



VANCOUVER  
**CHINATOWN  
FOUNDATION**  
華埠基金

# CHINATOWN IMPACT FUND 華埠振興基金

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VANCOUVER



## CHINATOWN IMPACT FUND

The **Chinatown Impact Fund** is a dedicated initiative aimed at supporting the revitalization and growth of local businesses in Chinatown. Led by the Vancouver Chinatown Foundation, this program is intended to foster economic growth in the neighbourhood while continuing to promote its unique cultural identity. With support from the Provincial Government and the City of Vancouver through the **Special Enterprise Program**, this Fund will provide businesses with financial resources to undertake projects that will further their growth and contribute to the vibrancy of the community.

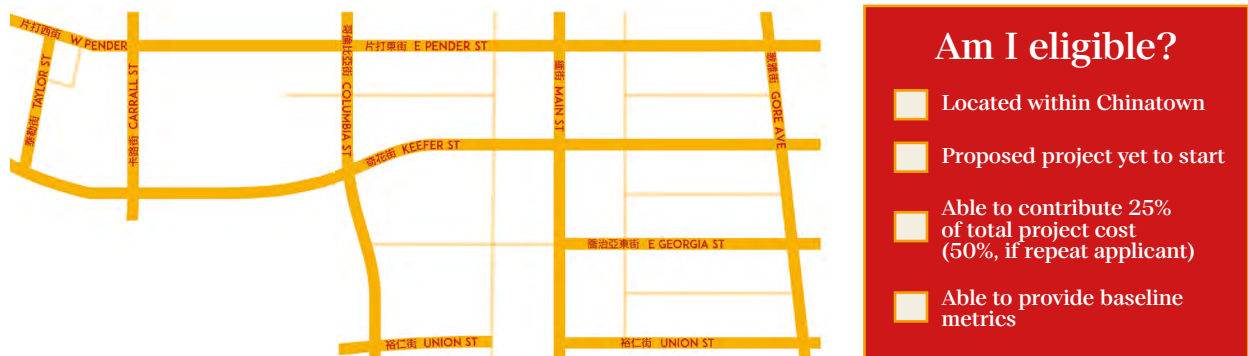
Last year, we supported 40 Chinatown merchants through the Fund, assisting with physical improvements, marketing support, and other initiatives to strengthen their businesses, bringing the total to over 100 merchants supported since the program began in 2024.

The **Chinatown Impact Fund** has been designed with the following objectives in mind:

- **Empowerment of Local Businesses:** Empower businesses to take charge of their growth and development by offering financial support for innovative projects.
- **Enhancement of Economic Vitality:** Stimulate economic activity within Chinatown, resulting in increased revenue and employment opportunities in the neighbourhood.
- **Fostering Innovation:** Encourage businesses to adopt new approaches that can expand their market and grow their business.

## ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

The **Chinatown Impact Fund** is open to businesses and non-profit organizations located within the boundaries of Vancouver's Historic Chinatown. All business types, including startups and established enterprises, are eligible to apply. Applicants must demonstrate a strong alignment between their proposed projects and the program's objectives and grant categories.



Applicants are limited to one selected project per business. Additionally, applicants are required to provide baseline metrics, such as current revenue, visitor numbers, and employee count, as part of their application. This data will help measure a project's impact.

## REPEAT APPLICANTS

Businesses that have previously received support through the **Chinatown Impact Fund** may apply again; however, repeat applicants are subject to additional requirements to ensure funding continues to benefit a broad range of businesses within Chinatown. Repeat applicants are required to provide a minimum **50% cost share** toward their proposed project, regardless of the grant category or project type.

Projects submitted by repeat applicants must represent a **new or clearly distinct scope of work** from the initiative previously funded. Applications will be reviewed to confirm that the proposed project reflects a meaningful additional investment rather than ongoing operational support or a continuation of earlier work.

## ELIGIBLE PROJECTS

The **Chinatown Impact Fund** will support projects in the following categories:

**Note:** Projects that are completed or are currently in progress will not be eligible for funding. Applicants should ensure that their proposed projects meet this criteria to be considered for funding.

### Digital Transformation

Grants to enhance businesses' digital presence through marketing campaigns, online engagement, and the development or upgrade of websites and e-commerce platforms.



Reimagining digital presence through website and social media for legacy business Modernize Tailors on E Pender Street

### Business Advisory

Grants to support businesses in accessing professional advisory services, including legal, HR, business, and financial consultations that strengthen business operations.



Connecting legacy Chinatown business with experts through hands-on consultation

### Physical Improvement

Grants for businesses to undertake physical improvements, renovations, and beautification projects.



