

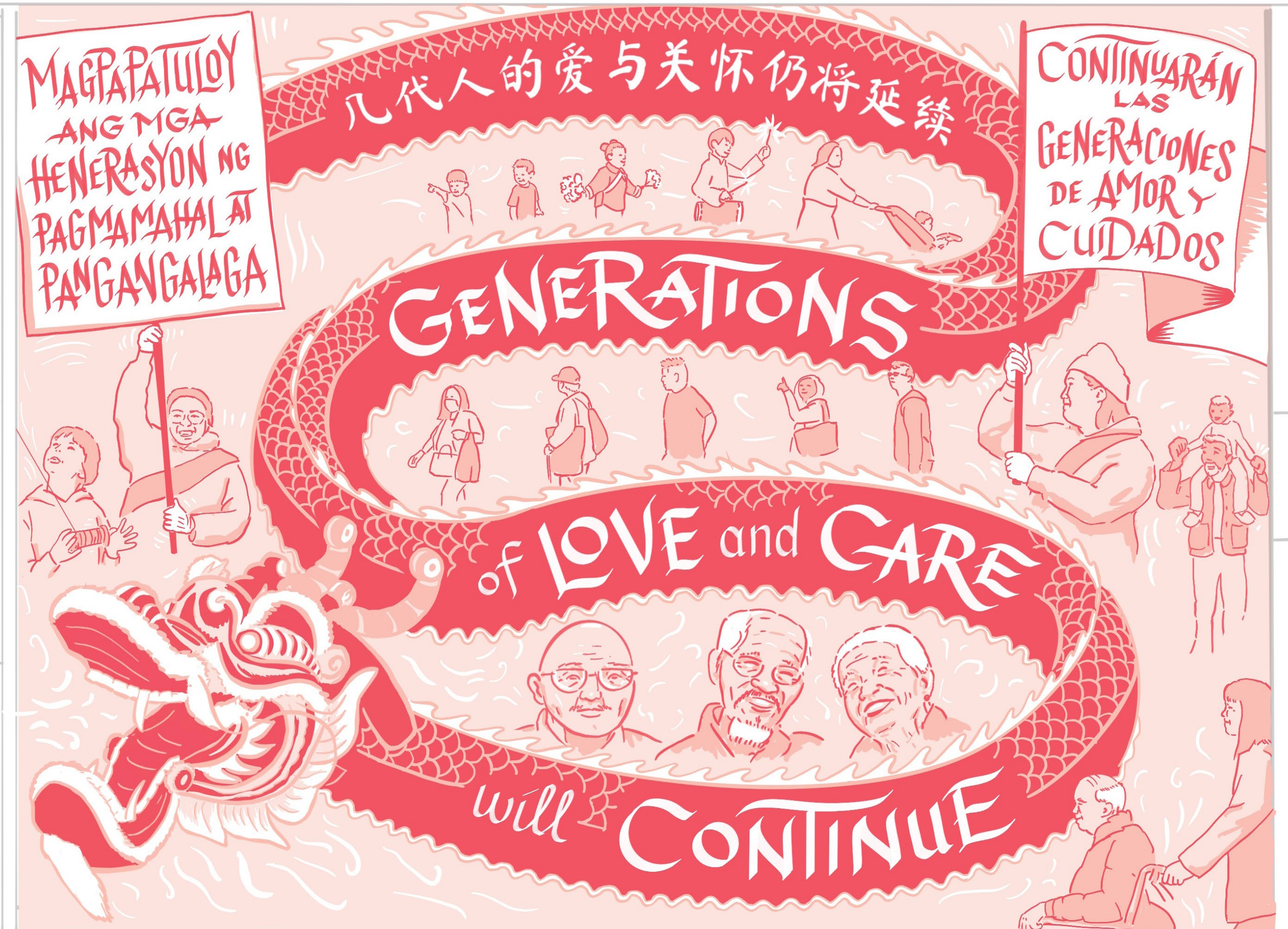
Generations of Love & Care

Christine Wong Yap 葉黃嘉雯 | Art Proposal for the Portsmouth Square Clubhouse Integrated Wall

