

## TOMORROW'S CHINATOWN: LET'S TALK CULTURE! Chatbox of Episode #2 (July 29, 2020)

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

10:47 AM  
hi everyone! I have to run and transfer between two noon hour meetings so hope i can catch some of this!

10:48 AM  
Hi everyone! Thanks for coming!

10:48 AM  
i have no audio on my connection.

10:49 AM  
Hi! Great to be here :)

10:50 AM  
Hello Everyone,

10:50 AM  
Hi, ... from Calgary, musician and artist

10:50 AM  
I also have to run to another meeting in 10 minutes but will be back following

10:50 AM  
Hi everyone from the Chinatown BIA office in Dragon City Mall.

10:50 AM  
Hello Everyone, ... and ...

10:51 AM  
Su Ying Strang here! I am originally from Tocobaga, Uzita, Pohoy, and Mocoso territories in the Tampa Bay region of Florida, and I have been a guest on Treaty 7 territory since 2006.

10:51 AM  
Hi, I'm from Boston. thanks for the opportunity to come to learn about your activities.

10:52 AM  
... here! Volunter with I love YYC Chinatown

10:52 AM  
..., Artist from Edmonton, Treaty 6 Territory

10:53 AM  
Hi ... here. Radio host at CJSW

10:53 AM  
Members of the Dunefield team participating 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 Selilwətaʔ/Selilwitulh (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.

10:53 AM

... here - artist, writer & Chinatown historian from Calgary!

10:53 AM

Hi everyone, this is ...! I work with Su Ying at The New Gallery in communications + outreach.

10:55 AM

Great Taste!! Great soup dumplings!! :)

10:55 AM

Thanks on behalf of the Chinatown BIA and our ratepayer merchants

10:55 AM

Hi, ..., artist based here in Calgary, Treaty 7

10:55 AM

Hey yall sorry just arrived, lunch was just delivered. I'm ..., local filmmaker. glad to be here.

10:56 AM

Welcome, Everyone! Please 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?

10:57 AM

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

10:59 AM

Community-initiated public art projects funding <http://www.calgary.ca/csps/recreation/public-art/opportunities-for-artists.html>

11:00 AM

Festival and Events micro grant program <https://www.calgary.ca/csps/recreation/festival-planning/festival-and-events-microgrants.html>

11:01 AM

Third grant for artist-initiated projects TBA

11:02 AM

How can we be notified when the third grant goes live?

11:02 AM

Links and all info shared in the chat will be sent out to attendees via email afterwards!

11:02 AM

Great thank you

11:02 AM

What's the URL link to follow the artist initiated project?

11:02 AM

Thanks June!

11:03 AM

Flutist Jiajia Li was born and raised in Beijing, studying in Germany before settling in Calgary in 2014. She is recipient of the National Music Centre's classical music residency and of Canada's "Juno" music award micro grant; a faculty member at the Mount Royal

Conservatory; and has performed in festivals including Sled Island and the Calgary New Music Festival. In addition to performing and teaching, Jiajia's practice in Canada involves helping to grow the local Chinese music community, including as co-artistic director of the Calgary Chinese Orchestra.

11:03 AM

Paula Pang is a guzheng performer and teacher, and member of the China Nationalities Orchestra Society. She is an in-demand teacher through her private studio, the Chinese Cultural Centre, and as an instructor with the Calgary Chinese Music Development Association, providing traditional Chinese instrument lessons, lectures, exams and competitions for all age groups. At the 2016 Third International Youth Zheng Contest in Hong Kong, Paula was winner of the Best Instructor Award, with her students receiving numerous awards and honours in the competition.

11:04 AM

@... Artist initiated projects will be released in August. We can send out the link when available.

11:04 AM

Thanks so much ...! U rock.

11:04 AM

Su Ying Strang is a Chinese American artist and cultural worker originally from the U.S., relocating in 2006 to study at the Alberta College of Art + Design (now AUArts). Currently director of The New Gallery, President of the Alberta Association of Artist-Run Centres, and a governor of the Glenbow Museum, Strang's work prioritizes strong stewardship of artistic practices and accessibility to programming for audiences. Located in Chinatown since 2013, The New Gallery received the 2017 Sandstone City Builders Award for making Calgary a better place to live through the arts.

