

Chinatown Safety Project

Calgary Chinese Community Service Association

Chinatown is a marginalized community with conditions that may increase the presence of crime and the likelihood that individuals become victims. These risk factors include:

1. Chinatown is one of the vulnerable communities with a number of residents being seniors or new immigrants. About 50% of the 1270 residents do not speak any English. Language and cultural barriers are the major issues in accessing mainstream service and had limited their ability to understand public safety messages. Last year, there were incidents of scam happening in Chinatown targeting seniors. Victims were swindled of cash and jewelry by the 'Chinese blessing scam' as thieves promised to ward off evil spirits.
2. There is no community association or Business Revitalization Zone in Chinatown, thus no organization is representing and advocating for Chinatown. While everyone is working in silo, no single organization is working on the improvement of the neighbourhood.
3. There are over 100 non-profit organizations in the Chinatown community but communicating with them is extremely difficult as: there's not a complete list of all organizations; the persons-in-charge do not necessarily live in Chinatown and information about the organization is usually not complete, e.g. the only phone number is not valid; these non-profits are usually run by seniors who don't usually have email; hence dropped off mail or phone calls are the only means of communication. The difficulty in communicating resulted in lack of motive, leadership and control to change the conditions that influence crime, victimization, and the resulting insecurity.

CCCSA had taken the lead to tackle small-scale change initiatives to improve the neighbourhood through partnering with some local organizations, and we had witnessed success in the past years. We used murals to deter graffiti (please refer to Appendix); organized activities to increase foot traffic and decrease the undesirable activities such as drug trafficking and drinking in shaded places; foster caring relationship among residents to be good neighbours.

This project will continue crime prevention through a number of ways. First is through situational measures meaning to reduce the opportunity to commit crime in specific locations. In Chinatown, we are targeting the alleyways. In September, 2014, the Calgary Police Service had helped to conduct a CPTED in Chinatown and identified ways to improve the environment to make it less likely for crime to be committed. The project will follow up on the recommendations and measures

to improve the environment, these include installing motion sensor lights and angled mirrors. One most important step is to get the support and buy-in of the different owners before anything could be done.

We will do prevention through Education and Awareness. As public education and awareness building are important tools for preventing crime and victimization, the delivery of service in two commonly spoken Chinese (Cantonese and Mandarin), can educate residents in Chinatown about how they can avoid being victimized, this will increase their awareness, knowledge, and community resources in crime prevention strategies.

Crime prevention is everyone's responsibility. Building strong partnership is important in sustaining crime prevention initiatives, We are trying to connect and improve the communication among non-profit organizations in Chinatown in problem identification. We are also engaging youth volunteers in different initiatives that will contribute to the sense of security in Chinatown, such as offering them training to be safety ambassadors, engaging them in community and graffiti cleanup and being mural tour guides.

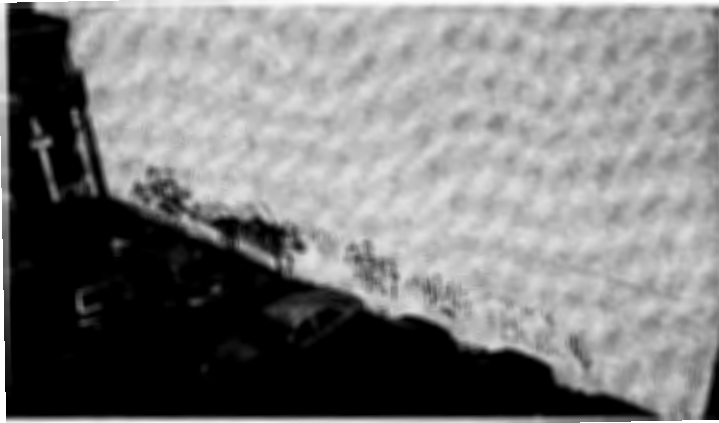
The outcomes we hope to achieve are:

1. To build partnership with crime prevention partners so that adequate language specific and culturally appropriate information can be delivered
2. Strengthen sense of safety in the community
3. Enhance community level involvement, ownership and control in the development and implementation of crime prevention activities
4. Reduce the opportunity to commit crime
5. Strengthen collaboration with various government departments and the community in crime prevention and community development activities
6. Engage youth to be future leaders for Chinatown

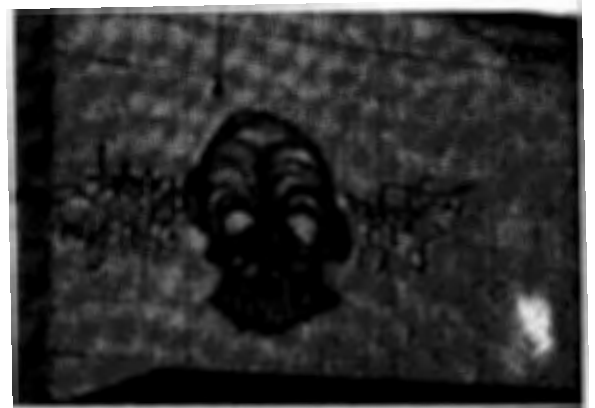
Appendix

Before

Back Alley behind Canton Block



Behind City Plaza facing 3rd Ave



After

