

# 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  
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[www.chinatownworkinggroup.org](http://www.chinatownworkinggroup.org)

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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, 43 member organizations in Chinatown including all three of its community boards.

During the past 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
- Zoning

Last June, the CWG hosted a Town Hall at PS 124 Yung Wing School in Chinatown to gather additional input from the community.

As a result of these efforts, the CWG drafted a comprehensive community-based plan for improvements to the greater Chinatown area. ([Attached please find for your comment the most recent draft of the CWG's "Preliminary Action Plans".](#))

During the next several months, the CWG will revise its plan based on community feedback with the goal of submitting it to the Department of City Planning this spring.

On **Monday, February 1 at 7pm**, the CWG will host another Town Hall to review its plan with the community and brainstorm ideas on how best to preserve and enhance Chinatown. The Town Hall will take place at **PS 130 Hernando De Soto, 143 Baxter Street (between Grand/Hester Streets)**. We hope 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](http://www.chinatownworkinggroup.org)

VOTING MEMBERS: American Legion Post 1291 • Asian American Arts Alliance • Asian American Arts Centre • 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 • 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 • 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 • The Pistol Club of Greater Chinatown • PS130M Parents' Association • St. Vincent's Hospital • 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 Betsy Gotbaum • Office of City Comptroller William C. Thompson Jr • Office of State Assembly Member Deborah J. Glick • Office of State Senator Martin J. Golden • Office of State Senator Daniel Squadron • Office of Council Member Alan J. Gerson • LES Residents for Responsible Development • NohoManhattan.org • Sanctuary for Families • 250 Canal Street (ABS Partners)  
SUPPORTERS: Municipal Art Society Planning Center

**The Chinatown Working Group  
Preliminary Action Plans  
Presented by the CWG Working Teams  
(in alphabetical order)**

**Updated January 8, 2010**

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**CAPZ: Affordability**

<u>Problem</u>	<u>Proposal</u>	<u>Agencies</u>
<p><b>Define a local Area Median Income figure that reflects the demographic of Chinatown and utilize this figure to define affordable housing.</b></p>	<p>Ensure that this figure is used for any city development effort in Chinatown and the greater Chinatown region. (ie Seward Park)</p>	
<p><b>Preserve the existing rent regulated stock in Chinatown by:</b></p>	<p>Prohibiting the practice of predatory tactics that evict tenants from their rent regulated units.  Prohibiting the intentional demolitions used by landlords to destroy the rent regulated units.</p>	
<p><b>Provide opportunities for affordable home ownership options:</b></p>	<p>Create and expand programs that effectively create opportunities for affordable Homeownership.  Ensure that these programs restrict immediate resale and recapture property value increases.</p>	<p align="right">NYC Comptroller, HPD</p>
<p><b>Create more affordable housing rental units by utilizing existing subsidy programs:</b></p>	<p>Encourage 421-A incentive program to build affordable housing, but tailor it to meet our community needs to build mixed use affordable housing that targets several different income levels.  Encourage Low Income Housing Tax Credits incentive program to build affordable housing, but tailor it to meet our community needs to build mixed use affordable housing that targets several different income levels.  Define an Inclusionary Zoning program that incentivizes the creation of affordable housing units. Mandate affordable housing when buildings are built to maximum height.  Determine if other expired housing programs may be revived to serve Chinatown.</p>	<p align="right">HPD</p>

