

## No fake news. No biased news. No misinformation.

**NOW,  
ONLINE  
ONLY!**



*From mainland China to France to the U.S., the profession of journalism the world over has never been under more threat and restrictions! Reporters beaten up or killed. Journalists practicing self-censorship. Opposing views silenced. Is the world going to sit by and do nothing? (Pp. 11.)*

### Business & Economy

## China's tourism industry sees strong post-pandemic recovery

Source: Xinhua | Sept. 23, 2021

During this year's three-day Mid-Autumn Festival holiday, China witnessed more than 88 million domestic trips, about 87.2% of the figure for 2019, highlighting the strong recovery momentum in the country's tourism sector.

According to the Ministry of Culture and Tourism, the tourism revenue during the holiday reached 37.15 billion yuan (about \$5.75 billion), recovering to 78.2% of that in 2019.

China's tourism industry seems to have adapted to the current situation of regular epidemic prevention and control, with growing market demand and more innovative business models and growth points.

In 2020, the international tourism industry was battered by the COVID-19 pandemic, witnessing a sharp decrease of 73% in the number of international tourists worldwide, according to the World Conference on Tourism Cooperation and Development held in Beijing.

However, with the rigorous implementation of regular epidemic prevention, China's tourism market has gradually recovered since the beginning of this year.

Statistics show that in the first half of 2021, the number of domestic tourists in China reached 1.87 billion, rising by 100.8 percent year on year. The gross revenue of domestic tour-

ism hit 1.63 trillion yuan, up 157.9% from one year earlier.

As China's tourism market digested the impact of the pandemic, new trends and business models emerged. Theme-park tours, short-distance tours and road trips have become popular in the past Mid-Autumn Festival holiday.

China's leading online travel agency Trip.com Group, formerly known as Ctrip, released a report on tourism data during the Mid-Autumn Festival holiday, which highlighted the strong demand for short-distance trips.

A number of short-distance tours are offered as bundles with offline social games, such as Jubensha, literally translated as "script homicide" -- a role-playing murder-mystery game that is growing in popularity among young people.

The bundle is one of the novel business models emerging in China's travel market, said He Jingfu, head of an entertainment



News, p. 3



News, p. 5



Business & Economy, p. 5



People, p. 8



### In This Issue

Books	9-10
Business & Economy	5, 7
Community	12
Events	7
Language	6-7
News	3-5
People	7-8
Points of View	11
Pronouncements	2

# Publisher's Pronouncements

Greetings:

Now that Halloween has come and gone, the fall season is upon us. So, it is time to prepare for winter and enjoy the annual ritual of watching the last of fall colors fade, which, unfortunately, the falling leaves and all, is part of the package

In addition to Thanksgiving occurring in November in the U.S., we also celebrate Veterans Day.

Veterans Day is a U.S. legal holiday dedicated to American veterans of all wars, and annually celebrated on Nov. 11. In 1918, on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month, an armistice, or temporary cessation of hostilities, was declared between the Allied nations and Germany in World War I, then known as "the Great War."

Commemorated in many countries as Armistice Day the following year, Nov. 11 became a federal holiday in the United States in 1938. In the aftermath of World War II and the Korean War, Armistice Day became known as Veterans Day.

This is the day we honor our military veterans and let them know their service to our country is deeply appreciated. Please be sure to let our folks in the military know they and their families' sacrifices to keep our country free are appreciated.

Veterans Day is not to be confused with Memorial Day — a common misunder-

standing, according to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Memorial Day (the fourth Monday in May) honors American service members who died in service to their country or as a result of injuries incurred during battle, while Veterans Day pays tribute to all American veterans — living or dead — but especially gives thanks to living veterans who served their country honorably during war or peacetime.

There is a National Ceremony held at Arlington National Cemetery on Veterans Day each year. The ceremony commences precisely at 11 a.m. with a wreath laying at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and continues inside the Memorial Amphitheater with a parade of colors by veterans' organizations and remarks from dignitaries. This year also marks the centennial celebration of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

Although this past year has been a challenging one for all as our personal and business lives have been put to the test, there appears to be some progress made in our fight against COVID-19. We encourage all of you to be patient and put forth your best effort to fight this pandemic so we can peacefully achieve herd immunity as soon as possible.

Please note that this edition of China Insight is a combined issue for November-

December and there will not be a separate edition published for December. Thus, in addition to our best wishes for a great Thanksgiving holiday, all of us at China Insight wish you a joyous, prosperous and healthy holiday season.

As always, thank you for your continued support of China Insight. Please feel free to let us know if there are any other topics you would like us to cover or if there are other ways we can better serve the community.

Sincerely,



Gregory J. Hugh  
 Publisher – CEO  
 China Insight, Inc.



## CHINA/INSIGHT

**Publisher:**  
 Gregory J. Hugh  
[ghugh@chinainsight.info](mailto:ghugh@chinainsight.info)

**Manager of Operations/Circulation:**  
 Richard He  
[rhe@chinainsight.info](mailto:rhe@chinainsight.info)

**Staff Writers:**  
 Greg Hugh  
[ghugh@chinainsight.info](mailto:ghugh@chinainsight.info)

Elaine Dunn  
[edunn@chinainsight.info](mailto:edunn@chinainsight.info)

**Contributors:**  
 Will Ahern  
[articles@chinainsight.info](mailto:articles@chinainsight.info)

Pat Welsh  
[articles@chinainsight.info](mailto:articles@chinainsight.info)

William Zajicek  
[articles@chinainsight.info](mailto:articles@chinainsight.info)

**Production Editor:**  
 Jennifer Nordin  
[jnordin@chinainsight.info](mailto:jnordin@chinainsight.info)

### About CHINA/INSIGHT

CHINA/INSIGHT is a monthly English language newspaper fostering business and cultural harmony between China and the U.S.

CHINA/INSIGHT is a Member of The Minnesota Chapter of the Asian American Journalists Association (AAJA).

### Submissions & Correspondence

CHINA/INSIGHT welcomes guest articles and letters to the editor. Correspondence should be addressed to:

CHINA/INSIGHT  
 750 Mainstreet, #230  
 Hopkins, MN 55343  
 Tel: 612-723-4872  
[articles@chinainsight.info](mailto:articles@chinainsight.info)

Letters to the editor become the property of CHINA/INSIGHT and may be edited for length and published. Articles will not be published without the express consent of the author.

NOTICE TO READERS: The views expressed in articles are the author's and not necessarily those of CHINA/INSIGHT. Authors may have a business relationship with the companies or businesses they discuss.

11\_12-2021

## FREE DIGITAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

Getting to know you . . .

Who are you? What articles do you enjoy reading?

China Insight would like to ensure our content matches your interests. Please take a few minutes to complete this poll so we can update our reader demographics. For your time, the first 10 respondents each month will receive a free annual subscription to China Insight. Winners will be notified by email.

### Entry form

Please send me free China Insight for a year if I am one of the first 10 respondents this month

The top two articles that interested me the most in this issue are:

Page \_\_\_\_\_ Article title \_\_\_\_\_

Page \_\_\_\_\_ Article title \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to see more articles on \_\_\_\_\_

**Employment Status**  Student  Self-employed  Retired **Age**  19 & under  20 - 40  41 - 60  61 & up **Gender**  Male  Female  
**Employment Sector**  Education  Government  Private Industry **Ethnicity**  Asian  Caucasian  Hispanic  African American  Other \_\_\_\_\_

Where did you get this issue of China Insight? \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 First Last

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 Street City State Zip Email \_\_\_\_\_

One entry per month. Please return entry to:  
 China Insight 750 Mainstreet, #230, Hopkins, MN 55343

**INSIGHT**  
 Guaranteed

**YES** you can visit our website, [www.chinainsight.info](http://www.chinainsight.info), to read the latest issue, but did you know you can have **CHINA/INSIGHT** delivered directly to your email inbox?

A digital subscription is **FREE** and brings a full year (10 issues) of new understanding about today's China, from language to business opportunities.

## Not subordinate



On Oct. 10, 2021, Taiwan's President Tsai Ing-wen said in a televised speech that Taiwan and mainland China are "not subordinate to each other," reiterating the fact that Communist China has never ruled Taiwan.

Beijing was quick to respond, accusing Tsai of "peddling the two-state theory," that Taiwan and China should have state-to-state relations -- something Chinese state media called "a daydream."

In 1999, Taiwan's Democratic Pro-

gressive Party declared that Taiwan was a sovereign nation, "not part of the People's Republic of China," and the one-China principle idea was "fundamentally inappropriate for Taiwan." After winning a second term in 2020, Tsai stated in a BBC interview that Taiwan is "an independent country already," and doesn't need to declare itself as an independent state.

Recently, China had been ramping up military and diplomatic pressure campaigns.

The stepped-up military maneuvers toward Taiwan are seen as Beijing trying to push the U.S. to take a side. U.S. had indicated its commitment to "defend the democratically ruled island from attack." However, as Bloomberg News pointed out on Oct. 25, 2021, the U.S. had recognized Beijing as the "sole legal government of China" more than four decades ago and had never clarified its position on Taiwan's sovereignty or whether it would use force to defend Taiwan. ♦

## Democrats in minority



In Hong Kong, only 16% of the pro-democracy district councilors elected in 2019 are left in office. The latest batch of 16 from the New Territories were ousted in

October because their oaths of allegiance were deemed "invalid" by the government. No explanation was given.

Under the amended Oaths and Declarations Ordinance, the disqualified district councilors will be banned from standing in elections for the next five years.

