



Vancouver Chinatown Intangible Heritage Values Report

September 2015



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Word Cloud generated from all workshop, open house and online form comments.

Executive Summary and Key Recommendations

In August 2015 Heritage BC, on behalf of the provincial Ministry of International Trade, collected information from the public concerning the intangible heritage values of Vancouver's Chinatown and the places and spaces in Chinatown that embody those values. This report presents all the comments received through a workshop, open house, and online form.

Participants strongly expressed their feelings that Vancouver's Chinatown is a unique and special place. The cultural activities and events that take place in Vancouver's Chinatown contribute to its value and significance for participants. The rich history and existing physical heritage of Vancouver's Chinatown also contributes to its value and significance for participants because it embodies the history and experience of Chinese Canadians in B.C. Many participants described Vancouver's Chinatown as "intercultural space," a significant place for sharing Chinese culture and history with others. However, participants also expressed concern that many of the aspects that they value and make Vancouver's Chinatown significant, like the traditional and unique small businesses as well as places and spaces for Chinese seniors, were in danger of disappearing.

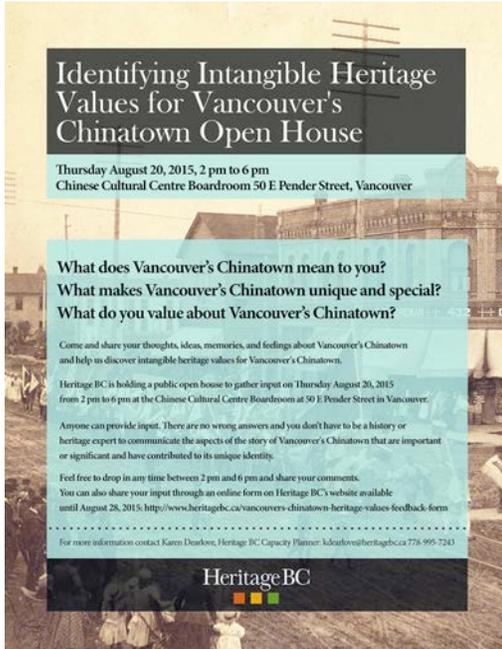
From the comments gathered from participants this report presents several recommendations to help conserve and promote the intangible heritage values of Vancouver's Chinatown, and to address the concerns expressed by participants.

Key recommendations include the need for more available and better coordination of places and spaces for intergenerational cultural activities in Vancouver's Chinatown. This recommendation is linked to other recommendations including the creation of a permanent tourism office in Vancouver's Chinatown, that can help coordinate local businesses, cultural activities and institutions, and events, and strengthening existing organizations to help maintain traditional small businesses and new entrepreneurial opportunities. Protecting and promoting the rich history and heritage of Vancouver's Chinatown is also recommended through capacity building for local organizations to take advantage of heritage conservation grants and other programs to raise awareness and interpret Chinatown's heritage. Finally, recommendations seek to address an underlying theme throughout the participant responses, that Chinese seniors are the "glue" that keep the community together, and there is a perceived lack of appropriate housing, activities, and services for seniors in Vancouver's Chinatown. Finding places and spaces for Chinese seniors is strongly recommended, possibly through the rehabilitation of the clan association and benevolent society buildings in Vancouver's Chinatown.

Section 1: Setting the Scene

1.1 Introduction

In May 2014 a formal apology was delivered on behalf of all members of the B.C. legislative assembly to Chinese Canadians for historical wrongs committed by past provincial governments. The Province of British Columbia's Ministry of International Trade has been working with the Legacy Initiatives Advisory Council (LIAC) to enact a series of legacy initiatives recommended in the *Chinese Historical Wrongs Consultation Final Report and Recommendations*, which came out of the public consultation process for the apology, and recommended legacy initiatives to help British Columbians understand the impacts of the historical wrongs and the achievements of Chinese Canadians. Several of these



recommendations included the identification of significant historical sites and culturally important locations. The Chinese Historic Places Recognition Project grew out of these legacy initiatives. In early 2015 Heritage BC was contracted by the Ministry of International Trade and the Heritage Branch of the Ministry of Forests, Lands, and Natural Resource Operations, to lead a public nomination process for the identification of historic places in British Columbia significant to Chinese Canadians and the development of the province. Following the nomination of 77 historic places, Heritage BC was contracted by the Province to develop an interactive online map illustrating the nominated places.

Vancouver's Chinatown is one of these significant historical sites. Although there has been previous recognition of Vancouver's Chinatown as a heritage site, there is fear that the intangible heritage and cultural values, those values difficult to define in terms of architectural and physical features, have not been clearly captured. Identifying the intangible heritage values of Vancouver's Chinatown is an important step in ensuring that all the aspects of what makes Vancouver's Chinatown special, unique, and culturally

significant to the City of Vancouver, the province of British Columbia, and Canada as a whole, are not lost, but conserved, promoted and celebrated.

The Identifying Intangible Heritage Values for Vancouver's Chinatown project also grew out of the legacy initiatives identified in the *Chinese Historical Wrongs Consultation Final Report and Recommendations*. The purpose of the workshop, the open house, and online information form was to encourage participants to provide input in order to identify the aspects of Vancouver's Chinatown that they value, including traditions, activities, sights, and sounds.

In August 2015, Heritage BC collected public input on behalf of the Province of British Columbia's Ministry of International Trade (MIT) to identify intangible heritage values for Vancouver's Chinatown. On Wednesday August 19, a "by invitation" workshop for key stakeholders was held at the Chinese Cultural Centre, facilitated by Heritage BC on behalf of the Ministry of International Trade and the Legacy Initiatives Advisory Council (LIAC). On Thursday August 20, a public open house was held in a similar format at the same location. In addition, a form was available on Heritage BC's website throughout August to allow anyone to provide input. The focus of the Intangible Heritage Values Workshop, Open House, and online form was to gather knowledge about what factors and processes influenced Vancouver Chinatown's evolution, and made it the neighbourhood and community it is today. With responses from a wide variety of participants in the Workshop, Open House, and online form, we will gain a more solid understanding of what aspects of Chinatown people value most.

Participants were asked to share their thoughts on what they value about Vancouver's Chinatown. They were asked to identify heritage values – the significant phases, eras, themes, people and events in the history and development of Vancouver's Chinatown that matter to them and which they feel are significant to its heritage. Participants were asked to identify places that embody those values. These places could include buildings and groups of buildings, parks, landscapes, views, roads, streets, alleys, and structures among others. By understanding which places in Vancouver's Chinatown matter and why, decisions can be made on how to best conserve these important places and preserve the heritage values as community development occurs. Identifying the intangible heritage values of Vancouver's Chinatown is an important step to inform decision-making concerning all of

those aspects of what makes Vancouver's Chinatown special, unique, and culturally significant to the City of Vancouver, the province of British Columbia, and Canada as a whole.

Based on the responses from the Heritage Values Workshop Open House participants, and responses gathered from a Heritage Values online form, Heritage BC has produced this "Chinatown Intangible Heritage Values Report".

Approximately 50 people participated each in the Intangible Heritage Values Workshop on August 19, 2015, and the Open House on August 20, 2015. A total of 45 responses were gathered from the online form available from August 11 to August 28, 2015.

1.2 Values-Based Management and Heritage Conservation

In many communities, heritage conservation has taken place outside of regular land-use planning activities. Typically, this has been the case because the understanding of why historic places matter to a community is not strong; decision makers cannot justify public spending on places they do not consider "heritage" in the traditional sense of the word.

Best practice for heritage conservation planning in Canada – and British Columbia – follows a values-based approach to the stewardship and management of historic places. This approach allows the community to clearly articulate why historic places matter, and ensures confidence that identified heritage values remain for present and future generations. Historic places are no longer recognized, protected, and conserved based on just their architectural superiority or historical associations. Instead, a values-based approach considers all aspects of a community's development and evolution over time. It allows conservation of historic places to be an activity that is relevant to all members of a community, rather than an activity only understood by heritage "experts". Understanding what a community values in terms of its heritage allows for a stronger justification for ensuring that historic places remain as a community develops and changes over time.

This management process uses heritage values to guide decision-making about historic places. Heritage values are defined as the historic, aesthetic, spiritual, social, cultural, and scientific significance or importance of a place for past, present, or future generations. When beginning a values-based management system, it is best to have an understanding of the heritage values of the community as a whole before trying to understand the significance of individual places. The heritage values context study develops this big-picture understanding of why citizens care about the character and identity of the community, and how that has been shaped over time.

Heritage conservation planning is a land-use decision-making process that takes into consideration the embodiment of values in its historic places. It integrates the conservation of historic places and community development, so that the two are seen as one activity, rather than processes that occur on opposite ends of a spectrum. Context planning is designed to honour how a community evolved over time, and how the major events and eras of history have shaped what the community is today. By undertaking a heritage values context study, the community recognizes that the significant elements of its past (as seen in its historic places) need not be sacrificed in order for development and change to continue.

Values are identified by a broad group of community members, historic places that represent those values are identified, and then land-use decision-making and conservation activities for those places can occur.



1.3 Thematic Framework

By understanding the activities, traditions, events, people, and periods of development that are valued about Vancouver's Chinatown, decision makers can have a better understanding of why those aspects should be conserved. Developing a contextual understanding of the neighbourhood comprises more than simply identifying historic places. First, a thematic framework must be identified in order to create a basis of understanding of the significant characteristics of the community.

The thematic framework that guided the Intangible Heritage Values Workshop and Open House for Vancouver's Chinatown was adapted from the Chinese Historic Places Historical Context Thematic Framework, developed for the Province of British Columbia as part of the Chinese Historic Places Recognition Project. A thematic framework is a way to organize or define history to identify and place sites, persons and events in context. Parks Canada established a thematic framework model in 1981. The Parks Canada process identifies five key areas of relevance into which all places of historic significance can be categorized. The Chinese Historic Places Historical Context Thematic Framework followed the Parks Canada model and outlined six key themes to understanding the Chinese Canadian experience in British Columbia:

- Arriving in B.C. and Settling in Vancouver
- Working in a New World and Developing Economies
- Facing Racism; Establishing Rights
- Establishing Community; Building Social and Community Life
- Developing and Expressing Intellectual and Cultural Life
- Honouring Achievements

1.4 Intangible Heritage Values Workshop and Open House Format

Identifying heritage values involves more than simply identifying historic places. It involves understanding the community's development and evolution over time, and how significant qualities of life, events, people, and periods of development, growth, and change make Vancouver's Chinatown what it is today. By understanding heritage values, and the places that embody them, decision makers can have a better understanding of what the community feels is important and why those values should be conserved. The Intangible Heritage Values Open House workshops for Vancouver's Chinatown allowed for greater integration of heritage values into future planning – allowing the community to learn from its past to plan for its future.

The Intangible Heritage Values Open House workshops featured a timeline of the major events in the history of Vancouver's Chinatown and six thematic stations. Participants were invited to visit the timeline first, and then they were free to visit the six thematic stations in any order. These themes were tailored to fit the unique qualities of Vancouver's Chinatown community. The most effective values-based responses consider how each theme is relevant to all people, places, and times in the evolution of Vancouver's Chinatown.

Each of the six thematic stations featured a brief description of the theme accompanied by historic pictures of Vancouver's Chinatown. Participants were invited to think about the themes as they relate to the development of Vancouver's Chinatown. Participants were encouraged to record their responses to the questions listed at each thematic station on the paper provided. Responses could relate to events, persons, places, eras, memories or other considerations that participants felt are meaningful aspects of community heritage.

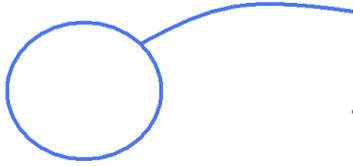
Heritage BC



Each thematic station also featured a map of Vancouver's Chinatown and surrounding area. Participants were encouraged to identify historic places on the maps that they felt represent that theme using the markings provided on legends at the stations. They explained their markings with notes in the white space around the map.



1.5 Heritage Values Mapping Notation for Identifying Historic Places



Use to identify areas of heritage value.



Use to identify specific places of heritage value.



Use to identify transportation routes relevant to heritage values.



Use to identify views that are important for retaining and understanding heritage values.

Section 2: Vancouver Chinatown's Intangible Heritage Values

2.1 Intangible Heritage Values of Vancouver's Chinatown from Participant Responses and Recommendations

2.1.1 Places and Spaces for Activities

"Chinatown had an "everyday spillage" in terms of sounds, smells, bodies, onto the street. This activity kept the entire area a community space."

- *workshop/open house participant comment*

"Brings together generations – seniors teaching youth, youth helping and challenging their elders too."

- *workshop/open house participant comment*

"Want to build/have a community centre that is welcoming, accessibly, and offering diverse cultural activities, because activities are good for seniors' health physically and emotionally."

- *workshop/open house participant comment*

"A community art/healing/spiritual space for youth to learn and create history; art and cultural production is vital and needs to take into consideration community health."

- *workshop/open house participant comment*

"Shanghai Alley was a lively street with Mahjong sounds, people sitting on the steps and laughter."

- *workshop/open house participant comment*

"Dance and art and food are incredibly powerful ways to stay grounded in the community. Youth-senior relations are so vital in Chinatown."

- *workshop/open house participant comment*

Vancouver's Chinatown is valued and significant as a site for a range of activities and events, both those that happen on a regular or daily basis, and those that are reserved for special times of year. Vancouver's Chinatown is a place for many social and cultural activities: games (e.g. Mahjong, Chinese chess); sports (e.g. soccer, ping pong); Chinese music, dance, performances; art; language education. It is a place for spirituality. Vancouver's Chinatown is a place for family events and intergenerational sharing. And it is a place for special events, celebrations, and activities: Night Market; Chinese New Year parade; Lion Dance; Mid-Autumn Festival; Winter Solstice.

Participants identified many physical places in Vancouver's Chinatown that embody the value of Chinatown as a site for activities and events. These range from institutions including the Chinese Cultural Centre, the Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Classical Chinese Garden and Park, the various Clan and Benevolent Association buildings, as well as public spaces including the streets, sidewalks, alleys, and parks.

However, participants also expressed concern that the current places and spaces for activities were inadequate and they felt that the continuation of many of these valued activities, events, and celebrations was threatened, or in fact, like the frequently mentioned Night Market, had already



ceased. Participants expressed particular concern with the need for more accessible and safe places and spaces for seniors' activities, as well as those that permitted intergenerational sharing between seniors and youth.

Recommendations:

- Coordination of existing places and spaces to provide accessible venues, both inside and outside, for a wide range of activities. These places could include the clan society/association buildings.
- Creation of accessible, affordable, and safe permanent places and spaces for seniors' activities, as well as those that encourage inter-generational sharing and education.
- Creation of permanent places and spaces for specific events and activities, in particular the Night Market.
- Activate key outdoor spaces for activities and events, including sidewalks, alleys, and other public spaces around the Chinese Cultural Centre and the Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Classical Chinese Garden and Park.

2.1.2 Entrepreneurial and Small/Family Business Support

"Local businesses know their customers."

- *workshop/open house participant comment*

"Early migrants were incredibly entrepreneurial."

- *workshop/open house participant comment*

"Family restaurants bring people together."

- *workshop/open house participant comment*

"New Town bakery is the Chinese "Cheers" – where everyone knows your name."

- *workshop/open house participant comment*

"Food plays an important part in Chinese culture."

- *workshop/open house participant comment*

"My dad's bakery, Keefer Bakery, employed scores of new immigrants and their families for decades – he would often tell me how they didn't make that much but somehow over the years would save enough to pay off their houses, send kids to university, etc."

- *workshop/open house participant comment*

"When I first came to Vancouver in the 1990s, Chinatown was one of the places my older sister brought me to find the coolest and cutest stationary from Hong Kong. That gave me a sense of connection and helped me ease the stress of settling in this new place."

- *workshop/open house participant comment*

"Village Toishan style food and cooking, can't find in Richmond."

- *workshop/open house participant comment can this fit on page 9?*

Vancouver's Chinatown is valued for its entrepreneurial history that demonstrated the resilience of the community in the face of systematic racism and discrimination. This entrepreneurial history is evident in the unique small and family run businesses in Chinatown, which meet the needs of the community



through affordable, accessible, language and culturally sensitive businesses. For many participants the businesses in Chinatown are expressions of the culture, and formed the backbone of a supportive community that provided employment opportunities for generations of new immigrants and served the low-income population of the area. Participants also described Chinatown's businesses, especially the restaurants, as community spaces, meeting spaces, and cultural spaces. They also pointed to the unique services and products available in Chinatown's businesses, ranging from produce, herbal medicines, "village" food, traditional goods and housewares, and favourite restaurant dishes. Many participants expressed how these businesses help to make Chinatown a cultural hub, and a place they identify as feeling "like home."

Participants identified a variety of physical places that embody Chinatown's entrepreneurial history and business culture. These include contemporary businesses including Modernize Tailors, Ovaltine Café and New Town Bakery, as well as historical businesses that no longer exist, in particular Marco Polo Restaurant. Key public spaces were also identified by participants, including sidewalks in front of stores and Market Alley.

However, participants lamented what they perceived to be a decline in "traditional" or "original" Chinatown businesses. Many feared that many family-run businesses were in danger of disappearing because they did not have anyone wanting to continue the business. Other participants voiced concern about large corporations and chain stores threatening the character and viability of Chinatown businesses. For many participants, Chinatown businesses, both present and future, needed to continue to serve the needs of the community by being affordable, accessible, language and culturally sensitive, that provide services and products unique to Chinatown, which cannot be found in places like Richmond. Participants felt strongly that Chinatown's entrepreneurial and business history is a significant heritage value of Chinatown that needs to be preserved and protected.

Recommendations:

- Provide capacity building to encourage and support new entrepreneurial business opportunities in Chinatown, especially for youth, including workshops, business planning, and small business or start up loans.
- Provide opportunities for apprenticeships and mentorships between existing established Chinatown businesses and youth, to encourage youth to work in Chinatown, develop skills and business training, especially for succession planning.
- Create a program of customer service training for new and established businesses, to both facilitate visitor/tourist experiences in Chinatown, and to ensure businesses also serve the local community, especially seniors.
- Collaborate with existing Chinatown organizations (Vancouver Chinatown BIA, Vancouver Chinatown Revitalization Committee, and Vancouver Chinatown Merchants' Association) to encourage authentic Chinatown businesses, that retain the unique character of Chinatown business: affordable, accessible, language and culturally sensitive, serve the local community.

2.1.3 Heritage and Cultural Hub

"I would like to see Chinatown become a place where everybody can celebrate the Chinese culture and unique feeling in the community, for both Chinese and Non-Chinese alike."

- *workshop/open house participant comment*

"Chinatown is important as an intercultural space."

- *workshop/open house participant comment*



“Chinatown should be a place where people can feel and experience and learn about the diversity of the different clans or regions of Chinese culture.”

- *workshop/open house participant comment*

“I hope to see Chinatown to be seen as a place where Chinese people welcome foreigners and new immigrants to learn more about the Chinese culture.”

- *workshop/open house participant comment*

“I associate the Chinese Cultural Centre and Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Classical Chinese Garden as the heart and pulse of Chinatown, particularly its heritage values and significance.”

- *Online comment*

“It’s a place that magically transports you to another world with its own customs, language, culture. Where you can glimpse into what it would be like to visit China.”

- *Online comment*

Vancouver’s Chinatown is valued as a cultural hub, a place for sharing Chinese culture and providing unique and authentic experiences to visitors. Participants identified Chinatown as an intercultural space, a place where people can learn about and experience aspects of Chinese culture in an authentic and respectful manner. Chinatown, according to participants, has both historic and contemporary value as a welcoming and inclusive space.

Participants identified several physical places that embody the value of Chinatown as a cultural hub and space for intercultural sharing. These include well-known tourist destinations including the Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Classical Chinese Garden, cultural institutions such as the Chinese Cultural Centre, but also the general architectural features of Chinatown’s heritage buildings, especially the Clan and Benevolent Association buildings, as well as everyday places, in particular restaurants and food shops.

However, many participants believed that the potential of Vancouver’s Chinatown as a cultural tourism destination was not being realized. Other participants were concerned about the “Disneyfication,” that in order to attract tourists, Chinatown would cease to be a living neighbourhood, and instead would become a sterile façade. According to participants the history of racism and discrimination of Vancouver’s Chinatown and the contemporary living character of Chinatown are what provide the unique, authentic, and significant experiences to visitors.

Recommendations:

- Establish a permanent tourism office in Chinatown, located in close proximity to existing tourist destinations the Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Classical Chinese Garden and Park, and the Chinese Cultural Centre.
- Tourism office operated by local Chinatown organization and staffed by youth ambassadors, Chinese youth trained to welcome visitors and provide information and tours.
- Operate tourism office using best practices of heritage and cultural tourism, to provide authentic and value-added experiences to visitors.
- Coordinate and promote special events and activities with local businesses and attractions.
- Offer workshops to build the capacity of local organizations and businesses to promote Vancouver’s Chinatown as a tourism destination.
- Tell the actual stories of Chinatown, including the history of racism and discrimination.

2.1.4 Deep Sense of History and Heritage

“I came to Chinatown often because of the feeling of being almost like a time capsule. The buildings and the stories behind are iconic. It’s like an anchor of my identity.”

- *workshop/open house participant comment*

“Need to preserve physical buildings because it shows character and a unique neighbourhood. Rest of Lower Mainland looks the same.”

- *workshop/open house participant comment*

“Important to preserve Chinatown for the purpose of telling a story. You need the physical historical buildings to preserve the intangible heritage of stories.”

- *workshop/open house participant comment*

“Preserve Chinatown to remember the racial struggles of those who came before us.”

- *workshop/open house participant comment*

“People came seeking better lives, prosperity, opportunity. Now people come to reconnect with their own history.”

- *workshop/open house participant comment*

“Chinatown belongs to everyone.”

- *workshop/open house participant comment*

“Chinese immigrants fought for their rights and community. Chinatown continues to be a historical landmark due to continual efforts of the population to keep it alive.”

- *workshop/open house participant comment*

“Chinatown is home to a rich history – it is a place that was created out of racist exclusion, poverty and discrimination against Chinese labourers, but it is also a place that was once a thriving business place and a vibrant cultural hub. It has provided wealth for the city and the nation and plays an important role in our history, which is why we shouldn’t think Chinatown is just a “Chinese” concern, but one that matters and relates to every Vancouverite and to every Canadian.”

- *Online comment*

Vancouver’s Chinatown is valued for its deep history and authentic heritage. Participants recognized the history of Vancouver’s Chinatown, from its very beginning, as intrinsically linked to the history of racism and discrimination faced by Chinese in Canada. While participants believed that the history and legacy of racism and discrimination built Chinatown, they also proudly recognized the accomplishments of Chinese Canadians in facing and overcoming this history. They described Chinatown as a unique neighbourhood, entrenched in history, and characterized by providing a sense of belonging and community. Many participants pointed to Chinatown’s inclusive history, welcoming many marginalized people, including First Nations, Japanese, and black Canadians. For many participants, Chinatown is valued as a physical representation of their culture and history. It is a place where youth can rediscover and reconnect with their roots, and a safe space for seniors to live supported by their community.

Participants identified several physical places that embody the history and heritage of Vancouver’s Chinatown. These places include the Clan and Benevolent Association buildings, and their history



providing services to the community. Many participants expressed the need to preserve Chinatown's heritage buildings, because they physically embody Chinatown's history, and clearly distinguish Chinatown from areas like Richmond.

However, participants expressed concern that Chinatown's history and heritage, as embodied in the physical buildings, was being eroded and in danger of disappearing. The community and cultural identity of Chinatown was linked to the physical heritage.

Recommendations:

- City of Vancouver to provide greater protection and preservation of Chinatown's physical heritage and character through planning and capacity building.
- Establish values-based guidelines for Vancouver's Chinatown based upon the intangible heritage values identified in this report.
- Leverage the heritage of Vancouver's Chinatown through capacity building for building owners to access conservation and awareness grants for conserving and promoting Chinatown's heritage.
- Leverage the National Historic Site status of Vancouver's Chinatown through the erection of the trilingual Parks Canada plaque.
- Fund the conservation of Chinatown's Clan and Benevolent Association buildings.
- Continue to provide grants and funding for heritage conservation projects, including façade grants, for Chinatown's heritage buildings.
- Provide capacity building to brand and promote Chinatown's heritage, by recognizing established businesses, institutions, organizations, and historic buildings. Raise awareness about Chinatown history and heritage through temporary and rotation storefront historic exhibits (utilize empty storefronts as exhibit spaces), permanent interpretive signage, and oral history projects.
- Provide a revised and refreshed Statement of Significance (SOS) for Vancouver's Chinatown as a whole, and identified heritage sites in Vancouver's Chinatown, to help guide planning, recognition, and conservation of Vancouver's Chinatown.

