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New Chinatown Community Vision Plan builds on recent centennial celebration to chart course for the future

Chinatown businesses, community organizations, and residents initiate first plan in over 100 years for historic neighborhood at April 11 kickoff event

Chicago, April 11, 2013 – Government, business, and civic leaders from Chicago’s Chinatown gathered today at the Chinese American Service League to launch a year-long planning process for the community’s future. The Chinatown Community Vision Plan will be the first of its kind in over 100 years for the neighborhood.

The planning project is led by the Coalition for a Better Chinese American Community (CBCAC) and 25th Ward Alderman Daniel Solis in partnership with the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) through its [Local Technical Assistance \(LTA\) program](#). Chinatown is both a thriving, lived-in community and a tourist destination – attractions like Chinatown Square Plaza and Ping Tom Park bring visitors from within and outside the neighborhood and region.

As described at www.cmap.illinois.gov/lta/chinatown, development of the Chinatown Community Vision Plan will emphasize outreach to local residents, businesses, and civic organizations to define a vision for the neighborhood’s future. Local issues and opportunities that must be addressed to achieve the vision will be identified. The resulting plan will take a comprehensive look at topics like land use, housing, transportation, workforce and economic development, recreation, and more. It will include short- and long-term strategies to achieve the community’s future vision over the next 10 to 15 years.

"I am pleased to join today’s announcement of the Chinatown Community Vision Plan," said Alderman Solis. "Chinatown is a thriving and vibrant community that will only continue to become one of the greatest places in our city with the work of community organizations and residents. I am proud that we have come together to define a new vision for this outstanding neighborhood."

In 1912, the Chinatown community moved from the southern edge of downtown to its present location centered at Cermak Avenue and Wentworth Road. While the neighborhood has

developed its own unique sense of place over the years, from the 1928 opening of the On Leong Merchants Association Building (now known as the Pui Tak Center) to the ongoing construction of a boat house in Ping Tom Park, this will be the first plan in over 100 years for Chinatown that guides development in ways that align with community-led priorities. Following last year's centennial celebrations, local leaders are ready to look to Chinatown's future.

"As Chinatown is beginning its second century at the same location, the community strives to be an integral part of this great City of Chicago and its future moving forward," said CBCAC chairman C.W. Chan. "As we look back and remember over a century's worth of sweat and tears, as well as the triumph and success of our recent past, it appears that the time is ripe to collectively ponder and chart our future. With the support of Alderman Solis and CMAP, and the participation of community residents from all age groups and all walks of life, we can look forward to the certainty of a brighter tomorrow."

The Chinatown Community Vision Plan's focus will reflect priorities set by [GO TO 2040](#), adopted in 2010 as metropolitan Chicago's first comprehensive regional plan in more than 100 years. CMAP developed and now oversees implementation of GO TO 2040, which is designed to strengthen livable communities and ensure the region is economically prosperous through mid-century and beyond. CMAP is helping communities throughout the region implement GO TO 2040 locally through its LTA program, which is funded by a three-year, \$4.24 million Sustainable Communities Initiative grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

"By planning for the future, business owners, leaders, and residents in Chinatown are helping to make the region a better place to live, work, and visit," said Bob Dean, CMAP deputy executive director for planning. "As noted in GO TO 2040, achieving livable, sustainable communities requires proactive planning by local leaders, and development of the Chinatown Community Vision Plan is a great first step for the community's future."

Following the project's launch, public engagement and analysis of existing demographic and market conditions will be conducted. A steering committee with representatives from community and business organizations will oversee the Chinatown Community Vision Plan's development.

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The Chinatown Community Vision Plan is led by



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藉慶祝中國城建立百周年之際，華埠遠見計劃將為中國城繪寫未來方向。百年來首次由中國城商業、社區組織和當地居民一起推行的遠見計劃將在四月十一日正式啟動。

2013年4月11日芝加哥訊 - 今天芝加哥中國城的政府、商業以及民間領袖們聚集在華人諮詢服務處宣告啟動一個為期1年的社區未來規劃項目。華埠遠見計劃是此社區自創建百年以來，首次的整體規劃項目。

此次規劃項目由華埠更好團結聯盟與區長蘇禮仕合作推行，並得到芝加哥大都會計劃機構（CMAP）“本地技術援助項目”的支持。中國城既是繁榮蓬勃的居住區，也是廣受歡迎的旅遊景點-比如華埠廣場和譚繼平公園成功引來了不少周邊及外地的遊客。

正如 www.cmap.illinois.gov/ita/chinatown 里所描述，為明確社區未來的發展宏圖，此次華埠遠見計劃的推行，將強調當地居民、商業以及民間組織的廣泛參與。當地大眾關注與遠見相關議題及發展機會將被重視及認定。最後完成的遠見計劃將從整體的視角來考慮土地使用、住房、交通、工作人口和經濟發展、娛樂活動等問題。此計劃最終將涵蓋未來十到十五年社區發展的短期及長期發展策略。

“我很榮幸參加今天華埠遠見計劃的啟動儀式”，區長蘇禮仕說道。“中國城是既繁榮、又有生氣的社區，我相信在社區組織和當地居民的努力下，她將繼續成為芝加哥的最優秀社區之一。對我們可以一起合作為這個傑出的社區提供一個新遠見，我感到很自豪。”

在一九一二年，中國城從市中心南端移到了現在以舍麥路和永活街為中心的區域。從一九二八年安良工商會（現在的培德中心）的啓用，到正在興建中的譚繼平公園的船庫，中國城雖多年來已形成其獨特風格，百年來這是個首次以整個社區利益為主導，帶領社區發展的整體計劃。在慶祝去年中國城建立百周年之際，當地的領袖們準備好一同展望中國城的未來。

“在中國城原地迎來她的第二個世紀之際，社區正盡力更好融入整個芝加哥市以及她的未來的發展。”，華埠更好團結聯盟主席陳增華說道。“當我們回首一個世紀以來的艱辛苦辣以及所獲得的勝利和成就，我們認為大家一起共同沉思並為嶄新的中國城開闢前途的時機已成熟。在區長蘇禮仕、芝加哥大都會計劃機構以及當地各行各業及老中青居民的參與，我們期待明天的中國城將更輝煌。”

華埠遠見計劃將會配合並反映芝加哥大都會計劃機構“奔向2040”報告提出的重點，該報告被認為是芝加哥大都市一百年以來首次的整體區域計劃。芝加哥大都會計劃機構負責推展并監督奔向

2040的實施，其目的是為了加強適合居住的社區發展，並且確保在未來幾十年的區域經濟發展能得到有效的保障。通過由美國住房及城市發展部可持續發展社區區域規劃資金對“本地技術援助項目”為期3年、總額達到424萬美金的撥款，芝加哥大都會計劃機構正在協助區域里的多個社區實施“奔向2040”。

“通過規劃未來，中國城的商業人士，社區領袖及居民們正在共同努力建設更好居住、工作及參觀的區域。”，芝加哥大都會計劃機構的副執行董事鮑勃·迪安講到。“正如“奔向2040”中所提到，實現適合居住、可持續發展的社區需要當地領袖們對策劃的積極參與，華埠遠見計劃對社區未來的發展邁出了重要的第一步。”

在啟動華埠遠見計劃之後，將進行公眾參與以及對現在的人口、市場的現狀分析。由社區和商業組織代表構成的主要領導小組將監督華埠遠見計劃的發展。

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華埠遠見計劃由以下組織推行



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