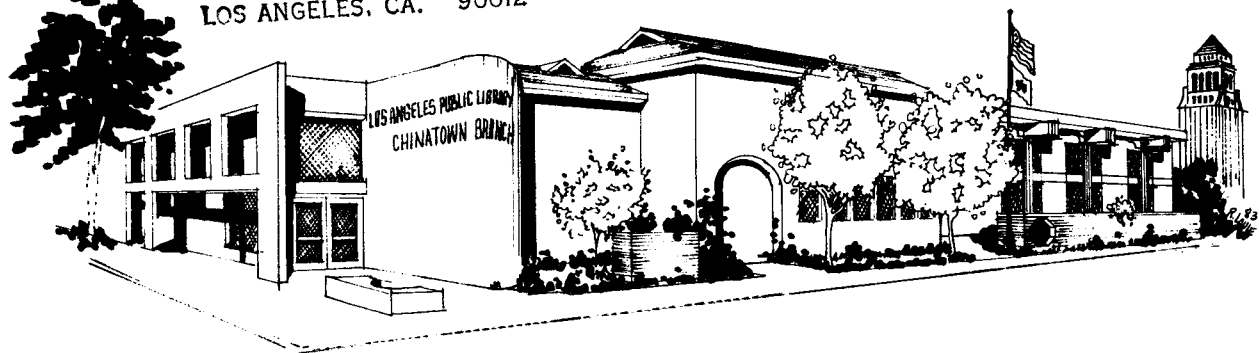


CHINATOWN BRANCH LIBRARY
536 W. COLLEGE ST.
LOS ANGELES, CA. 90012



CHINATOWN BRANCH LIBRARY

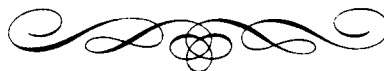
536 West College Street
Los Angeles



DEDICATION CEREMONIES
for the newly expanded library
on Castelar School grounds

Monday, April 18, 1983

10 A.M.



LOS ANGELES PUBLIC LIBRARY

CHINATOWN BRANCH LIBRARY FACT SHEET

Chinatown Branch
536 W. College St., Los Angeles, CA 90012
(213) 620-0925

- HOURS:** Mon.-Tues. 1-8 p.m.; Wed. & Sat. 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m.; Thurs.-Fri. 1-5:30 p.m.
- LOCATION:** Corner of College and Yale Streets, on Castelar School grounds
- SERVICE AREA:** Immediate Chinatown neighborhood and Chinese-reading communities throughout Southern California
- COUNCIL DISTRICT:** Ninth, Gilbert W. Lindsay, Councilman
- BUILDING SIZE:** 12,000 square feet
- BUILDING EXPANSION COST:** \$900,000
- ARCHITECT:** Choy and Choy Associates
- CONTRACTOR:** J & J General Contractors
- SHELVING CAPACITY:** 45,000 items
- COLLECTION SIZE:** 37,500 items
- SPECIAL COLLECTIONS:** Chinese American Collection (in English); Collections in Chinese, Spanish and Vietnamese languages
- ANNUAL CIRCULATION:** 310,000 items (before closing for expansion)
215,000 items (interim service from trailer)
- BRANCH STAFF:** 8¾ (full time equivalent)
Branch Librarian: Juliana Cheng
Children's Librarian: Dorothy Wong
Adult Librarian: Joshua Ma
Library Assistant: Wanda Fong
Clerk Typists: Pauline Chan, Ivy Yan
Messenger Clerks: David Lim, Patrick Lui, Ngo Phan, Julie Pung, Hueman Tran, Eric Wan, Yin Wong
- SPECIAL FEATURES:** Only Los Angeles Public Library branch operating rent-free out of a Los Angeles Unified School District building. Original building, a 1923 auditorium, was re-structured for earthquake safety in 1955. In 1983, the facility was expanded and includes a new mezzanine with skylights, and two-storied wings on the north and south sides of the auditorium, to be used jointly by Castelar School and Chinatown Library.
- FUNDINGS:** Project funded by City of Los Angeles' Housing and Community Development Grants, Los Angeles Unified School District and generous community contributions solicited by the Friends of the Chinatown Library.
- BRIEF HISTORY:** Opened experimentally Feb. 7, 1977 after six years of community petitions. Achieved permanent status after meeting the 30,000 volume circulation in two months' time. Severe overcrowding in the 2,600 square foot auditorium caused the Friends to submit the first of two HCD applications to expand the building in July, 1977. Building closed for reconstruction in August, 1981. Interim service from August, 1981 to February, 1983 continued from 500 square foot trailer rented by the Friends. The expanded facilities re-opened in March, 1983.

