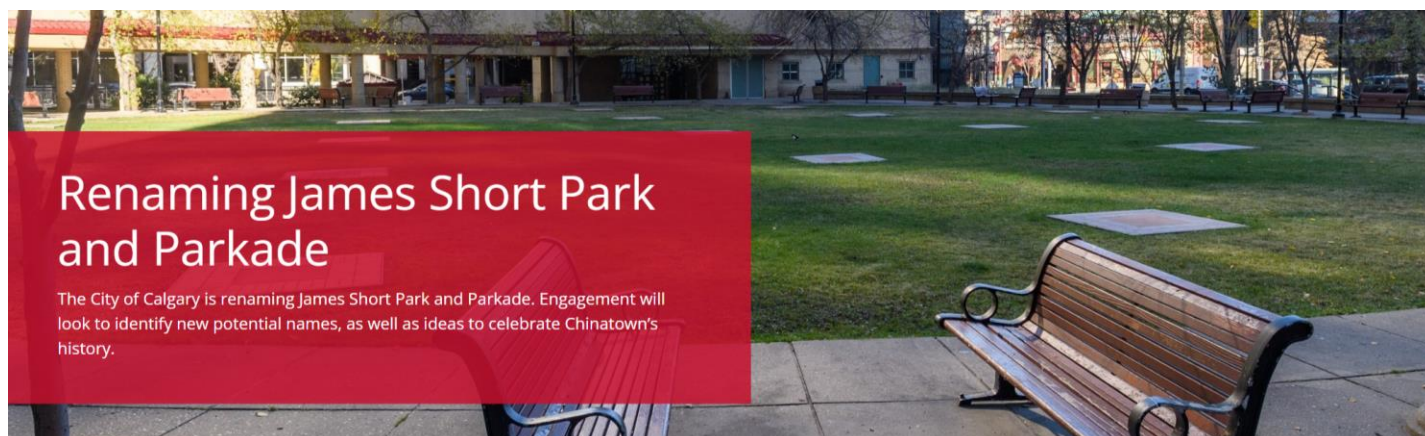


Renaming James Short Park and Parkade

Report Back: What We Heard

November 2022



Renaming James Short Park and Parkade

The City of Calgary is renaming James Short Park and Parkade. Engagement will look to identify new potential names, as well as ideas to celebrate Chinatown's history.

WHAT WE HEARD REPORT

NOVEMBER 2022

Renaming James Short Park and Parkade

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Appendix A – Motion Arising (PFC2020-0802)36

Project overview

Renaming the park and parkade

The City is renaming this site on the boundary of Chinatown to acknowledge racial discrimination against Chinese Calgarians. It is a step towards becoming a more inclusive city.

From its founding in 1885, Chinatown has been in three different locations in Calgary. Displacement and racial discrimination against Chinese Calgarians forced the community to move as they struggled to set down roots. Anti-Chinese views that were widely held in Calgary, along with the federal government’s Chinese Head Tax and Exclusion Act, made life very difficult for Chinese community members.

One of the many people whose words and actions harmed the Chinese community is James Short – a leader in Calgary who petitioned against the construction of the first Chinese-owned commercial building in 1910. When the park and parkade were named after him in 1991, his racist words and actions were not considered.

To see the Notice of Motion, click [here](#).

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Engagement overview

In this engagement, we collected input on:

- Resetting Engagement (Informing the Engagement Process)
- learning about life in Chinatown
- name suggestions for the site as well as ideas for future programming and activation of the park
- Review of public submissions & recommendation from community advisors

This chart explains the approach we took to gather your input into this project.

Engagement Strategy	
Date	November 2021 to May 2022
Objective	<p>To get input on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Resetting Engagement (Informing the Engagement Process)• Learning about life in Chinatown• Name suggestions & ideas for future programming and activation of the park• Review of public submissions & recommendation from community advisors
Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Online Engagement through engage.calgary.ca/tomorrows-chinatown/renameJSP• Collecting Memories• Meetings with a group of community advisors• Large info board in community• In community pop-ups (in person)• Drop-boxes in community (in person)• 311 availability• Event: Presentation & panel discussion• Virtual drop-in open houses• Presentation and discussion with local school classes
Participation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 30 story submissions online and in person• 84 name suggestions and 19 park idea submissions

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What we asked

Engagement was carried out in three phases and a resetting engagement prior to the three phases. We asked the following questions to support the objectives of this engagement:

Resetting Engagement

Through two community 'check-in' meetings we asked the follow questions:

1. What does the renaming process mean to you?
2. What are your priorities for renaming?
3. Engagement Overview – Looking Ahead (general thoughts)
4. Moving Forward in the Engagement
 - a. What should the first steps be?
 - b. Who should be included in the engagement?
 - c. What is the best way to connect with them?
 - d. What are some creative or simple ways to collect feedback?
 - e. Where would you like to see in person engagement to take place?
 - f. What would in-person engagement look like?
 - g. What advice do you have for virtual engagement?
 - h. How important is print and or spoken Chinese translation?
 - i. What does success look like?

Phase 1: Learning about life in Chinatown

1. What is your memory of life in Chinatown?
 - a. What was daily life like? What brought you joy? What made you feel excluded or discriminated against?

Phase 2: Name suggestions & ideas for future programming and activation

1. What is your name suggestion for the park and parkade? Tell us why.
 - a. Parks can be named after a person, community values or priorities, or something in nature. For example, in Calgary there is Central Memorial Park, Prairie Winds Park and Fish Creek Park.
2. What are your ideas or activity suggestions to honour the community and history of Chinatown in the park? Tell us why.
 - a. Some examples are artwork meaningful to the community, signage with important words/values from community, benches dedicated to specific community members, park changes to better accommodate specific cultural practices.

Phase 3: Review of Public Submissions by Community Advisors

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Themes from public engagement were brought to a group of community advisors for final review. Through this process, the final name recommendation(s) was determined and shared with the project team.

What we heard

This section provides a short summary of what we heard from those of you that participated via online at engage.calgary.ca.

Resetting Engagement

Throughout the week of October 4, 2021, we held two 'Community Check-ins' to hear from the local community and reset the Renaming James Short Park and Parkade engagement.

These sessions allowed us to reconnect with those who had been involved so far and to talk about what they are looking for in an engagement process. Feedback gathered from these two sessions helped us ensure the engagement strategy was informed by the local community with the goal to meaningfully create actions and activities towards the renaming of James Short Park and Parkade.

In total, 15 community members attended the sessions and shared their thoughts. While there were different ideas and suggestions made, below are highlights from what was discussed:

- Many participants felt identifying ways to recognize the history of the park/Chinatown and celebrate the Chinese community was a top priority. This was seen as more important than the task of identifying a new name.
- The importance of hearing stories and experiences of community members is seen as important.
- Participants shared that engagement can't just be online and needs to work hard to meet community members where they're at. This includes non-digital promotions, and in-community activities.
- Participants expressed an interest in renaming the park after something other than person.
- There was a desire to acknowledge the historic and systemic racism as the underlying issue and for the City to recognize that. Some participants expressed a preference to do this in a non-divisive way.

