

# Tomorrow's Chinatown Area Redevelopment Plan (ARP) Engagement & Communications Summary

**Phase Two: CREATE**  
ARP Report Back – SUMMER 2022

## Project overview

Chinatown is one of a few existing culturally rich neighborhoods in Calgary, with a long and distinct history. It is a unique area within the city that is highly valued by Calgarians and visitors. Like other Chinatowns across North America, Calgary needs to consider how it can sustain and grow Chinatown's vitality through its cultural presence, community design, and its built form.

The current Chinatown ARP is now more than 30 years old. When the ARP was approved in 1986, the role of community character was not well-represented. In June 2018, Calgary City Council directed City Administration to develop a Cultural Plan for Chinatown and integrate cultural considerations into a new Chinatown ARP. This project has been named Tomorrow's Chinatown.

For the first time in Calgary, a cultural plan will be created by working with the Chinatown community to give direction to new planning policy as part of the new ARP. With guidance from the community, these new plans will help support Chinatown's future as a vibrant, culturally rich place to live, visit, work, and do business, well into the future.

Tomorrow's Chinatown is a multi-year project with four objectives:

- Outline a common vision for community character, cultural preservation and evolution—providing a level of certainty around the future of Chinatown
- Consider the built form and environment through a cultural lens and explore future opportunities for public and private investment and redevelopment
- Support the successful integration of a Green Line LRT station
- Identify specific actions that the community and other stakeholders can undertake together, to help strengthen Chinatown's vibrancy and cultural identity into the future

There are three deliverables for Tomorrow's Chinatown:

1. Cultural Plan for Chinatown
2. Culturally-based Area Redevelopment Plan for Chinatown
3. Renaming of James Short Parkade and Park

Through the ARP process, we will work together with the community, building on the vision, goals and policies outlined in [Calgary's Municipal Development Plan](#) and the [Centre City Guidebook](#).

## Tomorrow's Chinatown – three phases

1. **Phase One:** Discover – We talk to the community to understand Chinatown's unique values, strengths and weaknesses, and what hopes they have for the future.
2. **Phase Two:** Create – We meet with members of the community to find out the most important goals for Chinatown and its future.
3. **Phase Three:** Realize – We put the new ideas together with Chinatown residents, businesses, cultural groups and community partners into the cultural plan and the ARP.

## Report scope

This report covers the Chinatown ARP-focused engagement undertaken during Phase Two: Create, which took place between winter 2020 and spring 2022.

## Communications and engagement program overview

The work underway during Phase One: Discover assessed the need and desire for a culturally-based ARP for one of Calgary's most culturally distinctive neighbourhoods. The outcomes of this work reaffirmed the importance of advancing the Chinatown Cultural Plan and the significance of developing the ARP through a cultural lens as part of Phase Two: Create.

A number of key themes and areas of opportunity emerged from our Phase One: Discover engagement. Key Themes from Phase One:

- *Food, Merchants and Tourism*  
Chinatown as a community valued for its independent businesses that offer cultural food, shopping and tourism experiences.
- *Culture, Creative and Learning*  
Chinatown as a community known for its artistic production, creativity and opportunities for cultural learning.
- *Housing, Health and Social Purpose*  
Chinatown as a community that provides residents the housing and support services they need, through all life stages.
- *Places, Spaces and Natural Environment*  
Chinatown as a community that expresses its culture, history and stories in the physical environment.
- *People, Voices and Experiences*  
Chinatown as a community that celebrates its diversity, and offers people harmony and a sense of belonging.

## Engagement spectrum of participation

The Engage Spectrum level for the second phase of public engagement was 'Consult', which is defined as "We will consult with stakeholders to obtain feedback and ensure their input is considered and incorporated to the maximum extent possible. We undertake to advise how consultation impacted the decisions and outcomes".

## Phase Two: Create – objectives

- Build community awareness of the project and opportunities to get involved
- Build trust, increase understanding and readiness for change through transparent information about the planning process, the intent of the local policy planning and how it fits into the larger planning process and the community redevelopment lifecycle
- Build stakeholder and participant understanding of the intent of engagement
- Confirm the future vision for growth
- Discuss and collect feedback connected to big ideas, focus areas and focus topics
- Identify areas and topics that require further exploration

The feedback collected from the City-led engagement program will be used to help the project team analyze opportunities, issues, and build alternatives to create a new culturally influenced ARP.

## What did we do and who did we talk to?

Our ARP engagement program during phase two took place winter 2020 – spring 2022, with broad public online engagement occurring November 2020 to February 2021 and April 2022 to June 2022 and targeted virtual and in-person engagement with the Tomorrow's Chinatown Advisory Group and members of the public between November 2020 through June 2022.

### Engagement during COVID-19

In light of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and the State of Local Emergency declared by The City of Calgary, there were broad implications for in-person events. Phase Two: Create was conducted during 2020-2021 and entirely online via The City's [engagement portal](#) and through online virtual meetings. In 2022, the implications from COVID-19 were more relaxed, resulting in hosting a mix of virtual and in-person events.

### Online public engagement

Prior to drafting the ARP, online public engagement took place from Nov. 23, 2020 to Feb. 16, 2021. A draft of the ARP was released for public input on April 19, 2022. Further public engagement was undertaken from April 19, 2022 to June 30, 2022. In both instances, participants were able to learn more about the project and were asked to provide their feedback online via the engagement portal.

More than 6,000 individuals visited the Phase Two: Create feedback web page, providing 210 contributions.

## Create Phase – Public conversations: Nov. 23, 2020 to Feb.16, 2021

During our public conversations, workshops were held with the community to answer a number of questions and discuss topics that framed the conversation around the future of Chinatown.

### How do we activate/secure more spaces for creative and cultural uses?

On Nov. 30, 2020 (12 participants), and Dec.1, 2020 (13 participants), participated in a virtual engagement session hosted on MS Teams, addressing the following questions:

- How could we make better use of existing spaces, private or public, indoor and outdoor, and give more “canvas” to cultural expressions and activities?
- What ideal locations in Chinatown can be used to celebrate its culture and history?
- What more can be done with Sien Lok Park and other open spaces?
- Can public art or decorative elements be used to reinforce Chinatown’s edges?

*\*\*A summary of input specific to this session can be viewed [here](#).*

### What investments are needed to attract young professionals and families?

On Dec. 10, 2020 (10 participants), participated in a virtual engagement session hosted on MS Teams, addressing the following questions:

- What housing options would young professionals and families need in Chinatown?
- What amenities and services are missing in Chinatown?
- What other cultural or lifestyle needs (specific to this younger demographic) are need in Chinatown?

*\*\*A summary of input specific to this session can be viewed [here](#).*

## Create Phase – Targeted community engagement; Jan.18 to Dec.15, 2021

### Tomorrow’s Chinatown Advisory Group

When The City launched the Tomorrow's Chinatown project, there was a nomination and application process to confirm and on-board participants for the citizen-led Advisory Group. Twenty-five members from the community, with close ties and leadership positions in the community, were selected to participate on the Advisory Group.

Throughout the project, members of the Advisory Group discussed the broader planning interests of the area, brought different perspectives and viewpoints to the table, and acted as a sounding board for The City. During Phase Two – Create, there were six sessions:

#### *Advisory Group Session 7 – engagement session*

#### *Mobility: How can we find opportunity in better transportation? – Jan. 18, 2021*

This advisory group session focused on how Chinatown can find opportunity with better accessibility and mobility, including the planned improvements related to the future nearby Greenline station and BRT infrastructure along Centre Street.

*\*\*A summary of input specific to this session can be viewed [here](#).*

*Advisory Group Session 8 – engagement session*

*Connections: How do we best connect to other neighborhoods? – Jan. 25, 2021*

This advisory group session focused on ways to leverage Chinatown’s enviable location, and make better connections with surrounding neighborhoods and activity hubs.

*\*\*A summary of input specific to this session can be viewed [here](#).*

*Advisory Group Session 9 – update session*

*Q3 project update: June 21, 2021*

This advisory group meeting focused on project updates for both the cultural plan and the ARP.

*Advisory Group Session 10 – update session*

*Q4 project milestone update: Nov. 8, 2021*

This advisory group meeting focused on project milestones, project timeline, reviewed the terms of reference, and reviewed the draft land-use and density maps.

*Advisory Group Session 11: update session*

*Tomorrow’s Chinatown Program Update – March 28, 2022*

This advisory group meeting focused on community updates, project timelines, introduction of the Cultural Resource Map, James Short engagement update, and transition from “planning to action”.

*Advisory Group Session 12 – update session*

*Q2 Project Update Meeting – April 25, 2022*

This advisory group meeting focused on an ARP update/engagement overview, Executive Committee Update, sustainment and transition discussion, cultural plan update, James Short update.

**Chinatown landowner and developer workshops**

On May 26, 2021, landowners and developers within the Chinatown plan area were invited to participate in a workshop to discuss the current challenges and future opportunities for development within Chinatown. We held a 1.5 hour workshop, where we discussed topics within the ARP’s scope:

- Application of the density framework
- Missing amenities
- Challenges for development
- Ideas and input brought forward by the group

During the meeting, participants shared their issues, concerns, and aspirations for the Chinatown area. Five participants attended the session. *Please see the session slides [here](#).*

On November 10, 2021, a follow-up workshop was held with 12 landowners and developers. The project team highlighted the draft land use concept plan, density framework and the character areas framework. *Please see the session slides [here](#).*

On December 14 and 15, 2021, the project team hosted drop-in conversations for Advisory Group members, landowners and interested area developers. The purpose of these discussions was to discuss density and bonusing frameworks. Sixteen participants attended these sessions over the two days. A frequently asked question document was put together based on the questions asked by participants at this session. *Please see the FAQ document [here](#).*

### **Online targeted community engagement**

Online targeted community engagement took place from Sept. 3, 2021, to Sept. 19, 2021. The intent of this targeted engagement was to gain input from members of the Advisory Group, as well as interested members of the Chinatown community – people who opted in to receive email updates about the project – about a vision for Tomorrow’s Chinatown ARP.

