



Museum of Chinese in America

## FAQs for the Core Exhibit

### WITH A SINGLE STEP

Stories in the Making of America

**WHAT**  
is the meaning of the  
exhibition title?

The exhibition title is inspired by the Chinese Taoist philosopher, Laozi, who said, "A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step." MOCA presents the Chinese American experience as an American story—a heroic journey of obstacle, triumph, understanding, and ultimately, home.

**HOW**  
is the exhibition  
designed?

The exhibition is designed around the architectural heart of the museum—the light-filled courtyard. Much like the rooms of a traditional Chinese house, each section of the exhibition is connected to the courtyard, which represents our cultural and historical heritage—a touchstone in our many different journeys as Chinese Americans.

**WHEN**  
will the full exhibit  
be on view?

The exhibition installation will be completed by MOCA's grand opening on September 22, 2009.

**What are the  
CORE PORTRAITS?**

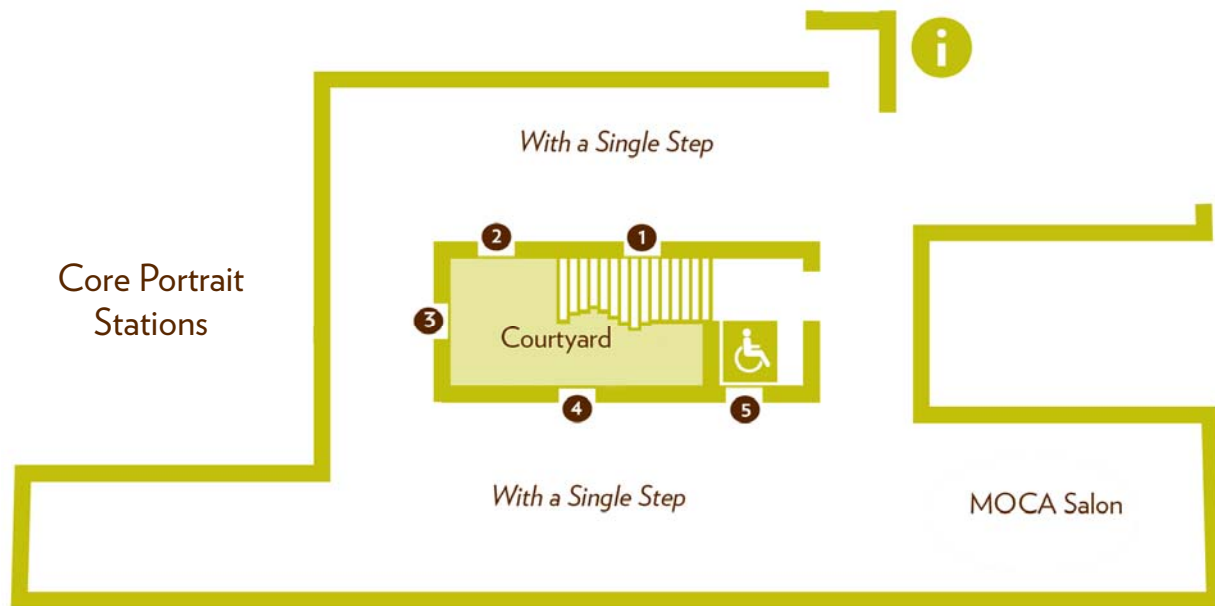
The Core Portraits are film shorts (3-5 minutes in length) that wrap around the courtyard in the core exhibit. They portray Chinese Americans whose lives exemplify a particular historical era in Chinese American history. Over time, new portraits will be produced and rotated in.

**The Core Portraits are spoken  
in the first person.**

The first-person scripts were crafted by an all-star cast of Chinese American writers, who based their writings on oral histories, diaries, and other primary and secondary sources provided by the museum.

**WHO**  
wrote these scripts?

- Maxine Hong Kingston (*Woman Warrior*)
- David Henry Hwang, playwright (*FOB*, *M Butterfly*, *Yellowface*)
- Gish Jen (*Mona in the Promised Land*, *Who's Irish*)
- Ha Jin (*Waiting*, *A Free Life*)
- Stan Lai, playwright (*Secret Love in Peach Blossom Land*, *The Red Lotus Society*)
- Henry Lu, director (*Moxie Pictures*)
- Helen Zia, journalist (*My Country Versus Me*, *Asian American Dreams*)



## Who are the Core Portrait SUBJECTS?

- 1** Scholar **Yung Wing**, Connecticut (first Chinese to graduate from an American college—Yale University)  
Labor contractor/Entrepreneur **Ah Quin**, California
- 2** Social commentator/ Journalist **Wong Chin Foo**, New York (first to coin the term “Chinese American”)  
Paper son/ Laundryman **Tung Funn Hom**, New York
- 3** International film star **Anna May Wong**, California  
Merchant **Charley Toy**, Wisconsin
- 4** Women Airforce Service Pilot (WASP) **Hazel Ying Lee**, Oregon (One of the first Chinese American women pilots to serve the American military)  
Museum professional **Sheila Chin Morris**, Minnesota (Daughter of a paper son)
- 5** Journalist/ Activist **Helen Zia**, New Jersey/Michigan  
Educator **Bonnie Lew**, Mississippi



