



Chinatown Renewal Project CSU Monterey Bay



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Chinatown remembered...

And do you remember how an easterly breeze brought odors in from Chinatown, roasting pork and punk and black tobacco and yen shi?

And do you remember the deep blatting stroke of the great gong in the Joss House, and how its tone hung in the air so long?

-John Steinbeck, East of Eden

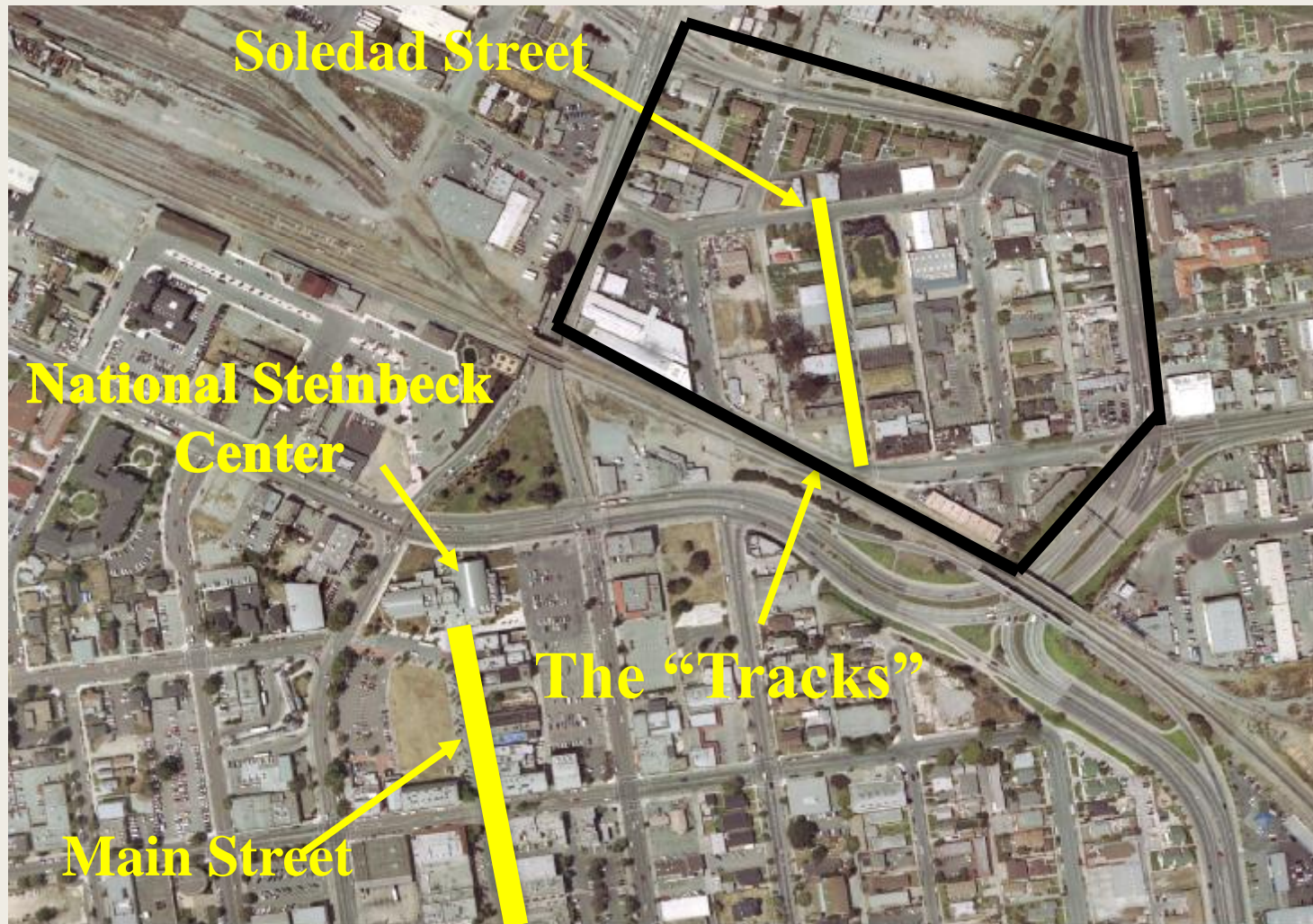


Soledad and Lake in a thriving Chinatown.

Chinatown Today



Downtown Salinas and Chinatown



Homeless Services in Chinatown



Victory Mission



Dorothy's Place

A Neighborhood Forgotten

Christa Miles and Katie Beckerson, TAT 2005



Neighborhood Summit

March 4, 2005

“I want to *DANCE* on Soledad Street”
- Mayor Caballero

- Creating a Thriving Community:
A Neighborhood Summit About
the Future of Chinatown
- Visioning the future;
acknowledging the challenges
- Birth of the Salinas Downtown
Community Board (SDCB) and the
Chinatown Renewal Project



Three HUD HSIAC Grants



- Phase I (2005-2008)
 - Community planning process
 - Community garden
 - Community Learning Center
 - Micro-Enterprise
- Phase II (2008-2010)
 - “Green Jobs Corps”
 - “Green Technology Demonstration Park”
 - Chinatown oral history and cultural preservation
- Phase III (2010-2012)
 - Construct Chinatown Cultural Center and Museum
 - Symposium on Asian museums and community revitalization

CSUMB Engagement: 2005-2011



- Every college involved
 - 901 students involved
 - Over 20 different faculty
- Capstone Projects
 - Homeless policy study
 - Documentary film
 - Garden impact analysis
 - Women's health and nutrition study
 - Business plans for co-op
- A whole lot of connections... healing... and growing...