New lit-up sign installation at Jade Dynasty Restaurant on E Pender Street

## ELIGIBLE AND INELIGIBLE PROJECT COSTS

**Eligible project costs** include, but are not limited to:

- Capital costs (e.g. purchase of machinery, equipment)
- Operating costs that are directly related to the project (e.g. management fees)
- Professional, advisory and technical services
- Costs related to intellectual property
- Technological development and commercial demonstrations
- Subcontracting costs
- Production and distribution of promotional material and management tools

**Ineligible project costs** include, but are not be limited to:

- Real estate acquisition
- Entertainment expenses
- Salaries, salary bonuses and dividend payments
- Interest costs, and associated financing costs
- Federal and provincial income taxes, GST (recoverable portion), taxes or surtaxes on excess profit
- Lobbying activities

## EXPECTED OUTCOMES

The **Chinatown Impact Fund** aims to support projects that stimulate economic activity within Chinatown, resulting in increased revenue and employment opportunities in the neighbourhood.

Applications should specify the expected outcomes and how it can be measured, such as:



**Growth in visitors**  
(percentage increase from baseline)



**Number of jobs maintained**



**Sales/Revenue growth**  
(\$ amount & percentage from baseline)



**Number of jobs added**

Before/After: Sun Fresh Bakery House on Keefer Street



## GRANT EVALUATION & SELECTION CRITERIA

The evaluation of applications will be based on the strength of the application, including the following considerations:

- **Project Description:** A clear and concise description of the project and how it aligns with the specific objectives of the Chinatown Impact Fund
- **Project Outcomes:** A description of how your project will stimulate growth, sustainability, and positive change within your business, while contributing to the broader revitalization of the Chinatown community. Clear and quantifiable goals will allow us to more effectively assess the success of the project.
- **Project Timeline:** A schedule of the project including key milestones that demonstrate the project is doable in the anticipated timeframe.
- **Project Budget:** An estimated project budget with a detailed cost breakdown and expected contributions from all funding sources, including the applicant organization, the **Chinatown Impact Fund**, and other support streams. Applicants are required to provide **two quotes** for any scope of work that accounts for 10% or more of the budget to ensure transparency and cost-effectiveness. This requirement may be waived upon discussion with the Foundation. A contingency of up to 10% of the total project budget may be included.



Media Profiling Legacy Business - Dollar Meat Store

“Chinatown is where our story began — and where it continues to thrive. We’re deeply grateful for the Chinatown Foundation’s commitment to keeping this vibrant community strong for future generations. With support from the Impact Fund, we were able to collaborate with BrandingYVR to build our online presence and strengthen our brand in a way that truly resonates with younger Vancouverites.”

Joey Wong, Owner of Dollar Meat Store



## FUNDING PROCESS & REPORTING

The **Chinatown Impact Fund** provides financial support in the form of non-repayable grants for eligible projects. The Fund provides grants of **up to \$20,000 per project**.

Funding decisions will be based on the merit of each application and the availability of funds as the annual allocation of funding resources is fully utilized. The Foundation reserves the right to suspend the Fund at any time.

The maximum contribution from the Fund will cover up to 75% of the total project cost, with applicants expected to cover the remaining 25%.

### Once your project is approved:

Upon approval, you will enter into a Funding Agreement with the Vancouver Chinatown Foundation. The agreement will specify the funding amount, terms of contribution, reporting requirements, and the obligations of both parties. You must review and sign this agreement before any funding is released.

Along with the agreement, you will receive a branding kit to support a “Thank You” social media post acknowledging the Foundation’s support.

Recipients are encouraged to publish a “Thank You” post tagging the Vancouver Chinatown Foundation prior to funding being released. You will also receive a sticker to display in your business recognizing that you are “Supported by the Vancouver Chinatown Foundation.” If you don’t have an active social media account, please let us know, and we can discuss an alternative way to acknowledge the Foundation’s support.

For payment purposes, contractors should invoice the Vancouver Chinatown Foundation directly for the portion of the project covered by the Fund.

### Reporting requirements:

Submit monthly project updates summarizing work completed and any key milestones or metrics achieved. These can be prepared by your contractor or submitted directly by you.

Submit a final report once the project is complete, confirming the work was done as approved and in line with the Fund’s objectives. This must include invoices and confirmation that the work has been completed.

## PROJECT GALLERY

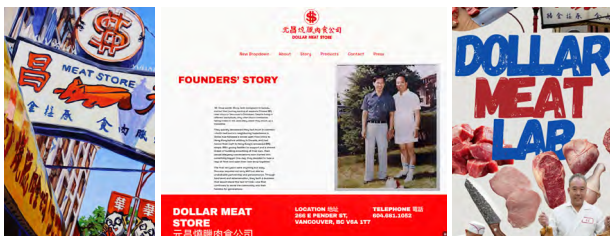
Below are some of the projects undertaken and completed by the Vancouver Chinatown Foundation within the scope of the **Chinatown Impact Fund**.