2.1.5 A Place for Seniors

"Seniors – the glue of the Chinese community, everybody loves seniors! But need places and spaces for them (housing, public spaces, programs and activities."

- *workshop/open house participant comment*

"Chinese chess tables in plaza park space, like in San Fran, so seniors and others can have a place to socialize."

- *workshop/open house participant comment*

"No places for seniors to connect, exercise in safe environment (like a Nikkei Centre in Chinatown)."

- *workshop/open house participant comment*

"Lots of seniors don't live in Chinatown but have their lives here; they come almost every day to eat and buy groceries and walk around and bump into their friends."

- *workshop/open house participant comment*



“A site for sharing knowledge between generations. We need spaces for seniors to live, play, work, and shop.”

- *workshop/open house participant comment*

“My great-grandmother lived in Chinatown until she passed away. She felt welcomed, accepted and was able to communicate in Cantonese. She was able to move freely and with convenience within the neighbourhood.”

- *workshop/open house participant comment*

Throughout the workshop, open house, and online comments, participants frequently linked seniors with Chinatown’s value. Several participants spoke of seniors as the “glue” that kept the community together, as repositories of Chinatown’s history and culture or the “living history” of Chinatown. Seniors represented the importance of family, respect for elders, and the importance of intergenerational sharing and education in Chinese culture.

Places and spaces for seniors to live, access services (especially health services), shop, participate in activities, and socialize were mentioned time after time by participants. Many participants expressed particular concern that there were not enough affordable, safe, language and culturally sensitive, and accessible places and spaces for seniors in Chinatown.

Recommendations:

- Provide more housing and supportive services for seniors in Chinatown.
- Provide more places and spaces in Chinatown for seniors to participate in intergenerational education and sharing.
- Provide more activities for seniors in Chinatown.
- Consider utilizing the clan association/society buildings in Chinatown for seniors’ housing and services.



2.2 Thematic Stations and Participant Responses

The six thematic stations from the Intangible Heritage Values Workshop and Open House are explained below, along with the responses gathered at the Workshop, Open House, and on the maps.

2.2.1 Arriving in B.C. and Settling in Vancouver

This theme provides context to the arrival of Chinese workers and immigrants to B.C. and Vancouver, and outlines the influence of Canadian laws that regulated their eligibility for residence. The early Chinese Canadian presence in B.C. is a good example of the practice of labouring overseas to support families in China. Chinese immigration to Canada persisted despite discriminatory Canadian regulations, and continues to the present day. Racial discrimination led to the establishment of Vancouver's Chinatown on the outskirts of the city on what was considered undesirable land. Because of its size, diversity, and entrepreneurial and historical significance, Vancouver's Chinatown is of particular importance in representing the theme of settlement patterns and land ownership. Important subthemes to consider under this theme are migration and immigration, settlement, and the relationship between people and the environment. Why did and do people come to be in Vancouver's Chinatown? What draws people to Vancouver's Chinatown?



500 Block of Carrall Street looking North toward Pender Street
Image Courtesy of Vancouver Archives



Word Cloud generated from workshop and open house responses to the theme “Arriving in B.C. and Settling in Vancouver”

Arriving in B.C. and Settling in Vancouver Workshop responses¹:

- I came to Chinatown in the 80s when I was a kid. My dad worked as Dr. on Keefer and Columbia/Main in a building that had a lot of other Drs. And medical services. 100% of these medical services were provided in Cantonese. On my dad's lunch break and before and after work we walked down the street and dozens of seniors a week would stop him on the street and ask for medical advice for themselves and their family. Nowadays it's difficult to get a regular family Dr. I recognize now that the medical building was a hub for Cantonese speaking families to get medical help / prescription filled / advice @ the same time as getting their groceries and doing their everyday activities. No other neighbourhood has the hub of services in a walkable community the way Chinatown does. M.F.
- I arrived in 1960 with Mom and younger brother to join Dad and older brother who landed in 1954. My grandfather was already here in 1949 after spending 30 years in China. He had first come to Canada in 1917

¹ The comments on these pages are from participants. They have not been fact checked and may contain factual errors.

Heritage BC



- Language skills and support services for families, youth, seniors, and queer people of colour
- A generation of memory of settlement, growth, prosperity in Vancouver. –M.F.
- Support services
- Found in Chinatown and not elsewhere: non-judgement of low-income people, welcoming you no matter how much money you have
- Chinatown ≠ Richmond!!!
- I came as a child with my grandfather and grandmother to meet their friends. We ate coconut buns and egg tarts!
- Chinese shops and retails helped ease and facilitate the movement and draw of Chinese to Chinatown
- Families could not come together in most cases before and throughout early 1900s. Chinatown was a major landmark, just a coincidence that there were enough men (usually alone) to build a beacon for newcomers
- Chinese weren't allow on west of Caroll – all Ctown ?? downtown due to systemic racism and discrimination
- In old days, it's the only place where men could really work
- History, cultural not same as Richmond
- Limitation due to mobility of seniors residing in Chinatown community
- Love going to The Boss Bakery
- Monuments of Chinatown: Sunrise Market - cheap prices, no other location
- Sense of community in Chinatown and nowhere else
- Events and celebrations in Chinatown
- Is Chinatown now a snap-shot of time for outsiders consumption (tourists) or a cultural hub for historic Chinese population?
- A sense of belonging!
- My community
- Shared experiences of being Chinese-Canadian
- Common language
- Kindness to Chinese-speaking seniors is something few people find outside of Chinatown
- My grandfather moved himself to seniors housing on Gore/Pender after his wife died suddenly in Hastings-Sunrise. It was the only place he felt at home.
- People from around Vancouver used to come experience the cultural events, food, atmosphere! Since 1990s, less people come for that
- I come to Chinatown for inspiration. The stories of resilience, resourcefulness, and community support that even continue today
- My family has lived and worked in Vancouver's Chinatown. Chinatown was / continues to be a place of work for working class monolingual Chinese Canadians
- I immigrated to Vancouver in 1994 and was 7 years old. My family and I came to Chinatown every week to shop, eat, see our doctor, hang out with other people. It was our home.
- My great-grandmother lived in Chinatown until she passed away. She felt welcomed, accepted and was able to communicate in Cantonese. She was able to move freely and with convenience within the neighbourhood
- Indigenous, Japanese, Black, etc. community that helped + collaborated w/ Chinese
- Chinatown continues to be a place of settlement for low-income Chinese, monolingual seniors. One of the last neighbourhoods w/ culturally-appropriate social housing
- I love yellow cake (Malay steamed cake)
- Michiy O



- Friends and their families who moved here. Learning new languages, Hearing from friends about their different childhood experiences. Having my own personal tour guides for Chinatown (I'm not Chinese)
- As a 4th generation Chinese Canadian, family dinners in Chinatown were a nod to our heritage
- 1998 – came because of Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Chinese Garden. Early days of Chinatown revitalization. Chinatown visioning. Chinatown arts and cultural festival. Chinatown marketing committee
- Legal aid and Benevolent Associations helped Chinese to come to Canada and aid their settlement
- People (local) came because its familiar. Tourists come and are constantly disappointed.
- My grandmother moved of out family home to live by herself in Chinatown by choice. She wanted to be close to her friends and to maintain her independence. The Chinatown Community supported her and her needs in her old age. Thank you!
- Cloth Mary Jane shoes
- People cam seeking better lives, prosperity, opportunity. Now people come to reconnect with their own history, to be tourists, or to be like tourists in their own “home.” Chinatown is a relic to newcomers, but a gateway for the grandchildren and great-grandchildren to their more recent heritage and culture.

Arriving in B.C. and Settling in Vancouver Open House responses²:

- Putting a complete neighbourhood at risk
- Walkability
- Accessibility to amenities, businesses, healthcare
- Shopping, fresh, affordable + high quality food
- Iconic double storey building be kept
- Good to see new activity in the area
- Marginalized communities coming together in the area
- I do groceries in Chinatown. I want to spend my money at local businesses because lots of them are closing
- There is so much development + change in Vancouver. It's nice to see some neighbourhood stable over time to maintain connection to history
- Building on photo is very important. It's a piece of history. It was 1st ?? to Empire Association. All modern Chinese history started here. If it wasn't for this building and its members Chinese Political Situation would of happened (possible) – helped in connecting Chinese overseas to Chinese political situations
- Community dining – idea of breaking bread together → combatting racism
- Better education opportunities for children
- I do reporting here. The history is a big part of why I came. Before, I would always come here for tofu pudding and I would get a big tub of it.
- Went to Chinese school and church down here
- Good food – Richmond is big. Not the same. New age. This place more historic feel. Phnom Peng is awesome.
- I work close to here @ Gastown. Come here for lunch
- Concerned about erosion of character
- Liveable areas outside the DTES
- Traditionally larger families – spend time together – celebrations: life, death

² The comments on these pages are from participants. They have not been fact checked and may contain factual errors.

Heritage BC



- Food all experiencing culture. Experiencing a slice of Chinese culture that has since been more or less lost in Mainland China
- Born & raised in Ctown – 3rd gen
 - Grandpa, grandmom & me
 - <3 the community here. Everyone knows everyone
- b/c racism back then families kept children tight
- Many people of all ethnic come to Chinatown to get cheap food
- Chinatown residence were handy for crafts
- Story: 2 Chinese built a airplane form a magazine subscription that sent instruction manual. Registered plane – mothers sewed the canvasing
- Place where you could find commodities that were unavailable in other parts of the city
- Born in Chinatown, place where community gathered from other districts of China. Cheap services. Inter-family relationships facilitated in the upbringing of children in Chinatown allowing for the parents to work
- 25 cent meals during 1930s
- Chinatown as a cradle for Chinese: culture, tradition, language, etc. Some dialects that are disappearing in China are preserved in Chinatown.
- A journalist: Chinatown is my beat. I write stories about Chinatown
- Community life
- Seniors are the “glue” to the community
- Newtown bakery is the Chinese “Cheers” – where everyone knows your name
- Tight-knit community
- Why not stay here? The roots of China Town is here. There is nothing in Richmond except low water levels + ? airport
- I come to Chinatown at least once a week to visit my grandma and to eat, buy groceries, and sketch/get inspiration for my art
- Creates a fear for people – in relation to crime/homelessness. Perceived vs. actual danger
- They come to Chinatown because its unique, rich history. It transports you.
- Memory: dim sum places
 - Dirty, rotting lettuce in gutter curb
 - Shop owners yelling at me as a kid running down sidewalks and reprimand me
 - Long lineups at TD bank & I’d be bored as a kid
- Dad owned a wholesale packing business
- I come to Chinatown but I live in Richmond and it’s interesting to watch how new folks come here and being only what’s comfortable whereas Chinatown was about helping each other
- Settled in Chinatown after immigrating to Canada because of support from family
- Proximity to port
- Historical relationship between Chinese and Japanese
- Threat from Mainland China in a more politically turbulent time
- Vancouver was chosen because people knew there were other Cantonese/other dialect speakers here
- Feeling of here – the touch, smell, sound ?
- Historical financial draw; currently for better education for children/draw of family and friends who have already settled here
- Makes me sad to see what goes on – loss of character & respect for ancestors who paved the way for us all
- “chaos of it” – fresh seafood, bbq, intangible
- seniors can’t feel safe anymore like before

Heritage BC



- Yip Sang – another important man
- There is not a Whole Foods in sight. There is high-quality, affordable food.
- We came down to CT to celebrate with family. Birthdays, anniversaries, weddings
- Grandparents and dad came in 1972... they came for food and groceries! I came with my parents for yummy food at Golden Daisy!
- Sounds of Buddhist Temples
- Smells of incense
- Sounds of “drumming” in temples & chanting
- Safety issue for seniors. Scared to go out on streets now
- New changed alert – used to be busy in business. Lots of Chinese, lots of things by – BBQ, herbal shops. Dim sum places. There’s not anymore. Not so clean anymore – drugs & syringes – safety concerns
- No places for seniors to connect, exercise in safe environment (like a Nikkei Center in Chinatown)
- Family came in '49 and '62 → grocery stores
- It didn’t matter what community you came from. You met in Chinatown together!
- Tofu dessert! (Mylite Signfoods ?? which is now gone) Because it’s way more legit than the packaged Sunrise stuff.
- Used to visit my great grandfather who worked in Strathcona
- Non sterile streets (a bit dirty/gritty) result of the way the neighbourhood was built & part of the liveliness & culture (smells of produce, sounds of sight of delivery trucks on street etc.)
- Long history of Chinese people in B.C. = well established enclaves/welcoming settling group
- Came every weekend when I was little to pick up my grandma from ?? association. Stopped coming for ~10 years because it was considered dangerous. Started volunteering at SYS garden. We need to create more welcoming spaces for youth. Avoid “danger” labels
- Art inspiration and area for photography
- Area for meditation
- Reading books about Chinese history. Field trips to Chinatown (Social Studies, Cultures + Civilization)
- International and local art display @ Chinese Cultural Museum – gallery space
- Came for the food! Goldstone, Floata when we came in the 90’s
- When I was a kid (1950s), my parents came for safety, comfort, ability to communicate. They feel they belonged. Nowhere else did they feel this.
- Why not + say
- The original complete community
 - Affordable
 - Diverse
 - Supporting people that need it
- Recent demographic change
 - Younger urban professionals
 - New gallery space
 - Revamping old warehouse/derelict buildings



Arriving in B.C. and Settling in Vancouver Map Sites and Comments³

Place	Comments
Raycam Campbell	
DTES Neighbourhood House	
Hua Foundation	
Ng Sun Suey Tong	
Sunrise Market	
Downtown Eastside Women's Centre	
Carnegie	
	Memories of produce wholesalers: Jim Koo, Tom Yee, CC Dan, Pacific Produce
Kwong Chow Chinese Restaurant	One of the first Chinese restos w/ famous buns! Where my dad worked as a dim sum chef
All housing built by societies	
Lee's Benevolent Association of Canada 313 E. Pender Street	
Gate	
Royal City Sawmill	1886
New Town Bakery	
Chin Wing Chun Building	Site of old "New Town"
Garden	Symbolic
Memorial statue/monument	
Pender	Family roots, food, "aunty + uncle" friendship
	Youth Collaborative for Chinatown Mahjong event
	All acknowledged sites on register
T&T and Int'l Village mall	Came to Vancouver 2 years ago from Alberta. Sadly, the place I'm most familiar with in "Chinatown" is T&T and International Village Mall
Site of first opera house	
	Chinese classes for children
SUCCESS	
Chin Wing Chun Society	Association of Chan's in Vancouver
Goldstone	
	<3 the grocery stores
sidewalk	Fresh produce
Phnom Penh	Chicken wings
Soccer Fields	
E. Georgia	Vegetable warehouse ~1980s

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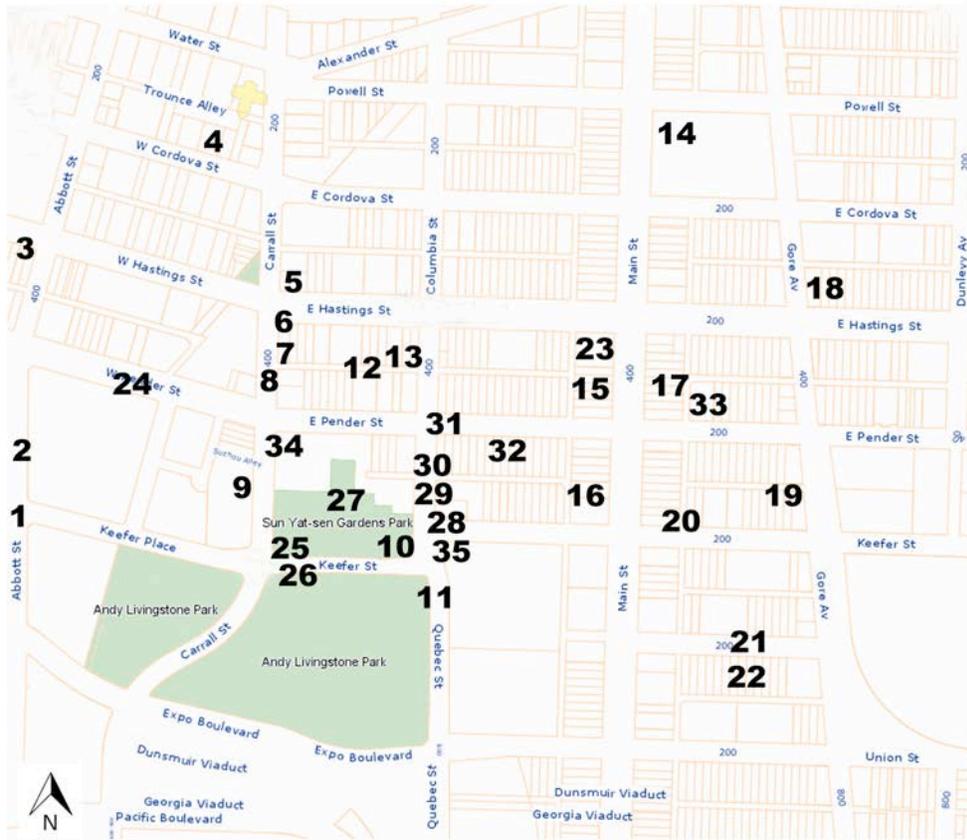
Heritage BC



	Upstairs speakeasy
Phnom Penh	+1
Chinese Schools	Evening/after school
Wholesale produce companies	Christmas dinners
Specialty businesses	Bakery, butcher, herbs/spices, clothing
Chinese Presbyterian Church on Keefer St.	Started 1895
New Diamond	1970 above Man Le (BBQ)
	Feeling unsafe Perceived danger Businesses close early
Hong Kong Café	
Mings	
Neom Boat	
First United Church	Now a homeless shelter
Ask for Luigi	Italian restaurant
Japan Town	
Alley Restaurants (Red Door, Green Doors)	
SUCCESS	
Outside Sun Yat-Sen Garden	Mom's picture on pole - talking about seeing Shirley Temple
	How to get to the "real" or old Chinatown from the Chinatown SkyTrain station?
Tinseltown + 'Silk Road'	
Abbott and Hastings	Historic grooming houses ~1940ish
Pender west of Carrall St.	Improve accessibility of this area? Inaccessible, stagnant
Carrall & Hastings	Sometimes feel unsafe or intimidated by perceived homelessness/crime
Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Classical Chinese Garden	"park" and "garden" are separate
Carrall St.	Bike route
Sounds of the World – Abbott & Hastings	Family music business 1970s
Video rental stores	~1980s, Chinese movies, books



Arriving in BC and Settling in Vancouver



Places

- 1 SkyTrain station wayfinding
- 2 Tinseltown+Silk Road?
- 3 Historic rooming houses
- 4 Family music business
- 5 Sometimes feel unsafe
- 6 Improve accessibility of this area
- 7 Oldest alley
- 8 Hearing string instruments and mah jong tiles
- 9 SUCCESS
- 10 Mom's picture
- 11 Chinese schools
- 12 Video rental places
- 13 Alley restaurants
- 14 "Japan Town"
- 15 Specialty shops
- 16 Wholesale produce companies
- 17 Feeling unsafe
- 18 First United Church
- 19 New Diamond
- 20 Chinese Presbyterian Church
- 21 Phnom Penh
- 22 Vegetable Warehouse
- 23 Carnegie
- 24 Gate
- 25 Site of first opera house
- 26 Royal City Sawmill
- 27 Garden Symbolic
- 28 Youth Collaborative mahjong
- 29 Goldstone!
- 30 Family Roots
- 31 Chin Wing Chun Building
- 32 All housing built by societies
- 33 Kwong Chow Restaurant
- 34 Chinese Classes for Children
- 35 Memorial Statue



2.2.2 Working in a New World and Developing Economies

A central theme in the history of B.C. and Vancouver is the role and contribution of Chinese Canadian labourers, farmers, business owners and entrepreneurs to the development of the province and the city. Chinese Canadians were involved in every major project in the development of B.C.'s economy, including in the fur trade, gold rushes, mining, building transportation networks and infrastructure, fishing and canning, and food production and sale. Despite the difficulties faced by Chinese Canadians in Canada, many became vendors and businesspeople establishing family-run laundries, tailor shops, restaurants, and grocery stores that have been passed down through the generations. This theme must also consider how Vancouver Chinatown's economy is continuing to evolve today. How did the Chinese Canadian immigrant experience shape the economy of Vancouver's Chinatown?



Exterior of Yick Lung Jin Merchant Tailors' Shop at 426 Carrall St. c.1897/1898
Image Courtesy of the Vancouver Archives



- Driven by local low-income (Chinese Community)
- Businesses appealing to multiple generations
- Entrepreneur driven
- W.K. Gardens
- Ming's
- BC Royal Café
- Bamboo Terrace
- Ho Inn
- Ho Ho
- Foo's
- Marco Polo
- No franchise chains pls!
- Community biz
- Need young people to add hip flavor to Chinese traditions
- Canada's wealth built on Chinese hands and blood / the railway
- Family owned shops
- Chinese workers always have and continue to work unsustainably long hours to survive on low wages in Chinatown businesses/ This is invisible work that often contravenes labour standards and is widely overlooked in larger society. Solutions: empower people with employment standards knowledge, raise minimum wage. My grandparents worked in Chinatown small businesses for very low wages at very long hours. My grandma prided herself on being "tough" enough to skip meals without fainting at Hallmark Poultry. She asked her boss to pretend he fired her so she could go on EI when she needed early retirement. How do we empower Chinese-speaking, minimum-wage workers in Chinatown to promote their own mental and physical health?
- For the people by the people. Affordability, accessible language-wise, products
- Food plays an important part in Chinese culture
- Families used to live very close to businesses (sometimes in the back areas of shops, not equipped as proper living spaces) – live/work?
- Local employment of community members. Helping each other out.
- Cultural activities initiated by young Chinese people
- Chinatown is no longer the cultural hub of Chinese people in Vancouver. People and businesses have spread throughout Vancouver.
- Innovative grandma sales and self businesses
- Delicious food, soul food
- Share culture like Majong games with non-asians too to bring vitality
- Chinatown's economy continues to evolve due to continual cultural events and tourism. Cultural and history of Chinatown
- Chinese owners/businesses pushed out by developing and modernization and gentrification
- Economically not a leading area in "Chinese" context, but new "fusion" and non-Chinese businesses seem to be doing well (sadly at the expense of less resources for some residents)
- Tourism?
- Rallying around community members in times of need e.g. when Kam Kok Yuen burnt down and the chefs had no work... businesses in the hood can help them out?
- Limited job opportunity leading to well-developed produce and food-based businesses
- The textile industry in "Railtown" in the 80s/70s (where a large number of Chinese female seamstresses worked) brought many Chinese people into Chinatown after work. The nearby industry directly impacted the local Chinatown economy



- Low income working hub – the people who live here work here too
- Economic cultural hub
- Chinese immigrants built Chinatown. Existed because of CPR, Gold Rush, etc.
- Economy built by Chinese immigrants. Major contribution to Canada's economy
- New businesses (not necessarily bad/inappropriate) are taking over empty storefront. The face of Chinatown is changing. When will it no longer offer Chinese heritage businesses and become a contrived Chinatown?
- Food carts
- It is / continues to be a job search hub → informal, accessible, information sharing
- Can Chinatown accommodate more start-up, co-lo types of businesses? This will provide clientele to maintain existing services
- Collective support for the businesses to amplify their work
- A place to employ other Chinese immigrants to work and make unity
- Encourage new “hip” businesses to connect with and collaborate with older Chinese businesses
- In early 20th Century many immigrants from Guangdong became farmers and started vegetable gardens that supported small business in Vancouver's Chinatown (some of them were farmers in Lulu Island, Richmond)
- “New Authenticity”
- Reform Association connect Chinese Dynasty w/ prominent Vancouver businesspeople to send info home to China
- Brickhouse bar – authentic character, Leo is a great host
- One lady opened an employment services business out of her chocolate shop
- Is there something gained when many businesses of a similar type are kept together? Do we lose something when businesses spread apart?
- Heritage from businesses should be leveraged as part of preserving cultural assets
- How can we better acknowledge contributions of Chinese Canadians developing national and local economies?
- Encourage and support future entrepreneurs and community builders with a socially, environmentally and economically sustainable mindset
- The original hipster / artisanal economic model (unfortunately lost because parents keep pushing kids to be lawyers/doctors)
- My dad's bakery, Keefer Bakery, employed scores of new immigrants and their families for decades – he would often tell me how they didn't make that much but somehow over the years would save enough to pay off their houses, send kids to university, etc.

