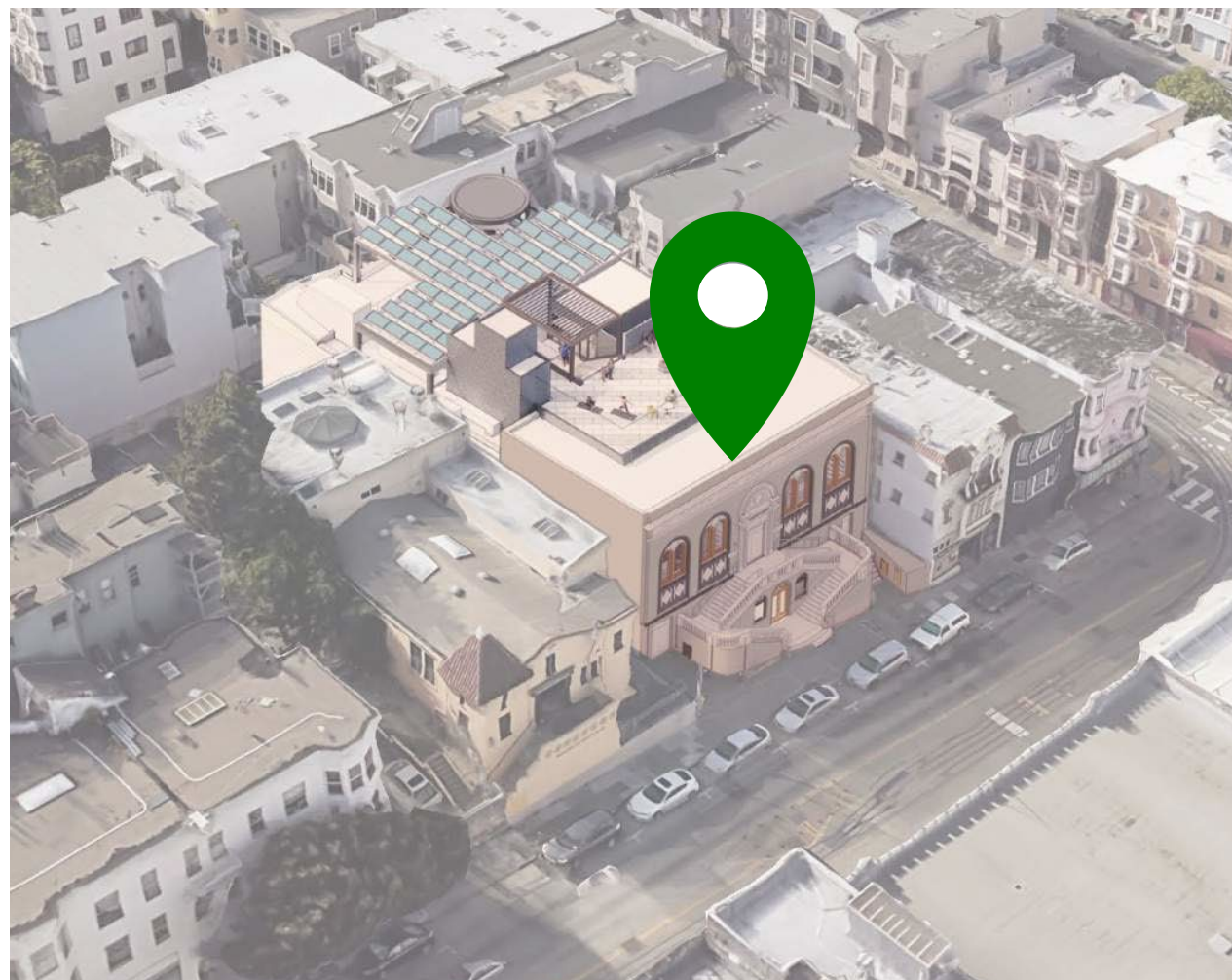
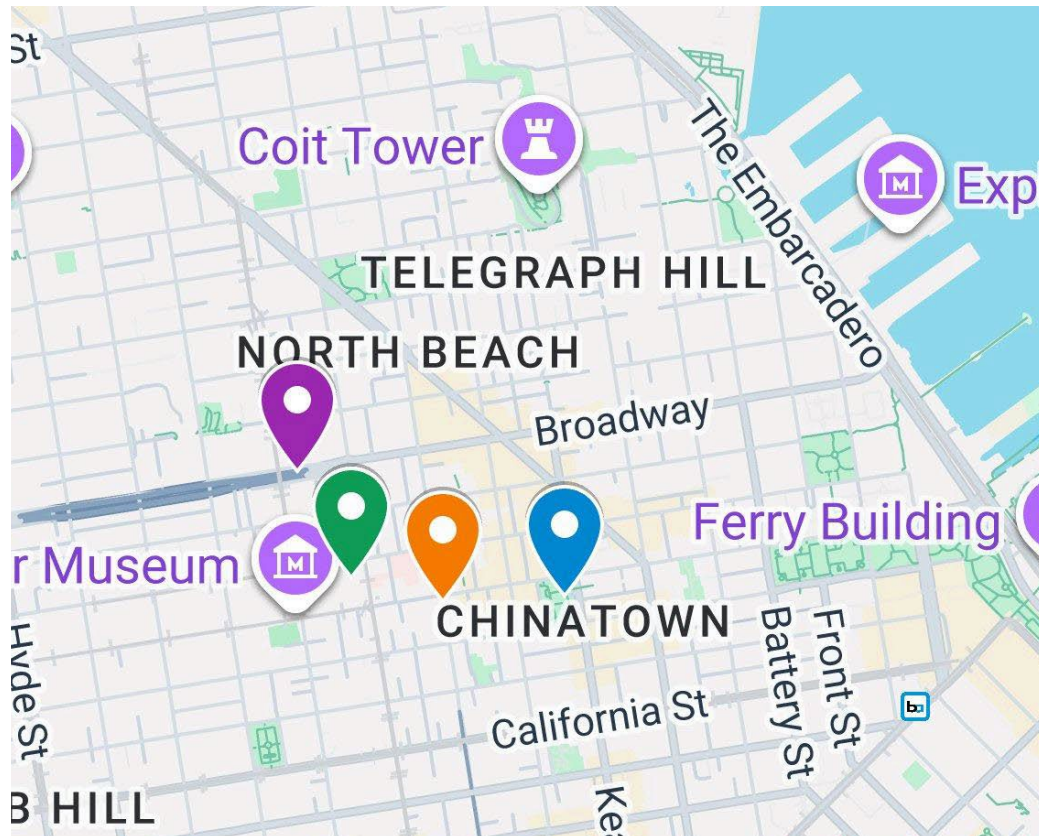




