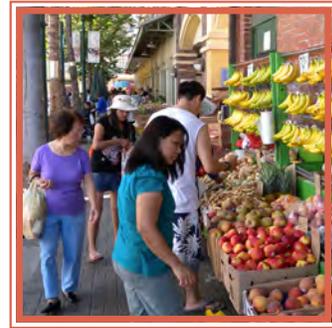

CHINATOWN ACTION PLAN

STRENGTHENING COMMERCE, CULTURE & COMMUNITY



Photo: Kevin Fai



March 2016



City and County of Honolulu

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

Chinatown is one of the most vibrant neighborhoods on O'ahu. It is so rich with our community's culture, heritage, and history; and, it is emerging as 'the place to be' for new businesses, entrepreneurs, new restaurant concepts, and 'makers and doers.' With a rail transit station coming to Chinatown in a few years, we have an opportunity to ensure that Chinatown thrives for decades to come. Last June, I joined with area elected officials to sponsor the Chinatown Action Summit. This event was part of an ongoing community planning effort to improve Chinatown, initiated by local businesses, residents, property owners, nonprofit organizations, elected officials, and public agencies.

Based on community input at the Summit, I asked City department heads (in my Transit-Oriented Development [TOD] Subcabinet) to develop a set of realistic actions that we can actually implement in the next few years. Some of them are entirely the City's responsibility; others will need help or leadership from our community partners. Many of the actions are funded, and we will see results in the next year or two, while a few include planning for longer-term capital improvements.

We are looking for your commitment to make this happen—even if it's just to bring your family and friends to some of the new events and activities. Mahalo for your ongoing support!

Mayor Kirk Caldwell
City and County of Honolulu



Mayor Kirk Caldwell at the Chinatown Action Summit (2015)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Chinatown Action Plan (Action Plan) is a set of strategies identified by the community for improving the historic neighborhood. While the Action Plan was compiled by the City and County of Honolulu, it is the result of ongoing community planning and collaboration effort with elected officials, State of Hawaii, and local cultural, civic, arts, business and community groups. Without the contribution of all those who have attended community meetings, or provided input, this summary document would not have come to fruition.

We want to especially thank the following individuals and organizations, recognizing the impossible task of acknowledging everyone who loves and has contributed to Chinatown:

Councilmember Fukunaga, Senator Chun Oakland, Representative Rhoads, Arts District Merchants Association, BCause, Chinatown Business & Community Association, Chinese Chamber of Commerce, Chinatown Community Center Association, Enterprise Honolulu, Hawaii Heritage Center, HDR Inc, SHADE Group, and United Chinese Society.



PLAN SUMMARY

The Action Plan is based on community input from the Chinatown Action Summit in June 2015. The Action Plan is intended to help agencies and community partners focus their resources on near-term implementation projects and programs, while refining longer-term strategies. The **bolded** actions were identified as top priorities at a second community meeting in December 2015.

1. STREETS AS PLACES

- 1.1 Install pilot curb extensions at key Chinatown intersections
- 1.2 **Plan and design complete streets and rail access improvements for Kekaulike Street**
- 1.3 **Revitalize the Nu'uuanu Stream corridor**
- 1.4 Provide pedestrian crossing of Vineyard Boulevard at River Street
- 1.5 Explore a pilot placemaking project on Hotel Street
- 1.6 Develop a Chinatown parking management plan
- 1.7 Plan and implement wayfinding signage and digital tools

2. CLEANER AND SAFER CHINATOWN

- 2.1 Establish a business improvement district (BID) for Chinatown
- 2.2 **Develop improved food waste management practices**
- 2.3 Increase the frequency of sidewalk power washing on particular streets
- 2.4 Revise the street sweeping schedule based on alternate side parking restrictions
- 2.5 Pilot a mobile public restroom
- 2.6 Upgrade street lighting
- 2.7 **Improve communication, collaboration, and enforcement to increase security and safety**

3. CHINATOWN'S VIBRANT ECONOMY

- 3.1 **Host activities on River Street**
- 3.2 Repurpose and market vacant and underutilized properties
- 3.3 Provide high-speed public Wi-Fi
- 3.4 Preserve the neighborhood's cultural and historic resources