Phase 1: Learning about life in Chinatown

Question Asked	Summary of Themes
1. What is your memory of life in Chinatown? What was daily life like? What brought you joy? What made you feel excluded or discriminated against?	Over 30 people submitted memories with the top themes being food, welcoming and sense of community, and lastly heritage, culture and tradition. Some submissions acknowledged racial discrimination and some shared not feeling discriminated against. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Food (15)• Welcoming/Sense of Community (11)• Heritage/Culture/Tradition (8)

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Other (8)• Negative Decline (6)• Gathering Place/Key Destination (5)• Racial Discrimination (4)• No discrimination (3)• Belonging for Immigrants and other ethnicities (3) <p>→ “First home away from home: As a 1.5 generation Canadian, Chinatown was my family and I's first home away from home. In a country that was full of foreignness, having familiarity (in the food, faces that we saw, and the language that we could hear) that reminded us of the country we left behind brought a little bit of comfort. My fondest memories were of living in the same apartment building as some of my childhood friends that had immigrated around the same time as us (or they would live in a build 2 min from us). We would meet to play, figure out how to best prank our poor neighbours downstairs, and our parents would get together to discuss whatever adult stuff we didn't care about at the time. Chinatown marked the beginning of a lot of Chinese immigrants' journeys trying to make it work in a new country.”</p> <p>→ “Having live in this area twice since my first arriving in Calgary, in 2008 until 2010 and again from 2014 to current I feel fortunate to have the opportunity to be immersed in the culture of Chinese Canadians. From the benefits of food, traditional dress, daily life of the residents, vendors having a place to share their way of life within ours to the pride shown to all that we Canadians were interested in being a part of a small piece of a place so far away without having to travel across the world to enjoy.”</p> <p>→ “Time Flies: I grew up on the streets in Chinatown. From learning Chinese traditions, Kung Fu, Lion Dance and eating dim sum and bbq pork buns. This Calgary Chinatown shaped who I have become.”</p> <p>→ “I have been in Canada for over 20 years and lived in Chinatown for 9 years. I think Chinatown is excellent. It is convenient for grocery shopping and to enjoy teatime. It's even easier to take the public transit and it takes you pretty much everywhere you want.</p> <p>Before the pandemic, we were treated with opera or concert performances once or twice monthly in the summer--totally free of charge. There were also affordable and fun tours offered by the local communities. One-day or multi-day travel programs were available for our choice.</p> <p>As for being isolated or discriminated against, I haven't noticed or heard of it.”</p> <p>All memory submissions can be found in the Memory Book online here.</p>
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Phase 2: Name suggestions & future programming and activation of the park

Question Asked	Summary of Themes
1. What is your name suggestion for the park and parkade? Tell us why.	<p>1. Names that represent harmony, unity and other virtues that benefit society and in ways that acknowledges Chinese and Indigenous communities. (TOTAL: 18)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Harmony in Balance/Harmony (3)• Benevolence/Benevolent (3)• Unity/Great Unity Park (3)• Peace/Hope (3)• Everyone Welcome/Together (2)• Solidarity (1)• Diversity (1)• One World Park (1) <p>2. Names that recognize well known historic leaders (TOTAL: 12)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Historic Chinese Figure (3)• George Ho Lem (2)• Norman 'Normie' Kwong (2)• Louie Kheong (1)• Yeung, King Ning / Yang, Jing Nan 杨景南 (1)• Douglas Jung Park (1)• J.C. Herdman Park (Knox Church Pastor in late 1880s) (1)• The park formerly known as James Short Park (like Prince) (1) <p>3. Names that recognize the physical location or shape and original name of school. (TOTAL: 8)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Central/Centre Park (7)• Circle (1) <p>4. Names that recognize Chinese zodiac and lineage from Dragons. (TOTAL: 6)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dragon/ Year of the Dragon/ Woo long (reclining dragon) – (5)

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year of the Tiger – (1) <p>5. Names that recognize local business, area or good luck. (TOTAL: 6)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fù Park (2) • Muze Park (1) • Huaxia Park, this is from 华夏 (1) • Héping Park (1) • Mill Woods Valley Park (1) <p>6. Chinatown/ Calgary Chinatown (TOTAL: 5)</p> <p>7. Names that recognize the contributions of Chinese Railway workers (TOTAL: 5)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chinese Railway Workers/ Railway Pioneer Park (4) • Pioneer's Trail Park (1) <p>8. Names that recognize stars and connection between Chinese and Indigenous communities. (TOTAL: 4)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • North by East Star Park/North Star/Polaris Park (3) • Lunar (1) <p>9. Names that honour Chinese community efforts for democracy. (TOTAL: 3)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Freedom and Democracy Square 民主自由講場 (2) • Goddess of Democracy Square (1) <p>10. Names that acknowledge nature. (TOTAL: 2)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nature Land (1) • Blossom Park (1)
2. What are your ideas or activity suggestions to honour the community and history of Chinatown in the park? Tell us why.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Artwork (TOTAL: 6) • Plaque/Signage (TOTAL: 4) • Other (TOTAL: 4) • Event/Activities (TOTAL: 3) • Enhance Park Features (TOTAL: 3) • Banners (TOTAL: 1) • Benches (TOTAL: 1) • Chinese Garden (TOTAL: 1)

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For a verbatim listing of all the input that was provided, please see the [Verbatim Responses](#) section.

Phase 3: Review of Public Submissions by Community Advisors

After Phase 2 of the engagement strategy ended, a group of community advisors comprised of local Chinatown community members and leaders, were convened to review public submissions received, and provide a final name recommendation for Council.

In total, two meetings were held with the group of community advisors to review public submissions on April 11, 2022 and April 19, 2022 respectively. The Engage Resource Unit facilitated both meetings using a consensus-based approach to support decision making. During the meetings, the name recommendation of 和園 **Harmony Park** was agreed by the majority in attendance as the final and single name recommendation for Council.

Additionally, further to discussion in these two meetings and in support of the inclusion of the Chinese text prior to the English text, a few members of the community advisory group submitted additional documentation to further explain the meaning to the Chinese text chosen. This additional documentation and summaries from the meetings can be found in the Verbatim Comments section below.

Next Steps

Input from this engagement process was shared with the project team and used to develop report for council that included the name recommendation for their consideration. Insights for future improvements or activations for the park have been collected for future reference for when funding becomes available. On November 1, 2022, council approved the name recommendation of 和園 **Harmony Park**.

For additional information or updates please visit the project webpage at [Renaming James Short Park and Parkade | Tomorrow's Chinatown | Engage \(calgary.ca\)](#)

Verbatim Comments

Verbatim comments presented here include all feedback, suggestions, comments and messages that were collected online and in-person through the engagement described in this report. All input has been reviewed and provided to Project Teams to be considered in decision making for the project.

Any personal identifying information has been removed from the verbatim comments presented here. Comments or portions of comments that contain profanity, or that are not in compliance with the [City's](#)

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[Respectful Workplace Policy](#) or [Online Tool Moderation Practice](#), have also been removed from participant submissions.

Wherever possible the remainder of the submissions remains. No other edits to the feedback have been made, and the verbatim comments are as received. As a result, some of the content in this verbatim record may still be considered offensive or distasteful to some readers.

Resetting Engagement

Question #1: What does the renaming process mean to you?

- For me its about the engagement of the most impacted group. I have been involved in the work in Chinatown for over four years and have seen some good things, and this is one of them. I see a link between the work in Chinatown and addressing racism. What I am interested or looking for today is to have a better understanding of the practice or process for renaming. In preparation for today I wrote down the word “equity.” How does the Chinese community, being a minority, how does the City of Calgary look at things in an equitable way? Another question, I would like to see these processes be informed by other policies like Fair Calgary and the Municipal Government Act. I asked this before with no answer. Also, I’m happy that the City included that this is meant to include the history and voice of Chinatown.
 - City staff note: The Fair Calgary policy was replaced with the Social Wellbeing policy in 2019. This policy references the Municipal Government Act and outlines principles to deliver City services in equitable and culturally supportive ways.
- I grew up in Chinatown in the 1980s in a few apartment buildings, one in the heart of Chinatown. I am beginning to learn and unlearn the history. Even the Anti-Chinese League I didn’t know that and I was a former K-9 teacher which is sad. I think voices of the community is crucial. Part of the process for me is to do that. I had no idea who James Short was. I volunteer my time because I want to support no matter how small my impact – I really believe in what in thinking about what I can do and being part of the solution. I am happy to be engaged in this process and I echo what [REDACTED] said. It is about time and I am happy to be involved.
- For me, what the process means to me is to really get an insight on how the City makes decision on community related aspects. How it came to be that James Short was commenerated and understanding renaming and the politics of it all. It’s hard for me to understand the links but not only in this process. With my time in Chinatown there is a long held frustration with the City. What’s important to me to be part of this is that I am hoping to inject some different perspectives into this, to see if the community will participate with its history. And to what this means to me, is to see if the City is actually capable of being accountable to its communities.
- I don’t believe in rewriting history, I believe we can learn from it and not judge it with todays views of the past. I want to be part of stewarding that and that the naming process not to be reflective of just Chinatown. I want to make sure that it is something the community can be proud of. I would like it not to be politically charged as this process happens around the world and I would like it not to be a negative process and that we can be a model on how to do this.
- I have family who went to James Short School, my family has an outstanding question which is: was James Short a racist? Thinking of the artwork, I just don’t want the City to get in trouble for the wording. To be labelled a racist is serious.

