HOW WE FACED A PANDEMIC
A Message from the Executive Director

How We Faced a Pandemic

Since the pandemic closed our doors way back on March 14, 2020, I have really missed seeing everyone! I closed my office door that day and left my plants inside thinking, they’ll survive for a few weeks. Good thing our Exhibits Director Jessica rescued them and took them home.

Evolve beyond hand to mouth budgets and ensure the Wing Luke Museum serves our neighborhood for another hundred years.

Isolated in their homes, exhibit committees continued to create. We are excited to open two new exhibits this coming year. Community Spread: How We Faced a Pandemic documents the effects of COVID-19 on the neighborhood, the mutual aid that followed, and how we move forward. We will also be exploring a new art exhibit featuring the works of Gerard and George Tsutakawa and the inspiration, process, and impact these works have on Seattle.

At the end of last year, the Wing Luke Museum was recognized as one of America’s Cultural Treasures by the Ford Foundation and partners providing critical funding when so many responded to our emergency resilience campaign. Artists created Love Letters for a Canton Alley exhibit while Museum staff turned on a dime and launched the Digital Wing Luke Museum, featuring accessible online tours, programs, and marketplace.

We saw our community rise up to the challenge, take action, and respond in time of need. Together, we could not be stopped!

With love and heartfelt gratitude,

Beth Takekawa, Executive Director

IT’S THE YEAR OF THE OX!

By artist Kela Wong

Lunar New Year day this year is Friday, February 12th.

The Chinese and Vietnamese Zodiacs are represented by 12 animals. According to legend, the Jade Emperor invited all animals to enter a long race and the first 12 to finish would each rule a year every 12 years.

Each zodiac animal brings its own personality and characteristics to the year. Can you imagine what an ox year might look like?


Characteristics of people born in the Year of the Ox: Reliable, trustworthy, earnest, even-tempered, hard-working, calm, and gentle.

Famous oxen: Malcolm X, Peter Jackson, Bruno Mars, Simone Biles, Kylie Jenner, Meryl Streep, George Takei, Bruce Springsteen, Heidi Klum, Naomi Osaka, Lana Del Rey, Jim Parsons, Ichiro Suzuki, Barack Obama, Malala Yousafzai

Year of the Ox Coloring Sheet

This year, we will NOT be hosting a coloring contest, but will still be providing a coloring sheet with Kela Wong’s beautiful ox design. You can find the sheets at www.wingluke.org/newyear2021.

Tag us at #NewYearsFestival2021 with the image and we will reshare you coloring sheet.

ABOUT THIS YEAR’S DESIGN

KELA WONG

Our 2021 Year of the Ox design was created by Kela Wong, an Asian American illustrator from Seattle, Washington. She draws inspiration from her Chinese-Japanese American heritage and her love of corgis.

Both themes run through her line of hand-illustrated greeting cards and stickers.

Kela decided to pursue creating art in order to prioritize filling her life with work she loves and moments that bring her joy. She delights in illustrating her own favorite foods and objects, and shares her art and greeting cards with others in the hopes that other people can find connection, beauty, or joy in her designs.

Kela grew up learning multiple languages and consistently exploring new cultures. She always lived how language had the ability to create bridges between cultures and people, and believes that art is also a powerful vehicle through which one can find meaningful connection to others.

You can find Kela’s work in the Wing Luke Museum’s Marketplace and Kobo at Higo in Seattle’s International District.

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WING LUKE MUSEUM / WINTER 2021
BRUCE LEE 80TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION
A BOOK TALK & CONVERSATION WITH SHANNON LEE & DOUG PALMER

Muted by Mimi Gan, we joined authors Shannon Lee and Doug Palmer to celebrate Bruce Lee’s 80th birthday and learn more about their new books, Be Water. My Friend: The Teachings of Bruce Lee, which is Shannon Lee’s examination of her father’s philosophies to be used in our daily lives, and Bruce Lee: Sifu, Friend and Brother, which shares Doug Palmer’s personal memories of his relationship with Bruce Lee.

