



CAAM Awarded Prestigious Cal Humanities Community Stories Grant

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THE CENTER FOR ASIAN AMERICAN MEDIA (CAAM) RECEIVES GRANT AWARD FROM CAL HUMANITIES

SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF. — Cal Humanities has recently announced the 2015 Community Stories grant awardees. The Center for Asian American Media has been awarded \$10,000 for its project, entitled “Memories to Light: Asian American Home Movies From the Central Valley.”

Community Stories is a competitive grant program of Cal Humanities. Grants are awarded to projects that give expression to the extraordinary variety of histories and experiences of California’s places and people to ensure that the stories can be shared widely. These narratives help us find our commonalities, appreciate our differences, and learn something new about how to live well together.

Memories to Light: Asian American Home Movies From the Central Valley is a story-centered public engagement and preservation project exploring the historical and cultural richness of home movies as created by Asian American families in the Central Valley from the 1930s to the 1970s, demonstrating the importance of collective storytelling, promoting a greater sense of cultural connection and fostering a greater understanding of Asian American experiences in the fields, orchards, and rural communities of the Central Valley.

“Home movies hold a unique place in the visual history of a community, precisely because they come from family members themselves,” says CAAM Executive Director Stephen Gong. “By preserving and restoring home movie reels from Asian American families, we are reframing the historically stereotypical images of Asian Americans in Hollywood films, and bringing to light authentic footage of Asian Americans.”

“California’s population has such a rich and varied story to tell—and we can all benefit from knowing more about each other,” noted Margaret Shelleda, chair of the board of Cal Humanities. “We are proud to award grants to those who find creative and effective ways of sharing our stories with new audiences and help connect Californians whose histories and experiences deserve greater and deeper appreciation.”

Since 2003, Cal Humanities has supported approximately 450 story projects and granted nearly \$3.7 million to enable communities to voice, record, and share histories—many previously untold or little known. Through video, photography, murals, zines, documentary theater, audio projects, and more, these collected stories have been shared with broad audiences, both live and virtual. Cal Humanities is an independent non-profit state partner of the National Endowment for the Humanities. For more information on Cal Humanities, please visit www.calhum.org.

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