

OFFICERS

Kim Benjamin, President  
Brian Kito, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President  
Alan Kumamoto, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President  
Peter Martinez, 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President  
Don Toy, 4<sup>th</sup> Vice President  
Mark Rothenberg, Secretary  
George Yu, Treasurer  
Peter Lau, Historian

**H C N C**

Historic Cultural Neighborhood Council



HISTORIC CULTURAL  
NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL  
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**HCNC Board Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, December 11<sup>th</sup> 2012, 6:00 p.m.  
Chinatown Library, 639 North Hill Street, LA 90012**

Comments from the public on Agenda items will be heard only when the respective item is being considered. Comments from the public on other matters within the Board's jurisdiction will be heard during the Public Comment period. Public comment is limited to 2 minutes per speaker, unless waived by the presiding officer of the Board. Members of the public who wish to speak are requested to fill out a Speaker's Card and submit it to the Secretary. The Agenda is posted for public review at HCNC 305 E 1<sup>st</sup> St; Bloom's General Store 716 Traction Ave; Chinatown Public Library 639 N Hill St; La Luz del Dia 107 Paseo de la Plaza; Little Tokyo Koban 307 E 1st Street; Solano Elementary School 615 Solano Ave; and Eastside Market 1013 Alpine St. As a covered entity under Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City of Los Angeles does not discriminate on the basis of disability and upon request, will provide reasonable accommodation to ensure equal access to its programs, services, and activities. Sign language interpreters, listening devices, or other auxiliary aids and/or services may be provided upon request. To ensure availability of services, please make your request at least 3 business days (72 hours) prior to the meeting you wish to attend by contacting the Neighborhood Council Project Coordinator, Grayce Liu at 213-847-5026.

1. Call to Order & Roll Call – Kim Benjamin

Called meeting to order at 6:05pm with a quorum.

Present: George Yu, Kim Benjamin, Mark Rothenberg, Blake Martin, Alan Kumamoto, angie An, Tim Keating, Edmund Soohoo, Ne Huang Hom, Peter Hick Loong Pang, Ly Chou Tran, Father Estrada, Brian Kito, Ron Fong, Steve Nagano, Howard Nishimura, Lydia Moreno, Alicia Brown, Sara Harris, Nick Curl, Hoover Tang, Gi-Hao Cheung, Don Toy, Esther Joaquin Woo. (24)

Absent: Alex Vasquez, Shaojiao Luo, Charlie Woo, Peter Lau, Ne Hay Hom, Norma Garcia, Peter Martinez, Alejandra Flores, Steve Rice.

Guests: Alisa Smith, Melvin Canas, Emily Martinez, Don Scott, Xiao Lin, You Xia Lin, Laura Velkei, Michael J. Ourieff, Ashley Sanchez, Nikola Hlady, Alex Ramirez, Danny Young, Hitoshi Ohta, Lauren Phillips, Carolyn Paxto, Michael Parker, Brendan Finnigan.

Recorder: Anne Walrath

2. Public Comments for youths and seniors: 5 minutes each.

3. Approval of Minutes for Oct 9<sup>th</sup>, 2012 – Mark Rothenberg

**Motion to approve the minutes of Oct 9<sup>th</sup> made by Don Toy and seconded by Blake Martin.  
Vote is Unanimous. Motion is approved.**

4. President's Report & Action Items, Kim Benjamin

4.1 Welcome to and swearing in of new and returning Board Members. Thanks to those who previously served, we wish you well.

President Benjamin thanked Alisa Smith for her wonderful job running the Election. He also thanked Blake Martin and Cathedral High School for hosting the Election and the great job they did. He then introduced the new and returning board members: George Yu, Blake Martin, Angie An, Alan Kumamoto, Peter Hick Loong Pang, Ly Chou Tran, Edmund Soohoo, Father Richard Estrada, Sara Harris, Alejandra Flores (absent), Steven Nagano, Brian Kito, Esther Joaquin Woo, Gi-Hao, and Nick Curl. Melvin Canas swore in the new board members.

A little later on in the agenda President Benjamin had new members introduce themselves and tell the board a little about themselves.

4.2 HCNC Letter of support for Ramirez Central Liquor Store CUP, Arts District caucus. Angie An. We have been going back and forth on this, very controversial. Caucus does not support the business in this location. The residents strongly oppose this. Elizabeth Peterson, applicants representative. Carlos Ramirez, said they'd been around for about 17 years. The family lives in Los Angeles, know the area, knows it has a bad reputation, thought they could make the area "light and bright with their store.

