



Your Bridge to the Past

PHOTO OF THE MONTH



Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month

May is Asian/Pacific American Heritage month. In recognition of this tribute, our recent [blog](#) showcased manuscripts and photographs documenting Asian/Pacific American communities in New York City in the [Works Progress Administration \(WPA\) Federal Writers' Project \(FWP\) Collection](#).

One of the more notable research endeavors of the NYC FWP were studies of the dozens of ethnic groups and communities that made up the city's population. Then, as now, New Yorkers came from around the world—Armenia, Denmark, the Netherlands, Great Britain, Ireland, Egypt, Syria, Turkey—to name just a few countries. The list of countries the FWP researchers studied also included several Asian/Pacific nations—China, Japan, Korea, and the Philippines.

Our photo of the month shows the Friends of China Parade in 1937. This photo is drawn from our WPA Federal Writers Project collection that includes over 5000 images taken between 1935-1943. In 1943, when the WPA ceased operation, the Municipal Archives acquired the manuscript records of the NYC Unit of the Federal Writers' Project, including the photographs assembled to illustrate their publications; most notably the Guide to New York City and New York Panorama. Check out almost 2 million more photos, maps and documents by visiting our [Online Gallery](#).

UPDATES



[Neighborhood Stories](#) is a storytelling initiative that documents city history through the personal memories of its residents. We're gathering stories from across New York City, which will be preserved permanently in the Municipal Archives. And, for our fourth season, we are reaching out to our neighbors in Sunset Park, Brooklyn, and inviting them to be a part of this meaningful project.



We recently launched [Historical Vital Records of NYC](#). The site features more than nine million birth, death, and marriage records, all freely available to browse, search and download. You asked and we listened. Many of you are wondering how to report errors while doing research on our Historical Vital Records portal and our development team is already working on it. Stay tuned for updates on our progress!

IN THE NEWS:

- [Peek Inside NYC's Surrogate's Courthouse, A Beaux-Arts Masterpiece](#)
- [75th Birthday Gift for Dad Unveiled Amazing Link to NYC Past](#)

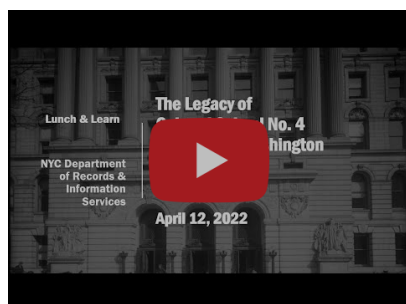
UPCOMING EVENT



Spaces of Enslavement in Early New York with Andrea Mosterman

June 7, 2022; 1:00PM; Online

Join historian Andrea C. Mosterman, author of *Spaces of Enslavement*, for a discussion on the colonial Dutch system of slavery and the myth of humane slavery practices in Early New York. In *Spaces of Enslavement*, Mosterman explores the practices of enslavement in New Netherland and then New York, showing that these methods of racialized spatial control held much in common with southern plantation societies. Learn how Dutch communities engaged in a daily struggle with Black New Yorkers, who found ways to claim freedom and resist oppression throughout the 17th and 18th centuries. [RSVP Here](#).



Missed our Lunch and Learn with Eric K. Washington? Want to explore the legacy of the former Colored School No. 4, a 19th-century Black heritage site in NYC's Chelsea neighborhood? Check this out - <https://on.nyc.gov/3930mTK>.

STORIES OF THE MONTH



Jenny Zhang

Poet and Writer



Amrita Sher-Gil

Painter

Jenny Zhang is a Chinese-American essayist, poet, and writer, known for her discussions of the Chinese-American experience. Zhang was born in Shanghai, China. When she was 3 years old, her father moved to New York to study linguistics at NYU. Her mother with Zhang followed a year later. Zhang began writing in school in response to the challenges she faced due to her accent and heritage, finding a place where she was not seen as "dull" and dumb and isolated. She then attended the Iowa Writers Workshop for fiction, where she faced constant undermining, as students told her that her Asian-American name gave her advantages in the world of publishing. Read [Full Story!](#)

Amrita Sher-Gil was an Indian painter who is considered a pioneer of modern Indian art. She was born in Budapest, Hungary in 1913 to a Sikh aristocrat father and a Hungarian-Jewish mother. She began formal painting lessons at age eight and in 1932 her painting "Young Girls" earned her accolades, including a gold medal and election as an Associate of the Grand Salon in Paris in 1933. She was the youngest ever member, and the only Asian to have received this recognition. Later in her career she moved away from western styles of painting towards a more Indian inspired style. The Government of India has declared her works National Art Treasures. Read [Full Story!](#)



Join [WomensActivism.NYC](#) in celebrating Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month by submitting the story of a woman who inspires you today! Her story will be permanently preserved by the Municipal Archives as part of our #herstory campaign. [Share your story!](#)



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The mission of the NYC Department of Records and Information Services (DORIS) is to foster civic life by preserving and providing access to the historical and contemporary records of New York City government, to ensure that City records are properly maintained following professional archival and record management practices and to make materials available to diverse communities both online and in person.

NYC
Department of Records
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