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Virtual celebrations ring in Year of the Ox

Instead of welcoming thousands of locals and visitors alike to the streets of Pender and Keefer to enjoy the lion and dragon dances, cultural dance troupes, marching bands and martial arts performances, the 2021 Chinatown Spring Festival parade, due to the pandemic, was transformed into a virtual event complete with colourful footage of previous celebrations and New Year greetings by elected officials and community leaders.



Scenes of huge crowds watching the annual parade last year

The upbeat video jointly produced by the Chinese Benevolent Association, Chinese Cultural Centre, SUCCESS, Vancouver Chinatown Merchants Association, Chinese Freemasons and the Shon Yee Benevolent Association was aired on Facebook and Instagram on Feb 21, the 10th day of the Lunar New Year and can be viewed from the CBA website: <https://www.cbavancouver.com/?p=8061>.

In his greetings to the community, Mayor Kennedy Stewart read out a Lunar New Year proclamation honouring the cultural festivities and the parade organizers for their hard work.

"While we won't be able to gather in person at events like the traditional Vancouver Chinatown Spring Festival Parade, I encourage everyone to keep visiting and supporting local businesses in Chinatown and your local neighbourhood," the Mayor said.

Supported by the City of Vancouver, the Chau Luen Athletic Club, Chinatown Today, and the hua foundation, also held virtual event "An Ox-picious Vancouver Chinatown Lunar New Year Celebration: Until the Cows Come Home" to keep alive this important cultural heritage tradition of Chinatown.

The event featured lion dancing and



Kung Fu demonstrations that were choreographed specifically for this online event in collaboration with Kung Fu schools across British Columbia, all done in strict accordance with COVID-19 safety protocols. It also featured a live eating contest with dumplings provided by Chinatown's Kam Wai Dim Sum.

Chau Luen Athletic Club President Michael Tan, says, "With the Provincial Health Orders in place, many of us in the Chinatown community were resigned to not having any festivities at all. I am excited that this small group of organizers, who all have full time jobs, have volunteered to come together to organize a communal celebration to help continue our hallowed cultural traditions and adapt them to be accessible in today's context."

The event itself was a rousing success with over 350 families gathering to celebrate together, not just from Vancouver, but across Canada (Winnipeg, PEI, Newfoundland) and even across the globe (France, Germany, England).

The Chinese Cultural Center also teamed up with four other cultural centers from Halifax, Toronto, Winnipeg, and Calgary to air a 90-minute program on Fairchild TV on Feb 21 & 27 to celebrate the New Year across Canada.

Council approves pilot program to assist Chinatown/DTES businesses

A new pilot program aimed at addressing community concerns relating to commercial vacancies and retention of heritage and community-serving businesses, non-profits and social enterprises in the Downtown Eastside and Chinatown has been given the green light by City Council.

The Special Enterprise Program (SEP), approved unanimously by Council in January, 2021 is aimed at assisting non-profit and private property owners to activate their vacant space with cultural/heritage businesses that provide goods and services to the local community. It will also enhance the capacity of the small business sector to adapt to the current business environment and improve their operations.

Whether the businesses and properties need support for promotion and marketing, leasing or purchasing equipment, space planning, assistance to lease a commercial space, or enhancing business operations, the SEP could connect eligible businesses with professionals to work with them to identify a solution that best supports their operations.



An example of how the program would work is the family-owned Kam Wai Dim Sum, located at the Kong Chow Society building, which needed to grow its business but had challenges to achieve it at their current location. With the assistance of consultants, Kam Wai was able to evaluate their best option for business development and space renovation, which made it possible for the store to remain in Chinatown. Without the proper supports, Kam Wai would have left the neighbourhood, adding another vacant space and leaving one less cultural asset in Chinatown.

Eligible applicants for the SEP includes cultural and heritage businesses, community-serving businesses, social enterprises, and non-profits/private properties with a social mandate. The program is expected to be implemented later this year and expanded between 2022 and 2024. For more information please contact the Downtown Eastside Planning Group at: jose.fernandez.garcia@vancouver.ca.