CHINATOWN HIM MARK LAI BRANCH LIBRARY RENOVATION PROJECT

RECOMMENDED ARTIST | AUGUST 19, 2025



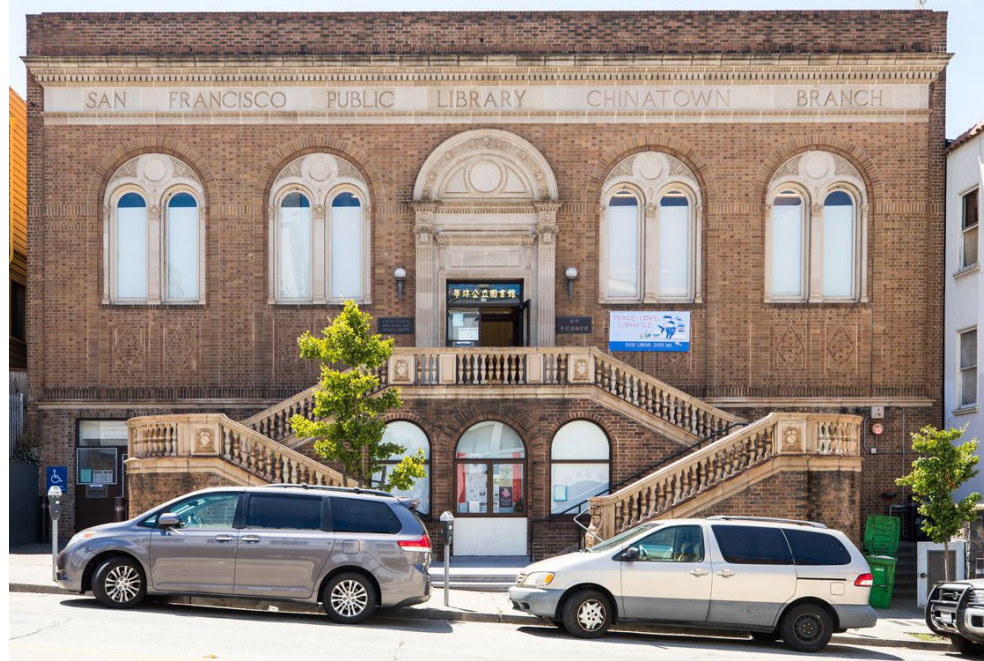


Brief History

- 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.





