2020 Spring News

Chinatown Community Land Trust

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Working for community control of land, development without displacement, permanently affordable housing, and shared neighborhood spaces.

Responding to COVID-19

We hope that you and your loved ones are staying safe and healthy during this public health emergency. We want to update you on three important aspects of responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. With so many sheltering in place across the globe, this moment only strengthens our commitment to working for housing as a human right.

Rapid response and assistance

We want to be sure that our members, friends and community have information about where to get support in this difficult period.

To apply for unemployment insurance, click here or call 617.626.6800. Chinese speakers can contact the Chinese Progressive Association 617.433.8522 or Asian Outreach Unit of Greater Boston Legal Services 617.603.1809.

To apply for food stamps, call 877.382.2363.

For home-buyer counseling, contact Asian Community Development Corporation, 617.482.2380.

Free meals supplied by the City of Boston for children and teens are distributed at Wang YMCA, 8 Oak Street, M-F 8am to noon, and at the BCYF Community Center at the Quincy School, 885 Washington Street, M-F 10 am to 3 pm.

Government and policy response

Please note the courts have ordered a postponement to evictions until after April 21st, and utilities will not be disconnected during the emergency. Chinatown CLT believes that housing is a human right, and that protections should not be limited to times of global emergency.

Legislators are currently considering a full moratorium on evictions and foreclosure during the emergency, H 4935. A long-term Tenant Protection Act to lift the ban on rent stabilization has also been filed, H 3924.

To support a complete halt to evictions and foreclosures, and lifting the ban on rent stabilization, please email or call the Governor’s office at 617.725.4005 and your own legislators (find out their names by clicking here).

Other state and federal bills are proposing emergency income assistance for those who have lost work and income due to the pandemic.

Chinatown CLT’s projects

While we are temporarily working outside of the office, we continue to move forward our projects. We expect to complete negotiations with MassDOT for the lease of Reggie Wong Park and are in the process of
We expect to release **Chinatown Master Plan 2020** in April and to hold a community meeting to share the Master Plan once it becomes safe to hold public gatherings again. We are also using this time to develop clear community proposals for amending the Chinatown zoning code, while continuing to participate in PLAN: Downtown Boston along with other members of the Chinatown Master Plan Committee.

Later this year, we will reconvene a conversation with other partners about a **Chinatown Historic and Cultural District**, and will launch an Immigrant History Trail pilot project with the Chinese Youth Initiative.

We are continuing to lay the foundation for a pilot project to launch a community-governed **Chinatown Energy Micro-Grid**, with goals of increasing sustainability, resiliency, energy democracy, and economic justice.

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**Row House Preservation Project**

The Row House Preservation Project is moving forward, with the acquisition of two row houses to be preserved as seven permanently affordable homeownership units.

Due to the COVID public health emergency, we are expecting delays in construction and marketing. Meanwhile, we have begun a capital campaign to establish a Row House Preservation Fund, to increase Chinatown CLT’s ability to move nimbly and creatively.

We have set an immediate goal to raise $150,000 by this summer to further decrease sales prices so that our homeownership units will be affordable to working class families. We are more than halfway to our benchmark, and are relying on you, our friends and supporters, to help us reach it.

**Click here to make a gift today, call, or email ChinatownCLT@gmail.com if you would like to learn more.**

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**Support community control to stabilize Chinatown!**

Anyone can become a member of Chinatown CLT if you agree with our mission and pay $5 annual dues. Chinatown residents are voting members; non-residents are supporting members.

**Click here to become a member or donate** to Chinatown CLT!