



Pearl Buck's Footprint and Influence in Korea

Centering on the “Sosa Opportunity Center 1030 Project”

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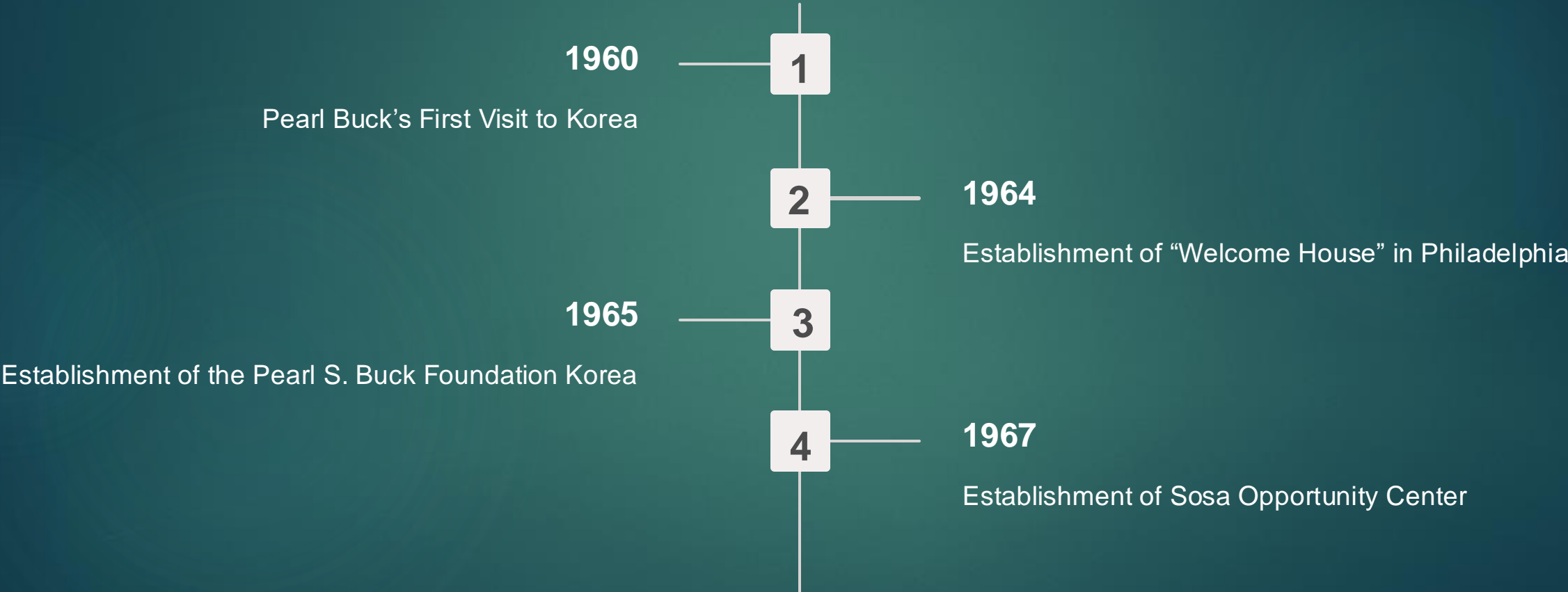
1. Preface

- ▶ The “Sosa Opportunity Center 1030 Project” is an attempt to restore the footsteps of the Sosa Opportunity Center, which was Pearl Buck’s humanitarian project in Korea.
- ▶ The project was carried out by Bucheon City and the Pearl S. Buck Memorial Hall over three years from 2018 to 2020.
- ▶ The Sosa Opportunity Center provided educational opportunities and economic support to mixed-race children and their mothers in Korea.
- ▶ The Bucheon Pearl S. Buck Memorial Hall collected and systematized historical data on the Sosa Opportunity Center through this project.
- ▶ The current Pearl S. Buck Memorial Hall hosts various commemorative events.
- ▶ It aims to shed light on Pearl S. Buck’s history in Korea and share her activities in the country.
- ▶ It examines how Pearl S. Buck’s positive influence is being realized, particularly in the Bucheon area.