11:06 AM

<http://www.jiajamusic.com>

11:09 AM

Hello ... So glad to see you here!

11:10 AM

Welcome ...!

11:12 AM

Ahh, thank you Jiajia! It's always such a pleasure working with you :)

11:13 AM

Question...what type of performance venue and where does Calgary or Chinatown need to showcase artist and performers?

11:13 AM

Su & ... from the New Gallery both kick butt 4 Chinatown and Calgary!

11:14 AM

Thank you, ...! :)

11:15 AM

Question...what type and style of performance would draw people to Chinatown?

Great overview Jiajia!! You're doing incredible work 11:15 AM

Way to go, JiaJia! 11:16 AM

Thanks JiaJia for your contributions to Chinatown and the Chinese community 11:16 AM

Could be a variety of venues, depending on the artist and style 11:16 AM

Kingfisher sometimes have music and open mic 11:17 AM

Yes ...Kingfisher's open mic on Friday night is good and could use more Asian performances. 11:21 AM

The Calgary Chinese Cultural Centre is a great venue that has many different spaces where a variety of cultural performances and/or art experiences can be shared with the public. <https://www.culturalcentre.ca/> 11:22 AM

Thanks Paula for your contributions to Chinatown and your opportunities to learn 11:22 AM

<http://www.thenewgallery.org> 11:22 AM

I am! 11:22 AM

Absolutely! Love it! 11:22 AM

yes! 11:22 AM

Yes 11:22 AM

we are 11:22 AM

Yes, familiar! 11:22 AM

Yes! The New Gallery is awesome! 11:22 AM

YES 11:22 AM

New Gallery is dope 11:23 AM

11:23 AM

YESSSSSS LOVE TH. ENEW GALLERY

11:23 AM

yes!

11:23 AM

definitely know about The Gallery

11:23 AM

Granville Island has a single owner and manager (the federal government and Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation), who can subsidize the rents of studios with more commercial enterprises. East Village may be a comparison to Granville Island, given it is managed by Calgary Municipal Land Corporation (a wholly owned subsidiary of the City of Calgary). If that is the case with East Village, next door to Chinatown, how can CMLC work with Chinatown on revitalisation?

11:23 AM

TNG <3

11:23 AM

Yes

11:23 AM

Great and attractive storefront renovations!

11:23 AM

Is Calgary Municipal Land Corporation (CMLC) able to subsidise the rents of studios, similar to Granville Island with CMHC? How can TC team connect us with CMLC to discuss this?

11:24 AM

Chinatown BIA is connected with CMLC.

11:25 AM

Great...about subsidised studio space for artists?

11:26 AM

We could use East Village but we are hoping to focus on Chinatown space including the Nationalist Building on 3rd Ave SE (next Silver Dragon) together with I Love YYC Chinatown (... , contact).

11:27 AM

Yes! National Building, I'm with I Love YYC Chinatown as well and we are looking at using that space for pop up events, markets, etc

11:27 AM

We also have a Chinese Canadian filmmakers here in this chat like ...!

11:28 AM

Subsidised or free studio space...East Village is the comparison re concept of subsidised space by CMLC. Do not mean using the space

11:28 AM

To put it another way:

11:28 AM

Chinatown needs a local art council

11:28 AM

The National Building has been space for art practice as well as market

11:29 AM

Where is free or subsidised studio space in Chinatown?

11:29 AM

Su Ying Strang: Tell us about an artist you admire!

11:31 AM

Yeah Sled Island!

11:31 AM

There used to be an opera association that practised (often open to the public) in the basement of the National

11:31 AM

Building.

11:31 AM

At the moment, there is an 'untapped' variety space available which we need to partner with (landlords and restaurant space) for performances. Again, a local art council could be established to tap these vacant space resources for possible subsidized or free space

11:32 AM

Calgary Harmony of Arts Association <3

11:32 AM

Any ground level space is the FREE for artists? Lots of shuttered spaces that could be activated.

11:32 AM

DISCUSSION QUESTION:

Is it important for Chinatown to be known as a site of artistic production, consumption and traditions? What would this take to achieve? What are the opportunities for culture and arts? What programming, spaces and (micro)grants are available and are needed?