Working in a New World and Developing Economies Open House responses:

- All the restaurants closed! No more dim sum places
- ?? is pretentious and expensive
- If companies that employ a lot of Chinese people had an office here to enable workers to form a relationship with this neighbourhood (if they were less exposed previously) and care about what happens here
- Chinese entrepreneurs providing for their community's needs
 - Chinese food/goods
 - Chinese speaking services
- My grandfather was the first Gold Smith in Canada. The other was in San Francisco
- There are so many great businesses run by Chinese people with roots in Chinatown, I wish they had offices here – why have they chosen alternatives? (such as Richmond) Concord, Fairchild employ many Chinese ppl



- Early migrants were incredibly entrepreneurial
- Food/restaurants
- Tailors
- Herbal shops
- Housewares shops - Where else to buy a wok?
- Asian vegetables / produce
- Bi-lingual print shops
- Suggestions:
 - Keeping physical buildings (façade) in natural state, esp. on street level. Build things on top of old buildings
 - Supporting “original” merchants in business
 - Services that invite people into Chinatown
- Chinese owned and operated all sorts of businesses: import, trade, manufacture, retail; they cooperate a lot across industries
- H.Y. Louie is another success story of early Chinese family-run business. Mr. H.Y Louie started as a street veggie vendor. Now few generations later the Louie companies include IGA market place chain, London Drugs and real estate bus. Another example of hardworking Chinese
- Being proud of your business / livelihood and protecting it
- Need to preserve physical buildings because it shows character and a unique neighbourhood. Rest of Lower Mainland looks the same.
- Modernize Tailor in the old Chinese Freemason bldgs. They have been in business since 1918!
- Chinese bakeries are my childhood
- Plants, tile, everything from Sun Yat-Sen shipped from China
- Cooperation of many small businesses
- Not only businesses in Chinatown but grocery stores in the rest of Metro Van who bought groceries through suppliers here
- Changing business climate can be scary! Gross business that pretend to be “Chinese” with Chinese signs to cater to the community. Stores on Union Street can feel unauthentic
- My family started Top Valu Noodle & Golden Yuan Fortune Cookies, came to Canada with nothing in 1950s from ??
- Chinese entrepreneurs providing for their community’s needs
 - Chinese food/goods
 - Chinese-speaking service
- Chinese role in food is integral for survival of low income community. Many of the low cost food options are run by Chinese (Kent’s Kitchen, Sunrise, Prime Time Chicken, Ovaltine, former Save On Meats, meat shops, BBQ shops)
- Family restaurants bring people together
- Many Chinese not allowed to practice law, medicine etc. leading to establishment of many restaurants, laundries, etc. The success of these establishments has led to many prominent Chinese-run businesses today
- My dad used to work in a cannery as a teen
- Mrs. Rogers (sugar) chef was able to raise a family with enough resources to provide for a professional education for his children
- Ma Family, 5 generations built restaurants, a society/association building
- Market Alley
 - People actually lived there and had businesses
 - Market Alley was a quiet alley to enjoy the coolness of the evenings

Heritage BC



- Despite everything, places that are GOOD draw people to Chinatown; promote QUALITY BUSINESSES (even better is culturally appropriate for Chinatown)
- I wish businesses would stop coming into Chinatown with an idea of their target market and then think about how their retail space can cater to the community here and serve the existing community
- What I remember about Chinatown is just how different + distinct it was from any other Vancouver neighbourhood
- There was a Keefer Bakery in Port Coquitlam as well, the culture of downtown Chinatown reached out to other parts of Metro Van
- Chinese Schools: Freemasons, Wong's Association
- We need more interaction or tourism to bring ppl come to Chinatown again
- Chinese grocery stores, meat shops, hot food stores are all places I used to learn to speak Cantonese
- The convergence of influences like Expo 86, Concord Pacific, return of HK and Vancouver planning developed Vancouverism
- My dad and mom met in Chinatown... at work. Then there was my brother and I ☺
- Stores where it's language accessible (Taishanese, Cantonese) → sense of belonging/community)
- I would like Chinatown to be the go-to place for the best Chinese food in Vancouver
- Gain Wah. Only place low income people (particularly men) can get a cheap meal at night – there are no meals provided in late evening by charities/non-profits
- I am personally repulsed by the way developers have been allowed to build towering residences right in the middle of Chinatown, becoming new visible gateway to Keefer St. They are eyesores built too close to pedestrian spaces, too imposing)
- Much of the early immigrant experience, especially merchants in the early 1900s, had to do with out-thinking, outsmarting the real estate vendors who would not sell/do business with Asians. The successful merchants were able to fight/deal with continuous overt discrimination, installing the roots for their successful businesses today
- Chinatown as an economic NEXUS for the rest of BC & Canada
- More restaurants
- More job opportunities for people in the neighbourhood, doesn't rely on government
- When I first came to Vancouver in the 1990s, Chinatown was one of the places my older sister bring me to find the coolest and cutest stationary from Hong Kong. That gave me a sense of connection and helped me ease the stress of settling in this new place
- Came to Vancouver in the 90's. Grandparents would always take us to Chinatown for food and shopping. Gold Stone, MAL CD store, small gift shops
- The economy will always be in the slump if the consumers are unwell. Opening more community/art/healing/counseling spaces and shelters that sell language accessible books, tapes, zines, and paraphernalia would enable and help make businesses in Chinatown thrive
- Bob Rennie's preservation of the Chinatown buildings is impressive
- Chinatown needs a high end dimsum/banquet restaurant to draw weddings and large gatherings. Floata just doesn't have the right feel/quality
- Orange Door Restaurant!!
- On On Restaurant



Working in a New World and Developing Economies Map Sites and Comments⁵

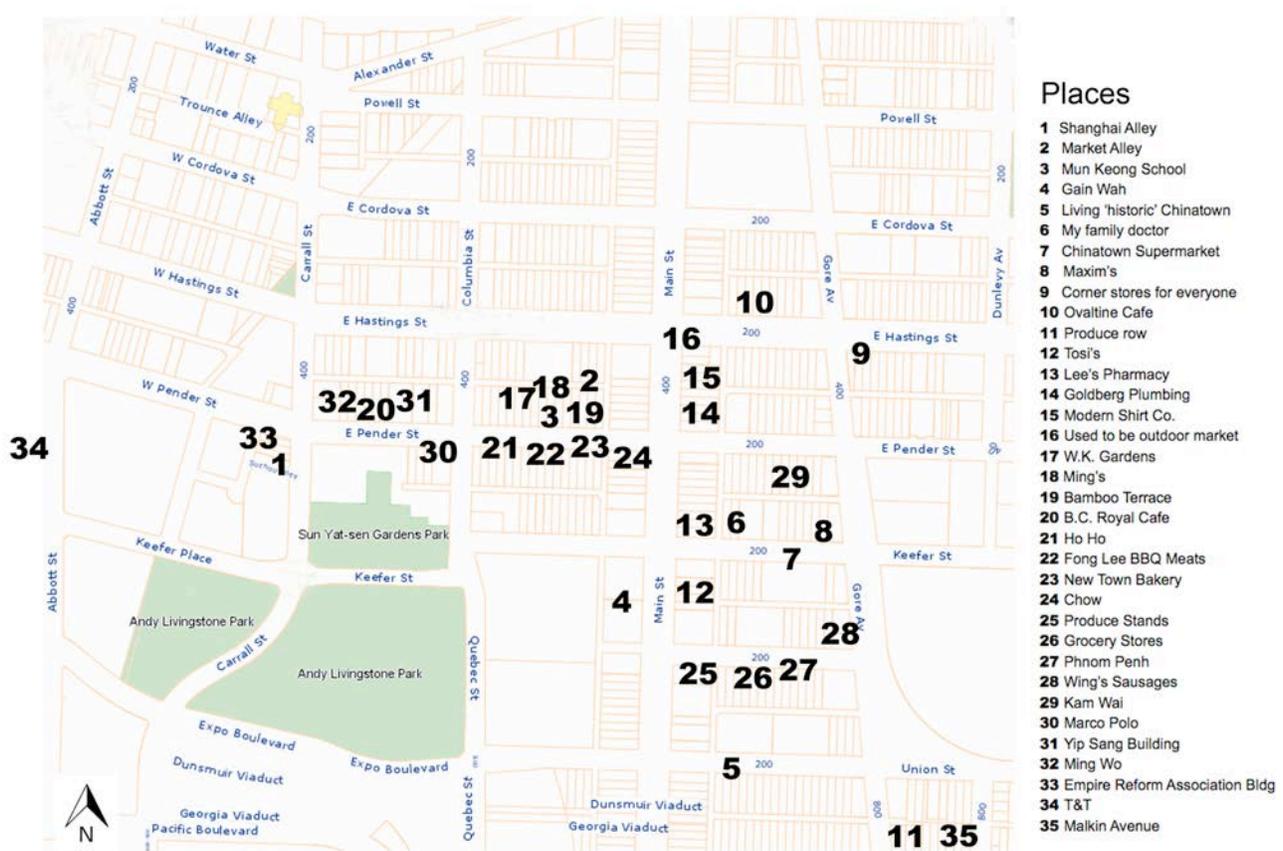
Place	Comments
	Chinese seamstress
	Route to Chinatown
	Used to be an outdoor market
Goldberg Plumbing	
Modern Shirt Co.	
Malkin Avenue	
Produce Row	Lasting legacy and infrastructure of Chinese role in food system. Supports small business groceries in Chinatown and across Vancouver (i.e. groceries on Victoria Dr., Little India, Fraser St., etc.)
Phnom Penh	
Produce Stands	
Empire Reform Association Bldg	1903
Wo Fat	
Grocery Stores	
BC Royal Cafe	
Ming Wo	
Kam Wai	
Wing's Sausages	On or near Keefer So important!
Ho Inn Café	
Marco Polo	
Ho Ho	
Hon's	
Hua Foundation	Mixed use
Hong Kong Café	
W.K. Gardens	
Chow	Burnt down
Ming's	
Bamboo Terrace	
Fong Lee	BBQ Meats
New Town Bakery	
Tosi's	
T+T	Is it taking business away from Chinatown shops?
Lee's Pharmacy	
Yip Sang Building	
Shanghai Alley	
Market Alley	
Mun Keong School	
Gain Wah	One of the last family-run BBQ restaurants

⁵ The comments on these pages are from participants. They have not been fact checked and may contain factual errors.



E. Georgia: Living "Historic" Chinatown	Vital, connected, persevering
My family doctor	
Chinatown Supermarket	Hub for local vegetables, fruits, meats, and "ethnic" foods as well
Maxim's	Where my mom used to work and where she met dad
Ovaltine Café	Where clients have formed their own community
Corner stores	For young kids/everyone Buying freezies in the summer after school
	Produce for (Malikin) grocery markets – lasting legacy of Chinese role in food system

Working in a New World & Developing Economies





2.2.3 Facing Racism; Establishing Rights

The long struggle to counter racist law and customs in B.C. and Vancouver is central to understanding the Chinese Canadian experience in the province and the city. This theme explores the challenges for Chinese Canadians, and their efforts and determination to achieve full rights and recognition as citizens of B.C. and Canada. In an era of racial intolerance and fear of competition from Chinese labour for jobs, the number of incoming citizens from China was severely restricted. Discriminatory legislation at all levels of government meant that there were fewer options for employment for Chinese Canadians. Perseverance has led to a wide appreciation for Chinese Canadian traditions in B.C. society. How has discrimination and the steps to overcome it influenced Chinatown's development?



Chinese Barber Shop on East Pender after the riots of 1907
Image Courtesy of UBC Library Digital Collections



Word Cloud generated from workshop and open house responses to the theme “Facing Racism; Establishing Rights”

Facing Racism; Establishing Rights Workshop responses⁶:

- Chinatown exists because of segregation/discrimination
- Racism is the basis in which Chinatown was created and if we really want to honour this purpose we need to prioritize those who are most vulnerable e.g. seniors, low-income folks. Otherwise we are not doing our job.
- De-centralization of Chinese culture
- Chinese Canadian veterans from WWI and WWII fought for a country that wouldn't give them the right to vote, and because they couldn't vote they couldn't get jobs in the professions, etc. Extremely unfair.
- Chinatown was a result of discrimination but still taking place today – in a different light. New vs. old immigrants and new vs. old businesses
- Chinatown a spectacle of “foreignness”
- Discrimination = poverty

⁶ The comments on these pages are from participants. They have not been fact checked and may contain factual errors.



- “they” are not taking “our” jobs. Chinese workers, like other marginalized communities of colour, are left with low-wage, undignifying jobs undesirable to those with more cultural capital and who face less racism
- find locations/names of lawyers etc. Part of movements
- My grandparents worked for low wages in Chinatown. It was the only work they could find in a relatively racist society. Growing up in East Vancouver, my father, a student at Hastings Elementary and Templeton High, lived in daily fear of getting beat up by gangs of non-Chinese boys
- BBQ meat controversy (racially driven??) 1970s
- Countered by CBA and their Chinese BBQ Meats Association
- Always particular groups over-?? The history and space of Chinatown like “Chinese”-centred, “Catonese”-centred, over other ethnic-cultural groups
- Connections between natives and early Chinese men (workers) continues now in events
- Chinatown’s ability to be its own place vs. people’s desire to have a stereotypical Chinese enclave
- You cannot talk about the history and development of the city and this land without talking about the history and development of Chinatown – and the racism, prejudism and discrimination is a very real part of that. The quality of these stories is universal because they remark on our humanity, and therefore our culpability. But also our ability to grow, celebrate and overcome as a community, as a city. We are still writing this story, so our decisions that affect this neighbourhood must be thoughtful and considerate of the narrative we hope to tell tomorrow, next year, next generation to Vancouverites and the world.
- A teacher was giving a class tour of Chinatown – Children were maybe 8-10 years old. One of the kids ran down the street exclaiming “I just ate pig’s feet! I just ate pig’s feet!” and the rest of the children had a look of giddiness over how “disgustingly exotic” Chinese food and the people who eat unconventional foods are. This is not how to appreciate Chinese/Chineseness/other cultures. I write this because it demonstrates how “foreign” or “alternative” / “not the norm” Chinese people/culture are in Vancouver despite such a large population. There are many other instances of racism I have experienced in Chinatown and in Vancouver in general – but what I think is important is that Chinatown is a neighbourhood where very able to speak Cantonese and eat traditional / homestyle food that I grew up with is “normal” in a city that still marginalizes me or makes me feel “exotic” to basically be myself. Very few neighbourhoods (Chinatown being the premier one) allows that generation of Cantonese-Chinese migrant families to be their full cultural selves. In other spaces, I have to fit into ?? or fit into an imperfect/colonial setting. <3 MF
- My grandfather was born in Chinatown in Victoria; there was separation between Chinese and Caucasian children in schools, and he made up an English name for himself to not be teased by Caucasian teachers or students
- The story of our ancestors were written here. Their tears the letters and sweat the words. The suffering and courage, the prose that carried it – will we forget?
- Stories to highlight the strengths of caretakers during Head Tax period
- Racism is alive and well in Vancouver. Chinese speakers with limited English language ability are targets now in Chinatown and in the past. Chinatown, now and then, is a safe space for people to be part of a “home” community. The rest of Vancouver is not.
- Chinese seniors (low-income) face systemic racism and live the reality daily. E.g. lack of cultural/linguistic approp. Services, disinvestment of housing/buildings, explicit racism in food line-ups, not being considered a stakeholder in Chinatown planning decisions
- Chinese veterans helped to raise the value of Chinese candidates in Canada, eventually leading to the end of exclusion and the acquisition of the vote



- A place of struggle but also a place of strength and collective support
- Forced to stay inside so they helped each other
- Steps to overcome racism for caretakers and parents
- Preserve Chinese schools, childcare spaces, make this space more children-friendly WHILE highlighting Chinese parenting during historic times fraught with white supremacist policies
- Chinese immigrants fought for their rights and community. Chinatown continues to be a historical landmark due to continual efforts of the population to keep it alive
- Most prevalent evidence of racism and discrimination I've personally witnessed has been towards Chinese seniors (e.g. food lines, other services in the area)
- Lack of "accessible" services for Chinese seniors: accessible meaning signs, staff members, and other activities organized in Chinese
- Forging new connections between the vulnerable and discriminated. For example, re-establishing connection between Chinese and First Nations
- Current racism: transportation – hard for people (seniors and Chinese speakers) to return to Chinatown when transit is not equipped to support them and bus drivers and passengers yell or are not accommodating on major routes (#22)
- Murals / art that tell stories ie. San Francisco
- Make do with tough situation and undesirable land. Having nothing and making businesses and flourishing neighbourhood out of it
- Simultaneously praising "achievement and overcoming adversity" while also still putting down and creating more adversity for the very people who supposedly have "overcome" e.g. praise Chinese contributions while actively mobilizing against Chinese seniors and their homes
- Friends have been called "Banana" and other such terms for being Chinese on the outside and white on the inside. People use opposite term like egg (white on outside, yellow on inside). Creates tension between cultures
- The stopping of the freeway helped to make Vancouver known as the only major city w/o a highway through it. The Chinese faced racist powers and overcame it.
- Chinatown's historic value is/was built on the Chinese through the racism they faced
- I remember the stories of people such as the first Miss Chinatown, Donna Yee, telling me they used to play tennis in Chinatown or have parties and such... but underlying this was the fact that they could not do these activities comfortably outside of Chinatown

Facing Racism; Establishing Rights Open House responses:

- Chinatown was created as a safe haven from racism & it was a place where I wasn't bullied for being a "chink" and where I continually learn about my culture
- BBQ meat shop protests demonstrated the community's willingness and drive to fight for their rights
- Why was BBQ meat questioned in the first place? These practices existed for years so why the sudden ban? Racially motivated or ignorance?
- Viaducts and freeway poised to go through Strathcona neighbourhood was due to discrimination & community resilience
- I'd like to hope that despite Chinatown's creation out of racism, it still remains a place that people go to as a place that represents their history and culture. Regardless of the opposition to a neighbourhood that is ethnic specific, Chinatown remains a physical space that attempts to recall a history no matter how dark, no matter the discrimination. It is a physical marker of CANADIAN history, beyond just the local community or those of Chinese descent.
- Racism is the reason why Chinatown exists in the first place!! The Chinese weren't welcomed anywhere else so they created their own tight-knit community here
- Racism is more than just against Chinese in the area



- Perhaps if the historical troubles of the downtown eastside had neighbored Coal Harbour or Kitsilano, more effort would have been made by the gov't to find better and more effective solutions
- “Anti-Asiatic League” –spinoff of KKK!! Pyramid scheme \$\$ riot in 1907
- important to preserve Chinatown for the purpose of telling a story. You need the physical historical buildings to preserve the intangible heritage of stories
- “China Valley” was what outsiders called the Strathcona neighbourhood
- My dad is a lawyer and he started his practice in Chinatown... maybe he was more accepted here?
- The presence of Chinese in the food system is a result of historical discrimination – they were not allowed to work anywhere else (farms, dishwashers, food prep, cheap Chinese food, delivery drivers, food distributors, etc.)
- 1970's people could still called Chinese people “Chinks”... now it is unheard of. Back in the day, kids would segregate themselves into racial groups
- celebrate the success of Chinatown and fight against racism... we need to remember, because racism happened so recently
- This is the emptiest page in the room. We have to create environments where people feel comfortable talking about our history of racism
- I am a China born Canadian and American citizen in my 70's. I notice at this multicultural time there is still quite a bit of racism happening in Vancouver. Ever thr. I am also a vet. I still heard comments like Chink go home. That kind of racism is unacceptable. I believe that a lot of seniors experience this
- It's important to recognize racism of the part but also to question whether issues of discrimination still affect the Chinese/Chinatown/other groups today
- We must recognize improvement, but also not be blind to problems that may still exist; we cannot just speak of racism in the past tense
- The school on the second floor (Mon Keong Chinese School) of Wong's Benevolent Assoc. reminds us that even in our recent history we didn't welcome everyone and that children were not welcomed in mainstream schools
- Racism is a two-way street. It comes from lack of understanding but while there are racist attitudes towards the Chinese because of lack of understanding, the Chinese (some) also need to open up themselves to assimilate and allow a cultural exchange to happen. I hope to see Chinatown to be seen as a place where Chinese people welcome foreigners and new immigrants to learn more about the Chinese culture, but also a place for new and old immigrants to be encouraged and learn to assimilate to the Canadian culture as well
- There are claims about racism + how people are affected, but we need to speak up when we face racism (get called names, etc.) otherwise the laws have no meaning
- “Force 136” British army wanted to free over 1000 POWs. Special force in Vancouver to use Chinese people to go into Singapore to free them. British gov't shamed the provincial gov't for not allowing Chinese people to join the force. Provincial gov't didn't want to let Chinese fight to prevent them from getting citizenship! Their files were sealed for 75 years by the War Measures Act so no one knew about this...
- Chinatown was created because Chinese were the minority. But now that numbers have grown, have things truly changed? We are still seeing evidence that Chinese and Asians are still seen as different or “other” – Macleans magazine for example has suggested that some universities have become “too Chinese.” Similar claims have been made about UBC. If we are all equally Canadian and are no longer “confined” to Chinatown, how can a place be “too Chinese?” This is why preserving Chinatown is important – it helps us recognize different histories and recognize we are all Canadians no matter what race we are.



- Mom grew up in Burnaby and came to CT all the time b/c all of her school mates were white. Interesting to note how my parents' generation tried so hard to assimilate and my generation (20s-30s) are going back to roots & more willing to celebrate our cultures
- Chinese people were not allowed to be lawyers until 1950s due to the general racist attitudes towards ethnic minorities. Today, I am a Chinese Canadian and in law school... this opportunity would never have been given to me were it not for the struggles of Chinese people to obtain equality
- Mt. St. Joseph's (aka the Chinese hospital) is a result of discrimination. Other hospitals would not treat the Chinese, esp. w/ leprosy. So Chinese nuns treated them in a church which is now Mt. St. Joseph's.
- Racism created a sense of unity amongst Chinese people that traditionally looked at themselves more or less on family or provincial, county ties.
- Chinatown is located on the occupied, traditional, and unceded territories of the Coast Salish people – the Musqueam, the Squamish, and the Tseil-Waututh First Nations. Struggles – past and present- against white supremacy have been fought alongside Indigenous peoples (and also Black folks) and it's vital to keep fighting with those relations at the forefront of our memories/mind.
- Racism is so recent so it is important to remember. To call someone an alien is to make them inhuman
- Preserve Chinatown to remember the racial struggles of those who came before us
- Historical relationship between Chinese and First Nations was a result of discrimination faced by both communities. Parallel struggles.
- When I was 10, some classmates would tell me + my friends to go back to China on the playground. That was in the early 90s in Richmond.
- My father once told me, “don't let anyone call you Chinky Chinky Chinaman”

Facing Racism; Establishing Rights Map Sites and Comments⁷

Place	Comments
Out of area!	Federal gov't demolish houses for housing complex site
Chinese War Memorial	
	1907 riots
	Work on neighbourhood seams
Alan Yap Square	Plaques describing racism
Housing built by societies	Affordable, culturally appropriate
	Stopping of freeway – making Vancouver the only city w/o way through the city
	Success in opposing highway thru Hogan's Alley/Ctown
Classical Chinese Garden	First built outside of China 1986
	Locations of cemeteries (past) headstones used to construct Stanley Park seawall?
	Work to balance neighbourhood seams
	BBQ pork pathologist BBQ pork lawyer Who is he? Where is his office?
	Lawyers? Accountants?