There were 10 people who provided their input on the vision. *A summary of input specific to this targeted online engagement can be viewed [here](#).*

### **Create Phase - Public conversations: Feb. 14, 2022 to June 30, 2022**

#### **Chinatown Engagement Days Virtual Public Open House**

On Feb. 14, 22, and 28, the project team held three virtual open house sessions. The ARP team was present to answer questions and provide participants with information about the ARP. Ten people attended these sessions.

#### **Draft ARP Released to Advisory Group Feb. 23, 2022**

The Advisory Group was the first to receive the draft ARP for review. Members were provided virtual and hard copy options and asked to provide their feedback. Feedback was collected through email, over the phone, and during online meetings. The project team held several virtual drop-in sessions where Advisory Group members could discuss elements of the draft ARP in depth with the project team. This initial review helped the project team make further revisions prior to releasing an official draft version to the general public for review.

#### **Calgary Planning Commission (CPC) Technical Workshop**

On March 24, 2022, the project team met with members of CPC in a closed-session meeting to review the draft ARP. Feedback was provided during the meeting as well as via correspondence with individual CPC members prior to and after the meeting. High-level feedback was received and captured based on four guiding questions posed by the project team:

Responses and follow-up to comments were recorded with several additional technical exercises and edits being done as a result; for example:

- An internal workshop conducted with experienced planners and urban designers to test applicability of proposed policy against development applications
- Length of the document condensed for better readability

- Context added to Comprehensive Planning Site 2 (3.1.3.2), as it became apparent some readers would not be aware of the history and impact of the Harry Hays site

## **Public Review of the Draft ARP: Engagement Events**

From April 19 to June 30, 2022, the draft ARP was presented to the public for review. This step was one of the first times the project team was able to host in-person events, where guests received a presentation prior to providing feedback through a paper feedback form. Four events were hosted during this time, including one virtual event:

- *April 27:* Mandarin-language event co-hosted with the Calgary Chinese Elderly Citizens Association (CCECA). Language interpretation was provided by a member of the Advisory Group. Approximately 35 people attended this session.
- *April 28:* Cantonese-language event co-hosted with the CCECA. Language interpretation was provided by a staff member of the CCECA. Approximately 35 people attended this event.
- *May 5:* A virtual session was hosted through Microsoft Teams with information being presented in both Cantonese and English. Approximately 20 people attended this event.
- *May 7:* A final event was hosted at the Chinese Cultural Centre. Round tables were set up for discussion and display boards were also hosted around the room. Following the presentation, the project team answered questions and solicited feedback on the draft ARP from attendees. Approximately 45 people attended this event.

## **Targeted Community Meetings**

In addition to the public events, a number of targeted community conversations were also hosted. Advisory Group members were also asked to identify specific community groups that the project team meet:

- ***Chinatown Community Association***  
The project team presented to the board of directors to receive feedback on the draft ARP.
- ***Chinatown CA, Chinatown BIA, Chinese Cultural Centre, Sien Lok Society and the CCECA***  
The project team presented to representatives from each of these organizations to receive feedback on the draft ARP.
- ***United Calgary Chinese Association (UCCA) and Chinatown Development Foundation***  
On April 28, a presentation was co-hosted at Bowside Manor. This event was organized by the President of the UCCA and The City's community relations staff member, as a way to improve connections with more of Chinatown's Tongs and Associations.

Roughly 60 leaders of various Chinatown Tongs and Associations attended this event. At this initial meeting, some members expressed they had not been directly invited to participate earlier in the process. Regardless, all parties agreed to move forward and work together. The community organizations established the Chinatown Development Review Board (CDRB), comprised of 16 representatives from the UCCA membership, to work with The City in reviewing the draft ARP. The President worked with The City's



community relations staff member to plan and host three additional engagement discussions at Bowside Manor:

- *May 18:* The City listened to the CDRB priorities. The two parties worked together to craft a plan for working together through future meetings.
  - *June 4:* The City received feedback on the subjects of local economy and safety within the neighbourhood. Topics outside of the scope of the ARP were also discussed, including the community priority of parking.
  - *June 18:* The City received feedback on the subjects of density, affordable housing, culture and the Cultural Plan, and transportation and mobility safety.
- ***Chinatown Businesses***

On June 21, a virtual engagement for Chinatown businesses was co-hosted with The Chinatown BIA and The City, which was initiated by the BIA requesting an opportunity for its members to participate. Merchants came with questions and feedback on the draft ARP, which the project team supported through answering or recording feedback. The presentation was hosted online, recorded and shared with the BIA for distribution to other Chinatown businesses, who were invited to provide feedback through the online survey. Approximately 20 people attended this event.

## How did people hear about engagement?

### Communications and marketing overview

A communications and marketing strategy was developed to inform citizens about the project and promote and encourage Calgarians to participate in the online Phase Two Create questionnaire.

The City used a number of tactics to inform citizens, with information posted in English and in Traditional and Simplified Chinese. A number of communication channels were used from mid November 2020 to February 2021, and April 2022 to June 2022:

- Website updates
- Communication with Chinatown Advisory Group
- Hand delivery of event promotions to buildings throughout the community
- Council and Councillor Ward updates
- Paid social media advertisement through campaigns on Facebook and WeChat
- Paid advertising campaign using ethnic print media (Sing Tao and Canadian Chinese Times), as well as in-kind radio promotions from Advisory Group members
- Paid advertising using ethnic radio (Fairchild), as well as in-kind newspaper promotions from Advisory Group members
- Paid advertising using YouTube
- Monthly email newsletter to Tomorrow's Chinatown project subscriber list
- Direct mail piece to Chinatown property owners
- Project updates through adjacent project communications



The following is an approximate number of individuals reached through select communications channels during the Phase Two Create engagement.

- Direct mail = 2,065 pieces
- Social media = 434,997
  - Facebook (Reach) = 319,590
  - Facebook (Reach) for Urban Alliance focus groups = 53,120
  - WeChat (Reads) = 693
  - Instagram (Reach) = 51,659
  - Twitter (Impressions) = 9,935
- Video advertising = reached 212,214, an average of 4.5 times, with 201 page view conversions
- Print advertising (2 ads) = 57,000 circulation
- Radio advertising = 90,000 listeners for Chinese programming
- Chinatown subscriber newsletter = 3 newsletters, 282 total circulation
- Eau Claire improvements communication = 222

## What did we ask?

Through our public engagement we asked a variety of questions to help increase the project teams understanding of themes that were identified during Phase One: Discover:

- Culture, Creative, and Learning
- Housing, Health, and Social Purpose
- Places, Spaces, and Natural Environment

## Create Phase – Public Engagement Questions

Nov. 23, 2020, to Feb. 16, 2021

### Culture, Creative, and Learning

- How can we make Sien Lok Park more of a destination in Chinatown?
- How can we re-imagine and bring programming to public realm and open spaces in Chinatown?
- Where in Chinatown are the ideal places to locate interpretive features?
  - That celebrate the arrival to the community i.e. Gateway feature(s)
  - That commemorate and share the history of Chinatown
  - That reinforce the communities' boundaries

### Housing, Health, and Social Purpose

- What housing options would young professionals and families need in Chinatown?
- What amenities and services are missing in Chinatown?
- If Chinatown is a mixed-use community, what is the ideal mix between residential and non-residential uses?
  - 50% residential / 50% non-residential
  - 60% residential / 40% non-residential
  - 70% residential / 30% non-residential

- Other (please specify)
- Please tell us why you chose the mix of uses above?

### **Places, Spaces, and Natural Environment**

- Is the Chinese Cultural Centre a landmark that needs to be recognized and protected?
- What other landmarks in Chinatown exist that deserve this level of attention and recognition?
- What character defining elements would you like to see and experience in Calgary's Chinatown?
  - traditional Asian architectural motifs (such as pendants, decorative finials) found in Calgary's Chinatown or elsewhere
  - contemporary/symbolic interpretations of traditional Asian architectural elements (expressed in forms, massing, patterns, materials, colours, etc.)
  - decorative façade elements (ornamental columns and beams, patterned screen walls, window displays, murals, canopies, lanterns, etc.) emphasizing the distinctiveness of businesses
  - creative building lighting which animates the nightscape and highlight entries and architectural elements
  - bi-lingual building signage and interpretive signage which define the distinctive character and tell the stories of the community
  - a featured gateway to Chinatown at an appropriate location
  - public art which relates to the history and culture of Chinatown
- What character defining element(s) is Chinatown missing that are seen in other Chinatowns' across North America and the world?

## **Create Phase – Public Engagement Questions**

**April 19, 2022 to June 30, 2022**

### **Active Frontages**

Do you feel these streets are appropriate for active frontages? Would active frontage in these areas help to evolve Chinatown in the way you desire? Why/why not?

### **Public Realm Improvements**

What public realm improvements do you feel would be important for us to include in the Area Redevelopment Plan? Are we missing something that is important to you?

### **Parking**

Under the new Area Redevelopment Plan, new developments would be required to designate 25% of their provided parking stalls for short stay parking. Do you feel this new requirement would help to address the parking supply in the community? Why/why not?