The Hong Kong government's oath administrator introduced mandatory oath of allegiance for all civil servants, including local-level representatives, to take the same pledge after the national security law came into effect in June 2020. Since the introduction of the mandatory oath, more than 260 individuals resigned. ♦

## Taipei, not Beijing

Harvard University announced its 2022 Mandarin-learning summer program will take place in Taipei instead of Beijing.

Program Director Jennifer Liu said the move had been considered for some time and was the result of operational factors, "a perceived lack of friendliness from the host institution," citing difficulties with lodging and a ban on celebrating the U.S. national holiday on July 4.

The move will certainly not improve relations between the U.S. and Chinese! It comes amidst growing tensions between the two countries although Harvard's staff in Shanghai told the student paper, Harvard Crimson, the move was "purely made



for logistical reasons amid the Covid-19 pandemic," and Harvard was committed to "deepening ties with Beijing." ♦

## "Misinformation" on misconduct

Hong Kong's Independent Police Complaints Council (IPCC) accuses the press of "misinformation" regarding the police misconduct investigations. The head of the Hong Kong Journalists Association (HKJA) called the accusation "very unfair."

In September 2019, HKJA filed 27 complaints involving 26 journalists who received injuries caused by the police while covering the pro-democracy demonstrations. They were informed by the police complaints group that, except for one, the complaints were "not pursuable" for lack of "evidence." HKJA surmised the police "did not actively investigate the complaints." HKJA also noted that nine cases had presented photo and video evidence as well as contact information.

*The Independent Police Complaints Council says it has lost a folder containing reports from six complaints cases, involving data from 20 persons.*  
[pic.twitter.com/r6NY8IYDsG](https://pic.twitter.com/r6NY8IYDsG)

— Hong Kong Free Press HKFP (@hkfp) October 20, 2021



The IPCC does not exactly instill confidence.

Its 999-page report on the 2019 city-wide demonstrations blanketly cleared the police of any wrongdoing. Foreign experts withdrew from the IPCC during the demonstrations citing the body's "lack of independence and investigative power."

In November 2020, the Court of First Instance ruled the current police complaints system was "inadequate" and the government must fulfil an obligation under the Bill of Rights to "maintain an effective mechanism" to handle complaints. ♦

## Canton Fair



The 130th Canton (China Import and Export) Fair wrapped up on Oct. 19. Despite the pandemic, 16 product categories were showcased in 51 areas. Buyers from 228 countries and regions registered online to attend. Exhibitors livestreamed a total of

43,000 times, with more than 350,000 people watching online. The offline exhibition had 7,795 exhibitors and 600,000 visitors.

The offline-online approach achieved remarkable results and "operated smoothly with more business models and functions ... presented an innovative Fair with highlights in a safe, orderly, and highly efficient way," stated the spokesperson and deputy director general of China Foreign Trade Center.

The Canton Fair is held twice a year and is the largest and longest trade event in China. When it started in 1957, there were only 13 exhibiting companies and 1,223 visitors. Today, transaction value is expected to be approximately \$30 billion within a week as opposed to the \$17 million in 1957.

China's market share of global trade is roughly 15 percent, ahead of the U.S. (8.1%) and Germany (7.8%). ♦

## Catching up on Zzzzs



The first "Sleeping Bus Tour" took place Oct. 16 and "tourists" came prepared with their own blankets, slippers, travel pillows, etc. Eye-masks and ear plugs are provided with ticket purchase, which range from \$13-\$51, depending on whether you select upper- or lower-deck seating, noise level, leg room and sight lines. Before boarding, the tour begins with a "Food coma" lunch at a restaurant. There are stops for photo ops and bathroom breaks. Tours are reportedly selling out! ♦

Hong Kong residents have a new "past-time." And, no, it's not protesting!

Apparently some enterprising travel marketing folks came up with a brilliant tour for travel-starved and sleep-deprived residents: a five-hour 47-mile double-decker bus ride around the New Territories, the outlying island of Lantau, town and choice of disembarkation points.

The idea came from a social media post where the writer said he was stressed out by work and cannot sleep at night. However, when he hops on the bus to work, he was lulled into sleep!

## Game time



Here's another entertaining (and productive) commute idea: play mahjong during the commute!

A video clip showed five commuters playing mahjong on the MTR (HK's subway) in October. They brought their own table, opened it as soon as they got on, sorted

and drew mahjong tiles during their seven-stop ride. At their stop, they packed up and got off. The man who had on a suit and tie stood during the game while the other three players squatted. Other commuters took out their phones and videoed the action.

In 2016, another group had the same idea, except that group even brought their own plastic stools! Turned out the 2016 stunt was filmed for a YouTube "People playing mahjong in unbecoming places" series.

MTR has carry-on baggage limits that prohibit items exceeding 67 inches in length, width and height altogether. The average mahjong table measures 35.5 inches-square, which means it exceeded the limit!

But then, how can you fault anyone for making the most of their day? ♦



## Advocacy actions to end the "China Initiative" and racial profiling

On Oct. 14, 2021, organizers of the Stanford faculty letter and APA Justice launched a nationwide campaign to send a letter to Attorney General Merrick Garland to terminate the "China Initiative" and replace it with an appropriate response that avoids the key identified flaws:

1. The "China Initiative" disproportionately targets researchers of Chinese origin.
2. In most of the "China Initiative" cases involving academics, the alleged crime has nothing to do with scientific espionage or intellectual property theft.
3. The "China Initiative" is harming the U.S. science and technology enterprise and the future of the U.S. STEM workforce.

Those currently working in higher education with a valid and verifiable .edu email address at an accredited university or similar educational institution in the U.S. can endorse the Stanford letter:

- Sign on to [this campaign](#) before Nov. 3, 2021;
- Follow the instructions in the [Winds of Freedom website](#) on further action to endorse the Stanford letter or send your own letter;

The Ohio Chinese American Association (俄州亚太联盟) has translated the campaign message into Chinese: 邀请全美大学教职员联署斯坦福给美司法部长的信。A Change.org [petition](#) is online. [This web section](#) on the APA Justice website provides you with background and the latest

developments.

In summary, faculty members, scholars, and administrators of universities and educational institutions across the U.S. are urged to [sign on to the APA Justice letter](#) or [organize your own letters](#).

Advancing Justice | AAJC and OCA-Asian Pacific American Advocates are launching a Week of Action from Nov. 1 - 5 to [end the racial profiling of Asian Americans and Asian immigrants](#). They will be conducting a series of virtual legislative visits to Congressional and Senate offices to advocate for an end to government profiling of scientists, researchers, and scholars of Asian and Chinese descent. This is how you can get involved:

- Join the Week of Action virtual meetings with Congressional and Senate offices to share the impact to your local community and your concerns about this issue.

- Uplift stories of Asian Americans and Asian immigrants impacted by racial profiling on social media during the Week of Action. (Social Media Toolkit coming soon)

If you have any questions, please contact Gisela Kusakawa at [gkusakawa@advancingjustice-ajjc.org](mailto:gkusakawa@advancingjustice-ajjc.org), Vivin Qiang at [vqiang@advancingjustice-ajjc.org](mailto:vqiang@advancingjustice-ajjc.org) and Michael Nguyen at [michael.nguyen@ocanational.org](mailto:michael.nguyen@ocanational.org). ♦

## University of Tennessee Knoxville to reinstate Professor Anming Hu after being falsely accused of espionage

On Oct. 15, 2021, Knox News Sentinel reported that the University of Tennessee at Knoxville has offered to reinstate Professor Anming Hu, the professor who was fired after he was falsely accused of espionage by the U.S. government. In a letter dated Oct. 14 obtained by Knox News, Provost and Senior Vice Chancellor John Zomchick detailed the offer to the world-renowned nanotechnology expert.

Hu, a 52-year-old ethnic Chinese Canadian citizen, was a tenured associate professor of mechanical engineering when he was arrested in February 2020 and charged with three counts of wire fraud and three counts of making false statements. A jury deadlocked after three days of deliberation in June. The judge declared a mistrial, and on Sept. 9, all charges against Hu were thrown out.

Among the provisions, Hu has been offered:

- A tenured faculty position in the Tickle College of Engineering;
- Back pay for the time he was suspended without pay. However, he will not be paid for the time between his termination and his reinstatement;
- Payment for an immigration attorney at

the same rate he was paying his original immigration attorney;

- Assistance in helping him reestablish his research program, totaling \$200,000 over three years;

- An explanation of what the university is doing to support his work visa. Hu needs a visa to work at the university because he is a naturalized Canadian citizen.

On Oct. 17, AP published [University offers to rehire prof acquitted of ties to China](#), which has been picked up by national and local media. Phil Lomonaco, attorney for Hu, has accepted the invitation to provide an update on Hu's situation in the next APA Justice monthly meeting on Nov. 1, 2021.

Read more about the [Knox News report](#). Three Congressional members of the House Judiciary Committee now are calling for an investigation into the FBI's treatment of Hu.

Ted Lieu (D-CA) Mondaire Jones (D-NY) and Pramila Jayapal (D-WA) want the Department of Justice Office of the Inspector General to "review whether the China Initiative puts untoward pressure on DOJ personnel to engage in racial or ethnic profiling." ♦

## Sinologists recognized for expanding understanding

Source: *China Daily* | October 20, 2021

The 2021 Distinguished Contributions to China Studies Award was given to three Sinologists, Michael Loewe, Joseph Esherick and Chia-ying Yeh, during the 9th World Forum on China Studies, which concluded in Shanghai on Tuesday.