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- I work in the downtown and I get asked by people about the renaming and want to know that this is done in a sensitive way. In a way that respects the people that live, work and visit but in a good way that is celebratory/positive.
- When it comes to Chinatown, I am a native Calgarian. I have had many experiences in Chinatown and been part of many presentations about Chinatown. In the perspective of the historical community, we are aware of the history and contributions that neighbourhood has made and want to see this continue. We are interested in the Tomorrow's Chinatown work and want to make sure that all experiences are brought out and history is preserved. We want to tell the whole story, if we don't tell the whole story history will repeat itself. We need to learn and understand and see the whole picture that includes everyone's experiences. I am glad that this project is looking to do more community engagement because that might be missing. We've tried to do many presentations on Chinatown with [REDACTED] and [REDACTED], we have an app, done filming at the Cultural Centre. We are very keen in seeing the whole picture, not just one perspective.
- As someone who doesn't live in the City of Calgary it is still important to recognize it and I am first generation Chinese. It is important to have solidarity with the community especially when people in the community have shared that they felt harm, and many have, it's my responsibility to hold the City of Calgary accountable.

Question #2: What are your priorities for renaming?

A. Learning more about the history of James Short Park and Chinatown from multiple perspectives.

- I would like to build off what was said and even work with Indigenous people who lived on the land before and wonder if we can work around the early Chinese settlers and the Indigenous populations. In BC there is an example of this 'Cedar & Bamboo'. I would like to think of values of balance and harmony.
 - The association that I referred to is the Chinese Canadian Historical Society of BC (www.cchsbcc.ca) Interestingly, one of their recent projects is the Lytton First Nation and the Lytton Chinese History Museum.

B. Sharing stories about the resilience of the Chinese community in Calgary over the years

- No comments

C. Identifying new names for the park and parkade.

- No comments

D. Identifying ways to recognize the history of the park/Chinatown and celebrate the Chinese community.

- I feel like each are asking a lot but I think [identifying ways to recognize the history of the park/Chinatown and celebrate the Chinese community] is much more important. There is a lot of talk about resilience with marginalized communities right now and I think it comes out of desperation and would like us to recognize the history for us to move forward and not the resilience (the strengths/assets of the community). There is a lot of history that isn't being recognized at a small level as well. I would like this to process to best reflect what is important to community and that might not be a name so we should be open to it. There are people who are tied to Chinatown who aren't Chinese. For example people from Hong Kong that built buildings but also others who are connected to Chinatown. So it might not be a name and

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maybe like Chinatown Park and Parkade. I would like us to reflect how people move in it and embody it.

- I am not a historian and could spend more time to learn the history better but this conversation is making me think about the significant contributions that Chinese Canadians have made that is not recognized by curriculum or elsewhere. Where is it recognized by the City of Calgary? I think this is an opportunity to do that.

E. Other

- I never liked places to be named after people. I would like us to go after concepts that we all value and avoiding public spaces or structures after individuals. The country could be more sensitive to each other and leave a better world behind and incorporate this value and Chinese culture values and why they value – rather than arguing and seeing one person better than the other.
 - City staff shared that this process doesn't need to be named after a person. It can be named after flora/fauna, people or something that contributes to the ongoing of community
- First priority is to have a respectful process that is a positive model for others
- I agree that the renaming does not need to be a person's name; in fact, it may be best if it has more of a cultural relevance than a name. *[sent via email]*

Ranking & Ranking Comments

Priority Choices:

- A. Learning more about the history of James Short Park and Chinatown from multiple perspectives
- B. Sharing stories about the resilience of the Chinese community in Calgary over the years
- C. Identifying new names for the park and parkade
- D. Identifying ways to recognize the history of the park/Chinatown and celebrate the Chinese community
- E. Other

TOP PRIORITIES FROM PARTICIPANTS					
	1st	2nd	3rd	4 th	5th
A	1,1,1	1,1,1,1,1	1	1,1,1	
B	1,1	1,1	1,1,1,1,1,1,1	1	
C	1,1,1	1,1	1	1,1,1,1,1,	
D	1,1,1,1,1,1	1,1,1,1	1,1		
E				1	1
Top Choice	D	A	B	C	E

- C&D are priorities. A&B are of course important, we have done and continue to do A&B
- My order: A,D,B,C, and E.
- My priorities for the renaming are: A, D, B, and C. I don't have an answer or a solution, but I want to better understand the process that takes account the opposing perspectives.
- D/B are tied for 1st for me, then C,A, and E - continuing to learn and listen
- My order: DACB

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- my order of priorities: D A B C
- My order is C D B A. It is not in the order of importance rather order of timing.
- People can be proud of. Then D, A, B. Of course it leads to C
- Order: D, C > B, A
- C,D,B,A
- B, A, D, C
 - I think that what we've learned in the historical community that I'm familiar with is that we don't need a lot of facts and research, that research isn't all encompassing. I think that going to the community stories first is much more important than doing more research. Research is important and I don't want to undervalue that but when we get to understanding history, stories are much more valuable than facts and figures. Making things real and personal is much more important. That is why I chose B first then A, and then D to recognize that history and its important to understand from the people who use the space and how it's utilized, it is important from a cultural and social perspective.
- A, B, D, C
 - I know that Harry is doing more digging and I am going to keep asking if James Short was a racist. My family members are still alive and have experiences from this time and the stories are still there but no one has asked them which is disappointing. If we don't get the stories, they are going to be lost. Heading into D is important to talk to the community to know the hows, the whens and what for. The engagement itself needs to be done properly, for example, soliciting the children of the senior population, who are not tech savvy, to help get them engaged and hear their stories. If you are going to take the name off the park at least find something meaningful to the community. The priorities are listed there, it just needs to be done right. I agree with [REDACTED], the stories are more important but they won't be there forever because they (my family) are in their 80s through 90s. I don't know if they have the appetite to share anymore. If you don't know the Asian people, they aren't really forthright and Harry had to push them what was shared.
 - I had the opportunity to met your cousins. I do understand accessing the knowledge from families is very difficult and requires dedication. I am curious if anyone read the historical paper that Fung Ling wrote and if that answers those questions about why your family hasn't been consulted. Similar to what you were saying these stories live with the families which is why I am still interested in supporting this after [REDACTED]. I feel these priorities are not very important in how I see it—the one that strikes me the most is C only because it's the easiest. I echo [REDACTED] from the other session who was asking how this will affect policy because these efforts don't affect contemporary experiences. I think its really important that we recognize what the community is resilient against and still are—which is systemic racism. I think its important to celebrate the resiliency but addressing what is causing it.

Question #3: Engagement Overview – Looking Ahead

Comments:

- I think that we online/virtual utilize only to communicate it is very limiting. Of course the pandemic affects this. I think if you can broaden how to you communicate like radio and posters to create

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additional ways to inform the community. Which seniors do you know go online. I am sure there is an increasing number of people using online but strongly suggest you use multiple ways to inform. This is about engagement it's about building trust with the city and community.