## **CAPZ: Cultural and Historic Preservation**

### **The Eight Principles**

**This action plan aims to implement eight principles designed to preserve Chinatown's vital culture:**

1. Preserve and enhance the cultural character of Chinatown that makes it a unique and diverse community. Recognize that the foundations of traditions from the past and the innovations of the present compose the dynamic and complex character of this community.
2. Support cultural activities and preservation efforts that will attract and retain Chinatown residents, businesses, and visitors, while also addressing the quality and importance of family life.
3. Create a dedicated community arts center and other appropriate spaces for cultural use that are affordable to area artists, organizations and residents. Cultivate a hospitable and affordable environment in Chinatown for traditional and contemporary artists, artisans, cultural entities, culturally-based businesses, and cultural activities from inside and outside the community. Chinatown's interplay with its neighboring communities and the City infrastructure itself can be significantly enhanced.
4. Recognize, protect and preserve Chinatown's historical buildings/structures and districts of architectural and/or cultural significance, its distinctive streetscapes and other characteristic elements of the community.
5. Encourage imaginative new architecture and environmental design reflective of contemporary life and aesthetics, but also respects and acts in harmony with older architectural styles in the neighborhood.
6. Ensure that the efforts of other CWG working teams are consonant with the community's historic/cultural preservation, growth, and development goals.
7. Work with and support local cultural organizations that gather, safeguard and disseminate the shared histories and stories that collectively form the basic foundations of this neighborhood and are vitally relevant to its future, successive generations and the general American population.
8. Recognize that decorative elements like Chinese-style facades or ceremonial arches, while worthwhile, are just symbolic measures. Active policies, legislation and efforts are needed to achieve true long term revitalization that avoids the danger and short-sightedness of a "Disneyland Chinatown".

**CAPZ: Cultural and Historic Preservation (continued)**

<u>Problem</u>	<u>Proposal</u>	<u>Agencies</u>
<p><b>Chinatown is in danger of losing its distinctive culture and streetscape</b></p>	<p>Create a Special Chinatown Cultural and Historic Preservation Sub-district to protect historic structures and the low scale nature of the Chinatown core, and promote Chinatown culture and arts (examples: Fourth Street Arts block, SoHo artist certification, 42nd Street Theater Sub-district, Special Little Italy District). The special districting would:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Impose height restrictions to prevent the erosion of the skyline and street character.</li> <li>ii. Allow owners of historic buildings to sell and transfer air rights to developers citywide, designating a percentage of the sales for additional financing of the new Sub-district Fund referenced in Action Plan item A above</li> <li>iii. Include provision for a ‘percent for art’ requiring developers to set aside 1% of construction in the Subdistrict to public art projects</li> <li>iv. Legalize the signage, street set-ups, and storefront display practices (e.g. hanging ducks in windows) that are noted characteristics of Chinatown</li> <li>v. Provide protection for buildings of special interest or significance.</li> <li>vi. Establish a Chinatown visual and performing arts center plus other adequate affordable spaces for culturally specific performances, artwork, and activities through tax incentives, culture zones legislation, rent regulations protecting space for non-profit use, restrictive covenants, limited equity space arrangements, etc</li> <li>vii. Allow and encourage culturally distinct activities and businesses like open air markets wherever possible including in newly created spaces.</li> </ul>	<p>Community boards, New York State Council on the Arts, State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, the National Trust for Historic Preservation, National Register for Historic Places, LPC, City Council, State Legislature, Congress</p> <p><u>EDUCATE</u> local landlords on the benefits of landmarking and National Register listing, including tax credits for preservation and rehabilitation work</p>