Per the caucus recommendation the HCNC will issue a letter denying support.

4.3 HCNC Letter of support for Michael J's Boston Pizza, 643 N Spring Street, Chinatown caucus.

Michael J present, introduced himself. Would like our support. Moving to Chinatown, will be open breakfast, lunch and dinner seven days a week. Italian food. Will deliver lunch and dinner seven days a week. Elizabeth Peterson, consultant for entitlement process, introduced herself. Working through the process. Michael J said there would be about 40 to 50 jobs with both the restaurant and his catering. President Benjamin asked George Yu and Don Toy to get together with him to approve and issue a letter of support.

**Motion to authorize the Chinatown caucus to meet and do letter of support made by Blake Martin and seconded by Edmund Soohoo. Unanimous. Motion is approved.**

4.4 Downtown Open Space Master Plan, Melinda Gejer [melinda.gejer@lacity.org]. Sara, Intern for Dept of Rec and Parks, just received a new grant, the CRA had applied for before it shut down, CRA contacted Rec and Parks and asked them to take over. It comes with boundaries already specified. We are bound by the 110 fwy, river, and 101 fwy, includes Arts District and Little Tokyo. Community driven plan. They'll be organizing public meetings, walks and would like anyone who's interested to please sign up to participate, Sara has signup sheets. Open space master plan includes urban greening, street greening, street furniture, pocket parks. Working with Bureau of Street services and City Council members.

4.5 LA Union Station Master Plan. <http://www.metro.net/projects/LA-union-station/>.

President Benjamin told the board that this is the single largest project to be built in the history of Los Angeles. It is 6 million plus square feet of entitled development rights owned by the MTA and it is right across from El Pueblo, right in the heart of our neighborhood, part of the HCNC. They are going to build infrastructure for the trains to come in, the High Speed rail line, which is only from Fresno to Bakersfield right now but eventually will connect San Francisco with Los Angeles, and then down to Anaheim and San Diego with high speed rail, 150 to 185 miles per hour. Don Toy, Mark Rothenberg and President Benjamin attended the meeting, along with several of the HCNC Board members, Sara Harris was there. We're very much at a heightened awareness of this project because if they build 2 million square feet of office, 500,000 square feet of a mall, 1 million square feet of apartments and condos, think about the impact to our area. Huge impact to our neighborhood, traffic, job creation, so we need to as a board be attentive and I recommended eight names to be on the community advisory group to advise them, 5 of them are HCNC Board members. Sara Harris said there were about 200 people at the meeting, George Yu pointed out that 75% of people at meeting are the consultants and Architects. Don Toy said he didn't get noticed about the meeting until an hour before. It was brought up that even though they are in the planning stage they already know where they are going and already have architects, consultants etc.

4.6 CASP – Letter of Opposition as CASP currently presented.

<https://sites.google.com/site/cornfieldsla/>

Cornfields Arroyo Seco Plan: a plan that purports to develop plug and play, if I want a theatre I know which block to pick etc. 661 acres. From Broadway to the Chinatown Train station to the river and up to the Broadway bridge and that's only 40% of it, then there is a parallel tract across the road.

President Benjamin passed out handouts on the CASP program. There were 3 goals when they started and its been going on for 5 years of planning and public meetings. Purports to change a few material things, go to pages 37 thru 39, if you read that you'll have the general concept. They are taking transit oriented development, TOD, which was suppose to be high density, mixed use, materially housing and some retail and some parking, access to get people to pedestrianize, use the train, get out of their cars, and create jobs. This new plan would wipe that concept out. The new plan doesn't look at what's across the street, it would be okay to drop big box stores right next to mom and pop stores. An example would be a block where it's okay to have four super boxes right next to each other, a Costco, a Sam's, a Walmart and a Lowe's all next to each other. If you're a block and a half away from the Dynasty Center and the Shops what happens to those Mom and Pop businesses who have been there for twenty or thirty years? They would have a problem surviving and this plan proposes that that's a good idea. The second big change is the affordable housing is overwhelming the market rate housing. They want to say that affordable housing is the priority to the detriment of market rate housing. The bottom line problem with that is that it doesn't create any sales tax, it doesn't create any people with disposable income, doesn't create anyone who can shop or eat in town, doesn't create anyone who can hire people, hire services or create jobs. It makes no sense. President Benjamin's concerns are high, they are moving foreword with this on Thursday, they could pass it, then it goes to the PLUM, then it goes to the City Council, Ed Reyes's and Jose Huizar's committee and then we can't deal with it. They basically had a new study put on their desk two days before the last meeting, 4 ½ years after the initial meeting, a year and a half after the initial EIR. It was a new study provided by a housing group saying do low income and affordable housing, that to do the alternative would kill the community, can't have it. And it caught the eye of some of the commissioners and that's what driving the car. President Benjamin has been in constant contact with along with George Yu and the bottom line is that its an uphill struggle for the community's voice to be heard because most of the people who's community voice they listen to aren't members of our community, they're all from outside and most of them are architects, low income housing developers, affordable housing developers and organizations and we need that but we need all of it, we need market rate housing, we need condos, we need senior housing, we need more retail, not just one part of the pie. And we need to address this. So we're going to be calling you to meetings and handing you signs that say No CASP at the appropriate time so be forewarned.

