

SAVE OUR CHINATOWN COMMITTEE

拯救中國城委員會

Preserve the past for the future



**Chinese Historical Society
of Southern California**

For Immediate Release:

May 31, 2011

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Riverside's Historic Chinatown Chosen as Top 100 in National Challenge

Public online vote to decide winner

Riverside, CA – Riverside's historic Chinatown has been selected by the National Trust for Historic Preservation as a finalist in the 2011 *This Place Matters* Community Challenge! The only finalist from Southern California and one of just three sites chosen from California, Chinatown will compete with sites from across the country for three cash awards (top prize \$25,000). Winners will be determined by an online vote that begins June 1st and will last throughout the month. Each person will be allowed to vote for Chinatown ONCE throughout the challenge at www.preservationnation.org/communitychallenge. The winner of the Challenge will be announced on July 1st.

Listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1990, Riverside's historic Chinatown dates back to 1885. It was the central residential and commercial hub for Chinese immigrants working in Southern California's agricultural fields, notably in the citrus industry, and is the last remaining and best preserved early Chinese settlement site in the U.S. An archaeological investigation of the site in the 1980's resulted in the recovery of thousands of artifacts, the production of a two-volume research report, and a major museum exhibition. Since 2008, the Save Our Chinatown Committee has led community-based efforts to protect the site from inappropriate development.

In partnership with the Chinese Historical Society of Southern California (CHSSC), the Save Our Chinatown Committee will launch CHOOSE CHINATOWN on June 1st, a month-long effort to mobilize votes for Riverside's historic Chinatown. "At a time when historic preservation is evolving to include a broader, more inclusive narrative of American culture and heritage, Riverside's historic Chinatown serves as model of how a holistic and community-based approach to preservation, the preservation of a place, or of a neighborhood, can revitalize communities," says Gene Moy, a Board member of both organizations who has been involved in preserving the site since 1980. "We hope people will be inspired to get involved in preserving our shared history."

If Riverside's historic Chinatown is awarded a prize in this competition, funds will support efforts to preserve the archaeological remains for future academic study and to create a Chinatown Memorial Park.

For more information about Riverside's historic Chinatown visit www.saveourchinatown.org. You can get information and updates on the CHOOSE CHINATOWN campaign by following us on Facebook (Save Riverside Chinatown).

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