

TOMORROW'S CHINATOWN: LET'S TALK CULTURE! Chatbox of Episode #3 (August 26, 2020)

Note: all names and personal information are anonymized, except for speakers / panelists.

Wilco van Bommel to Everyone

10:46 AM

Hello everyone. We will start in a few minutes.

June Chow - Dunefield to Everyone

10:49 AM

We acknowledge the traditional territories of the people of Treaty 7 region in Southern Alberta, which includes the Blackfoot Nation tribes of Siksika, the Piikinu, the Kainai, the Stoney Nakoda First Nations tribes of Chiniki, Bearspaw and Wesley, and the Tsuut'ina First Nation. The City of Calgary is also homeland to the historic Northwest Métis and Métis Nation of Alberta, Region 3.

June Chow - Dunefield to Everyone

10:49 AM

Members of the Dunefield team from Vancouver acknowledge that the land on which we gather, live and work is the unceded territory of the Coast Salish Peoples, including the territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and Səlilwətaʔ/Selilwitulh (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.

June Chow - Dunefield to Everyone

10:50 AM

Tomorrow's Chinatown <https://engage.calgary.ca/tomorrows-chinatown>

Hello chat group. From Calgary NW here

10:51 AM

Hi, I'm ... from Columbus, OH!

10:51 AM

June Chow - Dunefield to Everyone

10:51 AM

Welcome! Feel free to share where are you joining in from, what is your connection to Chinatown (Calgary or otherwise)? What dish or restaurant are you eating lunch from today?

Hello from Calgary Beltline

10:51 AM

I grew up in Calgary Chinatown.

10:51 AM

Joining from the traditional territories of the Blackfoot and the people of the Treaty 7 region in Southern Alberta.

10:51 AM

I am here because I love learning about other cultures!

10:52 AM

Hello! We are the artists Rawry & Pohly from Calgary.

10:52 AM

10:52 AM

June Chow - Dunefield to Everyone

Episode #3: New Blood 新血

Chinatown's future needs new blood, not just of new leaders but of an entire generation. In this talk, we hear from a range of youth* on their relationship with Chinatown growing up and now. What opportunities and barriers (real or perceived) exist for their participation? What change do they want and need to see in the community in order to continue moving forward together?

*Defined as adults, age 25-40, making decisions over their own time, money, careers, and young families and households.

This talk is open to ALL AGES and intended to encourage intergenerational understanding and dialogue.

10:52 AM

Jenn Brown to Everyone

Hi everyone! Thanks for coming today, my name is Jenn Brown and I am one of the co leads for Tomorrows Chinatown. Great to see you all here today!

10:54 AM

Who is Dunefield Please? Thx.

10:54 AM

I believe they are the consulting agency who's leading this project

10:54 AM

June Chow - Dunefield to Everyone

@..., Who is Dunefield: The City of Calgary has contracted urban development group Dunefield to create the Chinatown Cultural Plan in collaboration with the community, the Chinatown Advisory Group and The City of Calgary's Project Team.

10:55 AM

June Chow - Dunefield to Everyone

<https://dunefield.ca/>

10:55 AM

Hi everyone, ... from Chinatown BIA wearing my Vancouver Canucks ball cap and cheering for my home team. Go Canucks Go. Yes Dunefield?

10:56 AM

June Chow - Dunefield to Everyone

What dish or restaurant are folks eating lunch from today?

10:57 AM

Hello All! My name is ..., local artist and arts professional. thrilled to be here in virtual space with you all.

10:57 AM

I picked up buns and coffee from Muze in Chinatown, one of my favourites :)

10:57 AM

June Chow - Dunefield to Everyone

FOONYAP

Classically-trained violinist and vocalist, FOONYAP, started violin lessons at 4 years old and studies at the Mount Royal Conservatory of Music from age 11. Her practice has included

exploring alternate styles within protest rock and indie folk-pop, and extensive touring with critical acclaim throughout Europe and Canada. In 2016, she made her solo debut with Palimpsest, a record that navigates her sheltered Chinese-Catholic heritage and the intense classical music training of her childhood.

10:58 AM

June Chow - Dunefield to Everyone

CARRIE YAP

Carrie Yap is a co-founder of The Tea Parlour, a pop-up that brings together two traditional activities in Asian culture: tea and mahjong. A community advocate, Carrie is also a milliner (hat maker) and urban planner, graduating from the University of Strathclyde in Scotland with a Masters of Science in Urban Design. Wearing many hats, she brings a unique perspective to the work she does for the community.