11:33 AM

arts council for programming is so important. someone needs to be the liaison

11:33 AM

grass roots volunteer groups like i. love yyc chinatown can provide helpers but we don't have space so bridging that gap is important

11:34 AM

Would artists provided ground-level / storefront space for use as a studio be willing to engage community with / through the space as well? Production space and engagement space are sometimes not mutually compatible for some artists...

11:34 AM

before we ask for free space, we need an initiative to focus on needs assessment and strategic approach to finding space, venue, etc to match with the type of performances and artists...after this, we can then approach the venues for space

11:34 AM

+1 for arts council

11:34 AM

Space is the number one demand for artists in calgary. studio space, and performance space. , landlords might be open to it if it provided them with a financial incentive like tax break etc

11:34 AM

Yes to arts council. But this arts council, IMO, needs PAID, full-time staff to do this work.

11:34 AM

small grants to artists for materials would be great - mural program for chinatown beyond the mural alley would be great

11:35 AM

property tax exemptions is possible...the BIA is here to help seek this exemption and we've done this recently for two Tong Associations

11:35 AM

Would be cool to have community-scale artists in residence program if it activated spaces in ways that can also engage community

11:35 AM

also activating green space is important too with place making oportunities

11:36 AM

Yes....a Great Shoutout to ..., Marketing Consultant to the Chinatown BIA via @CalgaryChinatown #ChinatownWelcomesYou

11:36 AM

Yes, pay Artists! and the Arts Council.

11:37 AM

Is there appetite to form a collective? Have 1 admin/marketing function for the collective use so individuals can focus on art?

11:39 AM

Many building landlords maybe willing to offer their space, but art space will likely be seen as sub-tenant (not prime tenant) space...thus it would be shared.

11:39 AM

The Chinatown BIA and I Love YYC Chinatown can coordinate a tour of space and connect with the landlords.

11:39 AM

the tea parlour aims to bring people to unknown spaces in Calgary's Chinatown

11:40 AM

wha'ts the tea parlour?

11:40 AM

we need a needs assessment process to start

11:40 AM

Art / cultural production is an important element to developing / maintaining vibrancy of local cultural identity and relevancy - Chinatown being a geographic / space-based anchor for cultural production would provide a sustainable relevancy for the district

11:41 AM

@... there was supposed to be an artist in residence program this spring that was to be hosted by the city of Calgary and TNG. Currently postponed to next year! I'm one of 3 artists in it :)

11:41 AM

Under the Great Taste Restaurant, there is great space that is occupied by greatly under utilized...a sub-tenant agreement might be available

11:41 AM

Calgary Chinatown should welcome and share more diversity outreaches for our fabulous hidden gem cultures that populate this revived community - South Asian, East Asian, Tibetan, Korean, Filipino, Black, and other marginalized & mainstream Canadians. Do not try to ghettolize like old Chinatown but to bring an inviting and organic thriving future to Chinatown where we embrace everyone!

11:42 AM

Yeah

11:42 AM

A coordinated arts council and admin would be able to sustain longer term initiatives.

11:43 AM

Yes ..., we are looking at new building developers to provide some community / artist space as part of their development.

11:45 AM

Is there a shared sense of what are the 3 anchor cultural spaces in Chinatown? And who is doing the marketing of these cultural spaces right now?

11:45 AM

I agree the Cultural Centre is under-utilized and under-marketed.

11:46 AM

Perhaps CC want to consider offering free space

11:47 AM

@... The tea parlour is a community collective pop up. through tea and mahjong, the team parlours aims to bring calgarians to amazing spaces in chinatown that we've never been. previous spaces include: wai kwon manor, malaysian singaporean community association, calgary elderly chinese association

11:47 AM

there are some vacant retail space where the landlord will offer subsidized rent to community groups if you cover operating costs (i.e. property tax and utilities...perhaps condo fees where applicable).

11:47 AM

To panelists: Is there a shared sense of what are the 3 anchor cultural spaces in Chinatown?

11:48 AM

@... imo There is a lack of unified marketing strategy for Chinatown.

