



## Monthly Commentary

Spring has finally arrived in Beijing! CHP is entering this much-anticipated season with great optimism that together we can all continue to make exciting progress in cultural heritage preservation. CHP's ethnic minority projects are an exciting part of our work and are vital to rejuvenating the cultural heritage of China's ethnic minorities. Although CHP's first minority project *The Mengma Archive* finished in 2009, the ideas, methodologies and understandings from this project have been essential in guiding our current and future ethnic minority projects. The background to CHP's [The Mengma Archive](#) was presented in March as part of the CHP-UCCA Cooperation Lecture Series.

CHP's Congjiang Archive project is already at the end of its first year since its launch in 2009. On 24 April, CHP held a CHP-UCCA Cooperation Lecture Series talk on [Congjiang Cultural Mapping: Tapping the Cultural Momentum of Development](#). Learn more about the well-attended event in the April event summary below.

Old Beijing is also currently a major focus of our work. The traditional lifestyle of the residents in Gulou, deeply rooted in several hundred years of history, is being challenged. The proposed 'Time Cultural City' has generated a strong dialogue among both locals and foreigners about the future of this culturally rich neighborhood. For CHP, it was disappointing that our discussion forum was cancelled for various reasons only one day prior to the event being held. However, the degree of public interest in preserving this area is very encouraging. The complaints from local residents about their deteriorating quality of life have highlighted how the mission of cultural heritage preservation always needs to be inclusive of those living there. Instead of the current redevelopment plan, CHP is proposing a 'Caring for the Drum and Bell Tower' project as an alternative. We hope that a project that balances cultural heritage protection and the livelihoods of the local residents and businesses can be reached.

We also want to focus attention back on Keyuan – one of the best preserved Qing Dynasty designed gardens. [When will Keyuan be renovated and opened to the public as promised?](#) We are still waiting for a response from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, but hope that in the near future everyone will be able to access and visit this secret garden. Lastly, we are excited to invite you to [Capital Conversations](#), a lively roundtable discussion around one of China's hottest issues – the preservation of China's cultural heritage. Capital Conversations is scheduled for 23 May at the award-winning Capital M and features a panel of prominent local and foreign community leaders exchanging their diverse views on the topic: "Vanishing Beijing: Why Preservation Matters". We hope to see you there!

## Articles

### Keyuan, Beijing's Secret Garden, Remains Locked

---



#### Historical background to Keyuan

The Nanluoguxiang Historical and Cultural Protection Zone is one of the oldest and most important districts of Beijing.

The Nanluoguxiang area of the Ming and Qing Dynasties was much like it is today: a lively hub of diverse local people, businesses and buildings. This included government bureaus, temples and influential residences. [Read more](#)

### A Better Future for Gulou – CHP's Views on the Planned Redevelopment

---



The “Saving Gulou: A Better Future for Gulou” public discussion was recently cancelled the day before it was meant to be held, primarily because it was going to cover two basic but important issues: the rights of local residents and protecting Gulou’s cultural heritage.

Despite the cancellation, CHP would still like to make its stance clear. CHP hopes that the cultural heritage of the area and lives of the residents are respected, and that Gulou will continue to be a true and authentic representation of traditional Old Beijing. CHP does not oppose all projects in the area, especially ones that will improve the rights and livelihoods of the local residents and businesses, but full responsibility needs to be taken to ensure work is carefully completed and in the historical context of this culturally significant neighborhood. The Dong Cheng Government needs to carefully consider its historical responsibility to this unique area, and we would like to see them come forward to preserve Gulou for future generations with a careful and sustainable approach. [Read more](#)

## Project Updates

### CHP 6th Mission Report for Congjiang Cultural Mapping

---



This is my first trip to Congjiang for 2010. I couldn't help but worry when seeing the orange color lingering in southwest China on the weather forecast map. I arrived in Congjiang on the day of Jingzhe (the Waking of Insects, the 3rd solar term in the Chinese calendar). A sudden cold breeze brought the temperature down. Congjiang seemed to be returning to winter from the springtime. [Read more](#)

## Announcements

### New Partnership Between CHP & NLGX!

---



CHP would like to announce its new partnership with NLGX design! NLGX is an exciting Beijing-based independent apparel brand and design community. NLGX's slogan 'Preserve...Create' highlights the common goal between both CHP and NLGX of preserving the past, and in NLGX's case *Creating New*. [Read more](#)

