen relationships about the Chinese American experience. It seeks to organically evolve an association of collaborating individuals and agencies to continuously improve public access to latest research and storytelling practices without creating an organizational hierarchy. Last year, in Symposium VIII, we merged the second meeting of a “network” of APIA museums that CHSA had convened the year before. The Symposium/Network was originally planned with MOCA (designated host) to be an in-person conference held in 2020 but because of the fire there and covid it became a virtual conference in May 2021. Concepts of museum design and capabilities to reach the public or for the public to reach educational programs, digital and distance learning topics became prominent. Covid conditions had quickened digitizing trends already appearing in previous years. The Welcoming Remarks and the Day 2 Concluding Summary explain this evolution. They lead to an understanding that the future for the 1882 Foundation is in the realm of nurturing and shaping ideas through a secretariat that supports regional and local stakeholders and that uplifts their research and programing efforts—especially related to public education in classrooms and at historical places.

Day 1 -- Welcoming Remarks:

This is the first of three webinars examining why and how we approach public education on Chinese American heritage and history, and by extension about the Asian American experience.

My name is Ted Gong. I am the Executive Director of the 1882 Foundation. The Foundation was formed almost ten years ago after a grass roots campaign to have Congress apologize for the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882. We succeeded in getting the Senate and the House in 2011 and 2012 to unanimously pass resolutions of regret and to condemn the Chinese exclusion laws, and to reaffirm their responsibility to protect the civil rights of all people in the US. Five

community and civil rights organizations did this. They were the Chinese American Citizens Alliance, National Council of Chinese Americans, Japanese Americans Citizens League, Committee of 100 and OCA-Asian American Advocates plus the law firm of Covington and Burling. From that effort, the 1882 Foundation emerged.

The Foundation is a 501c3 organization that seeks to broaden public awareness and understanding of the history and continuing significance/consequences of the Chinese Exclusion Act. We do this through three Initiatives: “Talk Story” which revolves around uncovering and preserving oral histories and story sites; “Curriculum and Lesson Plans” which deals with developing educational material and teacher training

up to 12th grade; and the “1882 Symposium” which is an annual effort to bring museums, historical societies, and other stake holders together to encourage their collaboration and best practices.

The Symposiums are intended to be small. We purposely organized them to avoid the common structure and formality of such valuable conferences as those organized annually by the AAAS or bi-annually by APIAHiP, and we purposely did not rotate the symposium venue out of Washington DC because we wanted to establish an expectation among participants that they could continuously reinforce contacts with DC-based government and lobbying agencies. Our goal, from our first Symposium -- Symposium I (which was launched in the seminar room at the Smithsonian’s APIA Programs office under Franklin Odo)-- was to build collaborations and to share exhibits, programs, and material. We always understood and sought to learn how exhibitions and programs were increasingly being digitalized so that the “sharing” could be facilitated and relationships could be strengthened –and, we believed that continuous, regular interactions through the small symposium format would build the trust and develop the exchanges that would form the “network” that was discussed two years ago at a gathering organized by Hoyt Zia and Doug Chan at CHSA in San Francisco, only our vision was larger than museums because we sought to include educators from public schools and stakeholders such as from the National Archives, the INS (USCIS immigration historian), Library of Congress, Park and Forest Services and others.

The second “gathering” of the “network” was to be hosted by MOCA in New York last year, but the fire there caused a re-thinking that the Network join the annual Symposium in DC which was being prepared

for May as Symposium VIII. Preparations were advanced with NARA to provide the meeting venue at its downtown office. But, covid intervened and the Symposium was first postponed (thinking the covid restrictions would be over in three months!) and then cancelled.

So, I am very happy that this opening session includes Teng Chamchumrus from the Smithsonian who will lead us off with Nancy Maasbacch and Herb Tam from MOCA and a few good friends and colleagues to continue where we had left off last year. I think this will be a great session. As one panelist mentioned in our prep meetings --it feels like the right time to examine fundamental questions of purposes and processes. Certainly, the year of “coping with covid” has been mentally exhausting and has challenged us all to examine our assumptions of what we do and how we do it.

