



Chinatown Gateway Coalition e-Letter



On September 30th, 2009, the Chinatown Master Plan 2010 held the second public meeting for Phase 1 of the master plan called *Chinatown Tomorrow: Vision & Goals*. Nearly 100 individuals attended the second public meeting at the Metropolitan community room to help shape the vision and goals of the master plan. The second public meeting is a follow-up to the July public meeting, 2009 and provided participants an opportunity to give input and feedback.

The Chinatown Master Plan 2010 is a two-year project initiated by the Chinatown Gateway Coalition to update the community's master plan. The Chinatown Master Plan 2010 is directed by a 13-member oversight committee with assistance from a volunteer 8-member technical team and with a project coordinator and staff assistant. The members involved with the Chinatown Master Plan 2010 include community agencies, businesses, and residents.

The consultants, Taintor & Associates of Newburyport, MA and Community Circle of Lexington, MA, presented their findings and trends occurring in Chinatown. A significant underlying theme that emerged was the sustainability of the neighborhood over time and four guiding principles were thus proposed at this meeting.

At this meeting, participants were asked to form 6 small groups to discuss and comment on the vision and principles and to report back to the larger group. The six small groups were led by 12 facilitators and scribes to tackle questions on Chinatown's role as the hub for the region, affordable housing, and a vision to sustaining the community. After coming back together, a representative from each of the 6 groups shared their results regarding housing in Chinatown and Chinatown's changing role.

Lori Wong from the Boston Chinatown Neighborhood Center's Youth Center reported on the results of a youth focus group the consultant had led. The youth were asked what they liked and disliked about Chinatown. Some of their dislikes included the trash, lack of a library, and a place to hang out in Chinatown. For things the youth liked, they wanted to see more pedestrian-friendly crosswalks, a park or recreational space, and more land for Chinatown to expand.

Guiding Principles

1. Define and reinforce Chinatown's **regional role as hub of Asian American cultural life**
2. Protect and strengthen Chinatown's **sense of community** and its identity as a unique and important ethnic neighborhood
3. Increase **interaction and integration with greater Boston** area while still retaining identity
4. Improve **community organization** and increase **political involvement** in order to achieve community goals



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The final results will be put together and shared at the third and final public meeting in October. This will end Phase 1 of the master plan, Chinatown Tomorrow: Vision and Goals. A Phase 2 will be unveiled to propose strategies and recommendations to implement the Phase 1 vision.

The third and final public meeting for Phase 1 of the master plan, Chinatown Tomorrow: Vision & Goals, will be held on October 29, 2009 from 6:00-8:30pm at the Metropolitan community room, 38 Oak Street, Boston, MA 02111.

Preliminary Vision

- Be a **vibrant hub at the center of a network of suburban satellite communities**. It will serve as a regional base for Asian American culture and provide services to the Asian American community
- Continue to be a **gateway for new immigrants**, providing well-organized and accessible services and affordable housing opportunities
- Be a more **sustainable community** supporting a variety of residents of all ages and ethnicities
- Provide a **variety of housing types** for a range of lifestyles and income groups
- Attract new and **diversified economic development** and will support and **train** its resident **workforce**
- Have a good air quality, less noise, and a **clean and healthy environment**
- Improve **public safety** including reducing crime and increasing safe crossings for pedestrians
- Provide **vibrant civic spaces** including a library and parks and playgrounds with gathering spaces for all ages
- Encourage **civic participation** and **political representation** to enable its residents and business owners to be heard