



Draft Principles for Chinatown

8 Principles defined through the public engagement for Planning Chinatown



1

Preserve and Promote Culture and Heritage

Chinatown is a distinct cultural and historical community. Chinatown is Calgary's only remaining cultural neighbourhood and has strong ties to the past. It is separate and distinct from the downtown, Eau Claire and the East Village.

2

Create a Human Scaled Environment

Chinatown is a human scaled environment, with a fine-grained retail environment at grade, with great public spaces and public art.

What We Heard

- Chinese Culture is prominent
- History needs to be told
- Personal Ties exist for generations
- Chinatown is a unique place in Calgary
- Look and Design is distinct
- The atmosphere is welcoming
- Loss of Unique Culture / Loss of Chinese culture (Concern)
- We need to preserve the culture
- Bland Development (Concern)
- Public Spaces are very important
- Asian Design

Best Practices

- Distinct Architecture and landmarks to reflect the distinct Character
- Distinct streetscape elements such as Lighting and Street Furniture
- Preservation of Historic Buildings and Spaces

What We Heard

- Buildings too Tall (concern)
- Bland Development (Concern)
- The atmosphere is pedestrian oriented

Best Practices

- Buildings don't overwhelm the pedestrian at street level
- Active Building Frontages
- Street Walls that are human scaled

3

Create Energy and Life

Chinatown is a community full of energy and life, where housing accommodates a range of ages and lifestyles.

4

Balance Mobility

Chinatown is one of Calgary's most walkable communities, and will continue to be a destination for all with great access by all transportation modes.

What We Heard

- Losing Unique Culture / Loss of Chinese culture (Concern)
- Dirty, Aging Buildings(concern)
- Nothing Changes (concern)
- Buildings go Unmaintained (concern)
- Buildings too Tall (concern)
- Bland Development (Concern)
- Activities and Vibrancy
- Increased Development

Best Practices

- Residential units at various price points and forms to accommodate a range of ages and lifestyles
- Residential supports the shops and services in Chinatown
- Encourage uses that active the street evenings and weekends ex) public and cultural facilities, restaurants, theatres, etc.
- Limit concentrations of office uses

What We Heard

- Parking Issues (concern)
- No Pedestrian Priority (concern)
- Emphasize pedestrian street life
- Parking

Best Practices

- Ensure all modes of transportation are accommodated
- Encourage and strengthen connections:
 - N/S to the river and Downtown
 - E/W to connect the community across Centre Street, between the cultural centre and the commercial hub on the east
- When opportunity arises, sidewalks should be widened where they are narrow
- Roadway crossings are safe
- Walking is safe in all seasons
- Explore solutions to ongoing parking issues

5

Create a place to Gather and Celebrate

Chinatown is a community enables family and friends to gather and celebrate at festivals and events.

6

Creating a mixed-use Community

Chinatown is a mixed-use residential community where residents are able to meet most of their daily needs at local businesses.

What We Heard

- Public Spaces
- The Atmosphere
- Activities and Vibrancy
- Inviting to Everyone

What We Heard

- Chinese Food and Restaurants
- Shopping is unique
- Affordable Housing
- Affordable (overall)
- Residential Development
- More Shopping and Retail
- Inviting to Everyone
- Many Food options

Best Practices

- Encourage connections between community gathering places
- Encourage formal and informal gathering places, both inside and outdoors ex) formal –cultural centre. Informal – Daiqing Plaza
- New development should provide publically accessible open space, cultural amenities / spaces, and similar uses
- Seek opportunities to improve existing spaces through elements like art, greening, etc.

Best Practices

- Residential units at various price points and forms to accommodate a range of ages and lifestyles
- Encourage uses that active the street evenings and weekends ex) public and cultural facilities, restaurants, theatres, etc.
- Limit concentrations of office uses

7

Create a Safe and Clean Community

Chinatown is a safe and clean environment whether you are spending time shopping, dining out, visiting family and friends, or crossing the street.

8

Create an Age-Friendly Community

Chinatown is a community for all, and provides housing for residents of all ages.

What We Heard

- Unsafe (concern)
- Unclean (concern)
- Safety (crime)
- Safety (Traffic)
- Well maintained and clean
- Buildings go Unmaintained (concern)
- Dirty, Aging Buildings (concern)
- Safe

What We Heard

- Although not specifically a “theme” in the engagement, the presence of seniors is an important aspect of Chinatown. As a significant number of seniors do not speak English, living in and visiting Chinatown is way to maintain an active and independent lifestyle
- 1 in 4 residents is 75 or older. The 75+ age cohort is the largest, and has been until recently
 - Calgary’s Chinatown has the only senior’s centre specifically for Chinese seniors in Canada. Through the seniors centre, they can access many services and supports.
 - A significant portion of residences are for seniors.

Best Practices

- Safety from crime requires more eyes on the street:
- Residential units at various price points and forms to accommodate a range of ages and lifestyles
 - Encourage uses that active the street evenings and weekends ex) public and cultural facilities, restaurants, theatres, etc.
 - Limit concentrations of office uses
 - Ensure streets are well-lit at night
 - Use urban design techniques in new development to reduce instances and opportunities for crime (CPTED)
 - Traffic Safety
 - Improve connections across Centre Street

Best Practices

- Encourage the provision of affordable housing for seniors
- Clear sidewalks
- Curb cuts
- Safe crossings, particularly across centre street
- Lighting