





Brief History

- Built in 1921 by architect G. Albert Lansburgh
- Originally named North Beach Branch Library
- One of several Carnegie Libraries in San Francisco
- Changed to Chinatown Branch Library in 1958

Brief History (continued)

- Designated as a San Francisco Landmark in 2002
- Renamed Chinatown / Him Mark Lai Branch in 2011
- Collections include:
 - Books, magazines, audiobooks, CDs and DVDs in Chinese.
 - Medium size collection of Vietnamese language materials.
 - Asian Interest collection in English specifically focuses on China, Chinese culture and the Chinese in America.
 - An extensive file of pamphlets, newspapers and magazine articles on Chinatown's history and issues of concern to the Chinese and Asian American community
 - Collections of historical and academic Asian-American interest magazines and newspapers.





















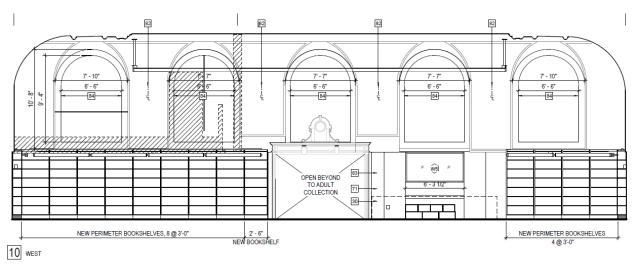












Chinatown Him Mark Lai Branch Library Public Art Opportunity

Wall-Mounted Two-Dimensional Artwork: Integrated into five arched niches located along the west wall of the Library's Historic Reading Room, facing one of the main entrances into the Library. Each niche measures approximately 9'4" x 6'6", totaling approximately 300 square feet.

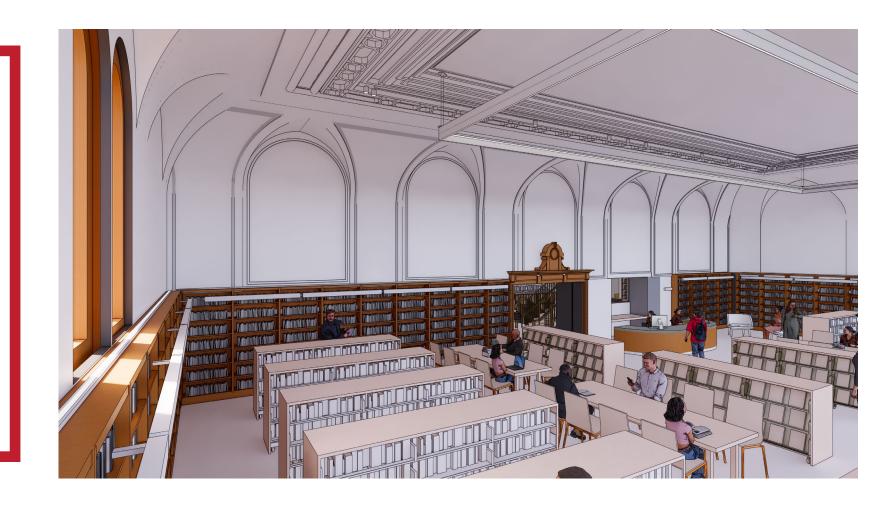
TOTAL ARTWORK BUDGET

\$ 160,000



Chinatown Him Mark Lai Branch Library Public Art Project Goals

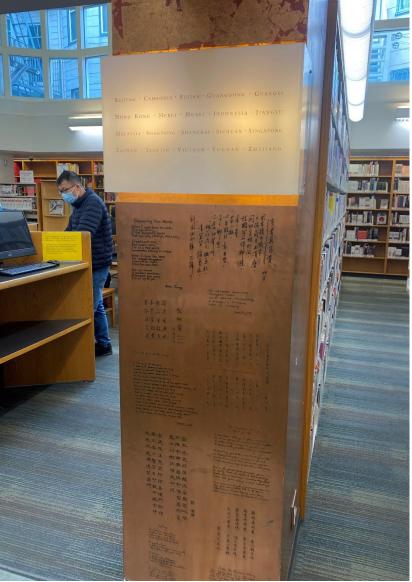
- Provide an uplifting and inspiring atmosphere for library users and staff.
- Creatively use the existing architectural features of the space.
- Be an expression of the Chinatown neighborhood culture, history, identity, and values.
- Provide a community benefit, which includes providing opportunities for artists with a meaningful connection to Chinatown.