An aerial photograph of a city street scene, likely Chinatown, with a blue color overlay. The image shows various buildings, including a large one with a flat roof and a smaller one with a gabled roof. A street with cars and a crosswalk is visible in the lower right. The text is centered over the image.

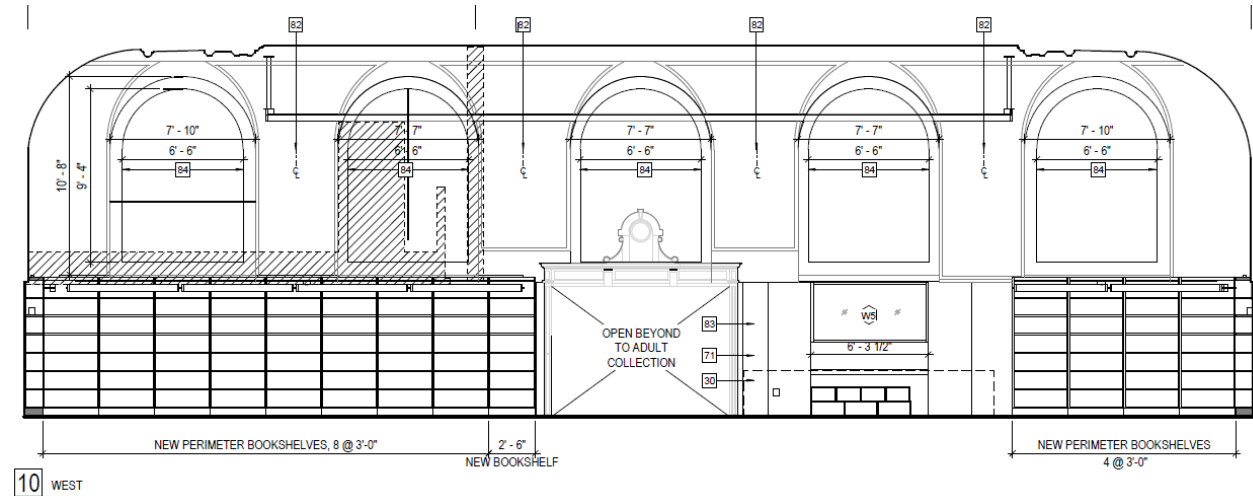
**CHINATOWN HIM MARK LAI
BRANCH LIBRARY
INTEGRATED WALL PUBLIC ART OPPORTUNITY**