2. Foundation of the Sosa Opportunity Center



Background of the Establishment of Sosa Opportunity Center



2. Foundation of the Sosa Opportunity Center

Operation of Sosa

Aptitude Analysis

Aptitude Test for Children

Private Tutoring

Tutoring for Children with Developmental Delays

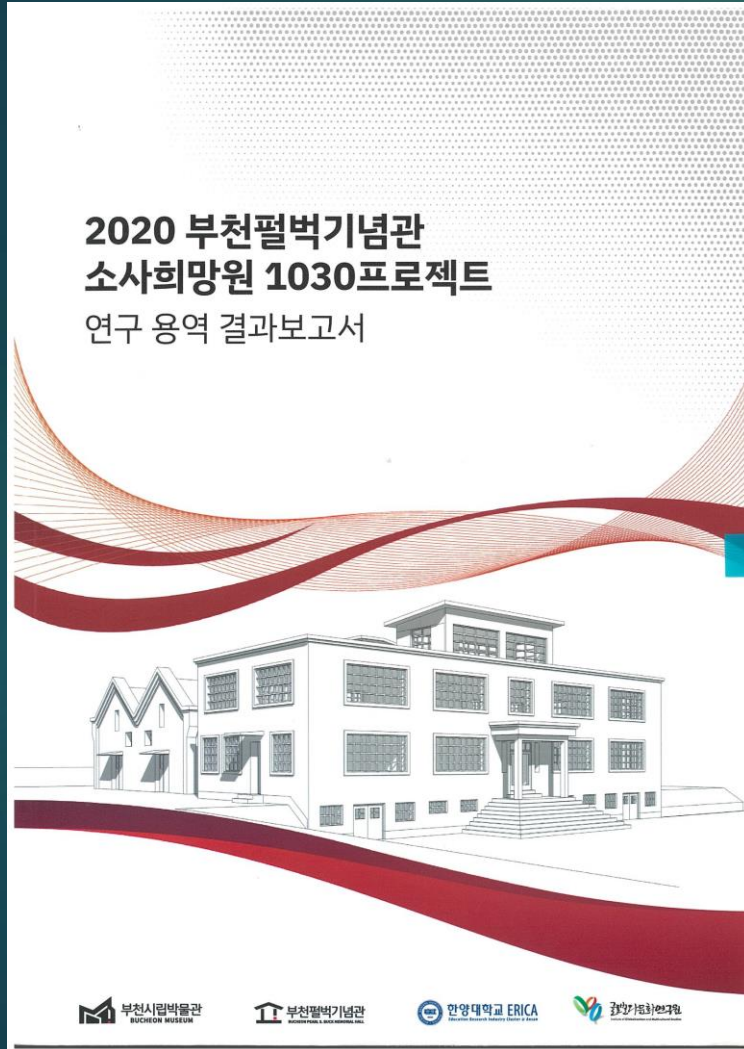
Arts Education

Special Guidance for Children with Talent in Performing Arts

Vocational Training

Vocational Education for Mixed-Race Mothers and Adult Mixed-Race Individuals

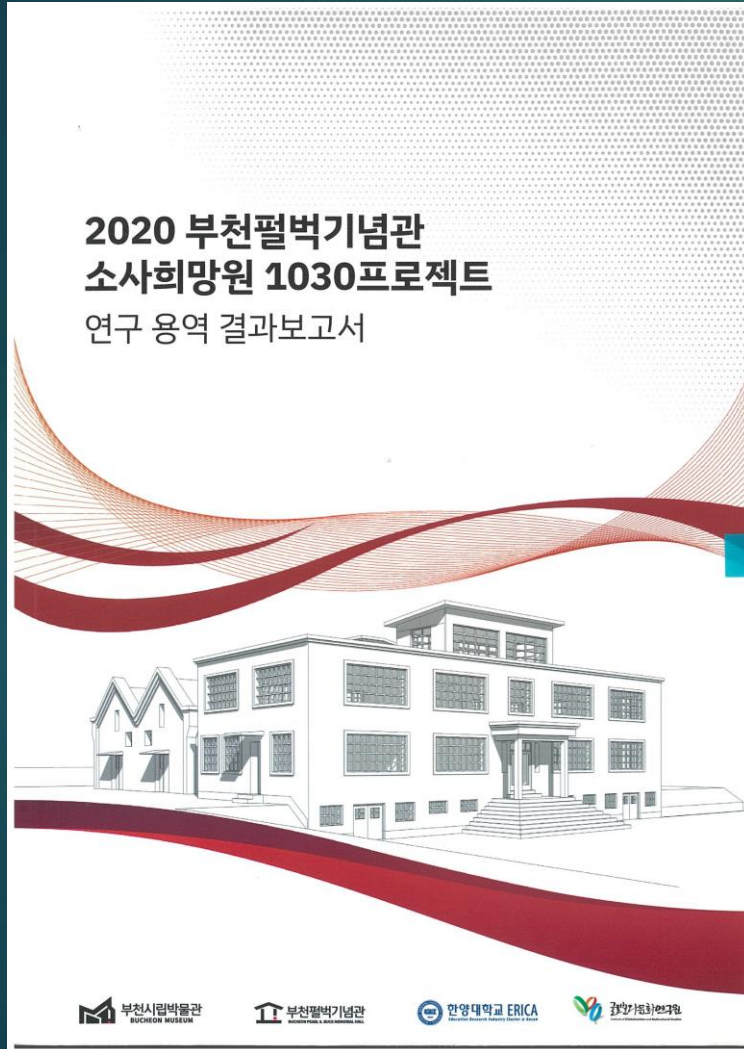
3. Sosa Opportunity Center 1030 Project



Purpose of the Sosa Opportunity Center 1030 Project

- ▶ Preparation for the Advancement and Systematization of Projects through Joining the UNESCO Creative Cities of Literature Network
- ▶ Content Discovery for Historical Restoration of Sosa Opportunity Center
- ▶ Continuous Expansion of Collected Data and Establishment of an Archive Framework

