

In 2050, the Wing's

Block will be...



POSTCARDS FROM THE FUTURE

COMMUNITY DREAMS FOR WING'S BLOCK

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The JIA Foundation is a nonprofit organization with a mandate to preserve and promote the tangible and intangible cultural heritage of Montréal's Chinatown.

jiafoundationmtl.org

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Postcards from the Future

Community Consultation the Fun Way

In December 2025, as Wing Noodles closed its doors, casting uncertainty on the future of its whole block, the JIA Foundation launched the Wing's Block Vision. This project aimed to establish this heritage-designated sector of Montréal Chinatown as a much-needed cultural heritage anchor for the neighbourhood, turning the end of one chapter of Chinatown into an opportunity to create lasting positive change for the neighbourhood.

Since then, the Wing's Block Partners Table—bringing together institutions, businesses, property owners, and space activators around the block—was created as a platform to develop and implement the Vision, which imagines a future for Wing's Block that showcases Chinatown's cultural heritage and social history, meets the needs of its living community, and actively contributes to its urban revitalization.



Photo: Quang Hai Nguyen



Photo: Quang Hai Nguyen

This booklet is the result of the Postcards from the Future project, a (fun) community consultation initiative to inform the development of the Vision. Integrated within our exhibition “Wing Noodles: The Heart of Chinatown”, visitors, community members, and residents alike were invited to imagine the Wing's Block in 2050 by writing and/or drawing a postcard about it to a loved one.

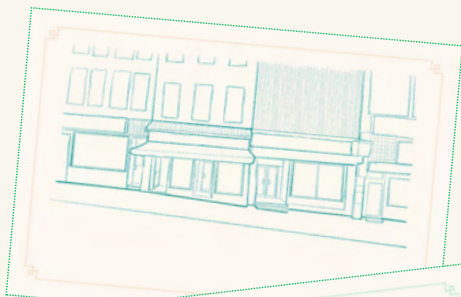
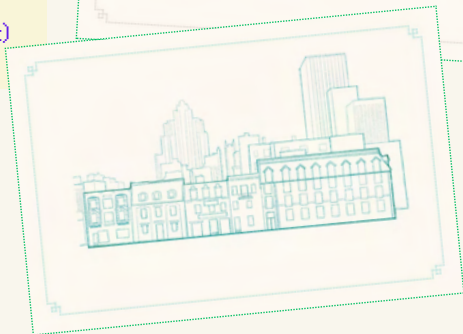
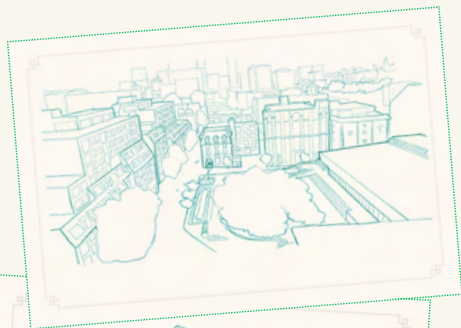
The postcards gathered and amplified the diverse community ideas and dreams surrounding the future of the Wing's Block and Chinatown more broadly. By shedding light on the relational, cultural, and spatial conditions that make this neighbourhood unique, the submissions helped inform and guide the development of the Vision.

Five Postcards.....Endless Dreams

To participate, we invited community members to pick a postcard and dream of the following...

"It is the year 2050, and you just took a stroll through Chinatown. Today, you paid particular attention to the perceptions you experienced, noticing the sounds, sights, smells, and textures that animate the neighbourhood. This might have been your first time in the area, or maybe you walk the streets of Chinatown every day. Perhaps you used to spend a lot of time here but haven't returned in a while.

Your walk today inspired you to reach out to a loved one. You are in luck, since you are just now coming across this set of postcards, a set of semi-blank canvas on which you can draw and/or write about your experience of Chinatown, on this day (or night) of 2050."



If the submissions showed a broad diversity of desires, approaches, and hopes for the future of the Wing's Block, many shared themes and ideas transpired across the different postcards

Based on these, we can begin to imagine how, in 2050, the Wing's Block will be...

In 2050, the Wing's Block will be.....intergenerational

In and around buildings that have stood for over two centuries, people have built lives, memories, and traditions. Here, seniors age in place in secure, familiar homes, their silhouettes moving through kitchens they have known for fifty years, while children play in the same spaces they will one day grow up to call their own.

TO/A/到 future generations



They weave around the same trees that aunties have gathered around to trade gossip, trees they have watched change countless times.



Youth sing throwback karaoke songs from the 2020s, their voices mingling with the laughter and lectures of old-timers. Traditions do not simply survive; they evolve, weaving into the new as people gather to exchange stories, wisdom, and laughter.

All generations
Congregate in the park

United by a shared sense of belonging, the neighbourhood becomes a bridge across geographies and generations. This place is living, evolving. Each new encounter and story adds another thread to a distinctly Montréal Chinatown culture.

There's a new generation of people that have seen a door, new openings, new ways of reclaiming, preserving, existing and coexisting



In 2050, the Wing's Block will be.....green

What a pleasure it is to walk these streets in summer and find yourself wrapped in green, then return in autumn as the leaves turn gold and the canopy thins enough to reveal the sky. The canopy overhead isn't only for us; other species live there too.



I hear birdsong as I walk along a fully pedestrianized Chinatown. All other sounds are muffled by the canopy of trees providing respite from the heat.



Green roofs and window boxes lift the greenery up above street level, so that looking up is as much a part of walking here as looking ahead.