Hearing on 12/13/12 at 8:30am.

**[President Benjamin spoke as a stakeholder and not as President of the HCNC, Vice-President Brian Kito chaired the discussion and called for the vote] Motion to oppose CASP plan as written, especially the superstores, made by Kim Benjamin and seconded by Mark Rothenberg. Vote was Unanimous. Motion passes.**

4.7a Park 101. Don Scott present.

President Benjamin introduced Don Scott and told the board that he, Kim Benjamin, was on the Advisory Group and that Mark Rothenberg was on the board for Park 101. The Project is to cap the 101 freeway from where you cross Alameda to Grant Avenue and make it a park so there is pedestrian access, connectivity, connecting us from one side of the freeway to the other side.

4.7b One Santa Fe: Mark Rothenberg told the board that it is 400 residential units, directly across the street from SCI ARC and under construction right now. The 790,000 square foot, \$160 million dollar complex is on 4 acres of land on Santa Fe Ave between 1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Streets and will consist of apartments, offices, shops and public outdoor space. Tim Keating told the board that they were working with the Developer and Cultural Affairs to provide a 5000 sq. Ft. Art center at One Santa Fe as well as affordable Artist Housing. President Benjamin said this was one of the first projects that the HCNC supported. Further that it will make the Arts District pop.

4.8 Gateway, Chinatown, a 325,000 square foot development in Chinatown at 639-643 N Broadway at Cesar Chavez Avenue, right at the Gateway to Chinatown and across from Cathay Manor. It will include 280 studio, one and two bedroom market-rate apartments in a six story building, along with 588 space subterranean garage and nearly 20,000 square feet of ground floor retail space, including

a Starbucks and a landscaped plaza, George Yu reported. He also stated that it provides a much needed boost to Chinatown in terms of economics, that you cannot function as a merchant or a restaurateur with only affordable housing, which President Benjamin said was already part of our Guiding Principals for the HCNC. President Benjamin told the Board that George Yu, along with being a Board member of the HCNC, is also the Executive Director of the Chinatown Business Improvement District.

4.7 808 N Spring St, Former Canton Bank building, at Alameda and Alpine. 123 units. Beautiful. Senior apartments. Affordable housing. Ground floor is retail.  
<http://www.metrochinatownseniorlofts.com/>

5. Action Committee: Discussion and action items on neighborhood projects and expenditures, new and previously approved (previously approved in bold). Brian Kito

5.1 Arts District Projects and Action Items.

5.2 Chinatown Projects and Action Items.

5.2A Teen Post Translation/Transcription Services Invoice HCNC32212 \$3300 thru March 20, 2012, total approved for 2012-2013 budget is \$7765.

5.3 El Pueblo Projects and Action Items.

5.3A El Pueblo Merchant Plaques 2/7/12 \$3,750.

5.4 Little Tokyo Projects and Actions Items.

5.4A LTPS 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Video. 2/7/12 \$1,000.

5.4B 2012 Tanabata \$1,250 3/20/12

5.4C 2013 Tanabata request for \$5,000.

5.5 Solano Canyon Projects and Action Items (first \$6,000 of 2012-2013 Fiscal Budget)

5.5A SC Garden Project \$4,500 11/8/11, Alicia Brown and Lydia Moreno (Their \$750 added to this project.)

5.5B SC 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Outreach Food and Art Festival \$1,500, Festival Held, Demand Warrant paid.

5.5C \$750 Added to the SC Garden Project.

5.5D Community update, Sara Harris.

5.6 Victor Heights Projects and Action Items

5.6A VH Identity Signage Program 11/8/11 \$3,750.

