

GEORGE H. W. BUSH FOUNDATION
FOR U.S.-CHINA RELATIONS

乔治布什美中关系基金会

2019 / 2020 ANNUAL REPORT



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George H. W. and Barbara Bush drink tea with local citizens during their visit to Tibet, fall 1977. (Photo credit: George H. W. Bush Presidential Library and Museum)

A MESSAGE FROM OUR FOUNDER AND CHAIRMAN



The George H. W. Bush Foundation seeks to advance U.S.-China relations in ways that reflect the ethos, spirit and values of my late father, George H. W. Bush. Fundamentally, Dad believed two things about the U.S.-China relationship: first, that it was the single-most consequential bilateral relationship in the world; and second, that virtually no major global challenge could be enduringly resolved in the absence of effective communication and collaboration between the two countries.

Many years into his post-presidency, my father wrote of the United States and China, “One of my dreams for our world is that these two powerful giants will continue working toward a full partnership and friendship that will bring peace and prosperity to people everywhere.” As the U.S. president who personally shepherded the United States through an incredibly difficult period in the relationship in the immediate wake of Tiananmen, my father was certainly well aware of the profound chasms in certain values and interests of the two nations; but even as he gave expression to American values, he never lost sight of America’s long-term interests—and, above all, what he regarded as America’s long-term interest in maintaining a U.S.-China relationship that was functional, constructive, results-oriented, mutually beneficial and politically sustainable.

The George H. W. Bush Foundation for U.S.-China Relations, which I founded in 2017 with my father’s blessing and support and which began full operations in the Fall of 2019, exists to give meaningful expression to my father’s vision for the U.S.-China relationship. **Though the U.S.-China relationship today is in a very different, and far more strained and challenged, place than it was just a few years ago, and though the terms of U.S. discourse and debate about China have shifted radically during this same period, our commitment to furthering the George H. W. Bush vision for this vital bilateral relationship is unwavering. Never has the need for the Foundation’s work been greater. I couldn’t be prouder of the work the Foundation undertakes and the resolve and courage with which it does so. I am certain that Dad, looking down from heaven, feels the same way.**

Neil Bush
Founder & Chairman

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT AND CEO

Viewed through an American lens, two things are true about China at the same time: it is the most formidable national competitor the United States will ever face in the lifetimes of every American alive today, and it is also an indispensable partner to our country—the nation with the greatest bearing on America’s future security and the nation most vital to America’s future prosperity. The George H. W. Bush Foundation for U.S.-China Relations functions on the basis of both premises.

Certain deeply held values, beliefs and views undergird our Foundation’s approach to China. We hold that the development of U.S.-China relations over the last 50 years has, on the whole, been very good for America, as well as for China and the world. We assess that though China does many things that are inimical to America’s interests, China is not the enemy of our nation. We contend that notwithstanding serious and largely irreconcilable differences between the two nations on profoundly important issues, we need each other and we need to be able to work together to solve most global challenges of any consequence—challenges such as public health, climate change and making international trade fairer and freer, among others. We maintain that U.S.-China trade is good (though it needs to be far less asymmetrical and more reciprocal), comparative advantage makes the pie bigger for all, decoupling is short-sighted and unwise, and U.S. tariffs kill U.S. jobs and swell the U.S. deficit. We strongly oppose America’s retreat since 2017 from its long-held free market, free trade and pro-globalization principles and argue that the U.S. government should not be in the business of unduly directing, and in effect “centrally planning,” the commercial activities of private U.S. companies the way that China does on its side; that is not the way the United States got to be the number one economy in the history of the world in the first place. We regard the ugly, racially charged language we heard throughout 2020 and into this year on the topic of COVID-19 as far beneath the dignity of all U.S. leaders; we condemn and deplore the anti-Asian violence that rhetoric spawned; and we believe that McCarthyism is every bit as corrosive and bad for America today as it was in the early 1950s. We feel strongly that in the intense competition unfolding between the United States and China, the United States’ goal should be to out-compete China and win the economic and technological races of the 21st century; and we understand that the only way to do that is for the United States to focus on enhancing our own capabilities—something the United States Congress now seems to recognize. Finally, and most fundamentally, we believe that the gravest threat to America today is the untethering of our nation’s public policy and political discourse from factual reality; and that unless and until we rectify that, we as a nation will never be able to out-compete China—or, indeed, solve any of our nation’s pressing problems.

These values, beliefs and views have informed the work we describe in these pages—work undertaken by our very capable team of directors, advisors, staff and interns in the first 18 months of our existence as a fully functioning foundation. We look forward to continuing and expanding our efforts to advance President George H. W. Bush’s inspiring vision for the U.S.-China relationship over the remainder of 2021 and for many years to come.