3. Sosa Opportunity Center 1030 Project



Direction of the Sosa Opportunity Center 1030 Project

- ▶ Conducting comprehensive and systematic historical research of the activities and memories of the Sosa Opportunity Center and Pearl S. Buck that are related to Bucheon City.
- ▶ Restoring historical data on the Sosa Opportunity Center, Bucheon City, and Pearl Buck related to them to create immersive historical content from a total historical and holistic perspective
- ▶ Utilizing the strengths of existing local and oral histories to establish data collection strategies for comprehensive historical restoration
- ▶ Presenting a framework for the establishment and operation of an archive system, including the classification work for the active utilization of the collected data

3-1. Status of Mixed-Race Individuals

- ▶ The actual data of the Sosa Opportunity Center during the 1960s and 1970s was documented based on the book *The Amerasians: A Study and Research on Interracial Children in Korea*, written by Sveinung J. Moen, the supervisor at that time, in 1974.
- ▶ The activities and conditions of the Pearl S. Buck Foundation Korea during the 1980s and 1990s were summarized based on the thesis by Han Kyung-ah, who was a social worker at the Pearl S. Buck Foundation Korea at that time. The thesis is titled “The Interracial Problem in Korea: Focusing on Korean-American Individuals Registered with the Pearl Buck Foundation Korea.”

3-1. Status of Mixed-Race Individuals

- ▶ Moen's data consists of registration cards and administrative records of 2,300 mixed-race individuals registered at the Pearl S. Buck Foundation Korea between 1969 and 1973.
- ▶ Additionally, a survey was conducted with approximately 100 individuals to gather and organize the information.

Item	Ratio/Information
Place of Origin	The majority of people are from the Gyeonggi-do region.
Gender	Male: 56% Women: 46%
Racial Proportions	Half-white: 71% Half-black: 27%
Living Situation	Living with mother: 64.1% Living with both parents: 15.5%

THE PEARL S. BUCK FOUNDATION, INC.

DATE January 16, 1967 SUPPORT DIVISION Korea BRANCH
CARD NO. 11007 CASE HISTORY TEMP. NUMBER

A. THE CHILD

1. NAME Pin Blaven 2. CASE # 1028
(last) (first)
 3. AGE 5 4. SEX Male 5. P. O. B. Seoul 6. D. O. B. 7/12/60
 7. STATISTICS: Weight Height Hair Brown Eyes Brown
 8. RACIAL BACKGROUND Foreigner 9. BIRTH REGISTRATION: YES g NO
 10. HISTORY AND GENERAL INFORMATION:
Child is in 1st grade, Korean Primary School.
is very healthy.

11. NAME AND ADDRESS OF SCHOOL ATTENDING: Yongyuh Primary School.
 12. GRADE: 1st 13. SUBJECTS:
 14. RELIGION: None 15. LANGUAGES: Korean

B. THE MOTHER

16. NAME: 17. AGE: 33 18. OCCUPATION: None
 19. ADDRESS: 20. INTERESTED IN ADOPTION?

C. THE FATHER

21. NAME: Unknown 22. SENDING SUPPORT? 23. STILL IN COUNTRY?
 24. DID HE KNOW OF CHILD? 25. HOW LONG WERE MOTHER AND FATHER TOGETHER?

D. BROTHERS OR SISTERS

NAME	AGE	SEX	WHERE	RACE
<u>None</u>				

E. INDICATIVES

NAME	RELATION	ADDRESS
<u>None</u>		

F. DATE OF INTERVIEW: January 8, 1967 CASE WORKER: Joana Johnson
 APPROVED BY:

SUPPORT DEPT. ONLY
 DATE ASSIGNED: BY:

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3-1. Status of Mixed-Race Individuals

- ▶ Even after the dissolution of the Sosa Opportunity Center, the Pearl S. Buck Foundation Korea continued its activities as a US foreign aid foundation officially registered with the Ministry of Health and Social Affairs.
- ▶ From 1964 to 1994, approximately 4,500 mixed-race individuals were registered with the Pearl S. Buck Foundation. It is estimated that around 3,000 of them were adopted abroad.

Item	Detailed Information
Total Number of Mixed-Race Children	625
Gender Ratio	Male: 61.7% Female: 38.3%
Racial Proportions	Half-white: 407; Half-black: 178; Others: 40
Current State of Education	Preschoolers: 70; Elementary school students: 120; Middle School students: 60; High School students: 40; University students: 2
Housing Types	Home ownership: 5.4% Monthly rent / Lease on a deposit basis: The majority of the remainder
Employment Status	Temporary job: Most Unemployed: 25%

3-1. Status of Mixed-Race Individuals

- ▶ The Pearl S. Buck Foundation Korea, under the commission of the Ministry of Health and Social Affairs, provides monthly lively support of KRW 38,000 to mixed-race individuals.
- ▶ Upon entering university, scholarships were provided, including government scholarships.
- ▶ Since 1991, the government has been subsidizing the salaries of some social workers.
- ▶ They raised awareness in the United States about the difficult circumstances faced by mixed-race individuals and provided counseling and education to them and their families. Additionally, they offered support to address basic livelihood and medical issues.