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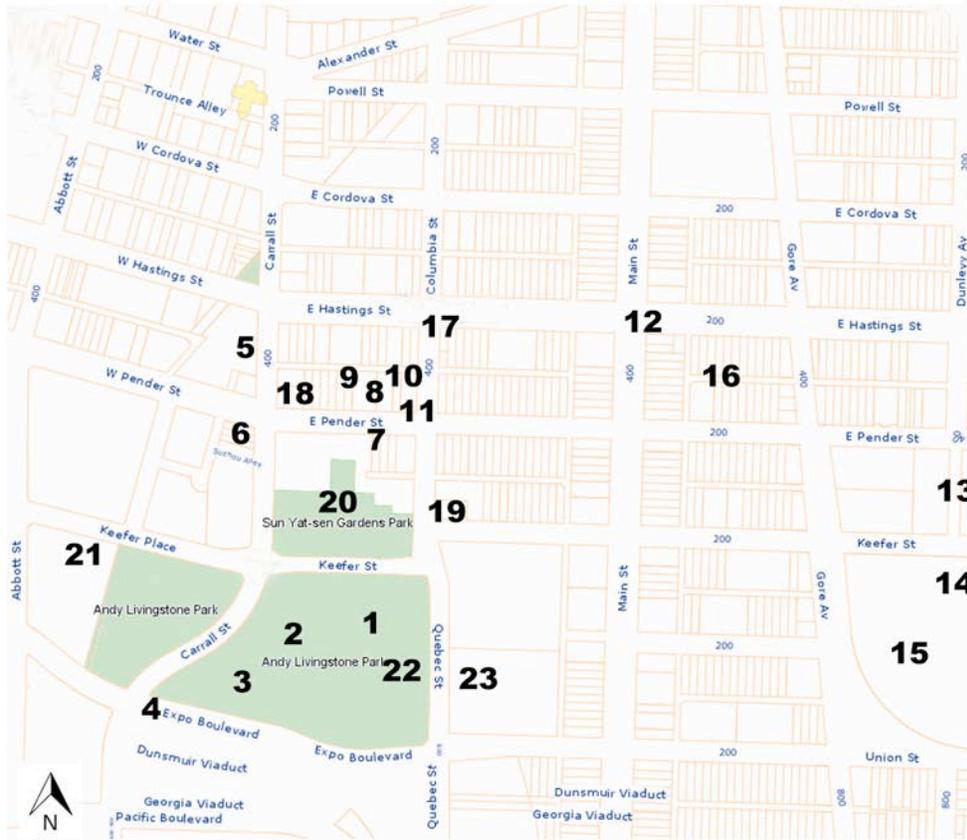
Heritage BC



"slums"	Given to Chinese as it was unwanted land
Along Columbia St. into Andy Livingstone Park	False Creek until 1964
West-east across Andy Livingstone Park	Old Georgia Viaduct (until 1970)
South of Andy Livingstone Park	BC Electric Gas Plant
Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Classical Chinese Garden	"park" and "garden" are separate
"China Valley" (Strathcona)	1950's-1960's anti-freeway campaign to prevent freeway from interfering with this neighbourhood "new residents" of this area were largely Chinese families
DTES	Crime, organized, poverty
Restaurants	Green Door: authentic, cool people go here "White Chinatown" westernized Chinese food catered to westerners Ming's
Marco Polo	
	Racism about power of one group over another. It took a long time to fight this power. There is still a ways to go.
Jack Chow's building	



Facing Racism; Establishing Rights



Places

- 1 False Creek until 1964
- 2 Old Georgia Viaduct
- 3 BC Electric Gas Plant
- 4 "Slums" given to Chinese
- 5 Racism is about power of one group over another
- 6 Jack Chow's Building
- 7 Marco Polo
- 8 Restaurants
- 9 Green Door
- 10 Ming's
- 11 "White" Chinatown
- 12 DTES "crime" & poverty
- 13 "China Valley"
- 14 Out of area - federal gov't policies
- 15 Stopping the freeway
- 16 Housing built by societies
- 17 Work to balance neighbourhood seams
- 18 1907 Riots
- 19 Chinese War Memorial
- 20 Chinese Garden
- 21 Plaques describing racism
- 22 BBQ pork pathologist and lawyer?
- 23 Lawyers? Accountants?



2.2.4 Establishing Community; Building Social and Community Life

This theme describes the cultural and physical ties within the Chinese community in Vancouver's Chinatown and the ties without – to the non-Chinese living beside and around them. Chinatown was founded on a distinctive Chinese heritage with various groups such as benevolent associations offering protection against racism and help with cultural adjustment for the local Chinese community. Shared experiences of discrimination led to close connections between the Chinese and Vancouver's First Nations, Japanese, and African Canadian communities who established enclaves nearby. What is special about the social and community life of Vancouver's Chinatown? What are the social and institutional practices, organizations, and events that have endured throughout the community's history? How have these things influenced the community's identity?



Chinese Benevolent Association float in the Vancouver Golden Jubilee Parade c.1936.
Image Courtesy of Vancouver Archives



Word Cloud generated from the workshop and open house responses to the theme “Establishing Community; Building Social and Community Life”

Establishing Community; Building Social and Community Life Workshop responses⁸:

- One of the “intangibles” that are special to Chinatown is the tendency for shops/organizations/activities/events to “spill on the streets.” – streets and sidewalks are narrow – made for pedestrians. All the great events seem to take park on the sidewalks and spill onto the streets
 - MJ nights (by Youth Collab!) @ Keefer
 - Night market
 - Lion dance
 - Food culture! Herbal shop/dried goods on the sidewalks
 - People crowding onto the sidewalks + talking/chatty
 - The Sing Tao / Ming Po window on Keefer used to post Chinese newspapers in the window and seniors used to crowd around the window and read them – this was quite charming! A crowd of seniors that took up space on the street chatting in Cantonese

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Heritage BC



- Some of the seasonal activities are really great – but I’m thinking about more of the everyday crowds / everyday life on the street that makes Chinatown special
- Every other “Asian” space in Metro Vancouver attempts to contrive these everyday activities whereas Chinatown had an “everyday spillage” in terms of sounds, smells, bodies onto the street. This activity kept the entire area a community space
- Mahjong and Night Market
- Chinese restaurants and groceries serving low income population (i.e. Sunrise, Kett’s Kitchen, Prime Time, etc.) historical significance
- Dragon dance
- Italian grocery store that put Chinese signs up
- S.U.C.C.C.E.S.S.
- Mid Autumn moon festival
- Winter Solstice (back to tradition as opposed to Richmond)
- Chinese Garden
- Mid-Autumn Festival
 - Lanterns
 - Plants & significance & relation to Chinese culture i.e. bamboo, gingko trees and nuts
- Mah Jong
- Food and food vendors (Chinese food)
- Historical monuments / activism (ie. Fundraising for social cases, lion dancing, opera)
- The seniors living in Chinatown are so open, friendly, and good to each other. I love saying good morning and hello when passing by on the street. This is solidarity. This is also a kindness borne of an understanding of how much we stand to lose
- Seniors housing and programming
- Intergenerational programming
- Culture of generations taking care of elders & taking care
- Traditional Chinese activities and art
- Chinese chess
- Food!! (cultural)
- The Garden
 - Cultural programming in Garden
 - Tours
 - Exhibitions
 - Chinese festivals
 - Cultural Heritage Site
 - Temple Fair during CHNY
- Chinese folk tales
- Opera, music, theatre in societies
- Music ass
- Shops – BBQ shops, herbal stores
- Activities, ppl, grocery stores
- Modernize Tailors
- Chinatown Parade – lettuce @ businesses & Clan Ass.
- Spaces that accommodate both youth and seniors
- Sharing stories between generations
 - Cooking lessons
 - Mahjong
 - Chinese language lessons
 - Speaking/writing



- Dancing and singing karaoke
- Intergenerational programs
 - Cultural exchange
 - Social
 - Art
 - Senior health / home support
- Chinatown Night Market
- Intergenerational brunches via “dim sum” culture
- New intergenerational events like Mahjong night
- Chinese dancing at Strathcona community centre
 - Live then would perform at the various Chinatown events ex. Chinese new year parade
- Place for Chinese classes to focus on Chinese characters (language) but also Chinese folklore, heritage, and day to day convo
- I remember seeing my grandfather crossing the street in Chinatown from a too-far vantage point where he couldn't see me. He looked so happy. He greeted everybody he passed. They knew him. This was where he felt he belonged.
- The future of community building needs to be supported and encouraged. Chinatown is steeped in deep history of community building and this needs to continue for the new generations who may have not grown up or have lived in Chinatown
- Traditional holidays from Canton/Hong Kong
- Seniors enjoy the everyday life of Chinatown including convenient access to family doctors, grocery shopping and other services that have Chinese-speaking alternatives
- Support and help associations find new life and thrive
- Mahjong
- The Benevolent Associations were the lifelines for immigrant Chinese providing social services: banking, more
- Culturally-appropriate food
- Need youth space / cultural hub to continue defining who Chinatown is
- Chinatown Chinese New Year Parade: an event for locals and visitors to come together at one moment
- Mah jong – at most of the societies, associations, at memorial plaza
- Gathering spaces Andy Livingstone Park, Keefer Plaza – these places to walk/exercise, sit chit chat
- Chinese school run out the Chinese Cultural Centre (I was in it 15 years ago and this is my first time back!); bringing families together and preserving the language in a safe, comfortable space.
- Maxim's and other local Chinese businesses to bring friends and families together in a comfortable and familiar space (my boyfriend's family started dining at Maxim's 20 years ago and still go back every weekend)
- Grandma feeling comfortable in a familiar space such as with talking to business owners
- Events and festivals:
 - Chinese New Year
 - Always the home of the original Night Market – even though on vacation; it will always have a place here
 - Mahjong and tai chi on the streets!
- Influence and identity: keepers of tradition
- Community life: the day-to-day living and working of the people that directly, and have directly, interacted with Chinatown



- Bill & Zoe & Steven Wong's daily walk from Modernize Tailors through the park, down Keefer, to have lunch at Kent's Kitchen
- Angelo's daily lunchtime closure and of Tosi's to Kent's kitchen too!
- The chefs of Hon's and Gain Wah's going on their smoke breaks
- The day-to-day routine/habit has become assurance & tradition
- Chinatown Night Market – a place to meet people, walk, buy food and gadgets

Establishing Community; Building Community and Social Life Open House responses⁹:

- Social activism/organizing
- Free meals for low income people by local org's – contributes to better social life in area?
- Parade
 - Sounds, excitement, dragon dancing
 - Family oriented event
 - Heritage passing to kids and customs
 - Soccer fields
- Food – dinners with clan associations
- Benevolent associations key to longevity in Chinatown
- Family gatherings over dinner
- Festivals – more of them! Celebrating Chinese
- Night life – see you 2 am (midnight snack) – safe places
- Need for indoor social space that's comfortable for everyone & seniors – chairs and tables outside DOES NOT make comfortable enough space
- "Village" Toishan style & approach of food, cooking (can't find in Richmond, disappeared in Chinatown)
- Sports & leisure community centre will attract younger generation back to Chinatown → opportunity at Columbia and Keefer
- Chinatown is a history & community that supports and interacts w/ these services that sustain it. Take away the community and there is no more Chinatown. Projects and seniors housing
- FOOD bakery
- Chinese seniors singing Cantonese opera in the S.U.C.C.E.S.S. rec room in one of my favourite sights. Also the ping pong enthusiasts in Choi Hall
- Safe spaces to gather – more people = more safe
- Shanghai Alley was a lively street with Mahjong sounds, people sitting on the steps and laughter
- Public spaces / infrastructure suitable for residents; promote healthy community
- CCC and other cultural organizations
- A walkable neighbourhood from Strathcona where people can buy their groceries and hang out. Don't need to drive/commute to practice community
- Nightlife (until 2 am) of cheap eats. Affordable groceries/food for low-income students, etc.
- Celebration as a community, as extended family
- Many people who used to live in this area have moved to areas near Renfrew St. and Victoria St. → how to get former residents to participate in this?
- Social housing projects east of Gore are what constitutes "Living Chinatown": the people that still sustain Chinatown → at risk of being expropriated (AGAIN!) by irresponsible BC Housing
- Community identity – will it evolve if new generations do not interact with elders? Parents' generation do not have as many ties to Chinatown as so neither do their children. How to bring youths here to develop and continue community?

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Heritage BC



- 3rd generation; born & raised in Chinatown
 - going to On On's for lunch
 - walking down the lanes
 - memories of businesses on Georgia and Union Sts.
 - Lives on Main, would take bus everyday to here Chinatown
- Where is the spirituality? Is Chinatown still inhabited by “heathens ?? soul?” Unless you are Christian? Could you tell the history (heritage) of Chinese N.A. without this? Imagine telling of European NA w/o reference to Christianity – Long live Kwan Kung! ☺
- Cross generational activities promote Chinese traditional values
- I grew up here by attending Chinese school every day, across from Strathcona Elementary. I think this community is missing the presence and sounds of children and young families. We need this area to be a suitable choice for parents to raise children here again.
- Chinese chess tables in plaza park space, like in San Fran, so seniors and others can have a place to socialize (Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Garden)
- Hob of community life
- Unique food, nostalgia
- Community – tight knit w/ servers of restaurants
- Walking down the street and listening to sounds of mahjong
- Missing the smells of dried shrimp along the street & herbal (think: food shops open doors onto the street)
- Read newspapers at Carnegie and seniors centre
- Young adult from Toronto: works in area but doesn't come here to socialize. Events are good but need “excuse” to come. Would want something that's more “integrated” and just always present
- Mon Keung School Church
 - Entire childhood as a 3rd generation Chinese
 - Sense of community and family
 - Best memories of childhood
 - Children were first ones to do Lion Dance in Chinatown
- Caucasian adult:
 - Used to come in 70s/80s for food, those places are no longer here (cheap good food!)
 - Not safe to come here after night (especially for women) – 2 am nightlife
 - *Authenticity: strong feeling of belonging and connectedness (unlike Richmond)
 - students from Van East schools (Britannia, Templeton) used to come here for food, dim sum, etc.
 - nights hanging out with food on Pender St. regardless of which part of Vancouver you're from
- How can we transform intensely family/private businesses/properties w/ great historical and architectural value into community assets?
- Lives at Lore Krill coop housing
- Memories of many food places & groceries along Pender & Gore
- Chow Produce grandfather Wong Wem Fong
- Exp as a reporter in Chinatown
 - Chinatown residents = full of life
 - Chinese seniors = resilient or resigned, content w/ life
 - Young generation = optimistic & determined
 - Usually introduced through academia
- Sense of belonging with the language and culture
- Opportunity to connect with cultural roots



- Safe place to gather and unify Chinese people
- Chinatown is important as an intercultural space – of relationships, alliances, solidarity, b/w racialized communities
- Chinatown should be a place where people can feel & experience & learn about the diversity of the different clans or regions of Chinese culture e.g. Cantonese, Shanghainese, Toishan, Beijingsese, etc. to understand more the richness of this culture. Hopefully through exposure and community, locals and also new immigrants can appreciate or identify their common heritage and therefore foster more inclusiveness, and not be cornered into cliques. E.g language exchange programs of different dialects, cultural events in multi-languages?
- Chinatown is a hub for community organizing, political engagement – from Sun Yat-Sen to resisting the freeway, to protesting gentrification and advocating for seniors
- This is a welcoming, inclusive space
- Chinatown as an attraction for tourists, both international + from around Metro Van. I remember making special trips to get bbq pork buns, specialty food that is nostalgic reminds me of childhood
- Shopping – music stores for Canto-pop – only place to get
- Coffee shops - HK style
- Dance & art & food are incredibly powerful ways to stay grounded in the community. Youth-senior relations are so vital in Chinatown
- Seniors – the glue for the Chinese community everybody loves seniors! But need places + spaces for them (housing, public spaces, programs & activities)
- CCC military museum
- The Garden
- Night Market – life & familiar buildings around – better invisionment, sense of belonging and community
- People commute to Chinatown from all over Vancouver regularly to eat & socialize with friends! It's important to several generations 😊

Establishing Community; Building Social and Community Life Map Site and Comments¹⁰

Place	Comments
	Powell Street Fest
Buddhist Temple	
Oppenheimer Park	
Ovaltine Café	
Movie theatre	
New Town	
Garden Villa	Dim sum with carts
	Kung fu classes
	Ultimate Frisbee Friends and exercise
	Red colours Shop owner operated signage Statues, gates, lampposts
Sr. Sun Yat-Sen Classical Chinese Garden	
	Chinese New Year Parade
Theatres	

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Heritage BC



CCC	
Opera Houses	
	Cultural hub of activities
Downtown Eastside Women's Centre	
Garden	Chinese New Year's parade
CCC	Richmond ties
	Opera and dancing
	BIA formed
Grace Seniors Home	
Ali Grandpa	
Hua Foundation	
	Business, mixed social use
Fresh produce markets	Seafood, groceries, etc.
courtyards	
Lao Tzi mural	Wayfinding for seniors
Association buildings	
Benevolent Associations	Hub of cultural activity MJ, seniors, Chinese news, services, etc.
Chin Wing Chun Society	
Sunrise Produce	Produce and tofu connected to Japanese
Raycamm ?	& activities
Strathcona Community Centre	
McLean Park	Seniors practicing Tai Chi , sword dance, etc. place for seniors
Strathcona Elementary	
VPL	Chinese newspapers & books Gathering place for new to Canada people
DTES Neighbourhood House	
Floata	Huge banquets and Karaoke
Outdoor spaces	To gather and sit (for seniors) Big rocks serve as seating & place to gather
Above Sunrise Produce	Many Japanese Canadian events such as weddings took place
	Political roots of the garden – stopping freeway
NIGHT MARKET!	Food, entertainment, community
	First Nations waitresses in Chinatown restuarants
Andy Livingstone Park	A place to exercise, walk, gather for the local seniors/residents
Kett's Kitchen	
Gain Wah	
	Night Market
Hot 'n' Noisy	
	Chinese New Year
	Chinese New Year Parade: bringing together various community organizations + people Bringing people to the neighbourhood
Common spaces for seniors	
Chinatown Memorial	Remembering and celebrating resilience of community and

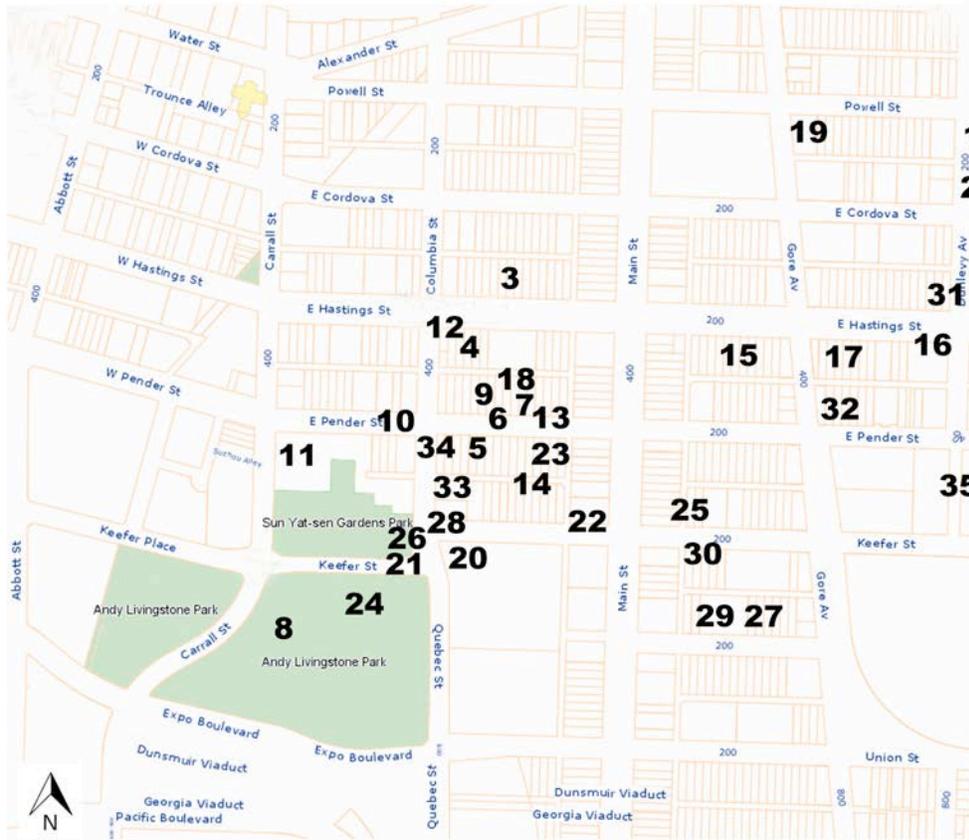
Heritage BC



	historical events
Produce Row on Malkin	Supports all small grocers in Chinatown esp. Sunrise
Centre A	
Treasure Green Tea Co.	
Hon's Kitchen	
Phnom Penh	Food!!
Sun Yat Sen Garden	Anchors community Authenticity Unique Beautiful Night time activities @ garden "park" and "garden" are separate
Flower market	
Pre-CCC gym	
Vi's Restaurant ?	
Tong Louie bldg	
Centre A	A space for people to express themselves
	Preserve places for families (restaurants)
Union & Gore	Projects? History Future?
Pender Street between Gore & Jackson	Chinese seniors low-income housing
Dairyland milk	
Maxim's	
Pender & Gore	Live chickens (butchering + delivering)
Pender between Main & Gore	Wonton soup Great Dantay (70s + 80s)
Pender between Main & Columbia	FOOD
Restaurants: New Town, ??, Floata	
Green Door	FOOD
Carnegie Centre	activities
	seniors
Chinese School	Education, children
Wu Association	Early days acted as a haven for Chinese; even today is a safe place for people not very comfortable with main society
Wu Society on Dunlevy	Old 4-storey bldg. – huge community just hanging out there, but building is falling apart. Early years, was haaven for people new here
Pender St. and Taylor St.	Haircuts for kids!
Between Dunsmuir & Pender	Former main road?



Establishing Community; Building Social and Community Life



Places

- 1 Powell Street Fest & Buddhist Temple
- 2 Oppenheimer Park
- 3 Ovaltine Cafe
- 4 Movie theatre
- 5 New Town
- 6 Garden Villa
- 7 Kung Fu Classes
- 8 Ultimate Frisbee
- 9 Red Colours
- 10 Chinese New Year Parade
- 11 Chinese Cultural Centre
- 12 DTES Women's Centre
- 13 Opera & Dancing
- 14 BIA formed
- 15 Grace Seniors Home
- 16 Hua Foundation
- 17 Lao Tzi Mural
- 18 Association Buildings
- 19 Sunrise Produce
- 20 Banquets & Karaoke at Floata
- 21 Outdoor spaces to hang out
- 22 Night Market
- 23 First Nations Waitresses at Chinatown restaurants
- 24 Andy Livingstone Park
- 25 Gain Wah
- 26 Common spaces for seniors
- 27 Centre A
- 28 Hot 'n' Noisy
- 29 Phnom Penh
- 30 Maxim's
- 31 Wu Association
- 32 Chinese School
- 33 Flower Market
- 34 Seniors
- 35 McLean Park



2.2.5 Developing and Expressing Intellectual and Cultural Life

From New Years celebrations, festivals and food to music, ideas and the visual arts, the integration of Chinese arts and culture is valued for the richness it brings to the province and the city. This theme includes important subthemes such as learning and the arts, architecture and design, science, sports and leisure, philosophy, religion and spirituality, and media. What is unique about Vancouver Chinatown's expressions of intellectual and cultural life? How does Vancouver's Chinatown stand out as a community in terms of its artistic, athletic, or spiritual, etc. endeavours?