David J. Firestein
President & CEO



THE U.S.-CHINA RELATIONS LEGACY OF PRESIDENT GEORGE H. W. BUSH



“One of my dreams for our world is that these two powerful giants will continue working toward a full partnership and friendship that will bring peace and prosperity to people everywhere.” – PRESIDENT GEORGE H. W. BUSH

ABOVE: President George H. W. Bush waves from his motorcade during his visit to China, 25 February 1989; TOP RIGHT: George H. W. Bush rides his bicycle in China, circa 1975 (Photos credit: George H. W. Bush Presidential Library and Museum)

The Bicycling Ambassador

President George H. W. Bush had a special connection with China, one that is unique among U.S. presidents. As the director of the U.S. liaison office to the People's Republic of China from 1974 to 1975, President Bush was the United States' second envoy to the country. **During the 15 months he lived and worked in Beijing, he engaged the Chinese people in a very deep and human way.** He came to know not only the country's top leaders, but also a wide cross-section of average citizens. This experience of living in China and interacting daily with its people as “the bicycling ambassador,” as he was known, shaped his views on China for the rest of his life.



Vision for U.S.-China Relations

President Bush regarded the U.S.-China relationship as the most important bilateral relationship in the world. He viewed China's development as beneficial, not harmful, to the United States, and he emphatically rejected the idea that China is an adversary of the U.S. and the zero-sum mindset that tends to accompany such an assessment. **He firmly believed that only by working constructively with China can the United States realize its own full potential; and by the same token, only by working constructively with the United States can China realize its own full potential.** President Bush's lifelong view was that a positive and constructive relationship between the two countries is in the best interest of both the United States and China as well as the entire global community.

President Bush was the first U.S. president to engage the People's Republic of China subsequent to the events of the summer of 1989 at Tiananmen Square and thus was the first U.S. leader after the normalization of bilateral relations in 1979 to manage a vastly more textured, complex, challenging and contentious relationship—in essence, the U.S.-China relationship in its contemporary form. President Bush's extraordinarily wise, deft and steady handling of that 1989 crisis in U.S.-China relations—and indeed, **his ability to give expression to American values without ever losing sight of American interests—paved the way for so many of the U.S.-China successes that followed his presidency.**

The George H. W. Bush Foundation for U.S.-China Relations seeks to advance U.S.-China relations in ways that reflect the ethos, spirit and values of its namesake. President Bush advocated an approach to China that was clear-eyed and focused on long-term U.S. interests rather than the political winds of the moment. Though the terms of the U.S. debate on China have shifted dramatically over the last several years, the Bush China Foundation remains committed to its positioning in the “sensible center” of U.S.-China discourse and faithful to the vision of President Bush.

THE GEORGE H. W. BUSH CONFERENCE ON U.S.-CHINA RELATIONS

U.S.-CHINA RELATIONS AT 40: The Past, Present and Future of the World's Most Important Bilateral Relationship

October 28-29, 2019
HOUSTON, TEXAS | UNITED STATES

President Bush himself co-chaired the first five of these conferences, which focused on developing innovative ways to bring the United States and China together around issues where, working together, the two countries could make a positive, palpable difference. As President Bush's health declined, Neil stood in for his father and chaired the conference, carrying forward this body of work that was very dear to President Bush.

The 2019 conference commemorated **the 40th anniversary of the normalization of relations between the United States and China as well as the 30th anniversary of President Bush's presidential inauguration.** Held in the late president's adopted hometown of Houston and his former residence, The Houstonian Hotel, the event was also the first Bush China Conference to occur after his passing just one year earlier. Drawing an attendance of approximately 200 business leaders and entrepreneurs, current and former policymakers, academics and other professionals from both the United States and China, this event featured a diverse range of topics, including energy trading, food and agriculture, public health, trade and investment, Asia-Pacific security and innovation. Lauded by many attendees and speakers as the best conference on U.S.-China relations they have experienced, the conference generated new insights and perspectives on the current state of the bilateral relationship as well as prospects for future engagement and recommendations for constructive collaboration.



TOP ROW (From L-R): Neil Bush delivers opening remarks; David Firestein delivers opening remarks. BOTTOM ROW: Sherry Qu of the China General Chamber of Commerce speaks with other attendees; OPPOSITE PAGE (From L-R): Susan Elliott, Susan Thornton, Su Ge, Kathleen Stephens and Shao Yuqun speak on Asia-Pacific security.

Conference Sessions

The First 40 Years of U.S.-PRC Relations: U.S. and Chinese Perspectives

Panelists reflected on both the highlights and challenges in U.S.-China relations over the past 40 years and how the normalization of diplomatic relations has impacted the two countries as well as the entire global community.

