

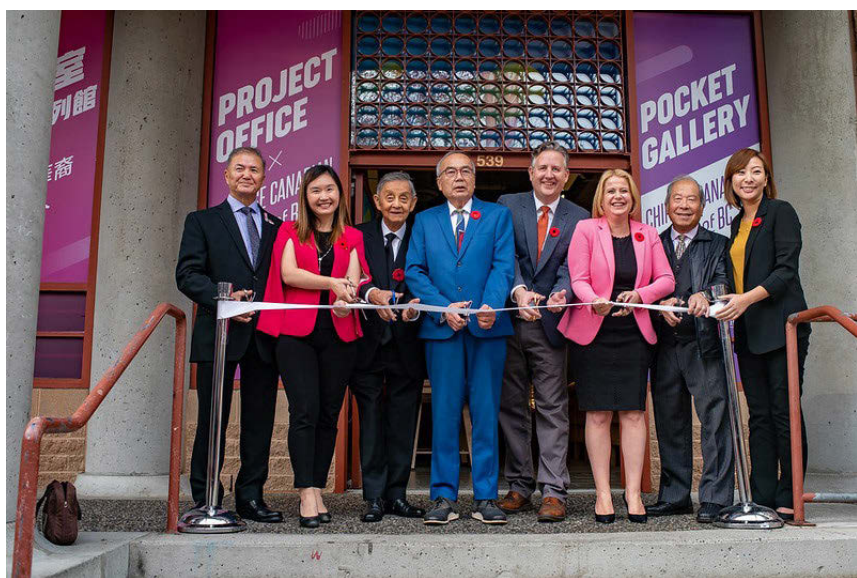


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Chinese Canadian Museum project office unveiled

The plan to establish a Chinese Canadian museum has taken another important step forward with the opening of a project office at the Chinese Cultural Centre in Chinatown.



Mayor Kennedy Stewart with provincial government officials and community leaders at the project office opening

At a special ceremony held on November 8, the provincial government announced that a \$1-million grant will be provided to the City of Vancouver to support continued planning and programming design for the museum.

The funding for establishing the project office, which includes a pocket gallery, will assist the City to work with the community and further develop plans for the museum.

"We are pleased the Province has continued its support of these important efforts through this grant to start the on-the-ground planning process for the new museum," said Vancouver Mayor Kennedy Stewart.

"During our engagement, people told me that the stories of Chinese Canadians need to be told throughout our province, so people can

experience history in the places it happened. This is why we are pursuing a hub-and-spoke model," said George Chow, B.C.'s Minister of State for Trade.

Establishing a Chinese Canadian museum is part of the partnership between B.C. and Vancouver to work together to pursue a UNESCO World Heritage site designation for Vancouver's Chinatown.

Community Remembrance Service held at Memorial Square

Hundreds of people gathered on November 11 at the Memorial Square in Chinatown to honour early Chinese pioneers as well as Chinese Canadian military veterans.

The annual event was organized by the Chinese Benevolent Association, in partnership with the Chinese Cultural Centre, SUCCESS, the Vancouver Chinatown Merchants Association, Anavets Pacific Unit 280, the Chinese Canadian Military Museum Society and the Youth Collaborative for Chinatown.

In addition to commemorating Canada's wartime sacrifices, peacekeeping duties and their involvement in regional conflicts, the ceremony also pays tribute to the struggles and hardship endured by early Chinese settlers since the Memorial Square is dedicated to honouring both Chinese pioneers and military veterans of Chinese descent.



Community members of all ages attending the Remembrance Day ceremony in Chinatown

Working Groups provide second report to LSG

At the November 21 meeting of the Legacy Stewardship Group held at Skwachàys Lodge, a boutique hotel owned and operated by Vancouver Native Housing Society, the working groups provided a preliminary report of their proposed ideas to the LSG. The working groups will gather more feedback on their ideas in early 2020.

DISCUSSIONS TO DATE

Culture & Heritage

Proposed Goal: A Cultural Charter for Chinatown that enshrines culture as the prevailing thread that connects people, place, traditions, business, activities.