VJ Day Chinese Dragon Parade 1945. Image Courtesy of Vancouver Archives



Word Cloud generated from the workshop and open house responses to the theme “Developing and Expressing Intellectual and Cultural Life”

Developing and Expressing Intellectual and Cultural Life Workshop responses¹¹:

- Something I never personally experienced – but I know a lot of people did – the clubs and activities hosted by the Chinese Association buildings
 - Singing
 - Mahjong * clicking of the tiles *
 - Athletic clubs – some youth’s first contact with martial arts clubs
 - I remember groups of boys exiting their classes and running around on the streets after classes
 - Chinese school → mixed feelings about this – I was never able to learn Cantonese – but one of the integral places to Chinatown’s streetscape – Cantonese speakers in the shops + on the streets
 - Crowds of children entering and exiting the CCC on Saturdays
 - Cute shops! All the cute shops are disappearing
 - The ability to have space for cultural construction:

¹¹ The comments on these pages are from participants. They have not been fact checked and may contain factual errors.



- Chinatown seems to be a centre for ongoing critical dialogue – so many young organizations want to be located in Chinatown b/c they are inspired by Chinatown and the human struggle. Let's keep this alive! <3 M.F.
- Chinese bookstores
- Stationary shops
- Living history
- The stories of older generation of community builders, entrepreneurs, activists
- Limited Chinese speaking workers
- Lack of services for Chinese seniors in general
- Limited Cantonese and Mandarin volunteers
- Chinese language schools – between 1960-1975 3 main Chinese language schools
 1. Wong Assoc building
 2. Mon Keong Pender/Jackson
 3. Wah Ku Pender/Carrall
- Green Door + Red Door – alley way, cheap cheerful brown bag booze
- I think about the beauty possible in tiniest, most limited spaces. Flashes of color and brightness made with very little. Voracious readers and people eager to talk, share ideas and news and thoughts. I see a real eagerness to share of each other richly in a context where people have very little
- People did their Christmas shopping “exotica” – magic of Chinatown, everybody who grew up in Vancouver loved it
- Art, sports, dance and drumming, philanthropy, mutual understanding, bonding together, solidarity
- Chinatown belongs to everyone
- Chinese food and dim sum with friends. Trying unfamiliar ingredients and... tea!
- Chinatown helped concretize my Chinese identity in space/place. It should continue to help youth take pride in their identity even if they're not Chinese
- The Buddhist Temple on Keefer Street – a beautiful place and sight that I always feel great relief to see
- Classes and performance at the Cultural Centre. My grandmother danced and sang Chinese opera here and we learned the language of food and martial arts
- SMELLS!
- Herbal medicine
- Food and laundry
- The smells of Chinese food & herbs, medicine and baked goods that jolt your sense of smell. This distinct mix of smells is truly unique to the neighbourhood
- The soundscapes. The Chinese music that changes from store to store that fills the soundscape and the neighbourhood
- The community resilience. Generations have focused their time and energy to protect Chinatown. This unwavering energy and dedication underlines the community
- Mutual aid organizations that are free and accessible to all residents where people can pool their skills, resources
- Traditional medicine
- New Years: colours, music, dragons!
- Intellect – Chinese herbal medicine shops and doctors
- Chinese-run grocery stores
- Health centres (formerly on Main & Hastings)
- Health and medicine are central to Chinese values and culture
- Advocacy and protesting



- Schools! Province should support curriculum in public schools – Cantonese, Mandarin, Japanese
- Paul Yee and others who documented, wrote down Chinatown stories
- Cantonese Opera signing, listening, and performing as part of everyday life
- Youth community organizations that promote youth engagement like Hua Foundation!
- Lion dance!
- Mahjong!
- Mid-Autumn festival!
- Ching ming!
- Chinese New Year!
- Seniors' birthday parties!
- The work and research happening in Vancouver's Chinatown inspires people across the country

Developing and Expressing Intellectual and Cultural Life Open House responses:

- I live over Livingstone but we come here to shop and eat because it gives me a sense of belonging, familiarity, and history, especially for my husband because he's from HK and his mom worked at Cathay Villa for a long time. My son is 9 now and he loves Ctown, it's home for him. I also shop at Erin Templeton. We eat here because it's convenient and cheap too.
- More posters – less Facebook! I remember a vibrant streetscape filled with art and protest posters... “no nukes” “punk rock” “save the whales”
- Fred Hume UBC Sports Hall of Fame
- Fighting for home and where you come from! Put down roots! Stewardship! Take charge of community! Your elders!
- As much as I've like to visit CT there is a huge problem with it no longer feeling safe. I think if this was resolved people would start to return.
- Bai sung. Worship the gods and spiritual powers.
- Very unique – rich culturally in the way it's presented, sounds, smells
- 5 generations of our family
- bai saan. Worship the mountains and ancestors
- coming to the Cultural Centre / museum for research in my undergrad
- Con Jones Park (?) (?) Chinese student soccer team
- 1934 Mainland Cup. Chinese Soccer Students team
- Quene Yip p. 1905 (forward) Shipon Wong b. 1905 (goalie)
- Weekly mahjong at friend's place to socialize. It's part of my life in Chinatown that is irreplaceable
- Sounds of Chinese seniors playing traditional music in the buildings and singing opera
- Lots of seniors don't live in Chinatown but have their lives here; they come almost every day to eat and buy groceries and walk around and bump into their friends
- Herbal shops – unique and specialized knowledge – being lost!
- My family gets together every year to cook. We do “bai san” – it's important to practice traditions – those are important, they are who we are
- I live in the Strathcona/Chinatown neighbourhood. Love being here. It is a place where neighbours know each other and local businesses know their customers.
- Building friendship through volunteering, dancing, and singing –a senior
- I hope there'll be more activities in Chinatown to attract young people to come. And be a safer space (a woman)
- Intersections – history, culture, activism. So many different aspects

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- Cantonese being the central language in Chinatown helped me develop language skills but also my social skills; learning to communicate with people older than me
- Gathering community to watch performances
- They should play gentle Chinese music
- A site for sharing knowledge between generations. We need spaces for seniors to live, play, work, and shop
- In 1969 I played basketball @ the Gibb's Boys' Club – I think it was on Pender Street near Gore (?). It was a 10 team league. I being 17 @ the time thought we would win every game. On the contrary, we fought, struggled just to make 4th place. The other teams were huge – 6'4", 6'5"
- I would like to see Chinatown become a place where everybody can celebrate the Chinese culture and unique feeling in the community, for both Chinese and Non-Chinese alike – Dong
- Learning is role-modeling
- Chinese New Year brings Chinese + non-Chinese communities into Chinatown to celebrate Chinese culture; even those who do not regularly come into Chinatown are drawn into new theme festivals / architecture / Sun Yat Sen Classical Gardens, etc.
- Chinese celebrate Halloween (throwing firecrackers) in Chinatown to counter racism
- Sounds of children reciting poems/phrases for Chinese school & coming out to the CCC courtyard to play
- Wonton. Roots/classes to teach traditions
- A community cultural hub
- When I come home from SE Asia, I missed the smells so I come to Chinatown
- Buddhist Temples
- Smell of incense
- Sounds of "drums"
- Sounds of chanting
- A mix of Chinese-speaking and English-speaking culture
- Seeing grandparents bring grandchildren to school – taking care of generations & vice versa children taking care of grandparents
- Clan/village associations existed for a very specific purpose: to support new immigrants... but today they're more of a cultural space than anything. Do they still have a future as members start to dwindle and age?
- I came to Chinatown often because of the feeling of being almost like a time capsule. The buildings and the stories behind are iconic. It's like an anchor of my identity (a youth)
- Cantonese language has a place in Chinatown history. As immigration patterns change, Cantonese is the language of our ancestors
- When my father first came from HK to Vancouver, he lived in Chinatown. Each week he saved the change from grocery shopping money his father gave him and took pipa lessons at a Chinese Benevolent Association
- The smell of market. The sound of Mahjong feels home. Very unique
- Memorial halls in Clan Associations, Chinese Opera, Chinese music, Chinese seniors activities!
- Want to build/have a community centre that is welcoming, accessible, and offering diverse cultural activities because activities are good for seniors' health physically and emotionally (two seniors in Chinatown)
- Knowledge of cultural games being lost – mahjong, chess, go, calligraphy
- I love living in Strathcona. I can walk to get BBQ duck!
- Chinese NY parade
- More Chinese related festivals



- Brings together generations – seniors teaching youth, youth helping and challenging their elders too
- Struggle for clan associations to engage young people
- Vancouver Chinatown’s intellectual and cultural life is intercultural and diverse when Vancouver historically was not
- Free movies, concerts, and festivals to bring families to come, spend time, and have dinner
- Soccer – 1920s. Renfrew north of Hastings. Chinese students soccer team 1934 won cup. Beat UBC team.
- Shanghai Alley
 - Cobblestones
 - Single men, lived in buildings
 - Sound of erhu
 - Sound of mahjong tiles
- Shops, people, food, smells
- Chinatown lacks a sense of community... to get it back – need to have a younger population that wants to live here, maintains
- Culinary knowledge being lost – unique ways of cooking methods & recipes – need to be transferred to younger generations
- Difficult for me to articulate what is unique b/c I am Chinese and many of these things referenced are “normal” for me. For my non-Chinese family, these events (cultural) are clearly, recognizably defined as Chinese, and I guess they encounter them as “pieces” of Chinese Culture that they can consume. They experience RED, GOLD, LIONS, SOUNDS, DRUMMING, SMELLS, and maybe this is the only place they interact with these pieces in a contextualized way, neighbourhood is what is unique here
- When my father first came from HK to Vancouver he lived in Chinatown. Each week he sewed the change from grocery shopping money his father gave him and took pipa lessons at a Chinese Benevolent Association
- Badminton!
- Pingpong!
- Mahjong!
- Chinese Chess!
- All in public spaces!
- Teresa Teng music gentle Chinese music
- The Chinese New Year parade and any other celebrations of Chinese festivals are the best and critical to preserve because these traditions are actually dwindling in China and Chinese cities throughout the world
- Chinese parade and night market – an opportunity to see the community come together
- A community art/healing/spiritual space for youth to learn & create history; art & cultural production is vital and it needs to take into consideration community health
- Burning coal, used to be very foggy in Chinatown
- First encountered Chinese food in Canada in Chinatown
- Chinatown reinforces culture, traditions for next generations. My kids learned through practice + observation... but we were a family of 300
- Chinatown was a family place. Need to attract everyone incl. youth and seniors

Developing and Expressing Intellectual and Cultural Life Workshop Map Sites and Comments¹²

¹² The comments on these pages are from participants. They have not been fact checked and may contain factual errors.

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Place	Comments
	Exhibits Celebrations of traditional Chinese holidays History Language Home away from home
Kom Gok Yuen on Pender	My mom + her sister who left HK in the 70s settled in Calgary and Vancouver and would play late mahjong at home in Bby + then head out to “siu yeh” midnight snack
Chinatown streets	So packed w/ people + cars that my mom would double park to pick up groceries and actually get a ticket from a police officer
Thornton Park	More cultural programming
	When I was growing up, there was no real boundary, the transition between the neighbourhood was much more ?? – boundary – it seems like it’s ??
Pender Street	Michi Yu (3 yrs old) while walking on Pender: “Can we go back to Canada?” She likes chicken bao
	Produce distributors connected Chinatown to farms & corner stores all over B.C.
Temple	
My Chinese school	No longer there
Mau Wah Hotel	Boarding houses for workers between jobs and seniors
	Every day after English school, for an hour and a half. Cantonese class. Taiwanese and Chinese. Same written characters.
Hua Foundation	
Societies	
Buddhist Temple	Beautiful lotus frontage
Top of Pender looking down	Looking at tableau of traditional and modern shops
Lao Tze Mural	Gore
Georgia	produce
New Town	Steamed buns
Cultural Centre	
	Gifts from China
Statue of Dr. SYS	
Canton Alley	
Chinese Opera House	Vancouver-based opera troupe
	Outreach no inreach! Go out + talk to people
Gate and entrance to CCC	2 pairs of lions – are they gifts from China?
	During practices on weekends All up and down Pender
	The sound of drums and lion dancing
Ho Sun Hing Print Shop	
Lanes	Food in lanes
Centre A	221 A
Red Door + Green Door	
The park	Seniors walk/exercise and gather

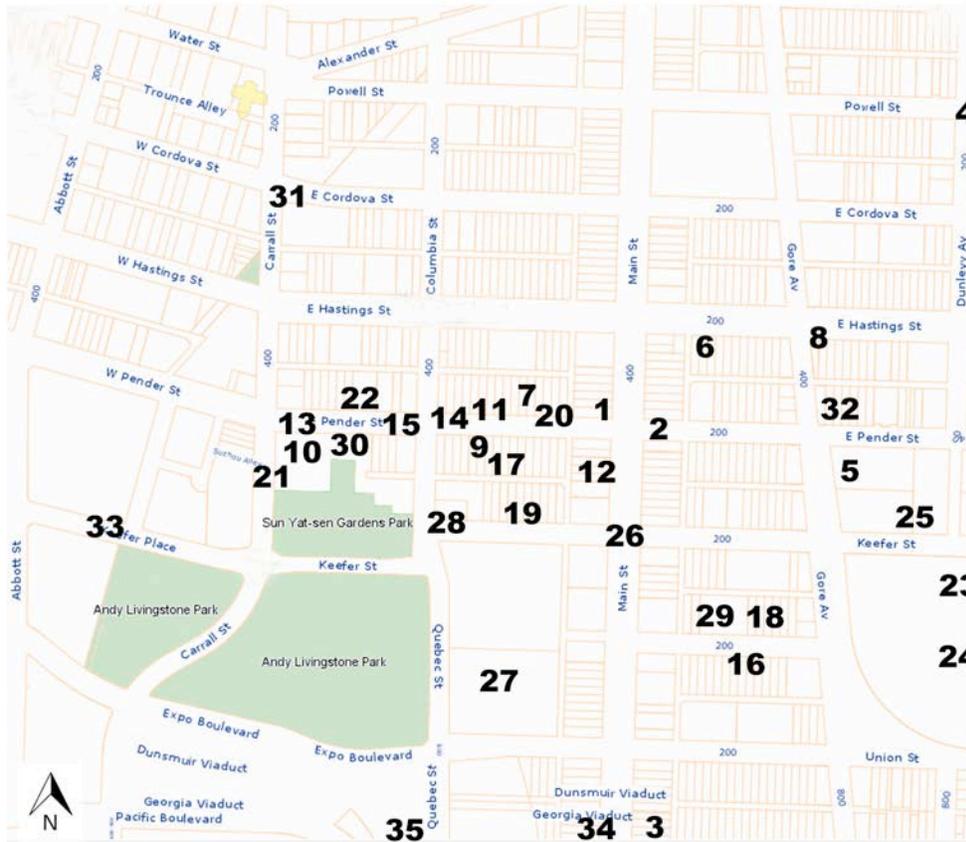
Heritage BC



Sino United	Chinese bookstore
	Mahjong clicking of tiles
	Lion dance teams
New Town Bakery	Steamed buns
	Reach out to stratas
	Sounds: drumming, lion dance, should play Chinese music in streets
City Gate	I live @ City Gate
Across the street to the east of Andy Livingstone Park	This part is not Chinatown
Centre A	Talking history Reinterpreting history Telling stories
	More festivals
	Chinatown Night Market
Keefer Street	I eat here
East of Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Classical Chinese Garden	Want a mixed-function community centre
E Pender Street	Got my first ?? here
Market Alley	
Chinese Cultural Centre	Learning Chinese dance Learning Chinese Instruments
E Pender at Carrall	I shop here
	Spiritual power
Main & Pender	Need more parking!
Gore & Pender	Groceries!
Chinese School	
Gibb's Boy's Club	
Hazelwood Icecream Factory	
Woodward's BC Housing	
Keefer Pl.	Seniors go walking
Taylor St. & Keefer Pl.	Jade Abacus Seniors interact with youth
Shanghai Alley	
Bell	
Main & Hastings	I eat here once a week
Villa Cathay	My husband's mother worked here for 25 years
Hastings & Jackson	My in-laws sing here karaoke – part of who we are
Shon Yee Association	



Developing and Expressing Intellectual & Cultural Life



Places

- 1 Exhibits & Celebrations
- 2 Chinatown streets packed with people
- 3 Thornton Park
- 4 Temple
- 5 Chinese School
- 6 Mau Wah Hotel
- 7 Societies
- 8 Lau Tze Mural
- 9 Steamed buns at New Town
- 10 Cultural Centre
- 11 Gifts from China
- 12 Outreach not in reach
- 13 Two pairs of lions
- 14 Walking
- 15 Sound of drums
- 16 Ho Sun Hing Print Shop
- 17 Food in lanes
- 18 Centre A
- 19 Seniors walking
- 20 Chinese bookstore
- 21 Mahjong clinking of tiles
- 22 Lion Dance
- 23 Spiritual power
- 24 Villa Cathay
- 25 Hazelwood
- 26 More festivals
- 27 This part is not Chinatown
- 28 Chinatown Night Market
- 29 Market Alley
- 30 Learning Chinese instruments
- 31 Woodward's BC Housing
- 32 Gibb's Boys' School
- 33 Seniors interact with youth
- 34 City Gate
- 35 Reach out to stratas



2.2.6 Honouring Achievements

Telling the stories of individuals and families, and the contribution of people to the Chinese community, and particularly the province as a whole, is an important aspect of the history of the Chinese in British Columbia and Vancouver. This theme includes the honouring of individuals, organizations, celebrating places, and commemorating important events. Who are some of the individuals associated with Vancouver's Chinatown who are important to the history of the Chinese in British Columbia and Vancouver? What are some of the organizations, places, and events that are important to the history of the Chinese in British Columbia and Vancouver?



Monument to Chinese Canadians, Vancouver



- Georgia Viaduct. The community alliance that came together and fought against the freeway forcing a participatory consultation
- Chinese senior women are a testament of the resilience, resourcefulness and generous heart of the neighbourhood. They are marginalized and discriminated against. More must be done to support them. Fund the Chinese seniors program at the DTES womens centre.
- Chinese Woman started 1978 the Downtown Eastside women's (founder) Center
- I think group advocated were particularly noteworthy: gold miners, railroad workers, Chinese Canadian veterans, small business people
- The elder proprietors of herbal shops, groceries, bakeries, meat shops. They have worked so hard and endured so much. They deserved a better quality of life than they had.
- Martial arts achievements from Chinatown based organizations / schools
- Chinese women +1! In Chinatown and also overseas, in China, Vietnam, all over the world. Especially Chinese women before the 1940s whose stories are not always carefully archived or taught. Achievements must be thought of as survival and resistance, beyond the tangible form. Mothers, women doing survival work, women navigating Christian "reforming" shelters, etc.
- Youth and seniors in Chinatown. Connecting over dinner, MJ social nights, sharing stories
- Benevolent associations have played an important role both socially and culturally. Like Chinatown itself, they need to be recognized and celebrated but also a new vision needs to be determined
- There are many people and organizations in Strathcona, outside the formal boundaries of Chinatown, that have supported the community
- Due to discriminatory immigration law/practice, Chinese women were late arrivers and many of the Chinese associations are patriarchal. This might be the most difficult topic of the bunch because there is so much more we don't know about the early contributions, current contributions of women. I wish I knew more so I could add some significant names! But I don't ☹️ A Study should be done to be able to honour women's contributions in Chinatown <3 M.F.
- Creating a physical community that accepted Chinese people and culture in the face of racism and violence is a huge achievement. Chinatown was created by people's time, Chinese resources, skills and desire to survive
- Wally Chung
- Bob Lee's original office
- Wong family – Bill Wong, Milton Wong
- Madeline Chung and alllll those Chinese babies she delivered!!
- Chinese-Canadian veterans
- Eugene Chan
- All the Miss Chinatowns!!
- Entrepreneurs, owners of Chinese businesses
- Lady who owns NT and is rebuilding Kam Cole Green / Daisy Garden
- Credit should be given to Col. Howe Lee, who started the Chinese Canadian Military Museum. It's the only such museum in Canada to honour the Chinese war vets. Why? If not for them, we would have never regained the right to vote and citizenship.
- My friends and their relatives who fed me delicious food



Honouring Achievements Open House responses¹⁴:

- Wong Association – Bob Lee
- The Chinese Benevolent Society achieving the promotion of Chinese-Canadian culture through events like the Chinatown New Years parade, etc. acting as sort of “umbrella” organizations
- Milton Wong
- Hua Fdn
- Nicole So
- Dr. Sun Yat-Sen his fans...
- The Ma's in the Gold Rush
- People who fought for barbecue pork in the 1970s/80s. Thanks to them, we can still enjoy Chaa Siu today
- Wallace + Madeline Chung/Chung collection – a collection documenting Chinese migration to Vancouver; includes experiences in Chinatown
- Robert H. Lee & Family
- People and families who paid head tax
- Chinese Benevolent Associations and Societies
- Italian immigrants
- Youth groups in Chinatown & History
- St. Josph's hospital (aka the Chinese hospital)
- Madeline Chung
- This monument represents he contributions of our Chinese railroad worker to B.C.'s economy. We should keep our heritage alive!
- Chinese & farming when they could not be employed anywhere
 - Built relationships with First Nations
 - Food markets legacy of this
- S.U.C.C.E.S.S.!!!
- Lillian Wong
- Maggie Yip
- Tung Chan
- Great grandpa built the railway (4 generations)
- More advertising and promotion and build museum
- Education and curriculum
- Maintain Chinese culture, heritage, and community as a way of honouring achievement
- Centre A Gallery
- Harry Con SPOTA Pres – Order of Canada
- Chinese Freemasons of Canada
- Chinese Benevolent Association
- Shonyee Benev Association
- Stopping freeway going through Strathcona
- All the racialized (Chinese or otherwise) women who perform emotional and unrecognized and unpaid labour for the community
- Modernize Tailors
- Wong Brothers

¹⁴ The comments on these pages are from participants. They have not been fact checked and may contain factual errors.



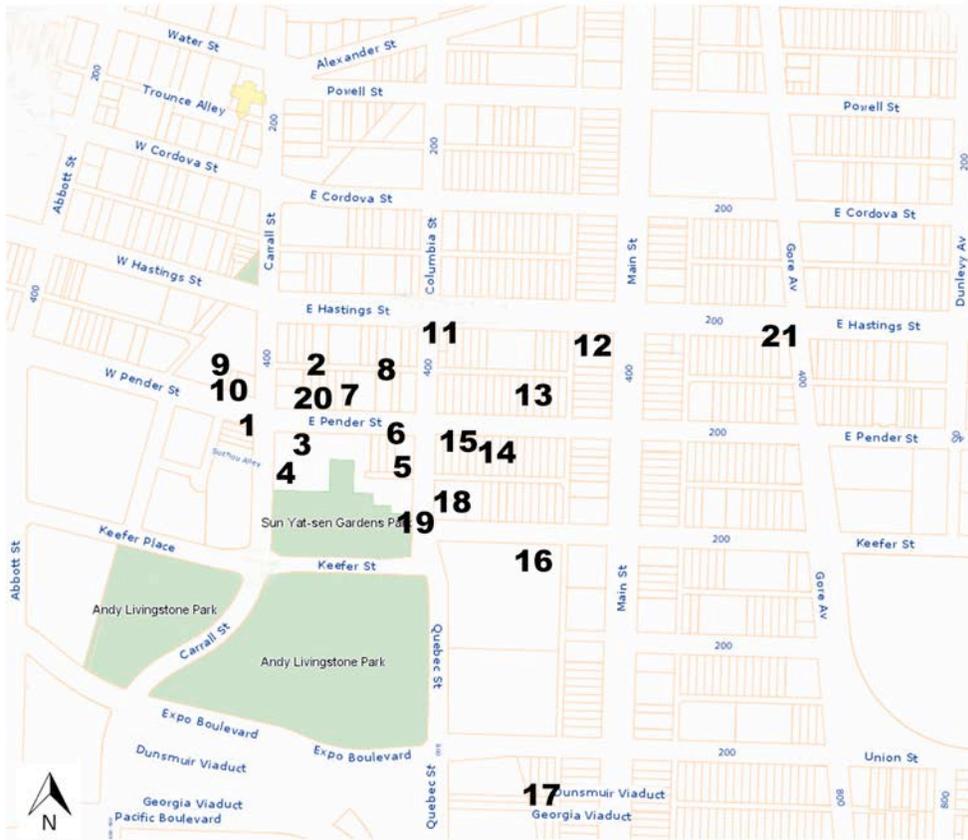
Honouring Achievements Map Sites and Comments¹⁵

Place	Comments
	Overcoming racism
	Veterans
Modernize Tailor	Since 1918
Freemasons Bldg	Sun Yat-Sen Stayed here!
Hon Hsing Athletic Club	1910
Newton	The best steamed buns in town ☺
Chinese Canadians Housing	
Memorial Plaza	Hot 'n' Noisy mahjong events
Bob Lee's office	And formerly his father's, now Carol's
Downtown Eastside Women's Centre	
Chinese Benevolent Society	
Floata Restaurant	Huge celebratory banquets!!!
Memorial Plaza	
Shon Yee Association	Social housing 2 buildings
Georgia Viaduct	Legacy of community action against the proposed freeway
Carnegie Centre	Community programs for Chinese seniors
Opium factory on Carrall	
Opium factory at site of Chinese Cultural Centre	
Chinese Cultural Centre	
Sun Yat Sen Garden	
	I wish there is a big community centre here for the seniors
Monument to war vets who ultimately helped Chinese-Canadians to get the right to vote	
	To this → Market Alley
Yue Shan Courtyard	
Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Classical Chinese Garden	"park" and "garden" are separate

¹⁵ The comments on these pages are from participants. They have not been fact checked and may contain factual errors.



