



OTTAWA CHINATOWN
A multicultural village with an Asian flavour

2020 Annual Report

The Somerset Street Chinatown BIA was established in 1989 by the City of Ottawa. Chinatown is spread over an area of 8 city blocks on Somerset Street West: from Bay Street to Preston Street. A Board of Management governs the BIA. Members of the BIA consist of around 180 property Owners and business owners in the area.

The mandate of the BIA includes:

- Maintenance, beautification and enhancement of public area
- Support and enhancement of public safety
- Promote and market local business/tourism
- Encourage and support business development and economic revitalization efforts

2020 Annual Highlights:

2020 was an exceptional year with the unprecedented pandemic causing severe damage to the main street businesses. The disruption required the BIA to be nimble and agile in its operation and service to its members.

In 2019, the BIA board made a decision to switch the BIA finance to the city and its physical office to a virtual office in 2020. These decisions allowed the BIA to be much more prepared for the unexpected pandemic operationally. The 2020 highlights are:

- Took quick action to reduce the 2020 levy to zero and provide much needed financial support to our members
- Partnered with a local Chinese media company to conduct the first online Lunar New Year Celebration with gift certificates drawn online
- Added two large murals with the support of the City's mural grant
- Created and delivered online campaigns to support restaurant take-outs
- Planted and maintained the 22 planters on the street
- Conducted Chinatown arch visual inspection
- Completed the transfer of the BIA finance management to the City.
- Worked with partnering organizations to address the safety concerns brought up by BIA members.
- Updated the BIA website and produced 12 promotional videos with the funding support from Invest Ottawa



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2020 Audited Financial Statement:

To be received from the city.

- **2021 Strategic Direction:** Continue to find innovative ways to assist our members to go through the pandemic
- Reduce levy again to share the financial burden on the shoulders of our members
- Respond and provide service to BIA members
- Continue to improve streetscape and cleanliness
- Remain lean, agile and nimble in the BIA operations
- Continue the strong partnership between the BIA and other stakeholders in Chinatown and strengthen the neighbourhood image as a safe, loving and harmonious community

Board of Management

Peter So	Property Owner	
Sonia Del Rosario	Property Owner/Business Owner	del Rosario Financial Services
John Maiorino	Property Owner/Business Owner	Professional Barber Shop &Hairstyling
Beibei Chang	Business Owner	Kowloon Market
Christina Zhou	Branch Manager	Scotia Bank
Peter Yeung	Property Owner	
Terry Cheng	Property Owner	
Fay Meng	Business Owner	MobileNet Plus
Kristen Mikkelsen	Manager	Kelly funeral Home
Aaron Cayer	Owner	Birling Skateboard Shop
Mui Manh Ha	Owner	Mai Mai Hair Salon
Catherine McKenney	City Councilor	City of Ottawa

Staff: Executive Director Grace Xin

