

Chinatown Symbol of Harmony and Peace> City and transportation officials, from left, Los Angeles City councilmen Tom LaBonge and Ed Reyes; Mr. Fang Xiaoming, Guangzhou Foreign Affairs Director; Mayor James Hahn; MTA CEO Roger Snoble, and Pasadena Blue Line Construction Authority CEO Richard Thorpe present unveiling of the Yong Bell at the Metro Gold Line Chinatown Station. The replica of the 2,100-year-old bell is a gift of friendship from Los Angeles' sister city, Guangzhou, China.



Replica of Yong Bell Stands Vigil at Metro Gold Line's Chinatown Station

By GAYLE ANDERSON

(August 13, 2003) It took 2,100 years, a transoceanic journey from Guangzhou, China to Los Angeles, and two decades of sisterly love nurtured by the citizens and leaders of two great cities. But, at last, the Yong Bell, a symbol harmony and peace, stands vigil at the entrance to the Metro Gold Line's Chinatown Station.

CEO Roger Snoble joined dignitaries of Los Angeles and its sister city of Guangzhou, China, at the installation and dedication of the Yong Bell at the Chinatown Station, Tuesday.

"Everyday," said Snoble, "people come and go through



CEO Roger Snoble welcomes Yong Bell to Chinatown Station. Below, Snoble, center right, joins with officials to unveil friendship gift from sister city Guangzhou.

this beautiful station on their way to work or to visit Chinatown. Now, they will see this symbol of the friendship between Los Angeles and Guangzhou."

The Yong Bell is a replica of a 2,100-year-old bronze bell discovered by Guangzhou construction workers in 1983 when the tomb of Zhao Mei, a ruler of the Nanyue Kingdom, was unearthed during a construction project.

This type of bell first appeared in the 11th Century B.C., said Jeffrey Cheung, president of the Los Angeles – Guangzhou Sister City Association. The design prevailed throughout the East Zhou Dynasty to 256 B.C. Experts estimate the Yong Bell to be 2,100 years old.

A replica of the unearthed bell, weighing 1,500 pounds, was created as a friendship gift to the City of Los Angeles and sent here to celebrate the 20th anniversary Sister City relationship established by Mayor Tom Bradley and civic leaders in 1981.

The bell has been on display in the lobby of the Cathay Bank in Chinatown since 2001 awaiting the completion of the Metro Gold Line Chinatown Station.

The dedication ceremony was hosted by Mayor James Hahn, Councilman Ed Reyes, in whose district the bronze bell is now permanently installed, and Councilman Tom LaBonge, who heads the Los Angeles International Sister Cities Committee.

[Back to MTA Report](#)



Below, the replica of the Yong Bell.



PHOTOS BY GAYLE ANDERSON