

CHINATOWN
RENEWAL
PROJECT



“CREATING
A THRIVING
COMMUNITY”



“Where vegetable, flowers, and dreams grow”

Providing conversation, discovery, learning and resources

to build a foundation of trust.



CSUMB Community Learning Center

Community Garden

National Steinbeck Center

Dorothy's Kitchen

Buddhist Temple



HISTORY OF CHINATOWN

- Late 1900's: Asian immigrates
- Chinese Exclusion Act
- Japanese internment
- Mid-1950's
- 1960's: Bars, bordellos and gambling houses
- 1970's: Downtown district changes "homeless" northward to Chinatown
- Today: Drug trafficking, illegal dumping & homelessness



Need of our community

- **2007: 3,766** currently “homeless” in Monterey County
- **48%** live in Salinas area
- **54%** need dental care, **47%** need eye care



Job-Training

**Since 2007 over 120 persons
have participated in Job
Training Programs:**

**Our Program provided a supportive work
Environment that encourages both
teamwork & self-sufficiency to
local marginalize**



“This is the first real job I have had since 1989”~ Jim



JIM

- **58-years-old**
- **2 tours to Vietnam Veteran (w. PTSD)**
- **Utilized Dorothy’s Soup Kitchen for over 10+ years**
- **Spoke person**
- **Moved to Washington to work full time at an organic flower nursery**

Over 6 years 36 persons participated in program, 58% were employed or went on to further education.

COST AVOIDANCE: \$201,000 per year (\$800/mon x 21 persons x 12 months)

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.

Source: The 2004 San Francisco Plan to Abolish Homelessness

Dispelling Myths by Learning about “The Other.”



Blame was the most common way people viewed another:

- With monthly meetings myths and stereotypes were replaced by real experience and relational knowledge.
- Blame gave way to true understanding.*
- Solutions have never been easy, but everyone became more willing to consider complexities.

There is strength in diversity

The Community Board

- Homeless persons
- Government representatives (City and County)
- Property owners
- Social Service providers
- University
- Law Enforcement
- Business owners
- Faith Community
- Multiple Perspective – Common Ground
- Respect - Conversation
- Meeting and Learning



Chinatown Renewal Process:



A group effort including projects in collaboration with the:

Salinas Downtown Community Board

City of Salinas

Dorothy's Place

Interim

Buddhist Temple

Chinese Confucius Church

Local residents and currently homeless individuals

California State University Monterey (CSUMB) Service Learning Institute (SLI)

Major Funders:

Federal Housing and Urban Development : Office of University Partnerships Grant (HSIAC-05, 07 and 09),
California Department of Transportation Environmental Justice Grants (2006--\$109K and 2009--\$312K),
USDA (2010--\$250K), BTOP—(2011--\$80K) Bank of America (2010--\$20K) and
48+ local businesses!

FUTURE PLANS



“Affirmation & reaffirmation that life is good, that change is good, and change here on Soledad St can be even better.”

Phase III : 2021 - 2030

Phase III + Phase II + Phase I

Salinas Chinatown Redevelopment



the architecture company

QUESTIONS?

Chinatown Renewal Project

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