**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. Each niche measures approximately 9’4” x 6’6”.

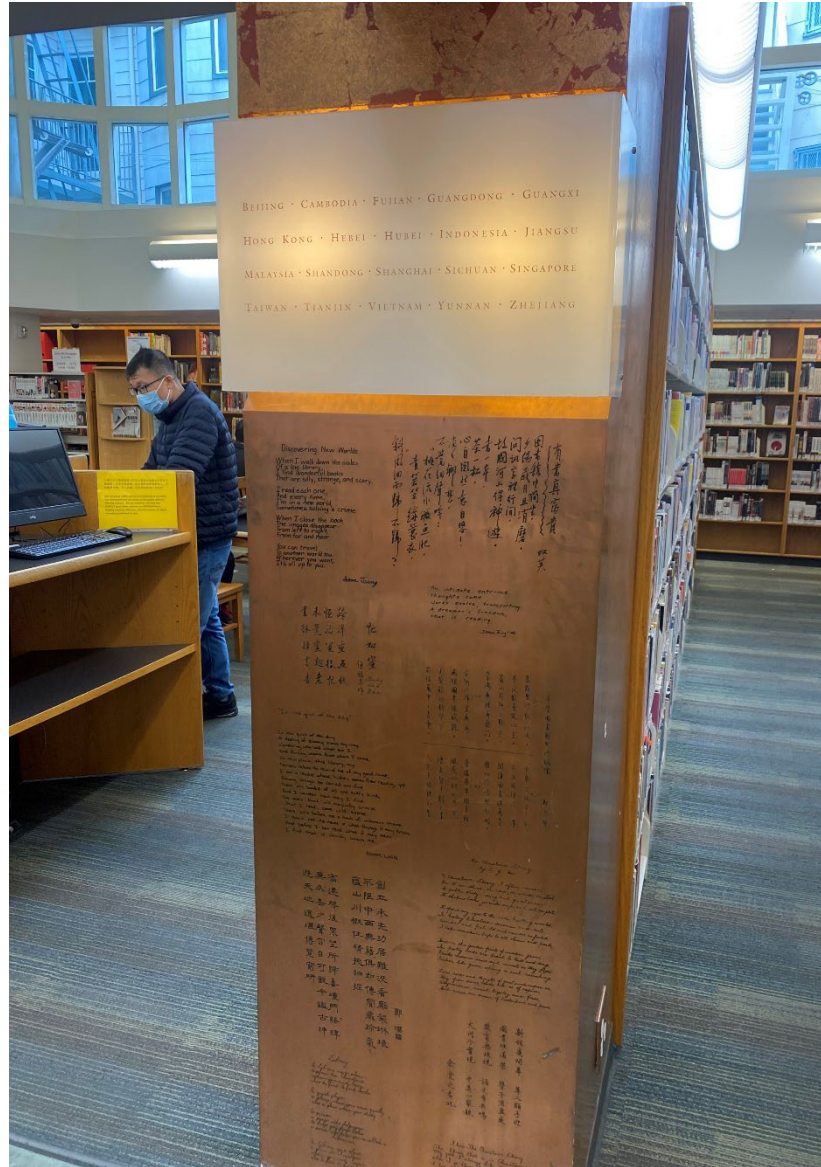
TOTAL ARTWORK BUDGET **\$ 160,000**



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

An aerial photograph of a city street scene, likely Chinatown, with a blue color overlay. The image shows various buildings, including a large one with a flat roof and a smaller one with a gabled roof. A street with cars and a crosswalk is visible in the lower right. The text "CHINATOWN HIM MARK LAI" is centered in the upper half, followed by "BRANCH LIBRARY" and "RECOMMENDED ARTIST" in the lower half, all in white, bold, sans-serif font.

CHINATOWN HIM MARK LAI
BRANCH LIBRARY
RECOMMENDED ARTIST

REVIEW PANEL COMPOSITION

Arts Commission Staff

- Jackie von Treskow, Senior Program Manager, SFAC

DPW Representative

- **Charles Smith**, Associate Architect, Department of Public Works

Library Representative

- **Chao Qun Huang**, Chinatown Adult Services Manager, SFPL

Community Representative

- Claudine Cheng, Library Power User and Asian Art Commissioner

Arts Professionals

- **Trisha Lagaso Goldberg**, Director, Programming and Engagement, Anderson Collection at Stanford University
- **Qianjin Montoya**, Academic Liaison, Jan Shrem and Maria Manetti Shrem Museum of Art
- **Margaret Yee**, Educational Consultant

Panel Advisor

- **Hoi Leung**, Curator, Chinese Culture Center

CHINATOWN HIM MARK LAI BRANCH RENOVATION ARTIST REVIEW PANEL TWO SUMMARY

MEETING DATE
July 26, 2025

VOTING SELECTION PANELISTS

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
Margaret Yee, Educational Consultant

PROCESS

Three artist finalists presented their proposals for the Chinatown Him Mark Lai Branch Renovation Public Art Project. The Artist Review Panel discussed the finalists' proposals and scored each artist on the following criteria (1= low score):

- Artistic Merit (1-10)
- Relevant Skills and Experience (1-10)
- Meets the Project Goals and Goals of the Civic Art Collection (1-10)

RESULTS

Christine Wong Yap	169
Bijun Liang	157
Windy Chien	150

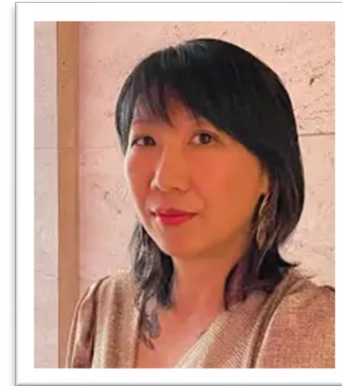
ARTS COMMISSION APPROVAL

Discussion and possible action approve the conceptual design proposal "Bright Prospects" by Christine Wong Yap for the Chinatown Him Mark Lai Branch Library Renovation Project, as recommended by the Artist Review Panel.

