

DECADES OF PICKING SUGARCANE,
YEARS OF FIGHTING IN UNJUST WARS,
AND FORCED MIGRATION TO A FOREIGN LAND
FOR SURVIVAL
WHERE YOU WORK EVERYDAY, NON-STOP,
TO SEND MONEY HOME TO YOUR LOVED ONES
CENTURIES OF COLONIAL CONQUESTS
HAS TRICKED MY ANCESTORS INTO
BELIEVING THEIR SUFFERING, HARD WORK,
AND SACRIFICE FOR WHITE SUPREMACY WOULD
GRANT US
OUR FREEDOM
SO HERE WE ARE

Excerpt from "For My Ancestors"
by MC Amable

Manilatown was a Filipino American enclave adjacent to Chinatown which thrived from the 1920's to the late 1970's. It was once a bustling neighborhood and was home to numerous Filipino American families and businesses on a 10-block stretch of Kearny Street from Market to Jackson. At it's height, Manilatown was home to 30,000 Filipino migrant laborers. During the 1950's, Manilatown's neighborhood slowly grew smaller as the city made way for the Financial District.



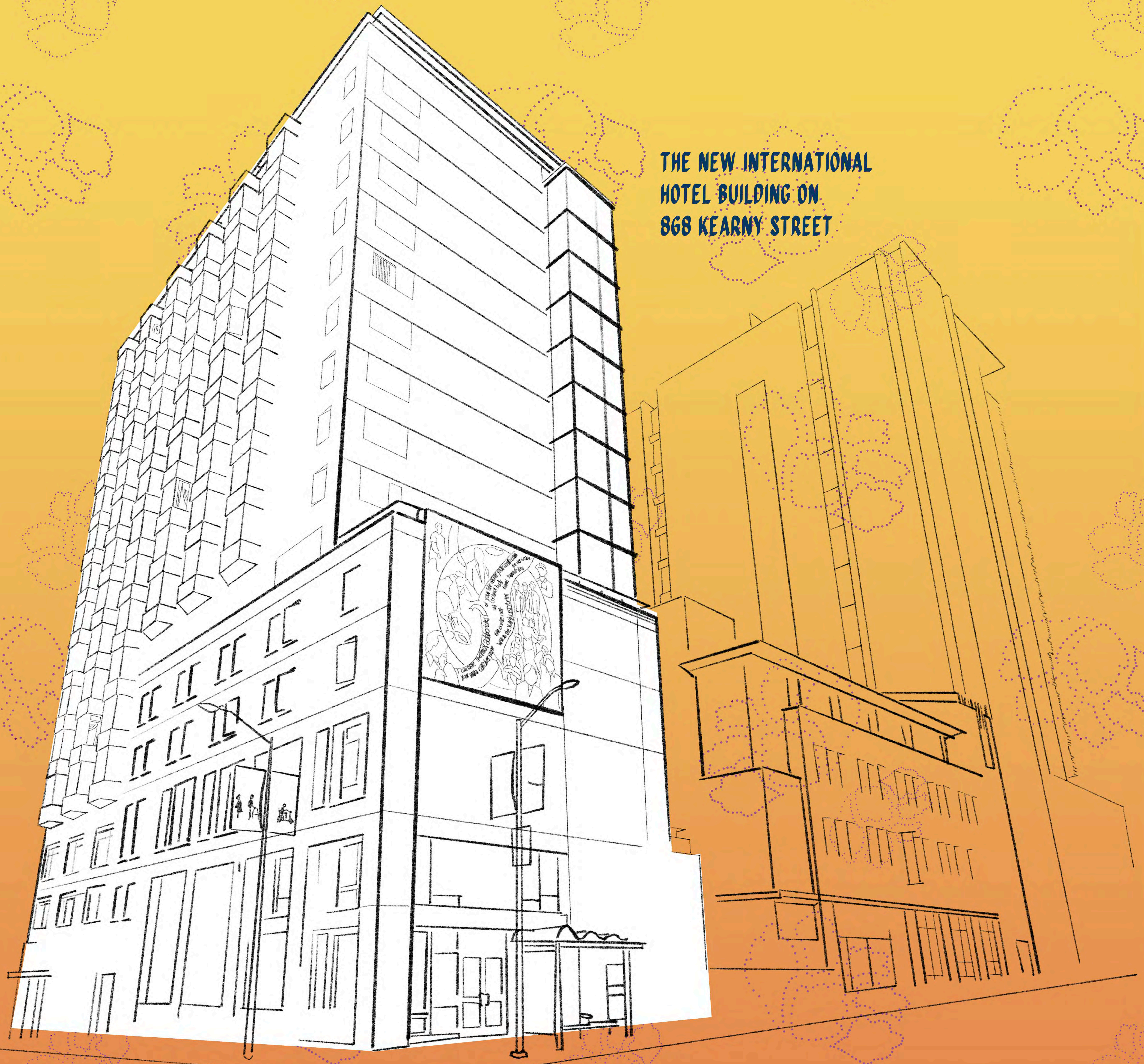
THE ORIGINAL INTERNATIONAL
HOTEL BUILDING ON
848 KEARNY STREET

MANILATOWN LEGACY

The International Hotel was a low-income residential hotel that became the most dramatic housing-rights battleground in San Francisco history. As a center for Asian American activism in the 1970's, the building housed nearly 150 Filipino and Chinese seniors, three community groups, an art workshop, a radical bookstore and three Asian newspapers. The I-Hotel stood on the last remaining block of Manilatown, a once-thriving Filipino neighborhood that was gradually displaced by San Francisco's expanding financial district.