- Can you share the limitations are to engagement (budget, staffing, etc.)
 - City staff shared that this process is expected to be completed in 2022.
- What about hiring within the community to lead the activities?
 - City staff shared that it depends on timing but can discuss if that is a top priority and discuss what is possible by exploring the parameters of what we could or should do. Hiring people in the community is possible and we could figure that out some way. Just want to be mindful of not overpromising. Meeting in person is a limit because of the pandemic. Maybe adding a bonfire in the park might be a creative idea to explore for in person engagements.

Question #4: Moving Forward in the Engagement

What should the first steps be?

- A lot of what is being shared is starting to touch on the work of the Cultural Plan and maybe some of the comments are in there and we can expand or include what is in there.
- I would look at the objectives from the key community contacts first and then when you go out to the community at large it's clearer. More time is required to share ideas back. We want to be very clear about what we are asking when we engage the public. So it's not confusing. But also, we need more time to do this – it would be better to promote this first allow for discussion in community then collect feedback after a some time (a couple months)?
- I think it would be important to share in multiple mediums to get the community feedback (poster etc). A message agreed on was to emphasize that 'Now is time to give feedback'
- I think we need to provide education to people before they participate to understand the context. (for example: 30 minute education session first).
- It would be great if the public consultation period was in a short, intense period (versus too long and unfocused). It could be used to draw attention to Chinatown and hopefully be celebratory and positive.
- I've sat down in many engagements. Community isn't just the Chinese community, it's the downtown community, the people who use the park, so I think its important to broaden the engagement to consider the users including the the businesses around that park. We need to understand their needs as well- it would be shortsighted to internalize and miss their involvement as well. I think its not just Facebook. You are looking for ways and means to talk to them and while it's unfortunate in a covid world. I remember doing the Downtown West and Bend in the Bow city engagements where we walked through to the posterboard with stickies and it was great.
- I agree with [REDACTED] that we need to use the good old fashion paper for those who aren't using tech. Sending things in the mail etc. which might be more expensive but needed. Can we use the community associations. I think you can still host open houses in the covid world but just more spaced like at the jubilee to keep the social distance. I think it's important for the engagement to do these things. I wonder if there is the time, money and resources etc. I don't know if you've used community associations but they have good connections so that people don't all have to speak for themselves.

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- I have a question, how was Sien Lok Park named? City staff answered that the Sien Lok Society named it and was able to preserve the park, we don't know 100% and that was many years ago etc. [REDACTED] shared that she asked because she wants to know if people are okay with organizations and representatives making decisions because of the times and that there are always constraints but you know you don't want to rush things or force it due to timing.
- I would like to see an individual survey on paper and community associations consulted and hoping that between those two you can capture meaningfully. I also like [REDACTED]'s suggestion in connection with the business community, which you could do virtually.
- I think it's important to recognize that the City hasn't done this kind of renaming before. Renaming for me is an act of accountability and social justice work so when we ask who to engage we should engage those who have been harmed because they haven't had the power. In terms of method, I did some virtual and it was so painful and excruciating because to do this we need relationships. This process isn't just about renaming it's about addressing the elephant in the room and doing this right, and it doesn't have to be hurtful it can be beautiful. The telling of these stories is important to healing so please do go beyond the virtual.

Who should be included in the engagement?

- I understand that you will need to open the process to all Calgarians, but I'd suggest that not all Calgarian's opinions be weighted equally. Public naming naturalizes history, and the history of this city is already biased towards the white settler narrative. White settler history is also ubiquitous, and so needs to be actively and strategically deconstructed through our processes and institutions if we are seeking a more authentic and genuinely representative historical narrative. Thank you everyone for sharing, I have learned a lot tonight.
- I agree with [REDACTED]'s comments. I think a lot of people won't be engaged and that is okay and we shouldn't discredit them because a lot of people are blasé about these things. I am not worried about engaging a lot of people as possible but more whose voices are not being heard and whose is and that we make sure they have a stake. We need to think about those most impacted and remember that we are speaking as a minority.

What is the best way to connect with them?

- Target more of the youth population as they are social media savvy and can be influencers. Have them post messages to followers to invite to engagement. *[Sent via email]*

What are some creative or simple ways to collect feedback?

- Effective ways to engage especially young people, is through debates and discussion. Would it be interesting to have a panel online on a conversation with young, historians, etc. to build excitement in the young people who you are trying to reach. The arts sector was hit a lot by the pandemic and maybe by engaging people to talk about these issues creatively. Maybe having people paint in long strips and paint what is possible on these sites and have people talk about it.

Where would you like to see in person engagement to take place?

- No comments

What would in-person engagement look like?

- When I think of getting my family together, it involves getting their kids to help them to do the Zoom etc. Because you are right that the older generation are terrified with covid right now. But your bigger challenge will be finding the way to get them to share because some of them don't want to. I know where you are coming from [REDACTED] because this is a huge trust issue—because you have to be genuine not just picking the right person but once you get the trust you can get a lot of knowledge, a lot of history.

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- I would also suggest conversing with Fung Ling because for her research paper she did have one on one conversations, but again these conversations are quite guarded.
- Surely, we can get a list a trusted community members like people who have been involved already, would they be willing? I know they are all busy people but like [REDACTED] mentioned, can we get kids to interview their grandparents and uncles etc. Would they be willing to write these up and share those? I think to go to trusted community members—I know that this is hard to identify because you never know but those two are ones I would start with.

What advice do you have for virtual engagement?

- No comments

How important is print and or spoken Chinese translation?

- I think visuals are important. Online is limiting because they might not know what to look for and wouldn't think about going online. It's not accessible to older generation which is why I asked about the Fair Calgary policy application.

What does success look like?

- That some trust was to built with the community [so] success may include increased awareness, increased learning about the park and Chinatown, increased equitable participation, meaningful communication and increased trust between City of Calgary and Chinese / Chinatown community through the City communicating acknowledgment of the importance of the Chinese Canadian community.

Phase 1: Learning about Life in Chinatown

Question: What is your memory of life in Chinatown?

What was daily life like? What brought you joy? What made you feel excluded or discriminated against?

To view all memory submissions, see the Memory Book document on the [Renaming James Short Park and Parkade](#) webpage or email engage@calgary.ca

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Phase 2: Name Suggestions & Ideas for Future Programming and Activation of the Park

Question #1: What is your name suggestion for the park and parkade? Tell us why.

- a. Parks can be named after a person, community values or priorities, or something in nature. For example, in Calgary there is Central Memorial Park, Prairie Winds Park and Fish Creek Park.

1. Names that represent harmony, unity and other virtues that benefit society and in ways that acknowledges Chinese and Indigenous communities. (TOTAL: 18)

- **Harmony in Balance/Harmony (3)**

Verbatim Comments:

- Harmony
- Harmony
- Harmony in Balance Park to recognize the community values of the Blackfoot Nation and Chinese Canadians that have occupied the space.

- **Benevolence/Benevolent (3)**

Verbatim Comments:

- Benevolence Park. Benevolence has the following meanings 1. disposition to do good 2. A kind act/gift or the doing of kind things for others
- Benevolent Park (similar to Sien Lok Park). Should not name it after a person, but "values" instead.
- Park of Benevolence 仁愛公園, reflecting the central value of Confucius' philosophy, encourages kindness, charity and humanism in a community.

- **Unity/Great Unity Park (3)**

Verbatim Comments:

- The Chinese community in Calgary should make the decision, but Great Unity is a nice thought. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Great_Unity
- 「和園」 wish to express same 'unity, together in harmony' in the Blackfoot language + use Indigenous symbols to recognise Treaty 7 territories
- Scanned Submission (translated): Unity is the important precursor to peace and development. To reflect on history to gain future success.