Honouring Achievements



Places

- 1** Opium Factory Carrall
- 2** Opium Factory Yip Sang
- 3** Opium Factory and Site of CCC
- 4** CCC and Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Garden
- 5** I wish there was a big community centre here for seniors
- 6** Monument to war vets
- 7** Yu Shan Courtyard
- 8** Market Alley
- 9** Freemasons Bldg.
- 10** Modernize Tailor since 1918
- 11** DTES Women's Centre
- 12** Carnegie Centre
- 13** Bob Lee's Office
- 14** Chinese Benevolent Society
- 15** Newtown Bakery
- 16** Floata Seafood Restaurant
- 17** Georgia Viaduct
- 18** Memorial Plaza
- 19** Veterans!!!
- 20** Hong Hsing Athletic Club 1910
- 21** Social Housing



2.3 Conclusion

Vancouver's Chinatown has a rich and varied history that resonates deeply with its residents. The Identifying Intangible Heritage Values workshop, open house and online form asked participants to think thematically about the history and development of Vancouver's Chinatown and to identify those sites and places that have heritage value to them. From the responses it is evident participants that believe that numerous sites in Vancouver's Chinatown have heritage value and should be protected and retained.

Participants clearly appreciate the history and heritage of Vancouver's Chinatown, which has made the community a unique and special place today. The recommendations presented in this report aim to retain and promote the intangible heritage values of Vancouver's Chinatown.

2.5 About Heritage BC

Heritage BC is a member based, not for profit charitable organization supporting heritage conservation in British Columbia through advocacy, education and funding.

Heritage BC is passionate about building links between heritage conservation and tourism, economic and environmental sustainability, and community pride.

Heritage BC offers several workshops, webinars, and other heritage education and training opportunities for communities and organizations, to educate and enhance the capacity for heritage conservation in British Columbia.

Section 3: Appendix: Timeline





- Pre-1788 First Nations in BC
- 1788 Captain George Vancouver and Captain James Cook explore the Pacific Coast of British Columbia
Chinese workers arrive at Nuu-chah-nulth territory near present day Ucluelet as part of Captain John Meares's expedition of the Pacific Coast
- 1858 Fraser River Gold Rush brings Chinese gold seekers and entrepreneurs from California and from China
- 1867 Canadian Confederation
- 1871 British Columbia becomes a part of Canada. The matter of Chinese labour is a contentious political issue in B.C.
Chinese Canadians are not allowed to vote in Provincial or Municipal elections in British Columbia
- 1881 Wing Sang Building is constructed at 51 East Pender Street
- 1884 Granville townsite (which later became Vancouver) has a Chinese population of fewer than 50 people and only 3 Chinese-run businesses
- 1885 Canadian Pacific Railway is completed. Chinese workers essential in building the western portion, as they are considered the cheapest and most effective workers
Contributions of Chinese workers on the CPR are ignored. A head tax of \$50 is imposed on Chinese migrants
- 1886 City of Vancouver incorporated
Most of the city is destroyed by fire on June 13
- 1887 Local newspapers begin to make mention of "China Town"
- 1895 Chinese Benevolent Association of Vancouver is founded
- 1898 Theatre and Opera House are built in Chinatown
- 1901 Chinese Times Building is constructed at 1 East Pender Street
Head tax is increased to \$100. Chinese labourers continue to migrate to Canada in large numbers
- 1903 Head tax is increased to \$500
Lim Sai Hor (Kow Mok) Benevolent Association Building is constructed at 525-531 Carrall Street
- 1907 Chinese Freemasons Building is constructed at 5 West Pender Street
On September 7 the Asian Exclusion League marches to City Hall to protest existence of Chinese Canadians in Vancouver. Later that day the League riots in Chinatown. Residents take measures to protect their property but do not join the violence
- 1910 Vancouver's Chinese Benevolent Association Building opens at 104-108 East Pender Street
- 1911 Lung Kong Jung Shaw Ltd. Building is constructed at 102 East Pender Street
The population of Vancouver's Chinatown surpasses that of Victoria's
- 1913 Mah Society of Canada Building is constructed at 137-139 East Pender Street
Sam Kee Building, "the world's narrowest building," is constructed at 8 West Pender Street
- 1914 Start of First World War
- 1915 CIBC Building is constructed at 501 Main Street
- 1918 End of First World War
- 1920 Yue Shan Society Building is constructed at 33-39 East Pender Street
Chinese Nationalist League of Canada (Kuomintang) Building is constructed at 529 Gore Avenue
- 1921 Wong Benevolent Association (Mon Keang School) Building is constructed at 121 East Pender Street
- 1923 Chinese Immigration Act (commonly known as Exclusion Act) prevents Chinese from entering Canada
- 1925 Chin Wing Chun Tong Society of Canada Building is constructed at 158-160 East Pender Street



- 1930 Chinese Canadians suffer disproportionately as a result of the Great Depression
Canadian Government encourages Chinese Canadians to return to China by providing financial support for repatriation
- 1932 Vancouver Chinese restaurants prohibited from hiring white waitresses
- 1936 Chinese community erects arch at corner of Pender and Carrall Streets for Vancouver's Golden Jubilee
- 1939 Second World War begins
Chinese Canadians in B.C. prevented from joining the armed forces because it was feared they would demand the right to vote as a result of their participation in the war effort. Many volunteered despite this
- 1945 Second World War Ends
- 1947 Exclusion Act repealed. Chinese Canadians granted citizenship and voting rights
Vancouver Centre riding elects Douglas Jung as the first Chinese Canadian MP
- 1961 MacLean Park Housing is built in Strathcona as part of a large-scale urban renewal project. Many Chinese residents are displaced to make way for this project
- 1969 As a result of public pressure, the City scraps plans for freeway expansion that would have destroyed much of Gastown and Chinatown. Plans for further urban renewal of the area are also suspended
"Restoration Report - A Case for Renewal of the Old City" commissioned by the Chinatown Improvement Group
- 1971 Chinatown becomes a provincially-protected heritage district under the Archaeological and Historic Site Protection Act of 1960
- 1974 City of Vancouver creates new Zoning schedules for Chinatown (HA-1) and Gastown (HA-2). These new zones were larger than the areas created by the Provincial designation
- 1979 Chinatown Historic Area Pender Street Improvement Project introduces Chinese-inspired streetscape design to the neighbourhood
- 1980 Chinese Cultural Centre opens at 50 East Pender Street
- 1986 Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Classical Chinese Garden opens
- 1994 Chinatown rezoned to create 2 separate zoning schedules: HA-1 corresponding to the provincially-designated area and HA-1A corresponding to the remainder of Chinatown
- 1995 Chinatown Plaza is constructed at 180 Keefer Street
HSBC Building is constructed at 608 Main Street
- 1999 City of Vancouver begins Chinatown Revitalization Program as part of the larger Downtown Eastside Revitalization Program
- 2001 Vancouver Chinatown Revitalization Committee is formed to bring together 20+ of the area's social, cultural, resident, and business groups to work in collaboration with the City to develop short-term revitalization initiatives as well as a long-term vision for Chinatown, along with strategies to implement that vision
- 2002 Millennium Gate is constructed at the western border of Chinatown
City Council approves the Chinatown Vision Directions to help guide City policy decisions, priorities, budgets, and capital plans in the Chinatown community
- 2003 Council approves heritage incentives for Gastown and Chinatown, including the Heritage Façade Rehabilitation Program and the Heritage Building Rehabilitation Program, 5 year program to kick-start economic activity in Chinatown, Gastown, and the Hastings Street corridor
Provincial designations become municipal designations. This is largely an administrative formality, as the Province had delegated authority to issue ministerial permits for changes and alterations to provincially designated properties to the Director of Planning in 1981
- 2004 Council approves a 3-year work program to develop and implement a Chinatown Community Plan

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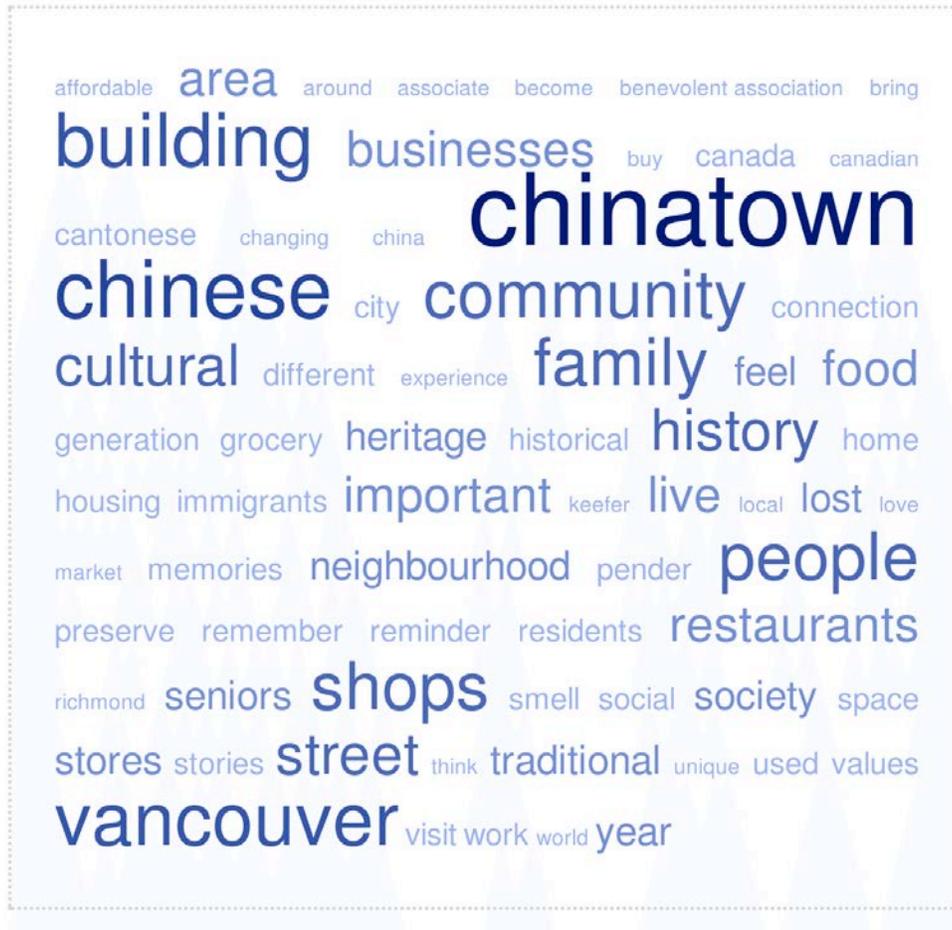


The following strategies are priorities: A strategy for the rehabilitation of the buildings owned by the family association and benevolent societies; A strategy for residential intensification and land use; A parking strategy; An update on the community development initiatives in Chinatown & DTES

- 2006 Prime Minister Stephen Harper delivers apology for head taxes and exclusion of Chinese immigrants
- 2008 City Council approves Chinatown Society Buildings Planning Grant Program to provide grants up to \$100 000 to support preparation of comprehensive rehabilitation plans
- 2010 Chinatown recognized as a National Historic Site of Canada
- 2011 City conducts public workshops in support of the Chinatown Economic Revitalization Action Plan in June 2011, study conducted by consultants AECOM development planners from San Francisco
- 2012 Chinatown Neighbourhood Plan & Economic Revitalization Strategy published
- 2014 Provincial Government apologises to Chinese Canadians of B.C. for historical wrong



Section 3: Appendix 2: Online Responses



Word Cloud generated from online responses

Question	Response
What does Vancouver's Chinatown mean to you?	Its a place that magically transports you to another world with its own customs, language, culture. Where you can glimpse into what it would be like to visit China. I love Vancouvers Chinatown. It's been a source of pride for me since moving here in 1989. I have lived in the Chinatown/Strathcona area since 2008 and it welcomed me with open arms. It is magical and it is so sad, so difficult seeing the magic drain away with every store closure, reduction in pedestrian traffic etc.
	Unfortunately, due to poor business, many shops have closed and it appears Chinatown is dying.
	Chinatown is a cultural and historical museum of Vancouver, and in a broader scale, all of Canada.
	dim sum (especially Floata seafood restaurant), food, bao, family, grocery shopping, night



What does Vancouver's Chinatown mean to you?

market, herbal stores, historical landmark, chinese culture, chinese school (even though I never had to attend)
Chinatown is a neighbourhood that reminds us of Chinese-Canadian history, including struggle and triumph. In my family, it was the place that we visited every weekend during my childhood (in the 1990s), and I always think of the smells, the food, the sounds of hawkers yelling Cantonese, and a sense of community and ritual.
It is a living community, not a disneyesque heritage site of the sort found in Victoria. To this end, it is dynamic, evolving with the community and the needs of the community.
Chinese culture, affordable and authentic Chinese food, affordable, interesting and authentic goods from China
The first six years of my life were spent in the Strathcona area. In 2009, I returned following a decision to purchase a condo near the Chinatown Gate, hoping to become a part of what Bob Rennie touted as the renewal of Chinatown. I'm sad to say I sold my condo this spring and moved to Burnaby as I couldn't face witnessing what is happening to Chinatown today. Vancouver's Chinatown is plagued by drug addicts, filthy alleyways and night-clubbers who urinate everywhere including on the Chinese Cultural Centre building (I witnessed this one evening. Two well-dressed Caucasian men crossed the street from Bob Rennie's office and urinated in the alcove of the Chinese Cultural Centre, a mere 50 yards from the plaque where my father and two uncles -- Canadian Chinese WWII veterans -- are listed.) Shameful, disrespectful and ignorant. I seethed.
the past, cute little old Chinese ladies and men, a different world within Vancouver, beautiful old buildings, strong smells and exotic ingredients! It is an important place to remember the early Chinese immigrants to Vancouver and the hardships they experienced and the world they carved out for themselves. Without it, Vancouver is missing a very important, integral and interesting part of itself.
Chinatown is very much an important part of Vancouver's history. I wish we still had Japantown, I remember as a child going for dinner a one of the last remaining Japanese restaurants on Powell Street with my father. We certainly don't want too lose Chinatown.
To me, Chinatown was the first place I felt comfortable as a child. I lived outside of Chinatown where there were very few chinese people and it was the only place where you were surrounded by people who spoke Cantonese. Chinatown always bring back memories of a place where my grandmother used to take me to see movies, the local fortune teller, shop and have Dim sum. It was a place where you could haggle for the price of a item and then go home feeling like you got a deal. It was also a place where you could ask any elderly person to help you buy anything you were not used to buying (ie buying Asian vegatables for my grandmother). There is also the Lum Association which is located in Chinatown which is like a community center for the Lum's. Some of my family members still attend their functions. I don't go to Chinatown that often since I have a family of my own but I do like to take the kids down to Chinatown once a while to experience the place. You could buy Chinese products anywhere but Chinatown will always be the place where it all started. I will always have fond memories of Chinatown.
it is my childhood/teenage years..learning everything from Kung fu to Chinese dance. As kids we connected with others. All of Chinatown was buzzing and there was a sense of community--strong community. Chinese families didn't have to know one another but there was an air of familiarity amongst all. We lived in Burnaby but we always went to Chinatown for food, shopping, events, etc. I rather enjoyed watching the elderly people play chess, dominos, etc. it was the relics that were often found on the walls of the various associations which always perked my interest in the history of Chinatown. Chinatown is history. It is family. It is heritage. It is life for many.



What does Vancouver's Chinatown mean to you?

As an HK immigrant in the late 80s, it presented to me an alternative image of perception of Chinese people in Canada as a counterpoint to the changes taking root in Richmond after 1990, and served as a reminder of a different time, as well as what the mainstream "story in progress" of Chinese people in Canada. It represents the consistently in-flux story of people of Chinese and East Asian cultures in Vancouver - ranging from the experiences of recent new arrivals, first- and second-generation, and descendants of those under the head tax or those who worked on the railway.

Chinatown is a representation of the discrimination of our past. It is a physical symbol for the hardships overcome by many minorities in our country, demonstrating the endurance of our Chinese ancestors. It is important to preserve the memory of the struggles of those that came before us so that we can honour them and understand how we came to arrive where we are now.

Great food, great mix of people, beautiful buildings, NO TOWERS,

Shop, food, tradition, tea, culture.

Is the closest place to my culture in Vancouver, is a hub for people who share my heritage, is the only way of living for my grandmother and her friends, Chinatown means my world, my childhood and hopefully my children's childhood. It makes me very sad visiting Chinatown now listening to soft whispers of how the area is changing and the uncertainty for the Chinese locals, listening to the elderly worry and cry about rent increases and building tear downs.

Vancouver's Chinatown means a Chinese-Canadian identity to me that has formed before multiculturalism was widely accepted in urban Canada. It was a place where we can find friendship and social support. It was a reminder of otherness in relation to mainstream (i.e. WASP Canada). It allowed us to maintain connections to the old country.

Chinatown is my Heritage, I love my own culture. Brings back a lot of memory of my childhood, the food, smell, building, the people, the language the shops. It just makes me feel at home. In Chinatown, I can purchase specialty items, Chinese grocery, services, games.....The benevolent Societies of different Names.

I grew up in Chinatown during the mid 20th Century when it was like a village: everyone knew one another and one could shop most everything a person want.

Chinatown was always very Chinese. Apart from the T&T on 1st Avenue, there is not a place in Vancouver that was more Chinese.

What I mean by that is that Chinatown was a space where it was possible for my parents, who immigrated from Hong Kong, to act as if they had never left Hong Kong. Not only was Cantonese the language of all commerce, there is a certain way of acting that you cannot. Some examples: old ladies lining Keefer street selling vegetables; every family owned a blue shopping "buggy"; having your hair cut for \$5 haircut was considered normal.

It is an important part of the history of Vancouver, of the people who lived and worked here.

Growing up in Vancouver, I visited there regularly with my parents and my brother and sister. It has always been a very special place to me, from the streets bustling with energy, the produce, seafood and souvenirs spilling on to the sidewalk, to the people speaking in rapid-fire Cantonese. It is part of what makes Vancouver the city it is and is an important part of the city's culture. It is still always on my must-see places to visit when I go back to my hometown. The day I received the proposal for my baby daughter, who was born in China, my mom and I went to Chinatown to celebrate, and to buy things for the baby we hadn't yet met. Now that my daughter is 10, we always make a point of going to Chinatown, as it's also become a very special place to her. When my mom passed



<p>What does Vancouver's Chinatown mean to you?</p>	<p>away, we spent the first anniversary of her passing at Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Gardens, as it was a place that was very close to my mom's heart, and there is something very soothing and very healing about those gardens.</p>
	<p>Chinatown is home to a rich history - it is a place that was created out of racist exclusion, poverty and discrimination against Chinese labourers, but it is also a place that once was a thriving business place and a vibrant cultural hub. It has provided wealth for the city and the nation and plays an important role in our history, which is why we shouldn't think Chinatown is just a "Chinese" concern, but one that matters and relates to every Vancouverite and to every Canadian.</p>
	<p>As a 4th generation Vancouver Chinese Canadian, Chinatown is a connection to my cultural identity.</p>
	<p>I moved to Vancouver in 2009 and Vancouver's Chinatown reminded me of the Chinatown that I regularly visited growing up in Toronto. It is a place that celebrates diversity and community.</p>
	<p>My family immigrated to Vancouver in 1966. Since I was four years old, I have vivid recollections of weekly bus rides to Chinatown to buy groceries, mostly Chinese foods, ingredients, and returning home with arms full of bags for only \$20! I loved the hustle and bustle of life and activity there. We also regularly had dim sum and dinner there, as well as watching Chinese movies. It connected us to our heritage and was a great opportunity for us to practise our faltering Chinese. It was also a wonderful social activity as we knew so many of the merchants and we'd undoubtedly bump into friends. So Chinatown holds very dear and special memories for us. But I often feel sadness when I venture there, as I see so many vacant shops, indicative of high rent, difficulty in making ends meet when there isn't that much foot traffic, and I see the dwindling number of Chinese establishments that used to populate the area. There are almost NO medium to higher-end Chinese restaurants there anymore, and, of course, no Chinese theatres. Our children are in their early twenties and 1 in her late teens--we still delight in taking them there so they can see and feel what Chinatown is today, while listening to our stories and memories of old Chinatown.</p>
	<p>To me, Vancouver Chinatown is a meeting place, a place of community, connecting and belonging...</p>
	<p>I am a Chinese-Born Canadian who grew up visiting Chinatown with my parents/grandparents for weekly grocery shopping and special family and community events. Chinatown is my connection to my family through the different generations, extending to my ancestral village of Hoy Ping in China. They are my community who understands me, accepts me and encourages me. They--my family and the community collectively--have made incredible sacrifices for me and my future in Canada. I feel an incredible sense of gratitude and responsibility towards them, as represented through Chinatown.</p>
	<p>family, memory, discrimination, racism, colonialism, patriarchy, food industry, textiles, working class, Chinese, Cantonese, HK cafes, connections amongst marginalized people (Chinese, Japanese, Indigenous, black, poor), seniors, family housing and services, medical facilities, fresh produce,</p>
<p>Is an important place with important history during pivotal moments of Vancouver's history. A safer place for Chinese people, vietnamese people, elders, low income people, indigenous people, white people, youth, disabled people, and other racialized people to feel accepted.</p>	
<p>I am a 3rd generation Chinese-Canadian who is proud of my heritage. Chinatown allows me to connect to my traditions and customs and it serves as a reminder of the struggles</p>	



	<p>of early immigrants to Canada.</p>
	<p>For me Chinatown is a neighbourhood and community that helps me feel at home in a new place. The poh pohs with their grocery bags, and their afternoon mahjong socials remind me of my own grandma, an ocean away. When I first moved to Vancouver from Edmonton, 2 years ago, it was through connecting with people working to protect and honour pieces of living heritage that I came to form relationships with many incredible community builders, artists, and visionaries. It's a village within a city. It's a walkable community. It's a web of relationships. It's a time-machine portal and a teleportation device that helps me feel connected to this land and people here, to far-away lands and people, and to a history that's so much bigger than any of us. It is a sacred, irreplaceable cultural touchstone that provides both a physical and an emotional/linguistic/cultural/spiritual space for understanding how history shapes the present. It is a place where the soil holds the richness of intercultural neighbourliness and resilience, and the seeds of cultural revival are pushing up strong.</p>
	<p>Chinatown is a community where many of the seniors know each other and where long time staff at restaurants and cafes are not only community members, but also serve as security for seniors who frequent Chinatown. It is the only place in Vancouver where it is common place to chat with complete strangers while shopping and where one can walk down the street and see neighbours on a regular basis. It is also the only part of the city where many immigrants have run into childhood friends or neighbours in Chinatown shops or Clan societies.</p>
	<p>Chinatown was a large part of my childhood. I'm an Elder of mixed Musqueam and Chinese ancestry, and fondly remember living at the corner of East Georgia St. and Gore Avenue with some of my siblings. Now our former residence is a grocery store and the owner and workers there were surprised to hear that we lived there around 1950 during a recent visit. We used to attend Chinese school here too and made the long commute between Chinatown and the Musqueam reserve when we were young.</p>
	<p>The first Chinese immigrants from China settled in Vancouver's Chinatown. The first Chinese immigrants came from 4 counties in Guangdong province in China. These 4 counties, known as "Sai Yip" in Cantonese and "Siyi" in Mandarin. These 4 counties were known as Toisan, Hoiping, Yinping and Sunwei. They all spoke the 4 counties Cantonese dialect, known as "Sai Yip" dialect. Sai Yip dialect is spoken less and less since the late 1960's. Starting in late 1960's, more Chinese immigrants were coming from Hong Kong and they spoke Cantonese standard. In the last few years, more and more Mandarin speaking Chinese are immigrating to Canada.</p>



Describe some of the intangible heritage values of Vancouver's Chinatown.

