

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.

Immigrants and Parks: Immigrant Affairs and Social Services

Introduction

This preliminary action plan addresses 5 principles that revolve around the following issues: jobs and economics, housing, language access, support for immigrant families in their adjustment to American life. A common concern that was echoed over and over again but not addressed in any single point in the preliminary action plan, is the need for our community to collaborate and cooperate together. While, these issues overlap with all the other working groups and may even be repeated in the other preliminary action plans, we have tried to focus on the specific needs of immigrants in our plan. The last point (#5) addresses social services for all residents as well as specifics relating to immigrants.

<u>Problem</u>	<u>Proposal</u>	<u>Agencies</u>
Protect the rights of all immigrants and workers by fostering increased education and outreach among employees and employers about workers rights and employment discrimination.	Conduct a bilingual public education campaign to educate workers about their rights through activities such as workshops, conferences, and literature dissemination	NYS Dept. of Labor, NYC Commission on Human Rights, NYS Human Rights Commission, local community based organizations, labor unions, non profit law firms, pro-bono law firms/lawyers, NYC Bar Association, Department of Small Business Services
Encourage new businesses in the community to hire local residents	<p>Establish a local employment center utilizing a public/private partnership model</p> <p>Through regulations or incentives, negotiate that a minimum percentage of workers hired in new development contracts be local residents (such as Chatham Square re-zoning)</p> <p>Establish/augment job readiness training programs targeting industries that have been identified to be expanding in Chinatown</p>	Economic development committee of CB 1,2, and 3, Lower East Side Business Improvement Districts, CPLDC, Dept. of Small Business Services, state and city local elected officials (City Council Member District 1 and 2, State Assembly Member district 63, State Senator District, Empowerment Zone
Improve translation and interpretation services among institutions (schools, hospitals, city, state, federal agencies) that serve immigrants in our community.	<p>Monitor and ensure that the Mayor's Executive Order 120 (sets basic standards for all city agencies to follow when serving individuals who are not proficient in English) is being implemented by city agencies that serve immigrants in our community.</p> <p>Create a pool of trained, qualified interpreters</p> <p>Involve organizations from all sectors of the community in this process</p>	Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs, NY Immigration Coalition, Local elected officials, family associations, business associations, community based organizations

Immigrants and Parks: Immigrant Affairs and Social Services (continued)

<u>Problem</u>	<u>Proposal</u>	<u>Agencies</u>
<p>Ensure that truly affordable housing (for tenants or homeowners) is available in the community for new immigrants with low/moderate incomes and limited resources.</p>	<p>Utilize a locally defined area median income</p> <p>Conduct a neighborhood wide tenants rights education campaign</p> <p>Ensure that Seward Park Urban Renewal Area has a set aside for housing that is affordable to low/moderate income residents</p> <p>Ensure that Seward Park Urban Renewal Area utilizes a local defined area median income</p> <p>Create and disseminate a “guide to housing” for new immigrants (includes information such as types of housing available, how to find housing, resources, where to go for help, etc..)</p> <p>Require that new developments “replace” same # of affordable housing units destroyed/lost</p>	<p>NYC Dept. of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD), NYS Dept. of Housing and Community Renewal (DHCR), community based organizations, Office of the Borough Manhattan President</p>
<p>Support families - youth, senior citizens, parents. Address family issues including domestic violence prevention, child abuse prevention.</p>	<p>Increase/improve networking, communication, resource sharing, space sharing between entities that provide services to community (entities such as social service agencies, legal service providers, religious organizations, settlement houses, family associations, other community based organizations)</p> <p>Increase and strengthen partnership between neighborhood public schools (school administrators, school teachers, parent associations) and the community to reach and provide services to school children and their families</p> <p>Increase support for senior citizens:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Educational materials: Ensure that places where senior citizens congregate and receive services (such as senior citizen centers) have the information about services, benefits, entitlements. Materials should be in all the appropriate languages • Address elder abuse (physical, financial, emotional); connect community with financial institutions to raise their awareness of financial abuse • Increase support to caregivers 	

Immigrants and Parks: Immigrant Affairs and Social Services (continued)

