

TOMORROW'S CHINATOWN: LET'S TALK CULTURE!

Chatbox of Episode #4 (September 30, 2020)

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

Terry Wong to Everyone

apologies for being late. Was watching City council on a report of Chinatown's interest

10:42 AM

Hi Luke, good to see you here. ...

10:42 AM

Albert Lam - Dunefield to Everyone

No problems, thanks Terry!

10:42 AM

Hi ...

10:43 AM

Hello everyone

10:43 AM

Albert Lam - Dunefield to Everyone

Hi ...!

10:44 AM

Brian Wong to Everyone

Hi ...

10:45 AM

Luke Azevedo to Everyone

Hello ...!

10:48 AM

Albert Lam - Dunefield to Everyone

Welcome to Tomorrow's Chinatown: Let's Talk Culture! Episode 4: Lights, Camera, Action!

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.

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 (Tseil-Waututh) Nations.

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.

10:50 AM

Albert Lam - Dunefield to Everyone

For more information:

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

10:52 AM

Albert Lam - Dunefield to Everyone

Episode #4: Lights, Camera, Action!

Film and TV are powerful media to express culture, tell stories and develop understanding of our histories. What role could film and TV play in celebrating and portraying Chinese-Canadian culture and the Calgary Chinatown community? Would Chinatown benefit from an Asian Film Festival, and what is needed to make this happen? What other opportunities for cinematic culture do we see?

10:53 AM

Terry Wong to Everyone

Hi everyone, I am Terry Wong, Executive Director of the Chinatown Business Improvement Area and a vigorous advocate for Calgary's Chinatown community with City Council and Administration with a focus on making Chinatown a Must Visit Destination and a Great Visitor Experience with the outcome of 'One Chinatown for Everyone'.

As the presenter of welcoming words and opportunities for Chinatown, I hope to entice you and attract the audience to respond to the challenge,

"Through photos, film, video, sound, and digital art...
what will leave a memorable experience in minds of our patrons?
what will draw them to and to return again to Calgary Chinatown?
what makes people 'share their experiences? stories, videos, photos?
what is the appealing story / message?
what's the best length?
where /how should these be premiered - film festivals, movie theatres, community auditoriums, live stream, digital performance, live streamed, podcast, Instagram / Facebook stories?
most importantly, what will make them want to visit and experience what Chinatown has to offer?"
What's your thoughts? will the audience want to listen, learn and understand this? I'm open to your thoughts of a thought provoking opening address.

10:55 AM

Hello everyone,

10:56 AM

Albert Lam - Dunefield to Everyone

Episode #4: Lights, Camera, Action!

Film and TV are powerful media to express culture, tell stories and develop understanding of our histories. What role could film and TV play in celebrating and portraying Chinese-Canadian culture and the Calgary Chinatown community? Would Chinatown benefit from an Asian Film Festival, and what is needed to make this happen? What other opportunities for cinematic culture do we see?

10:57 AM

There used to be a movie theatre in Chinatown on 2nd Ave. SW. Is the screen still there?

10:58 AM

Interesting question. Not sure about the screen but the venue has been closed for decades.

11:07 AM

Terry Wong to Everyone

Unfortunately the former theatre on 2nd Ave SW / Centre Street is no longer viable as a theatre.

11:09 AM

Where is that exactly?

11:10 AM

Terry Wong to Everyone

Shenzhen is just outside Hong Kong

11:10 AM

3rd floor of building between parking lot and Clover Living.

11:11 AM

Cinema was at the top floor of building, above Sakana Grill

11:13 AM

Thank you! Interesting space for a theatre. Did any photo of the theatre survive?

11:13 AM

Gabriel Yee to Everyone

we've been looking for photos amongst the community but haven't been able to source anything yet

11:14 AM

Wilson Wong to Everyone

Well said Brian!

11:17 AM

Thanks for sharing Wilson and Brain. I feel privileged with my last name Wong. I just found that Terry, Wilson, Brain and me with the same last name. diff. The different last name are also stories in Chinatown

11:20 AM

Funny, I have been trying to encourage the KMT directors to use their space to run a "pop-up" theatre but unfortunately it fell through. That is an existing space perfect for the festival!