I also think the events of the year between when we formulated our Symposium topics and when we have had to self-reflect on the BLM movement and the Atlanta killings have added urgency to us to understand how our programs are relevant to the community we want to reach, or to reach us. I think Teng’s opening remarks on the theme of “community-centric” design and curation of artifacts and stories is more meaningful now than when we had this conversation over tea at the Buildings Museum’s coffee shop before the pandemic, a year ago.

The year of “coping with covid” has accelerated technological and digital trends and working relationships in outreach efforts, history in places and school programs and Museum lay-outs. Ed Tepporn from Angel Island –his discussion with his panelists will be richer because what we have experimented

with and that experience allows us to discuss more confidently what we might expect looking forward into the years ahead no longer hampered by covid but enhanced by what we learned from coping with it.

I want to close and return the program to Hongyan by making early, final comments about the concept of the 1882 Symposium. Indulge me for half a minute because this is probably my last Symposium. My used-by date is coming up. The Symposium had always sought to conclude each Symposium with a commitment to complete a goal –or a “milestone”– to be achieved during the year before the next year’s Symposium. This shared goal would serve to strengthen the collaboration. Between Symposium VI and VII we had the “50 Objects Project” that contributed to the Tenement Museum’s “Your Story Our Story” project which then contributed to the

MOCA’s exhibit featuring Chinatown organizations from around the country. I had a conversation with a curator from the China Alley museum in Hanford and she had expressed how encouraging it was for her that the “big” museum in New York should have reached out to them to contribute to a larger whole. She felt included, and I’m sure Herb’s ability to tell a story in New York was enhanced because of this contribution from “small” Hanford. I hope that we continue setting milestones and I would suggest that the Network and the Symposium join permanently to produce Symposium IX and X and all those roman numerals that follow.

Thank you for this opportunity to say these few things.

Day 2 -- Symposium VIII Session 2 Closing

Remarks: --

I want to thank Ed Tepporn, Barbara Wyatt, Katherine Lo, Will Wood, Cassie Chinn and Justin Hoover for their expertise and insight. And, I want to thank all you for joining us for this session of our annual 1882 Symposium, and for your thoughtful questions and engagement here and at your home communities.

I want to conclude this day of the Symposium with an announcement and a few comments about the Symposium. It does seem the Symposium is at an inflection point. And, we will talk about that in just moment.

First, the Announcement: Barbara stole my thunder.

But, I will point out that we have been working on heritage tours and public-private partnerships since Symposium I. And, each year (with our Program Director John Kusano), we have incrementally strengthened relationships with the Department of Interior (“Asian American Theme Study” before the Foundation with our Education Advisor Franklin Odo, and the inspiration of the “History and Places Project” by DOI educationist Kathy Orr...), Bureau of Land Management and especially with the U.S. Forest Service in California.

We were inspired by the model that USFS pioneered with the Wing Luke Museum for heritage tours to Chinese mining, logging, and settlement sites throughout the Pacific Northwest. This led to us in the 1882 Foundation to work with historical societies

in Southern California, C.A.C.A., and with CHSA in San Francisco—all participants in our Symposium from the start, which then produced the “Explore APA Heritage” website and self-guided tour by the USFS and hosted by CHSA, again a member of the Symposium and in the case of CHSA a founding contributor to the 1882 Congressional effort.

Our goal, again, for the Foundation, is to build collaborations and best practices, and which I had said repeatedly that heritage tours were “turn-key.” They can link or lead to other programs and projects affecting our mission objectives.

