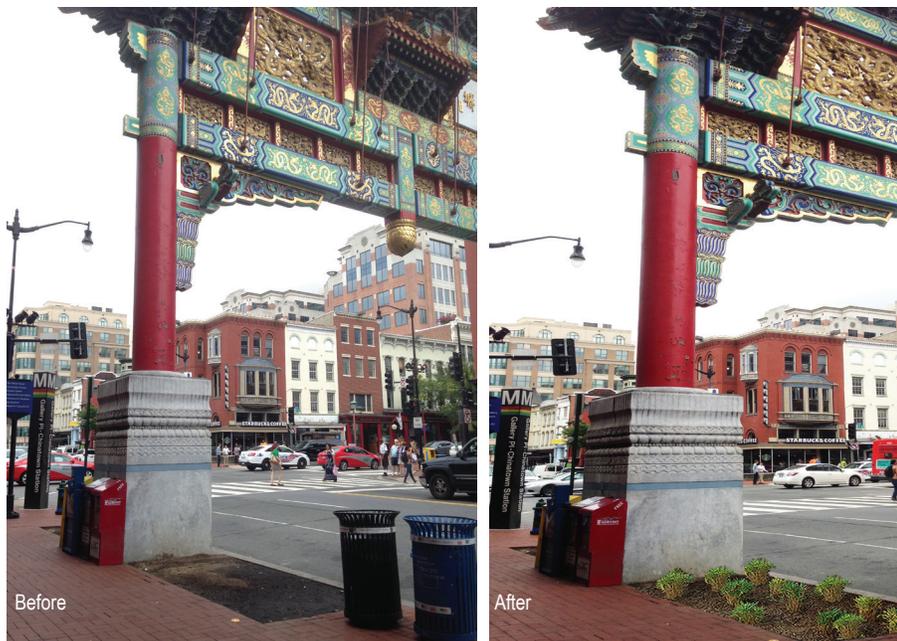


Chinatown Highlights

Winter 2014



Mayor's Office on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs



Before and after photos of the planting of kuma bamboo trees on the Chinatown archway

Beautifying Chinatown

The Mayor's Office on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs (OAPIA) brought together the DC Department of Transportation, Chinatown Community Cultural Center, Downtown Business Improvement District, Wah Luck House Tenant Association and the property management of the Gallery Place building located in Chinatown for a community beautification project for Chinatown.

In October, Kuma bamboo plants were planted in the tree boxes that surround the legs of the Chinatown Friendship archway located at the corner of 7th and H St. NW. In 2009, the archway underwent a major restoration with new lighting, replacement of missing or worn-out roof tiles and gold coating, and cleaning and repainting of the entire arch.

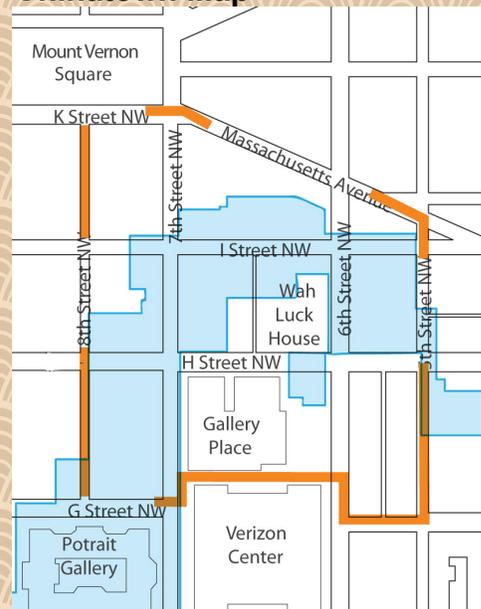
Originating from Southeast Asia, the Kuma bamboo plant is a cultural addition

to Chinatown as it introduces another aspect of the East. The plant is known as a type of "dwarf bamboo" and grows up to five feet in height. It can be kept short by trimming it to ground level height and has moderate ground spread, making it suitable for the arch. Previous Chinatown beautification projects that OAPIA helped coordinate include the installation of Chinatown street banners, Chinese-themed bike racks, and neighborhood cleaning activities.



Chinatown Highlights is a quarterly newsletter for updates about DC Chinatown and related topics.