"The award aims to promote the development of China studies and scholars' exchanges around the world," said Xu Jiong, deputy director of the organizing committee of the biennial forum, adding that a group of 87 experts voted on the award.

"The three scholars have spent a lifetime studying China and enjoy high prestige in their disciplines worldwide. Their studies have greatly contributed to the world's understanding of China."

Due to travel restrictions prompted by the COVID-19 pandemic, the recipients were not able to attend the award ceremony, so they responded with letters and videos.

Also a historian, Esherick, professor emeritus at University of California, San Diego, is known for his study of the more

recent history of China.

In 1979, Esherick, now in his late 70s, was among the first US scholars to visit China after the resumption of diplomatic relations. He went to villages in Shandong province to study the origin of the Boxer Uprising during the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911), which later won the John K. Fairbank Prize, one of the top honors for Chinese studies in the US.

"If I have made any contribution to the study of Chinese history, it is entirely due to the resumption of academic exchanges between China and the United States after 1979," he said in a video message to the forum. "For historians of China the world over, the 1980s and 1990s were a golden age. Academic exchanges, archival research, field surveys, the academic breakthroughs of Chinese scholars, and transnational collaboration all reached unprecedented levels.

"Unfortunately, this kind of exchange and cooperation, especially the cooperation

between Chinese and American scholars, has encountered new challenges in recent years... Around the world, including in the United States, complex changes in the political, social and media environment have eroded the consensus on historical facts. We live in a world of 'alternative facts'.

"I recognize that different people have different views and values. Although some aspects of the past may make some people uncomfortable, we should never give up the essential mission of history: to seek the truth."

For 30 years, Esherick has also been researching the origins of the Chinese revolution and the Communist Party of China. His latest book, "Accidental Holy Land: the Chinese Revolution in Northwest China," was published in Chinese last month, with an English version to be published next year.

As director of the Institute of Chinese Classical Culture at Nankai University, Yeh, 97, has been studying and promoting classical Chinese poems for more than seven

decades.

"We are living in an era of great change, and traditional Chinese literary criticism, too, must seek paths of transformation to bring forth new life," she said.

Yeh studied Western literary theory and taught classical Chinese at North American universities, including Harvard and Michigan State University, and settled in Canada in the late 1960s.

"In the increasingly globalized world, the communication between the East and the West is a pressing question for all of us," she said. "The two cultures have different ways of thinking and different histories of formation, but there is much room for conversation."

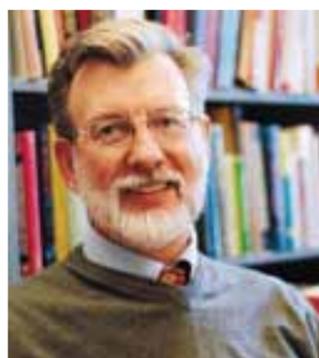
Yeh returned to teach in Tianjin in the 1990s. She said in a video message to the forum that she still remembers a couplet in a meeting room at Harvard, which read, "Civilizations, new and old, each enlightening the other; hearts and minds of the East and the West, one and the same." ♦



Chia-ying Yeh



Michael Loewe



Joseph Esherick



# Made in China: Indispensable makeup brushes

By Elaine Dunn | November 2021



During last year's pandemic lockdown, many women gave up applying makeup on a daily basis. However, that did not have a negative effect on the sales of that all-important makeup tool, the makeup brush. Apparently, sitting home encouraged lots of online shopping, and sales of Chinese-made makeup brushes proved more than robust.

The use of makeup brushes in developed countries have been growing at a swift pace. Sales of brushes in the U.S. reached \$347 million in 2016, averaging in price from \$18 to \$450 a set!

For the uninitiated, all brushes are not created equal. A good quality brush will make your face look smooth and well-contoured. Low-quality brushes not only work poorly, but can make your makeup look "streaky," can scratch your face and cause other skin irritations.

Specific brushes are used to blend the makeup into the skin of particular parts of the face effectively. The list of brushes is endless: foundation brush, concealer brush, blush brush, highlighter brush, eye shadow brush, eyebrow brush ... you get the drift. Furthermore, the type of bristles needed depends on the application. For example, natural bristles are soft and work best for applying powder blush, face powder,

eyeshadow or lipsticks; whereas, synthetic bristles are great for oil-based products like eyeshadow bases, cream eye-shadows and concealers. And, of course, the volume of online pages devoted to brush reviews and best ways of using those brushes are as numerous as the hairs in the brushes!

Makeup brushes are believed to be invented by the Egyptians. For centuries, they were used by servants to apply makeup to their well-to-do mistresses' faces before mirrors were mass produced (1835).

The Chinese and Japanese who had been using animal hair-brushes for calligraphy in the B.C. days were able to transfer that brush-making skill into making brushes for applying makeup!

As of the end of 2020, there were more than 21,000 manufacturers of makeup brushes in China. And more than 6,400 were newly set up in 2020, according to a report by the Xinhua Daily Telegraph, a Chinese language newspaper in Beijing. Big business!

Qingxian County in east Hebei Province, has about 141 makeup brush manufacturers that have set up shop there, 30 of which are South Korean-owned. It is one of China's largest makeup brush-manufacturing areas. According to Shenzhen MyColor Cosmetics Co., Ltd., Shenzhen, across the border from Hong Kong, has hundreds of makeup brush manufacturers as well.

Makeup brush production is labor intensive. Brush hairs are tied, trimmed and shaped by hand. So cheap labor is an advantage.

Qingxian has a population of 441,000, of which 16,000 are employed in making makeup brushes. In addition to availability of low labor costs and favorable local gov-

ernment policies, Qingxian County boasts convenient transportation to two major cities and the Bohai Sea. It is located approximately 105 miles southeast of Beijing and 50 miles southwest of Tianjin, therefore attracted investments from South Korea. There are also 1,000 factories making related and supporting materials located there.

Since the 1990s, the county's manufacturers have produced brushes for luxury international brands. "About half of the brushes made domestically are from the county and the quality of our brushes can compete with big name international brands," said Kang Shaoxing, president of the Qingxian Makeup Brush Industry Association.

The makeup brush industry in Qingxian topped \$232 million last year, with exports taking up approximately 15%. Local brands number in the 500 range, and can be found on 2,000 e-commerce stores on various online platforms.

One of those pioneer Qingxian makeup brush old-hand is Shao, a 47-year-old woman who has been involved with the industry from the very beginning. She began working at a South Korean-invested factory in the 1990s, holding and gaining skills at various posts throughout the production process in the five years she was there. When she told her boss she wanted to open her own factory and "chase her own dream," she was encouraged to do so. So she and her husband, who also worked at the South Korean company, set up their own factory making only bristles that met overseas standards, and supplied them back to her old employer's company. By 2007, her factory began making and supplying complete sets of makeup brushes for international brands through her old employer. Itching to experiment with her own ideas about brush design and function, she decided to register a brand (Fix+) under her own company, the Qingxian Donghua Cosmetic Applicators Co.

Shao figured out what bristles and what shape of bristles worked best with which makeup application. She also developed

comfortable handles that went with each type of application. Her company now produces more than a million makeup brushes and sell about US\$6.26 million annually on the two top e-commerce sites in China. She plans to make brushes of the highest quality possible because she wants her customers "to have the best experience" using her brushes when applying makeup.

Many other Qingxian residents who started out as workers in foreign-invested brush manufacturing companies shared the same dream. They have broken out and created their own factories and brands by the 2010s. Some of the most popular domestic brands include Energy, Fix+, Huayang, Qinzhi and Shoushoulang.

Qingxian county has built a solid foundation for developing the industry. There are companies producing raw materials to the end-product, and there are resources to help with promoting and selling the finished brushes.

The Chinese Makeup Brush Industry Association president said, "The local government is enhancing its support for the industry, because it has seen a great potential to develop the industry, especially after the pandemic, when makeup brushes have seen booming sales."

However, sales for the makeup tools category (and brushes included) saw a decline of 6% in the U.S. last year as customers shift more of their dollars from makeup to skincare. The brush segment is getting more competitive, forcing brush makers to be more creative.

Some American companies are working with their long-time Chinese manufacturing partners to retool their brushes to allow users to achieve the trending, less-contoured look. And, the real innovative ones are now creating and offering brushes for applying skincare products such as masks, moisturizers and serums. And, charcoal- and collagen- infused brushes are beginning to appear on the scene.

So, as the old saying goes, when you can't beat them, join them! ♦

## State funds available for eligible nonprofits' capital projects

The Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) is seeking proposals from qualified nonprofit organizations and government entities for complex and costly capital projects that might not occur without public financial assistance.

Up to a total of \$18,000,000 is available for grants in State Fiscal Year 2022-2023 through the Targeted Community Capital Project Grant Program, which was passed by the Minnesota Legislature during the 2021 session. Individual organizations and government entities may apply for up to \$1,500,000.

"DEED is committed to empowering the growth of the Minnesota economy for everyone," said DEED Commissioner Steve Grove. "To do this, we need to ensure that underserved communities and economically disadvantaged Minnesotans can access the economic and workforce development resources they need. Targeted Community Capital Project Grants will do just this by targeting funding for programs and services where they are needed most."

Eligible capital project costs include pre-design, design, acquisition of land or buildings, construction, furnishing and equipping a new or renovated building with a result of increasing access to services for

the targeted communities. Equipment is not eligible unless purchased and installed upon initial acquisition and construction of a building, expansion or major remodeling and needed for the operation of the project.