**CAPZ: Cultural and Historic Preservation (continued)**

<b><u>Problem</u></b>	<b><u>Proposal</u></b>	<b><u>Agencies</u></b>
<b>Chinatown is in danger of losing its distinctive culture and streetscape</b>  (continued)	Establish a Chinatown Culture and Historic Preservation Subdistrict Fund similar to the 42nd Street Theater Subdistrict Fund to provide grants for restoration projects and cultural programs in Chinatown. The fund would be financed by assessments on new real estate developments in the Chinatown district.	Community boards, DCP, LPC, DCA, City Council, State Legislature, Congress ALSO architectural historians, Preservation League of New York State, the Two Bridges Neighborhood Council, City Lore, HDC, MoCA, NY Landmarks Conservancy, Municipal Arts Society, Society for the Architecture of the City, local non profits
	Identify specific and appropriate non profits to manage the Fund. Identify an organization interested in sponsoring a survey of greater Chinatown for architectural, historical and/or cultural resources (buildings and districts of significance). Propose a Chinatown Historic District or Districts. Propose individual landmarks and a comprehensive list of buildings of special interest or significance in greater Chinatown for protection.	Community boards, New York State Council on the Arts, State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, the National Trust for Historic Preservation, National Register for Historic Places, LPC, City Council  EDUCATE local landlords on the benefits of landmarking and National Register listing, including tax credits for preservation and rehabilitation work
	Support and promote the Two Bridges Chinatown/Little Italy National Register district.	
<b>Rising real estate values threaten to displace Chinatown's culturally distinctive community</b>	Explore alternative methods beyond rent regulation/stabilization for retaining current residents and attracting new immigrants (e.g., limited equity housing, housing restoration programs, inclusionary zoning for owner-occupied units, SROs, communal and temporary housing for recent immigrants).	Community boards, HPD, DHCR, State Legislature, Governor, mutual housing developers (AAFE, LESPMH) , urban development funders (e.g., Urban Investment Group)
	Explore city support for local small businesses	NYC Small Business Services
<b>Coordination, support and consensus</b>	Form working relationships with local organizations	Architectural historians, urban planning programs, MOCA, the Tenement Museum, the Eldridge St. Synagogue, the Educational Alliance, University Settlement, Henry Street Settlement, the Cultural Equity Group, the NYU Asian/Pacific American Studies program, the Cantonese Opera (Louisa Leo), the Julie Tay/Mencius Society, the Two Bridges Neighborhood Council, the Photography Group (Joe Wong), the Lower East Side History Project, the Bowery Alliance of Neighbors, City Lore, HDC inter alia
<b>Information gathering</b>	Use existing studies	Bowery Alliance study, CREATE Feasibility Study, MoCA Feasibility, Light Rail Impact study of LES Historic structures, Two Bridges Study for Historic Districting, Landmarks Preservation Commission / LES Tenement Museum survey/report filed with National Trust for Historic Preservation, Columbia University Bowery Study, Eldridge St Synagogue Historic Survey

## CAPZ: Zoning

<u>Problem</u>	<u>Proposal</u>	<u>Agencies</u>
<p><b>New York City's Chinatown is the only major North American Chinatown without special zoning protection. San Francisco, Boston, Vancouver, Honolulu, and Toronto all have special zoning and development provisions, as does London.</b></p>	<p><b><u>Fundamentals of a Chinatown Special District:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Affordable Housing (cf. Clinton Preservation District)</li> <li>• Cultural Use Bonus and Air Rights Transfer (cf. Theatre Subdistrict of Midtown Special District)</li> <li>• Aesthetic controls in special preservation subdistrict               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ streetscape</li> <li>○ building form</li> <li>○ transparency</li> <li>○ signage to emphasize cultural and language diversity</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Open Space requirements</li> <li>• Canal Street Development Corridor</li> <li>• District-wide Transfer of Development Rights to Preserve Character of Preservation Core</li> <li>• Construction and Building Maintenance Fund</li> </ul>	<p>New York City Department of City Planning</p>
	<p><b><u>Mechanics of the District: Zoning Goals and Strategies</u></b></p> <p><b>Preservation Core Sub-district</b> (Medium-density residential and mixed-use zoning)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-to protect the low-rise character of Chinatown</li> <li>-to reinforce the vibrant and colorful streetscape</li> <li>-to permit appropriately scaled mixed-use development</li> <li>-to allow transfer of development rights (TDR) to allow property owners to make use of the zoning potential of their sites, but move development to a more appropriate area</li> <li>-to improve and upgrade existing housing stock</li> </ul> <p><b>Canal Street Development Corridor</b> (Higher density mixed-use manufacturing zoning that encourages affordable housing)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-to enhance the long-term commercial viability of Chinatown and create new jobs</li> <li>-to protect existing manufacturing and Class B &amp; C office space</li> <li>-to encourage new affordable housing</li> <li>-to encourage mixed-use development which has historically been so prevalent in Chinatown-to allow an outlet for TDR to protect development of the Preservation Core</li> <li>-to encourage the development of a Chinatown Cultural Arts Center through a Cultural Bonus mechanism</li> </ul>	