### **Community Review Process**

We understand there is desire for an improved community review process of

new private developments. What do you feel could be done to support an improved community review process?

### **Distinct Culture**

This is Calgary's first culturally-informed Area Redevelopment Plan (ARP). Do you feel that the distinct culture of Chinatown is reflected and respected in this draft ARP? Why/why not?

### **Area Redevelopment Plan (sentiments)**

What do you like about this draft plan? What do you not like about this draft plan?

### **Questions**

What questions do you have?

## **What did we hear?**

The high-level themes that emerged throughout all of the comments received in phase two include:

Create Phase – Public engagement responses  
Nov. 23, 2020, to Feb. 16, 2021

### **Culture, Creative, and Learning**

- Enhanced cultural character/ identity for Sien Lok Park
- New programming for Sien Lok Park
- Sien Lok park needs more activity related amenities
- More scheduled events, performances are needed in public spaces in Chinatown
- The addition of outdoor markets in Chinatown
- Integrating arts and cultural aspects to the streetscape
- An interpretive feature as part of the Gateway feature on Centre Street near the bridge
- Interpretive features along the existing boundary of Chinatown
- Interpretive features at The Chinese Cultural Centre, Sein Lok Park, and Hull's Terrace

### **Housing, Health, and Social Purpose**

- Condos and apartments are the most desired housing option in Chinatown
- A requirement for bigger layouts than current housing stock available
- Housing with amenities close-by
- Housing options need to be set-up to support multigenerational living
- Food, retail, and professional service amenities are missing in the area
- More indoor recreational/entertainment amenities are needed in the area
- A preference for 50% residential / 50% non-residential as an ideal mix for Chinatown

## **Places, Spaces, and Natural Environment**

- The Cultural Centre needs to be recognized and protected
- Reservations about preserving the Chinese Cultural Centre, specifically about the opportunity cost of keeping the existing building
- Buildings, as a whole, along Centre Street towards the bridge deserve recognition and attention. They act as gateway into Chinatown
- Older buildings should be protected/preserved
- Dragon City Mall is a significant landmark in the community
- The importance of having an identifiable Gateway into Chinatown
- Chinatown is missing a traditional Chinese garden
- Retain Chinatown's defining identity by making traditional foods and flavors more prominent
- More traditional streetscape for Chinatown is desired
- Inspiration from other Chinatowns in the world is desired

## **Create Phase – Public engagement responses April 19, 2022 to June 30, 2022**

### **Active Frontage**

- Active frontage could help evolve Chinatown
- More active frontage would help to revitalize Chinatown
- Active frontage could have a positive impact for local businesses
- Active frontage could contribute to attracting more pedestrians to the area

### **Public Realm Improvements**

- The area would benefit from integrating more arts and cultural aspects to the streetscape
- Parking in Chinatown could be improved and traffic calming measures would be beneficial for the area
- Desire for the streets of Chinatown to be more vibrant and welcoming to visitors

### **Parking**

- Need more parking options in Chinatown
- Parking in Chinatown needs to be more affordable
- Prioritize alternate modes of transportation like walking & wheeling, and transit in Chinatown

### **Community Review Process**

- More community/resident involvement in the community review process
- More awareness and advertising for the review process of new private developments
- More business community involvement in the community review process
- More time to review development proposals

### **Distinct Culture**

- Yes, the distinct culture of Chinatown is reflected and respected in the draft ARP
- Unsure if the distinct culture of Chinatown is reflected and respected in the draft ARP
- Draft ARP is lacking a traditional Chinatown look and feel

### **Area Redevelopment Plan (like)**

- Positive sentiments shared about the draft ARP
- Pleased that the ARP is culturally informed
- The plan integrates more transportation options into the area

### **Area Redevelopment Plan (dislike)**

- The plan lacks residential housing options
- The plan does not prioritize businesses in the area
- Concerns about increased population density and building heights
- Various comments about the future new Greenline station in Chinatown were made

### **Questions**

- Several questions posed to the project team about the draft ARP. High-level topics included:
  - Timeline for redevelopment
  - Population density concerns
  - Parking issues
  - Chinese cultural influence considerations
  - Process related questions

For a full summary and description of individual themes broken down by each question with examples, please see the Summary of input section below.

## Summary of input

Below is a summary of the main themes that were most prevalent in the comments received for each question, from online engagement as well as meetings within the community. Each theme includes summary examples of verbatim comments. These are the exact words used. To ensure we capture all responses accurately, verbatim comments have not been altered. In some cases, we may have utilized only a portion of your comment that spoke to a particular theme.

Create Phase – Nov. 23, 2020 to Feb. 16, 2021

### Creative, Culture, and Learning

How can we make Sien Lok Park more of a destination in Chinatown?		
Theme:	Explanation and sample verbatim comments:	City response. What we're doing:
<b>Enhanced cultural character/ identity for the park</b>	<p>Respondents felt that Sien Lok Park needs a more developed Chinese identity and traditional Chinese design to draw visitors and invite them to spend time in the park.</p> <p>Sample comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- "We should start a long-term project to convert Sien Lok Park into a Traditional Chinese Garden, at which you could collect symbolical admission fee to help with maintaining the Garden, plus accept donations to maintain the running cost of the Garden. If you build it, people will come and visit. Admission fee must not be high, must be symbolic."</li> <li>- "Right now, one would not be able to see any Chinese cultural influence in that so-called park. I think we should source an architect from China if we can't find a qualified one here to design a space that could incorporate a modern Chinese theme with local elements of natural wood and rocks. Something with lanterns, outdoor exercise equipment, and ideally a koi pond. Chinese pavilion and Chinese bridge over the Bow would be amazing!"</li> </ul>	<p>Chapter 4 of the ARP identifies three Character Areas with individualized policies.</p> <p>The ARP recognizes Sien Lok Park as part of the "Cultural Core" character area," and the structure is identified on the Inventory of Evaluated Historic Resources by Heritage Calgary.</p> <p>Specific policy of the ARP per section 4.2.3.2 Heritage resources states:</p> <p>In recognition of Sien Lok Park's role as a significant cultural landmark and amenity, support the redesign or reconstruction of the park to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. better integrate it with surrounding development. Change and/or redevelopment on properties adjacent to Sien Lok Park must demonstrate sensitivity to this cultural landscape, including community consultation;</li> <li>ii. recognize the legacy of the Chinese community; and,</li> <li>iii. incorporate opportunities to further recognize the historic downtown and riverbank preservation efforts of the Sien Lok Society and Calgary's Chinese community.</li> </ul>

		<p>Sien Lok Park is also identified in Appendix 3: Public Realm Strategy as a significant cultural landmark. This section also provides recommendations for future improvements to the park, including more culturally inspired amenities.</p>
<p><b>New programming in the park</b></p>	<p>Participants thought that special events, attractions, and festivals would make Sien Lok Park more of a destination park to visit in Chinatown. Sample comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- “activate the space, host events, invite people, a great spot for summer music fest, movie night, theater projects, art projects.”</li> <li>- “markets”</li> <li>- “year round markets.”</li> <li>- “invite local businesses to open vendor carts all around the park.”</li> <li>- “promote/pay street performers to contribute to the “vibes” of the park.”</li> </ul>	<p>Chinatown Cultural Plan “sidebar” – Pg. 27: Action E3.1 and Theme E Map of Aspirations (A)</p> <p>One of the five core ideas that is foundational to the new Chinatown ARP expands on “spaces for celebration”</p> <p>Draft ARP (page 27) - parks and open space area will now be permissible for commercial services or pop-up and temporary uses that complement the primary function of the site, where possible;</p> <p>P. 29 – civic areas will now be able to host function of the area to support community gatherings, festivals, cultural activities and special events</p>
<p><b>Park amenities</b></p>	<p>Respondents felt that the park needs more activity-related amenities to draw users to spend time there as a routine part of an active lifestyle. Sample comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- “Playground and spray park.”</li> <li>- “It feel like a large open space, but with no goal other than to be a green space. Given that the Calgary Chinese Elderly Citizens’ Association is nearby, it would be a good space to promote healthy living with an accessible outdoor fitness park.”</li> </ul>	<p>Strategic direction in Appendix 3, Green Network, states that Sien Lok Park is a significant cultural landmark and key open space resource in Chinatown. Recommendations are to beautify, activate and increase the cultural significance of the park. A number of other actions are listed in the ARP.</p>



## Creative, Culture, and Learning

How can we re-imagine and bring programming to public realm and open spaces in Chinatown?		
Theme:	Explanation and sample verbatim comments:	City response. What we're doing:
<b>Outdoor activities (events, performances)</b>	<p>Respondents felt that scheduled entertainment and events were very important and that public spaces are needed.</p> <p>Sample comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- "open renting of the stages/public areas of Chinatown to all that want to rent it."</li> <li>- "Have historical walking tours and explain the history. Chinatown needs to be a destination not an area to pass through (Centre St) . The Chinese Cultural Centre is too far removed from Chinatown. You need to re-imagine the look and landscape of 2nd Ave to link the two."</li> <li>- "Music and theatre/shows."</li> </ul>	<p>Policy 5.1.5.c states that "The temporary closure of roadways should be supported to provide additional public space within Chinatown for community events."</p> <p>Second Ave is identified in the ARP as a significant corridor for both its connection between the Chinese Cultural Centre, Centre Street, and the Bow River and it's historic streetscape.</p>
<b>Outdoor markets</b>	<p>Participants identified outdoor markets that include public performances, and outdoor entertainment as an important kind of programming for open spaces in Chinatown.</p> <p>Sample comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- "In the open space of Chinatown, create stalls, stands or booth that allows registered artists, snack sellers, traditional finger food sellers, etc to come and set up their booth for free to sell their arts, snacks, finger food or traditional Chinese small items (like hand fan, chopsticks and decorations)..."</li> <li>- "More outdoor markets."</li> <li>- "Pop-up exhibits, adding photo walls and spaces with more colours and seating spaces to allow for people to walk around and sit somewhere and maybe have speakers in walls playing Chinese music..."</li> </ul>	<p>Chapter 4 policies of the ARP seek to preserve and enhance various streetscapes in Chinatown along with improvements to the public realm to all for greater festival and events, support connectivity, and promote usable space for events and other activities.</p>
<b>Integrating arts and cultural</b>	<p>Participants indicated that the significance of Chinatown's cultural character is important and needs to be</p>	<p>The three Character Areas of Chapter 4 highlight public</p>