<u>Problem</u>	<u>Proposal</u>	<u>Agencies</u>
<p>Support families - youth, senior citizens, parents. Address family issues including domestic violence prevention, child abuse prevention. (continued)</p>	<p>In a neutral space, create a clearinghouse of neighborhood services. Make sure it includes all types of services for all age groups. Make sure it can be accessed electronically (internet, websites) as well as by traditional methods (outdoor and indoor bulletin boards).</p> <p>Increase efforts to reach the “harder to reach” immigrant population in our community (e.g. not literate, without internet access). Make sure to reach. Utilize local language radio, television, and newspaper. Utilize community bulletin boards such as those that already exist in the parks.</p> <p>Increase funding and resources to help immigrant families and community prevent or deal with serious problems such as domestic violence, child abuse, human trafficking.</p> <p>Increase the amount of affordable, decent community space for programming. Increase funding for Beacon programs that utilize public school space during after-school hours for adult and youth community programming. Increase access to parks and other outdoor spaces for community programs.</p> <p>Hold activities that allow immigrant families to socialize, meet others, share ideas and experiences. Utilize parks and outdoor spaces for these activities. (Examples: family-friendly recreational/sports/cultural activities, “family discussion/social groups” where participants can talk, share experiences, learn from each other)</p> <p>Hold programs that bring immigrants to parks and other open space outside Chinatown community in order to create awareness of other spaces, cultures outside of local community.</p> <p>Advocate for increased support and recognition of neighborhood groups (formal or informal) that utilize park space to hold classes and other activities that promote sports or recreation enjoyed by new immigrants.</p>	<p>Community based organizations, NYC Dept of Education, neighborhood public schools, neighborhood health clinics and medical facilities, City Council members representing Chinatown/Lower East Side, State Assembly members and State Senators (representing Chinatown/Lower East Side), Mayor’s Office of Immigrant Affairs, NYC Office of the Public Advocate, Office of the Manhattan Borough President, NYC Dept. of Parks and Recreation, Community Boards 1, 2, 3, Asian American Health and Social Service Council (network that meets monthly), NYC Administration for Children’s Services (ACS), Dept. of Youth and Community Development (DYCD), NYC Dept. for the Aging (DFTA), Independent Press Association of NYC (network of local and ethnic press), Neighborhood English and Chinese language press (newspaper, radio, and television) that covers Chinatown and Lower East Side</p>

Immigrants and Parks: Immigrant Affairs and Social Services (continued)

Problem	Proposal	Agencies
<p>Support families – youth & parents. Address family issues including domestic violence prevention, child abuse prevention.</p>	<p>Increase/improve networking, communication, resource sharing, space sharing between entities that provide services to community (entities such as social service agencies, legal service providers, religious organizations, settlement houses, family associations, other community based organizations).</p> <p>Increase and strengthen partnership between neighborhood public schools (school administrators, school teachers, parent associations) and the community to reach and provide services to school children and their families.</p>	<p>Community based organizations, neighborhood public schools, neighborhood health clinics and medical facilities,</p>
<p>Increase support for senior citizens.</p>	<p>Educational materials: Ensure that places where senior citizens congregate and receive services (such as senior citizen centers) have the information about services, benefits, entitlements. Materials should be in all the appropriate languages.</p> <p>Address elder abuse (physical, financial, emotional); connect community with financial institutions to raise their awareness of financial abuse.</p> <p>Increase support to caregivers.</p> <p>Ensure that there are enough high quality facilities for senior citizens such as day time senior citizen centers.</p> <p>Ensure adequate and affordable senior citizen housing and nursing homes.</p> <p>Devote additional resources for local hospitals to provide enough geriatric services and beds for senior citizens.</p>	<p>City Council members representing Chinatown & /Lower East Side, State Assembly members and State Senators (representing Chinatown & Lower East Side),</p> <p>Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs, Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities, Mayor's Office to Combat Domestic Violence, NYC Dept of Education (NYCDOE), NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, (NYCDOHMH) NYC Office of the Public Advocate, Office of the Manhattan Borough President, NYC Dept. of Parks and Recreation, Community Boards 1, 2, 3, Asian American Health and Social Service Council (network that meets monthly), NYC Administration for Children's Services (ACS), NYC Dept. of Youth and Community Development (DYCD), NYC Dept. for the Aging (DFTA),</p>
<p>Address the problem of inadequate primary health care and dental care.</p>	<p>Increase the number of facilities providing primary health care and dental care including hospitals, school based clinics, and neighborhood clinics.</p>	<p>Independent Press Association of NYC (network of local and ethnic press), Neighborhood English and Chinese language press (newspaper, radio, and television) that covers Chinatown and Lower East Side</p>
<p>Services for the disabled.</p>	<p>Improve community outreach for effective and appropriate services for the disabled.</p> <p>Continue funding Access-A-Ride and/or other paratransit services until NYC subways and taxis are accessible to all people. In doing so, ensure that services provided by these companies meet the needs of local languages and cultures.</p>	
<p>Mental health services.</p>	<p>Improve community outreach for effective and appropriate mental health services.</p>	