10:58 AM

June Chow - Dunefield to Everyone

MIKE LEE

Mike Lee came to Calgary from Hong Kong at a very young age. Growing up, he spent most of his weekends and summer holidays in Chinatown studying martial arts and painting plastic models. His love of the community and Chinese culture led him to join I Love YYC Chinatown. Most recently, he started teaching Cantonese online to help preserve the language for future generations. Mike enjoys a career as an engineer.

10:59 AM

June Chow - Dunefield to Everyone

DESMOND LEE

Desmond Lee is head coach of the Jing Wo Cultural Association for 25+ years where he teaches lion dance and martial arts to ages 2 to adult. He is also currently serving a second year as a Director of the Chinese Cultural Centre. Dez is a web developer with clients that include the Calgary Marathon and Canada Sports Hall of Fame. He and his family of three kids (ages 6, 10 and 12) live in a quiet suburb in SE Calgary.

10:59 AM

Dinner leftovers from last night C:

10:59 AM

June Chow - Dunefield to Everyone

TERESA TAM

Teresa Tam is a visual artist born and based in Calgary, with a practice that re-interprets and re-creates familiar spaces and experiences into something foreign. Her projects are developed to include and emphasize visitor interactions, specializing in digital platforms, functional installations, body-based exchanges, and labour-intensive cooking. She recently exhibited with EMMEDIA's Particle + Wave Festival as Quartet in Transit, Stride Gallery, and M:ST Performative Art. Teresa is an artist in the Calgary Chinatown Artist Residency program.

11:07 AM

@Foon Yay!! <3 <3 <3

11:07 AM

Foon Yap, later please tell us the changes you feel needs to be undertaken for Chinatown.

11:07 AM

So good, thanks for sharing Foonyap!

<3 Yes! Thank you for your sharing 11:08 AM

Carie, where is Tea Parlour located? 11:08 AM

Sorry I'm not seeing your presentation on screen? I only see a white screen. 11:11 AM

Can others see images? 11:12 AM

screen appears blank 11:12 AM

Same ... (also hi!) 11:12 AM

not now 11:12 AM

I can't see the screen either (just white) 11:12 AM

Hi ...! <3 11:12 AM

And hi too! 11:12 AM

yeah, just white for me too :(11:12 AM

I can only see a white screen 11:12 AM

same 11:12 AM

June Chow - Dunefield to Everyone 11:13 AM
sorry, everyone. Tech difficulties

yep 11:13 AM

I do too 11:13 AM

June Chow - Dunefield to Everyone 11:13 AM
Should be visible now

Hi Carrie, Calgary Chinese Orchestra would like to connect with the tea parlour and provide some cultural/ entertainment to the club! 11:13 AM

11:13 AM

:)

11:14 AM

What a beautiful initiative Carol.

11:14 AM

Looks fun

11:15 AM

I am aligning with what Carrie is saying. I think when we talk about culture, we go straight into associating it to traditional, classical culture. While traditional culture needs to be preserve and continuously needs to be cultivated, I think there is a big disconnection of what modern Chinese (or asian) culture really is.

What really drive me away for getting more involve with China Town development is because of how our voice being turn a blind eye on by the mature generation. Seniority is part of the asian culture since we grow up. If we have some young leaders in place for China Town Development, using modern approach to promote China town and business, it would be more attractive to bring in more energy.

11:16 AM

Wonderful work--both of you!

11:18 AM

Thanks Carrie!! Can't wait until we can gather again in person and The New Gallery can host Tea Parlour!

11:19 AM

Good awareness ... How can a bridge be built between the different age groups to include all is the question?

11:19 AM

Thanks...I like and agree with your thoughts about seniority. We need new generation and youth blood here

11:19 AM

Information on publication I <3 YYC Chinatown is working on with The New Gallery: <http://www.thenewgallery.org/experiencing-calgary-chinatown-through-the-arts-publication/>

11:22 AM

Mike...I agree with bringing groups together. Come see the BIA for space

11:22 AM

一个巴掌拍不响 :)

11:22 AM

Thanks Mike!

11:23 AM

June Chow - Dunefield to Everyone
@iloveyycchinatown

11:23 AM

Thank you for sharing Mike!