3-1. Status of Mixed-Race Individuals

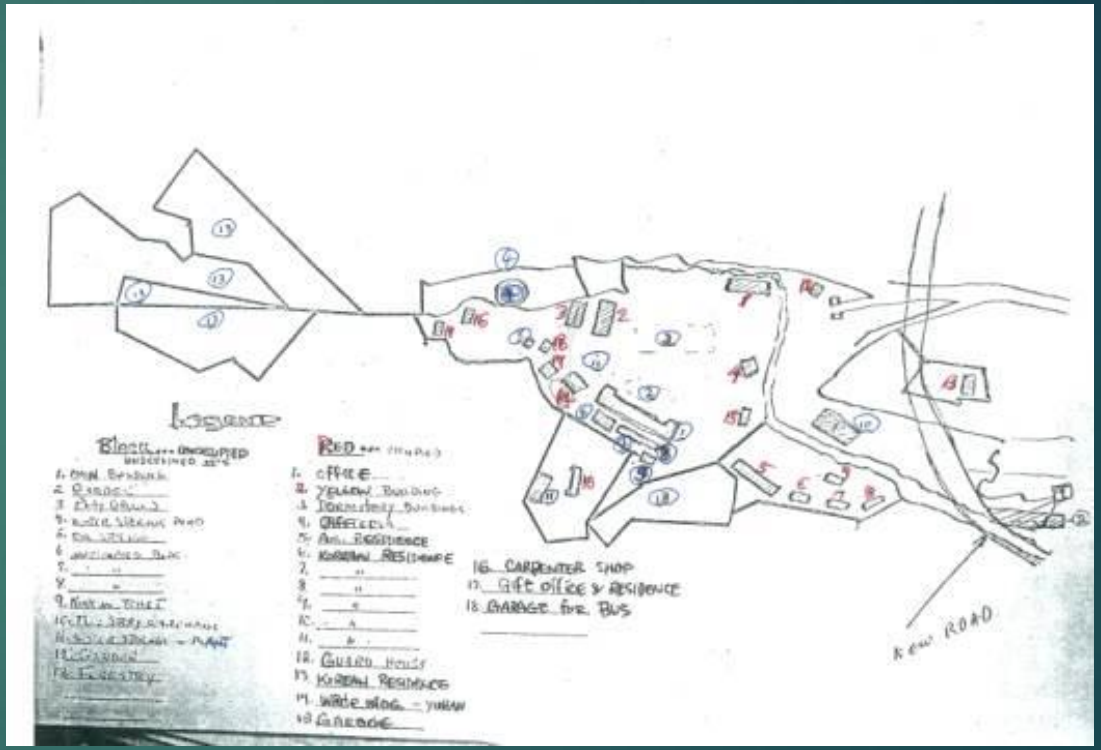
HAPA Club (HAPA: Have American Papa Association)

- ▶ **Background of Establishment:** In the late 1960s, a few mixed-race individuals formed a social group called the “Dandelion Club.” Around 1971, it expanded into the HAPA Club.
- ▶ **Manifesto:**
 - ▶ Solidarity and Mutual Support
 - ▶ Protection of Individuals and Groups from Discrimination
 - ▶ Assistance for Social Adaptation
 - ▶ Efforts to Find Jobs
- ▶ **Main Business: Support for Immigration to the United States**
 - ▶ **Background:** The enactment of the Amerasian Immigration Act in 1982 provided mixed-race individuals with the opportunity to immigrate to the United States.
 - ▶ **Support Details:** A guarantor from the mainland of the US was required. The HAPA Club collaborated with the Eighth US Army to find a guarantor and connected with the Korean-American Wives Association (KAWA).
 - ▶ **Achievements:** Approximately 690 people immigrated to the United States from 1982 to 1994.
- ▶ **Other Activities:**
 - ▶ Facilitating Study Abroad at Gonzaga University in Collaboration with Pearl S. Buck International (PSBI)
 - ▶ Exchange with the Amerasian Children Association (ACA) within the US military bases in Korea

3-2. Restoration of the Sosa Opportunity Center

- ▶ The Sosa Opportunity Center 1030 Project conducted years of research while simultaneously restoring the space of the Sosa Opportunity Center of that time.
- ▶ The site of the Sosa Opportunity Center is now occupied by apartments and villas, leaving no trace of its past. The only remaining legacy is the Pearl S. Buck Memorial Hall.
- ▶ In 2019, the research team restored the space of the Sosa Opportunity Center through interviews, drawing production, oral history collection, and spatial structure creation, based on data provided by the PSBI in the United States.
- ▶ The materials provided by the United States included building layouts, images of the main building, and panoramic photos. Additionally, we utilized photographic resources from the National Archives of Korea and the city of Bucheon.
- ▶ Additionally, through interviews with people who lived at the Sosa Opportunity Center at the time, we could vividly recreate the space's interior.
- ▶ The appearance of the Yellow Building, as restored by the research team through photo and interview materials, is as follows.