4. PARK IMPROVEMENTS

- 4.1 Enhance 'A'ala Park
- 4.2 Increase usage and sense of safety at Smith-Beretania Park
- 4.3 Develop a management and programming plan for Sun Yat-sen Park

BACKGROUND AND OVERVIEW

Honolulu's Chinatown is one of the oldest neighborhoods in Hawaii, and one of the oldest Chinatowns in the United States. Today, it remains a vibrant place with a dynamic mix of newcomers, multigenerational residents and multicultural businesses in continuous evolution. Despite ongoing challenges, the Chinatown community continues to be actively engaged in neighborhood improvement.

Several community plans have been developed for Chinatown over the last decade, so the purpose of the Action Plan is to identify and prioritize near-term implementation actions, while refining longer-term strategies that are consistent with the previous visioning efforts. Longer-term redevelopment strategies are outlined in the Downtown Neighborhood TOD Plan, which covers Chinatown.

The Action Plan is the result of extensive community discussions on the neighborhood's challenges, issues, and needs. The Action Plan outlines new actions that government, businesses, residents, and civic organizations are planning, or beginning to undertake, to create a clean, safe, unique, and economically healthy neighborhood. The Action Plan builds on the extensive efforts that Chinatown stakeholders have invested in years past, such as great cultural events, neighborhood cleanups, and so much more.

These actions address challenges identified by the Chinatown community. Although listed in separate sections, the majority of these topics are interrelated and influence one another. Many of them also contribute to more than one of the following community goals:

- 1. Livability:** Pursue a higher standard of sanitation and safety in Chinatown to create an attractive environment in which to live, work, connect, and play.
- 2. Neighborhood Connectivity:** Make it safe and easy to access Chinatown on foot, by bike, on transit, or by car.
- 3. Economic Vitality:** Foster a supportive environment for existing local businesses and start-ups, while reinforcing the historic and cultural character of Chinatown.
- 4. Housing Needs:** Increase the availability of affordable housing choices for a growing and aging population.



Chinatown's street events celebrate a long history and rich culture.



Markets are part of the diverse Chinatown economy.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



Chinatown Action Summit (June 2015)



Input from Chinatown Action Summit attendees

The Action Plan is the result of a community-based planning effort to identify realistic, near-term neighborhood improvements.

Discussions were held in early 2015 with residents, businesses, elected officials, agencies, and community organizations with cultural, social, artistic, and economic ties to Chinatown. These meetings helped identify the key issues that were addressed at the half-day Chinatown Action Summit (Summit) on June 27, 2015, as Community Meeting #1. Prior to the Summit, additional meetings were held with a broad range of community stakeholders, including property owners, event organizers and real estate professionals, to refine potential strategies that would be presented for public feedback. The team also walked the area with community leaders to reach out to local merchants.

The Summit was broadly publicized through postcards mailed to property owners, flyers posted throughout the neighborhood, email, social media, and announcements at the Downtown Neighborhood Board and on local TV and radio programs. The Summit was attended by approximately 250 people who represented many facets of the Chinatown community along with people who love to visit Chinatown. They prioritized neighborhood concerns and identified strategies for maximizing economic opportunities associated with rail and TOD, improving wayfinding and business access, and other emerging issues. The top priorities identified by participants at the Summit were:

1. Design local streets to prioritize safe and comfortable pedestrian travel.
2. Implement new waste management and public restroom strategies.
3. Address lighting, homelessness, and crime.
4. Use wayfinding to support economic activity.
5. Program new events and install near-term public space enhancements to improve the identity and vibrancy of the Nu'uuanu Stream corridor.

Further input was provided through an interactive website (www.connecthonolulu.com) that included a detailed community survey and a form for comments. The ideas gathered from all sources were carefully reviewed and integrated into the actions and recommendations in the draft Action Plan, dated November 2015.

In December 2015, Community Meeting #2 was held to share the draft Action Plan and solicit feedback. Top Priorities identified in the final Action Plan are based on community feedback from that meeting.