Discussion and possible action to authorize the Executive Director of Arts and Cultural to enter into a contract with Christine Wong Yap for an amount not to exceed \$160,000 for the design, fabrication, insurance, transportation, and consultation during installation of an artwork for the Chinatown Him Mark Lai Branch Library Renovation Project.



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, For Freedoms, the Library Foundation of Los Angeles, the Othering and Belonging Institute at UC Berkeley, Times Square Arts, among others.



Him Mark Lai Source: CHSA

ORAL HISTORY 05.13.01 (Mother's Day)

INTRODUCTION

My name is Fong Yee Jook, born in Vietnam, left Vietnam for the Dominican Republic and then had two beautiful children.

In Vietnam, the village I lived in was (Street) [transliterated from Cantonese], business and escape poverty. The village is

My mother and father met and married there. They stake it out, or probably raise some money to Vietnam probably in the 1920's, by bringing their wives to come right away, they probably I've never been to China. Only my

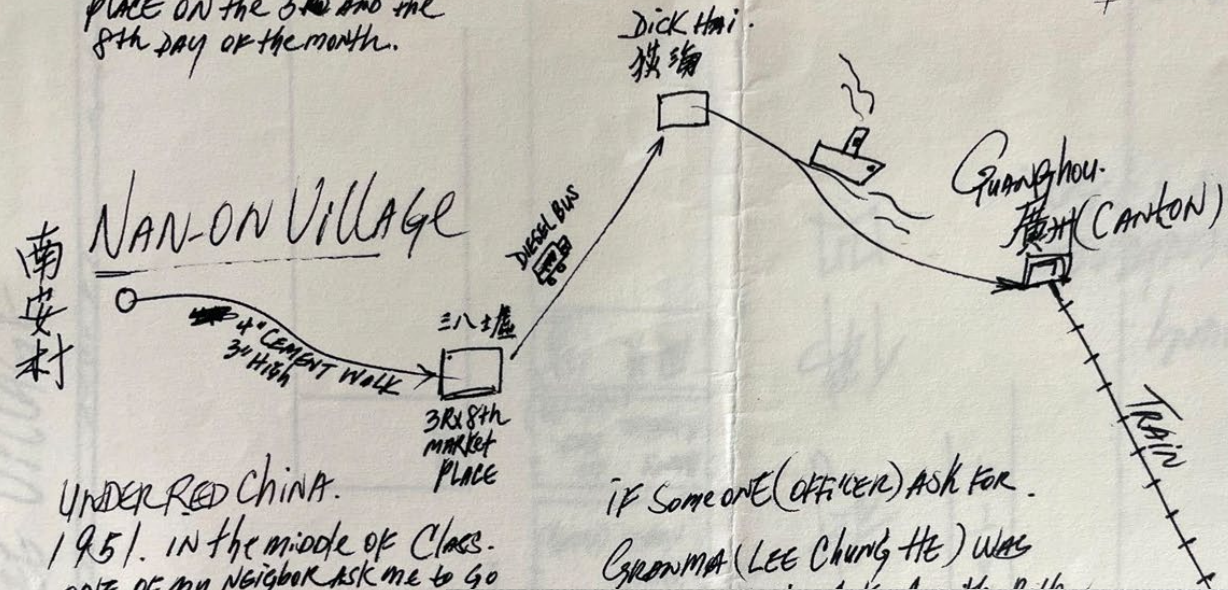
三十八 (market place):
merchants come to this place on the 3rd and the 8th day of the month.

NAN-ON Village
南安村

UNDER RED CHINA.

1951. in the middle of class. one of my neighbor ask me to go to 3-8 shopping place, at the bus station. She point to a woman a distant and ask me to get on bus with her. when we arrive at Dick Hai, I followed that woman for a distant. when found out I followed the wrong woman. I find the right one at bus station. this woman took me to Canton. I waited there for few days. So she took me to train station. She told me that I am one of

JOURNEY to HONG KONG.



if some one (officer) ask for.
Grandma (LEE Chung He) was

RESEARCHER IDENTIFICATION

The researcher named below has duly applied to use records in the National Archives Center
San Bruno, California 94066

NAME CHRISTINE WONG	CARD NO. DWRHS 361
SIGNATURE CWONG	VALID THROUGH 5/12/04

The use of records is governed by published regulations and is not implicit in possession of this card.