美国华人博物馆

## 核心展览问答集

### 《千里之行》

历华人旅程，写美国历史

#### 展览标题 意思为何？

展览标题启发自中国哲学家老子名言「千里之行，始于足下」。美国华人博物馆将美国华人经历视为美国历史一部分——这个旅程包含一连串障碍、胜利、理解，最后到达家。

#### 展览设计 概念为何？

本展览环绕着博物馆建筑空间的中心——洒满日光的中庭。展览各部分如同传统中国家庭建筑，透过中庭彼此联结，象征着我们的文化和历史传承，更代表美国华人众多旅程里的一个里程碑。

#### 完整展览 何时开放参观？

展览将于本馆 2009 年 9 月 22 日盛大开幕前装设完成。

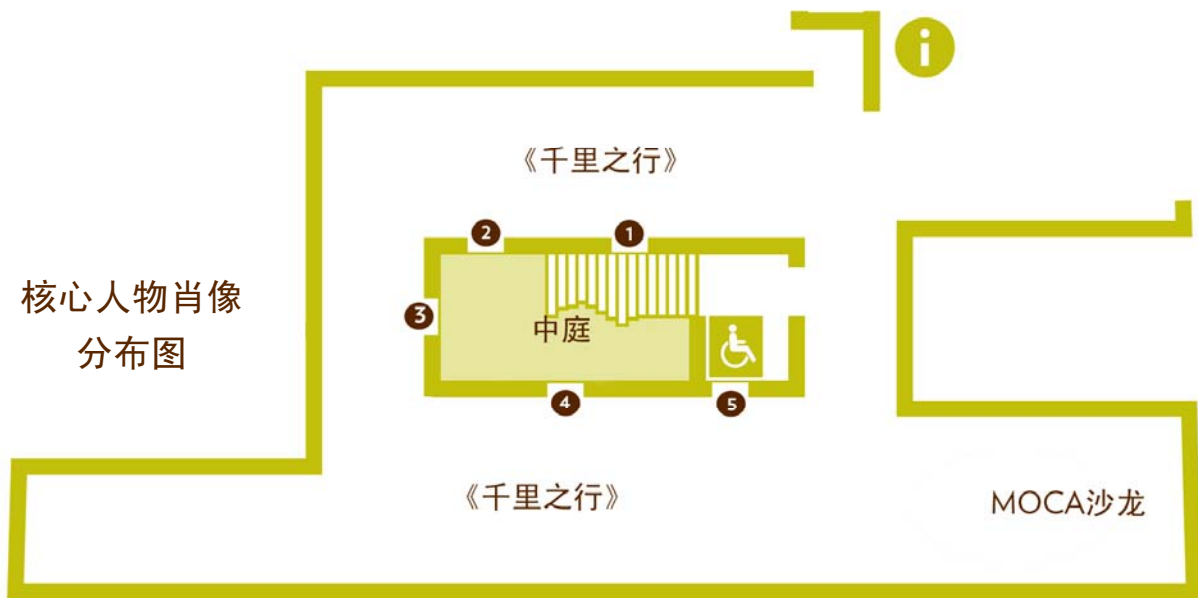
#### 核心人物肖像 是什么？

核心人物肖像为核心展览中展出的短片（3-5 分钟不等），环绕着中庭，讲述几位美国华人不同的时代课题。我们计划在未来制作并更新这些人物肖像短片。

#### 谁 创作了核心人物肖像 的第一人称叙事 脚本？

代这些第一人称脚本由数位知名美国华人作家们根据人物访谈、日记和其他本馆提供的第一、二手资料创作而成。

- 汤婷婷（《女武士》作者）
- 黄哲伦（《FOB》、《蝴蝶君》、《黄脸皮》剧作家）
- 任璧莲（《梦娜在希望之乡》、《谁是爱尔兰人？》作者）
- 哈金（《等待》、《自由生活》作者）
- 赖声川（《暗恋桃花源》、《飞达阿侠》剧作家）
- 陆宏（Moxie Pictures）
- 谢汉兰（记者，《我的国家与我》、《美国亚裔梦》作者）



### 核心人物肖像中有 哪些人物？

- ① 学者**容闳**，康乃迪克州人（首位美国大学华人毕业生，毕业于耶鲁大学）  
包工头兼实业家**阿坤**，加利福尼亚州人
- ② 社会学评论家兼记者**黄清福**，纽约人（「美国华裔」一词创造者）  
冒籍者、洗衣工**谭灿宏**，纽约人
- ③ 国际电影明星**黄柳霜**，加利福尼亚州人  
商人**梅彩迺**，威斯康新州人
- ④ 女子空军服务队**李月英**，奥勒冈人（最早服役于美国军队的美国华人女性之一）  
博物馆工作者**梁凤玲**，明尼苏达人（冒籍华人之女）
- ⑤ 记者、社会活动家**谢汉兰**，新泽西兼密西根人  
教师**刘黄斌仪**，密西西比人