11:49 AM

Hear hear

11:49 AM

@... and @... Chinatown is inhibited by the lack of a coordinated 'community' agenda due to 'splendid isolation' attitudes

11:49 AM

Perhaps we need a strategy like the MusicMile, this is an organization that aims to market the various venues in Inglewood to the NMC.

11:50 AM

The intersections of different elements of "culture" need to be leveraged in order to provide cohesive / holistic experiences that give the community an enduring attractiveness - marketing siloed elements of culture (arts vs. culinary vs. history / heritage vs. etc.) ends up providing fragmented expectations and incoherent experiences

11:50 AM

Parking is a problem in the daytime...evening and Sunday is free

11:50 AM

Terry, since BIA is connected to CMLC, would be great if the subsidised space discussion can be pursued.

11:51 AM

Parking is a challenge but that is where it is really important to encourage other forms of transportation i.e. bike lanes, LRT etc

11:51 AM

for sure..there are vacant space that can be used as sub-tenant space as reduced rates

11:51 AM

To panelists: Opportunities for youth experiences?

11:51 AM

Agree with ... about need for structures in communications.

11:51 AM

@...the question is whether we want to go out to East Village or start by using Chinatown space first

11:52 AM

agree with @... and @...

11:52 AM

@..., can you elaborate on the splendid isolation attitude?

11:52 AM

We want to partner with neighbours. But I mean how CMLC can be involved with Chinatown (not only East Village)?

11:53 AM

@... yes, a lunchtime / dining theatre if / when the downtown crowd comes back

11:54 AM

@... Traditional Chinese organizations (Tong Associations), institutions (Cultural Centre, CCECA, etc.), are often focused on their mandates / space first before starting with a community first premise

11:55 AM

noon time tai chi / martial arts etc for multigeneration is another aspect of culture that should be hosted

11:55 AM

And culture needs to appeal to a broader population of Calgary Chinese - defining "Chinatown" culture won't provide lasting value

11:56 AM

BTW The Chinatown BIA's focus is not just retail / restaurant merchants. Our focus is about making Chinatown a Must Visit Destination and a Great Visitor Experience. This includes promoting arts and culture

11:56 AM

Community-initiated public art projects funding <http://www.calgary.ca/csps/recreation/public-art/opportunities-for-artists.html> Festival and Events micro grant program <https://www.calgary.ca/csps/recreation/festival-planning/festival-and-events-microgrants.html>

11:56 AM

Appeal to broader Calgary Chinese, if not even broader Calgary in general

11:56 AM

@... I agree

11:58 AM

As an artist, I'm exhausted by the grant-process. Writing the grant is unpaid work. If there was an arts council, it would be great to just be hired and commissioned.

11:58 AM

<https://calgaryartsdevelopment.com/>

11:59 AM

A focus on Asian / Chinese arts and culture must be increased in the eyes of City Hall and Calgary Arts Development...Chinook Blast was recently announced for 6 weeks of winter festival and there was no reference to the amount of Chinese culture around Chinese Lunar New Year in Jan / Feb. We need others to raise their eyes to Chinatown

11:59 AM

Grant writing fatigue, unpaid work work. I hear ya ....

11:59 AM

<https://www.affta.ab.ca/>

11:59 AM

<https://canadacouncil.ca/>

11:59 AM

su@thenewgallery.org if you'd like to chat!

thank you everyone!	11:59 AM
jjajiali.flute@gmail.com	12:00 PM
contact me if you want more chat! thanks everyone!	12:00 PM
Is there an email list I can be added to for future meetings	12:00 PM
Thank you all!	12:00 PM
thank yu everyone for all your insights	12:00 PM
Next episode(s): last Wednesday of each month FOLLOW <a href="https://tomorrowschinatown.eventbrite.ca/">https://tomorrowschinatown.eventbrite.ca/</a>	12:00 PM
I did just that with the micro grant. Wrote it to commission artists	12:00 PM
Thank you for everyone's time - another terrific discussion!!	12:00 PM
we are lucky to have you !	12:00 PM
BOOKMARK Tomorrow's Chinatown <a href="https://engage.calgary.ca/tomorrows-chinatown">https://engage.calgary.ca/tomorrows-chinatown</a>	12:00 PM
Thanks everyone	12:01 PM
thanks	12:01 PM