**Economics and Transportation: Pedestrian and Vehicular Traffic & Transportation**

<u>Problem</u>	<u>Proposal</u>	<u>Agencies</u>
<p><b>Pedestrian Traffic...very crowded pedestrian right of way in vehicular/sidewalk areas; sanitary conditions deleterious in some areas</b></p>	<p><b>Create Better Pedestrian Spaces</b></p> <p>Enforce “zero tolerance” for less than 8’ pedestrian right-of-way. Enforce Dept of Health Standards for food vending.</p> <p><i>Research:</i> Pedestrian Counts Chatham Square and Park Row. Check available DOT and CATS surveys; Model an updated survey</p>	<p>DOT, DCA, DOS, DOH, Parks, LPC, CPC</p>
<p><b>Inefficient use of space (crowded sidewalks)</b></p>	<p><b>Investigate Pedestrian Malls &amp; Street Closures</b> on some streets (Pell? Doyers?) - Investigate pedestrian ONLY sidewalk and street spaces with small retail, business etc. (perhaps for defined hours of the day to accommodate store deliveries). Prevent negative affects on business and residents by conducting a community survey; work toward creating a physical design and city permitting structure that will prevent abuse and enhance business and residential life.</p> <p><i>Research:</i> Check with Arthur Huh at the Dept of City Planning; review vending from stores statutes as a means of improving enforcement or improving legislation. Review CATS Study regarding wider sidewalk recommendations.</p> <p>Create Sidewalk Vending Regulations just for Chinatown to better present/organize open market flavor but improve massing to accommodate pedestrian flow– redefine allowed areas, consider no-vending areas; define amt of space allowed by vendors in Chinatown Special District(s).</p> <p>Incorporate wider sidewalk standards in zoning code and in new-build areas, where vending might be allowed.</p>	<p>Consult with Project for Public Spaces regarding their research in planning protected public spaces.</p>

**Economics and Transportation: Pedestrian and Vehicular Traffic & Transportation (continued)**

<u>Problem</u>	<u>Proposal</u>	<u>Agencies</u>
<p><b>Transportation: lack of ready-access (bad access) – Chinatown has a large population, and is an established tourist cache. It should have an adequate, large, mass-transportation “hub” which will make access and intra-Chinatown movement more efficient. This would help to recoup commerce lost since 9/11 and attract people to the area</b></p>	<p><b>Plan for a Central transportation portal for Chinatown –</b> create-A “hub” like the Fulton Street Transit Hub...</p> <p><b>Shuttle Buses</b> – Public transit: shuttle system (i.e. Downtown Alliance shuttle)</p> <p><b>Reduce car speed on Canal St.</b></p> <p><b>Crosstown Buses</b> –East and West traveling between Grand St. at the north and Worth or Frankfort at the south. Canal St also.</p> <p><i>Research:</i> Costs, structures and public/private arrangements for shuttles in other areas and cities</p>	<p>DOT, MTA, State and Federal Agencies</p>
<p><b>Re-establish access to Chinatown lost in the planning and development of government buildings which blocked off parks, closed streets and radically changed traffic patterns. Additionally the imposition of ad-hoc security measures by NYPD headquarters and facilities has failed to accommodate Chinatown.</b></p>	<p><b>Improve pedestrian linkage between Chinatown and Municipal Buildings.</b></p> <p><b>Columbus Park of 19 years ago vs wall of govt eminent domain buildings.</b> Right arm of Chinatown has been cut off. Needs a gateway passage thru to Columbus Park and connection to the center of historic Chinatown and it’s commercial core.</p> <p><b>Improve pedestrian linkage with Transit Centers</b> to L.I., NJ, etc.</p> <p><b>Bicycle lanes and other improvements to the streets</b> that encourage bicycle riding in the neighborhood</p> <p><i>Research:</i> Survey large, small, long time and new businesses near Chatham Square and areas surrounding and on both sides of Police Headquarters and Park Row for customer access impacts.</p>	<p>CPC, DOT, NYPD, City Council, State and Federal Transportation Agencies</p>