<b>aspects to the streetscape</b>	<p>considered when re-imagining the area through the beautification of the streetscape.</p> <p>Sample comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- “More art, colour and vibrancy and modernization. Everything in Chinatown looks old and worn down.”</li> <li>- “Public art that is educational and talks about the positive contributions and history of Asian Canadians.”</li> <li>- “Add more Chinese modern elements to attract young Chinese generation.”</li> <li>- “Use the space to depict the Chinese history in the area.”</li> </ul>	expressions of Chinatown’s “look and feel”
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## Creative, Culture, and Learning

<b>Where in Chinatown are the ideal places to locate interpretative features?</b>		
<i>Theme:</i>	<i>Explanation and sample verbatim comments:</i>	<i>City response. What we’re doing:</i>
<b>Gateway feature</b> on Centre Street near the bridge	<p>Gateway features are important markers that announce to visitors that they are entering a significant part of the city. Respondents felt that traditional markers should be placed at well-travelled and highly visible north-south intersections, particularly near the Centre Street bridge. Sample comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- “A Traditional Chinese Gateway right on Centre street at the bottom of the Centre Street Bridge and near the River Path is the Ideal spot, where it could be seen far away from different directions. It should be North and South facing on Centre Street. You could see it easily from both North and South of Centre Street. Is also on the intersection with Daqing Ave SW, where the Cultural Centre is on, so this would make it a central icon.”</li> <li>- “I believe that the gateway will serve as an iconic entry point to Chinatown along the main North-South axis for incoming/exiting traffic down Lion’s Gate Bridge. Its location at the intersection of 2nd Ave SW and Centre St would be a beautiful architectural addition that marks the community in the larger downtown</li> </ul>	<p>Figure 8 of the ARP outlines significant Gateways, Landmarks and Corridors. Section 3.3.3 includes associated policies for development within identified gateway locations. These include building and public realm design to accentuate these areas as well as including public art and other interpretative elements that offer a visible and physical gateway to Chinatown. (p.45)</p>

	<p>realm. This location would also be easily identifiable and viewed from Crescent Heights, a great photo opportunity!"</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- "A gateway(Paifang/牌坊) erected inside this Chinatown, for example, at the crossroad/intersection of Centre St. N, Daqing Ave SW and 2 Ave SW, which can stay away from but align with the historic Centre St Bridge meanwhile be practical to build, should be an interesting idea."</li> <li>- "It's quite obvious to me, that when you drive into Centre Street, as soon as you're off the bridge, you are in Chinatown territory. The bridge is a gateway to Chinatown."</li> </ul>	
<b>At the existing boundary of Chinatown</b>	<p>The existing boundary of Chinatown was identified a place where interpretive features could be placed. Sample comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- "When you walk along the river, you can feel, that you are on the outskirts of Chinatown, and into another neighbourhood. An in-between."</li> </ul>	Figure 8 of the ARP outlines significant Gateways, Landmarks and Corridors.
<b>Existing historic landmarks/sites</b>	<p>Only a few of locations for interpretive features were identified. These included the Chinese Cultural Centre, Sein Lok Park, and Hull's Terrace. Sample comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- "I myself am not that familiar with Sien Lok Park's history, but in communication with community members who have been in Chinatown for a long time, it seems that this park is of significant cultural heritage and should be considered as an interpretive site."</li> <li>- "Hulls Terrace."</li> <li>- "I can't seem to move the marker. I meant to select the cultural centre."</li> </ul>	Figure 8 of the ARP outlines significant Gateways, Landmarks and Corridors.

## Housing, Health, and Social Purpose

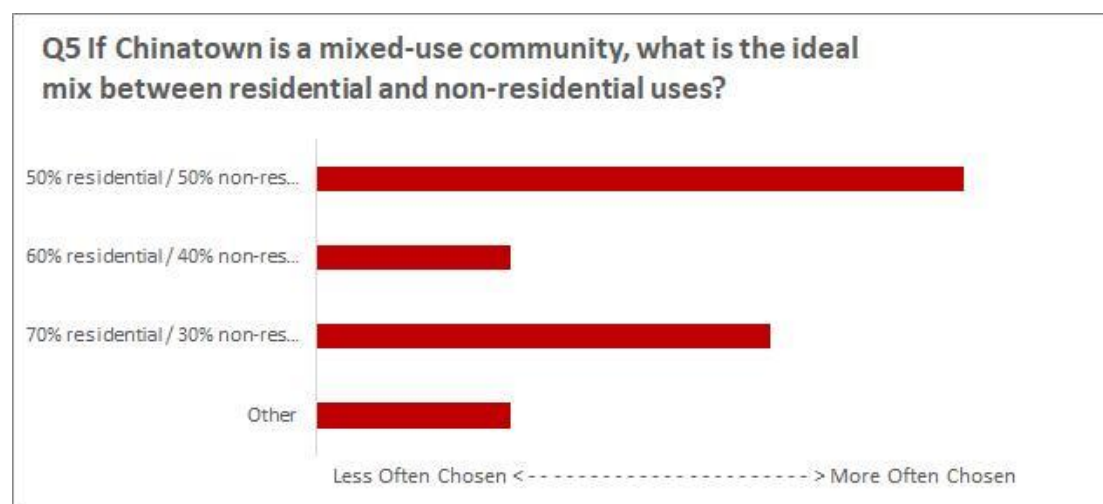
What housing options would young professionals and families need in Chinatown?		
Theme:	Explanation and sample verbatim comments:	City response. What we're doing:
<b>Condo/apartment</b>	<p>Participants identified condos and apartments as the most desired housing option in Chinatown.</p> <p>Sample comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- "Regular low-cost condo or apartment buildings for white collar couples or professionals are needed to attract regular downtown workers to live there, not mostly senior manors or subsidized living. Building with sufficient carparks would attract downtown workers to stay there."</li> <li>- "Condos, apartments."</li> <li>- "Condo buildings with enclosed amenities (gym, common entertaining space, restaurant, concierge service) for young professionals... large condo units with multiple bedrooms."</li> <li>- "Apartment for young generation's old parents immigrating from China."</li> </ul>	<p>The ARP states as a core idea for Chinatown to be an attractive and affordable place to live. The type of housing options is an important element in this. Section 3.3.5 speaks specifically to housing in the neighbourhood. Policies in this section encourage housing that supports multigenerational living and that is appropriate for families.</p>
<b>Bigger layout than current housing stock available</b>	<p>Participants identified the need for larger spaces than the current housing stock has to offer in Chinatown.</p> <p>Sample comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- "Mixed used housing where it is multifamily and single family. larger units. and with amenities suitable and safe for families"</li> <li>- Affordable housing with bigger layouts, parking and low property tax..."</li> <li>- Affordable housing and large floor plan space.</li> <li>- "large condo units with multiple bedrooms"</li> </ul>	<p>Policy direction in 3.3.5 is given for developments to include more two, three, or more bedroom units.</p>
<b>Housing with amenities close</b>	<p>Participants identified that its important for the housing options in Chinatown to have in-building amenities (such as gyms, common entertaining spaces) and/or to be close to amenities.</p> <p>Sample comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- "Clean, safe, and convenient neighborhood, and practice floor plan"</li> </ul>	<p>A mix of land uses is generally a must within the ARP with a focus on providing amenities and services to support residents' daily life. Improved parks and open spaces and appropriate</p>

	<p>layout building. I think the clean and safe neighborhood is a deal breaker for now.”</p> <p>“... If there were more opportunities for daycare and community development centres where kids can go and meet new people and become friends with their neighbours after school and on weekends, that might be a great opportunity for community engagement and involvement.”</p> <p>- “...Condo buildings with enclosed amenities (gym, common entertaining space, restaurant, concierge service) for young professionals...”</p> <p>- “...Vicinity to senior residences would allow families to care for their elderly more conveniently and the seniors to assist with childcare...”</p>	<p>businesses/services are identified as crucial elements in the ARP.</p>
<b>Multigenerational living</b>	<p>Participants shared the importance of supporting senior family members and as such indicated that housing options need to be set-up to be able to facilitate this type of family structure.</p> <p>Sample comments:</p> <p>- “Like everyone else. Most Asian children like to keep their parents close by as its a tradition to take care of them. So, a place for my family but a place for my elderly parents who are not far away and a community for them filled with elders.”</p> <p>- “Mixed used housing where it is multifamily and single family. larger units. and with amenities suitable and safe for families.”</p>	<p>The ARP emphasizes multigenerational living where younger generations can remain close to and more easily care for older generations. The mix of housing types and sizes within section 3.3.5 of the ARP is intended to enable this policy directive.</p> <p>-</p>