New business awning at Dragon Boat BC Chinatown Hub



Before/After: Storefront upgrades at Golden Smell Mee



Website and social media launch for legacy business, Dollar Meat Store



Before/After: Awning upgrade at Ai & Om Knives

## HOW TO APPLY

To apply for the **Chinatown Impact Fund**, please follow the steps below:

1. Complete all sections of the application form, providing detailed information about your business, the proposed project, and how it aligns with the Fund's objectives.
2. Attach any supporting documents, such as project plans, budgets, and letters of commitment from potential partners.
3. You can choose to submit your application via one of the following methods:

a. Scan the signed application form and all supporting documents, and email them to **kevin@chinatownfoundation.org**

b. Mail or drop off the signed application form and supporting documents to the Vancouver Chinatown Foundation at:  
**168 East Pender Street, BC, V6A 1T3**  
**Attention: Chinatown Impact Fund**

In-person drop-offs are accepted daily between 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

For any inquiries or assistance during the application process, please feel free to contact us at **kevin@chinatownfoundation.org**



SCAN QR TO  
LEARN MORE  
ABOUT THE  
ECONOMIC  
REVITALIZATION  
PROGRAM

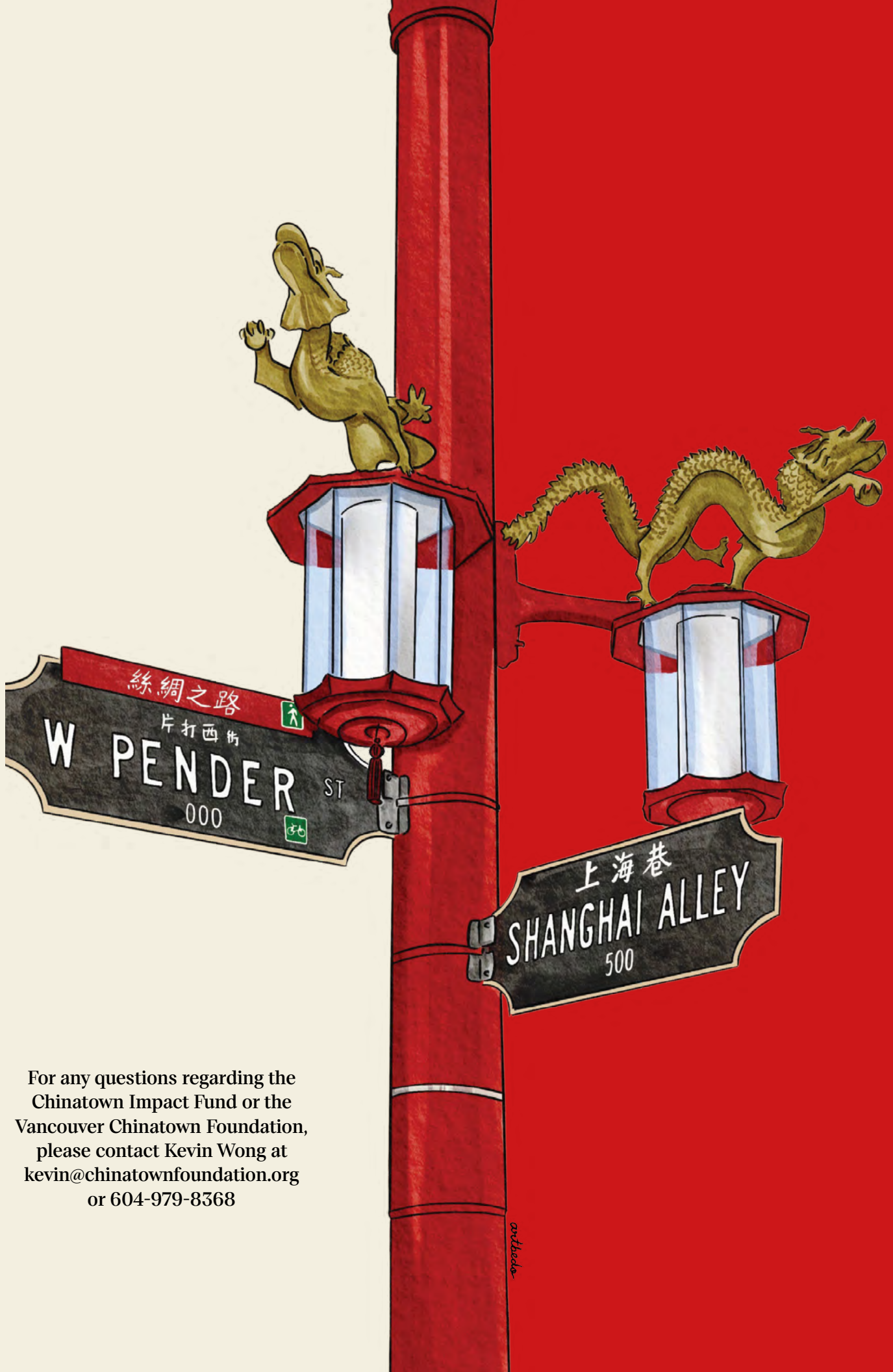
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For any questions regarding the  
Chinatown Impact Fund or the  
Vancouver Chinatown Foundation,  
please contact Kevin Wong at  
[kevin@chinatownfoundation.org](mailto:kevin@chinatownfoundation.org)  
or 604-979-8368