These actions include both near-term "tactical" projects as well as efforts to initiate longer-term capital improvement. While this Action Plan focuses primarily on projects or policies that require leadership or support from the City and County of Honolulu (City), community partners will need to lead some of the actions, with the City in a support role.

CHINATOWN ACTION PLAN

1. STREETS AS PLACES

Communities are increasingly recognizing the value of their streets as vital public spaces. People that attended the Summit want streets that are safer to cross and walk along, offer places to meet people and connect with neighbors, improve business access, and have a mix of amenities. One of the top priorities was to design local streets to prioritize pedestrian travel. This objective aligns with a variety of ongoing efforts, such as the implementation of the Complete Streets Ordinance (2012), Making Honolulu an Age-Friendly City: An Action Plan (2015), and the draft Downtown Neighborhood TOD Plan (2015). The overall goal is a more walkable, bikeable, active, revitalized, and transit-supportive district. Many of the following actions are shorter-term pilot projects to test design concepts before making permanent improvements in coordination with Chinatown street repaving and rail station construction.



Curb extensions shorten the pedestrian crossing distance, slow the speed of turning vehicles, and increase safety. Source: Streetsblog.com

1.1 INSTALL PILOT CURB EXTENSIONS AT KEY CHINATOWN INTERSECTIONS

Lead: City Department of Transportation Services

Implementation Status: Pilot project funded; construction anticipated in late 2016

At the Summit, participants identified specific streets and intersections that should be improved for pedestrian safety and comfort. In several of these locations, the City will install a pilot project using curb extensions (also called bulb-outs) to extend the sidewalk/curb line into the parking lane to maximize pedestrian space and shorten crossing distances. These improvements can also help maintain traffic flow by decreasing the amount of time it takes pedestrians to cross, while increasing the visibility of pedestrians. Curb extensions can be done at corners or mid-block to improve the pedestrian experience and reduce illegal parking at corners and crosswalks. These streetscape improvements can also create space for landscaping, bus stops, signage, and bikeshare stations. The curb extension pilot project will be created using low-cost, temporary materials to test the locations and function of the streetscape improvements. The pilot project will gather community and business input before more permanent improvements are installed. The designs will accommodate business access and vehicle movements, including delivery trucks and emergency vehicles.



Example of a permanent curb extension Source: Michele Weisbart (Michele Designs)



Location of proposed pilot curb extensions in Chinatown



Pedestrian-friendly Kekaulike Mall
Photo: Jasperdo



Existing condition of Kekaulike Street near future rail station



Innovative design ideas could help the Nu'uuanu Stream corridor become a great amenity for the neighborhood.
Source: Aussie in France

1.2

PLAN AND DESIGN COMPLETE STREETS AND RAIL ACCESS IMPROVEMENTS FOR KEKAULIKE STREET

Lead: City Department of Transportation Services

Implementation Status: Planning and design funded; consultant selection underway

The community identified a need for a more coherent connection between Kekaulike Mall, Kekaulike Street, and the Chinatown rail station to improve pedestrian connectivity, economic activity, and the arrival experience of rail passengers. The City is executing a contract for the planning and design of Kekaulike Street improvements between King Street and the future rail transit station on Nimitz Highway. The design process will balance pedestrian and business access, retail and event space, and active loading zones. Further coordination with State agencies may also be required to improve better connectivity for bicyclists and pedestrian accessibility to the harbor.

1.3

REVITALIZE THE NU'UANU STREAM CORRIDOR

Lead: City Department of Planning & Permitting

Implementation Status: Funding for planning is being requested for FY2017-18, with additional appropriations in future years for design and construction

The Chinatown community expressed strong interest in revitalizing the Nu'uuanu Stream corridor, which includes Nu'uuanu Stream, River Street, 'A'ala Park, Sun Yat-sen Mall, College Walk, and Foster Botanical Garden. The City is requesting capital funds to address pedestrian safety, crumbling street pavement, aggressive tree roots, seating and other amenities, landscaping and shade, opportunities to interact with the water, and improved bicycle access. Some of these improvements may be included in upcoming street rehabilitation projects. Events and activities to increase usage of the corridor are addressed in other proposed actions.



