On any given evening, patrons line up along the turquoise tiles of the Union Theatre. They are handed programs and invited to sit in the theatre while music plays in anticipation of what lies behind the curtain. Perhaps there is an illustrated lecture on Egyptian records, a live goat or a series of 16mm private travelogues. Our 75-seat theatre has presented magic lantern shows, toy puppetry dramas and recitals of obscure instruments, including rhythmic sewing machines and the glass armonica.

In addition to the happenings in our permanent location, the Velaslavasay Panorama creates artistic works worldwide. Armed with crates and cases holding various spectacles - such as the Tijuana-San Diego border from 1887 to 2017, or a history of gold-rush era California - we travel throughout Asia, Europe and the Americas.

Since its birth on Hollywood Boulevard in the year 2000, the Velaslavasay Panorama has housed the only 360-degree panorama on the West Coast of the United States. Throughout our historic grounds, visitors can explore a garden wonderland, Shengjing Panorama and other exhibits including the Nova Tuskhut - the only Arctic Trading Post in the Lower 48 States - which features a dioramic window view of the northern tundra by day and night.

Our gardens offer intoxicating flora, sub-tropical plant life and budding architectural structures, providing shady refuge for unexpected wildlife. Here, you will find the Pavilion Of The Verdant Dream, a rockery inspired by landscape descriptions in Chinese Operas, and the Isle of Penglai, a fountain pond for mythological creatures.
AN HISTORIC THEATRE

The Union Theatre, home of the Velaslavasay Panorama since 2004, is one of the first purpose-built motion picture halls in the United States, erected in 1910 by architect Frank L. Stiff. Former Silent-Era film star Louise Glaum operated a playhouse here in the 1930s titled Louise Glaum’s Little Theater at Union Square. The Tile Layers Union Local #18 took the building over in the 1950s and laid complex tile work that can still be seen today. Located in the Historic West Adams District, our theatre’s façade was once a stop on the electric Yellow Rail Car line - part of the now defunct Los Angeles Railway (1901-1963). We are within walking distance from formidable sites such as the Cristo del Arbol sculpted tree on 22nd Street and the Adams Boulevard Row of Churches.

The former location of the Velaslavasay Panorama was a circular Chinese take-out restaurant on Hollywood Boulevard, purpose-built in 1968. Known as the Tsuu-nsu-ssu Rotunda, the building donned an orange orb that rests today above the neon marquee of the Union Theatre.

SHENGJING PANORAMA

A nonprofit museum serving the public, the Velaslavasay Panorama exists through foundational grants, civic funding and individual donations. Join the Velaslavasay Panorama Enthusiast Society or make a direct contribution to secure our future and support our ongoing programs.

ALL DONATIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE TO THE FULLEST EXTENT ALLOWED BY LAW AND GO TOWARD THE CONTINUED OPERATION OF THE VELASLAVASAY PANORAMA, A 501 (C) (3) NON-PROFIT PUBLIC BENEFIT ORGANIZATION.

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KEY FEATURES OF IMMERSIVE PANORamas

A - DARK HALLWAY ENTRANCE
B - OBSERVATION PLATFORM
C - 360° LANDSCAPE PAINTING
D - 3D FAUX TERRAIN SCULPTURE
E - INDIRECT LIGHTING
F - UMBRELLA OVERHANG

VISIT THE LARGEST CITY IN NORTHEAST CHINA, 100 YEARS AGO

Journey to Shengjing Panorama, a 360-degree painting of Shenyang city in the years 1910-1930. Visitors will travel to Northeast China to witness a golden era of diverse architecture, religion and culture. A detailed three-dimensional terrain and an exquisitely-rendered vista showcase scenes from everyday life in historic Shengjing. The immersive experience features a sound and light installation illuminating the plants, buildings and people of this transitory city. This landmark collaboration is the first panorama jointly created by artists of the People’s Republic of China and the United States.

Panoramas scattered around the globe showcase historical events, fantastical scenes and fertile landscapes. This was a popular entertainment in the 18th & 19th centuries that faded after the rise of cinema. Since the 1980s, almost two hundred years since the invention of the artform, the panorama has seen a miraculous revival in China. Dozens of 360-degree panoramas have been installed there in the past 30 years. Painted in Shenyang, China and transported by cargo plane to Los Angeles, the Entertainment Capital of the World, our Shengjing Panorama is a bright light for a thousand generations of panoramic creation.

SUPPORT THE VELASLAVASAY PANORAMA

Admission is a suggested donation of $7 ($5 Students & Seniors)

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