

Chinatown Legacy Stewardship Group (LSG) 6th Meeting

Meeting Summary Notes

Date: Thursday, October 17, 2019
Time: 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
Location: Chinatown House, 188 East Pender Street

Present: Alain Chow, Aynsley Wong Meldrum, Bill Kwok, Carmut Me, Fred Kwok, Fred Mah, Glynnis Chan, Jugen Li, Kevin Huang 黃儀軒, Kimberley Wong 黃壯慈, Laiwan Chung, Leslie Shieh, Yu Rong Li 李玉榮, Michael Sing Yau Tan 譚聖祐, Minna Van, Ross Lam, Sonny Wong, Stephanie Leo, Terry Hunter, Vincent Kwan, Willie Chan, Sarah Ling (UBC)

Guests: King-Mong Chan, Nick Yung, Guang Yu Ying, Wan Ya Qing, Julie Chen

Staff: Wendy Au, Helen Ma, Helen Lee, Joseph Li, Belle Cheung, Aaron Lao, Alan Chen (Chinatown Transformation Team /CTT), Tiffany Zhang (Interpreter)

Regrets: Amanda Huynh 黃珮詩, Baldwin Wong, Cecil Charles Chi Chung Fung, Danny Quon, Elisha Yao, Jun Ing, Jordan Eng, Mark Lee, Michelle Fu, To Trinh Diep, Wang Zhao, William Ma, Will Tao, Y Vy Truong, Susie Steinmetz (Province of BC)

Agenda:

- 1. Community Updates**
- 2. Community Stories – History and Current Initiatives of the Chinese Cultural Centre**
- 3. LSG Members Update**
- 4. Chinatown Values – Group Discussion**
- 5. Topics For Discussion**
- 6. Meeting Adjourned**

1. Community Updates

Banquet of stories - Saturday November 2nd

- Sharing migration stories through food, hosted by Pacific Canada Heritage Center (PCHC) Museum of Immigration.
- If you would like to go to one of those events, contact Kimberley, Michael or Baldwin.

2. Community Stories – History and Current Initiatives of the Chinese Cultural Centre

Fred Mah – Past Director, Chinese Cultural Center

Fred Kwok – Chairman, Chinese Cultural Center

Bill Kwok – Vice Chair and Chair of Finance, Chinese Cultural Centre

Questions from the LSG Co-Chairs:

- What was the impetus for the CCC, and how did it become a reality? What kind of organizing happened?
- What was the early role of the CCC and what is its role in Chinatown today?
- What are some current engagements that the Chinese Cultural Center is undertaking?

Fred Mah – On CCC's history

- Fred arrived in Vancouver after repeal of the Chinese Exclusion Act in 1949. With the increased immigration in the 50s, there was youth demand for activities and sports, but few opportunities to access facilities due to discrimination.
- Attorney General Alexander Macdonald suggested a cultural centre to support youth activities. Chinatown Societies convened an organizing committee, which Fred Mah volunteered as secretary for. This group involved community members, UBC, banks, youth groups, and local churches, and worked to rally the community around fundraising.
- Fred Mah and others went door-knocking to raise funds, receiving small donations from locals and eventually donations from wealthier individuals.
- This was how the CCC got going. The multi-purpose hall was built to house younger people to play sports, as well as host cultural performances.

Fred Kwok – On CCC's current affairs

- After the formation of the CCC, they organized the first Chinatown Spring Festival Parade – since then, the annual parade has been organized by the Chinese Benevolent Association.
- Around 30 years ago, the four large Chinatown organizations were meant to have distinct functions:

- Chinese Benevolent Association: community affairs between organizations and between communities in Chinatown
 - Chinese Cultural Center: cultural and educational amenities
 - SUCCESS: new immigrant services
 - Vancouver Chinatown Merchants Association: businesses.
- Chinese Cultural Center was the first major Chinese language school in Vancouver and is now potentially the biggest across North America. They have expanded into other cities such as Richmond, Vancouver East, Coquitlam, Burnaby, and Surrey.
- The Multipurpose Hall caters to many events, including free venue rentals for morning tai chi and chi gung for old seniors. It is also a venue for Cantonese opera, Vancouver Fashion Week and art exhibitions.

Bill Kwok – On the CCC’s finances and future directions

- There are four buildings in the CCC, with 68,000 square feet total: administration building and class rooms, David Lam Hall, commercial spaces, and a museum.
- The CCC operates on a \$1.4 million annual budget that is raised internally without government funding. Some programs are run at a loss, such as the Chinese School, because they are important programs for the community.
- The CCC is working with government on the Chinese-Canadian Museum, with further details to be confirmed.
- The CCC is currently developing a strategic plan for the next five years, which should be complete in the next few weeks. Many LSG members have provided input. The plan will be implemented in the near future.