Chinatown Map



Washington DC's Chinatown is located in the northeast quadrant of Northwest Washington. To the north, it is bounded by Massachusetts Avenue and K Street; to the south, by G Street; to the east, by 5th Street; and to the west, by 8th Street. Chinatown is almost exactly midway between the Capitol and the White House. It sits on top of one of the few three-line Metro (subway) stations in the metropolitan area. It is adjacent to the Convention Center, the National Potrait Gallery and Mount Vernon Square.

More information on DC Chinatown
<http://apia.dc.gov/page/chinatown-small-area-plan>

Mayor's Office on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs
441 4th St. NW 721N Washington DC 20001
(202) 727-3120 | apia.dc.gov | apia@dc.gov



Chinatown Talk Story “Uncommon Courage: Breakout at Chosin”

The OCA-Greater Washington, DC Chapter hosts monthly Chinatown Talk Story events where community members and friends gather to discuss and share stories of the histories and experiences of the

Chinese and Asian American experience, as told

by the voices from the community. The events are powered by the belief that the life of the community lies in the power of stories remembered and shared.

On November 16th, Chinatown Talk Story featured a film screening of **Uncommon Courage: Breakout at Chosin** which the audience later discussed about. The film documents the courageous actions of the late **Major Kurt Chew-Een Lee** during the Korean War. Then First Lieutenant Lee was the first Asian American in the U.S. Marine Corps to become a regular officer and the first to command

a combat unit. During the Korean War, 8,000 U.S. Marines were in threat of being surrounded by a force of 120,000 enemy troops at the Chosin Reservoir in North Korea after the People's Republic of China joined the conflict to assist the North Korean forces. To prevent entrapment by Chinese troops, First Lt. Lee led a rifle platoon of 500 men behind enemy lines to secure a road vital to safe passage for the 8,000 Marines. During that

night in December 1950, First Lt. Lee faced numerous obstacles including pitch black darkness, the bitterly, cold conditions,

and unfamiliar icy, mountainous terrain. The mission was risky and if he failed, it would have meant disaster for the U.S. forces. Lee's actions at Chosin Reservoir showed commendable courage and bravery. For his valor, First Lt. Lee was awarded a Silver Star, the third highest honor in the Marine Corps. A month prior to this battle, Major Lee was also awarded the Navy Cross, the second highest honor, for “extraordinary heroism” during an assault on Marine positions on November 2, 1950.

The **Uncommon Courage** film screening served as a venue for community members to discuss changing perceptions of Asian Americans and how stories like those of Major Lee are contributing to those changes. Major Lee's heroism challenges the stereotypes of weak and passive Asian American males and is a testament to the important roles Asian Americans have played throughout U.S. history. Major Kurt Chew-Een Lee passed away on March 3, 2014. He was 88 years old.



The late Major Kurt Chew-Een Lee



Stan Lou speaking at the Chinatown Talk Story event.

OCA-Asian Pacific American Advocates is a national organization of over 100 chapters and affiliates dedicated to advancing the social, political, and economic well-being of Asian Pacific Americans. To learn more about the OCA-Greater Washington, DC Chapter, visit www.ocadc.org.

“Adopt-A-Block” Signs in Chinatown



New Adopt-A-Block signs in Chinatown

The “Adopt-A-Block” program is a volunteer-based program that encourages local businesses to help keep the community clean. With a commitment to two community cleanups per year for two years, the participants will each “adopt” and clean up a block in the District. Businesses participate in neighborhood community safety meetings and conduct weekly gutter sweepings on streets around the area. All supplies are available through the Department of Public Works’ Helping Hand Program, so participation is simple and completely cost-free. For more information on becoming a part of “Adopt-A-Block,” please visit www.cleancity.dc.gov.

In October 2014, new “Adopt-A-Block” signs were installed around Chinatown. These signs are located near stores that have registered to participate in the Office of the Clean City’s “Adopt-A-Block” program through OAPIA, such as *Wok n Roll*, *Chinatown Express*, *Jackey Café*, *Tony Cheng’s Restaurant*, *Asian Spice*, *Full Kee*, *Royal Thai*, *Pho 14*, *Joy Luck House*, *Da Shin Trading Company*, *New Big Wong*, *Absolute Thai*, *Chinatown Market* and the *Chinatown Community Cultural Center*.

Chinatown Coat Drive



The Chinatown Services Center (located at 500 I St. NW) partnered with the Chinese Youth Club to launch a coat drive.

