

TOMORROW'S CHINATOWN: LET'S TALK CULTURE!

Chatbox of Episode #1 (July 8, 2020)

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

Welcome to Tomorrow's Chinatown: Let's Talk Culture! Episode 1: Culture & Identity! 10:50 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.

By participating in this event, attendees acknowledge and agree to this session being recorded and documented, including questions and comments in the chat. Please note only presenters' and organizers' microphones and webcams will be turned on.

Hello, nice to see soo many people here. 10:50 AM

Hello! Greetings from ... and The New Gallery 10:50 AM

Hello ... 10:50 AM

Hello everyone, nice to be here 10:51 AM

Hello everyone, ... 10:51 AM

Hi Everyone! Thanks for coming today! 10:51 AM

Hello ... here 10:51 AM

Hello! I am ..., one of the U of C students who worked on this with Matt Patterson 10:51 AM

Hi, ... 10:51 AM

So glad to see so many people here! 10:51 AM

Hi this is ... here 10:52 AM

Joining from the traditional territories of the Blackfoot and the people of the Treaty 7 region in Southern Alberta 10:52 AM

Hi, this is ..., professor of architecture at Athabasca University. 10:52 AM

Hello, ..., artist and musician 10:52 AM

Hi, ... -former student of Matt Patterson and planning student on the geodemographics team! 10:53 AM

Hello everyone! Thanks for joining us today! 10:53 AM

<http://engage.calgary.ca/tomorrows-chinatown> 10:53 AM

Hello, good to see so many people here today! I am ... from the Tomorrow's Chinatown project team 10:54 AM

Big welcome to those who just joined us! 10:56 AM

Welcome to Tomorrow's Chinatown: Let's Talk Culture! Episode 1: Culture & Identity!

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.

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Thanks ... 10:57 AM

Feel free to post comments, questions in this chat. I will be monitoring the chat and will bring forward the questions during our Q&A part of the discussion! 10:57 AM

<https://www.visitcalgarychinatown.com/> <https://www.instagram.com/yycchinatownbia/> <https://www.instagram.com/calgarychinatown/> Add Oil campaign links: <https://addoil.ca/> Scavenger Hunt: <https://www.visitcalgarychinatown.com/games> 10:58 AM

Hello Everyone, 10:58 AM

Hello Everyone, 10:58 AM

hello everyone 10:58 AM

10:59 AM

Hello Everyone, This is ..., retired professor in East Asian Studies from the Univ. of Calgary.

11:00 AM

Everyone...if you've ordered from Chinatown, please take a picture of your lunch, acknowledge the restaurant, then post on IG or FB and tag #ChinatownWelcomesYou #TomorrowsChinatown #CalgaryChinatown

11:00 AM

I can't hear Wilco

11:01 AM

Now I can hear OK

11:01 AM

Great! Thanks ...

11:02 AM

Question for Prof Patterson: Has your research included the work of the late Dr David Lai with Simon Fraser University? <https://www.sfu.ca/chinese-canadian-history/index.html>

11:04 AM

Thanks for the question, ...! I'll be compiling all the questions and we will be able to bring them forward during the latter Q&A time :)

11:04 AM

Thank you ...

11:07 AM

Please feel free to post questions + comments as we go :)

11:09 AM

Would you say Orientalism at play again? The 'exotization' of eastern cultures when china towns across North America were being designed?

11:10 AM

By western architects?

11:12 AM

Thanks Matt! I know the artists look forward to returning to Calgary Chinatown next year to resume their residency.

11:18 AM

Matt, hope you will cover later the role of Tong Associations in Chinatown cultures.

11:19 AM

Context Paper covers the topic of Tong Associations

11:20 AM

..., that is an excellent ask. Matt if you wouldnt mind sharing your knowledge and insights and role of Tong Associations and specifically in the Calgary context. thanks.

11:22 AM

Thanks...it would be interesting to see the role of Tong Associations in Chinatowns across Canada...there is a pattern that forms a cultural contribution to these major city's historical development.

11:23 AM

Tip for everyone: you can toggle the View dropdown at the top of your window to "View Active Cameras" to see Matt, Tony, Felicia's beautiful faces clearer

11:24 AM

Yes good idea, BIA could work with the Tong Associations towards that.

11:25 AM

in 2015 vs 2020, Chinatown's population is 1800, 2500. Seniors population 50%, 40%...Change is due to increase of younger adults into Waterfront and Riverfront condos

11:27 AM

thanks Tony...yes, Chinatown celebrates Lunar New Year, Chinatown Ice Sculptures, Stampede Breakfast, Chinatown Street Festival, Mid-Autumn Festival and Alberta Cultural Days....but is this enough? is it relevant to Calgarians, visitors, tourists? what can we do?