3. LSG Members Update:

Yu Rong Li

- Yu Rong Li shared that from her own experiences, her and her friends, who are seniors, face many challenges in the neighbourhood. For example, seniors are not able to communicate with their doctors, going to the hospital is difficult without someone to accompany them.
- She also shared that organizations providing important services for seniors do not have enough funding.
- She would like LSG members to focus on these issues more.

Jugen Li

- Jugen Li shared that as a newcomer to Canada, she felt it is important to learn about the stories of those who contributed to Chinatown in the past, so we can respect history and make effort to inherit the culture and legacies.

- She also expressed that the living conditions for many residents need to be improved in Chinatown.
- Guest from CCG, Nick Yung, sharing on behalf of another LSG member who was unable to attend. The LSG member expressed that her eldest neighbour passed away in the social housing building that she lives in. No one knew about the passing until a few days later when the manager knocked on their door. She urged LSG to take seniors' living condition and challenges seriously.

4. Chinatown Values – Group Discussion

- The Chinatown Transformation Team sought public feedback through our Hidden Gems cultural asset inventory about what is most important in Chinatown, and received over 500 pieces of feedback. We also looked at 22 previous studies. With this information, CTT developed seven draft values that define Chinatown's legacy and inform how Chinatown can be shaped in the future.
- This group discussion intends to gather LSG members' feedback on these values.
- After collecting more feedback from the broader community, CTT will bring these values back to an LSG meeting next year for their final review and support. These values will also be incorporated into the long-term plan of Chinatown.

5. Topics For Discussion

- Setting dates for LSG meetings in 2020. Currently set for the 3rd Thursday of every month.
 - Suggestion to set LSG dates for Wednesdays starting in January
- The LSG Social, on November 21st, will include time for working groups updates.
- Tea Buddies – a new LSG activity that will allow members to have an opportunity to get to know each other on the LSG. The random pairs drawn are listed below:
 - Carmut Me with Michael Tan
 - Michael Tan (2) with Vincent Kwan
 - Stephanie Leo with Kimberley Wong
 - Alain Chow with Yu Rong Li
 - Terry Hunter with Laiwan Chung
 - Aynsley Wong with Sonny Wong
 - Jugen Li with Glynnis Chan
 - Fred Kwok with Sarah Ling
 - Kevin Huang with Leslie Shieh

6. Meeting Adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

唐人街文化傳承督導組

第六次會議記錄摘要

日期：2019 年 10 月 17 日(星期四)

時間：下午 5 時 30 分 – 7 時 30 分

地點：片打東街 188 號華合院

出席成員：Alain Chow, Aynsley Wong Meldrum, 郭瑋霖 Bill Kwok . 米家宓 Carmut Me, 郭英華 Fred Kwok, 馬清石 Fred Mah, 陳開心 Glynnis Chan, 李菊根 Jugen Li, 黃儀軒 Kevin Huang, 黃壯慈 Kimberley Wong, Laiwan Chung, 謝麗如 Leslie Shieh, 李玉榮 Ru Rong Li, 譚聖祐 Michael Sing Yau Tan, Mina Van, Ross Lam, 黃仕儒 Sonny Wong, 廖綺媚 Stephanie Leo, Terry Hunter, Vincent Kwan, 陳耀輝 Willie Chan, 凌慧意 Sarah Ling (卑詩大學)

來賓：陳敬望 King-mong Chan, Nick Yung . 關玉英, 萬亞琴, Julie Chen

市府職員：區韻宜 Wendy Au, 馬凱盈 Helen Ma, 李麗芳 Helen Lee, 李光耀 Joseph Li, 張芷彤 Belle Cheung, 劉子亨 Aaron Lao, 陳曉征 Alan Chen (唐人街經濟文化發展專案小組 (CTT), Tiffany Zhang (翻譯員)

缺席成員：黃珮詩 Amanda Huynh, 黃永安 Baldwin Wong, Cecil Charles Chi Chung Fung, Danny Quon, Elisha Yao, 吳俊譽 Jun Ing, 伍沛雄 Jordan Eng, 陳德聰 Mark Lee, Michelle Fu, To Trinh Diep, 王壘 Wang Zhao, 馬威廉 William Ma, 陶唯 Will Tao, Y Vy Truong, Susie Steinmetz (卑詩省政府)

議程:

1. 社區最新資訊
2. 社區故事講述 – 中華文化中心的歷史和目前計劃
3. 督導組成員最新資訊
4. 唐人街價值 - 小組討論
5. 討論議題
6. 會議結束

1. 社區最新資訊

故事分享晚宴 – 11 月 2 日(星期六)

- 透過食品分享移民的故事 – 由加拿大太平洋傳統文化中心(PCHC)移民博物館主辦
- 有意參加此項活動，請與黃壯慈、譚聖佑或黃永安聯絡。

2. 社區故事講述 – 中華文化中心的歷史和目前計劃

馬清石: 中華文化中心前理事

郭英華: 中華文化中心理事會主席

郭瑋霖: 中華文化中心理事會副主席及財務小組主席

督導組共同主席問題：

- 是甚麼推動力令中華文化中心能夠成立？當時舉行了甚麼組織活動？
- 文化中心早期的角色是甚麼？中心目前在唐人街的角色又是甚麼？
- 文化中心目前有甚麼公共參與活動正在進行之中？