BY

Michael C. Smith, 5/12/01
(Signature) (Date)

NOT TRANSFERABLE
NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS ADMINISTRATION

NA 14025j
(3-88)

Bright Prospects 明亮視界

Activating Curiosity, History,
Culture, Access, & Exploration
激發好奇心、歷史、文化、可及性與探索精神

Christine Wong Yap 葉黃嘉雯
ART PROPOSAL FOR THE CHINATOWN
HIM MARK LAI BRANCH LIBRARY
RENOVATION PROJECT

Concept 概念 Bright Prospects consists of five images which celebrate how this branch fosters community members' senses of belonging and the agency to take action in their own lives. Each window-like panel opens up to a scene at a different time of day, united by a shared motif of a mandarin orange tree.



Curiosity 好奇心

In recognition of the branch's robust story time program, flower buds symbolize young minds, while a luminous night sky suggests the sense of wonder unlocked by learning and literacy.



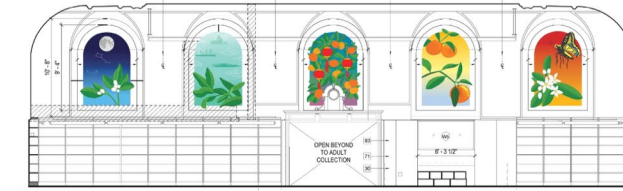
History 歷史

Honoring historian Him Mark Lai and how the branch connects patrons with a sense of history, this panel is composed vertically like a Chinese landscape painting. It features images of a mountain in Guangdong, a steamer ship that carried early migrants, and Angel Island.



Culture 文化

Celebrating the branch's community rootedness and cultural competence, a tree full of oranges and lanterns symbolizes prosperity and cultural pride. Many Chinatown residents may not be rich, but there are priceless assets in this neighborhood: soul-stirring sights, sounds, tastes, dialects, memories, and webs of kinship and intergenerational love.



Elevation rendering



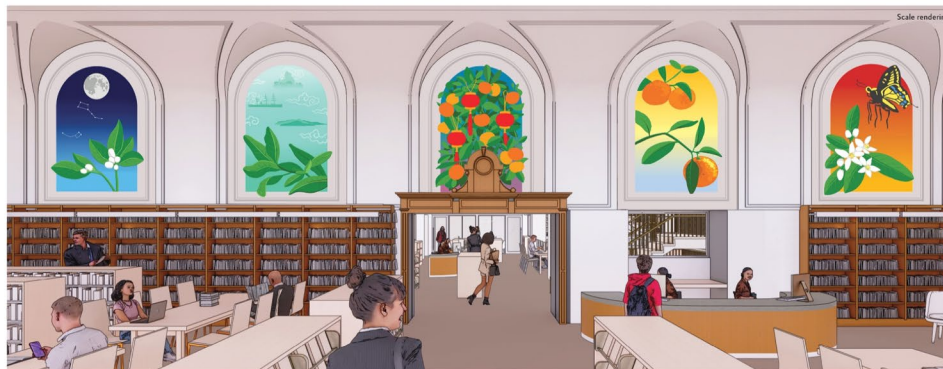
Access 可及性

Acknowledging the branch's vital role in closing technology gaps and serving patrons of many ages, languages, and goals, the ripe fruit on a low branch represents finding what one seeks.



Exploration 探索精神

Symbolizing how the branch opens worlds beyond its walls, an Anise Swallowtail butterfly approaches orange blossoms. In Chinese culture, these elements symbolize freedom, transformation, resilience, longevity, and good fortune.



Scale rendering



Example of hand-cut collage of colored and painted paper.

Media 媒材

PAPER/CUT. I will hand-cut and collage the design from colored and painted paper, bridging the community's familiarity of traditional Chinese papercutting with contemporary techniques. The materiality echoes the physical media that is so valued by many older patrons, embraces imperfection and humanness, and incorporates texture and dimensionality.