Pungent aromas of ripe fruit, barbecued duck/pork, fresh fish & seafood, dim sum steaming in the restaurants. Herbal shops on every corner with their mysterious & wonderful assortment of chinese herbs, mushrooms, noodles and other magical inventory. Loud voices raised as merchants hawk their specials for the day or barter with customers for the best price. Firecrackers exploding, lion dances and blessings for stores and people

Appearance wile, while some of the buildings in Chinatown has heritage value, but it the buildings themselves are in poor condition and much money is needed to bring them up to existing code. More importantly, many of these buildings have lost their original functions. Saving the physical appearance while the social and cultural functions appears to be vanishing. Once the present individual tenants passed away, functions of these buildings will be gone and their value will be gone for ever. Originally, Chinatown was a shelter for those seeking protection and maintain social ties but they are no longer warranted.

I remember the first Chinatown nightmarket in the 1990's. It was such a remarkable event, something that had never happened in Vancouver, but a tradition brought over from Asia. It was such a treat, to be able to try out the fresh foods from the stalls, it became a family tradition for us to stroll down to Chinatown to enjoy the tastes and smells of Chinese food in Chinatown. I've always had warm memories of our large extended family spending time together in the restaurants of Chinatown. Most of them were on the upper floor, above the street level shops, and we would do a little bit of window shopping, chatting with the merchants, before we could convene together for dinner with family for birthdays, anniversaries, and even funerals. Chinatown was a place for memories of family and friends. My grandmother had lived in Chinatown and we would often visit her, and go out for dimsum in the afternoons. It was a place for family memories.

Weekly gathering with the family for dim sum on weekends. Grocery shopping with elderly relatives, haggling with vendors for better deals on food, school supplies or anything. Enjoying the smell of chinese herbal stores, not enjoying the urine smells in the alleys... Going to Chinatown nightmarket every year until they shut it down.

I will always associate a vibrant Chinatown with an abundance of fresh produce, (BBQ) meat, seafood, and baked goods, sold and made by local, independent vendors. People who visited Chinatown in the 1970s-1990s remember the sense of vibrancy, and though the neighbourhood wasn't clean, it was very safe and fun for children to wander around on their own.

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<p>Describe some of the intangible heritage values of Vancouver's Chinatown.</p>	<p>the fact that it is a living Chinatown, and a living neighbourhood generally, it is a true urban community. It is not a tourist trap.</p>
	<p>In the past, the shops and the night market always seemed to be filled with treasures, often items I could afford to buy. Crowds of happy people at the night market. Some of the shops are still there, though they are thinning out. Eating delicious food in quiet, intimate, low-key restaurants (also gradually thinning out). Availability of groceries I have trouble finding elsewhere.</p>
	<p>When I think about Chinatown, I remember the row of elderly Chinese men who use to frequent the BC Royal Cafe for a cup of tea and an apple pie pastry. Newtown Bakery has now taken its place as the social gathering place for many Chinese seniors and Vancouver's Chinatown is sadly in need of more establishments where locals can visit. Not skateboard shops. Or Medicinal Cannabis shops. Hipsters are slowly killing Chinatown.</p>
	<p>Vancouver's Chinatown is inundated by tourists and crowds during the Spring Festival Parade, but Chinatown was more than a place to visit when I knew it. It was home, our backyard and a place where you knew the shopkeeper and their family. Sometimes, it was you behind the counter serving the customer because that business was a family business. Sometimes, it was your uncle's business. People knew each and looked out for one another.</p>
	<p>i think I mentioned above but the smells, the link to the past, the struggles, Vancouver in a simpler time. I have no memories, activities, traditions, events, or people that I associate with it, but it is a special place that I love in Vancouver because it is different and interesting.</p>
	<p>I enjoy shopping for my groceries at the markets on Gore Street or at the Chinatown Supermarket. I love the Hong Kong style cafes such as Maxims on Keefer. It takes me right back to my visits to Hong Kong.</p>
	<p>in short it brought to the forefront who I am and the importance of knowing my heritage.</p>
	<p>I value to the tie to a history I've never been taught in school as a Canadian, like the reminder of Dr. Sun Yat Sen.</p>
	<p>My grandfather's family is from a small village in the Canton province in China. He grew up in Victoria's Chinatown, where his mother used to cook traditional village-style Cantonese food. The only place in Vancouver where he could find this food was Foo's Ho-Ho in Chinatown, so that is where he and his siblings would meet up every month to share a meal that reminded them of their childhood and culture. Many restaurants have stories like these where the taste and smell of the food bring people back so many treasured memories.</p>
	<p>Chinatown reminds us of many of the most important steps the country, the province and the city took towards becoming a cultural mosaic.</p>
	<p>Dance parties and adores wafting out of the Chinese Tea Shop</p>
	<p>Chinatown is special, different from other Asian neighbourhoods (Richmond, Victoria St, Knight St) Chinatown is where everyone goes to feel a bit like home. To fit in for the day and to be reminded of their home. The smells are not always great but they are authentic. There are always spontaneous events such as grandmas selling their veggies or knitwear on the road, butchers arguing with fish mongers, strollers and grandma carts tangling.</p>
	<p>Vendors yelling loudly trying to peddle their goods. The smell of garbage and the overall rundown condition of the town added to both its charm but also reminded me that the area was result of historic isolation due to racism. The intermingling of peoples, especially Chinese and First Nations peoples.</p>
<p>The Annual Chinese new year Parade, the Dragon Boat Races, the Harvest Moon</p>	

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Describe some of the intangible heritage values of Vancouver's Chinatown.

Festival, The Ching Ming this are just a few . The Dr. Sun garden reminds us the friendship between the Peoples of China and Canada. The Chinese cultural centre art display keeping the Chinese art alive. Some music stores in Pender St. caters special Chinese drama DVD, CD. keeps my Chinese music alive and I am able to pass it down to my next generation. The older folks stories remind me of my grandmas & grandpas' lives. The Dim Sum experience.....

I remember a mother of a close friend of mine was curious about me, so she went to my place to meet my father and asked about me. This was a case of a parent checking out the parent of her child's friend as a means of confirming I was from a good family.

Again, for me, Chinatown is a space to be Chinese, without being embarrassed about it or having one's Chineseness "observed."

It's the sounds of the Cantonese being spoken between shopkeepers and residents of the area. It's the old neon signs, the gate at the entrance, the amazing Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Classical Chinese Garden. It's the shops selling unusual herbs and spices, Bamboo Village crammed with everything from paper money to burn at Chinese New Year, to lanterns, jewellery and shiny red cabinets. It's dim sum at Floata, still with the traditional carts. It's the boxes of fruits and veggies lined up in front of markets. It's area residents buying their fish at the market, it's the barbecued duck hanging in the windows of restaurants. It's Chinese New Year fire crackers being set off in front of shops and all along the streets. It's the parade filled with colourful costumes and music. And it's newer retailers such as T&T Supermarket, selling every delicacy one could imagine.

Today, the Chinese New Year parade represents one of the few times the streets of Chinatown are as vibrant as it was in the past. Hence, combined with the changing demographics, declining businesses, changing priorities and disinvestment of the government, Chinatown has become a less vibrant and cohesive community, which is the basis of our concern that Chinatown is not thriving like the way it used to. Simply, it really isn't what it was back in the 20s-40s. However, that does not implicate that Chinatown is not historically, culturally or aesthetically significant. I associate Vancouver's Chinatown with herbal medicine shops, good old Chinese cultural experience, affordability, and friendly seniors (who needs more ethnic seniors housing - something like Burnaby's Nikkei Centre for the Japanese community).

Vancouver's Chinatown is an important part of local and national history which is manifested in the long-standing businesses, residents, cultural activities and stories about Chinatown's past.

The ability of residents of different backgrounds and ages to interact with each other while the neighborhood is changing is peaceful and accepting.

loved the tradition of going to Yen Lock Restaurant for nice, family dinners, and then running across the street to the bookstore that also sold little gadgets. There used to be so much noise, conversation and people. You'd hear people talking mostly in Cantonese, with a lot of Taishan Hua mixed in. Mah-jong tiles will be snapping together. You'd see and smell the wonderful bbq'd Chinese products around every corner. In many ways, old Chinatown was like Costco--you could buy a wide variety of items and often in bulk; I remember in 1972 when our family bought our first car, we'd go to Chinatown and buy a big case of oranges--it was something like 72 of them--and our family of 8 would gobble them all up, lickety-split. There were also so many bakeries and cafes. It was always a tradition for us to go and buy lots of stuff at the bakeries. And when Moon Festival rolled up, my goodness, there were long line-ups for moon cake, especially from certain loved places like Keefer Bakery. Chinatown also had nightlife with Ming's, so our parents would occasionally get dressed up and go out on the town--it was a nice way for them to hear Chinese music and socialize with their Chinese friends there. Chinese New Year was a

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	<p>loud, festive and fun time in Chinatown as you'd see the lion dance, all the merchants out and waiting for the lion to visit their shop, customers wanting to be a part of the celebrations, and people bowing and wishing each other Happy New Year.</p>
	<p>I valued the oral sharing of history about residents who lived in Chinatown in earlier time...the feeling of togetherness with members of other family societies and Chinatown Societies at special events, banquets and celebrations. This felt like we are one large extended family...</p>
	<p>My family lineage is from Hoy Ping county in Guangzhou, Guangdong province in China. My sister and I have been recently re-elected to serve a second term on the board of directors of the Hoy Ping Benevolent Association, Vancouver Chapter. Our paternal grandparents relied actively on the Association for their social life. They immigrated to Vancouver as seniors (sponsored by my father as the eldest son) and left all their friends and family behind. Chinatown and the Hoy Ping BA became their new community and friends in Canada. When my grandfather died, my grandmother moved out of our family home to live in Chinatown on her own. She wanted to maintain her independence and living in the Chinatown community allowed her that, as it provided everything she needed in her old age and comfortably. When she and my grandfather and my father passed away, the Hoy Ping BA helped us perform the Chinese rites at their funerals, which were of great comfort to our family. My sister and I joined the board of Hoy Ping as there are many Chinatown seniors/residents who need our help to maintain their community, and so that there is a strong and healthy Chinatown for our nephew/children to inherit and experience.</p>
	<p>My dad used to be a dr in the Keefer/Main medical building- ALL medical services were accessible in Cantonese. I can remember walking the streets with him before/after work & on lunch breaks and elderly folks & families would talk to him informally about their family medical problems and he'd give them informal advice. He was a family Dr that got to know the entire family and grew with the family and was able to provide CULTURALLY APPROPRIATE medical attention in their own language. Chinatown is becoming a homogenously "Vancouver" zone where the market will get rid of services like these and turn them into high end condos and boutiques- people who need these services will be pushed out of the city & the cultural diversity that makes Vancouver great will be lost.</p>
	<p>The collective history that permeates this neighbourhood, which is a part of the Downtown Eastside. A site of trauma, racism, classism and colonization, and at the same time a place for connection, for belonging, and home for many without homes.</p>
	<p>A lot of Chinatown for me is the food. For some people it may be odd, the dried, preserved, fermented, smoked, boiled, bbq'ed and fruit that seems to smell like garbage and their vendors to tell you theirs is the best quality. The Lunar New Year parade is a big thing, I go watch the Lion dance every single year, rain or shine and have done so as long as I can remember. The herbalists who to try and explain 5000 years of Chinese medicinal practice that will cure all your ailments. The Chinese medical practitioners who provide acupuncture or cupping meanwhile talking about qi and qigong.</p>
	<p>I think it is important to see Chinatown as part of the neighbourhoods around it - mainly Strathcona. Chinatown is not an island unto itself. By drawing hard boundaries around it, I think we risk depriving it of the connections that give it life. It is a "high street" or a retail hub for the residents around it. It also has relationships with the industrial lands of Strathcona. Chinatown is a heart and a centre for all of Vancouver, not just for those within its few blocks radius.</p>
	<p>Intergenerational relationships and kinship. Seeing young people with their parents or grandparents eating in restaurants or shopping. Loud hawkers at the grocery stores</p>



	<p>selling fresh fruit and produce. Traditional Cantonese cuisine that cannot be found anywhere else and has stayed to serve the tastes of immigrants from a particular part of China. The smell of incense from people practicing their customs before opening stores. Shops that sell incense and other goods necessary for maintaining cultural beliefs and customs (e.g. joss paper, incense, candles, offerings, guan yin statues, jewellery stores, lanterns, lions, traditional clothing, tea shops etc.). The telling and learning of folktales of different Chinese holidays and the symbolism of things (e.g. Dragon Boat Festival, Mid-Autumn Festival, Winter Solstice, Lunar New Year etc.)</p>
	<p>I loved eating at the rich assortment of restaurants that used to line the streets of Chinatown - On Lok, Bamboo Terrace, WK, Ho Ho, Ho Inn, and Yen Lok!</p>
	<p>I always associate the pungent smell of dried and fermented food, such as dried shrimp, dried salt fish, dried preserved vegetables and other food staples of southern China.</p>
<p>What makes Vancouver's Chinatown unique, significant, and important to you?</p>	<p>The people. The buildings. The food. The herbal shops. The smells. The vibrant reds and golds adorning the storefronts.</p>
	<p>Chinatown is unique to non-Chinese because it is different, but the original function on cultural and social ties are not as important to most local Chinese as before. Chinatown as a marketplace has been replaced T&T Supermarket throughout Metro Vancouver.</p>
	<p>Having grown up in Vancouver, I've shopped there regularly as a young child. As I got older, it was there for entertainment (music, movies, etc.). Now, as I am a working professional, I return to Chinatown for both personal and professional enjoyment, volunteering at the Garden to help promote it to the wider public and international audiences.</p>
	<p>Part of my childhood with the family gatherings, grocery shopping, attending events such as the night market or Chinese.</p>
	<p>It is absolutely important that Vancouver's Chinatown is preserved and protected as a cultural community and neighbourhood. It was not very long ago that Chinatown/Strathcona was the only place where people of Chinese ethnicity could reside and buy property. We need markers such as Chinatown so that we have physical reminders of our history. Considering the contributions of the Chinese community to the building of Canada (e.g. CPR railroad workers, soldiers in the world wars), a place in the city that honours that history is crucial.</p>
	<p>It's not Yaletown; there is a real-ness about the neighbourhood and a sense of its place on the community. It is also a place of diversity, extending well beyond its name.</p>
	<p>The community of businesses unlike those elsewhere in the city, which traditionally have been affordable even to fairly poor people.</p>
	<p>After we moved from the area, my parents took our family to Chinatown at least once a week to food shop or to visit one of the many wonderful restaurants along Pender Street. Back then, Pender Street was full of colourful neon signs and the street was bustling with shoppers and other families. Vancouver's Chinatown was the social hub for Chinese Canadians and part of regular life. My grandmother and grandfather lived in Strathcona. My parents, aunts and uncles grew up in Strathcona and Chinatown was their neighbourhood -- mostly because to venture out of Chinatown during those early racist times would be dangerous.</p>
	<p>Did you know Vancouver had segregated theatres for 'whites' and 'coloureds'? My dad is 93 years old and he could tell you many stories about the discrimination he faced.</p>
	<p>What makes</p>



Vancouver's Chinatown unique, significant, and important to you?	<p>they're trying to make the alleys hospitable-ha!</p>
	<p>I remember as a teenager back in the early 70's taking the bus down to Chinatown and enjoying all the interesting and unique little stores. I would occasionally by an LP from the record store on Pender Street. For a young person it felt so great to be able to experience such a different world only a bus ride away. Neighbourhoods like Chinatown make living in a city so much more exciting.</p> <p>I'm much older now, in my late fifties and now I live in Railtown and enjoy doing my grocery shopping on Gore Street or at the Chinatown Supermarket. Vancouver is very lucky to have this historic area.</p>
	<p>Chinatown to me was the first place the Chinese built. This was where it all began. I hope it will stay the same so when my kids have kids, they can visit this place and see all the old buildings and experience what I experience as a child. I was recently in New York and visited the Chinatown there, it brought back the same feelings I had as a child. I loved hearing people speak Cantonese and watching people go along there business. Just like when I was a child in Vancouver Chinatown, the people in New York Chinatown was also very helpful when I was lost. All I had to do was to speak Cantonese, and I felt like there was this instant bond.</p>
	<p>Community and safety</p>
	<p>I think locals and should use Chinatown as a reminder of a rich cultural tradition that a large portion of our region is directly or indirectly connected to that needs nurturing and rejuvenating, not just an experience to be consumed like so many pork buns. I think this is how to differentiate it from travelling to experience the equally worthy but qualitatively different atmosphere found in Richmond.</p>
	<p>As a part of a young generation, in a way I feel distant from the culture of Chinatown. But I have always honoured my ancestors and appreciated what they have struggled with so that I could be as privileged as I am today. As I feel that there are still instances of racial inequality today, I believe that it is important to remember the past and how our ancestors overcame such discrimination so that we do not repeat this history and can work our way towards a better world.</p>
	<p>Its beauty, age, and the face that it represents one of the first places in Canada where people from a different part of the world immigrated.</p>
	<p>2nd biggest in North America, captures history of Asian presence in Vancouver.</p>
	<p>Chinatown is important to me because it was where I was raised and where my grandma has always lived since immigrating 30+ years ago. As she is ageing, I notice more and more how much her and her friends rely on the Chinatown to live. They have their daily shops to visit, their appointments and banks. They have the support of their village benevolent societies which have been a large support since immigration. Without having a walk-able community close to their homes many of the elderly Chinese would be lost.</p>
	<p>It was an important part of maintaining my Chinese-Canadian identity, and a reminder of a safe haven when dealing with racism.</p>
	<p>Chinatown began as a group not welcomed by the greater white society and became dependent on one another. In a manner of speaking, Chinatown became a self sufficient village, independent and proud.</p>
	<p>My daughter is Chinese and I bring her to Chinatown regularly as a way to connect to her birth culture.</p>
	<p>That it is not just a tourist destination, but rather a place that families have lived for generations. Vancouver is a fascinating, beautiful, diverse and multicultural city, and Chinatown is part of that. I love its history, its traditions, the fact that while I can buy interesting and inexpensive souvenirs for my young daughter, I can also stock up on groceries. It's the traditional herbalists selling medicine, the amazing Dr. Sun Yat-Sen</p>



What makes Vancouver's Chinatown unique, significant, and important to you?	<p>Gardens. It's a place that has been witness to history, from the neighbourhood's earliest settlers, who arrived seeking a better life, to the present day. It has a vibrancy and I love to see families of all generations out together, from elderly grandfathers to young children.</p>
	<p>Chinatown is historically important and relevant to everyone and any one who is a Canadian. It is not just a "Chinese problem" because the wealth of the city and nation - everything we have and see today - is because of Chinatown. It was born out of the systemic exclusion of the migrant workers, who've helped built the railway and united the nation.</p>
	<p>My personal history (i.e. as a Chinese Canadian, with family born and raised in Chinatown, and who also remain connected to Chinatown - my family which includes Councillor Kerry Jang).</p>
	<p>It tells the story of how Chinese Canadians have contributed to the wider society, first as a historical place of segregation, then as a place that celebrates culture, language, food and commerce. It is now a place where different cultures and experiences coexist peacefully.</p>
	<p>Having spent decades visiting, shopping, dining and watching movies in Chinatown, it certainly holds many memories for me, mostly good ones (bad ones are where we regularly encountered drunks and/or rough individuals). I loved the social aspect of Chinatown. The liveliness was invigorating and happy. Business seemed to be booming for most and merchants had good, competitive relationships with one another. People looked out for one another. You don't see that many smiles in Chinatown now.</p>
	<p>The sense of being in a fairly tight-knit community...the few Chinese based businesses and shops still provide the feel of being in a place that feels homey. This was also home to my parents when they both first arrived in Canada and it is a part of family history.</p>
	<p>Chinatown is a place of Chinese culture and traditions where they are celebrated and passed down to younger generations, as well as passed across to those of different cultures and backgrounds. It has been a place where Chinese language (Cantonese, in particular), celebrations (e.g. Chinese New Year), and practices (e.g. traditional Chinese medicine) have been safely preserved and healthy when passing down from generation to generation. This includes its people in the form of Chinese seniors/elders/pioneers who are the keepers of knowledge and experience, and who lived the history that we learn about.</p>
What makes Vancouver's Chinatown unique, significant, and important to you?	<p>I have my family history in Chinatown- it IS a place where newcomers come and can be relatively free of discrimination- unlike the rest of White-colonial Vancouver- the DTES/Chinatown area is a space for people of colour to be able to exist as their own/traditional cultural selves and be able to practice a culture that isn't second to Canadian-Whiteness. Chinatown has its history as a space for discrimination and racism- as far as I know Canada is still a place where people suffer from discrimination and racism- we should save Chinatown as a space to address these concerns; a space that people, who want to engage in these critical conversations, can AFFORD to live and work. Vital non-profits who are contributing to this conversation really desire an accessible space in Chinatown but are coming up against affordability and inaccess.</p>
	<p>Other than Surrey or other suburbs, chinatown is one of the most ethnically diverse - black folks, east asian, southeast asian, white, first nations. It is one of the only places you can walk around and not feel judged based on your income level. Where people make eye contact and smile.</p>
	<p>Chinatown uniqueness comes from the people who live and work there. Ironically they are very friendly and helpful, which is good because my Cantonese/Toishanese is quite poor. It's made up primarily of early immigrants from southern China which is where my ancestors are from, so a lot of things are different and quite region specific compared to</p>



	<p>Richmond (newer immigrants). Richmond may be newer and have the latest iPhone cases or Hello Kitty candy but it lacks the history.</p> <p>Vancouver Chinatown is one of the oldest and largest Chinatowns in the world I believe and I feel a big part of that are the hard working modest people who embody it.</p>
	<p>Vancouver's Chinatown is a cultural hub, where people connect at the intersections of heritage, culture, activism, politics, art, civic engagement, and socializing. It's an important site for relationship-building. It is also an important intercultural site.</p>
	<p>The Chinese seniors bind the community together. Without them, Chinatown would be empty. They also hold the knowledge around traditional Chinese customs and the important history and stories of being Chinese in Canada and the barriers they had to overcome to survive. Seniors and veterans are the symbols of resilience and community building at a difficult time and these stories are important to be passed on to younger generations and to be shared as part of Canadian history.</p>
	<p>It's a place where my ancestors resided and also struggled to survive as early migrants during a time when anti-Chinese policies were in place.</p> <p>We have to find ways to honour the true origins and history of this area, and also remember that it was cultivated and shaped on the land of my people as well that are from the Musqueam Nation. It has served as a site for intercultural engagement and relationship building.</p>
	<p>Many family association buildings are located in Chinatown and the surrounding area. Also many benevolent association buildings are located in Chinatown and the surrounding area. Also companies that sell Chinese merchandise that can't be found elsewhere.</p>
Are there specific buildings, areas, or physical aspects or resources?	<p>E Georgia, Keefer and Pender streets, from Gore to Abbott Streets. Most of the buildings, light standards, exterior murals etc.</p>
	<p>I associate the Chinese Cultural Centre and the Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Classical Chinese Garden as the heart and pulse of Chinatown, particularly its heritage values and significance.</p>
	<p>Millennium Gate</p>
	<p>Tosi's, Millenium Gate, Memorial Square, SRO hotels, Ovaltine Café (though not technically in Chinatown), neon signage, Foo Ho Hos, 100 Pender Block; blocks of of herbal shops, fish mongers, BBQ meat shops, stationary/gift shops, bakeries together; Sam Kee building, Benevolent Association clubhouses.</p>
	<p>obviously many of the lower rise pre war buildings; a number of which it has to be said have ostensibly benefited from some of the new commerce in the neighbourhood.</p>
	<p>The Sun Yat-Sen Garden and the public park, for sure. But it is the community that makes the whole place special - you couldn't preserve just a few buildings and expect Chinatown to be preserved as a result.</p>
	<p>Neon signs, Dr Sun Yat Sen Garden, Lord Strathcona Elementary School and too many buildings to list: Chinese Freemasons Building, Ho Ho Restaurant, Carnegie Community Centre, Lee Building, Wing Sang Building (which is now owned by Rennie). Shanghai Alley, Ovaltine Cafe.</p>
	<p>Tosi! All the Buildings! None of them should be torn down otherwise you destroy it forever. The towers in progress are already too much. They're selling Chinatown but by putting up towers they're destroying the thing they're marketing!</p>
	<p>The Rennie building for sure, with the little alleys.</p>
	<p>The top of Pender and Keefer street is where you can buy vegetables. These streets will always remind me of how unique Chinatown is. Walking up and down the streets, you can see how food is sold for years. It is not a pleasant smell around some of the food</p>