Chin Wing Chun Tong receives heritage project funding

Heritage B.C. and the provincial government announced on February 22 that projects from 68 communities, including the storefront rehabilitation of Chin Wing Chun Tong in Chinatown, have been selected to receive funding to improve community economic resilience, tourism, heritage, and urban and rural economic development.

The funding is part of the province's \$10 billion COVID response, which includes the StrongerBC for Everyone recovery plan and the Community Economic Recovery Infrastructure Program (CERIP).

"Funding heritage and cultural projects throughout British Columbia is vital for communities and their well-being. It allows them to remain connected to their past and it helps to support their cultural organizations", said Katrine Conroy, Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development.



Lunar New Year x Black History Month: Carnegie Community Centre bring meals & music to seniors



Doris Chow of Carnegie Centre delivers a hot meal to resident Yu-Rong Li

In recognition of February's Black History Month and to celebrate Lunar New Year, seniors living in two Downtown Eastside buildings were serenaded by live musicians from Afro Van Connect as they received a warm meal from a Chinatown restaurant.

In compliance with public health orders, the artists filled the hallways with music on each floor as residents of Alexander House and Siloh Place listened from their doorway.

Afro Van Connect is an organization focused on empowering the voices of African Descent Youth through conversation, collaboration, creation & performance. <https://www.afrovanconnect.com/>

Yarrow close to meeting fundraising goal

Yarrow Intergenerational Society for Justice is holding a fundraising event to support its work on reducing isolation experienced by low-income seniors through grocery deliveries, medical accompaniment and interpretation at appointments, youth-led intergenerational programming, and housing support.



So far over \$45,000, or 90% of its \$50,000 goal, have been raised.

To make a donation, please visit: yarrowssociety.ca

本期內容：

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- 市議會審批試驗計劃協助唐人街商戶發展業務
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- 世代同行會籌款活動離目標不遠
- 黑人歷史月+農曆新年：加麗基中心將音樂帶給長者

溫市社區舉辦多項虛擬慶祝活動迎接牛年

由於疫情關係，2021年的唐人街春節大遊行未能如往年一樣，歡迎成千上萬的觀眾來到片打街及奇花街觀賞舞龍舞獅、功夫、樂隊及文藝舞蹈的表演。取而代之的是一項包括了往年大遊行精華片段以及政府和社區代表賀年訊息的虛擬活動。



去年春節大遊行的盛況

這個充滿新年氣氛的錄像是由中華會館、中華文化中心、中僑互助會、華埠商會、洪門及崇義總會聯合製作，並於年初十(2月21日)在Facebook和Instagram上播放，目前仍可在中華會館的網站<https://www.cbavancouver.com/?p=8061>上欣賞。

溫哥華市長甘迺迪在錄像中致賀年詞時誦讀了一份慶祝農曆新年聲明，表揚這個重要的傳統節日以及各個協辦活動組織的努力。

市長說：「雖然我們今年不能像以往一樣親身參與春節大遊行等慶祝活動，但是我仍然鼓勵各位市民繼續到訪唐人街，支持本地商戶和鄰舍。」

在市府資助下，昭倫體育會、今日唐人街及hua foundation等組織亦製作了一個名為“牛氣冲天”的

虛擬節目，讓公眾在疫情下仍可在網上慶祝這個重要的傳統節日。

主辦單位與卑詩省多間武術學校合作，專為網上表演編排合乎新冠疫情守則的舞獅活動和功夫示範，並舉行了一個由唐人街金威點心贊助的現場吃餃子比賽。

昭倫體育會的會長譚聖佑說：「由於省府的疫情規限，唐人街社區內不少人士原本都已放棄舉辦任何慶祝活動，但是由於一小撮熱心義工的努力，而他們都是全職上班人士，合作促成了今次的文化傳統活動，讓公眾在現今情況下仍能享受到節日的歡愉。」