Conceptual illustration of a revitalized Nu'uuanu Stream
Source: Downtown Neighborhood Transit Oriented Development Plan (2015)

1.4 PROVIDE PEDESTRIAN CROSSING OF VINEYARD BLVD AT RIVER STREET

Lead: State of Hawai'i Department of Transportation
Implementation Status: Planning and design funded

Currently there is no pedestrian crossing of Vineyard Boulevard (a state roadway) at River Street or College Walk. Increased pedestrian and bicycle activity is expected in the area due to new development and the future Chinatown rail station. The State of Hawai'i Department of Transportation is planning to install a pedestrian crossing across Vineyard Boulevard to facilitate mauka-makai connectivity. This improvement will also enhance the connection between the Nu'uuanu Stream Corridor and Foster Botanical Garden.



Future pedestrian crossing location between River Street and Kuan Yin Temple/Foster Botanical Garden

1.5 EXPLORE A PILOT PLACEMAKING PROJECT ON HOTEL STREET

Lead: City Department of Transportation Services
Implementation Status: No dedicated funding identified; pilot improvements anticipated in FY2016-17

Hotel Street operates as a transit-only street, reserved primarily for city buses and bicycles. Private vehicles are only permitted from Alakea Street to Richards Street. At the Summit, Hotel Street was identified as one of the top streets that should be prioritized for pedestrian traffic. The City is working on a pilot project to rethink how buses use the street at various times of the day, potentially opening up capacity for increased bicycle and pedestrian use, business activity, and events. This could include reserving one lane (or the whole street) for biking and walking on evenings and weekends, or allowing part of the street to be used for outdoor dining or merchandise displays. Other improvements may include aesthetic lighting and new sunshades. The pilot project will determine whether changes to Hotel Street benefit the Chinatown community and should be made permanent.



Ideas for creating a pedestrian-friendly Hotel Street, by the Chinatown Urban Acupuncture Project
Source: www.shadegroup.org

1.6 DEVELOP A CHINATOWN PARKING MANAGEMENT PLAN

Lead: City Departments of Planning & Permitting, and Transportation Services
Implementation Status: Potential planning funds being identified.

Based on community concerns about the need for more and better-managed parking, the City would like to conduct a detailed Chinatown parking management plan. This study would assess all available parking and create a strategy to optimize the use, availability, management, and pricing of existing parking, as well as whether and how much additional parking is needed. Recommendations may include system management tools that track the location and availability of spaces, changes to time regulations and rates during different times of the day, and better coordination of public and private parking, passenger dropoffs and loading zones. This effort would complement the other wayfinding and street improvement actions and will support development of an 'app' where drivers can easily locate (and possibly pay for) available parking.



A parking management plan for Chinatown would study how to optimize the use of existing parking.
Source: Google

1.7

PLAN AND IMPLEMENT WAYFINDING SIGNAGE AND DIGITAL TOOLS

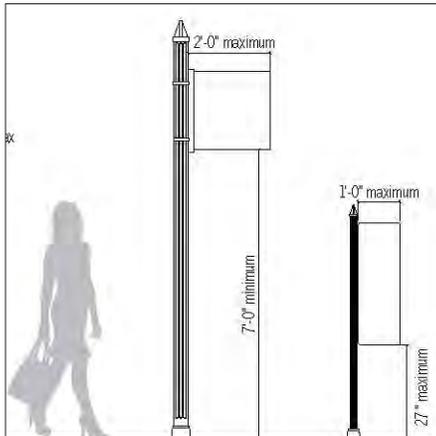
Lead: City Departments of Information Technology, Planning & Permitting, Transportation Services, and Honolulu Authority for Rapid Transportation

Implementation Status: Chinatown pilot project funded; pedestrian sign installation anticipated in late 2016



Conceptual rendering of wayfinding sign on an existing pole

Source: TwoTwelve



When existing poles are not feasible, new poles should match or improve the aesthetic of existing poles.