Here is an excerpt from their conversation:

Mimi: What did you each learn about Bruce Lee from reading each other’s books? Was there anything surprising?

Shannon: I really appreciated the intimate detail in Doug’s book, especially at a time of his life before my mother… and I think a lot of the details with his family and life in Hong Kong. I thought it was very interesting to hear about his relationship with Ruby Chow and how they had strong personalities each. And also that he had undergone in Hong Kong a surgical procedure to be circumcised as a young adult. I was like – whoa! I didn’t know that, (laughs)

Doug: I really enjoyed Shannon’s book. It was a deep dive into Bruce’s approach to life. I especially appreciated the concept of “life kung fu.” It can apply not just to martial arts but to other disciplines and to life itself. Before reading her book, I didn’t fully realize Bruce’s purposeful use of symbols… and how completely Bruce applied his own “life kung fu” approach to everything he did.

Mimi: I want to take us to today. Bruce experienced prejudice because of his mixed family and heritage. How do you think that adversity led him to be open to all races? And what do you think he would think about today?

Shannon: I think my father thought that racism was silly, stupid, not a measure of anything. I think it didn’t come from – whether he was fully consciously aware of it or not. I think he had this push and pull on his students both as a teacher. Born in the U.S. and raised in Hong Kong, under British colonial rule… he faces racism very strongly in Hollywood… even when he went back to Hong Kong. He just didn’t care about that. I’m sure his upbringing had something to do with it. Hong Kong was under British rule. He didn’t enjoy that… on the flip side, he was basically kicked out of his kung fu school – the other students didn’t appreciate the fact that he wasn’t 100% Chinese. He had to teach him privately… Bruce himself was totally uninterested in your background. He was more interested in what his students were willing to learn and what they could teach him.

Mimi: When you first met, did Bruce have an identity? What race, what social background?

Doug: As Shannon said, he literally didn’t care about anyone’s background. What race, what social level they came from. It was clear from the beginning. His first student in the U.S. was a Black man, Jesse Glover. All his students came from all walks of life. He just didn’t care about that. I’m sure his upbringing had something to do with it. Hong Kong was under British rule. He didn’t enjoy that… on the flip side, he was basically kicked out of his kung fu school – the other students didn’t appreciate the fact that he wasn’t 100% Chinese. My father had to teach him privately… Bruce himself was totally uninterested in your background. He was more interested in what his students were willing to learn and what they could teach him.

Mimi: What do you hope readers will take away?

Doug: He taught us don’t give up. Work hard. Don’t give up. You have to make your own way.

Shannon: I really wanted people to get a sense of the real depth of philosopher that my father was. He wasn’t just an armchair philosopher. The practice of philosophy was really meaningful to him, the study and the constant learning… for me, this book is an attempt to give back something my father gave to me… something extremely meaningful for and the healing possibilities of how life can be lived. Even if it’s just one small phrase, that’s enough.

Both books are available through the Wing Luke Museum Marketplace Store: https://digitalwingluke.org/shop. Look for Shannon in the Bruce Lee podcast, now in its second season, as Shannon engages in conversation with special guests from all walks of life in conversation with themes from her new book: https://brucelive.com/podcast

FROM THE COLLECTIONS
Tongan Ngatu
By Collections Manager Bob Fisher

In addition to our growing collection of Polynesian Islander materials, the museum received a ‘Tongan Ngatu’, a tapa cloth remnant from Tonga, this past year. Abandoned in a house on Orcas Island, the donor was able to save it and graciously donate the artifact to the museum.

The Ngatu was created in 1999 when Sione ‘Uluvalu Ngu Takeivulai Tuku‘aho became the second highest ranking chief in Tonga following the death of his father. If you look closely, you can see this occasion is mentioned in the middle of the Ngatu.

Furthermore there are a number of traditional symbols hand painted on the Ngatu, most importantly one being the Coat of Arms of Tonga. The text on the scroll at the bottom states “Ko e ‘Otua mo Tonga ko hoku Toifat,” which translates to “God and Tonga are my inheritance.”