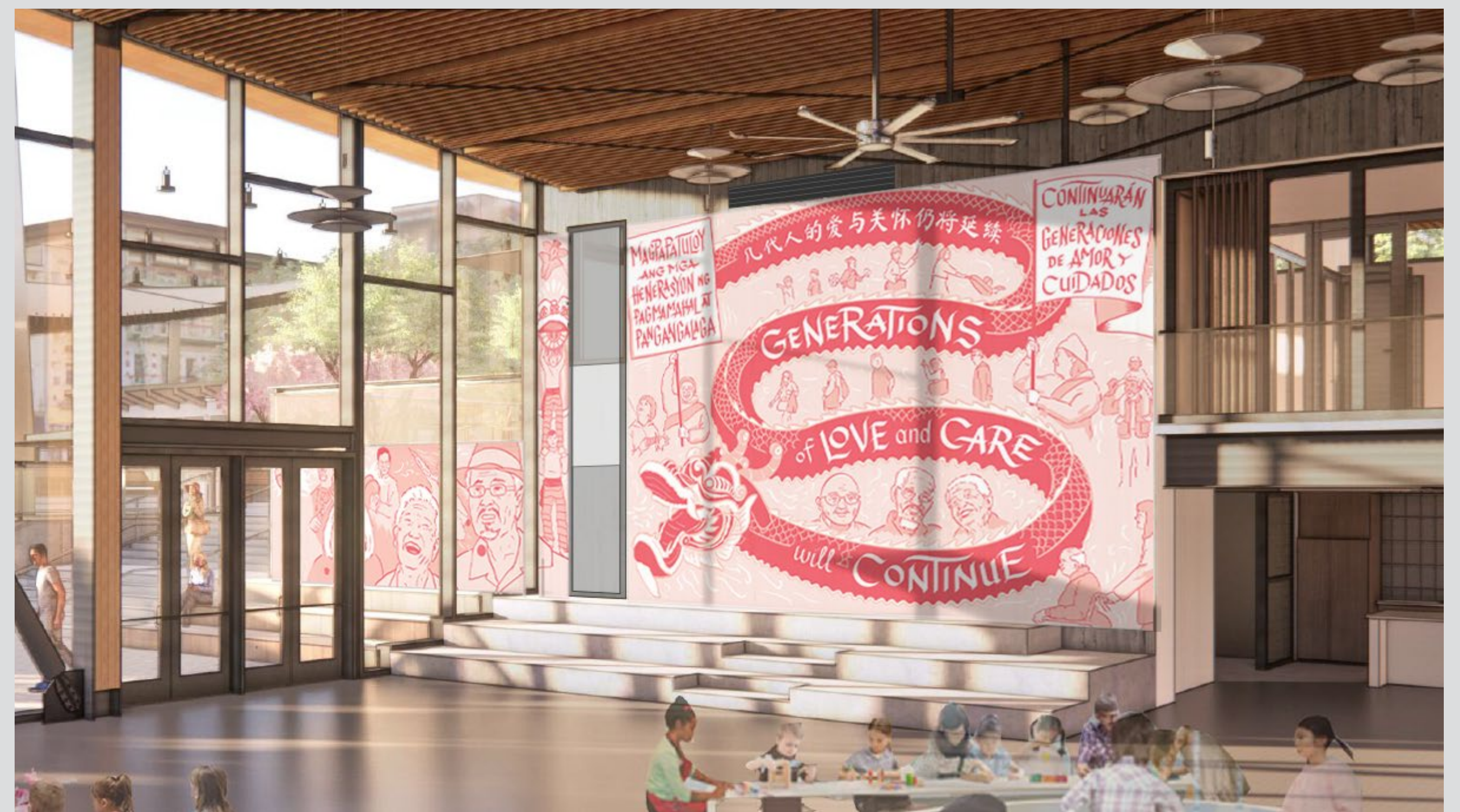
Initial Concept

TO BE FURTHER DEVELOPED WITH COMMUNITY INPUT

Generations of Love and Care is my joyous, multigenerational, and interactive tribute to the people of Chinatown, which celebrates the Chinese New Year Parade as a space of belonging, collective effervescence, and cultural and civic pride. Dozens of everyday residents march alongside a dragon in a proud display of unity, diversity, and cooperative movement. Building upon my past projects, I utilize a color palette of peachy-pink and coral, hand-lettered texts in multiple languages, flags and banners, and graphic illustration style. Porcelain enamel on steel panels provide a vivid, durable, long-lasting, and easy-to-clean substrate for the beloved “living room of Chinatown.”



Art Wall, Exterior Rendering



Art Wall, Interior Rendering

Inspirations



COMMUNITY-ROOTED THEME

The title and quote comes from one of my previous projects in the neighborhood: *Sunflower* (alias) hoped that Chinatown would be a place where “generations of love and care will continue.” The quote appears in the proposed design in English, Chinese, Tagalog, and Spanish.



THE SHOULDERS OF GIANTS

In the exterior panel, seniors are depicted at monumental scale—becoming giants upon whose shoulders stand younger generations, represented by lion dancers in the vertical panel. This nods to filial piety as well as a tale of the origins of lion dancing, in which villagers use creativity, unity, and culture to empower and protect themselves.

Community Engagement



SOCIAL PRACTICE-DRIVEN DESIGN DEVELOPMENT

I plan to continue to solicit input and to conduct listening sessions in partnership with the Association of Ramaytush Ohlone, Edwin and Anita Lee Newcomer Elementary School, Chinese for Affirmative Action, Manilatown Heritage Center, Self-Help for the Elderly, and nine female, working-class, Chinatown residents who I’ve engaged in my projects, *How I Keep Looking Up* / *Como Sigo Mirando Arriba* / 仰望 (2022–2023) and *Bay Windows* / *Ventanas en saliente* / 窗花 (ongoing).

My goal is to learn about activities and conditions which support feelings of intergenerational love and care, and to rework the design to integrate those responses as fictionalized characters.



Above left: Chinatown residents Yu Juan, Yo Yo, and Yong Yu in my recent *Bay Windows* art workshop. Photo by Lee Oscar Gomez. Above right: Past collaborations with students from Lee Elementary include this 2023 jumbo, hand-painted puzzle of a map of San Francisco with collaged with pupils’ drawings.

Interactivity



PHOTO-OP

In lunar new year parades, dragons chase a pearl of wisdom, which represents knowledge, spiritual energy, and power. The pearl is typically carried on a staff by a dancer. In my design, this dancer is a silhouette—an open invitation to the public to join the parade.



INTEGRATED RUBBING PLATES

Eight low-relief pieces of CNC-routed, powder-coated aluminum will be integrated into the wall, from which the public can make rubbings—a low-barrier form of creative play requiring only paper and crayon or pencil. Depicting lucky motifs, the Four Noble Ones (plants symbolizing the cyclical nature of life), and the I-Hotel, the plates will also function as tactile graphics.

Above left: Facing Portsmouth Square, *Hopes for Chinatown* (2020) was installed at a legacy business, which maintained it for four years. Photo by Jeremiah Barber, courtesy of 100 Days Action.

Above right: Example of a rubbing from a carved linoleum block to illustrate the concept only; final artwork to be developed.