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HISTORICAL
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July 20, 2021

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Victor Young
victor.young@sfgov.org

Dear Mr. Young,

Chinese Americans are a significant presence in the Sunset district and in San Francisco. The community has faced numerous hardships, from anti-Asian attacks in recent years to a history of discrimination and exclusion of people of Chinese descent both nationally and locally. Yet this has been a resourceful and resilient community.

Our exhibit, the *Chinese in the Sunset*, highlights the contributions and strengths of Chinese residents, businesses and organizations that have been a vital part of the Sunset for over five decades. CHSA's research shows the earliest of Chinese American residency was through the rental market post WWII, despite the longstanding racial attitudes and barriers.

The exhibit portrays the history of Chinese American migration into District 4 from around the country. Contrary to conventional thought, the earliest residents established domicile through home, business, and services ownership from as early as 1948. The Chinese American community has been an upstanding contributor to the District 4 ever since. A population chart in the exhibition shows the growth of the Chinese American population from the 1950-2010, showing census blocks that are more than 50% by 2010.

CHSA supports efforts to create the Sunset Chinese Cultural District in the mid-and outer Sunset, as this initiative would strengthen the relationships across the diverse groups in District 4 that have not had the chance to work together. As we have seen historically, communities go through cycles of growth and decline. From the economic struggles of the last decade right up through the Covid-19 pandemic, we recognize a great need to support this community, especially with the language and cultural barriers to access that Chinese Americans face. The Cultural Districts program would create more predictability and physical stability for property owners, tenants, businesses, and nonprofits, and would foster civic engagement and advocacy from within the Sunset district. This is an opportunity for today's residents and community groups to contribute to a shared history that will be recognized by future generations.

Respectfully,

Justin C. Hoover
Executive Director