U.S.-China Energy Trade and Investment: Recent Developments and Future Opportunities

Panelists provided an overview of the United States and China energy markets and recent developments within the energy industry, including the shale gas revolution, new energy practices and technologies as the United States moves from a net importer to a net exporter of oil and gas.

Food and Agriculture: U.S.-China Partnership and Cooperation

Panelists highlighted the work of the U.S.-China Agriculture and Food Partnership, a public coordinator for U.S.-China bilateral food and agricultural cooperation founded in the tradition of the agricultural symposium at the heart of President Xi's 2012 Iowa visit, and other ways the U.S. agriculture industry was working with China.

Global Public Health Challenges: U.S. and Chinese Cooperation

Panelists explored the socio-demographic challenges impacting the public health goals of China and the United States today, as well as both countries' health system strengthening efforts over the last decade and how this intersected with the food system in achieving better health globally.

Opportunities Amidst Challenges in Today's U.S.-China Trade and Investment Relationship

Panelists spoke about the innovative ways they have dealt with the issues posed by the current U.S.-China trade friction and discussed what actionable steps major corporations, investors, business owners and policymakers from both countries could take to manage the current tensions.

The Shifting Security Landscape in the Asia-Pacific

Panelists offered an overview of strategic security competition in the Asia-Pacific, and at a time in bilateral relations where China has been identified in U.S. strategy documents as seeking to revise the international order, they discussed how the United States and China could manage security competition and avoid conflict?



THE GEORGE H. W. BUSH CONFERENCE ON U.S.-CHINA RELATIONS

MILLENNIAL MASTERMINDS OF THE U.S.-CHINA RELATIONSHIP

October 25-29, 2019
HOUSTON, TEXAS | UNITED STATES

Ten exceptionally talented individuals—five Chinese and five Americans—in their late 20s and early 30s met for two days of discussion and team-building activities prior to the start of the 2019 George H. W. Bush Conference on U.S.-China Relations. **Tackling the question of what the U.S.-China relationship will look like in 40 years**, the Masterminds focused on trends in mainland China, the United States, in cross-strait relations, the future of global security and trade and investment trends. Following the two days of discussions, which included numerous conversations with senior experts serving as mentors, the Masterminds presented their observations and conclusions to all conference attendees on the second day of the conference.



TOP ROW: The Millennial Masterminds discuss global security with mentors David Firestein and Susan Elliott; MIDDLE ROW: The Millennial Masterminds participate in a cooking competition; BOTTOM ROW: The Millennial Masterminds (from L-R): Kyle Chauvin, Lawrence Liu, Zhe Wang, Naima Green-Riley, Angelica Choy, Andi Zhou, Ali Wyne, Lin Wang, Andrew Gee, Fei Guo and Zeldia Zhao speak on U.S.-China relations in 40 years.

U.S.-CHINA POLICY HACKATHON

October 29, 2019
HOUSTON, TEXAS | UNITED STATES

Regional-Level Policies to Promote Business Innovation Collaboration

Keying off of the technology innovation concept of a “hack”, the exploratory development of innovative and novel solutions to problem sets, the conference’s U.S.-China Policy Hackathon took place on the morning and early afternoon of the second day of the conference, with three competing teams given five hours to develop “policy hacks” to the following question: **Given the current tensions in the U.S.-China relationship, particularly at the federal level, what policies can local officials and regional stakeholders in the United States adopt to encourage Americans and Chinese to work together to generate new, value-adding and mutually beneficial innovation in business, trade and investment?**

TOP ROW: Sunny Zhang introduces the 2019 U.S.-China Policy Hackathon at the Bush China Conference; MIDDLE ROW: 2019 U.S.-China Policy Hackathon panel of judges: Chris Olson, Ying McGuire and Angelos Angelou; BOTTOM ROW: Neil Bush, center, presents award to the winning 2019 U.S.-China Policy Hackathon team: (From L-R): Maiyue Cheng, Mark LaValle, Min Fan and Ryan Ray



Winning Proposal

Focusing on connecting the U.S. heartland and China, match local resources to international investors’ needs by establishing strategic local-level non-governmental organizations to facilitate matchmaking between investors and communities via a nation-wide platform akin to the dating website, match.com.



THE GEORGE H. W. BUSH AWARD FOR STATESMANSHIP IN U.S.-CHINA RELATIONS

2019 AWARD WINNER: FORMER PRESIDENT JIMMY CARTER



“It is my honor to receive the inaugural George H. W. Bush Award for Statesmanship in U.S.-China Relations... President Bush and I agreed that the relationship between the United States and China is of utmost importance. I am grateful for his administration’s invaluable support of my post-presidential efforts with China. I look forward to a continuing relationship with the George H. W. Bush Foundation for U.S.-China Relations.”