Take Root by Rene Yung

- San Francisco-based Chinese artist
- Commissioned by SFAC; created and installed in 1996.
- Installation materials: copper, copper leaf, aluminum, plexiglass and lighting
- Community-based project that collected bilingual community poems about the library.
- To be reintegrated into the new renovation of the Library



PUBLIC ART PROJECT TIMELINE

- Project Plan was approved at the Feb. 14, 2024 VAC Meeting
- R1: 42 pre-qualified Artist were reviewed and scored for this in September 2025.
- R2: 18 semi-finalist Artist were discussed and scored Nov. 17, 2025

REVIEW PANEL COMPOSITION

- Claudine Cheng, Library Power User and Asian Art Commissioner
- Trisha Lagaso Goldberg, Director, Programming and Engagement, Anderson Collection at Stanford University
- Justin Hoover, Founder and Principal, Collective Action Studio
- Chao Qun Huang, Chinatown Adult Services Manager, SFPL
- Qianjin Montoya, Academic Liaison, Jan Shrem and Maria Manetti Shrem Museum of Art
- Charles Smith, Associate Architect, Department of Public Works
- Jackie von Treskow, Senior Program Manager, Public Art, SFAC
- Margaret Yee, Educational Consultant



CHINATOWN HIM MARK LAI BRANCH LIBRARY PUBLIC ART PROJECT ARTIST REVIEW PANEL ONE SUMMARY

MEETING DATE

November 17, 2025

VOTING SELECTION PANELISTS

Claudine Cheng, Library Power User and Asian Art Commissioner
Trisha Lagaso Goldberg, Director, Programming & Engagement, Anderson Collection at Stanford
Justin Hoover, Founder and Principal, Collective Action Studio
Chao Qun Huang, Chinatown Adult Services Manager, SFPL
Qianjin Montoya, Academic Liaison, Jan Shrem and Maria Manetti Shrem Museum of Art
Charles Smith, Associate Architect, Department of Public Works
Margaret Yee, Educational Consultant

PROCESS

Arts Commission staff presented the qualifications of 42 artists selected from Chinatown Artist Registry Qualification Panel. "Yes/No" majority votes based on the following criteria: Artistic Merit, Relevant Skills and Experience, and Meaningful Connection to San Francisco Chinatown, yielded 18 artists to move to Round Two.

Round Two:

Artist Selection Panel reviewed the **18 artist** semi-finalist applications and scored each application on the following criteria (1= low score):

- Artistic Merit (1-10)
- Relevant Skills and Experience (1-10)
- Meaningful Connection to San Francisco Chinatown (1-10)

Voting yielded 3 finalists, who will create conceptual design proposals for the Chinatown Him Mark Lai Branch Library Public Art Project.

RESULTS

Christine Wong Yap 25.67 Bijun Liang 24.86 Windy Chien 24.43





Windy Chien



Windy Chien makes sculpture and site-specific installations that elevate the vernacular form of knots to inspire awe and understanding. At the intersection of function, mathematics, and history where knots reside, she introduces aesthetics to illuminate what's most fascinating about them: the journey of the line.









Bijun Liang



Bijun Liang is an interactive media and installation artist from Chinatown San Francisco. Through humor, crowdsourcing, and virtual simulations, Bijun retells the everyday to showcase voices of those often forgotten. Capturing the distinct perspectives of her audience and community, Bijun has exhibited her work at the Chinese Culture Center, Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, Asian Art Museum, and various Chinatown festivals, most recently at the 2025 Flower Market Fair.



Christine Wong Yap



Christine Wong Yap is a visual artist and social practitioner who works in community engagement, drawing, printmaking, publishing, textiles, and public art. Through her hyperlocal participatory research projects, she gathers and amplifies grassroots perspectives on belonging, resilience, and mental well being. Christine has developed projects with the Chinese Culture Center of San Francisco, For Freedoms, the Library Foundation of Los Angeles, the Othering and Belonging Institute at UC Berkeley, Times Square Arts, among others.







Chinatown Him Mark Lai Branch Library Public Art Next Steps

Artist Review Panel (Finalist Recs) November 17, 2025

VAC Approval of Finalists November 19, 2025

Artist Orientation Week of January 5, 2026

Artist Proposal Development Jan 12 – Feb 27, 2026

Conceptual Design Proposal Deadline February 27, 2026

Public Display of Proposals March 16 – 27, 2026

Artist Review Panel Two Week of April 6, 2026

VAC Approval April 15, 2026

Arts Commission Approval May 4, 2026



Michael Arcega, Auspicious Clouds | Heavy Fog, 2018, Broadway at Stockton Street. Photo by the Artist; Courtesy of the San Francisco Arts Commission





THANK YOU!