- **Peace/Hope (3)**

Verbatim Comments:

- Peace park
- 和平 (Peace in traditional Chinese.)
- I think we should rename James Short park to 希望公園 or Xīwàng gōngyuán in English it translates to "Hope Park."

- **Everyone Welcome/Together (2)**

Verbatim Comments:

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- "Everyone Welcome" - Chinatown today welcomes everyone. Historically, Chinese immigrants & indigenous folk not truly welcomed. Aspirational.
- 一起 Park. 一起 means together in Chinese. I think it will symbolize the fact that the rest of Calgary and China town can work together.

- **Solidarity (1)**

Verbatim Comments:

- Solidarity Park. I think this name is fitting as we need to stand in solidarity to counter racism. We need to embrace differences.

- **Diversity (1)**

Verbatim Comments:

- "Diversity Park" ... Canada has come a long ways to abolish racism, hatred and discrimination and we still have more to achieve.

- **One World Park (1)**

Verbatim Comments:

"One World Park" The Olympic motif ONE WORLD was displayed at the closing ceremonies at the Beijing Olympics. It fosters inclusivity.

2. Names that recognize well known historic leaders (TOTAL: 12)

- **Historic Chinese Figure (3)**

Verbatim Comments:

- Chinese Calgarian - historic figure
- A well-known Chinese community leader
- A well-known Chinese community leader

- **George Ho Lem (2)**

Verbatim Comments:

- George Ho Lem Park-Community champion, fought to help merchants showcase BBQ meats and preserved Chinatown from the 12-lane roadway.
- George Ho Lem Park. It seems fitting to replace the name of one councillor with the name of Calgary's first Chinese councillor.

- **Norman 'Normie' Kwong (2)**

Verbatim Comments:

- Norman Lim Kwong, former Lt. Governor of Alberta.
- Use Normie Kwong Park and Parkade for this location

- **Louie Kheong (1)**

Verbatim Comment:

- Rename in the honour of "Louie Kheong", someone significant to Calgary's Chinese community.

- **Yeung, King Ning / Yang, Jing Nan 杨景南 (1)**

Verbatim Comment:

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- The older generation has said that YEUNG, KING NING / YANG, JING NAN (杨景南) made great contributions for Chinatown. I propose using his name.

- **Douglas Jung Park (1)**

Verbatim Comment:

- I want to name the park to remember the contribution of Chinese railway workers in Canada in history. Or Douglas Jung Park.

- **J.C. Herdman Park (Knox Church Pastor in late 1880s) (1)**

Verbatim Comment:

- AJA 6 suggests: Lunar Park, Dragon Park, Centre St. Park, J.C. Herdman Park, Flander's Trail Park, Héping Park, Fù Park, and Blossom Park! *Added by Engage for context: (https://presbyterian.ca/magazines/pc_Issue9_Spring2019/files/basic-html/page10.html)*

- **The park formerly known as James Short Park (like Prince) (1)**

Verbatim Comment:

- To be honest, I kind of like the name "The park formerly known as James Short Park". (Like Prince;) Acknowledge but do not glorify him.

3. Names that recognize the physical location or shape and original name of school. (TOTAL: 8)

- **Central/Centre Park (7)**

Verbatim Comments:

- Dragon parking; Chinatown parking; Center park parking; Center street parking
- Centre parkade
- [1] "Fourth & Centre Park/Parkade." Should not tie to "Chinatown" because location is not in Chinatown.
- Centre Street Park & Parkade. We have Centre Street Bridge, make sense to have "Centre Street" Park.
- [1] "Fourth & Centre Park/Parkade." Should not tie to "Chinatown" because location is not in Chinatown.
- AJA 6 suggests: Lunar Park, Dragon Park, Centre St. Park, J.C. Herdman Park, Flander's Trail Park, Héping Park, Fù Park, and Blossom Park!
- Circle park. Either that or Central Park. 好运 also could work. I also agree that it should not be named after a person.

- **Circle (1)**

Verbatim Comment:

Circle park. Either that or Central Park. 好运 also could work. I also agree that it should not be named after a person.

4. Names that recognize Chinese zodiac and lineage from Dragons. (TOTAL: 6)

- **Dragon/ Year of the Dragon/ Woo long (reclining dragon) – (5)**

Verbatim Comments:

- i think we should name the park year of dragon park to celerbrate chiniese new years park
- year of dragon park

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- What about "The Muze" Park or "Muze" or "Dragon Park... we love the neighbourhood coffee shop!
- AJA 6 suggests: Lunar Park, Dragon Park, Centre St. Park, J.C. Herdman Park, Flander's Trail Park, Héping Park, Fù Park, and Blossom Park!
- SIMPLIFIED: Wolong park, 卧龙公园 · 公园在水畔 · 也在唐人街区 · 中华民族是龙的传人 · 龙宜居水边 · 取寓意华人在卡尔加里的这方土壤上生生不息 · 源源绵长 Translation: shares that because Chinese people are descendants of dragons, and that the park is on the waterfront that they suggest the name Woolong for the park which means reclining dragon

- **Year of the Tiger – (1)**

Verbatim Comments:

TIGER PARK / TIGER PARKADE In honor of the year of the tiger.

5. Names that recognize local business, area or good luck. (TOTAL: 6)

- **Fù Park (2)**

Verbatim Comments:

- AJA 6 suggests: Lunar Park, Dragon Park, Centre St. Park, J.C. Herdman Park, Flander's Trail Park, Héping Park, Fù Park, and Blossom Park!
- Fu park/good luck fortune park

- **Muze Park (1)**

Verbatim Comment:

- What about "The Muze" Park or "Muze" or "Dragon Park... we love the neighbourhood coffee shop!

- **Huaxia Park, this is from 华夏 (1)**

Verbatim Comment:

- I would suggest: Huaxia Park, this is from 华夏, which is the name of the beginning of China and represents all the people with Chinese blood.

- **Héping Park (1)**

Verbatim Comment:

- AJA 6 suggests: Lunar Park, Dragon Park, Centre St. Park, J.C. Herdman Park, Flander's Trail Park, Héping Park, Fù Park, and Blossom Park!

- **Mill Woods Valley Park (1)**

Verbatim Comment:

- Mill Woods Valley Park

6. Chinatown/ Calgary Chinatown (TOTAL: 5)

Verbatim Comments:

- Dragon parking; Chinatown parking; Center park parking; Center street parking
- Chinatown Park. It is close to Chinatown. Easy name to remember. It could have Eastern landscaping. (included in park ideas)
- Chinatown parkade.

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- 卡城華埠停車場. Calgary Chinatown Parkade.

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7. Names that recognize the contributions of Chinese Railway workers (TOTAL: 5)

- Chinese Railway Workers/ Railway Pioneer Park (4)

Verbatim Comments:

- I want to name the park to remember the contribution of Chinese railway workers in Canada in history. Or Douglas Jung Park.
- chinese railway workers park
- Chinese Railway Workers Park
- Railway Pioneer's Memorial Park

- Pioneer's Trail Park (1)

Verbatim Comment:

AJA 6 suggests: Lunar Park, Dragon Park, Centre St. Park, J.C. Herdman Park, Flander's Trail Park, Héping Park, Fù Park, and Blossom Park!

8. Names that recognize stars and connection between Chinese and Indigenous communities. (TOTAL: 4)

- North by East Star Park/North Star/Polaris Park (3)

Verbatim Comments:

- AJA 6 suggests: Lunar Park, Dragon Park, Centre St. Park, J.C. Herdman Park, Flander's Trail Park, Héping Park, Fù Park, and Blossom Park!
- North by East Star Park --in 3 languages: Blackfoot, Chinese & English. Name is allusion to where immigrants came from to Calgary Chinatown
- Polaris Park, or North Star Park, (or if there's an Indigenous name or word for North Star such as X-Park) and the Chinese can be (北) 極星公園

- Lunar (1)

Verbatim Comment:

AJA 6 suggests: Lunar Park, Dragon Park, Centre St. Park, J.C. Herdman Park, Flander's Trail Park, Héping Park, Fù Park, and Blossom Park!