3-2. Restoration of the Sosa Opportunity Center



Materials from the KOREA box in the PSBI Archives, USA

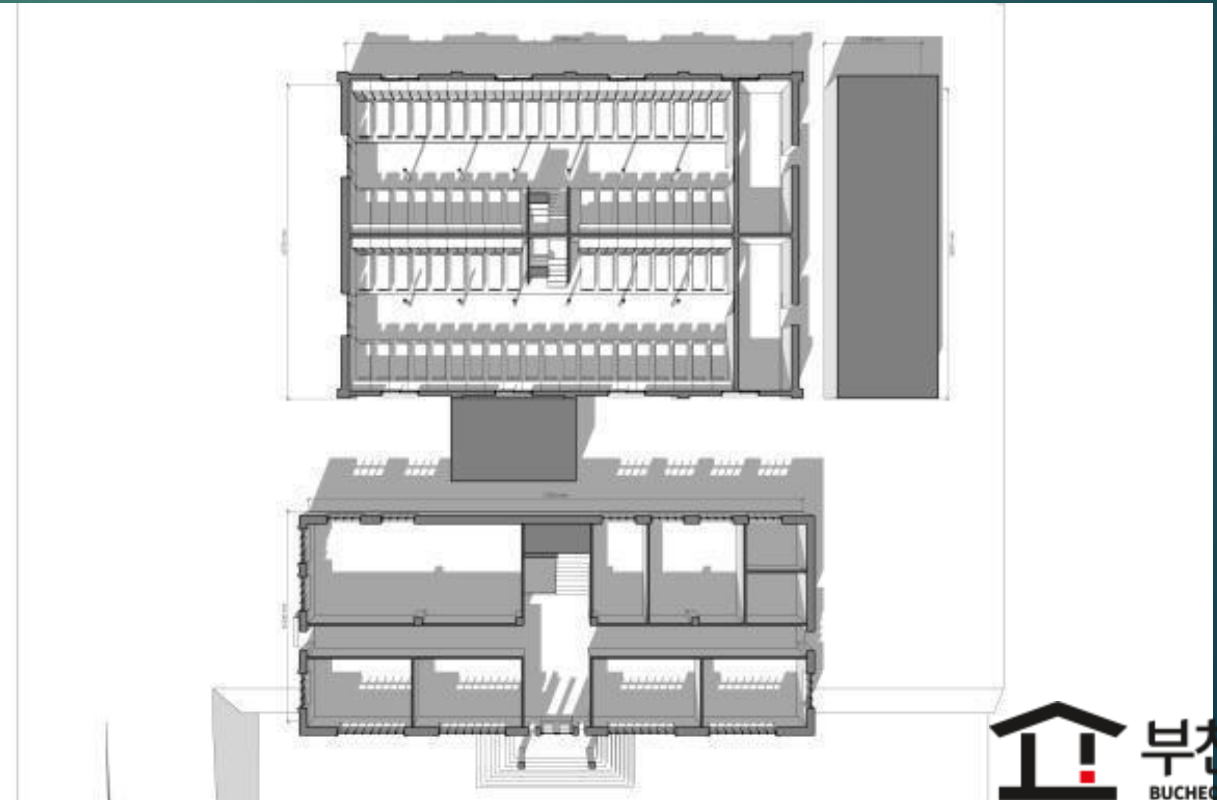
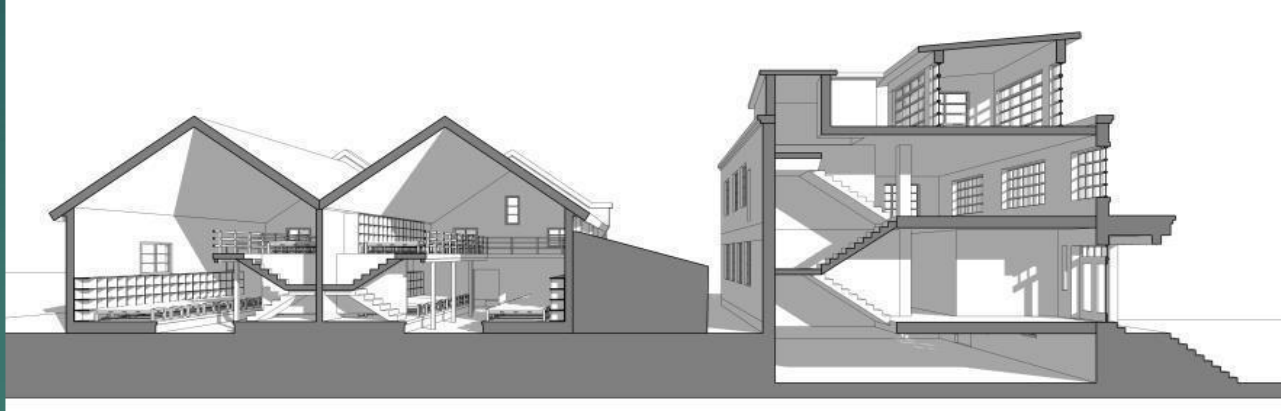
3-2. Restoration of the Sosa Opportunity Center