The Chinese Youth Club (CYC), in partnership with the Chinatown Service Center (CSC), launched a coat drive event to collect clean and reusable children and adults' winter coats to donate to residents of Chinatown. Both organizations have a long history of serving the Chinese community in the greater DC area. Established in 1939, the Chinese Youth Club has been playing an active role in enriching the lives of

Asian youth through its participation in cultural, athletic, and community events and activities. The Chinatown Service Center, sponsored by the Chinese Community Church, was founded in 1977 and has been providing social services to the Asian community ever since. A shared mission brings CYC and CSC together into initiating the coat drive, where children and senior citizens in need receive warm coats free of charge. This year marks the first year of this event, and the Chinese Community Church has been selected as the major distribution location for its adjacency to the Chinese community in DC. With their outstanding efforts outreaching for potential donors, 80 pieces of warm clothes were distributed from the coat drive.

Upcoming Meeting:

Chinatown Steering Committee Meeting

Date: January 5, 2015

Time: 7:00 pm

Location: Chinatown Community Cultural Center, 616 H St. NW 2nd floor

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An Interview with Chinese American Business Owner Victor Quinto

On H Street, between 6th and 7th in Chinatown stands the three-story high building of what was formerly known as the Mary E. Surratt Boarding House, the historical site where the plotting and the assassination of the 16th US president, Abraham Lincoln, took place. Today, the building is occupied by the Wok n Roll Restaurant and Chinese American owner Victor Quinto, who utilized his expertise in the food service industry to create a menu containing of Chinese and Japanese cuisine. Victor Quinto shares his story on his experiences that led him to establish a business in Chinatown.

Q: When did you first come to the US and what was your motivation for coming?

I attended school in LA and came to DC in 1999. I wanted to be able to support myself, so I decided to come to Chinatown to start a new life on my own and become independent. I felt it would be better in DC because I read in the newspapers that there was growth in jobs and no unemployment problems here. Because I knew that I would eventually start my own business, I wanted to have experience and worked at a Chinese restaurant, here in Chinatown. I started as a busboy, and in two months, went from being a waiter to an assistant manager because I picked up the menu quickly.

Q: When did you start your business in Chinatown?

I started my business in July 2001, a few months before 9/11. Actually, before opening this restaurant, I had the opportunity to manage a restaurant with my friend. One year after working at a Chinese restaurant in Chinatown, I started a business with my friend in Arlington, Virginia for more experience. Then two years later, I opened this shop in Chinatown, after settling down more and getting married and having support from my wife.

Q: What motivated you to start your business?

I was exposed to the food service industry growing up. Overseas, my parents ran their own restaurant and I helped them out. I guess I was naturally led to pick up the skills necessary in the kitchen, develop a menu, and manage a restaurant. My interests towards running my own restaurant developed over time; I knew that I would end up doing something like this.

Q: Were there any particular struggles that you faced when starting your business and what measures did you take to overcome them?

I needed support from my parents and my wife's parents to finance the restaurant. A few months after opening the shop, 9/11 happened. The whole block was closed and there were demolition of buildings, making it hard for businesses because there were only a few customers. I took advantage of this time, and remodeled the store, inside out. From September to December 2001, I completely remodeled the kitchen and the interior of the restaurant and by December, my business was renovated. I also started a delivery service to do my best to give the customers what they wanted. It was inconvenient for people to come to our shop when the streets were blocked, so to continue business, I delivered food to the customers.

Q: How was Chinatown when you first started your business and how did it feel seeing Chinatown change over the years?

When I first started, there weren't as many shops like there are now, just a few restaurants. Now there are more stores and buildings that attract people, like the Verizon Center. There is more variety here now. We don't only have restaurants, but people could shop for other goods and be entertained. People don't have to come only to eat, but also do other things that are interesting to them. Even though there is more competition, I think it is good because that means there are more attractions and reasons for people to visit Chinatown.

Q: In what ways do you think Chinatown still has room to improve?

Parking is a big challenge for business owners. Maybe there could be better planning to make more parking spaces available.

Real estate, living expenses and the cost to manage the business is expensive. It would be nice to have better support services to make it more manageable for our direct customers to remain in this area. We need to be able to maintain our customers.

Preserving Chinese culture is important to Chinatown. I understand that it is good to have more shops in Chinatown to attract customers, but I feel it would be better to be selective in planning what businesses and projects come into the Chinatown storefront. It would be nice if priority is given to businesses that have cultural relevance, the Chinese tradition and style, authentic Chinese dishes and items, so that people visiting Chinatown could understand and learn Chinese culture, not just the food.