Examples may include:

- an expansion of an existing building to increase training opportunities to individuals for whom English is a second language or
- purchasing a building to provide work readiness skills training, pre-apprenticeship training, and/or in-demand occupational trainings in an area of Minnesota with high rates of concentrated poverty

All proposals must be received via email to [AdultCompetitiveGrants.Deed@state.mn.us](mailto:AdultCompetitiveGrants.Deed@state.mn.us) and time stamped received by 5 p.m. Central Time on Monday, Dec. 6, 2021. Award recipients will be notified in January 2022.

If you have additional questions, you may submit them to Ann Meyers at [ann.meyers@state.mn.us](mailto:ann.meyers@state.mn.us). DEED will post responses to frequently asked questions on DEED's [Competitive Grants and Contracts page](#).

DEED is the state's principal economic development agency, promoting business recruitment, expansion and retention, workforce development, international trade and community development. ♦

### News

## Oct. 26 declared Immigration Integration Day in Minnesota

Governor Tim Walz declared Oct. 26 as Immigrant Integration Day in Minnesota. From including immigrant and refugee Minnesotans in the conversation for economic growth and workforce development to preparing for and settling Afghan Evacuees, Minnesotans has been at the forefront creating pathways for success to enrich the integration processes for immigrants and refugees.

"DEED and the Immigrant and Refugee Affairs Office are working with businesses to recruit, hire and retain immigrants and refugees as a part of their workforce," said Department of Employment and Economic Development Commissioner Steve Grove. "Welcoming and supporting immigrants and refugees as they integrate into our state is vital to our workforce needs as well as respecting the cultural enrichments they bring to our communities in Minnesota."

Immigrants earn more than \$17.5 billion in household income, generate more than \$411.7 million in business income,

and contribute over \$4.8 billion in federal, state, and local taxes, annually.

"Integration is the way for our communities to continue practicing their culture and traditions while being part of the conversation and the participation to adopt our state's cultural, economic and political processes—for all Minnesotans," said DEED Assistant Commissioner for Immigrant and Refugee Affairs Anisa Hajimumin.

The [proclamation](#) recognized the contributions of immigrants to Minnesota's history, culture and economy. The Governor emphasized that integrating new immigrants develops new relationships and strengthens the social and economic capital of communities throughout the state. His proclamation also acknowledged the need for integration to ensure that immigrant communities have opportunities to achieve their dreams and feel welcomed and embraced. The Governor called integration a key component in creating an economically sound and culturally vibrant state. ♦

# Chinese Language Corner (漢語角)

## Making comparisons

By Pat Welsh | contributor

In this lesson, we will look at how to make comparisons in Chinese. We will also learn how to say that something is “very” or “too much”.

The task of making comparisons is best explained by showing a simple sentence.

English	Chinese	Pinyin
A is bigger than B	A compare B big	A bǐ B dà
He is bigger than you.	He compares you big.	Tā bǐ nǐ dà.

Another way to say that “A is bigger than B,” is to add the word *gèng* (more) before the adjective.

He is bigger than you. | He compares you more big. | Tā bǐ nǐ gèng dà.

To say that something or someone is the biggest, the word “*zuì*” is inserted before the adjective and -the suffix “*de*” is added to the adjective.

He is bigger than you. | He compares you more big. | Tā bǐ nǐ gèng dà.

He is the biggest (of all). | He is most big | Tā shì zuì dà-de.

Note:

When an adjective or adjectival phrase has more than one syllable and it precedes a noun, the suffix “*de*” must be added. In many instances, this “*de*” is also added after one-syllable adjectives. The “*de*” is always uttered in the neutral tone. For example:

English	Pinyin
pretty, beautiful, handsome	piàoliang
a beautiful woman	piàoliangde nǚrén
good, well	hǎo
a very good person	hěn hǎode rén
important	yàojǐn
an important matter	yàojǐnde shì

Sometimes, a Chinese will add “*de*” when no noun is mentioned. In that case, the word “one, person, thing” is understood.

a good one, a good person, a good thing | hǎode

### To negate a comparison

Comparisons can be negated by inserting the word “*bù*” or “*bù*” before the adjective.

English	Pinyin
He is not bigger than you.	Tā bǐ nǐ bú dà. or Tā bǐ nǐ bú gèng dà.
He is not the biggest (of all).	Tā bú shì zuì dà-de.

When something is a little more than something else, the term *yìdiǎn* or *yìdiǎnr* is added after the adjective.

This one is a little bit better.	Zhège hǎo yìdiǎn.
That one is a little worse.	Nàge huài yìdiǎn.
Which one is smaller?	Nǎge xiǎo yìdiǎn?

When something is not a little more, the word “*bù*” or “*bù*” is inserted before the adjective.

This one is not a little bit better.	Zhège bù hǎo yìdiǎn.
That one is not a little worse.	Nàge bù huài yìdiǎn.

### Very and Too much

A common word for “very” in Chinese is “*hěn*.” It generally precedes the adjective. The word “hen” is also negated with the word “*bù*” or “*bù*”.

English	Pinyin
very good	hěn hǎo
not very good	bù hěn hǎo

Another common word for “very” is “*fēicháng*” which actually means “unusually.” This word gets used in Chinese more commonly than in English. To some extent, this is because the word “*hěn*” is often used for reasons of euphony rather than to express the idea of “very.”

In some Mandarin dialects, the idea of “very” is expressed by adding the phrase “*dehěn*” after the adjective. This is a stronger expression than “*hěn*” alone.

English	Pinyin
This jewelry is very expensive.	Zhège shǒushì guì dehěn.

The idea of “too much” of a quality is achieved by using the word “*tài*” before the adjective. Again, “*tài*” is negated with the word “*bù*” or “*bù*.”

This is too expensive.	Zhège tài guì.
This is not expensive.	Zhège bù tài guì.

### Vocabulary

Pinyin	English
ǎi	short (in height)
bǐ	compare, compared to
bú	not (used only before syllables uttered in the falling tone)
bù	not (used before syllables in the level, rising or dipping tone)
gèng	comparative degree prefix

Pinyin	English
hǎo	good, well
huài	bad, spoiled, broken
piàoliang	pretty, beautiful; handsome
yìdiǎn, yìdiǎnr	a little bit
zuì	the most, superlative degree prefix

### Other adjectives

Pinyin	English
ǎi	short (in height)
bèn	stupid, dumb
bìng	sick, ill
cháng	long
cōngmíng	intelligent
duǎn	short (in length)
gānjìng	clean
gāo	tall, high
guì	expensive
nán	hard, difficult
piányi	cheap
qīng	light (in weight)
róngyì	easy
wéixiǎn	dangerous
zàng	dirty
zhòng	heavy

### Pronunciation reminders

This system follows Chinese Pinyin with the exception that the letter “u” has two pronunciations. Sometimes it has the value of ü (“ee” as in “see” with rounded lips). At those times we use the symbol “ü” instead of Pinyin “u.” In making this sound, it is most important that the vowel more resembles an “ee” sound as in “see” and definitely does not sound like a “oo” sound as in “moon”.

a, an, ang	The ‘a’ in these syllables sounds like the ‘a’ in “father”.
ai	Sounds like the ‘igh’ in “high”.
ao	Sounds like the “ow” in “cow”.
cong	ts’oong (the ts is aspirated - a slight breath of air follows the ts sound.)
de, ke	Here the “e” sounds much like the “a” in “above” or the “u” in “under”.
ei	Sounds like the “ay” in “say” or “day”.
en, eng	Sounds like the “un” in “fun” or the “ung” in “lung”.
ian	Sounds like “ee-ehn” or “yen” (Here “ehn” and “en” almost sounds like the word “yen”.)
ie	Sounds like “ye” in “yet”.
le	The ‘e’ sounds like the ‘u’ in “fun”.
-nr	This is a nasal ‘r’ sound; yì-diǎnr sounds almost like yè-dyǎnr.
ong	The “o” here sounds much like the “oo” in “ooze” or “spoon”.
ou	Sounds like the “ou” in “dote”
qian	Sounds “tchee-ehn” (ehn rhymes with “hen”)
qi	Sounds like “chee” in “cheese”.
qū	Sounds like “chee” in “cheese” but uttered with rounded lips.
shi	Sounds almost like the “shir” in “shirt”. The tongue is retracted and lightly curled.
si	Sounds somewhat like sz, the vowel is short, it is between “i” in “it” and “u” in “mut”.
ü	Sounds much like the “ee” in “see” but the vowel must be uttered with rounded lips.
ui	Sounds almost like the English word “way”.
x	Sounds like a weak “sh”; xing sounds like “sheeng”.
you	Sounds somewhat like the “yo” in “yodel”.
z	Sounds like a “tz” without any aspiration. Pronouncing this as ‘dz’ betrays American accent which will still be understood by the listener.
zi	Unaspirated tz, the vowel ‘i’ is short, it is between “i” in “it” and “u” in “mut”.
zh	This is an unaspirated “ch” with the tongue retracted and lightly curled. For example “zhong” almost sounds like “droong” and “zhu” sound almost like “drew”.
zhi	Sounds almost like “djir”. It sounds much like the “jer” in “jerk”.

Continued on page 7

# U.S. Mint honors Anna May Wong with image on quarter



Legendary Anna May Wong, the first Chinese American to make it big in Hollywood and receive international recognition,

will be part of the new American Women Quarters™ Program with a new U.S. quarter designed in her honor.

Born in 1905 in Los Angeles to second-generation Chinese American parents, she overcame racism and discrimination in Hollywood. She was hired on as an “extra” for a 1919 film, “The Red Lantern.” In the early 1920s, she was being relegated to bit roles only, but eventually emerged as a star, and went from silent films to “talkies.”