Main Building: Yellow Building



3-2. Restoration of the Sosa Opportunity Center



Restoration of the Dormitory
Appearance at the Time

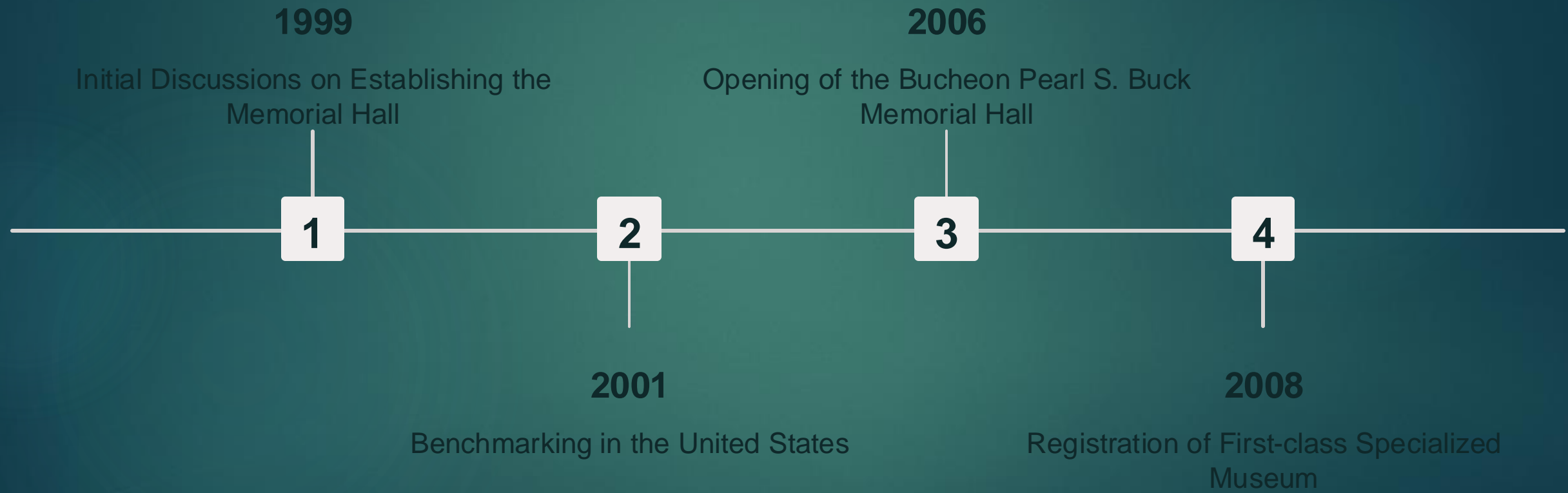
3-2. Restoration of the Sosa Opportunity Center

- ▶ **The Site of Sosa Opportunity Center:**
- ▶ **Historical Significance:** This is the site where Yuhan Corporation, Korea's first pharmaceutical company, was founded. Since 1967, it has been used as the Sosa Opportunity Center.
- ▶ **Significance of the Study:** To preserve the historical value by securing oral testimonies from people who remember the Sosa Opportunity Center
- ▶ **Professor Song Do-young's research team emphasizes:**
- ▶ **Collaboration with the Pearl S. Buck Memorial Hall:** There is a need to connect the collection and management of artifacts, as well as the development of stories at the Pearl S. Buck Memorial Hall, to support the adaptation and lives of mixed-race individuals, and the multiracial, multiethnic, and multicultural population in Korean society.
- ▶ **Operating Entity Composition:** It is necessary to have an operating entity that allows people from diverse racial, ethnic, and cultural backgrounds to communicate and engage with local residents.
- ▶ **Securing Storage and Research Budget for Artifacts:** It is crucial to secure a stable storage facility and a meaningful budget for the collection, management, and research of artifacts.
- ▶ **Need for Skilled Professionals:** It is essential to secure professionals with an international mindset, authenticity, and competence.