There are simplified Tokelaufeletoa motifs in the center, which refer to the location. Tokelau meaning north and Feletoa referring the village of Feletoa. The Nga-tu is signed by this maker “Roy”.

See more items from our collections at digitalwingluke.org/collections

Thank You and Welcome

Many thanks to the following Trustees who left the Board (pictured above from left to right): John Mills, though she continues to work with Wing Luke Museum on development strategies; Larry Yek, who is enjoying the retired life after leaving his second stint on the WLM Board; Louis Gong, who is focusing energies on uplifting Inspired Native Artists and art; Kiran Ahuja, who has been busy working on the Biden transition.

Thanks also to the following staff who culminated their service this past year at the Wing Luke Museum: John Hom, Francesca Leo, Lynn Shiel, Nick Williamson. Welcome to staff members who recently joined the museum: Henry Jensen, Diego Munay, MJ Steele.

WIND LUKE MUSEUM / WINTER 2021
When the museum closed, it was devastating to think about what would happen to the museum and the organization as a whole if it could no longer go on,” says Senior Tour Manager Doan Diane Hoang Dy. “It was hard shaking the scary what-ifs during the beginning of the shut-down for our organization and many others out there.

Like many industries, the pandemic hit museums hard. How do you recreate an experience that is so rooted in physical space? Our staff had to pivot and recreate a unique and engaging experience online. “We had to rethink our storytelling to continue the personal connections that get established the way our in-person tours did. We definitely had to stay away from being stale educators talking at our guests through the screen.” With their smartphones and gimbal in hand, the Virtual Tour experience was born.

“The main difference from our virtual tours from our pre-COVID onsite tours is that you are having a handful of our education staff take you on a safe journey from the comfort of your home while you shape the experience around your interests and questions.” From the Education Guides in the Museum to the folks behind the scenes controlling the spotlight and answering the chat, each tour is a production. “It’s a bigger community team that is so rooted in physical space? Our staff had to pivot and recreate a unique and thoughtful experience online.”

Since then, we have expanded these tours from Historic Spaces to A Dinner Date with the history of the Chinatown-International District, and to learn how to cook something new. You all hit so many sweet spots! The last 12+ months have been a slog of isolation, conflict, and tension. I really appreciate meeting you virtually, thinking about building community, and practicing the mindfulness of combining fresh ingredients into adorable, delicious dumplings. I enjoyed Chef Olive’s enthusiasm for homemade mustard and Ms/ Mrs Chan’s contextualization of food and tradition. Rahul, you were also an engaging and thoughtful guide.

-Heather

Summer Camp Goes Virtual!
By Education Specialist Maya Hayashi

While Covid changed our Summer Camps from in-person to virtual—the fun, laughter, community and art making continued in our online-camp! Campers learned the basics of Wing Chun over their Zoom screens during our Camp Bruce Lee, which was created in partnership with the Bruce Lee Foundation. Shannon Lee, Bruce’s daughter, was able to stop in and watch the campers show off their moves in their living rooms/bedrooms. It was so fun to see the martial arts movements over their screens and wow, did they learn a lot from their daily martial arts classes from Sifu MJ!

Materials boxes were dropped off at campers’ homes ahead of each camp. They were boxes chock full of art supplies and creative possibilities, containing art supplies as well as the materials for our zany dexterity games that we played between our arts and crafts and virtual field trips. Campers made paper cities and towns, decorated plates inspired by our Chinatown International District restaurants, traveled down to the basement of the Louisa Building to see prohibition-era murals and descended into the basement of the museum building, all from the comfort and safety of their homes. One of my favorite aspects of this year’s virtual camp was the wonderful compliments that the campers shared with one another about one another’s art works. We had such a sweet little community of campers this year. Friendships and connections were able to be made amongst our campers and camp counselors despite not being together, physically.

We’re looking forward to and planning for this year’s Summer Camps. If you are interested or want to learn more about our upcoming camps please email mhayashi@wingluke.org to stay in the loop.

UPCOMING EXHIBIT

COMMUNITY SPREAD

In the early months of the pandemic, the Museum partnered with a class in the University of Washington’s School of Public Health to conduct oral history interviews with community members who had been affected by COVID-19. We heard stories of hardship and loss, and also stories of resilience, creativity, and mutual aid.