Text by Claude Moller

From 1968 to 1977, landlords of the hotel tried to evict the residents and build a parking lot. Resisting eviction for almost a decade, the tenants organized a mass-based, multiracial alliance which included students, unions and churches. During a final 3AM eviction on August 4, 1977, over 3,000 people unsuccessfully defended the I-Hotel from hundreds of club-wielding riot police. The building was demolished in 1979, and it remained a vacant hole for over two decades. Thanks to a concerted effort by local neighborhood groups, the I-hotel was rebuilt in 2005, providing 104 units of low-income senior housing and a community center to continue the legacy of Manilatown.



THE NEW INTERNATIONAL
HOTEL BUILDING ON
868 KEARNY STREET

MANILATOWN LIVES!

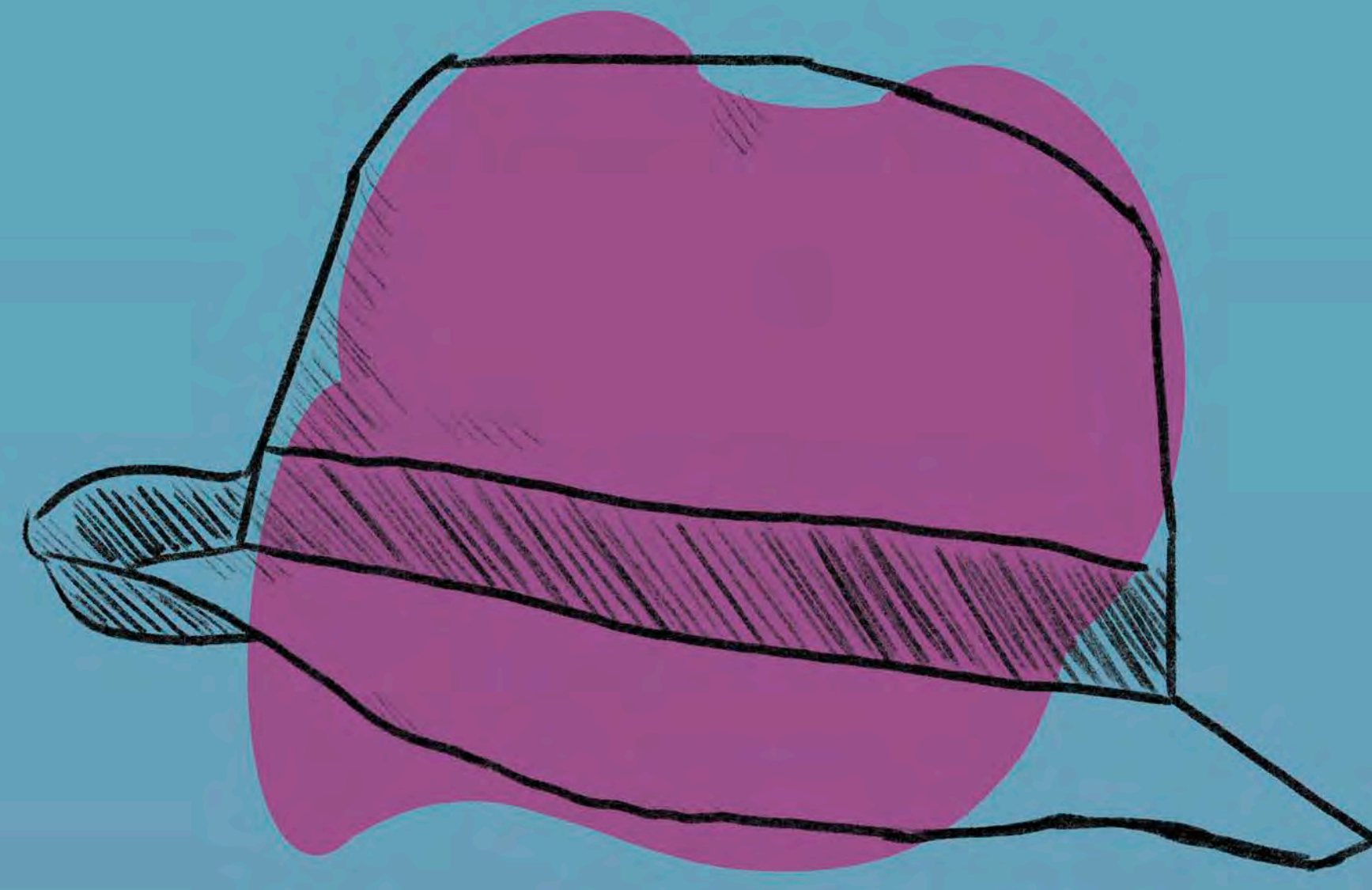
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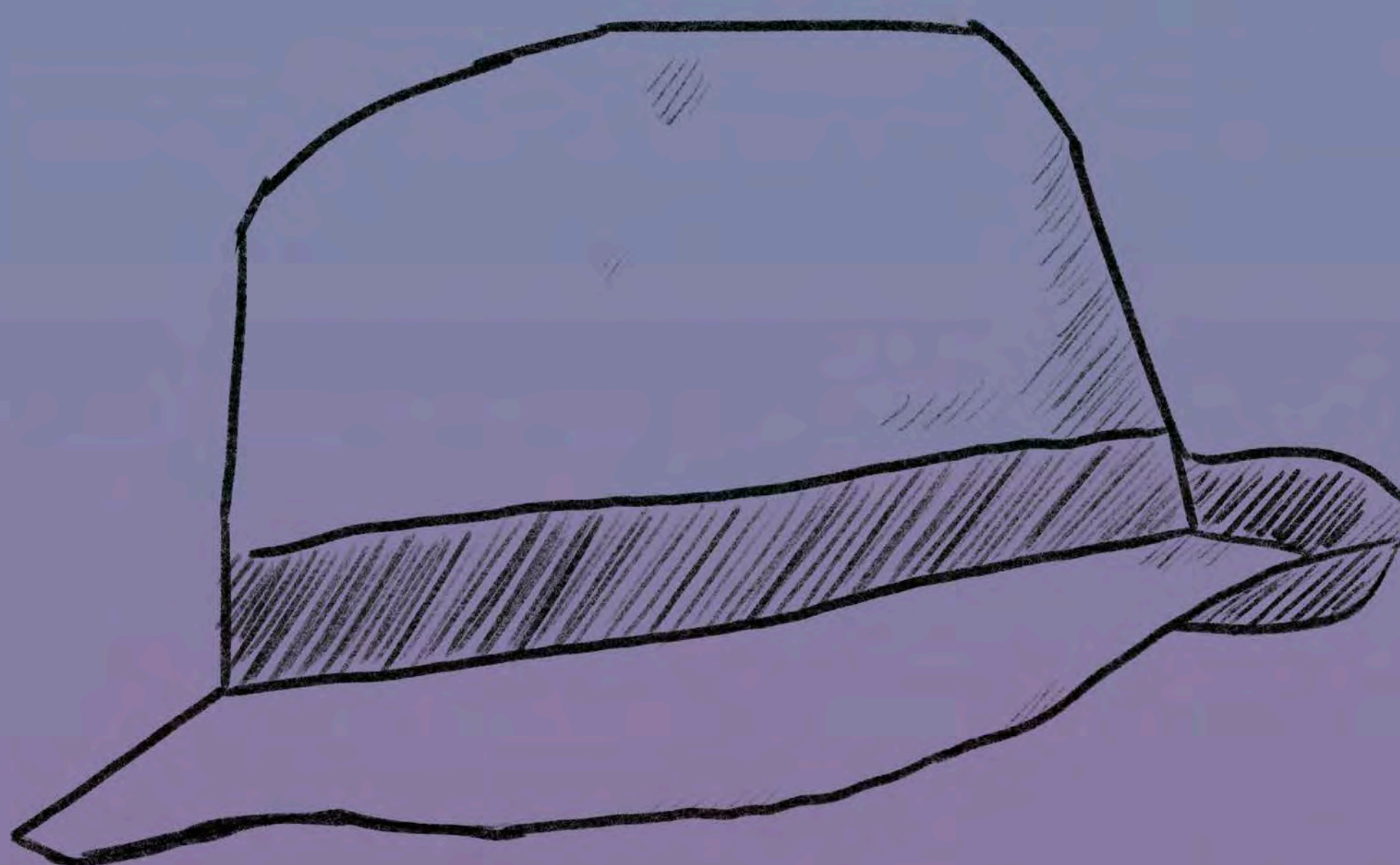
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5



6



1. Tino's Barbershop, previously situated on Kearny Street in the once-bustling Manilatown neighborhood operated as a community hub for elderly Manongs who resided in the I-Hotel. 2. A Fedora Hat was part of the signature style of the Manongs, elderly Filipino men who immigrated to the United States. Although most of these men were laborers, their adoption of an American suit was an expression of their style and worthiness. 3. During the immigration of the Manongs, the ratio of men to women was 14:1; intentionally designed to keep Filipino communities from growing families. 4. During the night of the inhumane eviction on August 4, 1977, activists, along with students from San Francisco State University and UC Berkeley formed a 3,000 person human barricade to protect the I-Hotel residents. 5. The tiger became a symbol of the movement for the I-Hotel. It was originally painted by Leland Wong on the door of Kearny Street Workshop, an Asian community arts workshop housed on the bottom floor of the I-Hotel building. 6. "We Won't Move" was plastered on the front of the International Hotel building leading up to the evictions in 1977.

Untitled (Places, Icons, Situations - Memories we must not let fade), 2021

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