Her career continued to be limited by American anti-miscegenation laws, which prevented her from sharing an on-screen kiss with persons of another race, even if the character was Asian, but being portrayed by a white actor. Tired of being both typecast and passed over for lead Asian character roles, which were given to non-Asian actresses, Wong left Hollywood in 1928 for Europe where she became a sensation, starring in notable films such as “Schmutzige

Geld” (1928) and “Großstadtschmetterling” (1929).

In 1930, American studios went to Europe looking for fresh talent and, ironically, Wong caught their eye! Paramount Studios offered her a contract. She appeared in “Daughter of the Dragon” and “Shanghai Express.” But despite her rising stardom, she was still being cast in stereotypical roles.

During World War II, she devoted her time and money to help the Chinese cause against Japan. In the 1950s, she returned to public eye, making a few television appearances, including the first U.S. TV series starring an Asian American lead, “The Gallery of Madame Liu-Tsong.”

Wong passed away in 1961 from a heart attack. She appeared in more than 60 movies throughout her career.

Other notable women included on the quarters program are poet Maya Angelou; Wilma Mankiller, the Cherokee Nation's



The Anna May Wong Quarter is the fifth coin in the [American Women Quarters™ Program](#)

first female principal chief; suffrage leader Adelina Otero-Warren; and Sally Ride, first U.S. women astronaut in space. ♦

## Business & Economy

### China's tourism recovery

Continued from page 1

company in east China's Shandong Province, adding that Jubensha is bringing more possibilities to the tourism industry.

Meanwhile, an increasing number of Chinese tourists are being drawn to domestic theme parks, including the newly-opened Universal Beijing Resort and Shanghai Disneyland.

The Universal Beijing Resort, currently the largest in scale worldwide, opened to the public on Monday, and was ranked among the top three most popular tourist destinations before this year's Mid-Autumn Festival holiday, according to Trip.com Group.

On the Qunar.com, China's online travel-service provider, tickets for the resort in the Mid-Autumn Festival holiday were sold out within 30 minutes, with the first one gone in a second.

The recovery of China's cultural tourism market is also bringing more opportunities and benefits to the global tourism industry, aided by various tourism fairs and expos.

From Sept. 16 to 20, the 2nd China International Cultural Tourism Fair (CICTF) was held in Shandong's capital city of Jinan, attracting tourism authorities from 17 countries and more than 2,600 exhibitors with over 500,000 exhibits. Deals worth 437 million yuan were inked at the fair, an increase of 20.2% over the previous one.

Among the highlights at such exhibitions are goods from countries along the Belt and Road, including exotic souvenirs that would normally be sold to Chinese tourists abroad. Foreign businesses have been making up for the shortfall in orders by promoting their goods directly in China, thereby tapping directly into China's vigorous market.

Davor Richard, who hails from Ghana, went through a difficult time this year. His family is running a trade company in Shanghai, selling African tabla, masks, shea butter and other specialties that were popular among Chinese tourists before the pandemic.

"My business took a serious hit from the pandemic, but now things seem to be picking up again. The Chinese government has organized a lot of fairs just like this one. Customers are contacting us and orders are starting to boom again," said Richard.

Also at the fair was Muzaffar Bhat, an Iranian carpet seller, who said that the world is now sharing the fruit of China's tourism recovery, with tourism fairs like CICTF springing up again and business opportunities popping up anywhere. While the carpet market is relatively niche, he said the huge scale of Chinese market gives him hope for the future. ♦

## Events

### Asian American Leadership Summit

Date & time: Nov. 3-4, 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Cost: Free

[Register](#)

The two-day online leadership summit is organized by The National Association of Asian American Professionals Minnesota Chapter and sponsored by Wells Fargo.

Nov. 3: Workshop hosted by Abraham Gin on “Elevating Our Voice, Unlocking the Barriers to Influencing Without Personal

Authority”

Nov. 4: Workshop hosted by Dr. Rich Lee on “Culture and Challenge of Socioeconomic Mobility in Asian America”

Questions? Email [hellomn@naaap.org](mailto:hellomn@naaap.org). ♦

### Chinese Language Corner

Continued from page 6

#### Tones

Using numbers: 5 = your normal high 4 = mid-high 3 = your normal mid pitch 2 = mid low pitch 1 = your normal low pitch

Tone	Description	Notes
ā	High level pitch (55)	Regarding tone ā • when occurring directly before another dipping tone, tone ā changes tone á. Thus “hěn hǎo” (very good) changes to “hén hǎo” • occurring directly before any other tone, Tone ā will change to a mid-falling tone
á	Mid-Rising Tone (35)	
ǎ	Dipping (213)	Regarding tone à When occurring before another à tone, the first tone à reduces its fall to 53 or 54
à	High falling pitch (51)	
a	An unstressed neutral tone. Following other syllables, syllables in this tone tend to be somewhat lower than that of the previous syllable. The lone exception is when it occurs after tone ǎ when the neutral tone is often slightly higher in pitch.	

In the next offering we will learn how to ask “why?” and answer “because.” ♦

#### About Pat Welsh

In 2009 while teaching English at Sichuan University, Welsh was asked to give a speech where he was introduced to the audience as a “pioneer of Chinese American relations” as a result of his cooperative work in international banking during the Deng Xiaoping era. For more than 65 years, Welsh has been learning Chinese and has used this knowledge both professionally and personally to enhance his understanding of Chinese and Asian affairs. He uses Beijing Mandarin most frequently when meeting with senior Chinese government officials when conducting business in China.

For 17 years, Welsh taught Chinese, German and Spanish in two local high schools. Now fully retired, he currently resides in Georgia where he used to lecture on China to a number of classes at Dunwoody High School.

Thank you for reading  
China Insight



Since 2001

#### Happy Holidays

Veterans' Day  
Nov. 11

Thanksgiving Day  
Nov. 25

Hannukah  
Nov. 28 - Dec. 6

Christmas Day  
Dec. 25

# Boston gets Chinese American mayor?

By Elaine Dunn | November 2021



Photo credit: Boston University News Service

Not since the 2020 presidential campaign of Andrew Yang has another significant public office involved another Chinese American, until now. Michelle Wu, daughter of Taiwanese immigrants, is campaigning for the November 2021 Boston mayoral spot.

The Oct. 22 Boston Globe editorial on the Nov. 2 mayoral election said,

"The next mayor of Boston will inherit a city that, by and large, has been prospering. The population is growing, high-tech businesses are thriving, new construction has been sprouting up across the city like dandelions, and the city's neighborhoods are — for the most part — safe and vibrant ... In this election, that choice is very clear: The Globe endorses at-large City Councilor Michelle Wu of Roslindale, the first-place finisher in the preliminary election who has both an expansive vision for the city's next chapters and a proven record of ethical leadership."

Boston is the fourth most densely populated region in the United States, after New York Metro Area, Greater Los Angeles and South Florida Metro Area. The city itself is the 21st largest in the country with a population of 695,506 (in 2020). According to Census data, only half of the current Boston residents were born in Massachusetts. Approximately 9.34 % of the population is Asian — since the 1980s, there has been a sizable wave of Vietnamese immigrants. Boston also has the 10th largest East Indian population in the U.S.

Until this year, every elected mayor for Boston had been a white male. In 2021, Wu is one of two women of color vying for Boston's top job.

Wu was born and raised in Chicago, oldest of four children. She was labeled the "official interpreter" for her Mandarin-speaking immigrant parents, who eventually divorced when she was in college. She was valedictorian of her 2003 high school class and selected as a U.S. Presidential Scholar from Illinois. She did her undergraduate work at Harvard University, where she concentrated in economics. After graduating with a Bachelor of Arts degree in 2007, she went on to pursue a Juris Doctor degree

from Harvard Law School.

She had started working as a consultant after college, but had to leave the job and return to Chicago when her mother's health deteriorated. (Her mother suffered from late onset schizophrenia, which developed into a full-blown mental health crisis.) She assumed the guardian/parental role of her two younger sisters, age 10 and 15 at the time, while coping with her mother's care. She tried opening a teahouse business to generate income, but the city bureaucracy was too overwhelming and that failed. It was a sad and scary time for her. "Honestly, it was just pure survival. Of how hour by hour we could go on," Wu said. "And I cried every day, for probably a good year."

In 2009, she decided to return to Harvard Law School, with her youngest sister and ailing mother in tow.

Her youngest sister's school assistant principal in Boston remembered Wu. She said Wu actively participated in her sister's education, even joining the citywide parent council. "I remember a lot of the parents would ask, 'When did she have this kid again?'" the assistant principal recalled, following up with, "This was her sister and she became her guardian. She was very young and she knew how to be a parent at the young age."

Wu's then fiancé, now husband, Conor Pawarski proposed in December 2011, a few months before Wu graduated from law school in 2012. They also married in 2012. (Wu studied for, and passed, law exam while planning the wedding!) The couple now has two young sons and shares a two-family house with her mother.

It was through her personal experience with the struggling small business, with healthcare, with the public school systems, that compelled her to dip her toe into public office. These experiences made her see how much government matters and how alone, voiceless and powerless the general population can feel.

"Whether it was fighting to get my sisters what they needed in schools, fighting to open a neighborhood small business, or navigating Boston Public Schools with my own children, we met barriers from city

agencies that were supposed to provide support. And when I met others in the same situation — caring for a family member, raising kids, trying to open a business — I heard the same frustrations of fighting a system that wasn't designed to work for everyone ... I saw how government and politics can help solve problems, remove barriers, and empower people. That's why I ran for City Council in 2013, and why I work every day to build community and push for the future that our kids deserve" Wu said.