<b>What amenities and services are missing in Chinatown?</b>		
<i>Theme:</i>	<i>Explanation and sample verbatim comments:</i>	<i>City response. What we're doing:</i>
<b>Food amenities</b>	<p>Respondents felt strongly that the lack of access to groceries and fast food was an important element that is missing in the area.</p> <p>Sample comments:</p> <p>- Coffee shops, bars, regular western grocery shops, regular western bakery, 7-11 type of convenient shop.</p>	<p>Active frontage policies in 3.1.1 ensure frequent retail frontages in certain areas.</p> <p>Larger at grade commercial uses (such as a grocery store) are limited to the Edge Area so as to preserve</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Convenience stores, grocery stores, chinese fast food take-out, robust food courts</li> </ul>	the historical streetscapes in other areas. These types of larger uses can be accommodated however across multiple levels or above grade, similar to grocery stores seen in other downtown neighbourhoods.
<b>Retail amenities</b>	<p>Respondents felt that the existing mix of retail shopping options isn't sufficient, and that more variety is needed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Sample comments: variety in shopping (flowers, fast food outlets [preferably Chinese], bookstore)</li> <li>- Full shopping--lifestyle, wide selection marketplace. Currently only small grocers with limited goods.</li> </ul>	Policy in section 3.1.1 of the ARP ensures mixed use development is maintained across the neighbourhood. The APR allows, enables, and encourages a wide variety of uses.
<b>Professional services</b>	<p>Several essential and professional services were identified as missing from the area, specifically medical and social support related.</p> <p>Sample comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- emergency and housing services, social/ therapeutic services,</li> <li>- medical clinic</li> </ul>	Policy in 3.1.1 ensures mixed use development is maintained across the neighbourhood. The APR allows, enables, and encourages a wide variety of uses.
<b>Recreational/entertainment amenities</b>	<p>Respondents felt that there needs to be more indoor recreational/entertainment amenities.</p> <p>Sample comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- community centre, sports/ recreational facilities, gyms, cinema, dance/raving space etc</li> <li>- Sport center for tai chi, table tennis, badminton</li> <li>- Kids activities place like playgrounds.</li> </ul>	These types of uses are important to supporting daily life for residents, as identified in the core ideas in the ARP. Integration of these types of amenities in new developments is encouraged through policy direction in Chapter 3.

Respondents for the following question indicated that they favored a preference for 50% residential / 50% non-residential as an ideal mix for Chinatown.



Please tell us why you chose the mix of uses above?		
Theme:	Explanation and sample verbatim comments:	City response. What we're doing:
<b>50% residential / 50% non-residential</b>	<p>A fifty-fifty split was chosen most often by respondents, with comments emphasizing the need for balance and the ability to provide the stores and services that residents want most.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- "Good balance to support senior population while leaving enough space for businesses"</li> <li>- "It's downtown Calgary and it should integrate in a business/retail/entertainment landscape."</li> </ul>	<p>Engagement feedback was taken into consideration along with an overall technical and geodemographics assessment.</p> <p>ARP policy requires 60% residential development beyond the threshold of 4.0 FAR of commercial development.</p>
<b>60% residential / 40% non-residential</b>	<p>Respondents were least supportive of a mix with only slightly more residential than non-residential. The comments however emphasized that having a residential base can be attractive to businesses and encourage new ones to open in the area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- "It is a location with limited space and demands higher costs which means it's premium. There is no need for a lot of office space since we have an abundance of that here. Residents can act as an anchor to the businesses if we can do more to attract them. It shouldn't be difficult given the location along the river."</li> </ul>	<p>Comments were taken into consideration as part of an overall technical and geodemographics assessment.</p> <p>ARP policy requires 60% residential development beyond the threshold of 4.0 FAR of commercial development.</p>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- “Increase in residential to attract people to the area and have enough businesses to attract those people to the living spaces.”</li> </ul>	
<b>70% residential / 30% non-residential</b>	<p>A mix where residential properties were dominate was chosen almost as often as the fifty-fifty mix with the rationale that this would be the ideal mix to retain residents and retail businesses for the long-term.</p> <p>Sample comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- “Without a critical mass of people who live in the area, the area will eventually become a place were gentrification runs rampant and people leave for the suburbs and people look to Chinatown as a stop over instead of a community to live within.”</li> <li>- “Assuming the figures above are for floor space, an average building height of 5 stories, and that space above the 1st floor would usually be residential, the 70/30 split would allow for commercial and social services at street level and some on 2nd floors. This amount of non-residential space seems sufficient for residents and visitors. At the same time, the predominance of residential space should lead to a more pedestrian friendly neighbourhood fitting with proximity to the Bow River Pathway.”</li> </ul>	<p>Comments were taken into consideration as part of an overall technical and geodemographics assessment.</p> <p>ARP policy requires 60% residential development beyond the threshold of 4.0 FAR of commerical development.</p>
<b>Other</b> Other comments proposed a mix of predominantly non-residential uses, from 60%-80% non-residential	<p>The respondents who chose “other” felt that there was less demand for multi-residential housing and that a focus on retail/commercial uses would be the best way to make Chinatown a destination for visitors and shoppers from other parts of the city.</p> <p>Sample comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- There’s only so many people who want to live in small apartments</li> <li>- more shops, restaurants, galleries, open spaces with Chinese elements. focus should not be given to apartments or houses.</li> <li>- 40 residential / 60 non residential</li> </ul> <p>To me Chinatown should remain a main street of sorts that attract all calgarains - If we change it to more residential the draw and pull of</p>	<p>Based on technical and geodemographics assessment, and the overall direction from the Council approved (April 2021) Greater Downtown Plan –residential growth is required for all of Calgary’s greater downtown, including Chinatown.</p>

	Chinatown being a " Main street of sorts will be lost - and the draw for those whom live outside the community to the area will be gone	
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## Places, Spaces, and Natural Environment

Is the Chinese Cultural Centre a landmark that needs to be recognized and protected?		
Theme:	Explanation and sample verbatim comments:	City response. What we're doing:
<b>Cultural centre needs to be recognized and protected</b>	<p>Many respondents shared that they believe that the Chinese Cultural Centre plays a significant role in the visual identity of Chinatown but expressed concern about the physical condition of the building and its need for updating.</p> <p>Sample comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Yes. It's very large and visually symbolic of Chinatown, but is showing its age.</li> <li>- Yes. It needs to be renovated to fit for the taste of young generation</li> <li>- Yes, but it also needs many upgrades inside</li> <li>- "First, the Chinese Cultural Centre is a landmark regardless of how you look at it, because it is very unique in terms of architecture, costed a lot to build, so it should be protected in every angle you look at it. As for recognition, it is a special building in Calgary, can serve as a tourist attraction, artistic structure, a symbol of Multiculturalism and an architecture display. It would be up to the city to decide to recognize it or not, we cannot force anyone to recognize anything."</li> </ul>	<p>The Cultural Centre is a significant landmark for Chinatown and for Calgary and is recognized as such within the ARP.</p> <p>ARP policies ensures protection of the roof through view corridors established within the ARP.</p>
<b>Does the building serve the purpose of the community</b>	<p>There were reservations about preserving the Chinese Cultural Centre, specifically about the opportunity cost of keeping the existing building, and new and expanded uses of the building that could benefit the community more.</p> <p>Sample comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- "It should serve a purpose otherwise it's wasting space. It should only be protected if it's useful to the community. I think it has potential under the right management of the building and Chinatown in general."</li> </ul>	<p>The ARP does not speak to specific activities within buildings but the Cultural Centre has been identified as an important landmark and centre for the community.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- “no. it's kind of a waste of resource. can turn it into a shopping malls with shops and restaurants. can keep the existing style of building”</li> <li>- “Absolutely it should be recognized and protected and utilized more as a community hall to serve Chiinatown and its residents. More classes for seniors.”</li> </ul>	
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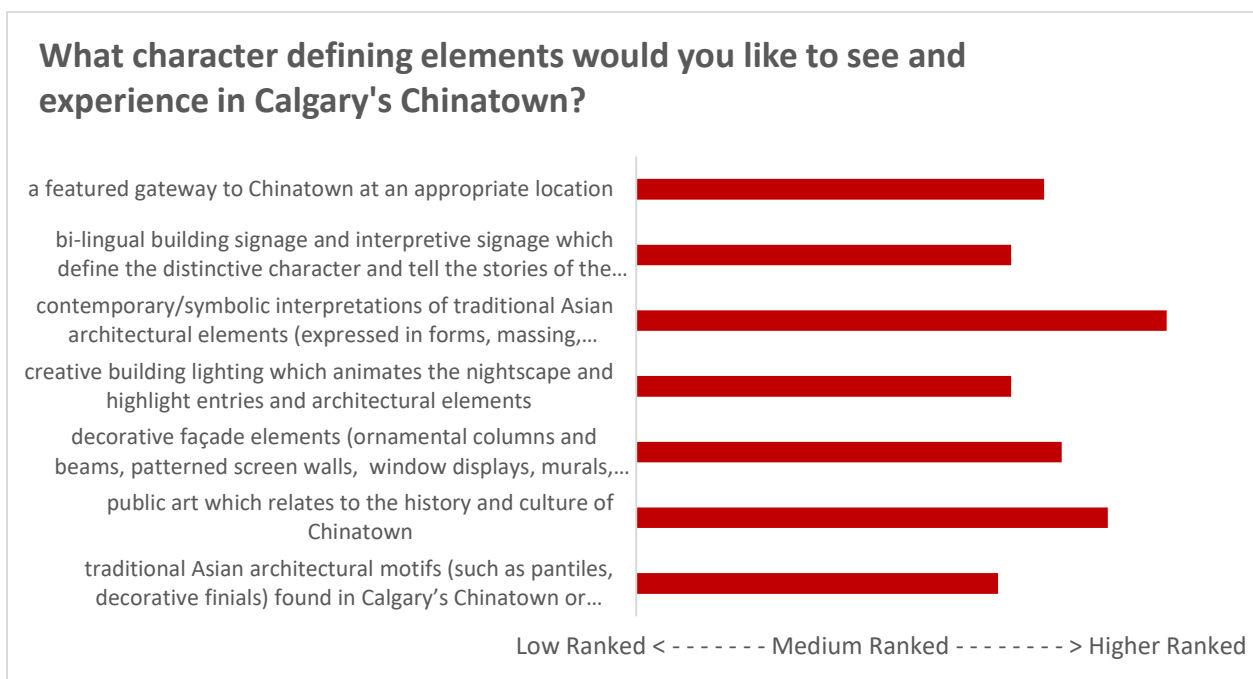
## Places, Spaces, and Natural Environment