11:22 AM

fell through

11:22 AM

Gabriel Yee to Everyone

@KK what is "KMT"?

11:22 AM

National League Building

11:23 AM

Gabriel Yee to Everyone

That is definitely one of the spaces in discussion at the moment :)

11:24 AM

That building itself has so many stories to be told, enough to make a film already!

11:24 AM

Brian Wong to Everyone

Awesome, Gabriel

11:24 AM

Terry Wong to Everyone

The KMT building had been occupied by a vegetable / fruit stand storage....thus the unwillingness to use for community space. However as the business has moved out, the Chinatown BIA is pursuing a cultural space lease for arts, culture, crafts use. Stay tuned.

11:25 AM

That's exciting news! :)

11:26 AM

Hi! What about the Central Library? Does the venue have to be in Chinatown? If so, maybe renting the Chinese Freemasons club?

11:26 AM

Gabriel Yee to Everyone

I believe one of the speakers is activating a film fest event at the Library. The Freemasons have also been in dicussion :)

11:27 AM

Awesome news, Terry!!

11:27 AM

Albert Lam - Dunefield to Everyone

Link to VAFF's October event! <http://vaff.org/overview/>

11:30 AM

Thanks for the link, Albert!

11:30 AM

Albert Lam - Dunefield to Everyone

No problems ... :)

11:32 AM

Really enjoyed the Vancouver film, Meditation Park

11:34 AM

Brian Wong to Everyone

Thanks, Lynne. Great insights.

11:34 AM

Jiaqiu Cai to Everyone

MLJFF uses the auditorium at the central library as a venue. We are not able to use the venue this year. But normally they can host 500 attendee.

11:34 AM

Just wondering would some of you guys may be interested in make a film about Chinese traditional clothing/ Chinese HanFu?

11:36 AM

Gabriel Yee to Everyone

@... hit me up after this let's chat!

11:36 AM

I like the idea of activating an outdoor space along with the festival. Perhaps the riverfront or park by Harry Hays could be activated in some way?

11:37 AM

Jiaqiu Cai to Everyone

St. Patrick's island can be option

11:37 AM

Gabriel Yee to Everyone

@... we looked into outdoor screens this summer when CUFF launched their outdoor screenings. Definitely possible but lots of logistics and procedural requirements for something like that

11:37 AM

Gabriel Yee to Everyone

especially during COVID

11:38 AM

Jiaqiu Cai to Everyone

COVID is definitely a bummer. Our festival has also moved online this year, which took away those opportunities for discussion.

11:47 AM

I can attest to the fact that people are watching a lot of streaming. I got the biggest royalty cheque ever! haha

11:48 AM

Netflix, Crave etc I meant.

11:52 AM

Exactly - well said, Gabe

11:55 AM

I was thinking about edutainment just now. Yes, our stories need to be told, but without understanding the root, the history, our stories lack meaning. However, it can't be just about our struggles, it has to be entertaining as well. It would be nice to see some sort of blended products be created.

11:56 AM

Yes to edutainment

11:56 AM

Albert Lam - Dunefield to Everyone

Great discussion! We are justing running up against our time limit: lets finish with Terry Wong.

11:57 AM

Albert Lam - Dunefield to Everyone

I encourage everyone to keep this discussion going!!

11:58 AM

Brian Wong to Everyone

opportunities to link intergenerational / family bonding through fun edu-tainment. Vulnerable sectors will fall farther down the crack and we also want to be inclusive in that sense.

11:59 AM

Jiaqiu Cai to Everyone

families streaming a film together at home could be something to create that inter-generational bond in a comfortable space at home

12:00 PM

Thanks for you guys the sharing and nice discussion!

12:02 PM

Jiaqiu Cai to Everyone

Online screening in November: <https://justicefilmfestival.ca/>

12:02 PM

Great discussion. Thank you!

12:02 PM

Gabriel Yee to Everyone

bye all happy mid autumn festival

12:02 PM

Terry Wong to Everyone

thank you everyone!

12:02 PM

Brian Wong to Everyone

THanks everyone

12:02 PM

Wilson Wong to Everyone

Thank you for the discussion!