

CHINATOWN WORKING GROUP

Community Planning Its Future

c/o Community Board #1 Manhattan
49-51 Chambers St., Rm 715
New York, New York 10007
Co-Chairs: Jim Solomon & Thomas Yu
Secretary: Amy Chin
www.chinatownworkinggroup.org

April 2010

Dear Fellow Community Members:

The Chinatown Working Group (CWG) was established in Fall 2008 with the goal of supporting Chinatown's residents, businesses and visitors by helping our community determine its future.

The CWG is a democratic, open and transparent community-based planning body comprised of Chinatown's "stakeholders" -- at present, 48 member organizations in the greater Chinatown area, including all three of its community boards.

For more than a year, CWG Working Teams have met regularly to focus on areas of concern in Chinatown:

- Affordability
- Culture & Historic Preservation
- Economic Development
- Education & Schools
- Immigrant Affairs & Social Services
- Parks, Open Space & Recreation
- Traffic, Transportation & Security
- Zoning

As a result of these efforts, the CWG drafted a comprehensive community-based plan for improvements to the greater Chinatown area.

On February 1, 2010, the CWG hosted its second Town Hall at PS 130 Hernando De Soto School to review its draft plan with the community and continue brainstorming ideas on how best to preserve and enhance Chinatown. The CWG has since revised its plan based on participant feedback at the event.

Attached please find the most recent draft of the CWG's "Preliminary Action Plans" (PAPs) and additional Proposed Study Area(s). Please note: the CWG has yet to determine its Action Plans and/or official Study Area. To date, a number of Working Teams have made recommendations to the full CWG regarding their proposed PAPs and Proposed Study Area(s), while some Working Teams have indicated they need more time before making their recommendations to the full CWG. The official CWG position on the proposed PAPs and proposed Study Area will only be determined when entire CWG votes on the full plan later this summer.

During the next few months, CBs 1, 2 # 3, co-sponsors of the CWG 197-a Plan, will conduct public hearings on the revised PAPS and Proposed Study Area(s) beginning in April. We will list all such meetings on the CWG website in hopes that many of you will attend.

Fondly,
Jim Solomon & Thomas Yu
Chinatown Working Groups, Co-Chairs

For more information about the CWG, please check our website:

www.chinatownworkinggroup.org

VOTING MEMBERS: American Legion Post 1291 • Asian American Arts Alliance • Asian American Arts Centre • The Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund • Asian Americans for Equality • Bowery Alliance of Neighbors • Chatham Green • Chatham Towers • Chinatown Partnership • Chinatown Rotary • Chinatown YMCA • Chinatown Youth Initiatives • Chinese American Medical Society • Chinese American Planning Council • Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association • Chinese Chamber of Commerce of NY • Chinese Progressive Association • Chinese Staff & Workers' Association • Committee Against Anti-Asian Violence • Community Board #1 Manhattan • Community Board #2 Manhattan • Community Board #3 Manhattan • Community Emergency Response Team, CB#2 • Confucius Plaza • Continental Garment Manufacturers Association • CREATE in Chinatown • Education Alliance • Friends of Columbus Park • Greater Chinatown Community Association • Hamilton Madison House • Hester Street Collaborative • Hotel Chinese Association • Immigrant Social Services • Indochina Sino-American Community Center • International Chinese Transportation Professionals Association • Lin Sing Association • Lin Ze Xu Foundation of USA • Lower East Side Business Development • Lower Manhattan GOP • M'Finda Kalunga Community Garden • Museum of Chinese in America • National Mobilization Against Sweatshops • The Pistol Club of Greater Chinatown • PS130M Parents' Association • St. Vincent's Hospital • 318 Restaurant Workers Union • Two Bridges Neighborhood Council • United Fukinese American Association. FRIENDS: Office of U.S. Congressman Jerrold Nadler • Office of State Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver • Office of the Mayor's Community Affairs Unit • Office of City Council Speaker Christine C. Quinn • Office of Manhattan Borough President Scott M. Stringer • Office of Public Advocate Bill de Blasio • Office of City Comptroller John C. Liu • Office of State Assembly Member Deborah J. Glick • Office of State Senator Martin J. Golden • Office of State Senator Daniel Squadron • Office of the New York County District Attorney Cyrus R. Vance, Jr • Office of Council Member Margaret Chin • LES Residents for Responsible Development • NohoManhattan.org • Sanctuary for Families • 250 Canal Street (ABS Partners) SUPPORTERS: Municipal Art Society Planning Center

Please note: All additions or edits made to the 1-08-10 version prepared for the CWG Town Hall are highlighted in yellow.

