

Chinese American Citizens Alliance

~ National ~

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National Lodge ESTABLISHED 1895

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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C.A.C.A. Mourns the Passing of Architectural Icon I.M. Pei

San Francisco, May 20, 2019 – Renowned Chinese American architect Ieoh Ming (I.M.) Pei passed away in New York City on Thursday, May 16, at age 102.

He was born in Canton (Guangzhou), China, on April 26, 1917, the son of a bank manager. Mr. Pei came to the United States to study at the University of Pennsylvania, followed by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and then Harvard Graduate School of Design in 1946. In 1955, he launched I.M. Pei & Associates. It became Pei Cobb Freed & Partners in 1989, a year before his retirement.

His urban buildings and complexes were varied in purpose and function, as they were global. The dozens of art institutions designed by Mr. Pei reflected his skills as a cross-cultural promoter: the East Building of the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C.; Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in Cleveland; Miho Museum in Kyoto, Japan; Museum of Islamic Art in Doha, Qatar; and the Pyramid for the Musée du Louvre in Paris, which is, arguably, his most famous commission.

In 1988, President Ronald Reagan honored Mr. Pei with a National Medal of Arts. He also won the prestigious Pritzker Architecture Prize, 1983, and the American Institute of Architects Gold Medal, 1979. President George H.W. Bush awarded him the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1992.

In 1990, Mr. Pei founded the Committee of 100 (C100), a leadership organization of prominent Chinese Americans in business, government, academia, and the arts whose purpose is to address significant and complex issues pertaining to Americans of Chinese descent and U.S.-China relations. C100 signature programs include China Delegations, knowledge publications, educational workshops, next-generation leadership initiatives and high-profile conferences.

"Mr. Pei left his mark on the present cityscape of Boston, the site of this year's C.A.C.A. National Convention," said C.A.C.A National President Davace Chin. "These include the West Wing of the Museum of Fine Arts, the former John Hancock Tower and the stunning John F. Kennedy Presidential Library on the banks of Dorchester Bay."

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> Web: www.CACAnational.org Chinese American Citizens Alliance

The Chinese American Citizens Alliance, established in 1895, is among the oldest civil rights organizations in the United States. Headquartered in San Francisco with chapter/lodges in Albuquerque (NM), Boston (MA), Chicago (IL), Greater San Gabriel Valley (CA), Greater New York (NY), Houston (TX), Las Vegas (NV), Los Angeles (CA), Mississippi, Oakland (CA), Peninsula (CA), Portland (OR), Phoenix (AZ), Salinas (CA), San Antonio (TX), San Francisco (CA), Seattle (WA) and Washington, D.C., the Alliance addresses issues regarding voter education, political participation, racial discrimination and hate crimes, and supports youth leadership training programs and equal employment opportunities for all Chinese Americans.