5.6 At-Large Projects and Action Items.

5.7 Youth Outreach.

5.8 Action Committee Projects for vote, see agenda addendum, page 3.

5.9 New Projects from Action Committee Report:

**New Projects presented at Action Committee Meeting:**

Community	Project	Amount Requested	Amount Approved
Little Tokyo	Oshogatsu Festival: program printing	\$1,500.00	<b>\$1,000.00</b>
Little Tokyo	Oshogatsu Festival: Rental of chairs & table	\$500.00	<b>0</b>
Little Tokyo	LTCC: Rental Translation equip	\$500.00	<b>\$500.00</b>
Little Tokyo	LTCC: Translation services LTCC	\$1,200.00	<b>\$600.00</b>
Little Tokyo	LTPSA Tanabata Festival 2013: streamer paper	\$5,000.00	<b>Next fiscal budget</b>
Chinatown	Chinatown Senior Citizen Services Signage	\$5,000.00	<b>\$5,000.00</b>
Victor Heights	LA Marathon Kids	\$2,500	<b>\$2,500.00</b>
Total		\$13,700.00	<b>\$9,600.00</b>

**Motion to approve \$1,000 for Oshogatsu Festival program printing made by Steve Nagano and seconded by Ron Fong. Unanimous. Motion approved.**

**Motion to approve \$500 for LTCC Rental Translation sound system w/hp made by Brian Kito and seconded by Don Toy. Unanimous. Motion Approved.**

**Motion to approve \$600 for LTCC Translation services made by Mark Rothenberg and seconded by Steve Nagano. Unanimous. Motion Approved.**

**Motion to approve \$5,000 for LTPSA Tanabata Festival 2013 for next fiscal year made by Brian Kito and seconded by Steve Nagano. Unanimous. Motion approved.**

**Motion to approve \$5,000 for Chinatown Senior Citizen Services Signage made by Don Toy and seconded by Edmund Soohoo. Unanimous. Motion approved.**

**Motion to approve \$2,500 for VH LA Marathon Kids made by Steve Nagano and seconded by Brian Kito. Unanimous. Motion approved.**

6. Treasurer's Report: George Yu/Anne Walrath

**Motion to approve updated budget for HCNC Community Projects made by Alan Kumamoto and Don Toy. Unanimous. Motion approved.**

7. Bylaw/Election Committee Report and Action Items: Peter Martinez

8. Public Comments

9. Next Meeting & Announcements, change in meetings dates/times, posting locations and process, action items, possible bylaw change. Next Meeting Tuesday, January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2013.

10. New Business

11. Old Business

Public Safety/Emergency Preparedness Committee: Brian Kito, research report and committee formation.

12. Adjournment

"In compliance with Government Code section 54957.5, non-exempt writings that are distributed to a majority or all of the board in advance of a meeting, may be viewed at Koban, 307 E. First St., Los Angeles, CA 90012, or on our website at [www.hcncla.org](http://www.hcncla.org), or at the scheduled meeting. In addition, if you would like a copy of any record related to an item on the agenda, please contact Anne Walrath at [anne@laeroc.com](mailto:anne@laeroc.com) or call 800-523-7621.

## **HCNC**

**Action Meeting November 8, 2012**

**Board Attendance Mark Rothenberg, Angie An, Tim Keating,**

**Chaired by Brian Kito**

### **Projects reviewed**

1) Japanese Chamber of Commerce

Event Oshogatsu festival.(New Years festival)

**Request \$1,500** Matching funding for printing of 10,000 color programs.

Contractor: Parachute Graphics Inc,

2) Japanese Chamber of Commerce

Event Oshogatsu Festival (New Years)

**Request \$500** for Rental of chairs and table.  
Contractor "A Party special event solutions"

- 3) Little Tokyo Community Council LTCC  
Rental of Translation sound system with head sets for monthly meetings.  
**Request \$500**  
Contractor: Little Tokyo Service Center
- 4) Little Tokyo Community Council LTCC  
Translation services for meeting materials of the LTCC and for HCNC when needed.  
**Request: \$1,200**  
Contractor: Junko Goda
- 5) Little Tokyo Public Safety Assoc. LTPSA (on agenda item 5.4C).  
Event: Tanabata festival 2013 streamer paper from Japan  
**Request: \$5,000**  
Contractor: S K Uyeda Department Store
- 6) Chinatown Senior citizen services, Cathay Manor Housing, Chinatown youth council  
Signage Chinatown Plaza  
**Request: \$5,000**  
Contractor: Not provided
- 7) Solano Canyon (on agenda item 5.5)  
SC Garden Project: Remodeling and improvements of the Amphitheater seating and class rooms.  
**Requesting \$4,500 (\$3,750 originally approved 11/08/11 and their \$750 surplus added).**  
Contractor: Los Angeles Community Garden Council