

Chinatown Program Highlights 2024



The Chinatown Program is an ongoing effort to bring the community's vision for Chinatown to life, ensuring it remains a vibrant, culturally rich place to live, work and visit.

It is part of **Tomorrow's Chinatown**, an initiative that includes the **Chinatown Cultural Plan** – a community-informed plan that outlines the strategic directions for advancing and investing in Chinatown's cultural future. The Chinatown Program puts this plan into action by supporting projects, programs and partnerships that celebrate and sustain Chinatown's heritage and future.

Chinatown Activation Microgrant

To build on the momentum and success of the **2023 Chinese Immigration Act Centenary Microgrant**, the Arts and Culture division introduced the Chinatown Activation Grant, offering up to \$2,000 in 2024 to individuals, community groups, businesses, nonprofits and cultural and social organizations.

This grant aims to revitalize Chinatown through cultural activities while fostering cultural education, engaging younger generations and supporting hands-on learning initiatives. Given the program's success, we look forward to continuing and expanding these efforts in 2025.

\$31,800

in funding awarded

17

initiatives funded

74

local businesses benefited

3908

individuals impacted

30

community groups involved



Relationship building

The Arts and Culture division strengthened its community connections by supporting two key groups in advancing the Chinatown Cultural Plan and fostering a stronger relationship between the Chinatown community and The City.

- **Chinatown Community Network:** Hosted quarterly meetings to facilitate information sharing, networking and relationship-building between The City and the Chinatown community.
- **Chinatown Working Group:** Established in 2024 to guide the implementation of the Chinatown Cultural Plan, this group of 10 community organizations collaborated to develop the Next Steps Plan, outlining 12 strategic investment priorities for Chinatown. The group will continue to meet, using the Next Steps Plan as a framework to guide and implement key initiatives.

Tomorrow's Chinatown

- Chinatown Cultural Plan approved December 2022
- Culturally informed Area Redevelopment Plan approved February 2023
- The Next Steps Plan, developed by the Chinatown Working Group, was shared across The City's business units in 2024



Cultural Plan implementation

- Facilitated discussions with the community on the Chinatown Cultural Plan, leading to the creation of the Next Steps Plan to guide the implementation of the Chinatown Cultural Plan.
- Arts and Culture grant programs invested nearly \$100,000 in cultural programming and local area beautification, supporting community-driven initiatives.
- Calgary Parking continued to support the community by maintaining reduced parking rates at Lot 888 in Chinatown, improving accessibility and affordability for visitors.

Public art in Chinatown

Along the Bow Mural

Completed in August 2024, this mural is the second phase of the Along the Bow project, extending the original artwork on Centre Street and 2nd Avenue across the street onto NG Tower. Created by Calgary-based artists Kevin Chow and Jamie Mason (also known as Rawry & Pohly), the mural celebrates cultural heritage and artistic expression. The project was made possible through sponsorship from the Arts and Culture Microgrant, the Calgary Chinatown BIA, Calgary Arts Development, the Calgary Chinatown Community Association and the Calgary Chinatown Development Foundation.



Credit:
Along the Bow
by Rawry & Pohly

The Bison and the Dragon Mural

This public art project in Chinatown symbolizes the history of collaboration and shared resilience between local Chinese and Indigenous communities. Designed by artist Jarett Sitter, the mural consists of three wall-mounted panels—two located on 1st St. SE and one on 4th Ave. SE. Completed in September 2024, this project was a joint initiative between The City of Calgary and Calgary Arts Development.