Community Planning Process



- 300 community participants; diverse constituencies
- Social services, affordable housing, safety, walkable neighborhoods, cultural preservation
- Dreams and visions for future: a thriving community
- Plans developed
 - Chinatown Renewal Project Plan (2007)
 - Chinatown Rebound (2010)



Community Renewal

CHINATOWN
RENEWAL
PROJECT



"CREATING
A THRIVING
COMMUNITY"

- Salinas Downtown Community Board a 501(c)3
- Asian Cultural Encounter a 501(c)3
- Asian Festival
- Street Fairs and Community Clean-ups



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Chinatown Community Unity Garden



- 30,000 sq ft
- 40 “adopted” garden beds
- Growing veggies and herbs for *Dorothy’s Place*
- Worm composting enterprise
- Solar energy demo



Job Training for Homeless



- “Garden Crew”
 - 14 enrolled; 13 graduated;
 - 5 currently working
 - 2 getting further training
- “Green Corps”
 - 11 graduated
 - 4 currently employed
 - 2 enrolled in college
 - 1 drug rehabilitation



Soledad Street Community Learning Center



- Broad-band access
- Computer literacy courses
- Job preparation
- Community meetings



Oral History



- 60 interviews conducted and archived
 - Chinese
 - Japanese
 - Filipino
- Community presentations
- “Virtual” Chinatown Tour

Museum Studies



- 3 exhibits mounted at National Steinbeck Center
 - Chinese (2010); Japanese (2011); Filipino (2012)
- National symposium on Asian cultural museums & community revitalization (Oct. 2011)
- Republic Café listed on “National Registry of Historic Places”



Transformative Learning

CHINATOWN
RENEWAL
PROJECT



"CREATING
A THRIVING
COMMUNITY"

By listening to and validating individuals within the community you begin to create space for a dialogue of how the community can move forward. Having a repository of community history allows younger members of the community to have the opportunity to understand, appreciate and learn about their "place" in the community.

-Oral History student



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Transformative Learning

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"CREATING
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...the proposed revitalization of "Chinatown" is entangled with the issues of the homeless who currently live there. They now have a historical presence as well, and how that presence is addressed, is an important ethical decision that must be faced by both the academic community working there, the mainstream Salinas community, the homeless community and the Asian American communities.

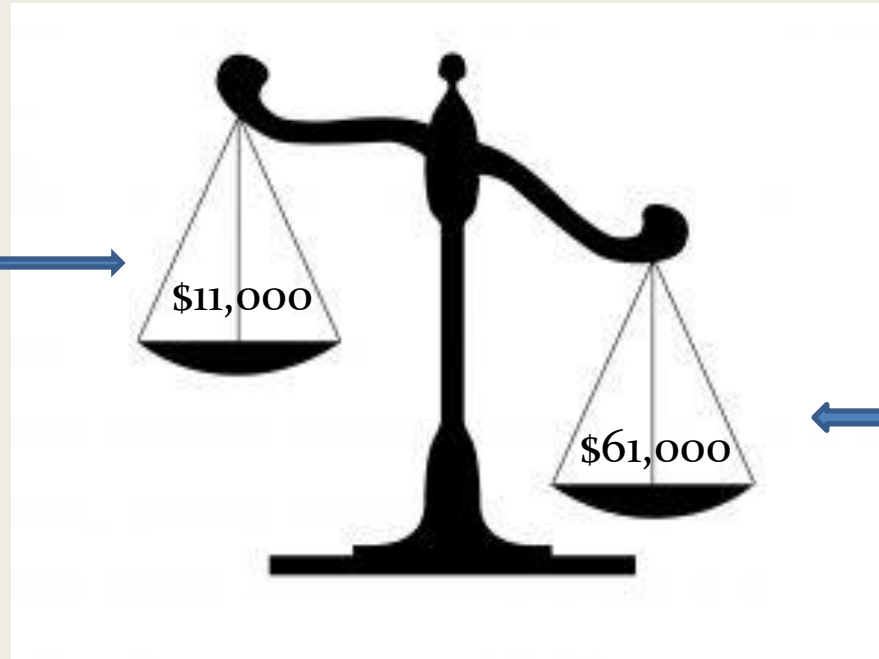
-Museum Studies student



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The Fiscal Impact

Cost to educate
a formerly
homeless
person.
(job skills, life
skills, computer
literacy)



Annual cost of
one chronically
homeless
person.
Incarcerated
and/or using
Emergency
Room services.



**Green Corps net annual savings: \$366,000.
\$3.6 million over a decade**

Source: The 2004 San Francisco Plan to Abolish Homelessness



A RELIC OF
THE PAST



A BEACON
TO THE
FUTURE

CHINATOWN
RENEWAL
PROJECT



"CREATING
A THRIVING
COMMUNITY"

**In the old Republic Café
building, at one time the site
of a thriving Chinese Restaurant**

...

**(presentation created by students in the
Visual & Public Art Department @ CSUMB)**



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Salinas Chinatown Cultural Center and Museum



- Rebirth of the Republic Café
- Ribbon cutting on *Make a Difference Day*, Saturday, Oct 22!
- You are invited! Come and Dance!



Wayne Ross and Lewis Harrison Green Corps Graduates



Salinas Chinatown

A rich past...



Chinese School 1936



Chinese School 2010

...and a promising future



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