馬清石 – 中華文化中心的歷史

- 馬清石是在 1949 年排華法廢除後來到溫哥華。隨著 50 年代移民人數增長，年青人對參與活動和體育運動的需求亦增加，但由於遭受歧視，他們甚少有機會使用這些設施。

- 當年的律政廳長麥當奴建議設立文化中心以支援青年活動。唐人街社團便成立了一個組織委員會，並由馬清石出任義務秘書。委員會將社區人士、卑詩大學、銀行、青年團體及本地教會組織起來，並向社區籌募經費。
- 馬清石和其他人一起敲門籌款，獲得本地及一些富裕人士的捐助。
- 這就是文化中心的起源，其中的多用途大堂可供年青人進行體育活動，亦可作為文化表演的場地。

郭英華- 文化中心目前的計劃

- 文化中心落成後，舉行了第一屆唐人街春節大遊行，自此之後，這項年度盛事便改由中華會館負責主辦。
- 在 30 年前左右，唐人街四大僑團各有不同的職能：
 - 中華會館：處理團體與及社區之間的事務
 - 中華文化中心：文化及教育事宜
 - 中僑互助會：新移民服務
 - 溫哥華華埠商會：商戶
- 文化中心是溫哥華第一間主要的中文學校，目前的規模可算是全北美洲最大，同時亦已擴展至列治文、本那比、東溫哥華、高貴林、及素里等城市。
- 中心的多用途大堂可作為舉辦不同的活動，包括為長者而設的免費太極班及氣功班。亦是演出粵劇及舉辦溫哥華時裝周和藝術展覽的場地。

郭瑋霖: 文化中心的財政及未來路向

- 文化中心共有四座大樓，包括了行政大樓及課室、林思齊堂、商業鋪位及一個博物館，總面積達 6 萬 8 千平方尺。
- 文化中心每年的財政預算為 1 百 40 萬元，全數來自內部籌募而非政府撥款。有一些重要的社區項目，例如是中文學校，需要虧本經營。
- 文化中心目前與政府在興建華裔加拿大人博物館方面合作，詳情有待確定。
- 文化中心正在制定一項為期 5 年的策略性計劃，預計在數星期後便會完成。不少督導組成員為此提供了意見，計劃在短期內便會實施。

3. 督導組最新資訊

李玉榮：

- 李玉榮分享了她自己以及年長朋友的經歷和她們在社區內面對的挑戰。例如不少長者由於語言上的障礙無法和醫生溝通，以及沒有人陪同他們到醫院求診等困難。
- 另一個問題是為老人提供服務的機構資金短缺。
- 她希望督導組可以正視這些問題。

李菊根：

- 作為新移民，李菊根認為應該多認識一些例如是前人為建設唐人街作出貢獻的故事。她覺得需要尊重歷史，以及盡能力傳承唐人街的文化遺產。
 - 她亦覺得有需要改善唐人街不少居民的生活環境。
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- 唐人街關注組成員 Nick Yung 代表另一位未能出席會議的督導組成員發言。該位成員指出其年長鄰居在獨居的社會房屋單位內離世，但直至幾天後管理員敲門無人應門才被發現。她促請督導小組慎重考慮長者的生活環境及面對的挑戰。

4. 唐人街的價值 – 小組討論

- 唐人街經濟文化發展專案小組透過制定“鮮為人知的唐人街珍貴事物”文化資產清單工作，向公眾徵詢意見，並獲得超過 500 項回應。我們亦檢視了 22 項以前所做的研究，並按照這些資訊草擬了 7 項可以界定唐人街文化遺產及未來路向的價值。
- 這項活動目的是向督導組成員徵詢他們對這些價值的意見。
- 在進一步收集到廣泛社區人士的意見後，專案小組將會在明年的督導組會議上讓各位成員作出最後審批。這些價值亦會包含在唐人街未來的長期規劃之中。

5. 討論議題

- 定下 2020 年督導小組的開會日期。目前是定在每月的第三個星期四。
 - 建議從一月開始改為在星期三開會。
- 在 11 月 21 日舉行的督導組會議/社交活動上，將預留時間讓工作小組提供最新資訊。
- “茶聚會友” - 這是督導組一項新的活動，讓成員可以增加彼此之間的認識。隨機抽籤配對的茶聚成員如下所示：
 - 米家宓 - 譚聖佑
 - 譚聖佑 - Vincent Kwan
 - 廖綺媚 - 黃壯慈
 - Alain Chow - 李玉榮
 - Terry Hunter - Laiwan Chung
 - Aynsley Wong - 黃仕儒
 - 李菊根 - 陳開心
 - 郭英華 - 凌慧意
 - 黃儀軒 - 謝麗如

6. 會議在晚上 7 時 10 分結束