4. History of the Bucheon Pearl S. Buck Memorial Hall



Establishment of the Bucheon Pearl S. Buck Memorial Hall



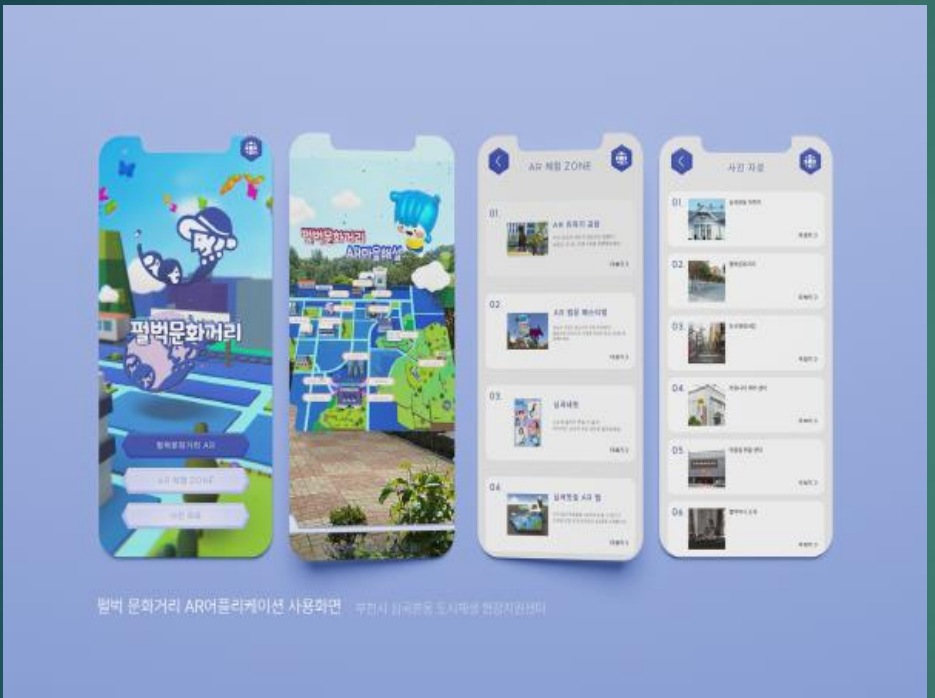
4. History of the Bucheon Pearl S. Buck Memorial Hall



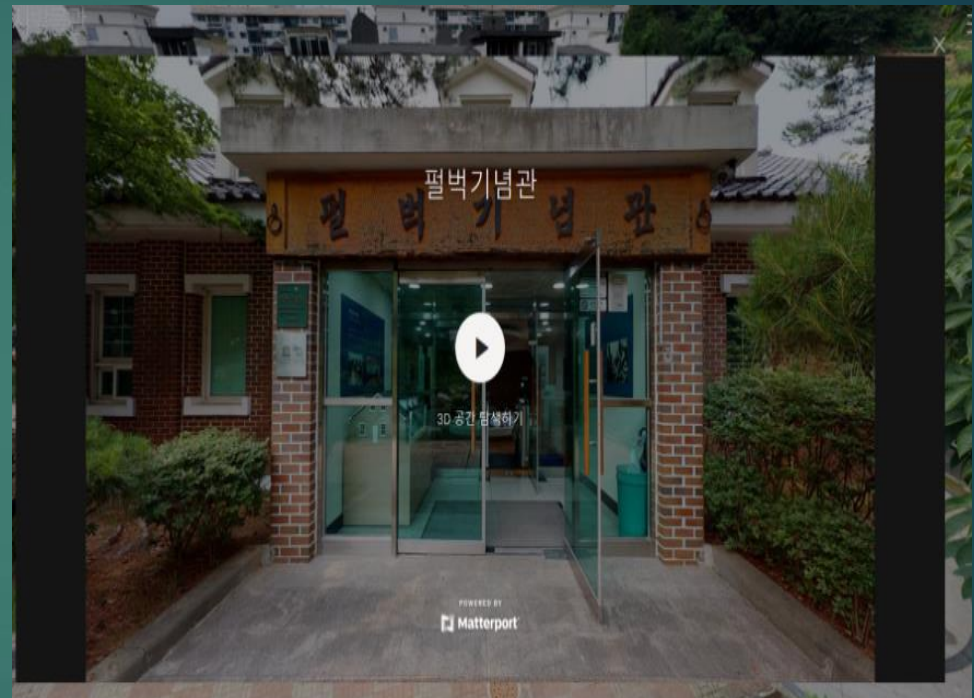
Key Information about the Bucheon Pearl S. Buck Memorial Hall

Category	Content	Category	Content
Address	61 Seongju-ro 214beon-gil, Sosa-gu, Bucheon-si, Gyeonggi-do	Construction company	Sojeong General Construction Co., Ltd. Beomawon Co., Ltd.
Total Floor Area	373 m ²	Designer	Hwashin Comprehensive Engineering Group Architects Office
Building Area	191 m ²	Supervisor	Archival Architectural Office
Land Area	3,029 m ²	Local district	Natural Green Area
Building Coverage Ratio	6.3%	Structure	Reinforced Concrete Structure
Floor Area Ratio (FAR)	12.32%	Usage	Cultural and Assembly Facilities
Number of Floors	2nd Floor Height: 6.8 m	Key finishing materials	Wall: Concrete Roof: Sloped Roof
Completion Date	August 30, 2006		

