

Chinatown Gateway Coalition

chinatowngateway.org



Lion dance at annual Oak Street Fair.

Chinatown Tomorrow Vision & Goals 2010

The 3rd public meeting for Phase 1 of the Chinatown master plan was held on October 29.

After 6 months of research and discussions with the community, the consultant team of Taintor & Associates and Community Circle presented a report for Phase 1 of the Chinatown master plan. Titled *Chinatown Tomorrow: Vision & Goals 2010*, the report gives a shared vision for Chinatown's future and documents the various input and comments provided by the community.

Chinatown Tomorrow: Vision & Goals 2010 is a two-year project initiated by the Chinatown Gateway Coalition, a collaboration of residents, businesses, institutions, and community agencies. The Chinatown master plan project is directed by a 13-member oversight committee with advisory assistance from a 9-member technical committee and 2 staff. *Chinatown Tomorrow: Vision & Goals 2010* is Phase 1 of the master planning process.

Over 70 people attended the October 29 held at the Metropolitan community room to hear the report and to give their feedback. There were 7 major themes to the vision and goals.

1. Economic development
2. Housing
3. Civic space
4. Public safety
5. Environmental health
6. Compatible edges
7. Community identity and cultural heritage

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November 2009

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e-Letter



Harrison Avenue and Washington Street south of the Mass Turnpike. The Boston Redevelopment Authority is currently conducting a study for this area, the Harrison-Albany Strategic Corridor Plan, to link Downtown, Chinatown, and South End.

Economic Development

- Create a balanced economy that provides goods and services for local residents as well as the regional Asian American community
- Is an integral component of Boston's cultural economy
- Provides both beginning and advanced employment opportunities for local residents and is compatible with the needs of the residential community

Housing

- Expand the number and range of housing options in order to serve and sustain a strong and balanced residential community

Civic Space

- Develop and support a more expansive network of public facilities, streetscapes, parks and community spaces that help build the social capital of Chinatown by providing accessible, clean, safe and inspiring places where all members of the community can come together

Public Safety

- Increase the level of public safety to ensure that residents and visitors to Chinatown have a feeling of security and are safe in all areas at all hours

Environmental Health

- Preserve and enhance the physical environment as a means of improving everyday living as well as for the purposes of economic development

- Increase awareness of health resources and issues

Compatible Edges

- Define the neighborhood's edges and ensure that they develop in ways that are compatible with Chinatown's land uses
- Coordinate with the Harrison-Albany Corridor Strategic Plan to ensure Chinatown's goals are included in the "New York Streets" area from Herald Street to East Berkeley Street

Community Identity and Cultural Heritage

- Reinforce the unique character of Chinatown
- Provide cultural familiarity and historical references to visitors and tourists coming from various locations in the region





Chinatown Storefront Library

The Chinatown Storefront Library was opened to the public on October 14.

Located at 640 Washington Street and near the Chinatown orange line T-stop, the Storefront Library is opened 5 days of the week including Saturdays and Sundays. Using space donated by Archstone, the Chinatown Storefront Library has transformed one of Boston Chinatown's vacant, commercial, street-level spaces into a temporary public library. Operating for approximately three

months, the project will create a memorable event for Chinatown, while providing needed services for a community that has been without a library since 1956.

Though not a branch of the Boston Public Library, the Storefront Library's purpose is to activate street-level space with an installation that will demonstrate the potential impact of a library in the Chinatown neighborhood. This may be also model on how cities can collaborate with local communities to activate urban space during the recession.

The Storefront Library offers English and Chinese reading materials for both children and adults including books,

newspapers, magazines, and provides Internet access, nature programs, a Drawing Lab, author readings, and special events.

Each Thursday at 6:00pm and Saturday at 11:00am is a children's storytimes reading. English conversation practice is offered every Monday 1:00pm to 2:00pm.