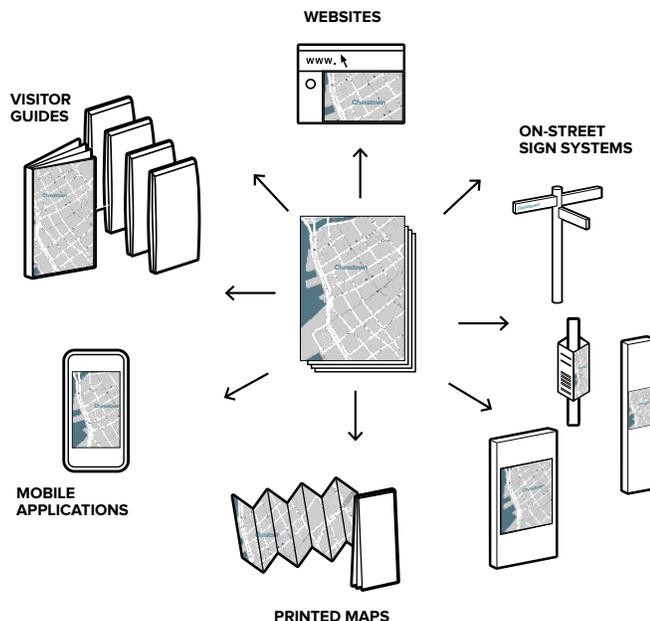
Source: TwoTwelve



Digital tools to compliment static signs with additional content

Source: TwoTwelve

In order to prepare the rail station neighborhoods for new visitors – and orient riders to station locations and neighborhood destinations – the City is developing a wayfinding strategy for the rail transit corridor. Wayfinding provides consistent and clear information to guide people to destinations in an area, while enriching their experience of the place. It encourages exploration, repeat visitation, and use of different transportation modes. Since Chinatown already has a high volume of local and visitor pedestrian traffic, it has been selected as a pilot project for wayfinding signs and digital wayfinding tools. The City is planning to install pedestrian-scale wayfinding signs in locations throughout Chinatown to highlight important area destinations, transportation information, and services like police and public restrooms. To complement this system, the City is also planning to develop an informational website (at www.hnl.info) and smartphone apps. Digital signs may also be explored, such as the new 'Transit Screen' sign currently being tested on the first floor of the Fasi Municipal Building, which shows real-time bus arrival information. Based on community input, the City is also exploring regulatory changes to allow banners to be placed on light posts in Chinatown to help identify and enhance the area.



A wayfinding system uses clear signage and other tools to deliver consistent information about an area.

2. A CLEANER AND SAFER CHINATOWN

Improving safety and sanitation remains a priority for the Chinatown community. These objectives are essential to improving the district's image and depend on continued cooperation between the community and the City. Potential strategies relate to waste management and recycling, street cleaning, graffiti prevention, lighting, and close collaboration on security issues. Creation of a business improvement district would expand the solutions available to address many of these issues.

2.1 ESTABLISH A BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT (BID) FOR CHINATOWN

Lead: Mayor's Office

Implementation Status: Property and business owner support needed

At the Summit, the community expressed strong support for a BID, which is a public-private partnership to enhance community services. A Chinatown BID could better address the fundamental issues of sanitation, security, and community beautification, as specifically outlined in the actions of this section. Creating a BID requires leadership from Chinatown property and business owners, with organizational support and financial commitment from the City. In addition to operational improvements, the BID could also conduct marketing and organize events such as movie nights, art walks, cultural heritage events, and other activities that bring people together. Local examples include the Waikīkī and Fort Street Mall BID Associations.



A Chinatown BID could better maintain improvements like the beautification projects proposed by the Chinatown Urban Acupuncture Project.

Source: www.shadegroup.org

2.2 DEVELOP IMPROVED FOOD WASTE MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

Lead: City Department of Environmental Services

Implementation Status: Community or nonprofit partner desired

Keeping the district cleaner requires more effective waste disposal practices. Food waste was identified by the community as the most problematic type of garbage that builds up on the streets and negatively impacts the neighborhood. Food waste in Chinatown is composed primarily of produce from shops and restaurant waste. Before it can be picked up each morning, people and rodents rummage through the waste to look for food, often leaving it spread out on the sidewalk. Food waste left on sidewalks can also leak fluids that leave a fetid smell even after the trash is removed. The City will continue to work with property and business owners to identify solutions. A BID or other nonprofit partner could provide meaningful improvement in this area.



