



programs@thinkchinatown.org
www.thinkchinatown.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 1st, 2025

Think!Chinatown Announces the Return of Chinatown Storytelling Festival

Kick off Asian Pacific American Heritage Month (APAHM) with stories from within the Chinatown community!



Photo credit: Think!Chinatown, Video still shot by Liam Lee [FULL IMAGE SIZE](#)

NEW YORK, N.Y., — This Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month (APAHM), Think!Chinatown (T!C) is excited to announce the return of Chinatown Storytelling Festival! From May 8-20, 2025, the Festival is back for its second year with screenings at DCTV's Firehouse Cinema, a workshop, presentations and an exhibition at Think!Chinatown's Studio, and walking tours in the neighborhood. Led by festival curators Yin Kong, Rochelle Hoi-Yu Kwan, and Hai-Li Kong, the Festival is a space to highlight and celebrate stories from within the Chinatown community to uplift and inspire the production of storytelling projects centering self-representation.

CHINATOWN STORYTELLING FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHTS:

Festival Opening Party & Works-in-Progress Showcase

Thursday, May 8, 2025. 7-9pm. Think!Chinatown's Studio (1 Pike St) [Pay-as-you-wish](#)
[RSVP!](#)

Kickoff Chinatown Storytelling Festival with a party and showcase of stories told in a variety of mediums created by or about our Chinatown community members, ranging from early-stage ideas to finished pieces.

Living Room Stories Workshop

Saturday, May 10, 2025. 2-4pm. Think!Chinatown's Studio (1 Pike St) [Pay-as-you-wish](#)
[RSVP!](#)

T!C Storytelling Lead and Chinatown Records DJ historian Rochelle Kwan will give us a peek into her deeply personal process of listening and storytelling with her family and neighbors. We'll explore the ways that stories can happen all around us and how we can get started with our loved ones right in our own living rooms at home.

CHINATOWN '75

May 11, 17, and 18, 2025. 11am-12:30pm. Meet at the South side of Canal & Elizabeth.
[Tickets required.](#)

An interactive walking tour that tells the story of the police brutality case that rocked Chinatown and the protest movement that arose in its wake. In May 1975, 25,000 protesters marched from Chinatown to City Hall to demand justice for the beating of Peter Yew. CHINATOWN '75 traces the route of the original march in commemoration of its 50th anniversary.

SCREENINGS AT DCTV'S FIREHOUSE CINEMA:

For our second year of Chinatown Storytelling Festival, Think!Chinatown is excited to return to DCTV's Firehouse Cinema from May 11-14, 2025, to present two new film series: "All Things Food" and "Chinatown in the Archives." From a new mini-doc about Chinatown's artisanal tofu produced by Think!Chinatown to treasures pulled from our community's archives, this year will continue to highlight and celebrate stories from within the Chinatown community, and inform our next wave of storytellers to come.

"All Things Food" -- Curated by Think!Chinatown, this program puts Chinatown's stories on the big screen through the lens of food. Think!Chinatown's newest mini-doc, *Artisanal Chinatown: Tofu 舖*, will premiere with this program, alongside Think!Chinatown's other food-related short films and treasures pulled from our community's archives.

"Chinatown in the Archives" -- Curated by Jon Alpert of Firehouse: DCTV's Cinema for Documentary Film, the program explores the DCTV archives from the early

1970's. During that time, NYC's Chinatown fought for better public services, greater opportunities, and cultural respect, simultaneously coinciding with the birth of community media. DCTV was honored to have played an important role in the community's victories during this time. Some of these films documenting this moment survived, and will be presented for the first time in half a century.

“Storytelling is not only a reflection of our histories, but an assertion of our presence for the future. Cultivating the power to tell our own stories and to empower those around us to tell their stories as well is part of our continuous resistance.” -- Yin Kong, Festival Co-Curator & Executive Director of Think!Chinatown.

Get your tickets at our festival website: www.thinkchinatown.org/storyfest

Here's a select listing of what Think!Chinatown will be screening:

Artisanal Chinatown: Tofu 舖* - *Premiere

Think!Chinatown's newest mini-documentary on artisanal tofu in Chinatown dives into the details of making tofu and the family legacies behind Chinatown's artisanal tofu shops.

The Trained Chinese Tongue (1994)

Filmmaker Laurie Wen examines how Chinese immigrants live at the complex crossroads of food, language, colonization, and immigration.

Chinatown Health Fair (1972)

The second DCTV community video, *Chinatown Health Fair* is part organizing, part public service, part educational, and part of the campaign to build Gouverneur, NYC's first community hospital.

Snakeheads (1994)

With the help of hidden camera footage, Ying Chan, Peter Kwong, and Jon Alpert reverse engineer the tragic journey of the Golden Venture people smuggling ship and the desperate passengers who died or were jailed, and the officials and criminals who exploited them.

Redemption (2012)

Matt O'Neill and Jon Alpert's Oscar-nominated portrait of Lilly and the canners of Chinatown, who try to survive on what others throw away.

Everyday Chinatown: Wok Ring & Steamer Claw

From Think!Chinatown's *Everyday Chinatown* series, *Wok Ring* and *Steamer Claw* highlights common cooking tools of the Asian American kitchen through Lilly Lam's playful artwork and oral history recordings from community members.

Women in Markets

Filmmaker Chyan Lo explores cooking as a persistent, gendered division of labor in East Asian

culture through monologues of women in Chinatown supermarkets and images of the ingredients they are buying.



Chinatown Storytelling Festival 2024. Photo Credit: christina ong. [FULL IMAGE SIZE](#)



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ABOUT CHINATOWN STORYTELLING FESTIVAL

Chinatown Storytelling Festival is a celebration of Think!Chinatown's newly produced storytelling projects, as well as a deep dive across archives of short films about Chinatown. Chinatown Storytelling Festival aims to foster the creation and viewership of projects featuring our under-told stories. Learn more at www.thinkchinatown.org/storyfest

ABOUT THINK!CHINATOWN

Think!Chinatown is a place-based intergenerational non-profit in Manhattan's Chinatown, working at the intersection of storytelling, arts, neighborhood engagement, and creative placekeeping. We believe the process of listening, reflecting and celebrating develops the community cohesion and trust necessary to work on larger neighborhood issues. By building strength from within our neighborhood, we can shape better policies and programs that define our public spaces, celebrate our cultural heritage and innovate how our collective memories are represented. T!C is the team powering the Chinatown Night Market, Chinatown Block Parties, Chinatown Arts Festival, and more Learn more at www.thinkchinatown.org

ABOUT THINK!CHINATOWN'S STORYTELLING PROGRAM

We listen, learn, and celebrate our histories to build community, understanding and solidarity in the place we call home. Our intergenerational and multilingual storytelling grows the collective memory of our ever-changing neighborhood, pushes back against racism and xenophobia, and strengthens the relationships that sustain our neighborhood for generations to come.

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