However, it probably still came as a surprise to her to find herself entering politics! As Wu recalled, growing up in a Chinese family, she was discouraged from talking about herself in public or being confrontational. And, she did not possess the traits she associated with Boston politics: tall, male, angry and loud!

In 2013, at the ripe old age of 28, Wu won a seat on the City Council — the first Asian American to serve on the Council — and went on to win three re-elections. In June 2014, the Boston City Council Special Committee on Small Business, Entrepreneurship, and Innovation released a report making 25 recommendations to streamline the city's licensing and permitting process for small businesses.

Wu is "tough and known for standing up for her principles. In an episode between former Mayor Marty Walsh and her where Walsh asked her to "back down," a fellow

council member said Wu stood her ground and told Walsh, "No. You back down," all the while holding her infant son! "Wu is 'like a grenade: small, unassuming, and when pushed, extremely powerful.'"

From Wu's website:

Readers of Boston magazine voted Wu to be named the magazine's 2013 "Rookie of the Year," one of three political awards given by the magazine that year. In 2017, the Massachusetts Democratic Party awarded Wu its Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Award, which it considers its highest honor. In March 2018, Wu was among six finalists to be honored as a "Rising Star" by EMILY's List, a national group that supports female Democratic candidates who support abortion rights. The next month, Wu was listed as one of the "100 Most Influential People in Boston" by Boston magazine. In 2019, Rachel Allen of The Atlantic wrote that Wu had emerged as one of Boston's "most effective politicians."

In September 2020, Wu announced her candidacy for the 2021 Boston mayoral election.

And how is Wu's mother these days? "She's great," Wu said. "She asks me every few weeks or so, are you still doing the politics thing?"

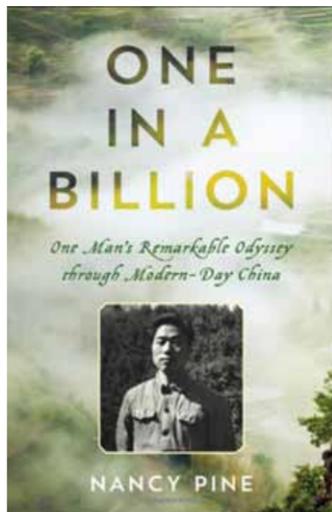
To decompress, Wu immerses herself in nature or indulge in caramel fudge brownie ice cream! She's human, after all. ♦



Mom, city councilor, mayoral candidate Michelle Wu getting older son off to first day of kindergarten

# “One in a Billion: One Man’s Remarkable Odyssey through Modern-Day China” by Nancy Pine

Reviewed by John Feffer | *Foreign Policy in Focus* | March 1, 2021



**Author:** Nancy Pine  
**Publisher:** Rowan & Littlefield Publishers  
**Publication date:** December 2020  
**Hardcover:** 312 pages

**Nancy Pine** holds a doctorate degree in education and has travelled and studied in rural China for decades.

Her search for the seeds of how kids learn to read and write took her to China to look at the differences between Chinese and American education. Her book “Educating Young Giants” explains both countries’ systems – what’s missing and what each could do to improve.

She is one of the leading American experts on Chinese early childhood education. She founded the Bridging Cultures US/China Program and has advised the administration and faculty on China at Mount Saint Mary’s University in Los Angeles.

Pine gives talks nationally and internationally and has won numerous awards including a City of Los Angeles honor for her cross-cultural activities.

The story of An Wei overlaps almost perfectly with the story of Communist China.

Born in a small village some distance from the northwestern city of Xian, An Wei was seven years old when Mao took control of the country in 1949. As the son of peasants, he was part of the first generation of schoolchildren to get a Communist education. He participated in the new communes of the Great Leap Forward, starved during the famines of the early 1960s, and suffered through the Cultural Revolution. Working as an English translator, he helped China build bridges to the West and join the international community. Later in life, he served as a Communist Party leader in the remote village where he was born, fighting against endemic corruption and for grassroots democracy.

In Nancy Pine’s fascinating biography, “One in a Billion,” An Wei emerges as the Forest Gump of China. He was not only present for all of the major events that took place after 1949 but even shows up in pictures cheek and jowl with famous personages like Jimmy Carter, Edward Heath, and Helen Foster Snow. But even China scholars will not likely be familiar with An Wei’s story, for he himself is not famous. He is neither a leader nor a dissident. He is just one of the many Chinese who have lived through tumultuous times far from the cos-

mopolitan cities of Beijing and Shanghai.

Pine uses the story of An Wei as a frame for telling the story of China. She intersperses the account of his life with sidebars about the major events in the modern history of the country: the creation of the communes, the Sino-Soviet split, the traditional village committees. She also moves back and forth in time to describe her recent interactions and interviews with An Wei before delving into the accounts of his early years. The result is both a detailed and a panoramic exploration of her subject, a meditation on both the one and the billion.

An Wei is in many ways a remarkable man. By dint of extraordinary effort, he rose from rural poverty to the top ranks of his profession as a translator. He spent extended periods of time in the United States. He befriended Helen Foster Snow, the first wife of Edgar Snow of “Red Star Over China” fame, and helped restore her place in the historiography of modern China. He served as the primary translator for many illustrious visitors to Xian.

But what makes “One in a Billion” even more interesting is how representative An Wei is. During the Cultural Revolution, for instance, he was neither a leading Red Guard nor a vilified rightist. Above all, An Wei was a survivor. He joined one of the main revolutionary factions and created his



Celebrating the magic and beauty of the season

Warm wishes for the very best this holiday season and a prosperous New Year.

[wellsfargo.com](https://wellsfargo.com)

© 2021 Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. All rights reserved. IHA-7131203

share of big-character posters commenting on current events. But even though he attended the mass rallies, he tried to keep a low profile.

“Survival in China was like swimming in a vast and turbulent ocean,” Pine writes. “His first task was to figure out how to keep himself alive. Then, if he had any leftover energy, he could try swimming to the opposite shore. If he made a small mistake, if he ended up in prison or was tortured, he would accomplish nothing.”

Even when the Cultural Revolution ended, An Wei and many other Chinese remained in survival mode. Policy shifts in Beijing could be rapid and dangerous. In the 1980s, An Wei took advantage of the improvement in U.S.-China relations to become a visiting scholar at Trinity College in Hartford. He had his criticisms of the Chinese government, particularly the corruption of lower-level officials who were “plucking a feather from every passing goose” in the apt Chinese phrase. But he was careful not to go public with his criticisms. In 1989, when the Tiananmen Square protests began in hope and ended in tragedy, he kept his distance and didn’t get caught up in the subsequent crackdown.

In the 2000s, however, An Wei did stick his neck out. Reluctantly becoming Party leader in his hometown of An Shang Village, he challenged not only the corrupt practices of the village leadership but the endemic habits of conformity among the rural citizenry. Dusting off a copy of an earlier law on villagers’ committees passed by the National People’s Congress, he pushed through village-level elections, mobilized the residents to help build a new school, and tried to end the corrupt practices by which Party officials routinely profit from their positions.

An Wei’s efforts met with only partial success. The old corrupt officials were voted out, but new ones prepared to take over after An Wei retired. The school got built, but the countryside was emptying out and soon the school was closed because of declining enrollment. A new nationalism was surging throughout the country, thanks to Xi Jinping, and once again much of what An Wei had supported—English clubs, strong ties with the United States, Western liberal ideas—again came under threat.

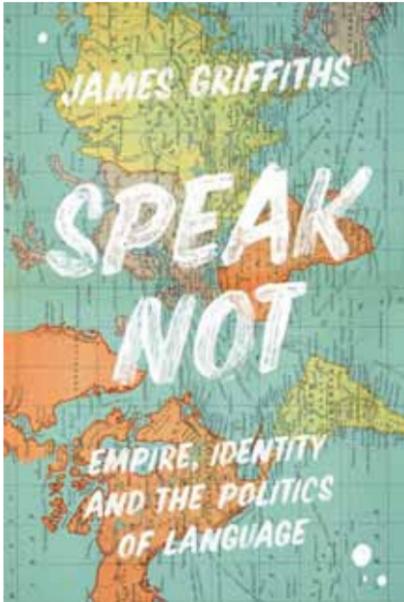
By the end of the book, An Wei is in his 70s, retired but still involved in various projects. The China of his youth has been completely transformed, and he has played a small but significant role in this transformation. The country has never been more prosperous, and even the residents of An Shang Village have stepped into the modern world through computers and cell phones. But many Chinese continue to tread water in that vast and turbulent ocean, uncertain which way the currents will take them, still unsure of whether it’s safe to strike out for the distant shore. ♦

## About the reviewer

**John Feffer** is the director of *Foreign Policy in Focus* at the Washington, D.C.-based *Institute for Policy Studies*. He is an author (most recent: “*Aftershock: A Journey into Eastern Europe’s Broken Dreams*”) and his articles have appeared in the *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *USA Today* and other publications. He has worked and travelled widely throughout Europe and Asia.

# “Speak Not: Empire, Identity and the Politics of Language” by James Griffiths

Reviewed by Peter Gordon | *Asian Review of Books* | Oct. 20, 2021



**Author:** James Griffiths  
**Publisher:** Zed Books  
**Publication date:** October 2021  
**Hardcover:** 264 pages

**James Griffiths** is Asia correspondent for *The Globe and Mail*, Canada's most read newspaper. Born and raised in North Wales, Griffiths attended university in Liverpool before moving first to Shanghai and then Hong Kong.

