

## Summary

### Assignment

The Arrondissement de Ville-Marie enlisted the Centre d'écologie urbaine de Montréal to design and carry out a consultation process, on the strength of its expertise in development and in moderating processes intended to redevelop the city with and for citizens.

**General objective of the assignment:** Build a common vision of development of Chinatown.

### Steps

1. Specify the objectives and activities of the consultation process in cooperation with actors in Chinatown **(Spring 2019)**
2. Produce a diagnostic profile of the issues and needs of the community **(July to December 2019)**
3. Formulate an action plan **(Subsequent step to be defined)**

### Consultation process activities (June to December 2019)

- o Advisory committee made up of local actors
- o Interactive online platforms (Making Montréal and Réalisons Montréal)
- o SurveyMonkey survey (translated into simplified Chinese)
- o Mobile consultation kiosks on De La Gauchetière
- o Documentary research
- o Actors' workshop
- o Citizens' workshop

### Consultation by the numbers

- 6** participating activities
- 3** meetings of the advisory committee
- 8** organizations represented by the advisory committee
- 297** sets of contact information gathered
- 470** participants in all activities
- 2143** visits to Making Montréal and Réalisons Montréal platforms

### Profile of the territory

- o High concentration of people in Ville-Marie, Saint-Laurent, and Brossard whose mother tongue is a Chinese language
- o 846 inhabitants within the 0.11 km<sup>2</sup> area of Chinatown.
- o Compactness and continuity of Chinatown in 1949
- o Destruction of the surrounding neighbourhood by urban renovation, enclosure of the enclave by large barriers
- o Strong mixture of functions, and vacant lots to the east
- o Very large number of paid parking lots
- o Parks and public spaces limited
- o Bike paths incomplete and one way
- o Major public transit service
- o High surface temperature due to heat islands
- o Canopy below the borough average
- o Church (1834) and presbytery (1840) of the Saint-Esprit Chinese Catholic Mission of Montreal, designated as heritage sites

### Sociodemographic data

- o Large proportion of very elderly women

- High concentration of people ages 80 and over
- Very high concentration of people who speak neither official language
- High concentration of people who belong to a visible minority group
- High proportion of immigrants, long-time residents
- Economic vulnerability of households mainly linked to the high cost of rental housing

## Elements of vision:

### Roots

- Architectural heritage
- Ambiance of public spaces
- Accessibility of the district
- Cultural and artistic identity
- Festive activities
- Chinese cultural outreach
- Wide choice of cuisines
- Intergenerational meeting place
- Sense of community

### Dreams

- Preserve and maintain heritage
- Respectful development
- Complete, multigenerational living environment
- Chinese cultural outreach
- Help with homelessness
- Greening
- More room for pedestrians
- Expansion of the district
- Wish to be consulted

## Needs and expectations of the community:

- 1. Identity and outreach:** Set up venues to showcase the Chinese culture that favour intergenerational gathering, welcoming of new immigrants, and language lessons.
- 2. Commercial and economic vitality:** Revitalize Clark and Saint-Laurent and favour the creation of a business development corporation.
- 3. Heritage:** Have the heritage status of buildings and the district be recognized by all three levels of government.
- 4. Housing:** Build social and affordable housing near the district for young families, low-income households, students, people with reduced mobility, and elderly people.
- 5. Public space:** Make public spaces safer, greener and well kept, to enhance accessibility for all.
- 6. Mobility:** Improve active mobility infrastructures to ensure that the district is accessible.
- 7. Quality of life:** Maintain and develop the offering of sports, recreation and social services for the community.

## Recommendations:

- 1. Hold a public presentation of the diagnostic profile of the issues and challenges facing the community**
  - Disseminate the results broadly.

- 2. Evaluate the possibility of expanding the perimeter of Chinatown toward Sainte-Élisabeth and De Bleury to reflect the living environment of the community more accurately.**
  - Follow the recommendation of the 1998 Chinatown development plan.
  - Carry out more global planning.
  - Reduce physical isolation/enclave.
  - Increase development opportunities.
- 3. Study and share best practices from other Chinatown revitalization strategies implemented in North America**
  - Analyze good practices in governance and development of the Chinatown ecosystem.
- 4. Establish an action plan for development of Chinatown in cooperation with community actors, to establish action priorities**
  - Launch working committees or a roundtable.
  - Steer a consultation process that involves the Chinese community more broadly and Montréal actors.
  - Start taking lines of action today regarding cultural, community and economic issues.
  - Draw up a plan to implement actions related to mobility, the built environment, and development of public space.
  - Immediately initiate processes to recognize heritage.
  - Keep the advisory committee mobilized and informed.