Yes! 11:23 AM

Thank you Mike! 11:23 AM

Yes! 11:23 AM

In the visioning of China Town, how can we hold space for both preservation of tradition and contemporary approaches/expressions of being in community at the same time. 11:24 AM

I appreciate hearing these perspectives from this younger group. 11:24 AM

Same Question. What is this answer ...? 11:25 AM

Exhibition information: <http://www.thenewgallery.org/perfect-memory-authentic-gift-shop/> 11:25 AM

June Chow - Dunefield to Everyone
Teresa Tam: Who is Chinatown for? 11:26 AM

good question ... 11:26 AM

Great question Teresa! 11:26 AM

June Chow - Dunefield to Everyone
Teresa Tam on IG @yolklessness 11:28 AM

Yes. Teresa! That question resonates with me deeply. I also sense there is a need for open discourse about intercultural relations. 11:28 AM

well said Teresa!! 11:30 AM

Wonderful! Thank you Teresa!! 11:30 AM

June Chow - Dunefield to Everyone
Jing Wo Cultural Assn @jingwoyyc 11:31 AM

We can think of all ideas, we can suggest how many bridges we want to built, but before we can do that, we all need to confront the root cause - the walls. We need commitment from the committees, the seniors in different china town association, we need their commitment and willingness to modernize, their commitment to diversify the committee group, their 11:33 AM

willingness to accept new ideas, and play a role as mentor, not walls. Without that commitment, the challenges remain a vicious circle. These feedbacks are not easy to listen to, someone just need to be honest about it. Can the City be the voice for younger generation and be our bridge?

11:34 AM

Hey Mike Lee! What's the best way to connect with you about future events/initiatives?

11:36 AM

June Chow - Dunefield to Everyone

@..., everyone, we're happy to connect folks with the speakers/guests afterwards

11:36 AM

Top-down planning of who a community is for implies that there is a corresponding "who is it not for".... A thriving culture doesn't work that way as culture needs to continuously take root in new people and evolve while staying true to its principles in order to continue to have relevance. Planning for a cultural community needs to reflect how culture thrives, not just how a place develops

11:37 AM

June Chow - Dunefield to Everyone

FOONYAP | <http://foonyap.com>

Twitter | @foonyap

Instagram | @foonyapphoto

Facebook | @foonyapmusic

YouTube | @foonyap

11:38 AM

Thanks to all the speakers. Great to hear the different perspectives

11:38 AM

June Chow - Dunefield to Everyone

Tea Parlour @teaparlouryyc

11:39 AM

June Chow - Dunefield to Everyone

Chinatown Advisory Group members

Kasia Nguyen (pronounced Kay-Sha)

Born and raised in Calgary, Kasia is currently in grade 12, with aspirations to pursue medical studies. She grew up visiting Chinatown with her family, and today enjoys the freedom to get boba (bubble tea) in the area whenever she wants.

Fung Ling Feimo

Fung Ling Feimo is an arts and culture enthusiast and administrator. In 2019, she completed the "Heritage buildings could talk" Chinatown heritage project that includes the Chinatown context paper in advance of Tomorrow's Chinatown. A long-time Calgarian, she will always call Montreal home.

11:40 AM

@... That was my concern when I was approached by Dunefield. I'm unsure of the end impact of such a programe, but I am glad that they are taking this direction.

11:42 AM

Hi everyone, if you want to keep updated on I love YyC chinatown events etc, please check out our facebook page

11:43 AM

Wilco, if I may add a commentary...

11:43 AM

Defining a culture / cultural place's potential with a bias primarily on tradition risks suffocating potential for intergenerational succession of leadership that Chinatown orgs desperately need

11:45 AM

June Chow - Dunefield to Everyone

okay, you're in the queue, hope we have enough time!

11:48 AM

June Chow - Dunefield to Everyone

Fung Ling Feimo: What are some specific local concerns? And how do we come together to work on this?

11:48 AM

Thank you Teresa, for sharing your experiences. and pointing out the systems at play.

11:49 AM

(10 Street and 8 Avenue SW) Sigla Books & Loophole Coffee Bar has antique printing press.

It'd be great if merchants or the BIA would have space for a Risograph Press.

Feast Letterpress at cSpace.

