



Monthly Commentary

As 2009 is drawing to a close, CHP looks back and realizes that this is another memorable year that we hold near and dear to our heart.

We completed our Traditional Courtyard Renovation Training Project, continued to develop our Cultural Heritage Trail Project, and launched several ethnic minority culture revitalization projects in Congjiang and A'er Village.

To raise awareness in cultural heritage preservation and our work, CHP has produced *The Soul's Paradise: Congjiang*, a short movie on the Congjiang Archive project, presented at UNESCO global representative conference at its headquarters in Paris, October 2009, along with *Number 24 Beizongbu Hutong: The Former Residence of Liang Sicheng and Lin Huiyin*, a short movie aiming to spread the word about the protection of Liang Sicheng and Lin Huiyin's former residence. CHP is also fully utilizing the capabilities of popular Chinese and international social networking sites, including Douban, Kaixin, Facebook, Ammodo and Twitter, to spread our message of cultural protection broadly around nation and overseas. In addition to online communication, we also have been distributing more than 1,800 copies of our Cultural Heritage Trail Maps this year, organized over ten salons and lectures, with over 500 participants attended our events.

In terms of Media Mobilization, CHP has made its presence felt in over twenty domestic and media sources with over a hundred articles written about us.

Although CHP has recently launched our domestic fund raising initiative in mid 2009, we have been making a solid progress in this unfamiliar domain. Our first fund raising event - *I ♥ Heritage: Folk Fusion at Houhai Lake* – was warmly received, and we have a number of fund raising events lining up in 2010.

Last but not least, early this month, CHP successfully obtained the additional donation for the A'er Village Qiang Minority Culture Revitalization Project from the Swiss Embassy. This addition will allow us to strengthen and expand the scope of our project.

We are sincerely grateful for your support that allowed us to make such progress in the past twelve months. We hope to continue our solid pace well into 2010.

Happy New Year!

Beijing Cultural Heritage Protection Center

Articles

Minority Cultures: Conserved by 'experts' for tourists, or by their own communities for themselves?

Beginning this year, the government has begun researching the status of the protection of the cultures belong to the ethnic minorities with comparatively small populations* – the 22 out of 55 Chinese ethnic minorities whose

current population size is less than 100,000, according to population census figures. The cultures of these comparatively small minorities are most at risk due to rapid industrialization and urbanization.

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Project Updates

Qiang Minority Cultural Revitalization Project's Second Progress Report



In September-October 2009, CHP Volunteer Group made a visit to A'er Village to conduct an initial survey as the Qiang Minority project has officially entered its second stage. The report highlights the project progress in four main steps – Stage Two Preparation, A'er Village Visit, Achievements, and Reflections. Prior to the village visit, CHP Volunteer Group provided A'er villagers a general project outline and necessary technical equipment. Once the CHP Volunteer Group arrived the A'er Village, they met with the Village Chief, exchanged ideas with local volunteers, and assisted them in recording techniques. They also participated in the three volunteer conferences and acted as an active force in preparing and conducting

the Qiang New Year Celebration at the A'er Village. The Qiang Minority Cultural Revitalization Project has met a reasonable success up to this point. [Read more](#)

CHP events summary

[I ♥ Heritage: Folk Fusion at Houhai Lake] Fund Raising Event: The Lowdown



Under the afternoon blue sky of Saturday 19 December, there was a definite buzz beside the slowly freezing Houhai Lake as CHP's first official fundraising event 'I ♥ Heritage' was launched. The live music event featured indie-folk scenesters Cui Wenqin, Shao Yibei, Liu Dongming, Wang Juan and Zhong Lifeng. Beijingers' interest in the event and CHP's work was apparent as supporters starting streaming in nearly an hour before it was due to begin. Soon the room was bursting with supporters enjoying an afternoon of local folk music. Even with the packed room, most attendees enthusiastically stayed for the entire three hours. The speech by He Shuzhong, CHP's founder, and the accompanying slideshow was well received and given a resounding ovation. Over 5,700 RMB was raised; this included a donation from a generous supporter. If you

missed the event, CHP is holding two exciting events in January – come check them out!

Upcoming Events

“Rebirth of Folk Art” - CHP Cooperation Series: All for the cultural rights of local residents



In collaboration with Ullens Center for Contemporary Art (UCCA), one of art powerhouses in Beijing, CHP presents a discussion series that will illustrate CHP’s difficult ten-year establishment process, and its efforts to become a central advocate of civil society.

Time: 10 January 2010, 3.30-5.30pm

Venue: Auditorium, UCCA

798 Art District, No. 4 Jiuxiaonqiao Lu, Chaoyang District

This event is mainly in Chinese!

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CHP at The Bookworm | New Beijing - Reinventing a City: A film screening and discussion with BJCHP

50/40rmb (profits to BJCHP) Development, demolition, drinks and debate. Check out New Beijing - Reinventing a City, a fascinating documentary about the struggles and stories of the people developing the Old City of Beijing and those trying to save it. It also focuses on the voluntary cultural heritage group, Memory of China, a collaborator of local grassroots NGO, Beijing Cultural Heritage Protection Center. The film will be followed by a discussion on the implications of development in Beijing. Proceeds go to BJCHP. The film will have both English and Chinese subtitles.

Time: 21 January 2010, 7.30pm

Venue: The Bookworm

Building No. 4, Nan Sanlitun Rd, Chao Yang District

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CHP Support

December 2009 Donors:

Professor David Tool, Ph.D. RMB950; Susan Willey USD500; Conley Brooks, Jr. USD100; Virginia & Wellington Yee HKD11,500

Liuzheng, Liu Zhongzheng, Bai Zhengheng RMB300

Media mobilization

[BB news] China loses thousands of historic sites | 14 December, 2009



More than 30,000 items on 1982 list have vanished, in part due to China's aggressive development, survey finds

China's aggressive development has swallowed up tens of thousands of historic sites in the last three decades, experts conducting a national survey have warned.

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[中国建设报] [梁林故居前途未卜 未被明确列为受保护文物](#) | 1 December, 2009

[The Beijing News] [文保志愿者自制梁林故居保护方案](#) | 8 December, 2009

[The Beijing News] [走出拆迁与保留的对立](#) | 9 December, 2009

[CCTV] [文保志愿者自制梁林故居保护方案](#) | 10 December, 2009

[Renmin University of China] [“阿尔村羌文化保护”项目志愿者王云霞教授阐述“文化遗产保护的观念、方法和目标”](#) | 14 December, 2009

[Global Times] [Memory lanes](#) | 15 December, 2009

[China Radio International] [Former Residence of Historical Figures in Beijing](#) | 17 December, 2009