What other landmarks in Chinatown exist that deserve this level of attention and recognition?		
Theme:	Explanation and sample verbatim comments:	City response. What we're doing:
<b>Buildings along Centre Street</b>	<p>Many respondents felt that buildings, as a whole, along Centre Street towards the bridge deserve recognition and attention. They act as gateway into Chinatown and identify it as a longstanding part of Calgary.</p> <p>Sample comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- “Main centre street buildings.”</li> <li>- “Canton Block, Ho Lem Block. All the identified heritage sites that are inventoried.”</li> <li>- “...most buildings along Centre St, 4th Ave to 2nd Ave, and buildings along 3rd and 2nd Aves between 1st St SE and 1st St SW...”</li> </ul>	<p>Chapter 4 in the ARP identifies three Character Areas with individualized policies. The Heritage Core character area includes the entire block bounded by Centre Street and 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenues SE. Policy for this area aims to conserve and enhance the historic resources and streetscapes.</p>
<b>Older buildings</b>	<p>Many respondents expressed that old buildings should be protected especially the facades altered for more practical use but the outside of older buildings with character-defining and a culturally specific appearance were identified as Chinatown features that deserve protection.</p> <p>Sample comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- “The facade of the Chinese Mission should be recognized and maintained”</li> <li>- “Some of the older storefronts and 1-2 storey buildings, or at least the façade”</li> <li>- “old buildings along centre st between 2nd and 3re Ave.”</li> </ul>	<p>Character Area policies in Chapter 4 are intended to preserve the historic character of the neighbourhood.</p>
<b>Dragon City Mall</b>	<p>Many respondents identified Dragon City Mall as a significant landmark, the interior being a slice of Chinatown life for visitors and the exterior's appearance having</p>	<p>The cultural references in the architecture of Dragon City Mall are important to the character of Chinatown. Chapter 4</p>

	<p>traditional Chinese features that are needed to enhance the area.</p> <p>Sample comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- “The golden mountain statue along riverfront and also Dragon City's exterior roof are also nice gestures of cultural artifacts, but it would be nice to see more architecture that bring out the beauty and vibrancy of the community. Also, this if the grimy alley ways can be changed to be spaces for more cross-block mobility, could be help stop Chinatown's reputation of being old and gross.”</li> </ul>	<p>gives direction in including character defining elements and cultural references in new developments.</p>
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## Places, Spaces, and Natural Environment

The chart below represents participants preferences pertaining to character defining elements that they would like to see in Calgary's Chinatown.



## Places, Spaces, and Natural Environment

What character defining element(s) is Chinatown missing that are seen in other Chinatowns' across North America and the world?		
Theme:	Explanation and sample verbatim comments:	City response. What we're doing:
<b>Gateway</b>	<p>The importance of gateways continued to be a dominant theme. Most comments were limited to the word "gateway" itself, but a few offered more detail, for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- "something to indicate you are there, most people drive through and don't even realise"</li> </ul>	Figure 8 of the ARP identifies significant gateway locations in the neighbourhood. Section 3.3.3 provides policy on building and public realm design to accentuate the Chinatown identity in these locations.
<b>Traditional Chinese garden</b>	<p>Traditional gardens were identified as significant in other Chinatowns but missing here. Only a few respondents provided more than a word or two in their input, but one example would be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- "Having an indoor or outdoor Chinese garden would be a great touch to the cultural centre if parking lot behind the cultural centre can be replaced and filled with something more enlivening."</li> </ul>	Appendix C: Public Realm Strategy supports the development of a Chinese-inspired garden.
<b>Traditional Chinese and a variety of Asian foods</b>	<p>Respondents felt that traditional foods and flavors needed to be more prominent to retain Chinatown's defining identity, however there was also a little interest in expanding into other Asian restaurants as well.</p> <p>Sample comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- "steamed bao bakery"</li> <li>- "Lots of food and culture from many different Asian countries not just China."</li> <li>- "authentic Chinese retail and restaurants."</li> </ul>	Although active frontage policies in section 3.1.1 of the ARP dictate where in the neighbourhood ground level active uses must be located, an ARP cannot determine the specific types of uses or businesses. The Cultural Plan does speak to sustaining traditional and cultural businesses and strategies relating to this.
<b>More traditional streetscape</b>	<p>Streetscapes and the importance of a traditional Chinatown appearance – like crowds and sidewalk shopping – also figured prominently in respondents' comments.</p> <p>Sample comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- "street fronting businesses, vendors, lots and lots of people"</li> </ul>	Active frontage policies in ARP policy 3.1.1 ensure activity on the streets. Certain character area policies in Chapter 4 are intended to preserve and enhance historic character and streetscapes.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- “Entry way, historical streets and streetscapes (e.g. Fan Tan Alley in Victoria)”</li> <li>- “Central square with defining landmark with modern lighting.”</li> </ul>	
<b>Inspiration from other Chinatowns</b>	Several cities were mentioned specifically as having Chinatowns that could be used for inspiration, specifically Paris, Victoria, Vancouver and Toronto.	The ARP team researched and explored other Chinatowns across North America. Case studies from over 12 Chinatowns across the US and Canada were assessed as part of drafting the proposed ARP. Some ideas and concepts in this ARP are inspired from other cities but ultimately the ARP recognizes that Calgary Chinatown has a unique historical context and character.

Create Phase – Apr. 19, 2022 to Jun. 30, 2022

### Active frontages

<b>Do you feel these streets are appropriate for active frontages? Would active frontage in these areas help to evolve Chinatown in the way you desire? Why/why not?</b>		
<i>Theme:</i>	<i>Explanation and sample verbatim comments:</i>	<i>City response. What we're doing:</i>
<b>Positive evolution of Chinatown</b>	<p>Overall, respondents shared positive sentiments about how active frontage could help evolve Chinatown.</p> <p>Sample comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- “Yes. Blank glass lobbies are the reason downtown Calgary is so soulless. Active frontages are essential, and I would argue for even more.”</li> <li>- “Yes commercial store fronts with residential above will create a vibrant China town as well as bring economic benefit.”</li> <li>- “Yes, we believe that these streets are appropriate to help evolve Chinatown as they were the original areas that made up Chinatown.”</li> </ul>	Active frontage policies (3.1.1.m, n, o) are intended to promote pedestrian activity and ensure vibrancy. The areas designated as active frontage are the main streets and historical commercial centre of Chinatown. Although active frontage is allowed all over Chinatown, making it a requirement in more areas may dilute the impact where it was heard to be most desired.
<b>Revitalization of the area</b>	<p>Respondents expressed that more active frontage would help to revitalize Chinatown.</p> <p>Sample comments:</p>	Street level commercial activity is a core element of Chinatown. Map 2: Land Use Concept identifies required active frontages

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- “Yes active frontage with storefront would revitalize the streets and the community considerably...”</li> <li>- “Active frontage on 2nd St and Riverfront has a enormous opportunity to create a gateway from the new green line station to Chinatown and have an incredible public realm.”</li> <li>- “Yes, any street-level commercial development will attract people to the area and make it more vibrant and desirable.”</li> </ul>	<p>along 2<sup>nd</sup> Street SW and Riverfront Avenue SW near the future LRT station in order to draw pedestrians into Chinatown.</p>
<b>Positive impact for businesses</b>	<p>Respondents feel that active frontage could have a positive impact for local businesses.</p> <p>Sample comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- “Mixed use development is good, therefore I would support expanding the zoning to support more streets with active frontages. More of these would allow the local economy of Chinatown to further be developed.”</li> <li>- “Yes. I would love to shop in Chinatown if there were more stores with street store fronts...”</li> <li>- “Yes, ensuring space for businesses brings in people.”</li> </ul>	<p>Sustained local business presence in Chinatown is a core idea in the ARP. Active frontage policies are one way the ARP attempts to facilitate this idea. Smaller store fronts, flexibility in uses, and enhanced public realm design are all objectives within the policies in 3.1.1.m,n, and o (active frontages) and may lead to positive impacts for businesses in Chinatown.</p>
<b>Attract more pedestrians to the area</b>	<p>Respondents feel that active frontage could contribute to attracting more pedestrians to the area.</p> <p>Sample comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- “Yes, any street-level commercial development will attract people to the area and make it more vibrant and desirable.”</li> <li>- “Active frontage on 2nd St and Riverfront has a enormous opportunity to create a gateway for pedestrians from the new green line station to Chinatown and have an incredible public realm.”</li> <li>- “The current state of unusable blocks leads to increased crime and urban decay; foot traffic in these areas is essential.”</li> </ul>	<p>Map 2: Land Use Concept of the ARP identifies required active frontages along 2<sup>nd</sup> Street SW and Riverfront Avenue SW near the future LRT station in order to draw pedestrians into Chinatown.</p> <p>Comprehensive Planning Site 1 also states as an objective to facilitate foot traffic from a future LRT Station toward the east portion of Chinatown.</p> <p>Enhanced public realm features in 3.1.1, character area policies in Chapter 4 and in Appendix C: Public Realm Strategy all speak to enhanced pedestrian environments.</p>