Education and Schools

<u>Problem</u>	<u>Proposal</u>	<u>Agencies</u>
Protect, preserve, support and strengthen Chinatown's learning institutions (public schools, daycare centers, youth based organizations, senior learning centers, GED and tutoring programs, etc.) that serve the Chinatown area.	Protect the buildings that house schools and centers from demolition, gentrification and overshadowing (from new construction).	HPD; Community Boards 1,2,3; City Planning; School Construction Authority; NYC DOE; Chancellor's Office; District 2; Council Members; Integrated Service Center; Parents' Associations for all local schools; GOALS; school facilities; AAFE; CAAAV; CPC; ISS; Coalition for Housing; Two Bridges; Loisada, City Council Member)
	Insure adequate school space for the existing community and any future growth in the community (though not inviting overbuilding of the area).	
	Insure timely input from the community and administrators of learning institutions of any proposed changes to existing schools through public meetings.	
	Prioritize traffic and park safety as it affects pedestrian students and seniors	NYC Department of Parks and Recreation; Bike Organizations; State and NYC DOT; Community Boards 1,2,3; Senior Citizens Agencies; AAA (Education Branch); Day Care Centers)
	Increase funding for programming for all students who are special needs and have ongoing challenges towards learning, including ELL programming, to ensure equity in classrooms.	NYS Education Department; NYC DOE; State Senators; Community Based Organizations; Parent Associations
	Discontinue over-testing (it adversely impacts ELL learners)	NYS Education Department; NYC DOE; State Senators; Community Based Organizations; Parent Associations
	Reduce classroom size.	NYS Education Department; NYC DOE; NY State Senators; Community Based Organizations; Inside Schools; Campaign for Fiscal Equity
	Facilitate regular meetings among Chinatown public school principals and/or administrators to enhance cooperation and communication, etc.	NYC DOE; Principals of local public schools; Chinatown Working Group
Encourage meaningful input from Chinatown school administrators in order to create rational school policies that take into account Chinatown's unique circumstances and needs.	NYC DOE; Council Members; Chancellor Klein; Mayor of NYC; Local Public Schools; Parents Associations	

Education and Schools (continued)

<u>Problem</u>	<u>Proposal</u>	<u>Agencies</u>
<p>Protect, preserve, support and strengthen Chinatown’s learning institutions (public schools, daycare centers, youth based organizations, senior learning centers, GED and tutoring programs, etc.) that serve the Chinatown area. (continued)</p>	<p>Create ongoing opportunities to encourage the young people of Chinatown to have their own voice in the issues of learning and education.</p>	<p>NYC DOE; local public schools; MoCA and various other arts organizations; Chinatown Planning Council; Bob Lee; Community Based Organizations such as ISS, CYI, AAYC, Hester Street Settlement; YMCA; Columbus Park; Local Libraries: Seward Park, Chatham Square, Jefferson Street; DYCD, NYC Council Member)</p>
<p>There is a need for political clout and outside partnerships on issues like: housing, jobs, ELL, gentrification, evictions, and translation.</p>	<p>-Provide parents, schools, daycares, seniors, and youth centered organizations with tools to empower themselves in the community.</p> <p>-Encourage partnerships and the pooling of resources between relevant community resources.</p> <p>-Establish a central clearinghouse on After-Schools, tutoring, cultural activities and other information for parents, young people and schools</p>	<p>NYC DOE; Community Based Organizations; ISS; Henry Street Settlement; University Settlement; Chinatown YMCA; Educational Alliance; Charles B. Wang; LES Family Center; Chinatown Manpower Project; Ladies Garment Workers Union; AAYC; Lions Clubs; Local Banks; NYCHA; CAAAV; MFY Legal Services; Cultural Organizations: CMA, MoCA, OSYD – Office of Support Services, NYC Council Member</p>
<p>All parents and students should have access to good schools in or near their neighborhood.</p>	<p>We seek to maintain strong accountable public schools as per DOE admissions policies that serve every child (regardless of their current difficulties/strengths) in neighborhoods. If, in some communities, the public schools are not working well in the opinion of the parents/teachers/students they should be able to seek alternatives (that are also accountable) without draining the resources of public schools in general. We advocate school administrators to communicate with each other regarding availability of seats within their schools.</p>	<p>DOE: borough (Manhattan) education office, DOE central office, local school administrators</p>

Education and Schools (continued)

<u>Problem</u>	<u>Proposal</u>	<u>Agencies</u>
	Collaborate, Fund and/or provide workshops on: ELL, parenting, computer use, voting, parent involvement, access to city services, etc.	Mayor's Office on Adult Literacy; NYC DOE; Translation Services; Social Services; Head Start Programs; Community Boards 1,2,3; Media sources; DYCD (for funding); Community Based Organizations: Neighborhood Settlement Houses, CPC, ISS, CYI, GCCA; Office of School and Youth Development - OSYD, Office of Family Engagement and Advocacy – OFEA
Prioritize resources for parents to improve their capacity as parents in languages they can understand. Increase access to English language learning for parents to help level the playing field for both students and parents.	We strongly support preserving places and services in the local community for neighborhood children with special learning needs. Educate parents about their rights and special programs that exist through parent workshops and other methods of outreach that are sensitive to the languages and cultures of local families.	DOE (specifically, the Office of Parent Engagement), Local school administrators, Charles B. Wang Community Health Center, Indochina Sino-American Community Center
	Currently, translated versions of school applications are only available to families online, creating barriers between schools and families who have limited internet access and/or limited literacy. Local families must be provided with feasible accessibility to all online DOE resources.	DOE, local public libraries, CCBA, local CBOs.