

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING TO EXPLORE THE DEVELOPMENT OF A KOREAN-AMERICAN CULTURAL HERITAGE CENTER IN RIVERSIDE CELEBRATING DOSAN AHN CHANG HO

Office of the Mayor

City Council
April 11, 2023

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BACKGROUND



1904

Dosan Ahn Chang Ho



A humble orange picker who came to Riverside's Pachappa settlement in 1904, Dosan sought to unify Korean labor in common cause. At a time of Asian exclusion in the U.S. and Japanese colonial occupation in Korea, he led the Korean independence movement as chair of the Korean National Association in North America and acting premier of the Korean Provisional Government in Shanghai. He died in Japanese custody in 1938.

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DOSAN AHN CHANG HO DAY

1. Dosan Ahn Chang Ho is regarded as one of the most significant patriotic figures by Koreans home and abroad.
2. Dosan Ahn Chang Ho spearheaded the Korean independence movement. His goal was for Koreans to promote and adopt democracy.
3. Dosan's influence and actions helped Koreans understand the importance of a free nation and today, democracy is firmly rooted in South Korea.
4. His pioneering and patriotic spirit still lives on in the minds of Korean immigrants.



'Dosan Ahn Chongho Day' Resolution

Draft Proposal for California Legislature Resolution # Relative to Adoption of Dosan Ahn Chang Ho Day

WHEREAS, Dosan Ahn Chang Ho is regarded as one of the most significant patriotic figures by Koreans home and abroad;

WHEREAS, Korean independence leader, Dosan Ahn Chang Ho, was born on November 9, 1878 in Korea. He is to the Korean and Korean American community as Mahatma Gandhi is seen to the people of India, for he is held in highest esteem;

WHEREAS, as a teenager Dosan Ahn Chang Ho's desire for modern education led him to enroll in an American missionary run school, the Miller Academy, in Seoul, Korea, where he became a Christian and graduated at eighteen years of age in 1897 and to establish Jeon In School which is the first modern school in the country in 1899;

WHEREAS, American missionary education, Dosan Ahn Chang Ho, wished to know more about America, especially its educational system. This desire led him to come to America, arriving in San Francisco on October 14, 1902;

WHEREAS, Dosan Ahn Chang Ho spent thirteen years of his life in the United States, primarily in California. This experience led him to many observations of American life: politics, economics, and education;

WHEREAS, Dosan helped and organized the early Korean immigrants who came to the United States to work on Hawaiian sugar plantations into a self-help community. He established the first organized-Korean American settlement, Korean National Association, and a labor agency. Dosan Ahn Chang Ho's organizational leadership helped lead to the success of the Korean American community within California;

WHEREAS, while Korea was being annexed and occupied by Japan from 1910 to 1945, Dosan Ahn Chang Ho spearheaded the Korean independence movement. His goal was for Koreans to promote and adopt democracy. Dosan's influence and actions helped Koreans understand the importance of a free nation and today, democracy is now firmly rooted in South Korea;

WHEREAS, Dosan founded the Young Korean Academy, also known as Heungsadahn in San Francisco in 1913. It is still a robust organization dedicated to training and educating Koreans to cultivate morals and ethics that help build inner strength, community consciousness, and good citizenship;

WHEREAS, the Korean American immigrant experience was, then, vastly enhanced by Dosan's leadership, and even today his pioneering and patriotic spirit still lives on in the minds of Korean immigrants;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the California State Legislature adopts and declares November 9th, henceforth, every year, as Dosan Ahn Chang Ho Day.



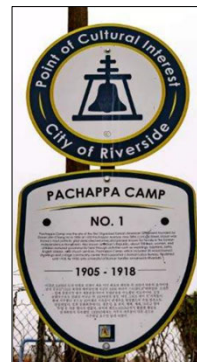
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BACKGROUND

1. Pachappa Camp founded in 1905 Recognized by City Council in 2016 as a City Point of Cultural Interest
2. "Pachappa Camp was one of the first in the region for the democratic origins in Korea."
- Dr. Edward Chang, UCR Professor of Ethnic Studies
3. Gangnam, South Korea Sister City Relationship started in 1999
4. Dosan Statue erected on Riverside Main Street Pedestrian Mall in 2001



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EVIDENCE FOR SUPPORT

1. Korean visitors already visit the Dosan statue but have nowhere to go after that.
2. 75% of California's Korean Americans live in Southern California.
3. Growing global interest in Korean media, history, and language
4. The Cultural Heritage Center aligns with the City's value of celebrating diverse stories.



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VISION FOR THE FUTURE

1. Dosan Citrus Heritage Park
2. Visit by Korean President
3. Economic and Cultural Impact



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MAP

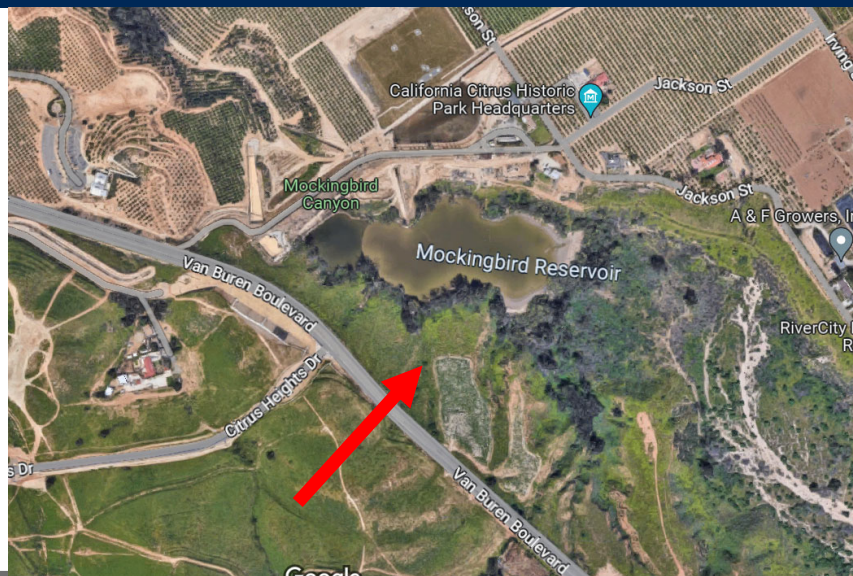


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GOOGLE EARTH



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STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT

1. **Community Trust** – The proposed MOU will pave the way to celebrate an often-overlooked part of Riverside history in commemorating the distinct Asian-American experience in our region.
2. **Equity** – Riverside has taken significant steps in creating space for the Chicano heritage through creation and partnership with Cheech Marin at the Cheech. This project has brought millions of dollars in revenue to our region. A similar project for the Korean community will put Riverside on the map for Korean tourists and potentially bringing significant revenue to our region.
3. **Fiscal Responsibility** – The MOU states an intention to collaborate and does not create a financial obligation for the city.
4. **Innovation** – The MOU represents an innovative international partnership to advance a shared heritage of Korean history.
5. **Sustainability & Resiliency** – South Korea is a global leader in Clean and Green technology. The Mayor's office would like to see this project include innovation already in use our South Korean Sister City.



Community Trust



Fiscal Responsibility



Sustainability & Resiliency



Equity



Innovation



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RECOMMENDATIONS

That the City Council:

1. Approve a Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Riverside and the Dosan Ahn Chang Ho Memorial Foundation of the Americas to explore the development of a Korean-American Cultural Center;
2. Authorize the City Manager, or designee, to execute the Memorandum of Understanding, including making minor and non-substantive changes.



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