**Economics and Transportation: Pedestrian and Vehicular Traffic & Transportation**  
**(continued)**

<b><u>Problem</u></b>	<b><u>Proposal</u></b>	<b><u>Agencies</u></b>
<p><b>Chatham Square/Park Row – The impact of Park Row closure on vehicular and pedestrian access between Government Center and Chinatown is profound. It cuts off a natural flow of commuters in and out of Chinatown to major public transit hubs; inhibits retail traffic from one of the largest centers of employee commerce in the City.</b></p>	<p>Re-Open Park Row</p> <p>Relocate Police Headquarters</p> <p><i>Research:</i> Study relocating Police Headquarters to a safer location.</p> <p>Environmental Impact Study and Recommendations from 1 Police Plaza case. (Chatham Green &amp; Chatham Towers)</p>	<p>NYPD, CPC</p>
<p><b>Lack of coordination and planning for incoming and outgoing bridge and tunnel traffic.</b></p>	<p>Create a flexible traffic routing system (including reduced tolls to encourage re-routing for peak or off-hour traffic)</p> <p>Include Chinatown access as part of an integrated and coordinated lower Manhattan traffic management strategy.</p> <p><i>Research:</i> Quantify benefits of Brooklyn Bridge/Park Row entry to Chinatown reopened to traffic.</p>	<p>Office of Emergency Management, DOT, Bridge and Tunnel Authority, Federal and State Depts of Transp.</p>
<p><b>Loss of parking affects businesses (*weekends)...(Police Plaza, Pearl St., Leonard St.). As the vehicular entry point for the Manhattan and Brooklyn Bridges as well as the Holland Tunnel with additional Govt Agency parking needs, the area provides no opportunity for parking vehicles and reducing vehicular traffic.</b></p>	<p>Re-establish municipal parking. Provide above or below ground parking with better intra Chinatown and Govt Center local transit opportunities.</p> <p>Stricter limits and better enforcement of placard parking.</p> <p>Consider shared fleet system for government agencies/employees</p> <p><i>Research:</i> Review Study lost parking revenues from the Municipal Garage closure. What are the potential benefits to the entire Civic Center of having a 1000 car garage (this includes approximately 400 public spaces and 600 NYPD spaces at the Municipal Garage)?</p>	<p>CPC, DOT</p>

**Economics and Transportation: Pedestrian and Vehicular Traffic & Transportation**  
**(continued)**

<b><u>Problem</u></b>	<b><u>Proposal</u></b>	<b><u>Agencies</u></b>
<b>Taxis avoid Chinatown (Chatham Square)</b>	Provide mandated Taxi-Stand areas. Possible coordination with pedestrian mall or seating areas and with municipal parking locations .	Taxi & Limousine Commission, DOT
<b>Too much Commercial Traffic - truck traffic on Canal St. (health problems, safety issues). This has unfairly burdened Chinatown.</b>	Change toll structure on Verrazano Bridge Dis-incentivize access by large trucks (Higher tolls for larger vehicles, defined local delivery hours.)	Federal Dept of Transportation, State Dept of Transp., Bridge and Tunnel Auth.
<b>Need better coordination between local residents and businesses for ongoing City improvements and larger City/Government built environment plans.</b>	Foster community input and involvement in vehicular and pedestrian traffic planning and monitoring in an ongoing transparent process.	DOT, CAU, CPC