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Are there specific buildings, areas, or physical aspects or resources?	stores but that is what remind me that your in Chinatown.
	The various associations e.g. hon Hsing, Strathcona, the Benevolent...
	The cultural centre as a site for language and cultural learning and interpretation, although I would prefer a re-thinking of the gates.
	Foo's Ho Ho restaurant (being restored), Sun Yat Sen Classical Garden, Centre A, Millenium Gate, Mon Keang School
	I think of it as a valuable collection.
	All the Chinese businesses and areas are important! Everyday the community is being displaced and outsold/ rented by young Caucasian businesses with start up money, which do not last longer then 3 years. I understand that if a landlord is offered more rent they will take the deal but many Chinese business owners are unable to compete. Every Chinese person I know has either memories of shopping in Chinatown or their parents do but business have now been pushed out to Richmond and is making Chinatown struggle diminish.
	Chinese Cultural Centre, Sun Yat-sen Garden, Shon Yee Benevolent Association Building, Sam Kee Building, Wing Sang Building, Mah Society Building, Chinese Nationalist Party Building
	When I visited the CHAN WING CHUEN Benevolent Society in Pender St. I met some of my distant cousins and we had so much fun together. This is an eye opening experience for me. We now constantly planning on cultural events, tour trips, and just social getherings.
	The area around East Pender and Carrall has the oldest and meaningful buildings in Chinatown. Examples are the old Chinese Freemason building, the Chang Toy building and the former Chinese Empire Reform Association building.
	Skinny building, the Gate,
	It used to be the old Ho Inn neon sign with its bowl of soup and chop sticks, but any of the amazing old signs, the narrow building with the insurance office (can't remember its name), the gorgeous gate at the entrance, the narrow lane-ways, the beautiful old heritage buildings.
	Aesthetically, Chinatown has a unique look that distinguishes it from the other parts of Vancouver such as Coal Harbour, Yaletown, or even Richmond. The small store fronts, the display of groceries and herbal medicines on the street all collectively create a one-of- a -kind Chinatown character that can be only found here. With a history dated back to the 1800s, many of the buildings that still stand have a historically significant story behind them - like the Sam Kee building. Today, the Sam Kee building is the world's narrowest building, with a depth of only 1.5 meters; but do you know how that came to be? Back in the day, the Sam Kee building used to be a bath house. But in 1912, Vancouver wanted to widen Pender Street, and took over most of the original building, leaving owner Chang Toy with 1.5 meters ... leaving the building basically useless. In defiance of this discriminatory act that took away from Chinese culture, Chang Toy still used the 1.5 metres for retail shops and residential units, basically as a way to say "eff you" to the government and made the impossible possible. Which is why today, the Sam Kee building is also known to some as the "eff you" building - as a symbol of strength and resilience.
	The Chinese Society buildings (i.e. Jang Society building), food vendors, food manufacturers, skilled craftsmen, cultural societies and groups, Chinese Community Centre, gardens, museums, art galleries, restaurants, residences/communities, tourist attractions

the gates, the Sun Yat Sen Garden

The Chinese Benevolent Association (CBA) building, the Chinese Cultural Centre (CCC),

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Are there specific buildings, areas, or physical aspects or resources?	<p>the Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Gardens, Chinese-Canadian Military Museum, New Town Bakery, and Pender and Keefer Streets in general--they really were central hubs for the Chinese community to shop and to stop and chat.</p>
	<p>All of the Society owned Heritage Buildings stands out in my view. The Societies potentially held a lot of stories of past members that reflect the challenges that our forebears faced at a different time in Canadian History. I recall the discovery of a deceased members' personal belongings - with a Head Tax Certificate among the effects.</p>
	<p>The streets of Chinatown are very significant, meaning street level spaces. Community celebrations like the annual Chinese New Year parade take place along the streets of Chinatown. Historic photos of Chinatown showing its celebrations happened on the streets, for example, celebrating the Chinese Students Soccer Team's win in the 1960s. Chinatown's streets are iconic for this. Businesses in Chinatown spill their goods into the sidewalks--indoor sights, sounds and smells thus become part of Chinatown's streetscape. Restaurants/eateries are also very important for gathering over food that is always shared communally.</p>
	<p>Association buildings, Joe Wai's buildings (i.e. Chinatown plaza etc), Keefer/Columbia triangle, Tosi's shop- the build on Main Street that houses Tosi's, The rooming houses in the alleyway just East of main (along pender or Keefer, I think), Small store fronts, independent family owned businesses, retractable awnings on grocery shops and herbal stores, colourful storefronts, Goldstone Restaurant, HK Cafes, red, green & gold (iconic colours), green pillars, crowding on sidewalks (that were safe for seniors), mixed-use real estate for small/emerging businesses and low-income residents, "cute shops" (sanrio etc),</p>
	<p>Many benevolent societies, social housing, chinese cultural centre, Dr sun yat Sen Gardens, Carnegie community centre. Local cafes like Waves that have been here forever. Chinese and viet businesses.</p>
	<p>I identify Carrall to Gore and Keefer to Hastings the Chinatown area for Vancouver.</p>
	<p>A few places that I have spent time learning include: Ho Sun Hing Print Shop - over 100 years of history, and printing. Centre A - an art gallery that I am involved with, it has hosted space for many moments of discussion, community-building and activism. 418 E Hastings - Mah Society Building/hua foundation - a powerful model of how a society building can function as multi-use space, with the new hua foundation bringing youth organizing energy into a space where a seniors' choir used to practice. An example of collaboration between the Mah Society and hua foundation. Hogan's Alley Cafe - owned by a Mexican family on the corner of Gore and Union - and a space that shares some of the history of the black community. The Ming Sun Building - 439 Powell Street, across from Oppenheimer Park - an intersection of communities value this building - Chinese Canadian, Japanese Canadian, artists, low income, seniors, indigenous, heritage advocates, planners....</p>
	<p>Owner operated shops, fresh produce stores, restaurants and cafes, herbal shops, incense and religious goods stores, Chinese jewellery stores, kitchenware shops all contribute to the feel of Chinatown. Hidden courtyards where the Chinese could hide and socialize in a safe space. The Sun Yat-Sen Garden, the Chinese Cultural Centre and the Mau Dan Housing Co-op are important symbols of resilience for the Chinese community as these were built after the successful stopping of the freeway through the Strathcona neighbourhood. The Clan Associations as they were built to safeguard the Chinese and provide services for one another - with particular significance with those who have and continue to provide valuable affordable housing for low income Chinese seniors, new immigrants and low income folks.</p>
	<p>Chinese restaurants, bakeries, and the grocery stores with stalls that spill onto the streets</p>

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	are integral features to Vancouver's Chinatown.
	Our Chinese clan, known as Fong Leun Tong Society owned a house at 718 East Pender Street in Vancouver's Chinatown. It served as our Canada wide family headquarters for our clan, for people with the last name of "Sit" and "Seto" across Canada. Our family members were involved with Mary Chan and others who saved Vancouver's Chinatown from demolition in the late 1960's. Our family clan also own the former Templeton Building, located at 9 East Hastings Street. This building was also used as our family clan national headquarters. Our Fong Leun Tong Headquarters at 718 East Pender Street was sold on March 20, 2006. In 2007, the Board of Directors of Fong Leun Tong Society had given notice to discuss the motion to sell the headquarters at 9 East Hastings Street.
Already lost or you are afraid may be lost?	So many shops & restaurants have already closed - the current Chinatown is a skeleton of what it used to be. I hear that Richmond has taken over in terms of providing the boisterous experience of Chinatown that we used to have right here in downtown Chinatown.
	Many western shops have replaced many original stores, if this trend continues, one day, it will be called the former Chinatown.
	The historical buildings are in decay, but the associations that own them do not want to renovate, let alone preserve them. We are at risk of losing these jewels of Chinatown.
	Some of the historical buildings are no longer Chinese stores. Most are turning into stores aimed at hipsters. Even the modern "chinese restaurants", such as Sai Woo, is too different from the typical chinese food, decor and overall style. Cannot imagine elderly asians or large groups of family members getting together to eat at such places.
	<p>* Affordability and a sense of community are being lost everyday. With new neighbours moving in who don't have an interest in preserving the neighbourhood and generally do not have a sense of respect for the history, we are losing critical mass and a neighbourhood understanding of what Chinatown was... and who it was for. I am all for more inclusivity for all people, but we need to remember that a city is richer for having areas that are diverse and welcome people from all socio-economic levels. Housing for low-income Chinese people is also being lost.</p> <p>* Affordable food. There are only two or three greengrocers left in Chinatown.</p> <p>* The Toisanese and Cantonese language and culture (and as a result, the history of that community in the local area) are also being forced out. We have also lost the summer night market.</p>
	Not really, there is some concern about the closing of shops to be replaced with hipster establishments, however, for business to survive they must have clientele. It's difficult to demand that things stay fixed when the community and its make up is dynamic. I favour neither fixing Chinatown in a point in time (which would result in nothing more than preservation of facades and a slew of souvenir shops) nor unrestrained gentrification. For Chinatown to continue to exist as a real vital place there must be a policy which provides for the community as it evolves in a manner that ensures Chinatown doesn't disappear, or worse, become some sort of Chinese Burnaby heritage village.
	Most of what Vancouver's Chinatown was about has been lost. The families who use to live, work and socialize have long moved away and left Chinatown to the hipsters and tourists. You can't even find decent Chinese cuisine in Chinatown any longer. It's tragic.
	The architecture. The scale. The passing down of traditions. Do young Chinese care about Chinatown?
	Everything must change. I only hope that Chinatown will evolve in a way that it can still retain its village like feeling.



<p>Already lost or you are afraid may be lost?</p>	<p>I also wish the City & Provincial Governments would stop saturating the Downtown Eastside & Japantown with Social Housing. The influx of persons drinking and doing drugs in the alleys in Chinatown is destructive.</p>
	<p>The old Chinatown is getting smaller and the new stores coming in aren't very Asian. The old Charm is lost.</p>
	<p>I think the preservation of community needs to be maintained. Development needs to consider the elderly Chinese population who still live there; and who have always seen their life within Chinatown. The vibrancy from the late 70s to mid 80s has disappeared--I cannot tell you why this is...but it seems much of it has been displaced to areas such as Richmond. Rejuvenation of small Chinese business is needed.</p>
	<p>I think the younger generation's connection to Chinatown is being lost, though attempts are being made to restore it. The difficult thing is that we want to preserve the culture and traditions of Chinatown. However, if our elders did not pass these customs down to the younger generations, then there needs to be a way to attract the younger generation there so that they can develop their own community as well. The tricky thing is trying to balance preserving tradition to continuing community in a way that appeals to a more modern generation.</p>
	<p>Woodward's building is a travesty. Union street could be more ethnic and less boutique. Open markets are nice, but no commerce of shark fins please.</p>
	<p>Chinatown local businesses are being replaced with trendy bars & restaurants, galleries and coffee shops. The area is getting taken over by temptations of developer buyouts and higher renters. These new trending businesses are not contributing to the community and do not bring value to the residence of the area.</p>
	<p>Its gentrification of Chinatown plus the aging population of Chinese residents in it have greatly diluted a coherent social identity of Chinese-Canadians who once saw Chinatown as the centre of our community. Chinatown's benevolent associations were a major source of social support and welfare for the Chinese diaspora, but this is not the case any more.</p>
	<p>Many of the Benevolent Association Buildings are full of histories of each different group. They should be preserved as heritage historic sites.</p>
	<p>In the past, there were always changes to Chinatown, particularly with waves of migration from China. Now the changes are from non-Chinese looking for available space to live and work. It's really an evolution. A change to be expected.</p>
	<p>I am not sure. As soon as Chinatown becomes something to preserve, or becomes a tourist attraction, it has lost its character.</p>
	<p>The clan buildings.</p>
	<p>I did feel for a number of years that it had lost some of its vibrancy, but it seems to have been brought back to what it once was. I think it's helped that in addition to the traditional shops and restaurants, a number of new restaurants, coffee shops and retailers have opened up, bringing many more people into the area.</p>
	<p>Sadly, Chinatown is no longer the vibrant place it once was, and is currently fighting a heritage battle against redevelopment, fearing the loss of its unique character. A home to more than 900 ethnic seniors, there is also a large demand for income-assisted housing for them. While there is a need to revitalize Chinatown and help bring back some of its vibrancy, we also need to be mindful and respectful of the locals, this historic, and the aesthetic character.</p>
<p>Chinese Society buildings, long standing Chinese businesses</p>	
<p>We've lost CHINESE restaurants and dining experiences. We've lost so many stores that sell Chinese household items, foods and gifts. Consumers don't want to look or pay for</p>	



<p>Already lost or you are afraid may be lost?</p>	<p>parking so in the late 80s and 90s they slowly started going to Richmond. We've lost consumers, noise, conversation, and smiles. We've lost much of the feeling of Chinatown. We need to attract good, quality Chinese restauranteurs to Chinatown.</p>
	<p>The changing of the shops being set up west of Main along Pender seems to be watering down the feel of the area...with the Chinese food establishments disappearing, the energy doesn't feel quite the same...missing the inter-generational connection as time progresses...</p>
	<p>Hastings Street has clearly become overtaken by the DTES, and I fear that Pender Street is following suit, which is very alarming as Pender Street is HA-1 and the recognized sancrosanct area/street of Chinatown. There are many buildings on Hastings Street owned by Chinese societies, but they are all gated and boarded up. Stores and buildings along Pender Street are becoming vacant at an alarming rate, and being scooped up by developers. In the last couple of years, we have seen the closing of Garden Villa Restaurant and Foo Ho Ho's, and the destruction of Daisy Garden Restaurant (formerly Kam Gok Yuen), all eateries located along Pender Street, which is a huge hit to the community as they were community gathering places centrally located on Pender Street.</p>
	<p>Seniors housing, small businesses, family owned businesses, alleyway/laneway shops, carts, Cantonese speaking businesses, Cantonese-speaking businesses and services, Chinese and cantonese medical facilities (Keefer & Main used to house a Chinese-speaking medical facility before the condo), loud & bustling grocery stores where shopkeepers used to yell out their wares, informal spaces where poor and marginalized people can gather (many new shops making them feel uncomfortable (i.e. The Keefer bar routinely kicks people off their stoop),</p>
	<p>Social housing - especially for Chinese seniors/elders. Many do not have family. Actual chinese, east asian, vietnamese, first nations people living and moving around in chinatown. Businesses that cater to the above mentioned/ low income people. They are all disappearing.</p>
	<p>Chinatown is a REAL working living breathing place in itself with a storied history, is just as important as any other area of Vancouver. Is it dirty? Is it run down? I've been to Chinatowns all over Canada and the US as well as few in Asia, that's what real Chinatowns look like. It's not Disneyland.</p> <p>What I don't want it to become is fake, fake "Asian" bamboo decor, mall-court food with fortune cookies, tacky trinkets that say Vancouver Chinatown in some offensive chopstick font surrounded by high rise billion dollar condominiums in an artificially cleansed neighbourhood.</p> <p>I feel that Vancouver Chinatown has significant heritage and historic importance to Canada, it would be a shame to lose that.</p>
	<p>What has been and will be lost is the stories of the elders, the stories of the buildings and what happened within them. We also stand to lose a crucial site of working class, multicultural past, present and future. I think it is important to remember the underground waterways of Chinatown, the shorelines, that the area around False Creek was a rich harvesting site for indigenous villages in the area - I've heard stories of wildrice, cranberries, fish. What I worry we will lose is a neighbourhood with strong moments of intercultural solidarity and relationships. But I feel that we are starting to learn about and re-create these.</p>
	<p>It has been very sad to see the second story restaurants go as they were quite unique to the city. The neon lights that once lit up Chinatown at night are all now gone. Many of the unique Chinese based businesses that gave the neighbourhood feel have been replaced with out of place stores. I'm particularly afraid of losing the remaining affordable and</p>



	<p>culturally appropriate housing for an aging Chinese population. The seniors who still live or frequent the neighbourhood are the ones keeping the remaining shops alive. If they are unable to age in Chinatown, it is unlikely that they - and their families who visit them - will continue shopping at the traditional shops that make up Chinatown. The grocery markets are a lasting legacy of the contributions made by Chinese immigrants to Vancouver's food system and economy. The fresh produce grocery stores are an extremely valuable as a source of affordable, healthy food to not only the Chinese community, but also the low income community generally.</p>
	<p>Buildings and landmarks in areas outside Chinatown should also be recognized. These buildings and landmarks may not be officially designated inside Chinatown, but may be of importance to Chinese people in earlier times, and should be remembered and recognized.</p>
Anything else?	<p>I think that it is reprehensible that our government didn't act ages ago to protect the rich & vibrant heritage of our Chinatown. It's not too late, the economy here can be revived - incentives can be extended to bring people back from Richmond where it seems so many of the places have gone to.</p>
	<p>These values are diluted when we have chain stores and franchises such as Starbucks, etc., and high-end restaurants and shops that do not cater to the local community. To make these values more sustainable, we also have to educate the new residents of Chinatown of the history, so they understand that families living in Chinatown for generations have a right to remain.</p>
	<p>I hope the planners are able to find a way to preserve the historical Chinatown in their development plans.</p>
	<p>I had great hope that Vancouver could prevent this world heritage site from destruction, but the area continues to decline due to the inability of three levels of government to address the mental health and drug addiction issues of the DTES. Chinatowns across North America were always the direct result of systemic discriminatory practices. Chinatowns were always part of the fringe and Vancouver is on the verge of losing this gem. I will always have my memories but I bade farewell to Chinatown when I moved.</p>
	<p>Developers, keep your greedy paws off Chinatown! And I'm pro density everywhere, but it is such an important part of Vancouver. No other area is as important.</p>
	<p>It would be great to try to preserve the history of Chinatown through a small museum. I learned of its unique architecture serendipitously.</p>
	<p>Thank you very much for hosting this event! I hope that the answers of the community can be used to preserve and bring new life back into Chinatown.</p>
	<p>Keeping it a MIX of people (and not a playground for wealthy people) is important.</p>
	<p>Something needs to be done to preserve this area. Take a look at Portland and Seattle where their Chinatown has already been taken over by trendy stores and are the home to many of the areas homeless population. There is no evidence of a Chinatown in these cities other than the historic architecture that is threatened to be torn down every year. Lets have a Chinatown that thrives and is true to its identity. Lets advocate for the businesses and people that are already there to draw in more for the community. Lets look out for our elderly that rely on us to advocate for their futures.</p>
	<p>The heritage values of Vancouver's Chinatown is with its senior residents, who remember what it was like before the area was "revitalized." I suggest gathering oral histories from these residents so we can preserve the memory of old Chinatown.</p>
	<p>Once the older buildings are being torn for new development and the older generations are forced to move away from Chinatown. The whole favour and History of Chinatown is lost forever.</p>
	<p>In the 1940s and 1950s, the old Chinese timers were courteous and showed their village</p>



<p>Anything else?</p>	<p>manners and talked of the old times. Now the conversation is on the saving what's left of Chinatown.</p> <p>Just that it is such a special place to me, and I think to anyone born and raised in Vancouver. I will be back next week, enjoying my dim sum at Floata and stocking up on supplies for Chinese New Year, and buying moon cakes for the Autumn Moon Festival. Chinatown has a feeling, one that almost can't be put into words. It has a sound, a scent. To hear those sounds and scents is to be transported instantly to another time and place.</p> <p>Why do we need to save Chinatown? Is protecting Chinatown only a 'Chinese' responsibility? One doesn't need a childhood memory in Chinatown to have a connection to the place. As Vancouverites, we have a connection to this city that we call our home, including Chinatown. Chinatown is a vital part of Vancouver's history, and Canada's. Chinatown is more than a "Chinese" problem. Chinatown is important because of its integral role in the development of Vancouver and Canada, and has made the wealth of our city and country possible. Chinatown needs revitalization not because younger Chinese generations have left, but rather to address the systematic disinvestment from the neighbourhood and the lack of willingness to invest in a racialized and ghettoized neighbourhood.</p> <p>I am currently working on a photography project about Vancouver's Chinatown and it's cultural historical significance to myself personally, to future Chinese Canadians, and to all British Columbians in general.</p> <p>We used to be so proud of our Chinatown. It was reputedly the second largest in North America (Toronto's was divided in two). But as more Chinese moved to Richmond and supported the building of a suburban Chinatown with free parking, people (myself included), chose to go to Richmond and to avoid the drunks and all. We got big Chinese supermarkets and an abundance of Chinese restaurants, There are so many long-time Chinese-Canadians like myself who still see the beauty of Chinatown as we likely view it more from our historical lenses. But Chinatown is also defined by the surrounding homes/buildings for seniors. It used to be teeming with seniors and even now, they are not that present. Chinatown was always very inter-generational and now, you mainly see older adults, some seniors, but mostly tourists, or Caucasians who don't seem to frequent Chinese establishments.</p> <p>There are a group of Chinese youth who are excited about engaging with the histories and future of Chinatown, but we aren't able to do it in a space that encourages redevelopment and the condominium industry. Real estate is being transferred and lots are being assembled to create large mega-condo projects that don't fit the character of Chinatown AND will not bring any benefit to Chinatown. Market condo housing is NOT the answer. We need space for people who WANT to work as advocates for people of colour and low income folks. To do this we need to be able to afford our own space to live and work in the area to contribute. You add unaffordable residential to the area, you are just going to hasten the pace of yuppies wanting the \$\$\$ rests-lounges and the destruction of the affordable mom and pop stores that made Chinatown so accessible to begin with.</p> <p>Vancouver's Chinatown is one of the largest in North America. It is heartbreaking to see it reduce in size and after seeing Sydney's Chinatown be reduced to a tourist's alley I'm concerned the second will happen here.</p> <p>There is so much I don't understand about my heritage, when I was younger I didn't care. Presently I want to learn as much as I can, the more I learn the more I want to learn. My increased knowledge has brought greater appreciation and I've become aware of the value of my heritage, its culture and history, good and bad.</p> <p>What does it really mean to "economically develop", "economically revitalize", "redevelop" an area? Who can do this?</p>
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	<p>There is no economic revitalization without cultural revitalization. There is no cultural revitalization without knowledge sharing. There is no knowledge shared without storytelling. We cannot share stories without moments of a community coming together. A community cannot come together unless it has a neighbourhood in which to do this. There is no neighbourhood revitalization unless people begin to revitalize their cultural institutions, relationships, and social fabric.</p>
Anything else?	<p>Chinatown was created as a place where immigrants could work, play and socialize in a safe community place. With the rapid changes currently happening in the neighbourhood, the safety and security has been declining as less people are present in the streets, the night life is now primarily night clubs and people drinking and comprised of people who do not know the history of the neighbourhood. We need to make Chinatown a safer neighbourhood for the Chinese seniors and families who still live here.</p>
	<p>I'm afraid that the use of Cantonese is being lost and the best restaurants I grew up with have all closed down.</p>
	<p>The Templeton Building was one of the 77 sites recognized recently by the B.C. Government. Under former Fong Leun Tong Society president Wally Seto, the Fong Leun Tong Society did not pay the filing fees for the years 2009 and 2010. Under former Fong Leun Tong Society president Leander Szeto, the filing fees were not paid in 2011. Fong Leun Tong Society was dissolved in 2011.</p>