



ONE MILLION STORIES: CHINESE AUSTRALIANS 200 YEARS

Exhibition Background

In February 1818, Mak Sai Ying from Guangzhou arrived in Sydney as the first recorded Chinese settler in Australia. It was to be the start of a 200-year journey of the Chinese community in Australia.

Today, more than 1.2 million people declare their Chinese ancestry and in 2018-2019, the Chinese Museum will mount the ONE MILLION STORIES Exhibition to showcase the varied, interesting journeys of individuals, families and groups through this 200-year settlement and integration in Australia.

The Chinese Australian community has had a strong influence on the evolution of contemporary Australian society and, in the future, have the opportunity to play a dynamic role in the shaping of Australia as a nation, particularly in its engagement with the Asia Pacific region.

This Exhibition will tell stories that demonstrate the depth and breadth of the experiences of Chinese Australians: from the 19th to the 21st centuries; from Parramatta to Perth and from Bundaberg to Burnie, from Christmas Island to Cooktown, and from first-generation arrivals to the Australian-born.

ONE MILLION STORIES Concept

The Chinese Museum wish to collect stories from all over Australia, to provide a wider and more in-depth Chinese Australian experience and level of understanding.

As the confluence of rain drops form into puddles, then into rivers, these individuals with their diverse experiences come together as a national community with the common characteristic of feeling Chinese.

By broad participation, the Museum aims to create inclusion, a new sense of self-identity and new bonds for the community. The Exhibition will also be designed to travel around Australia to give back to the communities that participated.

Exhibition Aims and Objectives

One Million Stories Exhibition aims to:

- Heighten the understanding of the diverse background and characteristics of Chinese Australians past and present.
- explore the evolution of a changing cultural identity.
- perpetuate a lineage of heritage and culture for contemporary Chinese Australians.

- create an inclusive national story from all parts of Australia by widely seeking contributions for the exhibition's content from people, organisations and regions to recognise the diverse histories and communities across Australia.

Permanent exhibition at the Chinese Museum

The ONE MILLION STORIES Exhibition will revitalise the current exhibition on the fourth floor of the Chinese Museum in Melbourne. The fourth floor (200 sqm) currently showcases the Museum's rich collection of Chinese artefacts that highlight the ongoing story of Australian life after the Goldrush.

Together with new items to exhibit, these will be woven into the ONE MILLION STORIES Exhibition, which will transform the gallery into an insightful overview of the Chinese Community in Australia.

Audiences

General Public. This exhibition is a key aspect of Australian History and provides an insight into the development of multicultural Australia. It should be seen by all Australians to understand the dynamics of this contemporary Australian Society.

Chinese Australians. For Chinese Australians, the exhibition is significantly meaningful. It aims to provide three focuses:

Where have we come from – recognising our ancestry.

Maintaining our culture – cultural appreciation for our children and children's children

Place in the Community – a sense of self identity and our place in Australian society.

Education. Every year, around 30,000 school children visit the Museum where immersive exhibitions engage all the senses and encourage the students to inquire and discover. The object of discovery and learning, which underpins the Museum's education program, is the importance of the China-Australia relationship to all Australians, no matter what their background.

International Audiences. Whether during a visit to Australia or seen when the exhibition is travelling overseas, ONE MILLION STORIES is relevant to international audiences. Particularly to Chinese who wish to gain an understanding into the culture and history of Australia.

Knowing that Australia has a 200-year history with Chinese people greatly strengthens cultural and business relations.

Location and Size of Exhibition

4th floor Gallery

Chinese Museum, 22 Cohen Place Melbourne VIC 3000 AUSTRALIA

Size: 190 square metres

Event Plan

2019 - 2024 Located on the 4th floor of the Chinese Museum

2019 - 2024 Travel to various communities around Australia

2020 - 2022 Travel to 3 cities in China

MUSEUM OF CHINESE AUSTRALIAN HISTORY

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