– FORMER PRESIDENT JIMMY CARTER

ABOVE: Photograph by photographer Karl Schumacher, 1977. From the Presidential File Collection. Library of Congress Prints & Photographs Division



TOP ROW: Chip Carter receives the George H. W. Bush Award for Statesmanship in U.S.-China Relations (From L-R) Charles Foster, Chip Carter, Neil Bush and David Firestein. BOTTOM ROW: The George H. W. Bush Award for Statesmanship in U.S.-China Relations; Chinese Ambassador Cui Tiankai (L) speaks with Chip Carter.

On June 12, 2019, the Bush China Foundation conferred the inaugural George H. W. Bush Award for Statesmanship in U.S.-China Relations to former President Jimmy Carter at The Carter Center in Atlanta, Georgia. Bush China Foundation Founder and Chairman Neil Bush, Vice Chairman Charles Foster and President and CEO David Firestein presented the award to James Earl “Chip” Carter III, who accepted on behalf of his father, who was unable to attend due to health concerns.

“President Carter displayed tremendous vision in normalizing the U.S.-China relationship. Working closely with Chinese Vice Premier Deng Xiaoping, **President Carter took bold and politically courageous action to establish formal diplomatic relations between our nations – a decision that not only transformed the U.S.-China relationship, but indeed, quite literally changed the world, and for the better...**” – Neil Bush, Bush China Foundation Founder and Chairman.

A BUSH CHINA FOUNDATION CONVERSATION WITH PRESIDENT JIMMY CARTER

A Message from Neil Bush

George H. W. Bush Foundation for U.S.-China Relations
Founder & Chairman

In 2019, the George H. W. Bush Foundation for U.S.-China Relations conferred upon President Jimmy Carter its inaugural George H. W. Bush Award for Statesmanship in U.S.-China Relations. My father's vision for the U.S.-China relationship – informed by his service as America's envoy to China in the mid-1970s – aligned with President Carter's vision. Whereas President Carter ushered in an important new chapter in the relationship between the two countries, my father, ten years later, kept this vital bilateral relationship on the rails in the immediate wake of the events of June 1989. President George H. W. Bush shared President Carter's deeply held belief that America's vital long-term interests were best served by the development of a relationship between the two nations that was functional, constructive, results-oriented, mutually beneficial and politically sustainable. My friend, Chip Carter, and I are blessed to be able to help carry on the important work of our fathers.

The Past, Present, and Future of U.S.-China Relations: A Bush China Foundation Conversation with President Jimmy Carter

GEORGE H. W. BUSH FOUNDATION FOR U.S.-CHINA RELATIONS
PRESIDENT AND CEO DAVID FIRESTEIN:

Mr. President, thank you so much for taking the time to share your perspective on the U.S.-China relationship. Before getting into the questions, let me take this opportunity

to say how deeply we, at the George H. W. Bush Foundation for U.S.-China Relations, appreciate your monumental contributions to the development of modern U.S.-China relations. You were the unanimous choice of the Bush China Foundation's Board of Directors to receive the inaugural George H. W. Bush Award for

A Message from Chip Carter

Son of Former President Jimmy Carter

I first visited China in 1977 when my father sent me as part of a congressional delegation. Having spent considerable time in China since then, I was pleased to join Neil Bush in Beijing during the 2019 celebrations of the 40th anniversary of U.S.-China relations. The partnership between The Carter Center and the Bush China Foundation has grown since then. In addition to working together to advance U.S.-China Relations, we've had the opportunity to continue our fathers' shared legacies together, including when I accepted the first George H. W. Bush Award on behalf of my father. In addition to both playing a role in our families' legacies on U.S.-China relations, Neil and I have found that we share common ground on other topics as well. At a time when our country is divided along party lines, it's refreshing that our families can come together to work on a common goal.

Statesmanship in U.S.-China Relations in 2019, the fortieth anniversary year of your visionary decision to normalize the diplomatic relationship between the United States and China. Thank you, Mr. President, for all you did as president, and all you have done in your post-presidency, to nurture this most consequential bilateral relationship.



Deng Xiaoping, Vice Premier of China at a lectern with President Jimmy Carter, Washington, D.C.

Photo courtesy of U.S. News & World Report Magazine Photograph Collection (Library of Congress).

fundamental differences, I believe leaders in Washington and Beijing share one common goal; to create peaceful and stable conditions for their people to pursue happiness.

FIRESTEIN (continued):

Mr. President, the U.S.-China relationship is clearly in a very different place today than it was even just a few years ago. What is your take on where the relationship is today? Has the stark deterioration of the relationship we have seen over the last several years surprised you?