## Public Realm Improvements

What public realm improvements do you feel would be important for us to include in the Area Redevelopment Plan? Are we missing something that is important to you?		
Theme:	Explanation and sample verbatim comments:	City response. What we're doing:
<b>Integrating arts and cultural aspects to the streetscape</b>	<p>Respondents feel that the area would benefit from integrating more arts and cultural aspects to the streetscape.</p> <p>Sample comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- "Bring back cool lights and signs of Chinatown from the past. I'm thinking similar to Freemont St in Las Vegas but something unique to Chinatown in Calgary. A Canopy, pedestrian space, lights would all be cool along 3rd Ave, 2nd St, 1st St..."</li> <li>- "Add welcome flags to Chinatown with both simplified and traditional Chinese wording."</li> <li>- "Suggest to refresh the lamp posts in Chinatown which has been used for over 20 years. Give it a new look."</li> </ul>	<p>The ARP's public realm strategy speaks to public realm enhancements along all streets, particularly the main commercial streets (Centre Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenues).</p> <p>Signage policy in 4.2.2.1 gives direction for signage on buildings to reflect Chinatown's culture and heritage.</p>
<b>Parking improvements &amp; traffic calming</b>	<p>Respondents feel that parking in Chinatown could be improved and that traffic calming measures would be beneficial for the area.</p> <p>Sample comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- "...the real problem is the accessibility (ie. free parking) to the location."</li> <li>- "One of the reasons I don't like going to Chinatown a lot is the traffic. There are too many cars and too many busy roads. It feels unsafe trying to bike or walk around. Traffic calming and better pedestrian/bike access would be nice."</li> <li>- "Need more parking, no one is going to bike down there with Grandparents and small children..."</li> </ul>	<p>Section 5.1.4(g) of the ARP states that all new developments with non-residential uses must designate 25% of their parking stalls as short stay stalls (4 hours).</p> <p>Additionally, this policy encourages the use of innovative parking technologies such as robo-garages that can accommodate larger numbers of vehicles.</p> <p>Several traffic calming measures are included in Appendix C: Public Realm Strategy within the Mobility section.</p>
<b>Revitalize the streets</b>	<p>Respondents desire for the streets of Chinatown to be more vibrant and welcoming to visitors.</p> <p>Sample comments:</p> <p>"Public arts, store kiosks on the street, festivals, walkable and pedestrian friendly environment. There should be a reason and an attractive destination for people to</p>	<p>The ARP provides allowance for public art, festivals, and street vendors and supports this type of street revitalization through policy that encourages providing appropriate space and</p>

	<p>make a trip down there. Right now the streets are filled with unoccupied cars, passing through and unfriendly looking shops.”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- “...More businesses that open late and neon lights/signages to bring vibrancy.”</li> <li>- “Designate some streets to be closed for night market (nightly or weekends only as a start) like those you see in Asia e.g in Hong Kong, Taipei, South Korea.”</li> </ul>	amenities for these types of uses and functions to thrive.
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## Parking

Under the new Area Redevelopment Plan, new developments would be required to designate 25% of their provided parking stalls for short stay parking. Do you feel this new requirement would help address the parking supply in the community? Why/why not?		
<i>Theme:</i>	<i>Explanation and sample verbatim comments:</i>	<i>City response. What we're doing:</i>
<b>Need more parking options</b>	<p>Respondents feel that there needs to be more parking options in Chinatown (underground, on-street, short-stay, long-stay, parkade).</p> <p>Sample comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- “Short stay parking does not encourage business activity only causes frustration in going back and forth to pay and move vehicle after short stay parking.”</li> <li>- “Put a parkade in to help with the parking need.”</li> <li>- “Parking is always a big problem in Chinatown. Inadequate parking spaces and expensive parking fee. Any chance to build a multi-story parking? Or develop the automatic stacking garage as some big cities.”</li> </ul>	<p>Policy 5.1.4(g) of the ARP states the requirement of 25% short stay stalls in new developments has been updated to be 4 hour parking rather than 2 hour.</p> <p>Policy 5.1.4(g) also encourages piloting innovative solutions such as automatic stacking garages that have succeeded in other cities.</p>
<b>Affordable parking</b>	<p>Respondents feel that parking in Chinatown needs to be more affordable.</p> <p>Sample comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- “To resolve this problem, how about to provide a 30 minutes free parking in Chinatown.”</li> <li>- “People need affordable parking. Permanent free two-hour parking. This is one of our biggest priorities. And more, affordable parking spots for people. They would like to see cost of parking addressed in Cultural Plan or ARP.”</li> <li>- “...The communities and businesses downtown are not balanced in term of parking affordability. The City needs a</li> </ul>	<p>Affordability of parking is a large concern for the community. An ARP, however, does not have the ability to dictate or propose parking rates.</p>

	cohesive approach to parking support downtown...”	
<b>Focus on alternate modes of transportation</b>	<p>Prioritize alternate modes of transportation like walking &amp; wheeling, and transit in Chinatown.</p> <p>Sample comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- “Maybe, though increased public transit and shared lanes to and from the area should also be considered as viable ways to get to Chinatown.”</li> <li>- “There isn't a parking supply issue to address in the community, there is a lot of surface and off-street parking. With the addition of green line, pedestrian enhancements and cycling on 3rd Ave, we should be thinking of removing parking or cars on some streets.”</li> <li>- “Instead of increase more parking space. why enlarge the cycle area.”</li> </ul>	<p>Alternative modes of transportation are certainly encouraged throughout the ARP. This is consistent with the MDP goals.</p> <p>Parking is anticipated to remain an issue in Chinatown for the foreseeable future and hence some policies have been put in place to try to mitigate this ongoing issue.</p>

## Community Review Process

<b>We understand there is desire for an improved community review process of new private developments. What do you feel could be done to support an improved community review process?</b>		
<i>Theme:</i>	<i>Explanation and sample verbatim comments:</i>	<i>City response. What we're doing:</i>
<b>More involvement by community/residents</b>	<p>Respondents feel that there needs to be more community/resident involvement in the community review process.</p> <p>Sample comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- “Ask the Chinese in their community not others outside Chinatown.”</li> <li>- “Empower residents to block private development.”</li> <li>- “Everyday continuously create a more positive environment by building rapport and trust with the community members at large...”</li> </ul>	<p>Policies 6.3.3.c and d of the ARP have been added to formalize the requirement for developers to include community outreach and for the City to circulate development applications for review and input by community groups.</p>
<b>Increase in awareness/advertising</b>	<p>Respondents feel that there needs to be more awareness and advertising for the review process of new private developments.</p> <p>Sample comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- “Increased public engagement sessions, flyers/ads in the area in multiple languages.”</li> <li>- “Advertise in local media print, newspaper, on-line notifications and</li> </ul>	<p>Policies 6.3.3.c and d have been added to formalize the requirement for developers to include community outreach and for the City to circulate development applications for review and input by community groups.</p>

	<p>leave room for input before improvements/changes are made.”</p> <p>- “Just clear communications on the steps involved.”</p>	The City sends out applications for review to official community liaisons (such as the CA and BIA).
<b>Increase in business community involvement</b>	<p>Respondents feel that there needs to be more business community involvement in the community review process.</p> <p>Sample comments:</p> <p>- “I found it very helpful when The City staff actually came to the shops and talked to the owners to help share information.”</p> <p>- “Develop a formal advisory committee in the future.”</p> <p>- “...To prospect a group of credible, reputable individuals (Chinatown business ambassador) to hold periodic forums to foster that community spirit with or without a specific agenda and be there during the official presentation by the City...”</p>	The City circulates development applications in Chinatown to the Chinatown BIA. The City also circulates to landowners and businesses in the adjacent lots.
<b>More time to review development proposals</b>	<p>Respondents feel that there needs to be more time to review development proposals.</p> <p>Sample comments:</p> <p>- “Earlier engagement. Providing material in the main languages spoken by the residents.”</p> <p>- “... leave room for input before improvements/changes are made.”</p> <p>- “Longer lead time. Reach people on social media.”</p>	Policy 6.3.3.c of the ARP requires developers to conduct community outreach as part development applications. This is recommended prior to submitting any type of application in order to best engage the community.

### Distinct Culture of Chinatown

<b>This is Calgary’s first culturally informed Area Redevelopment Plan (ARP). Do you feel that the distinct culture of Chinatown is reflected and respected in this draft ARP? Why/why not?</b>		
<i>Theme:</i>	<i>Explanation and sample verbatim comments:</i>	<i>City response. What we’re doing:</i>
<b>Yes, distinct culture of Chinatown is reflected/respected in draft ARP</b>	<p>Respondents feel that the distinct culture of Chinatown is reflected and respected in the draft ARP.</p> <p>Sample comments:</p> <p>- “Seems well thought out yes, and effective.”</p> <p>- “I am happy to see that Chinese design is governed and included in the ARP. That is solved it seems.”</p>	The ARP recognizes the unique culture and character of Chinatown and the need to enhance and sustain this.