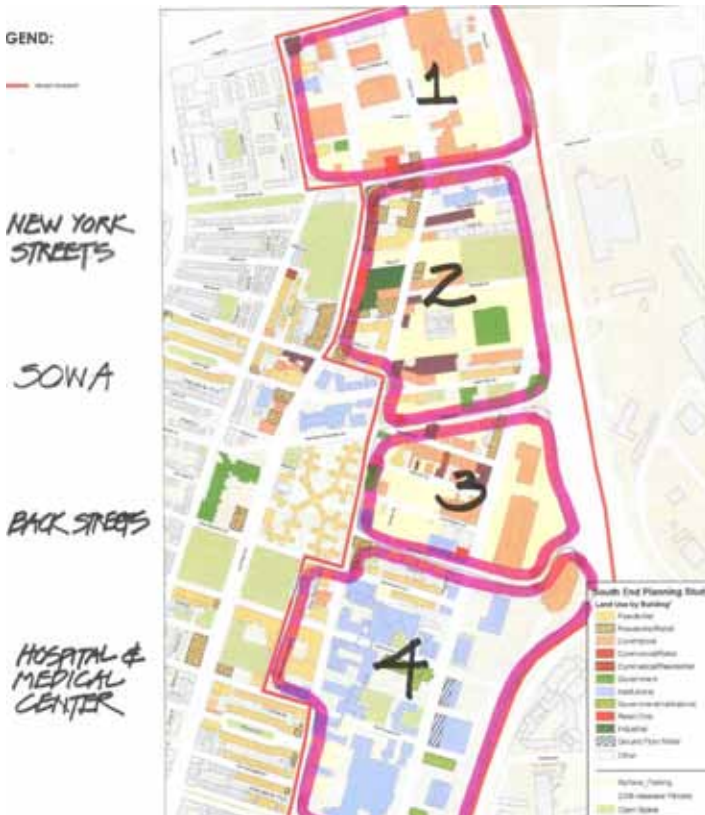
Visit their website at storefrontlibrary.org or call 617-466-9171.

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Large wall posters were created for each of the 7 goals to allow for participants to edit or write their comments. Participants gathered in small groups in front of each poster and wrote their feedback and or to offer new ideas. Then the participants were asked to place small dotted stickers on the goals that were most important to them.

A copy of Chinatown Tomorrow: Vision & Goals 2010 will be made available to the public electronically. Phase 2 for the Chinatown master plan will begin immediately to identify opportunities available to implement the vision and goals. A planned public meeting is scheduled for March 2010 to update the community on the progress of Phase 2. Thank you to everyone who helped to create the vision and goals for the Chinatown master plan.

Harrison-Albany Corridor Strategic Plan



The Boston Redevelopment Authority, in collaboration with a 30-member advisory group, has initiated a strategic planning process for the Harrison Avenue – Albany Street portion of the Chinatown and South End neighborhoods. The study area is bounded by the Massachusetts Turnpike to the north, Albany Street/Southeast Expressway to the east, Massachusetts Avenue to the south; and generally Washington Street/Harrison Avenue to the west.

The first public meeting was held on October 28 in the Franklin Square House at 11 E. Newton Street. Of the 30 advisory group members, 5 represent the Chinatown community. The representatives from Chinatown include the Chinatown Gateway Coalition, Chinatown Neighborhood Council, Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association, and South Cove Nursing Facilities Foundation. Tufts University and the Tufts Medical Center through their Shared Services partnership are also on the advisory group.

The study area is divided into four sections by their distinct history, land use, zoning, and urban design. The four sections are: New York Streets, South of Washington (SOWA), Back Streets/Massachusetts Streets, and the

Institutional/Medical area. Historically, the Harrison-Albany portion of the South End Neighborhood has been occupied by commercial, industrial, institutional, and residential uses. It was created by filling the tidal flats on either side of Washington Street which was originally a narrow “neck” that provided the only land entrance into the city of Boston.

During the mid to late 20th century, the decline of heavy industry and the increase in reliance on trucks for the distribution of goods ushered in an economic shift toward wholesale trade and light manufacturing uses in the area. Also during this time period, the area underwent substantial urban renewal as tenement housing and derelict commercial buildings were cleared to remove dilapidated structures and assemble parcels for redevelopment. The “New York Streets” area specifically was cleared for industrial and office uses between 1955 and 1957, while other portions of the South End underwent several versions of urban renewal beginning in the 1930’s through the 1960’s.

The New York Streets area resides within the Chinatown Neighborhood Council boundaries which extends to East Berkeley Street and was recognized in the late 1980s during the Flynn administration. The name New York Streets derives from the former streets that were named after places in New York (Albany Street). The Chinatown Master Plan 2010 has identified the New York Streets as the future growth area for both the Chinatown and South End neighborhoods. Potential sites for redevelopment include the Boston Herald, C-Mart, Holy Trinity Church, and 39 Traveler Street.

bostonredevelopmentauthority.com