Developing better food waste management practices is a vital component to improve Chinatown's cleanliness.

Source: www.sfgate.com, Marco Garcia



Mayor's Clean Team power-washing streets in Chinatown

2.3 INCREASE THE FREQUENCY OF SIDEWALK POWER WASHING ON PARTICULAR STREETS

Lead: City Department of Facility Maintenance

Implementation Status: Assessment underway; no additional funding currently available

The Summit participants identified specific locations where more frequent sidewalk cleaning is needed. The City's Clean Team is assessing whether those locations can be incorporated into the power washing schedule without negatively affecting other areas, or whether trade-offs need to be made to wash some streets more often and others less frequently. Investment in additional cleaning equipment, staffing, and/or services contracted by a BID may be needed.



Street sweeper trucks are currently unable to clean streets where cars are parked.

2.4 REVISE THE STREET SWEEPING SCHEDULE BASED ON ALTERNATE SIDE PARKING RESTRICTIONS

Lead: City Departments of Facility Maintenance and Transportation Services

Implementation Status: To be studied in parking management plan (funding being sought)

Another issue that was brought up by the Chinatown community was the need for additional street cleaning. Key streets identified include Pauahi Street, Kekaulike Street/Mall, King Street, and River Street. Presently, the street sweeper truck is often prevented from effectively sweeping area streets because of cars parked along the curb. Establishing a street sweeping schedule with parking prohibitions on alternate sides of the street on certain days (usually in the morning), as is currently done in other areas of the city, will improve the ability of the street sweeper trucks to clean Chinatown streets.



Mobile public restrooms usually require an attendant.

2.5 PILOT A MOBILE PUBLIC RESTROOM

Lead: City Department of Facility Maintenance

Implementation Status: Funding or partner needed for restroom attendant

Clean, accessible, and safe restrooms are an important amenity for anyone in Chinatown. The wayfinding tools will direct people to the neighborhood's existing public restrooms. New restrooms and showers for those experiencing homelessness were recently added at Pauahi Hale (with an attendant). If there is community support for additional facilities, the City can help provide a mobile restroom, likely in an on-street parking space or public park. This facility would need an attendant to remain clean and safe. Being mobile, it can be tested in various places until its preferred location is determined, at which time a more permanent solution—like the Portland Loo presented at the Summit—can be installed.

2.6 UPGRADE STREET LIGHTING

Lead: City Department of Design and Construction

Implementation Status: Revised request for proposals to be issued in spring 2016

Chinatown has historically struggled with real and perceived issues related to safety. The planned conversion of the district's decorative-style street lights from sodium to LED bulbs will illuminate the streets with a 'whiter' light, improving the ability to distinguish colors, giving the area an improved sense of safety, and saving energy. The new lights will be implemented as part of an islandwide streetlight replacement project.

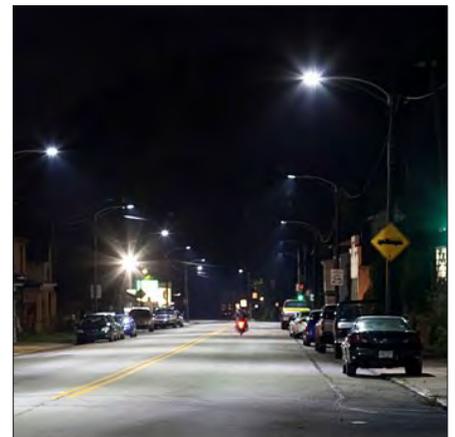


2.7 IMPROVE COMMUNICATION, COLLABORATION, AND ENFORCEMENT TO INCREASE SECURITY AND SAFETY

Lead: Mayor's Office and Honolulu Police Department

Implementation Status: Ongoing effort

The community has expressed security and safety concerns as Chinatown's reputation has been shadowed by criminal activities. To combat drug dealing, robbery, and other crimes, collaboration and communication will be improved between the Honolulu Police Department (HPD) and the community, including business owners, residents, and groups such as the Chinatown Citizens Patrol, Crime Stoppers Hawaii, and the potential future BID. The Mayor's Office will work with HPD to refocus police resources on more serious criminal activity in priority areas – especially where reported by residents and businesses – and provide more detailed regular reporting and follow-up on criminal activity.



