

TEMPLE CITY *Voice*

History of the Organization

SUMMARY: The *Temple City Voice* was founded in July 2006.

A Brief History

The *Temple City Voice* officially launched on July 19, 2006. The weekly news publication was created by sixteen year-old Temple City resident Matthew Wong. And today, the *Voice* continues to serve Temple City, California.

A senior at Temple City High School, Matthew founded the *Voice* to better inform and engage his community. Matthew, a member of a neighborhood association opposed to the Piazza project, was discouraged by the lack of news reporting in Temple City. Moreover, Matthew was disappointed with the City Council when it decided to throw out nearly two thousand signatures gathered to force a referendum on the mixed-use development.

Determined to educate Temple City about issues affecting his community, Matthew and a handful of TCHS students came together to lay the groundwork for the *Temple City Voice* in the summer of 2006. With much help from his cousins, the first print edition published on Wednesday, July 19. (The *Voice* would continue to publish on Wednesdays for a couple of years.)

Matthew served as the first editor-in-chief of the *Temple City Voice*. His success largely came as a result of the assistance of a few dedicated students at Temple City High School, in particular Edward Sun and Margaret Thi. As editor, Matthew introduced the *Temple City Voice* to the community and expanded the publication throughout Temple City.

The summer of 2007 was a challenging time for Matthew because of his concern for the future of a news publication created only a year ago. While deciding whether to continue the publishing of the *Temple City Voice* or not, Matthew intensely discussed the matter with Margaret, an early staff writer, and talked extensively to a few bright underclassmen at TCHS. A decision was finally reached when Margaret agreed to take over and five individuals stepped up to continue volunteering with the *Voice*.

More than a year after launching the *Temple City Voice*, Matthew stepped down and appointed Margaret Thi to the position of editor-in-chief. The transition was completed in September 2007 when Margaret began her duties.

Margaret initially did not want the responsibilities of the *Temple City Voice*. But despite her initial hesitation, she faithfully performed her duties as editor-in-chief. Under her leadership, the number of staff writers and artists flourished.

Prior to her graduation, Margaret began a search for the next editor-in-chief. Consulting with Matthew, the founder, Margaret chose Jessilyn Chwa, an incoming junior at TCHS, as her successor.

Before Jessilyn officially took over Margaret's role, Jessilyn was appointed to the position of assistant editor-in-chief, the number two position in the *Temple City Voice*, in the summer of 2008. After a few weeks of training, Jessilyn took over the reins when Margaret stepped down.

Also during this transition period, Matthew assumed the title of advisor of the *Temple City Voice*.

Like her predecessors, Jessilyn sought to expand the presence of the *Voice*. But several major changes also occurred during her tenure as editor-in-chief.

First, the positions of community affairs directors were created. The community affairs directors, one for the city and another for the district, would be charged with representing the *Temple City Voice* in its respective areas.

Second, an executive team was created to help the editor-in-chief guide the *Temple City Voice*. The executive team consisted of four individuals: the editor-in-chief, the assistant editor-in-chief, and the community affairs directors. Matthew, the *Voice*'s advisor, also occasionally participated in the executive team meetings.

The *Temple City Voice* again underwent some changes in the summer of 2009.

The position of assistant editor-in-chief was changed to senior editor, and the position of assistant editor was created.

Also, Sophia Chang, then the assistant editor and formerly the community affairs director for the school district, succeeded Jessilyn as editor-in-chief in August 2009.

Today, Sophia still serves as the editor-in-chief. Under the tenure, the *Voice* underwent another major transformation. Sophia led with then Senior Editor Randy Shun pushed for a re-design of the layout of the *Temple City Voice*. Sophia, along with Senior Jason Alvin Wu, has also recruited a number of new staff members.

Blogs and Candidates' Forums

The official blog of the *Temple City Voice* launched in August 2007, a little more than a year after the news publication was created. The blog, which can be found at <http://templecityvoice.wordpress.com>, features numerous resources of the *Voice*. In addition, print editions of the *Temple City Voice* from September 2008 on, can be downloaded.

Along with the Temple City High School Junior State of America, the *Temple City Voice* sponsored its first candidates' forum in September 2007. A first for School Board elections, the forum attracted some controversy. Only three of six candidates running for the local School Board attended the event. However, despite not having a full panel, the forum ushered in a new practice for the *Temple City Voice*.

A second candidates' forum, this time featuring those running for the City Council, was held in January 2009 at City Hall. Again, the JSA and the *Voice* co-sponsored the event. Unlike the first forum, all six candidates running for two positions on the City Council participated.

In October 2009, the *Voice* and the JSA co-sponsored the only School Board candidates' forum for the November election. Like the first candidates' forum, a little controversy emerged. But, all three candidates running did attend the event.

Next year, the *Temple City Voice* hopes to sponsor its fourth candidates' forum, albeit without controversy.

Slogans

The current slogan of the *Temple City Voice* is “**Many Voices, Once Community.**” Previous slogans include: “**A New Voice in Temple City**” (2006-2007); “**Building Bridges within the Community**” (2007-2008); and “**Listen Up!**” (2008-2009).

Leadership

A list of the individuals who served as editor-in-chief and their leadership teams.

1. **Matthew Wong** (also the Founder)

July 2006 – September 2007

Aaron Liong, **assistant editor-in-chief**

Melanie Thi, **first art manager**, July 2006 – September 2006

Lu Chen, **second art manager**, September 2006 – September 2007

2. Margaret Thi

September 2007 – August 2008

Angie Yeh, **first assistant editor-in-chief**, September 2007 – July 2008

Jessilyn Chwa, **second assistant editor-in-chief**, July 2008 – August 2008

Melanie Thi, **art manager**

3. Jessilyn Chwa

August 2008 – July 2009

Melanie Thi, **assistant editor-in-chief**

Randy Shun, **community affairs director-city**

Sophia Chang, **community affairs director-school district**

Ivy Vuong, **art manager**

July 2009 – August 2009

Randy Shun, **senior editor**

Sophia Chang, **assistant editor**

Leslie Wu, **community affairs director-city**

Chris Du, **community affairs director-school district**

Ivy Vuong, **art manager**

Vincent Wei, **operations manager**

4. Sophia Chang

August 2009 – Present

Randy Shun, ***first senior editor***, August 2009 – December 2009

Jason Alvin Wu, ***second senior editor***, January 2010 – Present

Ivy Vuong, **assistant editor**, August 2009 – Present

Leslie Wu, **community affairs director-city**

Chris Du, **community affairs director-school district**

Jason Alvin Wu, **art manager**

Vincent Wei, **operations manager**