



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Pilot-project revealed through pocket gallery now open to the public at the new Chinese Canadian Museum Office in Chinatown

VANCOUVER, BC – The Museum of Vancouver has partnered with UBC to bring the Chinese Canadian Museum project office to life with a curated pocket gallery supported by the B.C. government and the City of Vancouver.

Located at the Chinese Cultural Centre of Greater Vancouver, the project office includes the pocket gallery, an exhibition produced by Museum of Vancouver (MOV) and curated by Denise Fong (UBC doctoral candidate focused on Chinese Canadian history in B.C.), Viviane Gosselin (Curator of Contemporary Culture at MOV) and Henry Yu (UBC Professor of History). The Planning Office and Pocket Gallery aim to familiarize the public with the CCM planning and encourage visitors to inquire about the themes and programs under consideration.

The pocket gallery will give visitors insight into not only the planning process of the future CCM, it also provides a brief historical overview of the Chinese experience on the West Coast of Canada. A lightbox tabletop with photographs sourced from public and private collections showcases street life in Chinatowns located all over the province, while a paper art and light installation by Mere Phantoms suggests the interactive and playful nature of public programming that will be offered at the CCM. Short archival and contemporary films are also displayed in unique ways throughout the gallery space. The fresh and inviting qualities of the exhibition design foster interest in the upcoming CCM project and encourage visitors to share feedback and questions about its future.

Collaboration and partnership have been and are integral to CCM's anticipated organizational and operational model. One such partnership is *A Seat at the Table: Chinese Immigration and British Columbia*, a collaborative research and multi-sited exhibition led by Museum of Vancouver and UBC. The process is guided by an advisory committee whose members represent diverse Chinese Canadian communities and regions. "These advisors have told us loud and clear that Chinese immigration to this province should be presented as a story that is local and global, historical and contemporary," commented MOV Curator, Viviane Gosselin. Using food and restaurant culture as a narrative entry point and visual platform, the exhibition and related programs will address themes of mobility, belonging, racism, resilience, and reparation. Full deployment of *A Seat at the Table* in Vancouver Chinatown and MOV will take place in spring 2020.

About Museum of Vancouver (museumofvancouver.ca)

The Museum of Vancouver connects Vancouverites to each other and connects Vancouver to the world. The museum's programs, exhibitions, and collections bring people together and inspire conversation about the future. The museum, an enthusiastic civic advocate, is an independent non-profit organization dedicated to inspiring a socially connected, civically engaged city.

About UBC Initiative for Student Teaching & Research in Chinese Canadian Studies (instrcc.ubc.ca)

The Initiative for Student Teaching and Research in Chinese Canadian Studies (INSTRCC) at UBC was created to engage and empower students to conduct crucial and groundbreaking community-based research relevant to Chinese Canadian communities. In addition, INSTRCC seeks to gather and share the stories and histories of Chinese Canadians, their families, and their communities so future generations will be aware of the rich and complex stories that make up diverse aspects of Canadian history and identity.

About the Chinese Canadian Museum (engage.gov.bc.ca/chinesecanadianmuseum)

In September 2018, the Province and the City of Vancouver jointly announced their commitment to establish a Chinese Canadian Museum (CCM) and to seek designation of Vancouver Chinatown as a UNESCO World Heritage site. On Friday November 8, 2019 the B.C. government provided a \$1-million grant to the City of Vancouver to support continued planning and opened the project office and pocket gallery.

About the Chinese Cultural Centre of Greater Vancouver (cccvan.com)

The Chinese Cultural Centre of Greater Vancouver was founded in 1973 with wide community support from 53 Chinese organizations in the Lower Mainland. It is committed to the preservation and introduction of Chinese cultural heritage to the younger generations, through the promotion of cultural understanding and development of friendship between Chinese Canadians and the community at large.