## Change in Overseas Donation Procedure

---

In accordance with China's State Administration of Foreign Exchange's newly introduced international donation policy, CHP would like to inform our overseas supporters that we can no longer accept international donations sent directly to CHP at the present time. You may, however, make donations through Give2Asia, a U. S. based non-profit organization which is sponsored by the Asia Foundation and is authorized to receive donations on behalf of CHP and then remit them to our China back account. [Read more](#)

## CHP events summary

### March | CHP-UCCA Lecture Series: The Mengma Archive – The Lowdown

---



The CHP-UCCA lecture series successfully continued on Saturday 14 March with *The Mengma Archive: Helping the Dai minority protect its own cultural heritage*. CHP Founder and Mengma Archive Project Manager, Mr. He Shuzhong, shared with the diverse audience the detailed back story behind the project's idea, and also its methodology, results, and areas of improvement. Mr. He also answered questions and exchanged views with the enthusiastic audience who made their way to UCCA despite the unseasonal heavy snowfall.

The Mengma Archive is CHP's pioneering ethnic minority cultural revitalization project, and was conducted from 2005 to 2008 in Mengma village (Meng Lian County, Yunnan). CHP's project aim was to mobilize and assist local villagers to document their own invaluable culture, as well as restore the minority's sense of worth. The project resulted in the bilingual *Mengma Archive*, which was written entirely by the local Mengma villagers.

### April | CHP-UCCA Lecture Series: Congjiang Cultural Mapping – The Lowdown

---



The UCCA-CHP Congjiang lecture was held at the 798 Art District on a beautiful Spring afternoon. Around 35 people attended, both Chinese and foreign, to listen to UNESCO and UN speakers, and Ms Wang Xiaowang – CHP's Program Director for the Congjiang project.

Mr Joern Geisselmann, UN Programme Coordinator for *The China Culture and Development Partnership Framework*, spoke about the overall aims of this framework.

The CHP-produced short film *The Soul's Paradise: Congjiang* was shown before Ms Wang Xiaowang began discussing the project from CHP's perspective, followed by a Q&A session. [Read more](#)

## Upcoming Events

### Do You Hutong?

---

**Do You Hutong?** is a cocktail party making a statement and a difference. This June, CHP invites you to enjoy an exciting art exhibition of Beijing's signature siheyuan (traditional courtyard). More event details are coming up soon!



CHP would like to invite you to *Capital Conversations*, a lively roundtable discussion around one of China's hottest issues – the preservation of China's cultural heritage.

*Capital Conversations* is scheduled for 23 May at the award-winning Capital M featuring a panel of prominent local and foreign community leaders exchanging their diverse views on the topic: ***Vanishing Beijing: Why Preservation Matters***. The discussion will be moderated by Susan Osman host of *The Beijing Hour*. Panelists include:

- Mr. Deng Jia Qi, Retired Professor and Beijing Resident
- Mr. Andrew Jacobs, Beijing Bureau Correspondent, The New York Times
- Dr. Li Luke, Associate Professor, School of Architecture, Tsinghua University
- Jim Stent, Director, CHP.

## CHP at The Bookworm Bi-Annual NGO & Charity Networking Day!

---

Come check out CHP and other exciting Beijing-based NGOs!

The Bookworm Bi-Annual NGO & Charity Networking Day will be held on 15 May and invites Beijing-based NGOs to exhibit at this bi-annual networking event. The event aims to help organizations share awareness and make connections with the NGO-charity community. This a great chance to find out about different organizations and the work they are doing.

CHP has been chosen to participate along with 15 other groups. Last year was extremely popular with around 200 members of the public attending.

Date: Saturday, 15 May

Time: 10am-12 noon

Where: The Bookworm, Building 4, Nan Sanlitun Road, Chao Yang District, Beijing

Website: <http://www.beijingbookworm.com>

## CHP Support

April 2010 donor:  
Luo Deyin RMB500

## Media mobilization

[Daily Telegraph] [Historical Beijing quarter 'to be destroyed'](#) / March 28, 2010

[Global Times] [Gulou meeting silenced](#) | March 29, 2010

[Inter Service Press (IPS)] [China: Public space shrinks for discussing fate of heritage area](#) | March 31, 2010

[China Today] [Local NGO maps culture of remote Guizhou Village](#) | April 7, 2010