Example of street lighting with traditional sodium bulbs (top) versus LED bulbs (bottom)

Source: gelighting.com



Chinatown has the potential to attract new entrepreneurs while growing the customer base of existing businesses.

3. CHINATOWN'S VIBRANT ECONOMY

The Summit participants highlighted the need for a more supportive environment for existing businesses, while creating opportunities for new entrepreneurs as part of the growing “makers and doers” movement—a national trend of small creative businesses like inventors, designers, artisans, and technology developers who produce unique products or services. Based on interviews with makers and small manufacturers both in and outside of Chinatown, there is significant potential for Chinatown (and the adjacent Iwilei neighborhood) to benefit from this growing trend. Shared “co-working” spaces and cafes have emerged recently to accommodate these types of entrepreneurs. The City has fostered discussions between business start-ups and property owners, while community and business associations continue to discuss the needs of this sector and available resources.

The Action Plan also recognizes that events, art, culture, and history are integral to the identity and economy of Chinatown. These elements bring the community together and create a sense of pride, while increasing the number of visitors and awareness of local businesses. Planned properly, activities and celebrations can boost the local economy, perpetuate knowledge, and activate areas that are perceived as dangerous or desolate. The actions below are intended to build on the great success of ongoing events and further strengthen Chinatown as thriving commercial district.



Street festivals help activate underutilized areas, improve safety, and boost economic activity.

Photo: Karl Baron

3.1 HOST ACTIVITIES ON RIVER STREET

Lead: Mayor's Office of Economic Development and City Department of Enterprise Services

Implementation Status: Events and event-planning underway

In concert with longer-term efforts to revitalize the Nu'uuanu Stream corridor (see Action 1.3), the City has begun to work with community and events organizations to host family-oriented events along River Street and in 'A'ala Park. These may involve expanding the footprint of existing street festivals, such as Night in Chinatown, or trying new activities to attract more people. Daytime and nighttime activities may include outdoor dining, art events, and performances. The intent of the activities is to promote safety, deliver customers to nearby businesses, grow awareness of city amenities, and serve as a catalyst to improve the Nu'uuanu Stream corridor. Logistical event support from the City may be required.

3.2 REPURPOSE AND MARKET VACANT AND UNDERUTILIZED PROPERTIES

Lead: Mayor's Offices of Economic Development and Strategic Development

Implementation Status: Negotiations, planning, and events underway

Addressing vacant or underutilized properties is an important strategy for any neighborhood to thrive economically. It is also critical to fill vacant storefronts to improve the perception of safety, particularly at night. The City has identified a number of city-owned properties in Chinatown that are underutilized and is working to activate them with interim uses, such as short-term "pop-up" sales or activities, and by finding new long-term tenants. The pop-ups create variety and new experiences in the community, and they foster new ideas, experimentation, and entrepreneurship. The City is also in discussions with private property owners on other ideas to reduce vacancies and support small businesses; is working to improve city-owned underutilized space by constructing micro-housing rental units; and is working with a developer to build approximately 151 affordable senior rental units and a community center on River Street.



Temporary pop-up art event in an otherwise vacant storefront

3.3 PROVIDE HIGH-SPEED PUBLIC WI-FI

Lead: City Department of Information Technology

Implementation Status: Public access anticipated in 2016

Reliable, high-speed public Wi-Fi access is now a key component of any successful business district. The City is currently planning free Wi-Fi service in Chinatown and Downtown, as was recently introduced in Waikīkī. This will help support local businesses, entrepreneurs and start-ups, attract patrons, help activate public spaces, and enable the proposed wayfinding and parking management systems.