Bitter melon

Shiso eggplant

OKRA

The community garden has at last secured a permanent plot where Asian vegetables are grown and shared. Sometimes I steal a tomato while I'm picking. Once, a senior who lives nearby caught me, and though we don't speak the same language, we understood each other perfectly through a cheeky exchange of glances as I handed him one too. In this neighbourhood, sustainability is a kind of collective care, done by and for Chinatown's own ecosystem.



In 2050, the Wing's Block will be.....active

Chinatown's layers are alive: the streets, stores, and people blend into one continuous life. Cars are absent here; the pavement belongs to walkers, rollers, and cyclists who pass the people on stoops and stools. Storefronts spill over, with people eating takeout on the stoop, kitchen steam beading a window, laughter that makes heads swivel.

Above, residents sleep, work, meet; faces show in windows and look down on the life below.

May it be festive,
full of joy
and welcoming :)



來自未來

DATE / 日期: 2022/6/5

CHINATOWN is so vibrant and full of life!!!

At dawn, the growl of delivery trucks and the sharp scent of coffee; by midday, the press of bodies hunting for lunch; come evening, neon bleeds across wet asphalt and music escapes from behind doors.

There is something here for every hunger, mood, and hour, and each return offers some small surprise.

Just, un bien d'aller
et de vie!
这真乐!

DATE / 日期: _____
The aunties + Uncles sitting on their plastic stools,
playing M.S., drinking, laughing.

In 2050, the
Wing's Block will be..... **community-driven**

UN
LIEU

Chinatown is stewarded by and for those who work, live, and find themselves here. It is a neighbourhood actively shaped by its people, where decisions are made with community needs in mind. The land is held in common: shopkeepers stay, restaurants stay long enough to become traditions, the taste of childhood passed down. The residents upstairs stay put.

But it is not static:
Chinatown keeps making
room.

**LONG-TERM
INVESTMENT
IN INFRASTRUC-
TURE FOR
COMMUNITY**

**MULTI-USE
BUILDING**

**SUPPORT FOR
SUSTAINABLE &
VIBRANT SMALL
BIZ**

**SHARED SPACES
FOR COMMUNITY**

**AFFORDABLE
HOUSING**

New faces arrive and are greeted not as visitors, but as contributors. What they bring does not erase what was; it joins it. Here, those rooted for generations and newcomers come together in shared power and responsibility. They form solidarities that extend far beyond these streets, that stretch past these blocks, tying them to struggles and dreams across Montréal.

BY AND FOR
CHINATOWN

There is pride in that, the particular pride of home: not the pride of owning something, but of belonging to it.

DE PARTAGE

In 2050, the Wing's Block will be..... safe

In Chinatown, safety is defined not just by the freedom to walk these streets, but by the security of knowing you have a right to remain. It lives in the relationships that make a neighbourhood feel like home.

Chinatown welcomes you into a tradition of mutual care and shared existence. Its streets are not simply corridors to move through, but places to pause, gather, celebrate, and be known.



I walk here, I see my self and I see my own.

When I walk here, I see hope. I feel relief.

communities
centered on
mutual aid and
cultural teachings!

TO/A/到: Future
Chinatown
Community

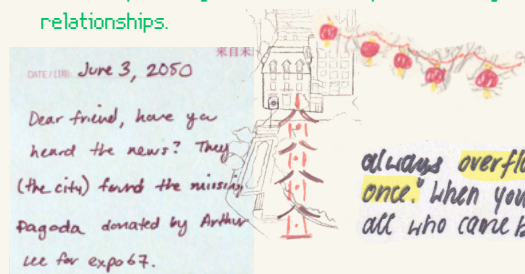
Housing is a right. Through co-ops and social housing, Chinatown offers more than shelter; it creates the conditions to put down roots. That means growing older here, raising a family here, and knowing there will still be a place for you.

Belonging is built collectively: through community spaces, cultural institutions, small businesses, and the everyday acts of care that keep people connected to one another.

In 2050, the Wing's Block will be.....anchored in memory

Walking through these streets, one can, if they listen closely, make out the whispers of memories that stick to the pavement tiles and the brick walls and the old trees and the worn windowsills that have witnessed generations of Chinatown and more.

Never a blank slate, these streets tell the stories, big and small and layered, that have built this community from the ground up. Symbols, colours, and spirits of the past animate the encounters of tomorrow, etching them onto a unique continuity of relationships.



I WALK ON ST. LAURENT WHERE I USED TO WORK. SO MUCH HAS CHANGED YET SO MUCH REMAINED.



it's so funny how time and space does not change..



DATE / 日期: AUG 8, 2026
Pray that Chinatown maintains its integrity, remains true despite any changes

It's a space that is always overflowing with the past, the present and the future all at once. When you stand here, you stand at the intersection of yourself, all who came before you and all who will come after you.

From Indigenous spacekeepers to early European settlers to the first Cantonese launderers to the second and third and fourth generations of Asian Montrealers that have learned to call Chinatown home, this block has always acted as a gathering place for communities who decided to stick together and build a better world for themselves.

And the changing but persistent shadows of our forerunners continue to remind us of this legacy, every day renewed but never forgotten.

OBJECTIF : LE NOUVEAU QUARTIER LG + COOL
DE MONTRÉAL!!!

TEROCHINENZI

LONGUE VIE AU QUARTIER CHINOIS!



Oyele



天高

任鸟飞!

DATE / 日期:

i Hope ther is
Some flying
cars ☺

Thank you for
making my
home beautiful!
- dragon

TO/A/到:

JIA +
China town

