

Bright Prospects 明亮视界

Activating Curiosity, History,
Culture, Access, & Exploration

激發好奇心、歷史、文化、可及性與探索精神

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ART PROPOSAL FOR THE CHINATOWN
HIM MARK LAI BRANCH LIBRARY
RENOVATION PROJECT

Concept 概念 Bright Prospects consists of five images which celebrate how this branch fosters community members' senses of belonging and the agency to take action in their own lives. Each window-like panel opens up to a scene at a different time of day, united by a shared motif of a mandarin orange tree.



Elevation rendering



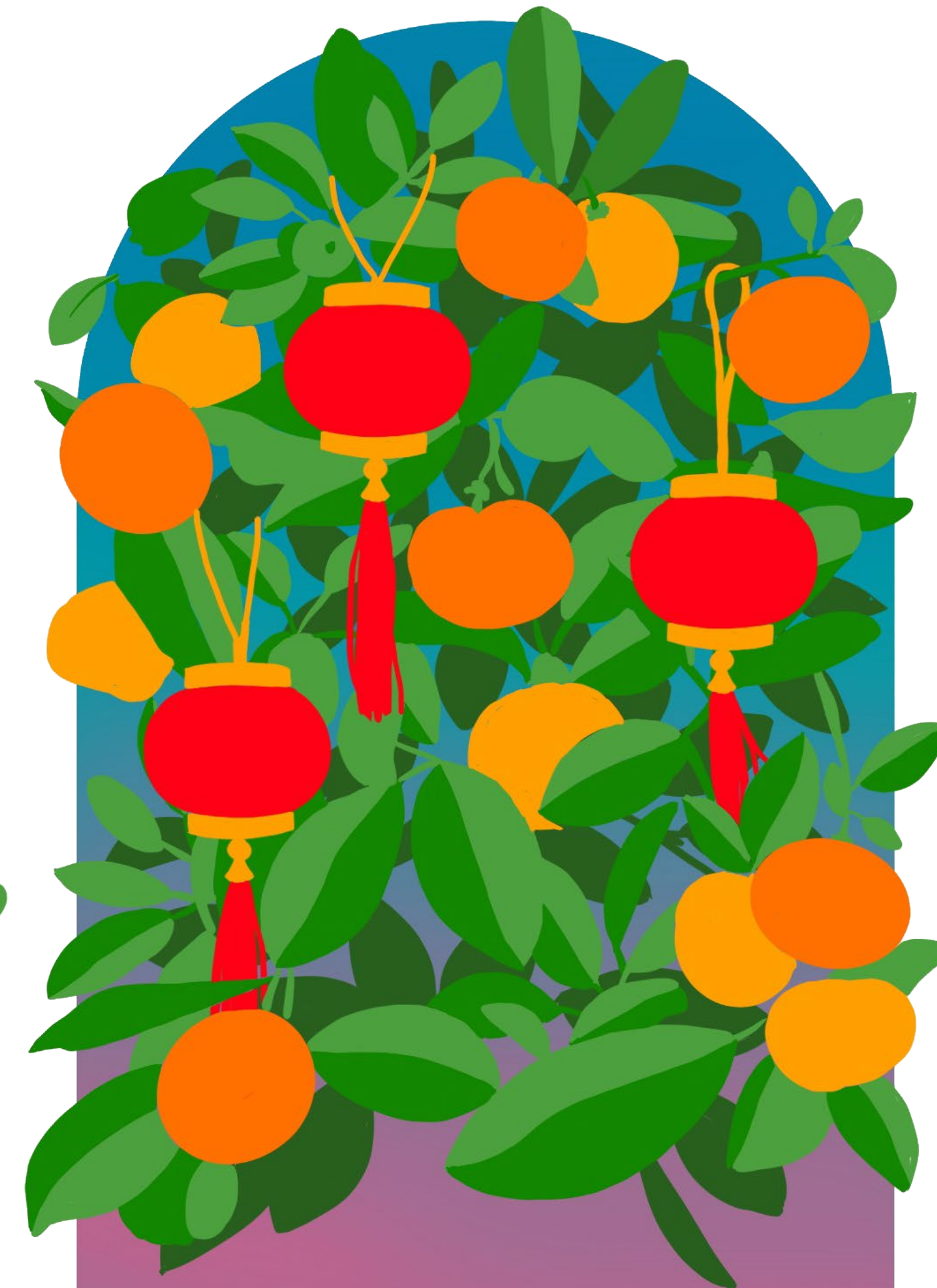
Curiosity 好奇心

In recognition of the branch's robust story time program, flower buds symbolize young minds, while a luminous night sky suggests the sense of wonder unlocked by learning and literacy.