PRESIDENT CARTER:

The U.S.-China relationship recently was at its lowest point in years. The relationship has been of significant importance to me and to President George H. W. Bush, and I am hopeful that it will improve under the Biden administration. In January 2019, The Carter Center held a three-day meeting to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the normalization of U.S.-China relations. Our being the only U.S.-based organization to do this is a stark indication of how the bilateral landscape has changed in recent years.

FIRESTEIN:

Mr. President, a bipartisan consensus has emerged in Washington around the idea that China is America's most formidable national competitor and that the United States must respond with a "whole of government" and "whole of society" approach. Would you agree with this characterization? Do you believe that China's strategic intentions are fundamentally incompatible with the interests of the United States?

PRESIDENT CARTER:

The U.S.-China global trade relationship is one of the most important in the world. Since Deng Xiaoping and I made the joint decision to normalize relations 42 years ago, both countries have reaped countless benefits. Even in a competitive economic environment, there is room for mutual growth and cooperation. Our societies are entwined, and our governments need to protect this important societal and economic connection. Despite some

FIRESTEIN:

Mr. President, your abiding commitment to the advancement of human rights worldwide was a hallmark of your presidency and has been a hallmark of your post-presidency through The Carter Center. Clearly human rights is one of a number of deeply contentious areas in the U.S.-China relationship today. Given the evident chasm between the two countries on this issue, is it at this point even possible for the United States to usefully engage China on human rights and, if so, what approach do you think would be most effective?

PRESIDENT CARTER:

In my meetings with four generations of Chinese leaders I was always told China ranks the right to survive and live a better life more important than the right to be free. China's successful effort to eradicate abject poverty in the country is unique. When people are free from want and fear, they can begin to address broader freedoms. (continued on page 16)...

A BUSH CHINA FOUNDATION CONVERSATION WITH PRESIDENT JIMMY CARTER

PRESIDENT CARTER (continued):

In this sense U.S. government officials and NGOs like the Bush China Foundation and The Carter Center should and must engage China on human rights issues. We should approach China from a position of engagement. Patience is necessary when engaging China on human rights issues.

FIRESTEIN:

Trade also has been a tremendously contentious area in the relationship. What adjustments do you think we need to make in our trade policy toward China so that better results can be achieved for the American people?

PRESIDENT CARTER:

Concerns around protection of intellectual property rights, coercive technology transfer, state subsidies, and non-tariff barriers should be addressed by the Chinese and U.S. governments so that each has a market for their goods. Weaponizing trade issues will hurt citizens of both countries. I'm a farmer, and I know China imports vast quantities of American agricultural products. The current trade war has prevented American exports from reaching Chinese markets.

FIRESTEIN:

Mr. President, a seemingly growing number of American observers of the U.S.-China relationship predict that the United States and China may very well come to blows – actually go to war – over Taiwan or other issues of comparable geostrategic significance.



Photo courtesy of Bernard Gotfryd photograph collection (Library of Congress)

To what degree do you worry about the possibility of military conflict between the United States and China? What do you think the United States and China can realistically do to minimize the possibility of conflagration?

PRESIDENT CARTER:

It is my belief that both countries desire peace and have worked to prevent conflict. In 1979, our Congress passed the Taiwan Relations Act, which acknowledges the One China Policy but also makes it clear that force should not be used between Mainland China and Taiwan. Over the past four decades there have been multiple situations that could have led to conflict, but the leaders of both countries made peace their priority. Through diplomacy, any crisis has been diverted.

FIRESTEIN:

President George H. W. Bush believed

that virtually no major global challenge could be enduringly resolved in the absence of effective U.S.-China cooperation. Notwithstanding the current tensions in the relationship, are there ways in which the United States and China can come together in common cause, for example, in promoting sustainable global development – an area that The Carter Center has long championed?

PRESIDENT CARTER:

There are global challenges that require the U.S. and China to cooperate. Global warming, nuclear proliferation, international terrorism, and various regional conflicts could best be resolved with leadership and participation from Washington and Beijing.

Many of the Carter Center's resources are allocated to eradicate neglected tropic diseases and to sustain good governance in the developing world. I believe Africa is the best place for the U.S. and China to cooperate. In 2014 the two nations joined forces to contain Ebola. Afterward they created the African Centers for Disease Control. Now the two countries should and must design and implement a joint strategy to vaccinate more than one billion people in Africa. Both the U.S. and China are involved in development assistance in developing nations. It should be natural for the U.S. Agency for International Development, the China International Development Cooperation Agency, and American and Chinese non-

governmental organizations to share information and best practices.