此外，大溫哥華中華文化中心亦聯合了哈里法斯、多倫多、溫尼辟及卡加利的文化中心，舉行了一個橫跨全國的賀年節目，並在2月21和27日於新時代電視播放。

市議會審批試驗計劃協助唐人街商戶發展業務

市議會在上月一致通過批准了一個新的「特別企業計劃」試驗項目，以協助唐人街改善商舖空置的問題，以及保留具傳統特色及服務社區的商戶和社企組織。

這項計劃的目的，是要協助非牟利組織及私人業主將他們的物業活化，讓向本地社區提供服務和貨品、具文化和傳統特色的商業使用空置舖位。計劃並可增強小型生意的營運能力，以應付目前的商業環境及改善運作。

商業及物業無論是在市場推廣、租賃或是採購器材、空間設計、協助租用商業舖位或是在改善商業運作方面需要支援，「特別企業計劃」都可以協助合資格的商戶聯繫專業人士和他們合作，為他們的生意找出有助營運的最佳解決方案。



計劃如何運作的一個好例子是坐落唐人街岡州總會館大樓，由家經族營的金威南北點心，該店之前需要擴充業務，但所處的舖位卻是一個障礙。後來金威得到商業顧問協助評估最佳的業務發展和修建空間選擇，最終令該店可以留在唐人街原址經營。如果不是獲得適當的支援，金威便已遷離這社區，令唐人街又多了一個空置舖位和失去了一項珍貴的文化資產。

符合資格申請「特別企業計劃」援助的包括具文化和傳統性質的商業、為社區提供服務的商業、社企和以服務社區為宗旨的非牟利或是私人物業業主。這計劃預計在今年稍後時間推出，並在2022至2024年期間擴充。查詢更多詳情請聯絡市中心東端規劃組，請電郵：Jose.Fernandez.Garcia@vancouver.ca

陳穎川總堂獲發傳統基建項目撥款

卑詩祖裔協會和省政府在2月22日共同宣佈，包括唐人街陳穎川總堂外牆修繕工程在內的68個省內社區傳統基建項目，將會獲得撥款資助用作改善社區抗逆能力、旅遊業、傳統文化、市區及鄉郊經濟發展等用途。

這項撥款是省府價值100億元的新冠疫情應變計劃的一部份，其中包括了StrongerBC for Everyone 復甦計劃以及社區經濟復甦基建計劃(CERIP)。

省森林、土地、天然資源運作及鄉郊發展廳長Katrine Conroy說：

「向全省的傳統及文化項目撥款對社區福祉十分重要，因為這做法可以讓他們與過去歷史保持聯繫，並對他們的文化機構提供支援。」



黑人歷史月+農曆新年： 加麗基中心將音樂帶給長者

加麗基社區中心在本月10日特別將黑人組織 Afro Van Connect的音樂，帶給居住在Alexander House 和Siloh Place 兩座大廈的長者欣賞，作為慶祝二月份黑人歷史月和農曆新年的節目。

為了配合防疫安全措施，長者們留在家中大門之外，欣賞Afro Van Connect藝術家在大廈每層走廊上的音樂演奏，並享受由唐人街一間餐館提供的美食。

Afro Van Connect是一個透過對話、合作、創作和演出以壯大非洲裔年青人聲音的組織。有關該組織的資訊，請登入網頁：

<https://www.afrovanconnect.com/>



加麗基中心職員周嘉怡向長者李玉榮送上美食

世代同行會籌款活動 離目標不遠

世代同行會正在舉行籌款活動，以支援其協助低收入長者減少疏離感的工作。

該會為長者提供雜貨送遞、陪伴看病及翻譯，由年青人主導的跨世代計劃以及房屋支援等服務。



這項籌款活動目前已籌得超過4萬5千元，亦即是目標5萬元的90%。有意繼續捐助的人士，請瀏覽該會網頁：yarrowssociety.ca