Competition: I recently restarted my delivery service because of the growing competition from the food trucks. People are finding it more convenient to purchase food from food trucks, instead of coming to the stores. It is becoming more difficult for business owners, like myself, who have to pay for workers transportation, parking, and other fees, while competing with the growing amount of food truck vendors.



Old photo of the Mary Surratt Boarding House in DC Chinatown.



Current photo of the Mary Surratt Boarding House in DC Chinatown.

中国城新闻

冬季 2014



Mayor's Office on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs

中国城新闻每季一刊，提供华盛顿中国城的新闻及有关消息。



中国城门楼下种上库马竹的前后对比照片

中国城迎来库马竹

市长亚太裔事务办公室集合特区交通部，美京中国文化中心，市中心商业提升特区，以及画廊，为中国城进行一项包含政府和社区的美化项目。今年十月，在中国城的友谊牌楼的两根楼柱周围的人行道上的花坛里种满了库马竹，作为中国城美化项目。2009年，牌楼经历了大装修，更新了瓦片，镀金，接缝料，装上了照明灯。

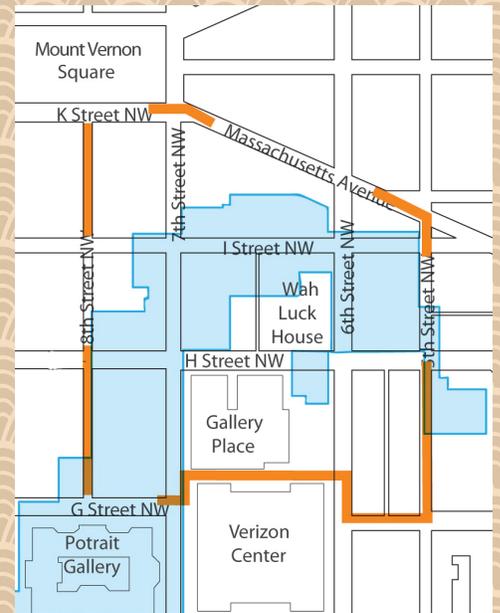
起源于东南亚的库马竹为中国城添加了新的东方元素。库马竹也称“矮竹”，生长高度为至5英尺，可通过不断修剪，使之保持地面高度。库马竹地面蔓延程度中等，适于牌楼美观。

中国城友谊牌楼位于华盛顿西

北区6街与H街交接处，是世界上最大的单跨拱门。其高近60英尺，宽近75英尺，装有7000片瓦，画有272条明清风格的龙。自1986年完工起，老拱门在这28年中依然屹立于中国城核心地带，展现着它的壮美，代表着华盛顿与其姐妹城市北京的友谊。



中国城地图



华盛顿中国城位于华盛顿西北区的东北象限。它北接马塞诸塞大道和K街，南达G街；东临5街，西临8街。中国城几乎位于国会与白宫的正中间。地下有三条地铁线路枢纽站，这样的地铁站在大华府地区屈指可数。中国城紧邻会展中心，国家肖像博物馆，以及弗农山广场。

欲了解华盛顿中国城更多详情，请访问网站 <http://apia.dc.gov/page/chinatown-small-area-plan>

市长亚太裔事务办公室
441 4th St. NW 721N Washington DC 20001
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中国城外套收集活动



华埠服务中心（位于500 I St. NW）

区事件和活动，丰富亚洲青年的生活。华埠服务中心由中国社区中心主办，创办于1977年，一直提供为亚洲社区提供社会服务。一个共同的使命使他们合力发起这样的活动，让孩子和有需求的长者免费获得温暖的大衣。今年是本次活动的第一年，美京中华基督教会被选为华盛顿市相邻的中国社区主要分发大衣的场所。凭借其卓越的努力联系潜在捐助者，发放出80件御寒的外套。

中国青年俱乐部（CYC）与华埠服务中心合作，推出首届外套收集活动，收集干净，可重复使用的儿童及成人冬装捐赠给中国城的居民。这两个组织有服务于大华府地区中国社区的悠久历史。中国青年俱乐部成立于1939年，一直发挥着积极的作用，通过文化，体育，社

会议预告

中国城筹划指导委员会会议

日期：2015年1月5日

时间：晚上7点

地点：美京中国文化中心

616 H St. NW 2楼

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