FIRESTEIN:

Mr. President, from the early 1970s until perhaps 2017, there was an enduring bipartisan consensus in this country on the value and benefit to the United States of engagement with China. For example, your decision to normalize the diplomatic relationship in 1979 and President George H. W. Bush's subsequent efforts to keep the U.S.-China relationship on track in the wake of the events of 1989 were both rooted in the belief that the long-term interests of the United States – and indeed the cause of China's political, economic and social evolution – were best served by a relationship between the two countries that was normal, functional, healthy, and increasingly robust. Many now reject that belief. What would you say to those who reject the premise that U.S.-China engagement is good for America?

PRESIDENT CARTER:

*In December 1978, when Vice Premier Deng Xiaoping and I announced our decision, we knew that we were opening an era of opportunity for both nations. I have been proud to witness the benefits that have followed. **Most important in my opinion has been four decades of peace in East Asia and the Pacific. During the previous four decades both the U.S. and China suffered during numerous violent conflicts in the region. Since then***

our nations and the entire region have benefited from this peace.

The United States has benefited. Trade and investment with China have advanced our economy. New jobs were created. Tourism has flourished. Chinese merchandise has made ordinary Americans' lives better. Our universities and colleges welcomed thousands of Chinese students and scholars. Our institutions have gained from the talent of Chinese researchers, and their American experience has influenced modern China.

FIRESTEIN:

Mr. President, at the end of 2018, you wrote, "The United States and China need to build their futures together,



Deng Xiaoping, Vice Premier of China and President Jimmy Carter waving from a balcony at the White House, Washington, D.C.

Photo courtesy of U.S. News & World Report Magazine Photograph Collection (Library of Congress).

for themselves and for humanity at large." That is a particularly farsighted and courageous exhortation given the state of U.S. political and public sentiment toward China today. Can we still be hopeful, in 2021, about the prospects for building our futures together? What can both countries do today to advance your inspiring vision?

PRESIDENT CARTER:

"Building Hope" is a basic tenet of The Carter Center. I am hopeful about the prospects for building our futures together. I am confident that both the American and Chinese people desire peace and prosperity. Together they can call on their leaders to abandon irrational policies. My 97th birthday falls on China's National Day this year. I hope stability and vitality will be restored to the relationship Deng Xiaoping and I established.

The Carter Center and I take the long view on this relationship and, for that reason, I am hopeful. While the official diplomatic relationship between our countries is just four decades old, we have had positive interactions for centuries. Even when diplomatic tensions are high, The Carter Center, the Bush China Foundation, and other organizations like the China-U.S. Exchange Foundation in Hong Kong focus on promoting people-to-people exchange. Strong business, educational, and personal connections between China and the U.S. create strong roots that help our relationship endure temporary policy disagreements. 🇺🇸

THE GEORGE H. W. BUSH AWARD FOR LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT IN U.S.-CHINA RELATIONS

2020 AWARD WINNER: FLORENCE FANG



“No U.S. president had a deeper understanding of China than President Bush. Receiving this award and this recognition of my 60 years of efforts to bring the United States and China closer together means the world to me.”

– FLORENCE FANG

TOP LEFT: George H. W. Bush and Florence Fang, circa 1992; ABOVE (From L-R): Neil Bush, Florence Fang and David Firestein at the launch of the U.S.-China Coronavirus Action Network in San Francisco, California, February 2020.



Ms. Florence Fang, a prominent California businesswoman, civic leader and philanthropist, received the 2020 George H. W. Bush Award for Lifetime Achievement in U.S.-China Relations. Ms. Fang was recognized for her decades of significant personal efforts to bridge the United States and China and deepen understanding between the peoples of the two countries.

“The Bush China Foundation couldn’t be more pleased and proud to honor Florence Fang, a living legend in the arena of U.S.-China people-to-people engagement,” said David Firestein, inaugural president and CEO of the George H. W. Bush Foundation for U.S.-China Relations. “Florence’s vision, leadership, passion, dedication and philanthropic generosity **in the service of building ever-stronger bonds between the peoples of the United States and China have made a real and meaningful difference in the lives of countless people** in both countries and in the bilateral relationship itself.”

U.S.-CHINA CORONAVIRUS ACTION NETWORK



In February 2020, in response to the outbreak of COVID-19 in Wuhan, China and the spread of the virus globally, the Bush China Foundation quickly established the U.S.-China Coronavirus Action Network (CAN). This broad network has been a leader in connecting private sector companies, nonprofit organizations and individual volunteers across the globe to provide critical resources to those that need them. The mission of CAN is to support worldwide efforts to minimize the toll of this public health crisis and to contain the spread of the virus. **Leveraging the Bush China Foundation's unique connectivity across diverse industries including health, technology, business and local governments, CAN bridged previously isolated networks to create greater levels of cooperation resulting in meaningful and timely actions.**