PRINTED PLYWOOD. Professional photographs of the collages will be digitally printed directly onto CNC-routed plywood with UV coating to ensure the long-term durability for this permanent artwork. Selected areas of the image will be printed on a second, bas-relief plywood layer to add dimensionality. The edges of the wood panels will be handpainted to match the face.

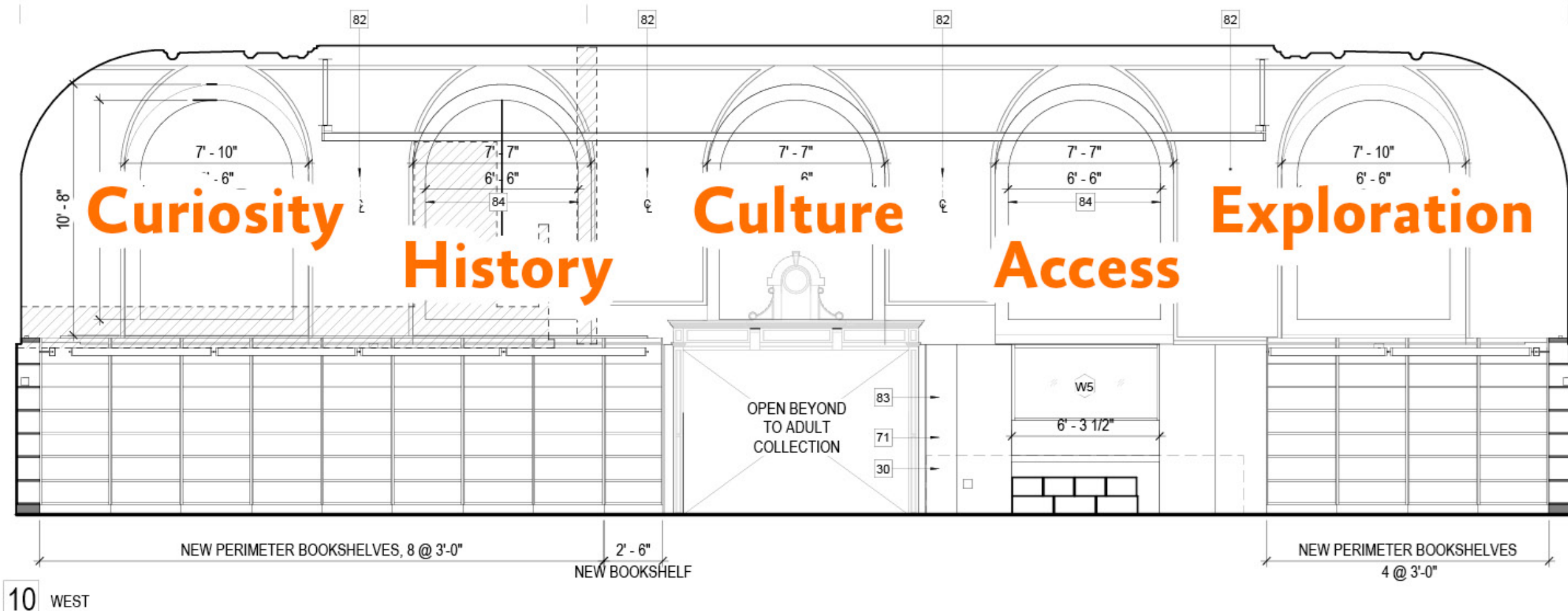
Installation 安裝

The plywood panels will be installed via a system of cleats.

Colors 色彩



Proposal for the Chinatown Him Mark Lai Branch Library Renovation Project, City and County of San Francisco, commissioned by the San Francisco Arts Commission.



Curiosity



Recognizing of the
branch's robust **story**
time program

night sky: **wonder**
unlocked by **learning**
and **literacy**

flower buds: **young**
minds

History



Honors:

1. **Him Mark Lai**
2. how the branch connects patrons with a **sense of history**