11:49 AM

I think it's important to have conversations with the different Chinese associations and try to bring them into the conversations.

11:49 AM

I agree with Teresa's point of view. I find access to find space / hold space / be with the space is not the easiest!

11:50 AM

Thank you Teresa

11:50 AM

And honour the knowledge and skills that come from the youth, as peers to our elders with knowledge to share and ideas to contribute!!!

11:50 AM

June Chow - Dunefield to Everyone

Mike Lee of @iloveycchinatown commenting

11:52 AM

Chinatown is for everyone. The question is how do we make it am available, convenient, accessible place for everyone.

11:53 AM

That's right Mike

11:53 AM

Are youth interested in the history?

11:53 AM

There is a dynamic of leadership in Chinese culture that creates challenges for intergenerational collaboration at the leadership level. Traditional construct is respect + \$\$ + seniority = power and authority... youth typically have less \$\$ and are still building their base of respect, therefore getting little power and authority when trying to work with traditional Chinatown leadership. This power dynamic needs to be acknowledged and set aside in order for genuine intergenerational collaboration

11:53 AM

That's right Mike...people need to be exposed to the different associations and spaces. However, there must be a request to these associations and spaces.

11:54 AM

Absolutely ...! Well said

11:55 AM

Desmond Lee to Everyone

@ ..., I agree, it is for everyone. @ Teresa Tam, I apologize if I offended you, I was broad brushing the general reactions I have seen during my experiences.

11:56 AM

Hi everyone...to bridge the gap between the youth and seniors, associations and places in Chinatown, the youth and arts groups must express these ideas, thoughts, requests in a manner that the associations and property owners feel comfortable, safe, respected, and honoured. There are organizations now open to share their spaces.

11:56 AM

What Mike is expressing, speaks to importance of storytelling of contemporary ways of engaging with culture and history.

11:56 AM

Teresa Tam to Everyone

@Desmond, no offence taken! Important points to discuss and this is best time for it. Thanks for bringing it up :)

11:57 AM

The second comment is succession in these organizations is critical and there will eventually be a call for succession but these organizations need to hear what and how you can do this.

11:57 AM

June Chow - Dunfield to Everyone

Give the speakers and their work a follow! FOONYAP | <http://foonyap.com>

Twitter | @foonyap

Instagram | @foonyapphoto

Facebook | @foonyapmusic

YouTube | @foonyap

@teaparlouryyc

@iloveyycchinatown

@jingwoyyc

@yolklessness (Teresa Tam)

11:57 AM

Finally, the BIA can help identify and procure space.

11:57 AM
this was one of the better sessions by far

11:58 AM
it was great seeing a broader opinioin from a broader community

11:58 AM
Wonderful conversation everyone, thank you to all the speakers for the incredible contributions

11:58 AM
We believe in Chinatown as a Must Visit Destination and a Great ExperienceOne Chinatown for Everyone.

11:58 AM
Desmond Lee to Everyone
@ 5 mins isn't really long enough to be concise. =). But what I want to drive home is that youth in my view are children and their attitudes towards Ctown and Local Community.

11:58 AM
Fung Ling to Everyone
Thank you everyone

11:58 AM
June Chow - Dunefield to Everyone
Next session(s) (last Wedn of the month!) <https://tomorrowschinatown.eventbrite.ca/>
Survey (open to Sept 14) <https://engage.calgary.ca/tomorrows-chinatown>
Feedback on the webinar (including ideas for future topics?)
TomorrowsChinatown@calgary.ca
Links will be sent out to attendees via email afterwards

11:58 AM
contact me ...

11:58 AM
Enjoyed your perspective Desmond,

11:58 AM
Can we please have the same panel and do it again part II??

11:59 AM
Thank you everyone!

11:59 AM
Thank you everyone.

11:59 AM
I second Jiajia's ask :)

11:59 AM
thanks everyone!!

11:59 AM

Desmond Lee to Everyone

Thank you all for moving the needle forward

11:59 AM

Succession is critical and often very tricky - most orgs approach succession like approaching a cliff instead of creating a slope

11:59 AM

Agreed ...!

12:00 PM

Thank you panelists!

12:00 PM

Teresa Tam to Everyone

Thank you everyone!

12:00 PM

Often miss out on opportunity for reciprocal intergenerational capacity building by making transition more gradual

12:00 PM

Thank you and goodbye.