	<p>- “A big Yes! Distinctive culture to a metropolitan city like Calgary will enhance our image that we are an inclusive, respectful and cultural-minded that embraces diversities.”</p>	
<p><b>Unsure if distinct culture of Chinatown is reflected/respected in draft ARP</b></p>	<p>Respondents are unsure if the distinct culture of Chinatown is reflected and respected in the draft ARP.</p> <p>Sample comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- “There isn't enough in the draft for me to make that decision. I believe, however, that the diversity of the new street-level businesses will help a lot.”</li> <li>- “Hard to say. I think it should be clear to anyone, not just members of the Chinese community, when they are actually in Chinatown, in ways that all citizens can appreciate. I think there are ways to highlight the culture and feel welcoming to others to enter and explore/discover. For example, the Cultural Centre feels more exclusive than welcoming.”</li> <li>- “Not sure. Chinatown was more active and cultural 20 years and longer. Now it is only a pass through area for cars.”</li> </ul>	<p>Chinatown’s culture and history is apparent in the buildings and streetscapes. The ARP provides guidance (particularly in Chapter 4) on how to enhance and sustain the look and feel that makes Chinatown easily identifiable and welcoming.</p>
<p><b>Draft ARP is lacking a traditional Chinatown look and feel</b></p>	<p>Respondents feel that the draft ARP is lacking a traditional Chinatown look and feel.</p> <p>Sample comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- “Not entirely. It doesn't remind me of the China I have visited but I can't explain why. Mostly because shopping and going out areas are pedestrianized there, I would like to see that in Calgary”.</li> <li>- “There should be required Chinese elements in architecture and infrastructure.”</li> <li>- “The feel of of a "Chinatown" design, history, traditions, are not reflected need to incorporate into upcoming designs.”</li> </ul>	<p>Improved pedestrian movement and activity is a key goal of this ARP. Character defining elements and required cultural references in Chapter 4 aim to ensure the look and feel of Chinatown reflects it's unique character and culture.</p>

## Draft Area Redevelopment Plan - Likes

What do you like about this draft Area Redevelopment Plan?		
Theme:	Explanation and sample verbatim comments:	City response. What we're doing:
<b>ARP Positive sentiments</b>	<p>Respondents shared positive sentiments about the ARP.</p> <p>Sample comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- "It is a good step in making Calgary Chinatown great."</li> <li>- "The ARP incorporates culture as one of the mainstay in it's plan."</li> <li>- "I like that it doesn't seem to be over planning the neighbourhood. Calgary suffers from over planning and too many rules. One of the reasons Chinatown is cool is it's not all brand new, master planned, vanilla concrete and glass. This plan doesn't seem to force the neighbourhood into that Calgary model of urban planning."</li> </ul>	<p>The cultural element is meant to be incorporated into all aspects of the ARP. The ARP follows the Cultural Plan and takes ideas and concepts from there.</p> <p>Flexibility as well has always been a key concept for the ARP. This means ensuring the ARP is not too prescriptive and restrictive for future development while balancing the need for compatible growth.</p>
<b>Culturally informed ARP</b>	<p>Respondents are pleased that the ARP is culturally informed.</p> <p>Sample comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- "modernizing chinatown and trying to preserve cultural heritage."</li> <li>- "Value the importance of culture and incorporate with the cultural plan. I like the character defining elements and motifs being included in the draft plan."</li> <li>- "The ARP incorporates culture as one of the mainstay in it's plan."</li> </ul>	<p>The cultural element is meant to be incorporated into all aspects of the ARP. Integration of the Cultural Plan into the ARP is crucial for the success of the ARP.</p>
<b>Diversity in transportation options</b>	<p>Respondents feel that the plan integrates more transportation options into the area.</p> <p>Sample comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- "To align with climate resiliency and a focus on non driving transportation options. Chinatown needs to appeal to a broad spectrum of people to thrive, right now it's dead. More options for transportation is better for everybody."</li> <li>- "I like the increased space for pedestrians on centre street, as it always felt cramped and slightly dangerous walking around there."</li> <li>- "New transit station...,additional parking."</li> </ul>	<p>Drawing people into Chinatown with various modes of transportation is a stated goal and part of the core ideas in the ARP. This is coupled in the ARP with creating an environment and spaces where people can remain in Chinatown as well.</p>

## Draft Area Redevelopment Plan - Dislikes

What do you not like about this draft Area Redevelopment Plan?		
Theme:	Explanation and sample verbatim comments:	City response. What we're doing:
<b>Lack of residential housing options</b>	<p>Respondents feel that the plan lacks residential housing options:</p> <p>Sample comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- "well. we need more residential area and retail area. new brand new spaces."</li> <li>- "needing residential, housing..."</li> <li>- "When you build affordable housing you need to be careful to not negatively affect other people's property values."</li> </ul>	<p>The APR (particularly section 3.3.5) includes policies that encourage a variety of types and sizes of residential units that can help meet the needs of the community. A goal here is to also be able to accommodate and draw more types of people to live in Chinatown (such as young families).</p>
<b>Plan does not prioritize businesses in area</b>	<p>Respondents feel that the plan does not prioritize businesses in the area.</p> <p>Sample comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- "There are a few key areas that was never considered or discussed with business owners or people living in Chinatown....ie. density on 3rd Ave. SE."</li> <li>- "This draft plan can reduce traffic flow by 50% into Chinatown. Together with G. line Center Street of one (1) lane traffic with "kill" Chinatown business growth."</li> <li>- "Potential relaxation on parking spaces in new development with the public transit options. It mentioned accessibility for pedestrian, biking and wheeling, transit, parking, but nothing on driving in and through Chinatown. On map 5, it shows that 3Ave is part of the recommended cycling network which I don't agree on as it takes away on street parking space for businesses."</li> </ul>	<p>One of the stated core ideas of the ARP is to support the local economy in Chinatown. Ensuring businesses are accessible to customers from all types of transportation modes is important. The ARP supports that sufficient access (be it parking or pedestrian access) is provided throughout the neighbourhood.</p> <p>Mobility and density have been looked at throughout the neighbourhood from a technical prespective. Densities proposed in the ARP are generally consistent with what is already existing in potential density. This has been balanced in this ARP to ensure the mix of residential and commercial densities as well as the building forms are supporting current and future businesses in the area.</p>
<b>Population density concerns</b>	<p>Respondents shared concerns about increased population density as well as building height concerns:</p>	<p>Considerations for the densities proposed in the ARP include sunlight</p>



<b>and building height concerns</b>	<p>Sample comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- “Page 12 in your short summary about Density – Table - Area C2 Base Density FAR 3.0 Maximum Allowable Density with bonus FAR 12.0, sounds too generous and the allowed building height may cast shadow over Chinatown all day.”</li> <li>- “There are a few key areas that was never considered or discussed with business owners or people living in Chinatown.....ie. density on 3rd Ave. SE.”</li> </ul>	<p>protection of sensitive areas (3.3.2). Densities proposed in the ARP are generally consistent with what is already existing in potential density. This has been balanced in this ARP to ensure the mix of residential and commercial densities as well as the building forms are supporting current and future businesses in the area.</p>
<b>Greenline</b>	<p>Respondents made various comments about the future new Greenline station in Chinatown.</p> <p>Sample comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- “Like to see how the new Eau Claire Greenline station would integrate/impact on Chinatown’s car &amp; foot traffic?”</li> <li>- “Worry that transit station might attract undesirable elements”</li> <li>- “The Eau Claire station should also say Chinatown.”</li> </ul>	<p>Section 5.1.3 speaks to seamlessly integrating transit stations into the neighbourhood.</p> <p>Comprehensive Planning Site 1 (3.1.3.1) requires new development on that site (adjacent to the future LRT station) to include well designed and well connected pedestrian connections from the LRT station into Chinatown. This is to manage increased foot traffic while also drawing foot traffic into Chinatown.</p>

## Various Questions

<b>What questions do you have about the draft Area Redevelopment Plan?</b>		
<i>Theme:</i>	<i>Explanation and sample verbatim comments:</i>	<i>City response. What we’re doing:</i>
<b>Various questions asked to project team</b>	<p>Respondents posed several questions to the project team about the draft ARP. A few high-level topics that people had interest in were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Timeline for redevelopment</li> <li>- Population density concerns</li> <li>- Parking issues</li> <li>- Chinese cultural influence considerations</li> <li>- Process related questions</li> </ul>	<p>Many variables are at play when timelines for re-development are considered. Many factors are influence by the property owner, and The City can have very little influence on when re-development of vacant sites in Chinatown will redevelop.</p>

		<p>The population growth for Chinatown has been reviewed by professional using Geodemographic data. ARP policies are targeting the doubling of the population to an overall count of 5000 residents over the next three decades.</p> <p>The cost of parking is beyond the purview of planning policy.</p> <p>Consideration and guidance on incorporating cultural elements as future development takes place in Chinatown is well captured within Chapter 4 of the ARP.</p> <p>Where appropriate, the ARP provides additional direction on processing and review of applications, see Chapter 6</p>
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For a verbatim listing of all the input that was provided, please see the [verbatim response appendix 1.0](#) and [verbatim response appendix 2.0](#).

## What are the next steps?

The input collected in this phase of engagement will be used to develop land use concepts that will be presented back to the community for evaluation in our next phase of engagement. Input received through engagement will be one of many factors considered as the proposed concepts and supporting policies are created. Other considerations include: City policies, technical and feasibility studies, market conditions, and previous engagement results.

We will be back in the community for Phase three: Realize in fall 2022. Phase three will include multiple engagement opportunities to evaluate and refine key ideas.

To stay up-to-date on project details and future engagement opportunities, please visit [Calgary.ca/chinatown](https://calgary.ca/chinatown) and sign-up for email updates.