9. Names that honour Chinese community efforts for democracy. (TOTAL: 3)

- Freedom and Democracy Square 民主自由講場 (2)

Verbatim Comments:

- "Freedom and Democracy Square 民主自由講場" - to commemorate millions of Chinese escaping China, Hong Kong, Macau for decades to find it in Canada
- Freedom with Hong Kong Park

- Goddess of Democracy Square (1)

Verbatim Comment:

"Goddess of Democracy Square 民主女神廣場" to commemorate the millions of Chinese souls lost to the pursuit of democracy, freedom and liberty

10. Names that acknowledge nature. (TOTAL: 2)

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- **Nature Land (1)**

Verbatim Comment:

- Nature Land Park is what I think because there is lots of nature around that part of the land. (us, birds, trees,. etc.)

- **Blossom Park (1)**

Verbatim Comment:

AJA 6 suggests: Lunar Park, Dragon Park, Centre St. Park, J.C. Herdman Park, Flander's Trail Park, Héping Park, Fù Park, and Blossom Park!

Question #2: What is your name suggestion for the park and parkade? Tell us why.

- a. Some examples are artwork meaningful to the community, signage with important words/values from community, benches dedicated to specific community members, park changes to better accommodate specific cultural practices.

- **Artwork (TOTAL: 6)**

- Installation
- Sculptural Art
- Family of Man Figures from Old Calgary Board of Education Site
- Use circular stones to showcase diversity
- Murals on the wall of Parkade
- traditional Chinese art themed for astronomy

- **Plaque/Signage (TOTAL: 4)**

- [renaming] is really not important, it is a waste of money. Instead, why not put up a plaque explaining the history? Then it would be useful and educational, and everyone can know the bad parts of our past so we don't repeat them. The park isn't really a part of Chinatown, most times of day it is full of drug addicts and local residents and employees don't really go there.
- **Signage:** Having a park name in Chinese 「和園」 and express same “unity, together in harmony” in the Blackfoot language, and use Indigenous symbols or pictographs to recognise the Treaty 7 territories.

Series of 7 Banners: A park without a name, temporary public art exhibit by artist Annie Wong.

Artwork—immersive new media installation art

The park is not well-used. Let's explore ways to liven it up by attracting passersby including Chinatown residents. We need 熱鬧 which literally means “hot and noisy” and is

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a measure of the liveliness of an atmosphere.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=di5fZe1WyNs>

Collage of Sound Art with layers of ambient sounds such as mahjong playing, people chatting in different languages, bustling dim sum restaurant, wrapped with Experimental Music. To avoid vandalism, sound system can be incorporated in streetlamps for the electricity and the height.

Sculptural Object with Interactive Media and Augmented Reality (AR)

Design a public art sculpture specific for the circular park space with smart electronic components. It can be viewed from both the park as well as the Plus 15 walkway. Smart interactions would be accessible from both ground level and +15.

Benches dedicated to specific community members

Nominate names from contemporary Chinatown, and from historic figures.

- (Translated) Submission is sharing that if people can learn about successful contemporary Chinese people or history that then we can better build relationships
- (Translated): Build a plaque and talk about the history of the park and why it needs to be renamed and the reason for the new name. So, this will help people learn about the history and from the history.

• **Other (TOTAL: 4)**

- We should not follow the path of naming "James Short". Promoting ethnicity also promote ANTI-ASIAN sentiment. We must promote HARMONY, not celebrating ethnicity.
- Ideas already mentioned are all very good. The Our Chosen Land exhibit in the Cultural Centre could be updated and given a higher profile.
- More iconic "entrances" at key points of Chinatown, such as Centre Street bridge coming down as well as coming in from the Bow building direction. Conceptual examples include Dragon Gate in San Francisco.
- I would like a day off on the Chinese spring festival.

• **Event/Activities (TOTAL: 3)**

- parade
- opening with fireworks and dragons
- we could have a lantern making activity in Chinatown to bring attention to the culture and the space.

• **Enhance Park Features (TOTAL: 3)**

- Build on circular stones
- Eastern landscaping
- Increase exit or entrance into Chinatown

• **Banners (TOTAL: 1)**

- **Signage:** Having a park name in Chinese 「和園」 and express same "unity, together in harmony" in the Blackfoot language, and use Indigenous symbols or pictographs to recognise the Treaty 7 territories.

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Benches dedicated to specific community members

Nominate names from contemporary Chinatown, and from historic figures.

- **Benches (TOTAL: 1)**

- **Signage:** Having a park name in Chinese 「和園」 and express same "unity, together in harmony" in the Blackfoot language, and use Indigenous symbols or pictographs to recognise the Treaty 7 territories.

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- **Chinese Garden (TOTAL: 1)**

- Chinese garden

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- **Artwork (TOTAL: 6)**

- Installation
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- Use circular stones to showcase diversity
- Murals on the wall of Parkade
- traditional Chinese art themed for astronomy

- **Plaque/Signage (TOTAL: 4)**

- [renaming] is really not important, it is a waste of money. Instead, why not put up a plaque explaining the history? Then it would be useful and educational, and everyone can know the bad parts of our past so we don't repeat them. The park isn't really a part of Chinatown, most times of day it is full of drug addicts and local residents and employees don't really go there.
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- (Translated): Build a plaque and talk about the history of the park and why it needs to be renamed and the reason for the new name. So, this will help people learn about the history and from the history.

- **Other (TOTAL: 4)**

- We should not follow the path of naming "James Short". Promoting ethnicity also promote ANTI-ASIAN sentiment. We must promote HARMONY, not celebrating ethnicity.

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- Ideas already mentioned are all very good. The Our Chosen Land exhibit in the Cultural Centre could be updated and given a higher profile.
- More iconic "entrances" at key points of Chinatown, such as Centre Street bridge coming down as well as coming in from the Bow building direction. Conceptual examples include Dragon Gate in San Francisco.
- I would like a day off on the Chinese spring festival.
- **Event/Activities (TOTAL: 3)**
 - parade
 - opening with fireworks and dragons
 - we could have a lantern making activity in Chinatown to bring attention to the culture and the space.
- **Enhance Park Features (TOTAL: 3)**
 - Build on circular stones
 - Eastern landscaping
 - Increase exit or entrance into Chinatown
- **Banners (TOTAL: 1)**
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Benches dedicated to specific community members
Nominate names from contemporary Chinatown, and from historic figures.
- **Benches (TOTAL: 1)**
 - **Signage:** Having a park name in Chinese 「和園」 and express same "unity, together in harmony" in the Blackfoot language, and use Indigenous symbols or pictographs to recognise the Treaty 7 territories.

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Benches dedicated to specific community members

Nominate names from contemporary Chinatown, and from historic figures.

- **Chinese Garden (TOTAL: 1)**
 - Chinese garden

Phase 3: Review of Public Submissions by Community Advisors

Summary from meetings with community advisors.

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April 11, 2022 Meeting Summary with Community Advisors

Top name recommendations and votes after reviewing public submissions:

Name	Votes	Comments/Rationale
#1 - Harmony Park - Harmony in Balance Park - Chinatown Harmony Park	7	Want to include translations in Chinese and Indigenous languages either in plaques, artwork etc.
#6 - Chinatown Park	1	Would acknowledge the history which is wrapped up in the renaming
Other: - Mugwort Park*	1	

Comments:

- Wanted to ensure the concept behind the name is articulated as it is very important.
- There was interest in the utilization of Indigenous symbols and language as well as Chinese language.

