



CHINATOWN TRANSFORMATION 唐人街經濟文化發展

Check out the latest updates from the
City of Vancouver's Chinatown Transformation Team

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Chinatown Spring Festival ushers in Year of the Rat

Thousands of spectators of all ages and cultural backgrounds lined the streets of Chinatown to enjoy the lion dances, multicultural dance troupes, marching bands and martial arts performances at the annual Spring Festival Parade on January 26.



The 47th signature event, jointly hosted by the Chinese Benevolent Association of Vancouver, the Chinese Cultural Centre of Greater Vancouver, Vancouver Chinatown Merchants Association, S.U.C.C.E.S.S., Chinese Freemasons Vancouver Branch, and Shon Yee Benevolent Association of Canada, featured the largest assembly of traditional lion dance teams in Canada, with dozens of colourful lions from various local community and martial arts organizations.

The parade this year drew over 2,000 participants in 60 different groups, including the Vancouver Police motorcycle drill team, marching bands and representatives of different community organisations that marched on the 1.3-km route starting at the Millennium Gate and along East Pender, Gore, Keefer and ending at Carrall Street.

In addition to the popular parade in Chinatown, other Lunar New Year celebrations were held at a number of venues across Vancouver including the Carnegie Community Centre, Chinese Cultural Centre, International Village Mall, Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Chinese Garden and Oakridge Mall, etc.



- Mayor Kennedy Stewart and councillors joined community members in a celebration for the Year of the Rat.

Exploring Chinatown's community values

What are the values at Chinatown's core? Through the Hidden Gems cultural asset inventory work, the Chinatown Transformation Team (CTT) received over 500 pieces of feedback about what the public consider important in Chinatown. We also looked at previous engagement, feedback from previous community events and other studies on the topic.

After discussions with LSG members, CTT has summarized the following core values. These values will inform how Chinatown can be shaped in the future.

In Chinatown:

- we celebrate our identities together
- we care for each other
- we fight for positive change and prosperity
- we honour our heritage and memories
- we belong to a living community

These values are reflected in some of the assets that people cherish and the following examples have been mentioned by many people:

- Festivals and events
- Food
- Cultural traditions
- Small businesses
- Seniors
- Connecting with family

The draft Chinatown values will be incorporated into the Cultural Heritage Assets Management Plan (CHAMP) and further input from the community are welcome throughout this year.

LSG welcomes new members



Seven community volunteers who have recently been appointed to the Legacy Stewardship Group (LSG) by City Council were introduced by co-chairs Kimberley Wong and Michael Tan to members at the January 22 LSG meeting.

The term of all members has been extended by Council to December 2022. At the meeting, members also received an update by CTT staff about the work and projects that have been completed so far as well as other priority initiatives being planned for 2020.

(see back page)



Neon sign aims to spark dialogues around Chinese language/culture

A neon sign bearing the Chinese characters “鹹水埗溫哥華”, which translate to “Saltwater City Vancouver”, will be installed in an alleyway in Chinatown in March as part of the City of Vancouver’s Public Art Program.



The artwork, created by local artist Paul Wong last year and originally displayed in the Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Classical Chinese Garden meeting room, aims to honour the history of the Toisanese community and promote discussions around the significance as well as challenges of the Chinese language and culture in the neighbourhood.

The neon sign will be installed on the side of the building of 475 Main Street in the alleyway between Hastings and Pender.

The location is of particular significance since it is the former site of Vancouver’s City Hall (1889-1929) where mayors and councillors used the legal power of the City to enact and expand racist laws targeting Chinese residents.

LSG update (cont’d)

Projects and initiatives completed or supported by CTT and community partners to date:

- Chinatown Summer Events series
- Shape the Courtyard Event
- Community Stewardship Pilot Program
- Strategic Plan for the Chinese Cultural Centre
- A Banquet of Stories: Sharing Migration Stories Through Food
- Chinatown Stories - Aunties Elders & Ancestors
- Chinatown Mural Showcase and tour
- Chinatown Artists Call Program – Four murals
- Utility Boxes Art Wrap
- Summer Program: Dried Goods Guide and Workshops
- Historic Chinatown map guide reprint
- Chinatown Through A Wide Lens: The Hidden Photographs of Yucho Chow Photo Exhibition
- UBC Planning Studio Laneway Study
- Cultural Visits with First Nations
- Chinese Canadian Museum Project Office and Pocket Gallery
- UBC Cultural Assets Inventory Research
- Youth Volunteers Training
- Pride in Chinatown

LSG members were informed that looking ahead this year, efforts will be made to implement an Indigenous relations strategy; continue quickstart projects including short-term actions to improve the business environment; continue to co-create CHAMP with the LSG and the working groups and conduct a preliminary feasibility study of UNESCO application.

Works on other major projects such as supporting the province on establishing the Chinese Canadian Museum, conceptual design of Memorial Square and strategic planning for the Chinese Cultural Centre will also continue.

More photos from Lunar New Year celebrations in Chinatown



Book on Yucho Chow's work to be launched soon

A 344-page, full colour, hardcover book that showcases the long-hidden photographs of Yucho Chow will be launched at the Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Classical Chinese Garden on February 22.

Known as Vancouver’s first and most prolific Chinese photographer, Chow operated a commercial studio in the heart of Chinatown from 1907-1949.

Chow chronicled the lives of many early, marginalized communities such as Chinese, Sikh, Black, and Indigenous residents and newly-arrived European immigrants

“Chinatown Through a Wide Lens: The Hidden Photographs of Yucho Chow” is published by the Chinese Canadian Historical Society of B.C. Register for the event at www.cchsbcc.ca