Senior housing and community center planned on River Street
Source: Michaels Development

3.4 PRESERVE THE NEIGHBORHOOD'S CULTURAL AND HISTORIC RESOURCES

Lead: Honolulu Authority for Rapid Transportation (HART)

Implementation Status: Additional façade improvement grants to be available in early 2016; applying for rehabilitation funding for Holau Market and Ai-Goto buildings

Preserving Chinatown's historic character is very important to those in the community and beyond. Seven property owners are receiving assistance from the HART Historic Preservation Fund to remove graffiti and repair the façades of historic Chinatown buildings. A second round of funding will be made available soon. HART has also acquired the Holau Market and Ai-Goto buildings, adjacent to the future rail transit station, and is actively seeking opportunities to preserve and adaptively re-use the historic buildings. The City also continues to support those dedicated community members who regularly volunteer to clean up graffiti.



Preserving historic buildings is important for maintaining the character of Chinatown.
Photo: Jasperdo (Mendonca Building)

4. PARK IMPROVEMENTS

High-quality parks complement the goal of creating a safe, livable and healthy community while fostering a sense of pride the community. Parks offer a place of refuge and calm in an urban context for park users to recharge, reflect, connect, and play. Park improvement actions include forming partnerships to address cleanliness and safety, as well as new amenities and programming.



The City is working with community members to help improve amenities in 'A'ala Park, such as a new dog park.

4.1 ENHANCE 'A'ALA PARK

Lead: City Department of Parks and Recreation

Implementation Status: Dog park and event planning underway; funding for planning capital improvements requested for FY2017-18, with additional appropriations in future years for design and construction

Previous community plans and many of the Summit attendees expressed strong support for improvements to 'A'ala Park. A long-term plan for 'A'ala Park is underway to program underutilized areas and better connect to surrounding areas. Desired improvements include expanding the pedestrian path along Nu'uuanu Stream, creating space for community gardening (dependent on community partners), and improving parking and mauka-makai connections. These improvements will be coordinated with planning for the Nu'uuanu Stream corridor (Action 1.3). In the near-term, the City is beginning to plan events in the park and several community members are active in planning an 'A'ala Park dog park. The City is exploring potential locations for this facility within the context of the long-term vision for the park.

4.2 INCREASE USAGE AND SENSE OF SAFETY AT SMITH-BERETANIA PARK

Lead: City Department of Parks and Recreation

Implementation Status: No dedicated funding available; community partners needed

Various community members are actively working to clean and improve Smith-Beretania Park. The park is challenged by undesirable activity inside and just outside the park. Additional recreational programs would help increase usage and safety. Desired physical improvements include enhancements to visibility and pedestrian flow, as well as new recreational and sports amenities to attract more neighborhood residents and workers.

4.3

DEVELOP A MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR SUN YAT-SEN PARK

Lead: City Department of Parks and Recreation

Implementation Status: Partnership with Hawaii Theatre formalized

The City is developing strategies with Hawaii Theatre on how to improve management of Sun Yat-sen Park. Near-term improvements will have a positive influence on the park and the potential of this space to serve as a gateway into the district. Other improvement ideas include art installations, connectivity with surrounding uses, and wayfinding information.



Sun Yat-sen Park

MOVING FORWARD



Community commitment is essential to Chinatown improvements.
source: American Savings Bank

Residents, businesses, and civic organizations are essential to Chinatown's future. The neighborhood's success today is due to the commitment of community leaders addressing long-standing Chinatown issues, while promoting and respecting its cultural character, investing in its economy, and enhancing the overall Chinatown experience. To build on this commitment, the City will continue to support community efforts to connect people and celebrate this great neighborhood with forward-thinking actions. Together, we can create the future of Chinatown.

COMMENTS OR QUESTIONS?

If you would like to contribute to any of the above actions, or have any questions, comments or ideas about the Chinatown Action Plan, please contact the Department of Planning & Permitting at (808) 768-8012 or andrew.tang@honolulu.gov.

For more information, please visit www.connecthonolulu.com.

CHINATOWN ACTION PLAN

STRENGTHENING COMMERCE, CULTURE & COMMUNITY

March 2016



Paid for by the taxpayers of the City and County of Honolulu