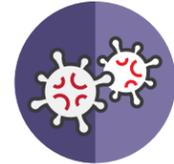
COVID-19 has presented the greatest global public health challenge of our time, jeopardizing the health and wellbeing and economies of the entire global community. To prevent and appropriately respond to future global health threats, the United States and China, two of the world's most populous nations and largest economies, must work in tandem including on mitigating the continued health and socioeconomic impacts of COVID-19. There is a Chinese saying, feng yu tong zhou, meaning "wind and rain, we all are in the same boat"; and there is a western saying, "united we stand, divided we fall." As we have witnessed with the coronavirus, pandemics respect no national boundaries, political affiliations, ethnicities or socioeconomic status—we are all in the same boat. The Bush China Foundation, through the work of CAN and other major global public health initiatives, is working to ensure better coordination on critical issues of this nature in the future.



Facilitated **millions of dollars of much-needed PPE to governments and healthcare facilities** during the peak of the outbreak in China and the first wave in the United States.



Provided both Chinese and U.S. officials, along with healthcare entities, with resources to combat COVID-19, including **vaccine research and innovative anti-germ products.**



Established and facilitated **information and resource-sharing platforms**, reaching a wide group of contacts in the United States and China.

HOW TO PREPARE FOR THE NEW NORMAL

May 7, 2020 | WEBINAR

Co-hosted with China Science Healthcare, Tencent Healthcare and China Investment Corporation Financial Holdings, **this webinar brought together China's leading COVID-19 specialists and public health experts from top U.S. academic institutions** to share experiences and offer technical support to mitigate the negative societal and health impacts of COVID-19.

[VIEW WEBINAR](#)

OVERCOMING CHALLENGES OF COVID-19 AND EVOLVING OPPORTUNITIES IN THE POST-PANDEMIC ERA

June 4, 2020 | WEBINAR

Co-sponsored with leading U.S. and Chinese academic institutions, this panel discussion featured public health experts from universities around the world, including Harvard University, Rice University, Yale University and Zhejiang University. **The webinar highlighted the experiences of China, Canada, Singapore and the United States in combating COVID-19.**

[LEARN MORE](#)

2019/2020 MEDIA AND EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

30 YEARS AFTER TIANANMEN: POPULAR PROTESTS IN CHINESE HISTORY AND CONTEMPORARY SOCIETIES

Forum: September 27, 2019

The Bush China Foundation co-sponsored with The University of Texas Department of History and six other UT departments and centers a panel discussion on past and current popular protests in mainland China, Hong Kong and Taiwan. Commemorating the 30th anniversary of the 1989 Tiananmen demonstrations, scholars from the United States and China explored the aftermath of these historical protests and their continued impact on Chinese society as well as contemporary popular protests in Hong Kong and Taiwan.

LEARN MORE

HONG KONG NATIONAL SECURITY LAW - A LEGAL AND ECONOMIC DISCUSSION

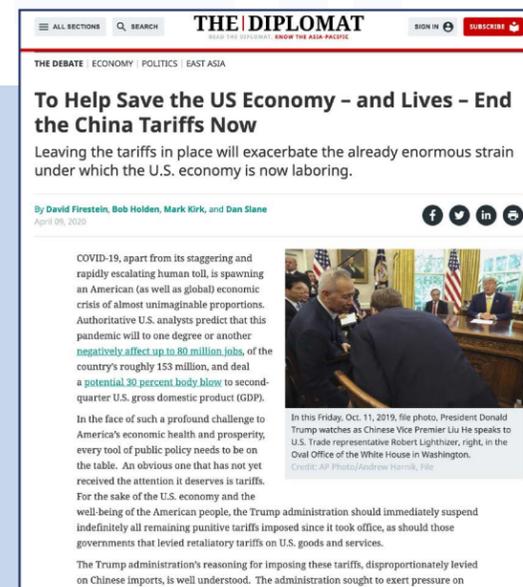
Webinar: July 29, 2020

Co-organized with the Hong Kong Association of New York, this off-the-record panel discussion highlighted the legal and economic impact of Hong Kong's national security law on the U.S.-China business, trade and investment relationship. Visit our website for more information.

LEARN MORE

THE DIPLOMAT: TO HELP SAVE THE US ECONOMY - AND LIVES - END THE CHINA TARIFFS NOW

Op-Ed: April 9, 2020



“At a time when the United States is already losing millions of jobs and a potentially large percentage of its GDP, to say nothing of at least thousands of American lives, keeping on the books these job-killing and potentially life-threatening tariffs - which simultaneously hurt U.S. shareholders, companies, workers, farmers, ranchers, and consumers (who ultimately pay for them) - is unconscionable and indefensible.”

