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**Dreams Deferred: Artists Respond to Immigration Reform**

December 10, 2010 - May 22, 2011

**Opening Reception**

Thursday, December 9, 2010 / 6PM – 8:30PM

**LOS ANGELES' ARTIST COMMUNITY RESPOND TO THE CURRENT NATIONAL DEBATE ON IMMIGRATION REFORM WITH NEWLY-CREATED ART TO BE FEATURED IN A MULTI-COLLABORATIVE EXHIBITION AT THE CHINESE AMERICAN MUSEUM**

**Seventeen Local Artists And 12 Community-Based Organizations Join Forces To Explore The Hopes And Dreams Of Immigrant Communities Through A Broad Spectrum Of Art In The Face Of New Immigration Legislation**

(LOS ANGELES, November 16, 2010) -The Chinese American Museum (CAM) and El Pueblo de Los Angeles Historical Monument are proud to present *Dreams Deferred: Artists Respond to Immigration Reform* opening on December 10, 2010. The exhibition will showcase 17 local artists exploring the tensions, repercussions, hopes, and dreams of immigrant communities in the face of new immigration legislation, through a broad spectrum of art including street art, graffiti art, sculpture, painting, and multimedia installations.

*"Dreams Deferred* is a powerful and timely exhibit that captures the complexities of the immigrant experience," notes Kent Wong, Director of the Center for Labor Research and Education at UCLA. "Special focus is on the plight of millions of undocumented immigrant youth and students who are unfortunate victims of a broken system. This art show brings together talented local artists who express their views on immigration in creative and dynamic ways."

A multi-collaborative show involving support from over ten community-based organizations, the exhibition comes at the heels of a likely vote this month, initiated by House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid in response to the DREAM Act. A bipartisan legislation - pioneered by Sen. Orin Hatch [R-UT] and Sen. Richard Durbin [D-IL], the DREAM Act aims to provide qualifying, undocumented youth eligibility for a six-year long, conditional path to citizenship pending completion of a college degree or two years of military service.

U.S. immigration laws have long reflected a lasting legacy of racial exclusion starting with the 1882 Chinese Exclusion Act, the first legislation to restrict immigration based on race and ethnicity. This legacy of immigration legislation targeting immigrant communities has since reemerged in the recent decades with

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California's Proposition 187, and Arizona's Senate Bill 1070, as attempts at inhibiting the livelihoods of undocumented immigrants. "The Chinese American community has historically been affected by racially-biased immigration laws, and our community has a stake in the current immigration debate," notes Steven Wong, the show's co-curator. "In fact, just in the University of California system alone, Asian Americans make up over 40% of the undocumented population, and Chinese American students are the second largest number in this group."

*Dreams Deferred* continues the current national dialogue about immigration, and is an extension of CAM's exploration into the theme of immigration, kicked-off by the recent opening of CAM's *Remembering Angel Island*, an exhibition commemorating the 100<sup>th</sup> year anniversary of the opening of the West Coast's first immigration station. Both exhibitions will serve to shed light on the parallels of past and current immigration policies and reform, and how Los Angeles' diverse immigrant communities collectively share not only their immigrant histories, but also many of the challenges facing new immigrant communities today.

Artists participating in this exhibit include:

- **Augustine Kofie**
- **Cache**
- **Eriberto Oriol**
- **Ernesto Yerena Montejano**
- **Eyeone**
- **Jesus Barraza of Dignidad Rebelde**
- **Joel "rage.one" Garcia**
- **John Carlos De Luna**
- **K. Lovich**
- **LeHumanBeing**
- **Oscar Magallanes**
- **Patrick Martinez**
- **Sand One**
- **Shark Toof**
- **Shepard Fairey**
- **O.G. Slick**
- **Swank**
- **Tempt**

**EXHIBITION PARTNERS INCLUDE:**

SPONSORS: Chinese American Citizens Alliance / Grand Lodge, Community Redevelopment Agency of the City of Los Angeles, Friends of the Chinese American Museum

EXHIBITION CO-SPONSORS: Self Help Graphics, The UCLA Labor Center, Asian Pacific American Legal Center, Mid-City Arts

COMMUNITY PARTNERS: Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights of Los Angeles, IDEAS (Improving Dreams, Equality, Access and Success) at UCLA, JACL Pacific Southwest District, Southeast Asian Community Alliance, UCLA Asian American Studies Center

**ABOUT THE CHINESE AMERICAN MUSEUM**

The Chinese American Museum (CAM) is jointly developed and operated by the Friends of the Chinese American Museum (FCAM) and El Pueblo de Los Angeles Historical Monument, a department of the City of Los Angeles. Located within the El Pueblo Plaza in downtown Los Angeles, CAM is housed in the last surviving structure of the City's original Chinatown. CAM's mission is to foster a deeper understanding and appreciation of America's diverse heritage by researching, preserving, and sharing the history, rich cultural legacy, and continuing contributions of Chinese Americans. The Chinese American Museum is located at 425 North Los Angeles Street in El Pueblo de Los Angeles Historical Monument, across from Union Station. Hours are 10 a.m.– 3 p.m., Tuesday – Sunday. Admissions are suggested donations of \$3 for adults and \$2 for seniors and students. Members are admitted free. For more information about the Museum, please visit our new website at [www.camla.org](http://www.camla.org).