4. History of the Bucheon Pearl S. Buck Memorial Hall



Pearl S. Buck Cultural Street AR



Bucheon Pearl S. Buck Memorial Hall VR Exhibition Tour

4. History of the Bucheon Pearl S. Buck Memorial Hall

Exhibition Title	Exhibition Period	No. of Viewers
2021 Bucheon Pearl S. Buck Memorial Hall Special Exhibition: "Pearl Buck International Cultural Exchange Collection" Exhibition	Oct. 15 – Dec. 8, 2021	562
2021 Regional Culture and Arts Platform Development Project: "Let's Read Pearl Buck, Let's Know Pearl Buck!" Online Exhibition	Mar. – Nov. 2021	508
2022 Bucheon Pearl S. Buck Memorial Hall Special Exhibition: "Exhibition of Award-Winning Works from the Drawing Contest Celebrating the 130th Anniversary of Pearl Buck's Birth	Aug. 23 – Nov. 25, 2022	3,134
The 15th Pearl Buck Birth Anniversary Drawing Contest Award Exhibition	Aug. 1 – 31, 2023	730



4. History of the Bucheon Pearl S. Buck Memorial Hall

		Content			
2018	2018 Bucheon Pearl S. Buck International Symposium – Life and Literature in Pearl S. Buck (Bucheon, South Korea)		2020	Postponement Due to COVID-19	
2019	2019 Pearl S. Buck International Symposium (Held in the vicinity of Zhenjiang City, China)		2021	2021 Pearl S. Buck International Symposium: Wisdom of Pearl Buck - Exploring Her Life and Legacy (Online in the US)	
2019	Signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Joint Hosting of International Academic Symposiums between Pearl S. Buck Memorial Hall in Bucheon, South Korea; Pearl S. Buck Research Association in Zhenjiang, People's Republic of China; Pearl S. Buck International in the US, and West Virginia University		2022	2022 Pearl S. Buck International Symposium: Pearl S. Buck and Cultural Diversity (Online in Korea)	
			2023	2023 Pearl S. Buck International Symposium: Held in Zhenjiang, China	

4. History of the Bucheon Pearl S. Buck Memorial Hall

2024 Pearl S. Buck Conference

Pearl S. Buck and the Korean Cultural Movement

2024 펠벅학술대회
펠 벉과 한국문화운동

2024. 6. 26.(수) 14:00 ~ 17:30
부천시립박물관 통합관 1층 어울림강당
문의 032-320-6441 www.bcmuseum.or.kr

2024 펠벅인문학 아카데미

2024년 5월 9일 ~ 5월 30일
(매주 목) 14:00 ~ 16:30

대상 펠 벉에 관심 있는 성인, 부천시민 등 접수 현장접수
장소 부천펠벅기념관, 부천시립박물관 문의 032)320-6443
www.bcmuseum.or.kr

차시	주제	강사	일시 및 장소
1차 (펠 벉)	1) 왜 펠 벉인가?	최종고 (한국펠벅연구원)	5. 9 (목) 14:00~15:10
	2) 펠 벉의 생애와 한국펠벅재단	권태영 (한국펠벅재단)	부천시립박물관 15:20~16:30
2차 (문학 I)	3) 펠 벉 문학 속의 한국	정정호 (한국펠벅연구원)	5. 16 (목) 14:00~15:10
	4) 펠벅기념문학상 수상작품에 나타난 다문화 인식	구미리내 (영지대학교)	부천시립박물관 15:20~16:30
3차 (사회복지)	5) 펠 벉과 부천 (유한상행과 소사희망원)	신재용 (부천문화원)	5. 23 (목) 14:00~15:10
	6) 펠 벉과 한국사회복지	최소연 (영서유치원)	부천시립박물관 15:20~16:30
4차 (문학 II)	7) 펠 벉의 시와 사랑	우형숙 (국제PEN한국본부)	14:00~15:10
	8) 전후 한국문화 속의 '펠 벉'	박연희 (연세대학교)	부천시립박물관 15:20~16:30



Pearl S. Buck Academic Symposium and Humanities Academy

4. History of the Bucheon Pearl S. Buck Memorial Hall



Educational Programs and Commemorative Project

4. History of the Bucheon Pearl S. Buck Memorial Hall



Pearl S. Buck Memorial Literary Award Contest
 Pearl S. Buck Birth Anniversary Drawing Contest

5. Conclusion



The Legacy and Future Prospects of Pearl Buck



Respect for Cultural Diversity
Inherit Pearl S. Buck's spirit in the multicultural society



International Network
Expand exchanges of research on Pearl S. Buck among Korea, the United States, and China



Contribution to the Community
Hope to expand influence nationwide beyond Bucheon City