As a journalist, Griffiths has reported on the ground from China, Hong Kong, Malaysia, South Korea, and Sri Lanka for publications including CNN, *The Atlantic*, and the *South China Morning Post*. His first book, "The Great Firewall of China: How to Build and Control an Alternative Version of the Internet," was published in early 2019.

Cantonese is only rarely included as part of broader discourses on language, but journalist James Griffiths (who lives in Hong Kong) has it as one of three languages considered in detail in his new book "Speak Not: Empire, Identity and the Politics of Language." The other two are Welsh (the language of Griffiths' own heritage) and Hawaiian.

That "Speak Not" is more politics than linguistics is telegraphed by the title. For Griffiths, language is the single most important aspect of group identity, both as marker and glue: that what makes the Welsh or Hawaiians Hawaiian is primarily the language, rather than lineage, culture, belief systems or lifestyles. While some might debate this, governments have all too often taken aim at minority languages with precisely this rationale in the name of national unity.

Griffiths takes each in turn, going back a century or more to put the language and

language policy in a historical context. Both Welsh and Hawaiian are stories of formal repression and neglect. Less explicitly sinister, but just as harmful, inward anglophone immigration has meant that both are now minority languages in their own homelands. More recent attempts at regeneration and restoration hold out some hope: the jury is still out on their future, but Welsh in particular, writes Griffiths, seems to be on an upswing that may prove sustainable.

In short sections between the longer ones, Griffiths adds discussions on Africans, Hebrew, Yiddish and, somewhat incongruously, Esperanto.

Cantonese fits less well into this narrative, since any repression, at least as far as Hong Kong is concerned, is hypothetical rather than actual, nor are Hong Kong's Cantonese speakers in imminent danger of becoming a minority in their own city.

Griffiths's intention, however, is to show a path by which Cantonese might possibly

descend to irrelevance if not oblivion. He first places Cantonese into the context of a more than century-long process of linguistic centralization in China, including the development of Putonghua and the history of romanization of Chinese (something covered in more detail in David Moser's "A Billion Voices: China's Search for a Common Language"). The discussion of Cantonese itself is rather brief and it's never quite clear how the past or present of Chinese language policy makes the jump to apply to Cantonese in Hong Kong.

Setting aside the 60-odd million speakers across the border, Cantonese is in Hong Kong the language of school, Government, courts, popular entertainment and everyday communication — except when it's English. One can reasonably assume more Hong Kong people will over time become bilingual in Mandarin (for entirely sensible self-interested reasons) and largely gone are the days when Canto-pop artists could sing in Cantonese and hope for a Mainland audience, but neither itself means that Cantonese is endangered, to say nothing of doomed.

This difference of view is to some extent one of time span: in the Cantonese chapter he notes that

*Language decline happens very quickly, in a generation or two, and can be exceptionally hard to stop once the process is underway.*

In the Hong Kong context, 50-60 years is hardly "very quickly": it's almost forever. Furthermore, as Griffiths notes elsewhere, in the same period, Hebrew went from a language that was as essentially dead as Latin to the revived, living national language of Israel. A lot can happen in a generation or two even in places which change more

sedately than does Hong Kong.

This is however hardly an argument for complacency. Several years ago, I suggested a "Museum of the Chinese language" modeled (it was hardly an original idea) on the Museu da Língua Portuguesa in São Paulo, which would, being based in Hong Kong, have a substantial section on Cantonese which

*could also reference Cantonese-language culture (music, film, etc.) and the Cantonese diaspora, and help establish (or re-establish) Hong Kong as the hub for this aspect of Chinese culture, catalyse links with Cantonese communities abroad, and help develop a sense of Chinese diasporic history.*

Macanes *patuá*, on the other hand: now there's an endangered language. Griffiths has chosen a particular subset of languages to discuss in depth: those that have, had or might have a politically autonomous territory to go with them. Such languages have some ability to resist the centralizing tendencies of the larger, dominant language: politically by requiring its use, and socially by creating an economic advantage in jobs that require knowing the language. Languages that can't aspire to this are likely in real medium-term trouble. And there, Griffiths is spot on: the survival of many languages — and perhaps the identities that go with them — depends on politics. ♦

## Call for Articles...

Concerned about misconceptions about China?

**CHINA INSIGHT** is a local newspaper fostering U.S.-China cultural and business harmony.

We are interested in publishing articles that engage audiences in America. Potential topics range from understanding daily life in China (or for Chinese in America) to discussions of business markets from both an American or Chinese viewpoint.

If you would like to contribute an article, please contact **Greg Hugh** at 612-723-4872 or email [ghugh@chinainsight.info](mailto:ghugh@chinainsight.info).

### About the reviewer

*Peter Gordon is editor of the Asian Review of Books and co-author of "The Silver Way: China, Spanish America and the Birth of Globalisation, 1565-1815."*

## Even with the Nobel Peace Prize, press freedom remains under fierce attack

Source: Robert Gerhardt | HKFP | Oct. 17, 2021

The award of this year's Nobel Peace Prize to two journalists, Maria Ressa from the Philippines and Russia's Dmitry Muratov, for their work to "[safeguard freedom of expression, which is a precondition for democracy and lasting peace](#)," is a recognition of the efforts of all those journalists who face threats, arrest, and even death.

Ressa, who runs the news site *Rappler*, has faced multiple arrest warrants for her reporting, and is facing numerous legal cases related to coverage of the drug war of President Rodrigo Duterte, who describes the press as "the enemy of the people."

Muratov is one of the founders of the independent newspaper *Novaya Gazeta*. While leading the newspaper as editor-in-chief for 24 years, its critical and fact-based reporting has included coverage of corruption, police violence, election fraud, and the wars in Chechnya. Six of his reporters have been murdered for their work: Igor Domnikov, Victor Popkov, Yury Shchelochikhin, Anna Politkovskaya, Anastasia Baburova and Natalia Estemirova. Also, in the last two months an unidentified photographer from Myanmar has won both the prestigious [Bayeux War Reporting Prize](#) at the Bayeux Calvados-Normandy Award and the [Visa d'Or for News](#) – the top award handed out at Visa Pour L'Image festival. He remains anonymous for his own safety in a country where the military junta has jailed journalists for reporting on the coup and its after-effects.

According to [Reporters Without Borders](#), about 100 journalists have been arrested since the coup on February 1 and at least 53 remain behind bars.

On the day the Peace Prize was announced, [Russia labelled eight journalists and news outlets as "foreign agents."](#) They

include freelance correspondents for Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty and the BBC, while the outlets were MNews, Kavkazsky Uzel and Bellingcat. This requires the news outlets to submit to audits and many other restrictions. They must be labelled as foreign agents when cited in media reports.

If they fail to do so, they can face fines or prison sentences. Russia has added 68 people and outlets to the list of 85 since the start of 2021.

Russia is not the only country to use the law against journalists, citing foreign interference as an excuse.

### BREAKING NEWS:

The Norwegian Nobel Committee has decided to award the 2021 Nobel Peace Prize to Maria Ressa and Dmitry Muratov for their efforts to safeguard freedom of expression, which is a precondition for democracy and lasting peace. [#NobelPrize #NobelPeacePrize pic.twitter.com/KHeGG9YOTT](#)

— The Nobel Prize (@NobelPrize) [October 8, 2021](#)

In early October, Singapore passed the [Foreign Interference Act](#). This new law, under the guise of countering foreign influence, in reality works to block free speech and remove content that the government sees as "fake news" or anti-government. The law would allow the Minister for Home Affairs to require the removal of online content and order the publication of government-drafted stories.

The law allows the minister to designate individuals or entities as "politically significant," which would prevent them from accepting donations from those who

are not Singapore citizens or entities. It could also compel journalists, researchers, and academics among others to reveal their communications with non-citizens.

In Bangladesh, the government is looking to pass a law that would [force social media firms like Facebook and Twitter to store their data locally](#). By doing so, they hope to be able to use the country's Digital Security Law to force the companies to turn over user data and other information on accounts alleged to spread "fake news" or "propaganda." The Digital Security Law has already been used to file cases against journalists, and the expanded law would put more people at risk, along with social media users in general.

In the Maldives an [Evidence Bill](#), contains a provision that is an affront to journalists and the free press. Article 136 gives judges the power to force journalists and the media outlets they work for to reveal their sources if ordered by a judge.

The Maldives Media Council and the Editor's Guild of Maldives have said they fear that sources would be reluctant to report on corruption and other issues. They say the legislation would lead to a decrease in press freedom, which is a right guaranteed by the constitution.

Hong Kong's National Security Law, which went into effect in June 2020, has had a chilling effect on the media in the city. It has led to the closure of Apple Daily, the arrest of numerous of its chiefs, and attacks on the Hong Kong Journalists Association, among just name a few incidents. Four United Nations rights experts are calling on the Hong Kong Government to launch a review of the law, stating that it is incompatible with international law and human rights standards.

[Reporters Without Borders](#) counts 471 journalists currently sitting in jail for their work. With the legislation proposed or in force in Singapore, Bangladesh and the Maldives along with other countries, that number is certain to rise.

On top of that figure, RSF counts 29 journalists who lost their lives this year alone. So far in October Raman Kashyap was killed in India on October 3rd and Shahid Zehri in Pakistan a week later. Their deaths, along with those of the six reporters for Novaya Gazeta, count among the 1,416 journalists killed since the [Committee to Protect Journalists](#) began keeping records in 1992.

As countries combat "fake news" and "foreign interference" through draconian laws and the arrest of journalists, or even murder those seen as a threat, no amount of awards or recognitions will keep journalists safe. Every arrest or murder is an attempt by those in power to maintain control at the expense of democratic norms and human rights.