11:27 AM

Yes! We need programming, urban magnets.

11:27 AM

I think the issues that Tony face in attracting a younger crowd is widespread across many ethnic communities here in Calgary.

11:27 AM

Thanks Tony and Felicia for your sharing. Chinatown BIA organises Chinatown Street festival, and 4 other events in a year. We will take the comments here into consideration when planning for future events. We appreciate all the input and ideas here.

11:28 AM

There needs to be bridging of the gaps between the older and younger generations. What Felicia is talking about is the what I would term the 'in-between' generation i.e. her parents.

11:29 AM

We do need some more day-to-day reasons for any calgarian to come to chinatown.

11:29 AM

Our current Direct Control land use bylaw does not allow for bars / nightclubs....what is our future for these types of gathering place?

11:29 AM

Would love to hear thoughts on strengthening current and building new intergenerational ties! I agree youth need to have space to gather in the community, but how do we also create all-ages spaces that foster intergenerational relationships and help prevent community/institutional/cultural knowledge as we seeing shifting demographics

11:29 AM

Outdoor patios

11:29 AM

What would be interesting is to see how the bridge of this gap can be inclusive of all the generations

11:29 AM

loss of this knowledge*

11:30 AM

Why do the city council members of Calgary do not recognize the economic benefits of Calgary's Chinatown but are preoccupied with spot rezoning Chinatown with approval of a 29 story building in Chinatown that effectively drives up the property value and taxes that makes Chinatown no longer affordable for low income residents?

11:31 AM

Building on this loss of knowledge and preventing it from expanding any further, it would be good to follow up on activities such as story-telling sessions held by the older generation for the younger generation. Documenting of these stories would be a wonderful addition to the tangible culture of Chinese-Canadians

11:31 AM

Re: No one immigrates for fun- truer words have never been spoken. Are there opportunities for shared events: ex. Chinese Opera with showings in Mandarin/Cantonese/other, and English during other showings? It may be a good way to unite the Chinese-Canadian community regardless of their level of language?

11:31 AM

That's great to hear that Dr David Lai's work is included in Matt's research.

11:31 AM

Dr Lai and Dr. Lloyd Sciban

11:33 AM

Please note that Cantonese opera is distinct from Beijing opera. Two distinct artforms. No Chinese opera.

11:34 AM

A lot of Tong Associations across Canada have a strong history and heritage of helping 'clan' in their communities.

11:34 AM

How does one communicate with Tongs? Is there a protocol? Where can one find a list of all Tong Associations?

11:34 AM

Yes, the greatest problems with Tongs is a lack of succession plan

11:34 AM

List of Tongs in chinatown directory

11:34 AM

..., the BIA has a list of all Tongs in Calgary

11:35 AM

Looking to some peers working in Vancouver Chinatown and curious about the possibility of creating Cultural Land Trusts as a succession planning strategy for integral community spaces such as tongs

11:36 AM

thanks ... and ...

11:37 AM

Matt, I have to leave but this was a great session. Learned quite a bit about Chinatowns and their evolvement over time. Chat later!

11:37 AM

... ..DEFINITELY....

11:38 AM

Facet Music has started lectures on opera from different regions. Opera groups may need help to reach a wider and younger audience.

11:38 AM

Thank you ..., the historical context paper has been so helpful as a newcomer to Calgary and Calgary Chinatown!

11:39 AM

..., we could share our experiences working with Vancouver Chinese societies, and would love to hear more about your thoughts.

11:41 AM

Sure ..., I'd love to chat more.. I'll cite 221A's ongoing research as the impetus for this thought: <https://221a.ca/research-initiatives/cultural-land-trust-study>

11:41 AM

I think Chinatown is uniquely positioned as a cultural hub to partner with other successful Calgarian festivals: Sled Island, Stampede, Pride. This would help draw in a younger demographic and appeal to a broad audience.

11:41 AM

To strengthen the ties and connections with generations, newcomers and Calgarians, what about sharing our culture by inviting groups to visit, providing the resources and activities in Chinatown.

11:42 AM

Yes to partnerships!

11:43 AM

Great suggestions from ... and ...

11:43 AM

Today, MIT Urban Planning Professor and architect, Tunney Lee, passed away today at the age of 88. It was quoted, "What he did was take our focus away from always creating beautiful objects and try to focus us on the purpose of the building and who it was going to serve," Imai added. "It was really egoless architecture."