The leading theme was #1 that focused on harmony where there was large support for harmony but was not unanimous. The names under this theme suggested were:

- **Harmony**
 - o 和園 with Harmony as the translated English name
 - o Unity, Together in Harmony
- **Harmony in Balance**

Some concerns around the name recommendation of harmony are:

- the geopolitical tensions
- trauma from feeling silenced by having to act harmoniously at the expense of expressing speaking out and sharing different opinions

There were also two other suggestions:

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- **Chinatown Park** because it commemorates Chinatown's history as it is wrapped up in this renaming action. James Short is also part of Chinatown's history which adds significance to naming it Chinatown Park would be included in this name choice.
 - o Which was later accepted to being incorporated as part of Harmony (Chinatown Harmony Park), however, we have since removed this suggestion from the harmony suggestions above as [REDACTED] has stated being okay moving forward with Harmony Park
 - o Additionally, Brian Wong shared that if the Chinese characters were included in the park and parkade it would signal a relationship or connection with Chinatown
- **A name that represents nature or a plant that is found here and in China.** This would be a way to represent a connection to the land and harmony without saying the word harmony.
 - o An example of a plants that is found both here and in China are:
 - Honeysuckle (金银花, Jin Yin Hua)
 - Wild Mint (薄荷, Bo He)
 - **Mugwort (艾草, Ai Cao)**

Many other comments were shared that could be incorporated into future works in the park such as:

- Indigenous symbolism and land recognition
- Inclusion of symbolic plants, flora or landscaping to reference connection to the land and nature
- A plaque or other signage to articulate the full concept of the Chinese name
- A plaque or other signage to articulate history of the park and its relationship to Chinatown

It should be noted that other ideas were also received for the park during phase 2 of engagement. All ideas will be explored once funding becomes available.

Most supported recommendation:

The most supported name suggestion was 和園 **Harmony Park** as the English version. It was decided to host an additional meeting to determine if this is what was to be the final name recommendation and/or choose from a shortlist of other options from the meeting (see votes above).

April 19, 2022 Meeting Summary with Community Advisors

All community advisors were asked to answer the following questions for the meeting. Those not in attendance were able to send in their response via email but none was received.

1. The most supported name suggestion was 和園 **Harmony Park** as the English version. Do you support this as the name recommendation? (Yes/No)
 - a. Yes.
 - b. No. If not, please select the name you would like us to include from the following shortlist*
 - i. Unity, Together in Harmony
 - ii. Harmony in Balance

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- iii. A plant found in both here and in China. Examples provided are: Honeysuckle (金银花, Jin Yin Hua), Wild Mint (薄荷, Bo He) and Mugwort (艾草, Ai Cao)

*Note: The suggestion of Chinatown and Chinatown Harmony Park were removed for the following reasons:

- support from the person who originally put it forward was rescinded
- Chinatown Park felt exclusive to some
- There is already a Chinatown Park
- Inclusion of Chinese characters in the new park and parkade signage would demonstrate the connection to Chinatown

Summary of discussion:

The supported final name recommendation was **和園 Harmony Park**. Voting for this name recommendation and associated comments from the meeting was as follows:

	YES	NO
Votes	<p> </p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Everyone supported this choice with one alternate suggestion 	<p>I*</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> One person is counted as 'no' but was okay with harmony as a recommendation. Notes below share suggestions as to how to include their view.
Comments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I like Harmony and also Harmony in Balance Park but not how it sounds but appreciate the inclusion of Chinese text in the name Likes this choice because of the deeper meaning and poetic meaning of the Chinese text with Harmony. It's beautiful. I believe we should keep the name short, namely, just Harmony. I vote for "A" Want to know if we can see the design of the name. Want to know if the Chinese characters would be included <ul style="list-style-type: none"> City staff shared that yes, that was the intention and even can make the Chinese characters larger in font If we choose something that is longer in name it will get shortened in practice. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> City staff shared, there is still opportunity to share the depth and poeticism of the name. 	<p>A plant found in both here in and in China:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can we include this idea in the programming of the park? City staff shared that they believe we can accommodate this suggestion by actually planting Honeysuckle in the park (liked by others)

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- I would have voted for just "Harmony"... simple and easier
- Thanks.... if longer (in English), there is always the risk of a weird acronym
- I would be more than happy to provide a short explanation for the Chinese concept of Harmony and the Chinese word "he".
- I liked that idea that the name could be longer/more symbolic in Chinese (and Indigenous)
- I would recommend that where there was the recognition of James Short in the park that was quickly taken down, that there is some kind of plaque or history that is put up even if it takes 3 years.
 - City staff said they can commit to putting something up within 6 months
 - It was mentioned that Heritage Calgary has a plaque program that could get something up fairly quickly, if that's a requirement.
- It's kind of nice that in Mandarin dialect it 'sounds' similar to "Harmony"

Notes from document sent by community advisor via email during phase 2 of engagement that came up in discussion:

- In conjunction with a Chinese name, wish to express same '**unity, together in harmony**' in the **Blackfoot** language to recognise not only Treaty 7 territories but also our neighbours when the Blackfoot encampment was along the river, stretching from Eau Claire to East Village. In addition, use the Piikani, Blackfoot (Siksika), Kainai, Stoney Nakoda, Tsuut'ina symbols. Please see below.

「和園」 wish to express same 'unity, together in harmony' in the Blackfoot language + use Indigenous symbols to recognise Treaty 7 territories

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Further Comments on the Word Harmony RE: Renaming James Short Park and Parkade

Sent on Tuesday May 3, 2022:

Hello [REDACTED],

Thank you for the detailed notes. In our opinion, the notes capture well the content of our meeting.

Allow us to offer the following comments on the proposed English and Chinese names for the park.

"Harmony" speaks to the fruitful and peaceful interaction of different parties. In the case of the park in question, this concept is applicable in three ways. First, and most important, it speaks to the need to interact with many different peoples and views in today's world. Second, it acknowledges-by recognizing their willingness to harmonize with their environment--some of the first people to occupy the land the park is situated on or near. Third, the name serves as a counterweight to racism, something that the park has been associated with. Given this association, the renaming acknowledges the need to rectify past racist behaviour. The first two ways reflect the meaning of the term "harmony" in Chinese, the third way is localized to Calgary's history.

The Chinese characters, 和園, are pronounced "heyuan"//in Mandarin. The second character, 園, literally means "decorative garden" and it is the first character, 和, that fits more closely with the word "harmony". It means "peace" and also to live amicably with others. Needless to say, the character has a deep meaning in Chinese. The two characters together mean a peaceful place, one that promotes harmony.

We trust that our interpretations can be of some assistance to you.

With kind regards,

[REDACTED]

Sent on Wednesday May 11, 2022:

Hi [REDACTED],

I hope everything is going well with you.

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Please find attached a note regarding the Chinese word "和", or harmony.

I have also taken liberty to cc to Professors [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] as well as [REDACTED] for their review and comments as they are all well versed in Chinese culture and history. [REDACTED], please feel free to comment or add anything you think that should be added.

If there are any questions, please let me know.

Thanks.

[REDACTED]

Attachment:

和园 Harmony Park

A proposal has been made to rename the park and parkade by Chinatown to 和园, or Harmony Park. I have agreed to write a short note to explain what the Chinese word 和 conveys.

The Chinese word/character 和 has several different and distinct meanings depending on the sound. The most common one in usage is 和 in the second tone (i.e. hé). Even for this one, there are several broad meanings based on its usage:

1. The first one is to express "harmonious", "gentle", "mild", "kind", "peace", "no conflict", "on good term", or "getting along", depending on the context, especially when used in classical Chinese or poetic writings. It also means a draw, as in a chess game, referring to the situation where there is no winner or loser.
2. The second one is to express "together with". As a preposition, it is used to indicate a relationship or for comparison. As a conjunctive, it could mean "with" or "and" on related subjects, persons, objects, or ideas, for grouping or for comparison. Closely related to this usage, it also means "sum", i.e., the result of adding several numbers.
3. The third meaning is Japanese or Japan. The Japanese have adopted this word/character to refer to themselves in some instances.

