

PRESS RELEASE

MONTREAL, CHINATOWN, JULY 12, 2025: On this celebration of Chinatown Day, the Montréal Chinatown Round Table and the JIA Foundation are proud to share two Chinatown Plans that the community has been working towards as we enter into the final year of the City of Montréal's Chinatown Action Plan 2021-2026.

The first is a Community Proposal, which builds on the progress of the [City's Chinatown Action Plan](#) published in 2021. Representatives of diverse community institutions came together to evaluate the first Plan and to identify development strategies going forward, building upon the first Action Plan's vast year-long community consultation. The Proposal is a request to the City to extend its first Plan beyond 2026. It proposes a holistic vision by organizing future development around three key anchor sites where three community-led projects have emerged with broad and established partnerships. The three sites proposed are the (1) Cultural Heritage Node around Chinatown House and the Wing Noodles building to the west of Chinatown, (2) Clark Street Reimagined in the centre of Chinatown, and (3) the Viger Hub in the east, around the current site of the community garden in front of the Chinese Hospital. This approach was informed by grassroots participation at an Open House event. The Chinatown Round Table and the JIA Foundation wishes to thank the architectural firm Rayside Labossière for its support in documenting the Community Proposal and we look forward to hearing the City's reaction to the community's request.

The second Plan relates specifically to the second anchor site on Clark Street identified in the Community Proposal for the next Action Plan. The 1092-1106 Clark Street Concept Plan contributes to one of the main priorities in the City's Action Plan: the development of social and affordable housing. While the community rejoiced at the announcement by the City of Montréal of its acquisition of three adjacent lots on Clark Street for social housing, the community mobilized to put together a Concept Plan based on the inclusion of broader community needs. Beginning with the question about how the development of social housing can play a part in the overall revitalization of historic Clark Street, the community outlined a mixed-use project vision that would unite the need for community housing with social and economic development. JIA Foundation took the initiative to organize three community workshops which resulted in the enclosed Concept Plan drafted by Pivot: Coopérative d'Architecture. JIA Foundation and the community look forward to collaborating with future developers on the realisation of this long-awaited project.

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Community Proposals for the Next Chinatown Action Plan

Introduction

In 2021, the City of Montréal issued the [2021-2026 Chinatown Action Plan](#), which made key commitments to improving quality of life and built environment, improving commercial vitality, neighbourhood heritage, and enhancing community connections. With 2026 fast approaching, the JIA Foundation and the Chinatown Round Table commissioned Rayside Labossière Architecture & Table de concertation du faubourg Saint-Laurent in early 2025 to create a document highlighting community aspirations for the renewal of the Action Plan. Preliminary findings from this work received community feedback from representatives of diverse community institutions at an open house session in April 2025. The project was created with funding support from the Canadian Race Relations Foundation and the McConnell Foundation.

Project Outcomes

The document provides a holistic vision for Chinatown anchored by three community projects, respectively anchoring the western, central and eastern sectors of the neighbourhood, that have emerged with strong community mobilisation efforts and engagement of the City and other funding partners.

- **The Cultural Heritage Node** around Chinatown House and the Wing Noodles building aims to create an emblematic place testifying to the cultural richness of Chinatown and actively contributing to its influence. It is based on a bond of trust established between the JIA Foundation and the neighbouring property owners and partners committed to the community, with the aim of transforming this provincially-recognized “institutional node” into a true hub promoting Chinatown’s cultural heritage.
- **Clark Street Reimagined** aims to revitalize this emblematic artery of Chinatown by focusing on two complementary components. The first is based on the development of mixed-use social housing on land belonging to the City, with the goal to integrate collective real estate tools. The second component concerns the implementation of a strategy for the transitional occupation of vacant commercial premises.
- **The Viger Hub** around the current site of the community garden in front of the Chinese Hospital aims to carry out a collective initiative responding to the needs of the community and unifying the actors of Chinatown. Driven by the momentum of the Kahéhtaien Lumb collective garden, it seeks to forge new links between organizations rarely associated, in order to create solid and lasting partnerships with a perspective of inclusiveness, intercultural dialogue and harmonious cohabitation. It is also part of the vision to develop community housing projects on the underutilized sites.

Building on established broad partnerships, these projects aim to focus existing community efforts around concrete initiatives to grow the networks and resources needed to sustain continued change in the future. The community looks forward to the City’s response to this proposal and collaborating with the City to develop the next Chinatown Action Plan beyond 2026. To view the full report, visit: <https://jiafoundationmtl.org/action-plan/>



1092-1106 Clark Street Concept Plan

Introduction

In August 2024, the City of Montréal announced the acquisition of a lot located at 1100-1102 rue Clark at a cost of \$1.98 million. As the City also owns the two adjacent lots, it has indicated that this strategic acquisition is to enable a non-market housing project with 45-60 units on site and it intends to resell those lots in the future to a partner committed to developing such a project. This acquisition by the City was aligned with the objectives set in the Chinatown Action Plan 2021-2026, specifically commitments regarding heritage preservation, improving quality of life, improving commercial vitality, and facilitating community collaboration.