**Economics and Transportation: Economic Development**

<u>Problem</u>	<u>Proposal</u>	<u>Agencies</u>
<p><b>Too many of the same kinds of retail businesses. Built environment needs re-invention to integrate ground-floor retail with more vital above ground businesses.</b></p>	<p>Expand and develop economic development zones (Empire Zone) and programs.</p> <p>Create business incubators: Clothing and Home Furnishings Design; Culinary Products.</p> <p><i>Research:</i> State Statutes on Empire Zone regulations - Karen He, Speaker Silver's Office</p>	<p>State Dept of Commerce, EDC, CPC, Dept of Education</p>
<p><b>Lost jobs – Garment industry (staggering loss of jobs)</b></p>	<p>Develop Training centers: Adopt “English Language Learners (ELL) programs among employers for immigrants...job training, skill building all ages/skills. Proximity to Govt entities providing programs and funds for such programs is a plus and could make an excellent case for Chinatown as a NYC Center for job training, retraining and job readiness programs.</p> <p>Include Worker Training Programs in Community Benefit Agreements</p>	<p>Develop a Community Benefit Agreement Template. Study Examples – Furmin School, Brooklyn Atlantic Yards, Red Hook</p>
<p><b>Above street level space underutilized - While much of Chinatown is already zoned for FAR 6 it is not attracting use of this resource.</b></p>	<p>Alter or retro-fit built environment so that it can house service businesses: medical, high-tech, educational, design studios. Investigate tax credits for development of new/green business opportunities.</p> <p>Attract college/university, hospital partners, public or private clinics</p> <p>Re-Invent Light Mfg – Garment/furniture design, electronic assembly/packaging and product testing facilities, art or craft creation. Amend Land-Use definitions if necessary</p> <p>Investigate Manufacturing Cooperatives with resident training programs and classroom spaces</p> <p><i>Research:</i> Seth Borstein, Asst. Dean, LaGuardia Community College (CUNY)</p>	<p>CPC (special zoning districts), EDC, NYU, CUNY, Federal Agency incentives.</p>

**Economics and Transportation: Economic Development (continued)**

<u>Problem</u>	<u>Proposal</u>	<u>Agencies</u>
<p><b>Empty office space (plethora)...in non-residential buildings. The exit of garment manufacture has left many manufacturing buildings vacant and their infrastructure and configuration uncompetitive with alternative and more modern M1-5 uses</b></p>	<p>Provide for development of green businesses, increasing high-tech infrastructure build-outs, incentives for renovation, addition of floors and/or restoration (where buildings have a historical context) in Zoning modifications.</p> <p>Incentivize educational, cultural, financial institution and community facilities investment in Chinatown facilities.</p>	<p>NYC &amp; Co., EDC, CPC (special zoning for light industrial uses within mixed use environment)</p>
<p><b>Signage (Way-finding) – Chinatown lacks a coordinated municipal signage system.</b></p>	<p>Add signage directing traffic from Brooklyn, Manhattan &amp; Williamsburg Bridges to Chinatown as a major art and commerce destination – similar to South St. Seaport or Financial Center signage.</p> <p>Add similar direction/exit signs on FDR, West Side Highway, from Brooklyn/Battery Tunnel</p>	<p>DOT</p>
<p><b>Sidewalk Commerce – A traditional and cultural identity for Chinatown, it is currently lacking a logic and variety and organization to enhance its use.</b></p>	<p>More defined street commerce and street life strategy</p> <p>Test marketplace with greater variety of street vending choices</p> <p>Sidewalk cafes/entertainment presence – to extend street life and commerce into night time within compatible and defined areas.</p> <p>Cultural Hub around MOCA – Industrial conversions to Artist Work Spaces. Also, where appropriate, where new development occurs, cultural use bonuses with rent or lease protections for ongoing art use should be considered in a Special District.</p>	<p>DOT, DCA, LPC Parks, Dept of Cultural Affairs</p>

## Education and Schools

<u>Problem</u>	<u>Proposal</u>	<u>Agencies</u>
<b>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.</b>	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)**

<b><u>Problem</u></b>	<b><u>Proposal</u></b>	<b><u>Agencies</u></b>
<p><b>There is a need for political clout and outside partnerships on issues like: housing, jobs, ELL, gentrification, evictions, and translation.</b></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><b>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.</b></p>	<p>Collaborate, Fund and/or provide workshops on: ELL, parenting, computer use, voting, parent involvement, access to city services, etc.</p>	<p>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</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>