While describing the Chinese University department he created, Mr. Lee wrote that his educational philosophy centered on "a basic concern for the quality of people's lives and respect for all those involved in planning and creating buildings, including the people who will inhabit the buildings, coworkers, construction workers, as well as the owners, developers, and fellow colleagues."

11:43 AM

Yes ...!! Would love to see this. The New Gallery partners with Sled every year but typically program at their core venues.. would love to encourage this next year

11:43 AM

<http://www.bostonglobe.com/2020/07/05/metro/mit-professor-tunney-lee-an-architect-urban-planner-historian-chinatown-dies-88/>

11:44 AM

Thanks ..., for sharing the link for 221A!

11:44 AM

Quick question for Matt: the name of the scholar with the three historical functions of Chinatown?

11:45 AM

I was thinking cultural information centre like those in Seoul, Korea. Visitors can learn more than just about the culture but also trying on the traditional clothing and other activities as well as promote other gems in Calgary for visitors and community members to explore.

11:45 AM

To scaffold on the ideas of partnerships and collaborations, the marketing and communications side has to be strengthened, and to put Calgary Chinatown on the map through media, new or traditional.

11:47 AM

Partnerships. In recent years, I did cross-promotion of Chinatown with East Village on social media (just for fun). This continued when the East Village marketing coord was a former colleague. No longer...something to rediscover.

11:47 AM

Matt: Interesting perspective re; separation of vehicles and culture. We are a car-dominant city because people live in suburbia

11:48 AM

Felicia, you are so right. That's why Chinatown BIA has been advocating this to developers and the City planning.

11:48 AM

Felicia: Yes, Chinatown BIA and I Love YYC Chinatown is looking a creating a Social CaFree (thanks to Coco for the idea).

11:48 AM

I agree with Felicia, there is a lack of public space to sit and socialize in close adjacency to the shops

11:50 AM

..., that's right. That's why the campaigns I work on with Calgary Chinatown will continue to trek through the media and communication, creating a network of information for bigger audience.

11:50 AM

Everyone...would creating an outdoor or indoor public gathering / sitting space be preferred during summer season?

11:52 AM

Thanks ... and ... Love the AddOil campaign

11:53 AM

I'd say yes. As a 1st generation Canadian, having places to sit outside in the summer is something I look for when I go out and socialize

11:53 AM

Ann's original article that lead to the book: <https://www.theglobeandmail.com/life/food-and-wine/chop-suey-nation/article30539419/>

11:55 AM

Regular commercial cleaning of street and alleyways would help promote outside space

11:55 AM

.....please give me a call later

11:56 AM

...the Chinatown BIA contracts sidewalk and street cleaning twice a week. We cannot clean private alleyways though.

11:56 AM

Thi Thi sub...and bubble tea...yeah

11:56 AM

Something to think about, with property owners

11:56 AM

Outdoor Tai Chi for all ages and skill levels?

11:57 AM

Most private owner are diligent except around their dumpsters.

11:57 AM

There are spaces to hangout in Chinatown but there is a lack of awareness and clear directional architecture. This could be addressed by outdoor programming (think outdoor stage at Calgary Folkfest) and signage.

11:57 AM

Yes to tai chi and other fitness activities

11:58 AM

Yes, there are draws to Chinatown right now (there could always be more) but it is hard to stay unless I am at a restaurant and actually sitting down

11:58 AM

So true, ...

11:59 AM

Tai Chi open to everyone in the some of the surrounding green spaces such as by the Central Memorial park a little ways from downtown Chinatown but still close by.

11:59 AM

I think going down for tea or dimsum is imprtant, moreimportant is inviting opportunites for them to create and build stories . For a central gathering place, it is essential piece.

11:59 AM

Would a covered high street work for most events?

11:59 AM

If you have CHinatown improvement ideas, please send me a note at ...

11:59 AM

Yes to covered high street and +15s

12:00 PM

I like Felicia's comment on young chinese having an identity an identity problem. Support group for those trying to find their identity.

12:00 PM

"Would a covered high street work for most events?"meaning?

12:00 PM

Thanks everyone! I learned so much and enjoyed observing the conversations in the chat so much! :) Thanks to Wilco and his team and the presenters for putting this together!

12:00 PM

what about Sein lok park? people not remember about this space?

12:00 PM

Thank you.

12:00 PM

Thanks everyone!

12:00 PM

Thanks everyone, great to hear your thoughts

12:00 PM

Thank you everyone so much for all your input today. This was an excellent conversation!
Thank you Felicia, Tony, Matt and Team Wilco!

12:01 PM

Thank you!