

Donald Kwan is a Universal Pre-K teacher at CPC's Garment Industry Day Care Center located in Chinatown. He grew up in Chinatown with both his parents working in garment factories in the 80's and 90's. Currently, Donald works in the very school he attended when he was a child. Donald has received his BA from CUNY Hunter College and his MSED at CUNY City College in General Education and Special Education grades 1-6 and an advanced degree in Early Childhood Education from CUNY Hunter College.

Taiyo Na is a writer, educator and musician living on unceded Lenape/Canarsie land (Queens, NY). His work spans two decades of cultural and pedagogical contributions to urban communities. He was honored in 2010 by Governor David A. Paterson and the State of New York for his "legacy of leadership to the Asian American community and the Empire State." The short film/music video to his 2008 song "Lovely To Me (Immigrant Mother)" was heralded by MTV Iggy as "the realest thing seen in a while." The 2010/2011 collaboration album "Home:Word" with Magnetic North included a number of chart-topping songs in Asia, and his "Artist Takeovers" playlist was featured on Spotify in 2017. His writing has appeared in Aperture, Poets House and Unmargin, and he is a 2020 VONA Voices Alum for writing fiction. As an educator, his areas of practice include transformative justice, culturally responsive pedagogy and coaching basketball.

Treya Lam is an American multi-instrumentalist and songwriter who's joyously complex identity informs but does not define their work, whether solo or when collaborating with a variety of multidisciplinary ensembles. Their strident voice, politically charged songwriting and fluent instrumental prowess on guitar, piano and strings recalls Nina Simone and Ani DiFranco. Their debut album "Good News" was released via Kaki King's label, Short Stuff Records. Lam is currently developing "otherland" - an audiovisual chamber-folk album on radical self acceptance, intersecting identities and healing in the wake of grief and loss. Lam is an active member of the Resistance Revival Chorus and has their song Dawn featured on their debut album "This Joy" - released on Ani DiFranco's Righteous Babe Records. Treya was a resident at Joe's Pub in 2019 and frequently works with ecotheatre company Superhero Clubhouse. Lam has performed at the Prospect Park Bandshell, MASS MoCA, Greenwood Cemetery, American Museum of Natural History and the New York Public Library. They will make their Lincoln Center debut this June.

Celebrating Our Roots

Wednesday, October 19th, 2022



Program

Welcome

Mae Ngai, Co-Director of the Center for the Study of Ethnicity and Race at Columbia University

“We Belong”

Performed by
Taiyo Na and Treya Lam

A conversation about growing up in Chinatown garment families

Moderated by Mae Ngai
Vivian Louie, Donald Kwan, and Amy Chin

Audience comments and questions

“Dawn”

Performed by
Treya Lam

我們一條心

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ETHNICITY & RACE
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

LABOR
ARTS

Mae M. Ngai is Lung Family Professor of Asian American Studies and Professor of History, and Co-Director of the Center for the Study of Ethnicity and Race. She is a U.S. legal and political historian interested in the histories of immigration, citizenship, nationalism, and the Chinese diaspora. She is author of the award winning *Impossible Subjects: Illegal Aliens and the Making of Modern America* (2004); *The Lucky Ones: One Family and the Extraordinary Invention of Chinese America* (2010); and *The Chinese Question: The Gold Rushes and Global Politics* (2021). Ngai has written on immigration history and policy for the Washington Post, New York Times, Los Angeles Times, the Atlantic, the Nation, and Dissent. Before becoming a historian she was a labor-union organizer and educator in New York City, working for District 65-UAW and the Consortium for Worker Education. She is now writing *Nation of Immigrants: A Short History of an Idea* (under contract with Princeton University Press).

Vivian Louie is a Professor of Urban Policy and Planning and the Director of the Asian American Studies Center and Program at Hunter College (CUNY). Dr. Louie studies American identity, civic participation and civic education at the intersection of race, ethnicity, immigration, social class and gender. She also writes about the factors that shape educational and workplace success among immigrants and their children. She is the author of two books, *Compelled to Excel: Immigration, Education and Opportunity Among Chinese Americans*, *Keeping the Immigrant Bargain: The Costs and Rewards of Success in America*, and co-editor of a third book, *Writing Immigration: Scholars and Journalists in Dialogue* along with 30+ academic publications. Dr. Louie frequently comments on why PK-12 schools and higher education should offer courses in the contributions of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPIs) to United States history, society, economy, and culture, and why this education is also needed in non educational settings. Hunter College has the largest undergraduate program in Asian American Studies within the City University of New York (CUNY).

Amy Chin is Assistant Professor of American Studies and Asian Studies at Vassar College. She received her doctoral training in sociology at Brown University and her undergraduate education at the Industrial Labor Relations School at Cornell University. Her research examines the effects of military service in US wars in Asia and the Pacific on the relationships between Asian American women and their veteran fathers. She teaches courses on Asian American Studies, the US military and oral history. Amy grew up in NYC in a family of garment workers. As the Chinatown garment industry closed down, her mother found jobs as a home care worker.