

# Value Culture's dim sum art experience brings love to San Francisco's world famous downtown restaurant Yank Sing

*Value Culture led by Adam Swig and Yank Sing produced an innovative idea for an arts experience to celebrate Asian heritages called AAPI Love A La Carte*

SAN FRANCISCO, CA, UNITED STATES, May 30, 2023 /EINPresswire.com/ -- San Francisco is experiencing one of the weakest recoveries of any downtown in the country from recent pandemic times. The city also saw its hate crimes against AAPI (Asian American Pacific Islander) people rise dramatically during this period. Increased cost of living has also threatened and pushed artists out of the city. That's when a rising star immigrant artist and a small buzzy non profit organization wanted to do something to help.



AAPI Love A La Carte on Yank Sing Day

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My family & I had a great time at Value Culture's activation at Yank Sing. What a great way to bring communities together to honor a venerable Chinese American institution and an emerging AAPI artist”

*Thea Anderson, Director at the Institute of Contemporary Art San Francisco.*

San Francisco based non profit organization Value Culture led by Adam Swig and Filipino American artist [Reniel Del Rosario](#) approached world renowned dim sum restaurant Yank Sing with an innovative idea for an arts experience to celebrate Asian heritages and pride, build community bridges, and excite people to come back to downtown San Francisco and visit the city's global destinations. Prior to the pandemic, Yank Sing's two locations were open 365 days a year. Now with the city's downtown struggles, it's open just Wednesday through Sunday.

The experience called [AAPI Love A La Carte](#) played out to loving fanfare on May 20th, 2023 as part of San Francisco's celebration of AAPI Heritage Month. “Stop Asian Hate, Start

Asian Love” was the tagline of the event. Hundreds of attendees were enjoying the event when Executive Director of the Office of Small Business Katy Tang arrived in place of Mayor London Breed to deliver a surprise proclamation of Yank Sing Day in San Francisco in recognition of 65 years in business. The crowd erupted in applause.

“We were so excited to be a part of this event when Value Culture and Reniel approached us with their unique idea. We have never done anything like this in our 65 years of business and we are thrilled to support our AAPI community and celebrate AAPI Heritage Month with such a fun experience.” said Vera Chan Waller of Yank Sing, “I was completely surprised when they announced the proclamation at the event and it brought tears to my eyes.”

Reniel Del Rosario (b. Iba, Philippines) is an artist that primarily uses ceramics, quantity, and satire to discuss themes of commodification and value—historical, cultural, and monetary. His projects range from interactive mimics of consumer establishments, reimagined artifacts, and imperfect copies of already-existing objects.

This collaboration with Yank Sing and Value Culture used dim sum as the model for the AAPI Love A La Carte experience. Reniel based all of his pieces for this project off of Yank Sing’s most popular menu items. The pieces were sold in customized steamer baskets a la Yank Sing’s famous pushcart service.

Attendees were confused at first by the life-like pieces of art on the carts normally reserved for food. Remarkably, one set of the dim sum art was created with real gold, including a giant golden bao. At the event, Reniel announced that inspired by the work of Value Culture, all of the proceeds from his sales of these pieces would go to benefit up and coming artists in San Francisco’s Chinatown.

“We are deeply moved and surprised that the artist Reniel Del Rosario has announced to donate



AAPI Love A La Carte on Yank Sing Day 3



AAPI Love A La Carte on Yank Sing Day 2

all of the proceeds from AAPI Love A La Carte toward CCC's artist and youth development efforts in San Francisco's Chinatown. Art and culture represent the soul and imagination of our communities, and yet, it's deeply under-resourced on a neighborhood level. Through programs such as 41 Ross Artist-in-Residence and Generation Chinatown, this support will seed the next generation of artistic changemakers! Thank you to Value Culture and Reniel." said Hoi Leung, Curator and Deputy Director, Chinese Culture Center of San Francisco. During the event, Yank Sing also announced the donation of all food and beverage sales from the event to the Chinese Cultural Center of San Francisco.

"Our 2023 Value Culture Artist in Residence Reniel Del Rosario is a true emerging star in the Bay Area art scene. We were thrilled at the outcome of this amazing project to show love to the AAPI community and businesses and Reniel's choice to donate all of the proceeds from these works to help the next generation of artists in San Francisco's Chinatown." said Adam Swig, Executive Director of Value Culture. "Just as thrilling was to be a part of Yank Sing Day and their generosity to the community, highlighting that downtown SF still has many treasures to offer!"

Reniel is Value Culture's 2023 Artist in Residence (Prior Value Culture Artist in Residence Jimmie Fails now sits on the Value Culture Board of Directors). The mission of Value Culture is to produce and support artistic, educational, charitable, and spiritual events to inspire individuals to give back to their communities. Internationally recognized, Value Culture removes barriers to arts, culture, and philanthropy. The residency was generously supported by the Robert Joseph Louie Memorial Fund and the event was supported by the San Francisco APA Heritage Foundation.

Collaborating on this project, Reniel and Value Culture asked the question; how can we stop Asian hate? San Francisco officials have received more than 60 reports of hate crimes against AAPI people in the city during 2021, a more than [500% increase](#) in comparison to the nine incidents reported in 2020. Between March 2020 and March 31, 2022, the group Stop AAPI Hate recorded almost 11,500 reports of hate incidents against Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) persons in the United States.

Their answer: Asian love. Therefore they focused on engaging audiences with what is loved by all: food, art, culture, community, friendship, and Yank Sing. They were thrilled by the approval from the diverse crowd at the event including people from the arts world, community activists, and fans.

"This project was right up my alley from the very beginning and I'm very happy with the outcome. Thank you. Value Culture has been a great partner to work with." said Reniel Del Rosario. "I'm grateful we could show support for the community and the next generation of artists. We hope everyone had a memorable experience and got inspired to show some love from AAPI Love A La Carte.

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