



**Yee Fow Center**  
for History, Culture, and Trade

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## Culture Fact Sheet

China is fast becoming a world superpower. China's eclipse of the United States as a consumer nation should be seen as another milestone along the path of its evolution as a world economic leader.

Even outside its borders there are more than 60 million overseas Chinese, especially in countries like Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, Thailand, throughout the United States and the Western world. The overseas Chinese have a gross domestic product equivalent to about \$1.1 trillion, or one of the top 10 world economies if combined.

American cities are taking great efforts to position themselves for beneficial exchanges with Chinese peoples. But many Americans are now realizing that before any effective exchanges can take place, American must understand the Chinese, their culture, and philosophy.

In China's long history, the Chinese people have set up its own cultural system, including its special square-shaped characters (more than 5000), music instrument and music, painting, philosophy, medicine, architecture, cooking, etc. This system is totally different from the Western culture. This makes China culturally attractive but somewhat difficult to be understood by many Western people.

Confucius once said, "Reading books and traveling are two main ways to obtain knowledge." But, the best way to know a culture is to touch it, to experience it. A Yee Fow Center will bridge the gap in understanding the Chinese social, cultural, and business culture, plus other fascinating cultural details behind today's China, the world's largest market with a population of 1.3 billion people.

A California Yee Fow Center will also create a venue of mutual understanding through cultural exchanges.

Cultural programs will include:

- Tai Chi Classes as a traditional Chinese form of exercise
- Rotating exhibitions of historic Chinese cultural relics
- Chinese American Cultural Exchange Programs
- Chinese language and business etiquette classes
- Calligraphy, visual, performing, and martial arts demonstrations
- Lectures and symposiums on Chinese and Chinese-American issues
- Stories From China's Past: Han Dynasty Pictorial Tomb Reliefs and Archaeological Objects from Sichuan Province, People's Republic of China, which toured to eight U.S. cities in 1987-88
- Symbol and Adornment: Traditional Costumes and Jewelry from China's Minorities, (in collaboration with the Cultural Palace Museum of Nationalities, Beijing, China)
- Shiwan Ceramics: Beauty, Color, and Passion