READ OPINION

THE HILL: NAVIGATING US-TAIWAN POLICY IN 2021

Op-Ed: November 24, 2020



A VIEW OF COVID THROUGH THE LENS OF U.S.-CHINA RELATIONS

Podcast: December 17, 2020

COVID-19 has undoubtedly been a very negative factor in the relationship between the U.S. and China. This situation has fostered a new dynamic of distrust, and holds significant bearing on the future relations between these two nations.

Dr. Thomas Frieden, former Director of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), joined David Firestein and explored the COVID-19 impact through the lens of U.S.-China relations, how the incoming Biden administration may approach this issue and whether the United States and China can actually learn from COVID-19, as a means to improve cooperation in the area of global health.

CLICK TO LISTEN



AMERICA'S EVOLVING RELATIONSHIP WITH THE ASIA-PACIFIC

Podcast: December 3, 2020

Susan Thornton, retired senior U.S. diplomat, joined David Firestein where they discussed expectations concerning U.S. relations with China under the then incoming Biden Administration and assessments of engaging traditional allies in Asia. The discussion delved into the challenges of restoring diplomatic relations with Asian nations, re-engaging China on different terms and internal and external challenges with regards to trade.

“It’s going to be very difficult for us to get back to a place domestically where we can be contemplating signing or joining new trade agreements, which may be potentially debilitating for the United States, given that Asia is going to be the most dynamically growing part of the global economy for the coming decade,” states Thornton.

CLICK TO LISTEN

ABOVE: The Diplomat [Online Image], from <https://thediplomat.com/2020/04/to-help-save-the-us-economy-and-lives-end-the-china-tariffs-now/>; OPPOSITE PAGE: The Hill [Online Image], from <https://thehill.com/opinion/international/527116-navigating-us-taiwan-policy-in-2021>

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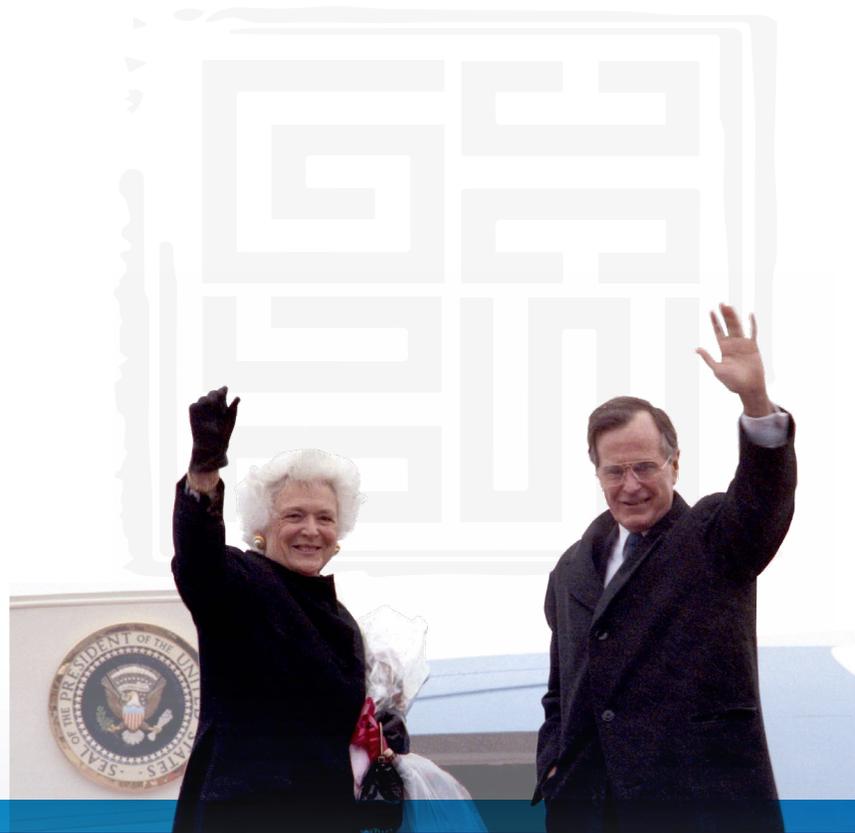
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Head of Chinese &
Asian Markets
Equity Bank & Trust
Bahamas Limited



Dandan Zou
Co-Founder & Senior
Partner
Mainstay Global, LLC



Yali Zou
University Endowed
Professor
Global Leadership Studies,
& Professor of Educational
Leadership & Policy Studies,
University of Houston



“No problem of human making is too great to be overcome by human ingenuity, human energy, and the untiring hope of the human spirit.”

– PRESIDENT GEORGE H. W. BUSH

ABOVE: President George H. W. Bush and Mrs. Barbara Bush depart Tokyo for Beijing, 25 February 1989 (Photo credit: George H. W. Bush Presidential Library and Museum)



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