With this opportunity in mind, the JIA Foundation convened a project steering committee with the Chinatown Round Table, Table de concertation du faubourg Saint-Laurent and Comité logement Ville-Marie to launch the Clark Street Reimagined Project with an open house and a visioning workshop in early December 2024. The project is a community-led initiative to develop a Concept Plan for a mixed-use housing project for the City-owned sites. Based on a holistic vision for the future of Clark Street, this Concept Plan aims to meet diverse community needs and to facilitate needed change in the neighbourhood. The JIA Foundation engaged Pivot: Coopérative d'Architecture to create a proposal for the housing project with community insights gathered from two collaborative design workshops in early 2025. The project was created with funding support from the Borough of Ville-Marie and the Community Housing Transformation Centre.

Project Outcomes

The Concept Plan proposes a stepped design with a 8-storey building in the back and a 5-storey building facing the street. The design proposes to maintain the existing facade of 1106 Clark Street and ensure integration with the human scale neighbourhood character. Following the design's intentions of social mixity and community, the first floor is proposed as a mix of open recreation space, retail, and space for residents. There is an internal courtyard as well as a backyard terrace with a semi-permeable boundary dividing it from Brady Alley for community use (the alleyway between Clark and Saint Urbain Streets).

In order to address the diversity of needs of the different populations in Chinatown and to allow flexibility for future implementation of this project, Pivot's proposal uses a 'kit of parts' model, proposing several different floor plans with different configurations of apartments from studios to 1 to 2 bedrooms, which can be mixed and matched to create levels of communal space. Depending on the targeted clientele in the final project, these components can be combined to meet the needs and vision of future residents. In total, the proposed volume can accommodate 51 to 83 units, depending on the scenario.

The community looks forward to collaborating with future developers on the realisation of this long-awaited project at 1092-1106 Clark Street. To view the full report by Pivot: Coopérative d'Architecture, visit: <https://jiafoundationmtl.org/clark-street-reimagined/>





JIA Foundation's Research Summary on Collective Real Estate Tools

Introduction

The JIA Foundation has released a Research Summary outlining its preliminary research around collective real estate tools for equitable development in Chinatown. Chinatown's strong community ecosystem constitutes a foundational element of the neighbourhood's heritage. Our approach encompasses the preservation and stewardship of the community spaces and infrastructure that house the activities and people that give them meaning. The tools outlined in the Research Summary aim to support community agency in the neighbourhood by empowering Chinatown's community with increased knowledge and capacity to have more control over urban change and development.

Context

Recent pressures to gentrify and redevelop the neighbourhood since the COVID-19 pandemic echo the historical demolition of two thirds of Chinatown's built fabric to make way for large public infrastructures such as the Guy-Favreau and Desjardins complexes. These moments underline the importance of working to make sure Chinatown can continue to remain in place as a home and place of sanctuary for many. Moreover, community members wish to see change that meets their needs: increased foot traffic for small businesses, well-maintained public spaces, spaces for community events, fewer vacant buildings, more repairs on historic buildings, among other changes. Consultations with community members have underlined an interest in community participation in development, holistic strategies, and the integration of Chinatown into city-wide discussions on equitable development in Montréal.

Project Outcomes

Collective real estate prioritizes long-term community benefits rather than only the bottom line. Many family associations have been practising key principles of collective real estate for over a century, which shows that Chinatown has community capacity and resources that can be leveraged to build a neighbourhood for the community, by the community.

The document focuses on collective real estate as an ideal way to achieve this vision. Building on various case studies of community-driven urban transformation efforts based in other Montréal neighbourhoods, Chinatowns, and beyond, the team examines five different models of development which are well suited to respond to the needs and interests of community members. These include community bonds, mutualized equity funds, community land trust or social utility trusts, heritage building alliances, and community benefits agreements. The document outlines how each model might apply to specific contexts in Chinatown.

To view the Research Summary, visit: <http://jiafoundationmtl.org/planning-team/>



Table ronde
du Quartier chinois
de Montréal

Montreal
Chinatown
Round Table

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唐人街
圓桌會



About JIA Foundation

The JIA Foundation is a non-profit organization in Québec with a mandate to protect and promote the tangible and intangible cultural heritage of Montréal's Chinatown. The JIA Foundation fosters Chinatown's cultural heritage through education, space activation and community-driven approaches to real estate. We aim to 1) activate underutilized Chinatown spaces with cultural and educational programming, 2) guide strategic policy, programs and initiatives to protect the history of Montreal's Chinatown and foster equitable development and community ownership solutions, 3) empower the Asian diasporic and working-class community of Montreal's Chinatown to develop expertise, capacity, and tools to map-out, secure and advocate for the neighbourhood's future, and 4) engage diverse groups, organizations and governments in ways that are inclusive, culturally relevant, art/storytelling-based and intergenerational.

<https://jiafoundationmtl.org/>

About the Montréal Chinatown Round Table

Created by the city of Montréal's Chinatown Development Plan 2021-2026, the Montreal Chinatown Round Table is a neighbour platform to unite diverse Chinatown stakeholders to exchange information, collaborate on common issues, and take positions regarding important local issues. Aiming for an intersectoral representation, the mission of the Round Table is to oversee the quality of life, the environment, and the recognition and promotion of all aspects of the cultural landscape of Montreal's Chinatown. It ensures that the voices of individuals as well as actors from the community, economic, cultural and association spheres are heard, amplified and taken into consideration, with a view to developing a Chinatown on a human and inclusive scale.

<https://tablerondequartierchinoismtl.org/english/>