



**MEDIA ALERT**  
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**CITY OF LOS ANGELES  
DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS  
ANNOUNCES FINALISTS FOR  
MEMORIAL TO THE VICTIMS OF THE  
1871 CHINESE MASSACRE**

**Los Angeles** - The **City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA)** and **El Pueblo de Los Angeles Historical Monument** announced the six finalists for the memorial to the victims of the 1871 Chinese massacre. The finalists' proposals will be presented in a Zoom public engagement session in February, 2023 followed by final review from an evaluation panel. The public may access the proposal concepts by visiting: <https://culturela.org/programs-and-initiatives/1871/>.

"The new memorial seeks to simultaneously raise public awareness of the 1871 Chinese massacre – in which at least 18 residents of Los Angeles, or roughly ten percent of the city's Chinese population at the time, were murdered – and to address contemporary concerns about race, intolerance, and violence," said **Daniel Tarica, DCA's General Manager**. "It strives to tell the story of the little-known largest mass killing in Los Angeles history but also to convey a broader, more universal message."

"We recognize that facing injustices that occurred in our City's history is not easy, yet it is important to remind future generations of the lessons embodied in the tragic Chinese Massacre of 1871," said **Michael Truong, Executive Director of the Chinese American Museum**. "We commend the City of Los Angeles for shepherding this effort and send our best wishes to the finalists. When the finished work is unveiled, we look forward to joining together in reflection and healing."

"El Pueblo de Los Angeles Historic Monument is honored to assist in the development of a memorial dedicated to the 1871 Massacre of 18 Chinese Americans who lost their lives due to intolerance and racism," said **Arturo Chavez, General Manager to El Pueblo de Los Angeles**. "El Pueblo is the current site where this tragic event occurred and it is only fitting that we recognize and honor the victims of this horrible event. It is time that Los Angeles and the world recognize and honor the victims of intolerance and racism so that we never forget the past and so it will never occur again."

The six finalists are:

**Fung + Blatt Architects**  
**Los Angeles, CA**

**Sze Tsung Nicolás Leong and Judy Chui-Hua Chung**  
**Artist/Writer Collaboration Team, Los Angeles, CA**

**Artists Anna Sew Hoy and Zhu Jia and Formation Association**  
**Artists/Architect Collaboration, Los Angeles, CA**

**Frederick Fisher and Partners David Ross, Takashige Ikawa, and Iustina Nicolae + Artist Candice Lin**  
**Architect/Artist Collaboration, Los Angeles, CA**

**Figure x J. Jih**  
**Architecture Collective, led by James Leng and Jennifer Ly in collaboration with J. Roc Jih, San Francisco, CA**

**Sonam Lhamo, Jiawei Yao, Yiying Tang**  
**Architectural Team, Seattle, WA**

Former Los Angeles City Mayor, Eric Garcetti, called for a prominent new memorial to the victims of the massacre in his 2021 State of the City Address on April 19, 2021. On Oct. 24, 2021, the 150th anniversary of the massacre, he joined Chinese-American and other civic leaders in a vigil at the Chinese American Museum to commemorate the lives of the victims. On that occasion Mayor Garcetti issued the first official apology on behalf of the City for the deadly violence.

DCA released the Request for Ideas (RFI) in August 2022 as a product of an extensive, year-long community engagement process spurred by recommendations in the 2021 [Past Due report](#) of the Mayor's Office Civic Memory Working Group and shaped specifically by a [Steering Committee](#) of more than 70 cultural, civic, and business leaders and other key stakeholders.

The Department convened an Evaluation Panel of arts and design experts to review 176 submissions to the RFI and choose six design teams to receive a stipend of \$15,000 each to develop their concepts further and present them in a public forum. The evaluation panel will then select a single artist or team to develop the memorial.

The Evaluation Panel consisted of:

**Annie Chu**, Founding Principal, Chu-Gooding Architects

**Christopher Hawthorne**, Senior Critic, Yale School of Architecture

**Clara Kim**, Chief Curator, Museum of Contemporary Art

**Jason Chu**, Rapper and Community Activist

**June Li**, Founding Curator of the Chinese Garden, Huntington Library, Retired

**Mark Lee**, Partner of Johnston Marklee Architects and Chair of Architecture at Harvard

Graduate School of Design

**Steven Wong**, Artist, Curator, and Director of East Los Angeles College's Vincent Price Art Museum

**Suellen Cheng**, Executive Director Emerita of the Chinese American Museum

**Susana Reyes**, Board of Public Works Commissioner

DCA launched the process to develop the memorial with an RFI instead of a traditional Request for Proposals (RFP) or other process as a result of feedback from extensive community sessions held in 2021, in the lead up to the 150th anniversary of the massacre. The goal was to make the RFI process as open and inclusive as possible, welcoming the most creative and worthy ideas not only from large, established firms but also from individual artists and designers.

### **ABOUT THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS (DCA)**

As a leading, progressive arts and cultural agency, DCA empowers Los Angeles' vibrant communities by supporting and providing access to quality visual, literary, musical, performing, and educational arts programming; managing vital cultural centers; preserving historic sites; creating public art; and funding services provided by arts organizations and individual artists.

Formed in 1925, DCA promotes arts and culture as a way to ignite a powerful dialogue, engage LA's residents and visitors, and ensure LA's varied cultures are recognized, acknowledged, and experienced. DCA's mission is to strengthen the quality of life in Los Angeles by stimulating and supporting arts and cultural activities, ensuring public access to the arts for residents and visitors alike.

DCA advances the social and economic impact of arts and culture through grant-making; public art; community arts; performing arts; and strategic marketing, development, design, and digital research. DCA creates and supports arts programming, maximizing relationships with other city agencies, artists, and arts and cultural nonprofit organizations to provide excellent service in neighborhoods throughout Los Angeles.

For more information, please visit [culturela.org](http://culturela.org) or follow us on Facebook at: [facebook.com/culturela](https://facebook.com/culturela), Instagram [@culture\\_la](https://instagram.com/culture_la), and Twitter [@culture\\_la](https://twitter.com/culture_la).

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