The announcement of the Nobel Peace Prize perhaps sums up the sentiment best:

*"Free, independent and fact-based journalism serves to protect against abuse of power, lies and war propaganda. The Norwegian Nobel Committee is convinced that freedom of expression and freedom of information help to ensure an informed public. These rights are crucial prerequisites for democracy and protect against war and conflict. The award of the Nobel Peace Prize to Maria Ressa and Dmitry Muratov is intended to underscore the importance of protecting and defending these fundamental rights.*

*"Without freedom of expression and freedom of the press, it will be difficult to successfully promote fraternity between nations, disarmament and a better world order to succeed in our time." ♦*

## 2021 Joint Declaration on Politicians and Public Officials and Freedom of Expression

Source: Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) | Oct. 21, 2021

The Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe is a forum for political dialogue on a wide range of security issues and a platform for joint action to improve the lives of individuals and communities. It works for stability, peace and democracy for more than a billion people, through political dialogue about shared values and through practical work that aims to make a lasting difference. There are 57 participating States in North America, Europe and Asia.

Its Representative on freedom of the media:

- Ensure the safety of journalists; assist with the development of media pluralism; promote decriminalization of defamation;
- Combat hate speech while preserving freedom of expression; provide expert opinions on media regulation and legislation;
- Promote Internet freedom; and
- Assist with the process of switching from analogue to digital broadcasting.

The United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Protection and Promotion of Freedom of Opinion and Expression, the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, the Organization of American States Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression and the African Commission on Human and

Peoples' Rights (ACHPR) Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression and Access to Information issued their 2021 Joint Declaration.

*Noting* the essential role played by freedom of expression and the right to information in fostering the free flow of information and ideas in society, and enabling people to participate in debate about matters of public interest, including politics, and to access a broad range of opinions, thereby strengthening democracy, respect for all human rights and sustainable development;

*Stressing* that respect for freedom of expression and the right to information are essential for everyone to receive, debate and form and share opinions, as well as for politicians and public officials to communicate their ideas and proposals to the public;

*Keeping* in mind our 2020 Joint Declaration on Freedom of Expression and Elections in the Digital Age, which sets out key standards for States, media and other non-State actors in relation to elections;

*Highlighting* that the full realisation of freedom of expression and the right to information requires, on the one hand, strong protection for open and inclusive debate about matters of public interest and, on

the other hand, acceptance by politicians and public officials that, by virtue of their positions, their official conduct and certain aspects of their private lives are legitimate objects of close public scrutiny and strong criticism;

*Alarmed* by the harassment, threats and high level of violence committed with impunity against journalists, right to information activists, human rights defenders and others for exercising their right to freedom of expression, especially in cases where these individuals expose corruption or report on other forms of wrongdoing, including by politicians and public officials;

*Expressing* concern at the growing incidence of online and offline "hate speech", disinformation and dangerous rhetoric against and scapegoating of the media, human rights defenders and groups at risk of discrimination, including by politicians and public officials, which chills freedom of expression, thereby reducing the diversity of information and ideas in society and misleading citizens;

*Acknowledging* that politicians and public officials play an important role in shaping the media agenda, public debate and opinion and that, as a result, ethical behaviour and

attitudes on their part, including in their public communications, is essential for promoting the rule of law, the protection of human rights, media freedom and intercultural understanding, and for ensuring public trust in democratic systems of governance;

*Denouncing* the increase in public communications by some politicians and public officials which are intolerant and divisive, deny established facts, attack journalists and human rights defenders for exercising their right to freedom of expression, and seek to undermine democratic institutions, civic space, media freedom and human rights, including freedom of expression;

*Observing* that States have a positive obligation to create an enabling environment for freedom of expression and the right to information, including by fostering media independence and diversity as a key means of promoting robust, open debate about matters of public interest, and by adopting rules that ensure public transparency and accountability of public actors;

*Cognisant* that international human rights standards require everyone, including politicians and public officials, to refrain from advocacy of hatred that constitutes incitement to violence, hostility or discrimination, while moral imperatives call on them to speak out firmly and promptly against intolerance.

Read the 2021 Joint Declaration in full text [here](#). ♦

## Chinese Restaurants in Minnesota presentation featured the David Fong family

By Will Ahern | Contributor

After a year-and-a-half hiatus caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Chinese Heritage Foundation Friends (CHFF) has reprised its Sunday Teas Series with a presentation on “The History of the Chinese Restaurant Business in Minnesota.”

CHFF members Pat Hui and Paul Kwok, local artists, offered to host the event at their gallery/studio located in the Traffic Art Center in downtown Minneapolis. Although guests were limited to only 20 people, participants also viewed it via Zoom.

The presentation began with the introduction of the board by Ida Lano, board president, who then introduced Greg Hugh, publisher of China Insight, as moderator. Hugh proceeded to introduce members of the David Fong family, (part the panel): Ed Fong, owner of [David Fong's Chinese Restaurant](#), Bloomington; Cindy and Leo Le, owners of [Fong's Prior Lake](#); and David Fong Jr., owner of [D. Fong's](#), Savage.



Hugh began the discussion by noting how *China Insight* regularly covered the David Fong clan over the years, chronicling the more than 60 years the family has been involved in the community. Eddie, eldest son of David and Helen, shared some interesting historical background about the evolution of the Fong family name and restaurants.

The journey to Minnesota began back in 1942 in Chicago where their family name was actually Moy and their great grandfather was actually in the laundry business, but that's another story that would involve a discussion about the Chinese Exclusion Act and the rise of “paper sons” since his grandfather arrived in U.S. on paper as a Fong.

It was 1944 that the family learned of the opportunity to purchase a restaurant, the Moy Café in Minneapolis (no relation, contact was made through the Moy Family Association in Chicago), and that is how the family moved to Minnesota and got into the restaurant business. Grandfather eventually returned to China (in 1948) to bring his wife and family to Minnesota, which included David who turned 15 his second day in America.

According to Eddie, 1954 was a very important year for the family since that was when David met his future wife Helen

on a visit to L.A., prior to him leaving for the Army. They married in 1957 and the next year decided that they wanted to open a small take-out restaurant. Although they were looking for a location in Richfield, they got lost and ended up in Bloomington when they came across a “for rent” sign at 98th and Lyndale. And that is how the Fong dynasty began.

Throughout his life, David Sr. has said that he has always been lucky, but Eddie says that his father, if he was “lucky,” earned it by being honest with the people he has met in his life and giving back to the people and community. Their success, Eddie stressed, is based on giving back and that is why the family continues with that tradition at all of their locations.



Obviously, the David Fong's Chinese Restaurant located in Bloomington has to be doing something right to be one of the longest continuous operating restaurants in the Twin Cities. It has weathered all kinds of dining fads. The discussion was opened up for questions for the various members of the Fongs, including Leo, Cindy's husband.

How to remain competitive? all panel members agreed they focus on providing good customer service at a reasonable price, and support the community. Naturally, the biggest problem is hiring enough people to provide a healthy and safe dining experience. Just as there are generations of family members pursuing a restaurant career, the Fong restaurants are blessed to have customers of multiple generations patronizing their restaurants, and even request their favorite dishes be shipped to them after they move away from Minnesota!



Photos by Paul Kwok

The presentation concluded with a cooking demonstration by Eddie. Despite the limitations of the kitchen facility, he was able to prepare one of his delicious signature dishes: New York Steak Chinatown for all who attended in person to sample.

**Editor's Notes:** *China Insight* has featured about 15 articles about David Fong and his family over the years. If you're interested in reading them, visit [www.chinainsight.info](http://www.chinainsight.info) and search for "David Fong."

## St. Paul-Changsha China Friendship Garden (Liu Ming Yuen) update

By William Zajicek | Contributor



West entrance archway installed in summer 2019

The St. Paul - Changsha China Friendship Garden, aka Liu Ming Yuan, is entering its second phase of development. Planning will be funded by Legacy funding from the State of Minnesota.

Phase II includes the following features: a Hmong Plaza, a Chinese Moon Bridge, an extension of the Xiang Jiang Pavilion garden to the water's edge of the Phalen Lagoon, and an East Moon Gate/ Permanent Donor Wall. Ancillary features such as an east entrance to the Pavilion and an irrigation system are also in the works.

A Design Advisory Committee (DAC) will work with Saint Paul Department of Parks and Recreation, the Minnesota China Friendship Garden Society (MCFGs), and the Changsha Architectural firm Hunan Jianke to develop a final design for the Phase II features. The first of six DAC meetings were held in mid-October. Meet-

ings with the broader community to present design concepts and infuse the community feedback into the final design will continue through the fall and should come to completion in February 2022.

There are two opportunities to participate in this design process. The first is at the general community meeting to provide feedback to the DAC - those meeting have yet to be scheduled. The second is to join the DAC. If you are interest in being involved, visit the [MCFGs web page](#) and send a note indicating your interest on the “Contact” page.

Once a final design is complete, estimates for construction will be established. This will facilitate a future Capital Campaign. There is already some funding available for the Hmong Plaza and Garden Extension. ♦

## Chinese Friendship Garden gets feng shui blessing ceremony

On Oct. 24, a Chinese feng shui blessing ceremony lead by feng shui expert Carole Hyder was held at the St. Paul-Changsha Friendship Garden highlighting the nine art

stones and phase II elements. Additional photos of the ceremony can be viewed on the [St. Paul-Changsha Friendship Garden website](#). ♦



Merry Christmas

Thank you for reading China Insight