Proposed Objective: Establish Vancouver Chinatown as a place of cultural, historical and community significance governed by a set of by-laws that enshrines its cultural heritage in the same way that Gastown and Granville Island enjoy their own recognized status. A renewed vision for Chinatown is needed with culture as its core value.

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Community Stewards pilot program update

An advisory group that guides the operation of the Chinatown Community Stewards Program, a test pilot that aims to increase safety and harmony in Chinatown, held its second meeting on October 17 to receive an update from program staff on the work in progress.



Community steward Ali at work outside Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Garden

The group learned that between August 21 and October 11, the stewards were involved in the following work:

- 2,579 needles picked up
- 27 calls from businesses
- Made 911 and 311 calls on behalf of businesses
- Handled two overdose responses
- Handed out needle boxes to storefronts
- Increased sightings of human waste

Community organisations and partners represented on the advisory group:

- Chinese Cultural Centre
- Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Classical Chinese Garden
- Vancouver Chinatown Business Improvement Association
- Chinatown Community Policing Centre
- Vancouver Chinatown Merchants Association
- Chinatown Transformation Team staff
- EMBERS (staff and stewards)

New Chinatown murals officially launched by artists

Local artists involved in the 2019 Chinatown Artist Call held a panel discussion and walking tour event early last month to launch their newly completed murals around Chinatown.

Over 40 people attended the event, which was co-hosted by the Youth Collaborative for Chinatown and the Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Classical Chinese Garden, with support from the City of Vancouver.



Local artist Paul Wong's creation "Everyday Things"

Attendees learned about the artists' process behind each of the murals, and then had an opportunity to visit each location and speak with the artists.

The Chinatown Transformation Team also collected feedback on the artist call process to inform future programs.

LSG to help identify Chinatown's unique values

The inventory of "Hidden Gems" being compiled by City staff now contains over 400 entries of items that people consider to be valuable to Chinatown, members of the Legacy Stewardship Group learned at a recent LSG meeting.

More than 500 responses have been received from the public and staff have also conducted research on 22 previous studies.

Based on the feedback expressed in various public engagement activities, seven thematic values have emerged that could define Vancouver's Chinatown.

Members of the LSG were asked if they agreed that Chinatown is a place of 1) identity, 2) belonging, 3) exchange, 4) care, 5) opportunity, 6) progress and 7) heritage.

More analysis will be undertaken by staff to advance the discussions on the thematic values.

Working group report (cont'd)

Proposed Priority Areas: intangible cultural heritage (rituals, practices, arts, festivals, etc); language; culinary heritage; business and cultural economic development; places, structures and artifacts; stories and histories.

Small Business and Economic Development

Proposed Goals:

- Rethink/redefine Chinatown as a vibrant business district
- Business Succession
- Connect New and Old

Proposed short and long term priorities:

- Co-sharing retail hubs in vacant space
- City support in defining Chinatown retail character through regulation that are long-term and reciprocal.
- Bizmap (current status)
- Forecasting (NEFC and St. Pauls)
- Retail Strategy, Branding Chinatown, Implementation

Low Income Residents, Living Conditions and Gentrification

Proposed Goal: This working group recognizes that people are important assets of Chinatown and aims to strengthen them, including residents, seniors and the organizations that serve and support them

Proposed Objectives:

- Build a strong community fabric to create a stronger sense of connection, understanding and hope.
- Improve the quality of life and living conditions of residents.

Relationship Building, Public Education & Capacity Building

Proposed Principles:

Relationship Building: We will provide opportunities and supports to nurture people-to-people relationships that are long-term and reciprocal. We will bridge gaps and build relationships both internally and externally.

Public Education: We will shift the perception and understanding of Chinatown away from simplistic and inaccurate narratives, and instead will work to convey the complexity and diversity of Chinatown's social, economic, and cultural landscape. We will gather stories and narratives from the community, and will hold ourselves accountable through constant reflection, learning, unlearning, and constructive criticism from said community.

Capacity Building: We will build on the community organizing and community development capacity in Chinatown. This will require adopting community development approaches, shared values and goals, and evaluation criteria. We will grow our capacity in both an organizational and a personal development sense.