Community Spread: How We Faced a Pandemic, scheduled to open May 6th, draws on that trove of early interviews, along with dozens more conducted over the course of the year by staff and volunteers. The exhibit will explore the many ways Asian Pacific American communities responded to this global pandemic, from delivering groceries to marching for justice, from holding dying patients’ hands to honoring their horns at drive-by graduations.

One story in particular follows custodians, many of which are BIPOC immigrants. UW graduate student Evavlyn Romano is the daughter of two UW custodians, which makes her especially passionate about this work. After raising funds to serve bread and coffee for custodians early in the pandemic, she was interested in other ways to highlight their work. This led to ideas for photography-based storytelling and gathering oral histories.

Before documenting the stories and photos of UW Custodians for her project, Evavlyn Romano started the Pan de Sal + Kape fund to purchase and deliver breakfast for them.

For four weeks, Romano met with custodians and she was honored to share that space with them. “I wanted to focus on the health impacts of work and home life for custodians who are a valuable yet overlooked part of our community,” Romano says. “During this process, I found that a reoccurring theme was how proud they are of their work and a sense of protection for the community they serve. Even the cart that carries their cleaning supplies is a representation of their work.”

Romano plans to build out a website to highlight these stories and create a traveling exhibit to showcase these works. Currently, she is planning a fundraiser to help supply them with comfortable walking shoes and she is working towards getting them access to COVID-19 vaccines and education.

“My hope is to have a culture shift in the way we view custodians. I want to inspire people to show appreciation and acknowledgement of their work. We think of healthcare workers as guardians of our health and I think custodians should also be part of that conversation.”

Learn more about the exhibit on our website and see more about the project at www.uwcustodianproject.com

A New Cohort

In this third year, the DAKLI Emerging Professionals program, was definitely feeling the effects of Imposer Syndrome trying to figure out my life as a new mom while working full time. I was always tired, felt like I was letting my coworkers down, and that I should perhaps find a different type of employment that was more mindful so I could just focus more on my child. Despite the pandemic and its setbacks on the big DAKLI experience, I still feel like I am working into 2021 with clear sights to what I want to do in the future.

DAKLI helped me learn more about the facets of aging work in the community aside from being an employee or volunteer. Donors and Board members are different moving parts in the big engine that make our non-profit organization the amazing thing that it is. Each facet is able to support in their capacities that work for them.

I’m ready to continue to invest my time, energy, and efforts to the Chinatown-International District. My legacy will be found around the neighborhood in the museum that I love, all of it. Of my son, the folks who came before me, and the folks who will come after us.
PATHS INTERTWINED

The Wing Luke Museum’s latest exhibit, Paths Intertwined showcases the artwork of Lee and other local Taiwanese and Chinese American artists exploring the many journeys and identities reflected in their work. "I wanted an exhibit that showcased Chinese and Taiwanese immigrant artist work with Seattle as their new home and the impact moving here had on their art,” Lee says. “I’m so pleased that Mikals took on the project. She did such a wonderful job and I’m proud to be a part of it. If I can follow my dream painting and find happiness in doing so, I hope all people have that in the love of creation of art in them.”

Many thanks to Marilyn Chahtat Dix, Dione Haroutunian, Blake Nakatsu, and Patsy Suh O’Connell for serving on the committee that developed the show. Themes and selected the artwork. Thanks and congratulations to the artists who contributed their work to this beautiful show: Larine Chung, May Kytonen, Agnes Lee, Z.Z. Wei, Monyee Chau, Jenny Ku, Shin Yu Pai, and Ellison Shieh.

SPONSOR
Taipei Economic and Cultural Office

Left: Artist Agnes Lee translate poetry through her artwork. Right: Lee poses in front of one of her pieces.

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RESILIENCE THROUGH ART

Centered around community healing and resilience, the Wing Luke Museum worked on two public art installations while closed to the public during the first lockdown of the pandemic.