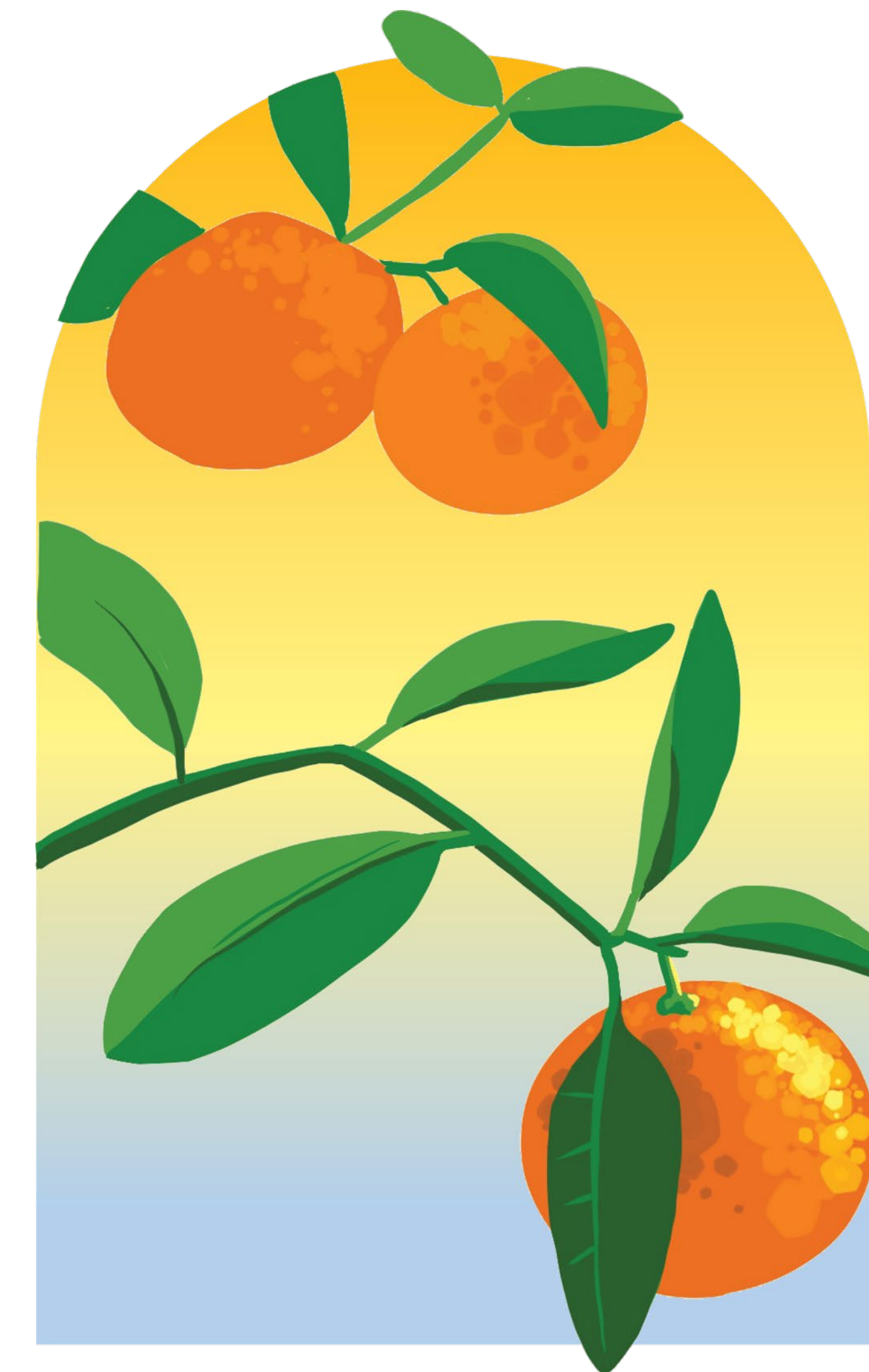
History 歷史

Honoring historian Him Mark Lai and how the branch connects patrons with a sense of history, this panel is composed vertically like a Chinese landscape painting. It features images of a mountain in Guangdong, a steamer ship that carried early migrants, and Angel Island.



Culture 文化

Celebrating the branch's community rootedness and cultural competence, a tree full of oranges and lanterns symbolizes prosperity and cultural pride. Many Chinatown residents may not be rich, but there are priceless assets in this neighborhood: soul-stirring sights, sounds, tastes, dialects, memories, and webs of kinship and intergenerational love.



Access 可及性

Acknowledging the branch's vital role in closing technology gaps and serving patrons of many ages, languages, and goals, the ripe fruit on a low branch represents finding what one seeks.



Exploration 探索精神

Symbolizing how the branch opens worlds beyond its walls, an Anise Swallowtail butterfly approaches orange blossoms. In Chinese culture, these elements symbolize freedom, transformation, resilience, longevity, and good fortune.



Scale rendering



Example of hand-cut collage of colored and painted paper.

Media 媒材

PAPERCUT. I will hand-cut and collage the design from colored and painted paper, bridging the community's familiarity of traditional Chinese papercutting with contemporary techniques. The materiality echoes the physical media that is so valued by many older patrons, embraces imperfection and humanness, and incorporates texture and dimensionality.

PRINTED PLYWOOD. Professional photographs of the collages will be digitally printed directly onto CNC-routed plywood with UV coating to ensure the long-term durability for this permanent artwork. Selected areas of the image will be printed on a second, bas-relief plywood layer to add dimensionality. The edges of the wood panels will be handpainted to match the face.

Installation 安裝

The plywood panels will be installed via a system of cleats.

Colors 色彩

