

# BLUFF CITY CHINESE

## Learning Guide: Connecting with Chinese American Histories

**Duration:** 90 minutes

**Audience:** High school students, community groups, or public library audiences

### Goals:

- Introduce Bluff City Chinese and the untold histories of Chinese Americans
- Engage participants in reflecting on their own family or cultural histories
- Encourage intergenerational storytelling and community memory work

### Workshop (90 mins) :

#### 0:00–0:10 **Welcome + Icebreaker**

- Name a family tradition or food that tells a story. It can be a favorite family recipe or song that evokes many memories. A place in your home. An article of clothing that is a part of many memories.

#### 0:10–0:20 | **Context Setting**

- Brief introduction to Chinese American history in the South
- Now let's think about how these stories connect to people and places outside of our families. Example questions:
  - What do you know about Memphis history?
  - How do you learn about your city's history?
  - What are some stories that are missing? What's missing from the stories we hear?

#### 0:20–0:40 | **Film Screening (Clip Selection)**

- Show 15–20 minutes of curated clips: family businesses, cultural traditions, moments of racial solidarity/tension, and personal testimonies

#### 0:40–1:00 | **Group Discussion**

- What surprised you?

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- What felt familiar or unfamiliar?
- What does it mean to preserve a story?

## 1:00–1:40 | **Story Mapping Activity**

- Participants write/draw a “memory map” of their own story or family migration. In addition to physical locations, participants can include photos, events, food, objects, etc.
- Identify where the story could use more information or voices:
  - Where are there gaps or holes in the story?
  - Who do you think can help you fill those gaps?
  - What questions can you ask them?
- Pair share or small group reflection

## 1:40–1:55 | **Call to Action**

- “What’s one way you can help preserve a community story this month?”
- Ideas: interview an elder, scan family photos, attend a local history event

## 1:55–2:00 | **Close + Resources**