FRIENDS OF THE CHINATOWN LIBRARY: HIGHLIGHTS OF THE PAST TWELVE YEARS, 1971-83

- 1971:** An initial inquiry was made for a possible library branch in Chinatown.
- 1973:** Led by Joyce Law, Director of the Chinatown Service Center, residents and community workers appeared before the Board of Library Commissioners to request a branch. Approval was later given for a three-year trial of a leased storefront.
- 1974:** An "Ad Hoc Committee for a Chinatown Library" was formed to locate a site. A community survey was made through the University of So. California Library School.
- 1976:** The Ad Hoc Committee finally recommended the old Castelar School auditorium as the library site. Mayor Bradley approved a \$136,000 budget. On December 17th, "The Friends of the Chinatown Library" was officially organized.
- 1977:** Soon after the Chinatown Branch Library was opened, a Housing and Community Development grant proposal was submitted to expand the already overcrowded library. Our first Community Book Fair redistributed 5,000 donated books into the immediate neighborhood and its \$2,000 proceeds were given to the library.
- 1978:** A \$173,000 HCD grant was approved in order to build a badly needed workroom and a separate library entrance. A second HCD grant of \$350,000 was requested to complete the entire expansion of the library. In July, the Friends held an Honors Luncheon for Honorary Members, Mayor Bradley and Councilman Lindsay and 21 Community Charter Life Members.
- 1979:** The Friends co-sponsored with the Chinese Historical Society of Southern California a Photo Exhibit for Asian Pacific American Heritage Week. The second Book Fair's proceeds were donated for the library binding of children's Chinese paperback books.
- 1980:** The City Council approved a Joint Powers Agreement with the Los Angeles Board of Education ensuring a long-term, rent-free lease for the Chinatown Library at Castelar School. The Friends sponsored a Benefit Dinner which raised from the total community an additional \$120,000 to build the expanded library. The third book fair added \$1,000 to the Building Fund.
- 1981:** Due to inflation and delays, the library expansion project was short \$227,000. The Friends officially pledged this amount in order for the project to begin. On July 27th, the Friends held Groundbreaking Ceremonies. With interest earned from the Building Fund, the Friends rented a convenient trailer to house the Chinatown library for the year and a half construction period, at a total cost of \$6,652.
- 1982:** In September, the Friends presented a check for \$227,000 to the Los Angeles Unified School District as the community's pledged share of the building cost.
- 1983:** As of March, the Friends have contributed to the branch library among other things: outside landscaping; the library's book security system; donors' walls and plaques; the Nguey Sum Wong Memorial Chinese American Book Collection; the Mr. and Mrs. Tsin Nan Ling Memorial Reading Collection; the Walter Fon Lee Memorial Microfiche Collection with readers and printer; the Bertha Wong Lum Memorial Multimedia Reference Language Learning Collection with cassette copier; furnishings for the Community Room; periodical binders; expenses for Children's Museum field trips and programs; and Chinese reference books for adults and children, amounting to approximately \$64,000.



CHINATOWN BRANCHA LIBRARY
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LOS ANGELES, CA. 90012

Program

MISTRESS OF CEREMONIES

Beulah Quo, Actress

FLAG SALUTE

Student Body Officers, Castelar School

FIRECRACKER CEREMONY

Wallace G. Lee

1974 Ad Hoc Library Committee Member

Byron L. Kimball

Director of School Building and Facility Services

GREETINGS

Ruby Ling Louie, Ph.D.

President of the Friends of the Chinatown Library

DEDICATION SPEAKERS

Tom Bradley, Mayor

Gilbert W. Lindsay, Councilman, Ninth District

Frank W. Terry, President, Board of Library Commissioners

Tom Bartman, President, Board of Education

MUSICAL INTERLUDE

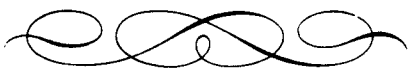
REMARKS

William R. Anton, Deputy Superintendent, Los Angeles Unified School District

Wyman Jones, City Librarian, Los Angeles Public Library

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONIES



MAYOR

Tom Bradley

COUNCILMAN

Gilbert W. Lindsay, Ninth District

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Wyman Jones

DIRECTOR OF BRANCHES

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Dr. Harry Handler

REGION "G" SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Dr. Ruben Zacarias

PRINCIPAL OF CASTELAR SCHOOL

Dr. William Chun-Hoon

BOARD OF FRIENDS OF THE CHINATOWN LIBRARY

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Dolores Wong, Vice-President

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