Vertical composition
like a Chinese
landscape painting

History

SS Coptic:
steamship that carried
Wong Kim Ark from
Guangdong to SF



Mount Danxia,
Guangdong Province

Angel Island

Culture



Celebrates the branch's **community rootedness** and **cultural competence**

lanterns: **cultural pride**, festivity

oranges: **prosperity**

Access



Acknowledges the branch's vital role in closing **technology gaps** and serving **diverse patrons** of many ages, languages, and goals

ripe fruit on a low branch: finding what one seeks

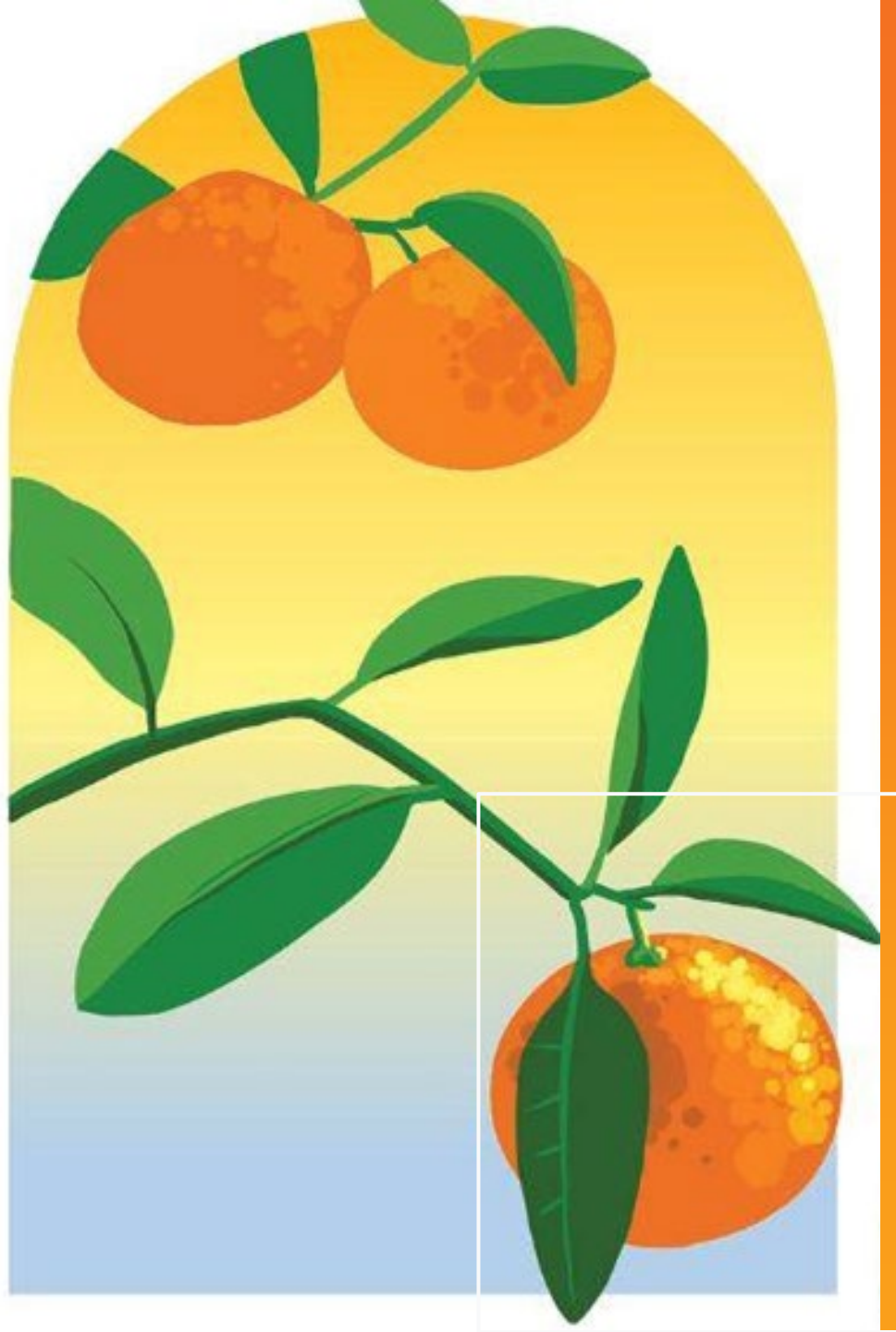


Exploration



Symbolizes how the branch **opens worlds** beyond its walls

Butterfly & orange blossoms: **freedom**, transformation, resilience, longevity, and good fortune



Hand painted, hand cut paper collage

Chinatown Him Mark Lai Branch Library Renovation Project Next Steps

VAC Approval

August 19, 2026

Arts Commission Approval

September 11, 2026

Artist under Contract

October 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!