So, the next iteration of collaboration in heritage tours among Symposium participants came with 1882 Foundation (thank you John Kusano, Hilda Kwan and Fred Wong) developing into our overnight tour to the Summit Tunnel and reaching out to create educational spin-off’s from the tours. This included working with UC Davis on teacher training and lesson plans, and supporting the USFS production of a short documentary “Legacy” that we promote in public programing. The formula of an over-night tour, versus the week tour of the Wing Luke example, was a breakthrough and we are confident more tours and projects are in the offing. In fact, we are in process of brainstorming on another short educational film.

All this was advanced through a clear vision several years before 2019 to focus national attention on Chinese American history by celebrating the 150th Anniversary of the TRR, and for us, to focus on the Summit Tunnel, rather than at Promontory where most celebrants were heading. That led to the Symposium VII being held at the National Museum of American History, special exhibits on the TRR, coordinated with activities at the US Postal Museum (including its release of a TRR forever stamp) and an

event at the Library of Congress during which Congressional members gave remarks.

So, when one day I received a phone call from Barbara Wyatt about identifying APIA sites for possible nominations to National Landmark or Memorial status, I was able to immediately point to the Summit Tunnel and had all the information and visuals to make the case. I have to give a shout out to Barbara Wyatt -- one person can make a difference-- and her persistence and patience and knowledge of the processes, allowed us to move forward with DOI funding for an archeological survey of China Camp which is underway now and which is critical for the next step of making a landmark nomination –still a couple of years away and uncertain, but it is moving steadily forward.

In the meantime, our understanding of the Summit Tunnel and its tremendous educational value for Chinese American and American history has grown and we have also seen challenges because of the minimally controlled visitations, increasing rapidly, and shameful graffiti and disrespect for the area.

I think all of us believe it will be helpful to have the site recognized as a national landmark, but a plaque and signpost do little to actually protect the site, and the designation cannot be an unfunded mandate on any of the government partners nor be one that ignores the needs and concerns of the property owners.

Thus, the 1882 Foundation’s efforts include refining our heritage tours to the Summit (make them truly self-funded) and steadily building the trust and the arrangements for an Interpretive Program on site supported by a consensus-driven public-private collaboration.

This will take some work.

But the NTHP selection helps tremendously. It affirms through its selection the national significance of the site, and we can draw upon that endorsement to strengthen our arguments for establishing the Interpretive Program, if not for a Center.

The 1882 Symposium at an Inflection Point

We don't have much time left. I am so sorry to have said so much about an announcement that I could have said in one or two sentences, which was what I had planned yesterday. But, I want you all to understand these steps --these milestones-- do not happen on their own. The seeds of today's NTHP's selection, which is a major step forward to an eventual National Historic Landmark designation by Congress or the President several years from today, and the principles of an Interpretive Program we hope can be hammered out this summer, are accomplished by individuals linking with other individuals over time through associations and collaborations such as the 1882 Symposium, or the "Network" which I had mentioned at the opening session yesterday.

And, as I mentioned yesterday, a characteristic of the Symposium is that each Symposium concludes with a "milestone" to be completed during the year before

the next Symposium.

And, I had teed up the "milestone" for this year to be a commitment from participants to join the "network" with the Symposium together (perhaps funded by TAAF), perhaps to evaluate establishing a "community-centric" museum and not be so concerned about where it is to be placed, but trying to see all that is possible and imaginable from today's session to answer a question posed yesterday (which I very much appreciated from Jack T'chen's and follow up remarks) --Why spend money to establish and maintain an APA Museum on the National Mall? Why not imagine "a national APIA museum" to be a nationally funded network of digitally connected exhibits and programs of artifacts and stories owned separately by regional and local collections, that includes physical and hybrid exhibits continuously circulating within the network.

Tomorrow's Day 3 session, our final day (yeah!) is all about education. We expanded the original program because community and national attention to the BLM Movement and Anti-Asian and anti-Jewish violence has exploded the number of efforts, debates, and approaches to teaching and learning about APIA topics. The issues deserve more attention than we had originally planned, and we will see you all tomorrow for that.