(For this discussion, I will focus on just the first one to avoid confusion.)

The most common usage is the first one, expressing the concept of togetherness or the absence of conflict. From a cultural standpoint, the word 和 has very deep philosophical meanings. When 和 is used in combination with another word or character, it gives a very precise meaning. For example, "he-ping" means peace, "he-xie" means harmony or harmonious, "he-jie" means to reconcile or resolve conflicts, "he-shan" means kind and gentle, "he-qi" means friendly and amiable, and the list goes on. The common thread is that they all refer to the idea of friendship, good relationship or absence of conflict.

Throughout their long history, the Chinese have encountered all sorts of social situations, periods characterized by conflicts, turmoil, uncertainties, peace and prosperity. Many different schools of thought on social order emerged over time. But one common thread that runs through all of them is the notion of 和. Every school of thought values and encourages personal cultivation so one becomes a better person and a valuable member of society. Therefore, we are to treat each other with respect and tolerance, recognizing and accepting that we are all different as individuals. The underlying principle is 和.

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As an illustration, there is a common Chinese expression that the conduct of a cultivated “gentleman” is characterized by 和而不同 (“he er bu tong”), loosely translated as “friendly and respectful even when others have different background and social standing or have different views and inclinations” [although this phrase originally means “harmonious but not colluding with a small circle of self-serving people” when it was first used]. For petty persons, interaction between them is characterized by 同而不和 (“tong er bu he”) or “conflict and discord even when they share the same background, social standing and objective”. In a peaceful and orderly society, hence social interactions within it, the concept of 和 is very much one of the key fundamental elements.

While Western cultures focus on the individuals as a unique member of a society, Chinese culture focuses on the collective, a society which embodies all the components and the individuals within it. Therefore, we each approach the subject matter and various issues from different directions with different perspectives. But what’s important is that we all share the same goal.

In a civilized society, there are three basic characteristics or fundamental principles that define and underpin it. They are mutual respect, tolerance and the right to be different, as articulated and analyzed by many prominent European philosophers and political theorists over the last few centuries. Without any one of these three principles, a civilized society, especially a liberal democracy, cannot be sustained, as it will lead to conflicts and hostilities among the individuals. We do see that certain societies move away from these fundamental principles from time to time. They pay no attention to mutual respect and tolerance. Many of them just want their personal views and beliefs actualized, and their ways of doing thing done. Many of them define themselves by who they voted for in the last election. If this trend continues, it will degenerate into mob rule.

Chinese culture also embraces all these three fundamental principles as well. It effectuates mutual respect through rituals and customs, it encourages tolerance through generosity of spirit and understanding, and it foster the right to be different through recognition and acceptance of the fact that everyone is different. But more importantly, the common thread that runs through all three is the concept and presence of 和.

While the Western method to resolve conflicting issues is often through the “adversary” process, the Chinese method relies on resolving the issues by seeking in good faith a solution that both sides can accept and honor. That is not to say one is better or preferable but simply pointing out that each has different approaches and different ways to achieve the same end, namely an acceptable solution for everyone. The very existence of the Calgary Chinese Cultural Centre is a testament to this process – with the various parties entering the previous ARP process as “adversaries” but coming out as friends with a solution that satisfied all parties involved. The key landowners wanted and got higher density. The community needed and got help to build a community centre to minimize the potential damage due to the change in land use and higher density. This is an example of 和 in action.

I’m sure we all remember the discussions regarding the proposal to display the posters done by an artist in residence at the James Short Park. Some members of the AG and others have expressed strong opposition to the proposal. They find it odd that while we are considering renaming the park “Harmony”, yet we are putting up these posters featuring messages contradicting the very notion of harmony.

By the way, 和園 could also be interpreted as Japanese Park, since 和 also means Japanese.

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Thanks.

Sent on Wednesday May 11, 2022:

Hello everyone,

Thank you for including me in this email. [REDACTED] viewpoints are accurate and precise on the wording of 和.

The deeper meaning of 和 is 和而不同 (“he er bu tong”) which is more in line to the public desire. This concept is also similar to Canada's multiculturalism. Thus it should be great to emphasize this meaning. Since the wording of 和 has a wide scope of interpretations, I would tempted to focus it to 和而不同 (“he er bu tong”) which means 和諧公園 (Héxié gōngyuán).

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Appendix A – Motion Arising (PFC2020-0802)



Report Number: PFC2020-0802

Meeting: Priorities & Finance Committee

Meeting Date: 2020 July 14

NOTICE OF MOTION

RE: Renaming James Short Park and James Short Parkade

Sponsoring Councillor(s): Councillor Druh Farrell

WHEREAS The City of Calgary is the steward of municipal property naming and regularly exercises this authority to recognize prominent Calgarians, places, and events;

AND WHEREAS global movements are exposing and tackling systemic racism within our societies, with City Council recently adopting Calgary's Commitment to Anti-Racism through motion C2020-0715;

AND WHEREAS a part of those movements is the renaming, reinterpretation, or removal of symbols that honour figures who contributed to the discrimination and oppression of racialized communities;

AND WHEREAS continued official honouring of figures and movements with racist pasts, without their full context, is counter to The City of Calgary's duty to promote a diverse and inclusive city;

AND WHEREAS City Council previously renamed the Langevin Bridge to Reconciliation Bridge to address the actions of namesake Hector-Louis Langevin against Indigenous peoples;

AND WHEREAS James Short Park and James Short Parkade (Short Site) are located just south of Calgary's Chinatown on the site where the Central School formerly stood;

AND WHEREAS the Short Site's namesake, James Short, served as Principal of the Central School and as lawyer for the racist Anti-Chinese League;

AND WHEREAS Short petitioned City Commissioners to prohibit Chinese Canadians from establishing the third and current location of Chinatown, making the claim that Chinese Canadians would lower property values and the further contention that "it is for you to take up the question and set the Chinese in one section of the city as you would an isolated hospital";

AND WHEREAS there is some evidence to suggest Short's attitude toward Chinese Canadians shifted later in life and that, as a lawyer, he eventually took Chinese Canadian clients;

AND WHEREAS The City of Calgary is currently in the process of working with the community to create a new cultural plan and culturally informed local area plan for Chinatown through the Tomorrow's Chinatown project;

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NOTICE OF MOTION

AND WHEREAS the Chinatown Context Paper, prepared as part of the Tomorrow's Chinatown; identifies the Short Site as an "excellent opportunity" to interpret the broader story of the Anti-Chinese League's roll in opposing the relocation of Chinatown;

AND WHEREAS residents and Chinatown organisations have indicated a desire to rename the Short Site to address Short's discrimination against Chinese Canadians and the Anti-Chinese League's opposition to the existence of the current Chinatown, with a preference for the community to determine new names through the Tomorrow's Chinatown project;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that City Council directs City Administration, through the Tomorrow's Chinatown project and with support from Arts and Culture, to engage the Chinatown community to discuss the history of the Short site, the roles of James Short and the Anti-Chinese League in Chinatown's history, the relocation of Chinatown, and the resiliency of the Chinese community in Calgary;

AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that City Council directs City Administration to report back with new names for the Short Site that are recommended by the community through Tomorrow's Chinatown, with particular consideration of names recognizing historical Chinese Canadian contributions to Calgary, as well as with an action plan for further programming and/or physical installations that interpret the historical learnings from the community discussions;

AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that City Council requests that the Mayor write to the Calgary Board of Education to encourage the name change of the James Short Memorial School, and interpretation of Short's past, for the same reasons as detailed above