

# USC Announces Partnership with Pacific Asia Museum



**1, 2, 3** The courtyard of the USC Pacific Asia Museum.

**4** President Nikias addressed supporters of the Pacific Asia Museum and members of the USC community in the museum's picturesque courtyard.

**5** The museum is one of only a handful in the United States dedicated to art from Asia and the Pacific Islands. The agreement will preserve the museum's unique architecture, a 1924 Qing Dynasty-inspired structure that is listed on the National Registry of Historic Places.

**6** Pacific Asia Museum trustee Elizabeth Short, Pasadena Mayor Bill Bogaard, USC First Lady Niki C. Nikias, USC President C. L. Max Nikias, museum Executive Board chair Katherine Murray-Morse.

COURTESY OF PACIFIC ASIA MUSEUM



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## USC Pacific Asia Museum



PHOTO BY STEVE COHN



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## USC and Pacific Asia Museum form alliance

By Allison Engel

USC and Pacific Asia Museum of Pasadena, Calif., one of the few U.S. museums dedicated to the arts and culture of Asia and the Pacific Islands, announced an affiliation on Nov. 18. The alliance between the museum and the university presents a wealth of collaborative opportunities for both institutions.

The new partnership will preserve the museum's 1924 Chinese Qing Dynasty-inspired mansion in downtown Pasadena as an art museum and will enhance the scholarship of the faculty and students at USC's six arts schools and those in the departments of art history, East Asian language and cultures, religion and archaeology. In addition, the alliance will provide a foundation for renewed museum studies and a curatorial training program at USC.

The new name of the museum will be the USC Pacific Asia Museum.

"With its rich history and inspiring works of art, Pacific Asia Museum will be the perfect complement to many academic endeavors at USC. Both of our organizations work to enrich the educational experience, advance art history and preserve the past for future generations," said USC President C. L. Max Nikias.

"USC is very proud to form a powerful partnership with a local organization that has international appeal and an enduring devotion to promoting the arts."

Elizabeth Short, trustee and chair of the museum's strategic planning committee, said: "Since its founding, Pacific Asia Museum has advanced intercultural understanding between East and West through the arts of Asia and the Pacific Islands. Devoted staff, board members and volunteers carry out this mission through exhibitions, tours, cultural and educational events and programs for the community.

"All of us are excited about the affiliation with USC and look forward to this rewarding relationship, which will provide synergies in the study of Asian arts and cultures and support the museum in Pasadena," she added.

Katherine Murray-Morse, chair of the museum's board of trustees, said: "We are thrilled that the partnership with USC will enable the museum to enhance its mission and expand its reach as a cultural institution. Pacific Asia Museum, in concert with USC, a renowned Pacific Rim university, will be able to create even greater synergies with this new affiliation in Los Angeles, a global city of the 21st century."

Elizabeth Garrett, USC provost and senior vice president for academic affairs, said that the new affiliation "will support the scholarship of our current faculty and graduate students, enhance our ability to recruit future faculty and students, and complement our very strong postdoctoral scholars program in the humanities.

"This partnership also highlights USC's deep connections to the Pacific Rim," she continued. "What better way to exhibit those ties than through the breadth and beauty of the museum's distinctive art collection."

Pacific Asia Museum, founded in 1971 and accredited by the American Alliance of Museums in 2009, has a collection of more than 17,000 items from across Asia and the Pacific Islands, spanning more than 5,000 years. Prominent holdings include the Harari Collection of Japanese paintings and drawings from the Edo (1600-1868) and Meiji (1868-1912) periods, one of the largest collections of Japanese folk paintings outside Japan, a South Pacific bark cloth collection, collections of Chinese ceramics and textiles, and Buddhist art from throughout Asia. See more at: <http://usc.edu/news/PAM>



Since its founding in 1971, the Pacific Asia Museum has been a beacon for Asian arts and culture. Through groundbreaking exhibitions, vibrant workshops, and educational programs, the museum will play a role in enhancing USC's global mission. PHOTOS COURTESY OF PACIFIC ASIA MUSEUM