

# Debbie Chinn

## Author, Producer, CEO, Thought Leader

A proud daughter of Chinese immigrants, Debbie was born and raised on Long Island, New York. The seeds of her philanthropic career were sown in her family's famous Polynesian nightclub. It may sound improbable, but it is true.



Photo credit: Ben Krantz Studio

**Debbie Chinn** has held C-suite positions as Executive Director of TheatreWorks Silicon Valley, Opera Parallèle, Carmel Bach Festival, as Managing Director of California Shakespeare Theatre, Baltimore's Center Stage, and Shakespeare Theater of New Jersey. She was engaged as a consultant by the Philadelphia Orchestra to support the acquisition of international corporate sponsorships and the planning of global exchange programs associated with their inaugural China Residency Initiative which launched in Beijing, China in May 2012 to coincide with the 40th anniversary of President Nixon's historic visit to the People's Republic of China.

Since 2020, she has been engaged as the Managing Director for Anna Deavere Smith's "Pipeline Girls" Project.



Speaking engagement at The Commonwealth Club, moderated by Dr. Anne Smith.



Joining Susie Falk, California Shakespeare Theatre's Managing Director, for a curtain speech.



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(continue from page 1)

Debbie serves as Board President of the San Francisco Community Music Center, and is on the boards of Playwrights Foundation, and the Chinese Culture Center of San Francisco. She is past Board Chair of Theatre Bay Area. On a national level, she served on the Leadership Council of the National Small Business Association – the nation’s first small-business advocacy organization based in Washington, D.C. Her past board affiliations include Theatre Communications Group, the Association of California Symphony Orchestras (Board President), and Network of Ensemble Theatres.

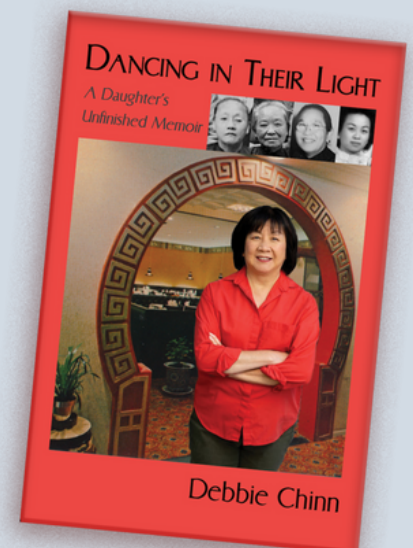
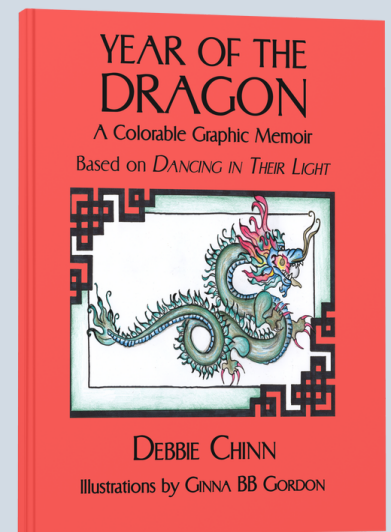


Debbie’s transformative leadership work in the realm of community engagement is featured as one of 13 case studies in “Creative Social Change: Leadership for a Healthy World” in the International Leadership Association Series, available through Amazon, which assembles thought leaders to reimagine leadership in building a healthy, sustainable, and equitable world.

The breadth of her entire career – as an artist, performer, community builder, event producer, board member, mentor, consultant, activist, author, and CEO – will be archived with the Performing Arts Legacy Project. She will be known as a Legacy Artist joining esteemed colleagues such as Len Cariou, Dana Ivey, Randall Duk Kim, André De Shields, LeRoy Reams, and other creative artists whose careers will also be archived and memorialized. She is the first arts executive to be included in this Project.

Her book, “Dancing in Their Light, a Daughter’s Unfinished Memoir”, published in March 2022, chronicles her life growing up in a restaurant and Polynesian nightclub as influenced by the pioneering impact her family of immigrants have made to advance the fields of research, science, medicine, academia, engineering, arts, humanities, cultural diplomacy, and culinary hospitality in the U.S. Her newest book, “Year of the Dragon – a Colorable Graphic Memoir” was published in January 2024.

Debbie has a third book in development with a scheduled publication date of September, 2024.



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