The first installation focused on the immense civil unrest across the country after the murder of George Floyd. With the outpouring of support from volunteers artists painting murals on the boarded-up businesses in the Chinatown-International District, the museum wanted to be intentional with what was being put up on the exterior of the building.

“We knew it was going to have a large visual impact and also big impact with messaging,” says Exhibits Director Canton Alley featuring Love Letters submissions.

Collaborating with Seattle artist Moses Sun, who had just worked on the Black Lives Matter mural in Capitol Hill, the staff came together to create a powerful mural with segments highlighting community members who had done the work in coalition building and working solidarity from the community to the community.

The second piece tied into our Resilience Campaign after we cancelled our annual auction. Building on a call from New York’s Chinatown and the WOW Project, Wing Luke Museum decided to wheat paste art featuring Love Letters to the neighborhood and residents.

Taking some of the submissions, the museum decided to wheat paste art in Canton Alley for folks to see as well as print the love letters, which were translated into Chinese, to place them in the weekly Asian Counseling and Referral Service (ACRS) grocery delivery for 300 residents.

“When we were closed to the public, this was another way for us to share artwork from the community to the community. The artwork and letters from the campaign offered love for the neighborhood and hopeful messages for the museum and residents.”

See the digital exhibit here: https://digitalwingluke.org/cidlovemails

We stand with Black Lives Matter

ANNUAL GIVING CIRCLES

LEADERSHIP CIRCLE FUTUREBUILDER $25,000+
Bruce Brundidge and Grace Tazuma Su Jiin Chin and Han So* Gordon Davidson The Estate of Isabel Egiin* Ellen Ferguson* Judy Hatfield Melvin ‘Y. Inoyasu’ Helen Lang* Paul Mar* John Mills Vistor and Slavy Mumunon* Elizabeth B. Patterson* Ken and Nancy Frichard* Christina Tai and Theis Bard Beth Takekawa and Tony Ty* Gloria and Dean Wakayama* The Estate of John Klaus and Marylee Yamdham’s Anonymous

LEADERSHIP CIRCLE HISTORIC $10,000–$24,999
Kim and Bobbie Bridge* Terri Blau and Durga Dorasamy Mita Mistry* Gayle and Sandee Holmes Joy and Joyce Layng* Beth McCow

LEADERSHIP CIRCLE HISTORIC MAKER $5,000–$9,999
Kris Almup\n Join and Bobbie Bridge* Terri Blau and Durga Dorasamy Mita Mistry* Gayle and Sandee Holmes Joy and Joyce Layng* Beth McCow

LEADERSHIP CIRCLE VISIONARY $15,000–$19,999
Bill Adamscc* Abbekeem and Shi Guon Sow* Kiyoko and Trenesa Kan Jin Jumakasovi Betty Lee* Donna Lin and Peter Bladin Betty Liu* Dalila and Robert Mak Jim McDermott Jih Yae Noor and Howard Nakase Nancy S. Northcoff Paul Rho and Jeseeie Loe Chastable Ming and Andrew Lo Paule Rosga Reylou\n and Stephen Reynolds* Judith Tobin and Michael Baker* Lenny Y. Yee and T. Elvin* Leonard Yee

LEADERSHIP CIRCLE INNOVATOR $2,500–$4,999
Ethanoom Rofenesson and Paul Fascher* Shoshana Andakis Tera Beach Carey and Alben Bul* Kenyon Chen and Shirley Huns La Verne and Jack Chen Katherine Chng and Ron Nakota Brian and Jenimee Chen Cause Chen and Paul Chen and Chuck and Chris Criets’ Valene Chen and John Hop Bonnie Chow Gordon Davidson Steve Daviss and Bob Evans Cheryl and Milton Pambellies Nessuus Fish and Bailong Ting* Min Gu and Enoki Bilinguals* Greg and Val Gordon Wemin and Suoi Higa Katie Hong and Harold Tai Suy Sue Families of Fred & Edith Inomata Barbara Johns and Ben Dodge* Karen Johnson and Gary Yamamoto Ellen Katsen Mary Knell Linda A. Lee* Peter and Debbie Lee Peri Nordsieck Loganwell and Don Loganwell* Barry and Teresa Lee Douglas Mil and Paul Lee Myou Megh Edmondson-Extor* and Travis Extor* Meadows Potter Family Fund Paul Miyake Victor and Stacy Mizumon Paul and Craig Mukunuri Curtis and Charlene Nakayama Natalie Hayashida Ong and Albert Ong Carolyn Snows Sue Reda Dest T. Tung, Inc. Manh Taiplui and Connie Rics Jen E. Takekawa Katsumi and Terrie Torres* Maggie Walker* Edward G. Weng Wembte Wung and Mei Man Kowman Ann Wynn* Denhar Wymans* Virginia Wymans Wymans Youth Trust Christopher Young Dylan Young Erin Younger and Ed Lifeld* Anonymous