**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.

<b><u>Problem</u></b>	<b><u>Proposal</u></b>	<b><u>Agencies</u></b>
<b>Protect the rights of all immigrants and workers by fostering increased education and outreach among employees and employers about workers rights and employment discrimination.</b>	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
	Conduct a bilingual public education campaign to educate employers about their responsibilities through activities such as workshops, conferences, and literature dissemination	
<b>Encourage new businesses in the community to hire local residents</b>	Establish a local employment center utilizing a public/private partnership model	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
	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 )  Establish/augment job readiness training programs targeting industries that have been identified to be expanding in Chinatown	
<b>Improve translation and interpretation services among institutions (schools, hospitals, city, state, federal agencies) that serve immigrants in our community.</b>	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.	Mayor’s Office of Immigrant Affairs, NY Immigration Coalition, Local elected officials, family associations, business associations, community based organizations
	Create a pool of trained, qualified interpreters	
	Involve organizations from all sectors of the community in this process	

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

<b><u>Problem</u></b>	<b><u>Proposal</u></b>	<b><u>Agencies</u></b>
<p><b>Ensure that truly affordable housing (for tenants or homeowners) is available in the community for new immigrants with low/moderate incomes and limited resources.</b></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><b>Support families - youth, senior citizens, parents. Address family issues including domestic violence prevention, child abuse prevention.</b></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"> <li>• 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</li> <li>• Address elder abuse (physical, financial, emotional); connect community with financial institutions to raise their awareness of financial abuse</li> <li>• Increase support to caregivers</li> </ul>	

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

<b><u>Problem</u></b>	<b><u>Proposal</u></b>	<b><u>Agencies</u></b>
<p><b>Support families - youth, senior citizens, parents. Address family issues including domestic violence prevention, child abuse prevention. (continued)</b></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 newer population who speak variety of Chinese dialects. Utilize Chinese 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 Chinese 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: Parks, Open Space and Recreation**

<b><u>Problem</u></b>	<b><u>Proposal</u></b>	<b><u>Agencies</u></b>
<b>Increase access to open, green and recreation spaces in Chinatown for all residents. Allocate capital funding to renovate derelict parks and playgrounds. Ensure that new designs employ innovative and sustainable design practices.</b>	Revise the EDC's proposal for the East River Waterfront to include more open green space and free recreational spaces. Convert piers 35, 36 and 42 into useable public space.	EDC, CBO's, CB #3, Elected Officials.
	Identify additional city owned sites/streets that can be converted into viable open/park spaces for public use.	DOT, DPR, CB #3, CBO's & Coalitions, Elected Officials
	Allocate capital funding to renovate all of the Allen & Pike Street Malls from Houston Street to South Street and expedite capital improvements to James Madison Park.	DOT, DPR, CB #3, CBO's & Coalitions, Elected Officials
	Make better use of existing resources (e.g. underutilized and poorly programmed public housing campuses) as sites for open space.	NYCHA, Tenant Associations, DOT, Elected Officials, CBO's
	Convert underutilized DPR buildings in parks into public facilities.	DPR, CB #3, CBO's & Coalitions, Elected Officials
	Create rooftop community gardens	NYCHA, Tenant Associations, Elected Officials, Greenthumb, NYRP, CBO's
	Green existing streets and sidewalks.	DOT, NYPD, Local businesses, NYRP
	Replace the turf fields in Columbus Park.	DPR, CB #3, CBO's & Coalitions, Elected Officials
	Flexible programming spaces in park renovations	DPR, CB #3, CBO's & Coalitions, Elected Officials
	Create more innovative playgrounds in public parks. Base designs on research into how play spaces impact childhood development and best practices in the field - e.g. Imagination playground in CD #1.	DPR, CB #3, CBO's & Coalitions, Elected Officials, Design Commission

**Immigrants and Parks: Parks, Open Space and Recreation (continued)**

<b><u>Problem</u></b>	<b><u>Proposal</u></b>	<b><u>Agencies</u></b>
	Preserve and develop flexible multi-use spaces in Chinatown Parks such as the “The Pit” in SDR Park between Broome and Delancey Streets, which can be used for pick-up games and informal non-permitted activities.	DOT, NYPD, Local businesses, NYRP
<b>Expand park-based recreational opportunities for the health and well-being of all ages.</b>	Increase free activities for seniors e.g. – Free film screenings in Columbus and SDR Park.	DPR, Senior Centers, CBO’s, City Parks Foundation, Partnerships for Parks
<b>Increase safety in local parks and open space.</b>	Establish a regular and ongoing patrol of local parks (not sweeps). Work with community coalitions and the community board to monitor the success of PEP and NYPD patrols. Create an open dialogue between community based organizations and enforcement agencies to address specific problem areas such as the Broome Street bathrooms in SDR Park.	NYPD, PEP, DPR, CBO’s, CB #3
	Prohibit all vehicles from parking and driving on parkland. Establish dedicated parking spots for DPR maintenance vehicles adjacent to parks.	DPR, DOT, DPR, NYPD, Elected officials
	Increase lighting at heavily used courts to extend the hours of usage, e.g. the handball courts at Grand Street in SDR Park.	DOT, DPR, CB #3, CBO’s & Coalitions
<b>Increase cleanliness in local parks and open space.</b>	Increase the quality and amount of maintenance, and number of garbage cans in all Chinatown parks, but especially Sara D. Roosevelt Park to increase park cleanliness. Work with park stakeholders to address park specific maintenance issues.	DPR, CBO’s, CPLDC, DOS
	Allocate attendants to public restrooms in Columbus and Sara D. Roosevelt Park to promote more sanitary conditions.	DPR
	Install multi-lingual signage in all Chinatown Parks to address issues that are specific to these parks, e.g. “Do not feed the birds” signage in Columbus Park could help inform bakery owners to not dump left over pastries which attract rats.	DPR, Park coalitions & CBO’s

**Immigrants and Parks: Parks, Open Space and Recreation (continued)**

<b><u>Problem</u></b>	<b><u>Proposal</u></b>	<b><u>Agencies</u></b>
<b>Foster in local residents a sense of community ownership and stewardship of our parks by identifying roles that our local institutions can play – be it the private sector (e.g. banks, businesses, real estate owners) and public (e.g. schools).</b>	Create and support public and privately funded programs administered by local CBO's, and schools to cultivate community ownership and stewardship of Columbus, Seward, and Sara D. Roosevelt Parks and others. E.g. gardening programs for seniors and youth; adopt-a-park programs for local schools and after-school providers; public art in the park programs led by local arts organizations incorporating community input and local student involvement.	Local senior centers, local youth and community development organizations, arts and cultural organizations, Partnerships for Parks, DPR, DYCD, schools, private businesses/LES BID/CPLDC
<b>Gather community input and prioritize community uses in local parks</b>	Conduct a needs assessment (surveys, interviews, secondary research) to determine how parks can best serve as resources for parents, children, schools, and after-school programs.	DPR, CBO's, CB #3, park users, elected officials
	Establish more equitable use of athletic fields in all local parks.	DPR, recreational organizations, CB #3, park users
	Improve community bulletin boards in parks; announce available services via translated signage and flyers; provide access to community groups for posting a wide variety of park event and programming.	DPR, CBO's, CB #3, park coalitions
	Create programming in Chatham square.	Confucius plaza, CBO's, CPLDC, DOT, CB #3, local businesses
	Ensure community involvement in capital improvement and programming of parks via community visioning/ participatory design events and broad outreach to park stakeholders. DPR/DOT should report back to stakeholders on how its input is being incorporated for all capital improvement projects.	DPR, DOT, Elected Officials, CBO's, CB #3
	Create and support events that center on local cultural holidays and festivals in all public parks and spaces.	DPR, DOT, Elected Officials, CBO's, CB #3
	Create opportunities for parks and open spaces to reflect and celebrate the cultural identity and history of Chinatown via park design, art/design installations and cultural programming.	DPR, DOT, arts & cultural organizations, CB #3
	Increase capacity for park recreation centers to be more extensively utilized and provide language access.	DOT, CB #3, CBO's, Elected Officials, DYCD
	Foster communication and interagency coordination in regards to local parks and open spaces.	NYPD, DPR, DOT, CB #3, Elected Officials
	Facilitate communication, interaction and activities for children, youth and families, as well as all groups in order to promote sharing, participating and healing for community health, peace and prosperity.	DPR, CBO's