LEADERSHIP CIRCLE $1,000–$1,999
Parce/Ayala and David Larsen\n Verona Anderson\n Miki Awakarnka and Jeff Chan Mary Beccan Mary Carol and Shelly Decker\n Dr. Elizabeth Beaber and Mark McMeekin\n Jason Beaumont and Betty Zou James Hanzawa Bromley and Jean Hicoo Linda Brown and Lary True Richard Calhaber Sai and Debbie Chakravorti* David Chen and Jane Naligapaw Matt and Gen Chen Emily and Miki Chang Kevin Cheng\n Vivian and Dennis Chang\n Rebecca C. Chen-Chen and Jindoo E. Chen Mr. Mitchell Chen Ted Chen Tian Chen Amy G. Chinn Wing Chinn and Desiree Chinn* Ling Chinn Mayne Chinn\n Weibeke and Desenna Chin Walon and Paulina Chinn* Elizabeth Choy and James Lunsford* Gemma, Russ, McIntyre and Sarah Griglet* Sandohish Dallas* Dolores Dong* Don Eikens and Phil Crem*\n Sandro Dime\n Sam and Terri Finn\n Stacee Foster and Lawrence Cocc* Joshua and Beth Friedman* Bettie Fukudo and Derrick So* Ke Fuchs Michael and Lynn Garvey\n Meon Chung Gerrick and Christopher Gentile* Allen Gibbs* Cindy Gok and Brian Wring* Lisan Ginz* Little Family Foundation* Malcolm and Karen Han* Taylor Hewes Richard Lee Hale Audrey Hwang and Joel Ing Joe and Wal Heung Mei ‘Y. Inoyasu’ Randy Inouye* M. Kevin Joe, DDS and Joan Hsiao Beatrice Joe Taylor Harris Eric T. Olson* Michael Baker* Matthew L. Barra* Kyle Bruns* The Haines Foundation* Dr. Elisabeth Beaber and Mary Batterson* Marsha May and John Bebe* David Larsen* Donna Lou and Bob Evans* Christina Tai and Theis Bard Beth Takekawa and Tony Ty* Gloria and Dean Wakayama* The Estate of John Klaus and Marylee Yamdham’s Anonymous

Interested in learning about leaving a legacy to the Wing Luke Museum? Contact Christina Shimizu at cshimizu@wingluke.org or 206.623.5124 x 216.

*includes Chamber Members

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR CONTRIBUTORS

With great appreciation, the Wing Luke Museum acknowledges the following supporters for the calendar year up to December 31, 2020. Thank you for making sure that Asian Pacific American stories are heard, remembered, and brought to life.


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The Wing Luke Museum is grateful to the Legacy Society members for investing in the Museum’s future through a planned gift.

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Our mission is to connect everyone to the dynamic history, cultures, and art of Asian Pacific Americans through vivid storytelling and inspiring experiences to advance racial and social equity. Wing Luke Museum is a proud Smithsonian Affiliate, National Park Service Affiliated Area and Puget Sound Attractions Member.

Join us as we celebrate the artists and storytellers who keep our histories alive, reminding us of the lessons of our past and inspiring us to create vibrant new futures together. We are a community born of resilience and we must never stop daring to dream. Register for the event, learn more, or donate at: give.classy.org/2021WLM