

Chinatown Renovation Survey Results

1. Are you familiar with the planned renovation of the Chinatown/Him Mark Lai Branch?

	English (150 responses)	Chinese (29 responses)	All (179 responses)
Very familiar	10.0%	17.2%	11.2%
Somewhat familiar	26.7%	17.2%	25.1%
Not very familiar	63.3%	65.5%	63.7%

2. How important is renovation of the Chinatown/Him Mark Lai Branch to the community?

	English (150 responses)	Chinese (29 responses)	All (179 responses)
Extremely important	31.1%	69.0%	37.3%
Very important	33.8%	17.2%	31.1%
Neutral	25.0%	13.8%	23.2%
Less important	6.8%	-	5.6%
Not at all important	3.4%	-	2.8%

3. How urgently needed are improvements at Chinatown/Him Mark Lai Branch Library?

	English (150 responses)	Chinese (29 responses)	All (179 responses)
Very urgent	22.3%	31.0%	23.7%
Somewhat urgent	28.4%	17.2%	26.6%
Neutral	31.8%	37.9%	32.8%
Less urgent	11.5%	10.3%	11.3%
Not at all urgent	6.1%	3.4%	5.6%

4. Do you have a preference for when the construction would start?

	English (144 responses)	Chinese (29 responses)	All (173 responses)
In 2-3 years	74.6%	75.9%	74.9%
In 4-6 years	12.7%	13.8%	12.9%
In 6 or more years	12.7%	10.3%	12.3%

5. Portsmouth Square is also scheduled for renovation in the next few years. Given that the Chinatown/Him Mark Lai Branch Library is also an important community center and would close for two years while under construction, would you prefer that the Library delay its renovation until after Portsmouth Square is renovated?

	English (149 responses)	Chinese (29 responses)	All (178 responses)
comfortable with these construction projects happening at the same time	58.2%	62.1%	58.8%
prefer for the Library renovation project to happen after Portsmouth Sq is renovated	41.8%	37.9%	41.2%

6. What other features would you like to see at your library?

Some of the most repeated responses include 1) more bathroom stalls; 2) more natural light and greenery; 3) open and expanded seating area; 4) more books; 5) open and expanded bookshelves; 6) utilize rooftop space; 7) windows that open; 8) designated quiet rooms; 9) improved bathroom facilities; 10) ease of access and navigation for elderly and disabled. Please see pages 2-3 for a complete list. (85 responses)

7. Please share with us any other comments related to the renovation of the Chinatown/Him Mark Lai Branch Library.

There were 10 comments expressing support and excitement for the renovation, along with about 2 comments expressing disapproval. A few respondents emphasized that the renovation needs to stay on schedule once it gets started because the library is a crucial place for the community, two asked to make sure to set up an alternative location once the Chinatown branch closes, and other few asked to add a floor to increase available space. In terms of timing, one asked to start as soon as possible, two commented that the Chinatown branch renovation should precede the Portsmouth Square renovation, two commented that the Chinatown and Portsmouth Square renovations should not happen concurrently, and one asked that the renovation only happen at night so that the library can remain open. 17

offered specific recommendations for the renovation, 3 had COVID-related concerns, and 14 shared words of appreciation. Another comment was opposed to any renovation of the building. Two comments were received that were unrelated to the renovation project. (65 responses)

6. The Chinatown/Him Mark Lai Branch Library renovation includes the following goals:

Ensure ample seating and spaces dedicated for adults, seniors, teens and children

Maintain the community meeting room and improve space for library classes and programs

Expand access to technology: computers, printers and high-speed internet

Improve building systems to enable the library to serve as a public respite space from heat waves and poor air quality

Restore the historic Carnegie Reading Room

What other features would you like to see at your library?

Topics	Frequency
more bathroom stalls	7
more natural light and greenery	5
open and expanded seating area	4
more books	4
expanded and open bookshelves	3
utilize rooftop space	3
windows that open	3
designated quiet rooms	3
improved bathroom facilities	3
ease of access and navigation for elderly and disabled	3
outdoor seating (for snacks, etc.)	2
small study rooms	2
more computers	2
more Chinese books	2
indoor staircase accessible to all floors	2
noise canceling for children/teen areas	2
keep historical elements	2
emergency shelter	2
stronger air conditioning system	2
charging stations	1
bathroom sink separated outside to prevent lingering and body washing	1
softer lighting	1
eliminate lighting blind spots	1
e-waste collection	1
garden reading room	1
improved energy efficiency	1
improved ventilation	1
partitions for large reading table	1
more electric outlets	1
more comfortable chairs	1
blind-friendly layout	1
updated computer and software	1
mechanism to transport books from upper floor to main floor	1

utilize the 3rd floor	1
group study rooms for students	1
high quality HEPA filters for HVAC	1
exhibition space for local artists	1
more desks	1
maintain historic Chinese Language collections	1
easier electronic catalog system to search for book title and video games	1
widen book return slot	1
update teen books to more modern selection	1
adult restroom repositioned to a more discreet location	1
don't change anything	1
quieter HVAC	1
audio booths for ESL learning	1
more meeting rooms	1
more databases	1
More powerful/faster wifi	1
an additional 3rd floor recessed about 10 feet back	1
ensure staff work area is spacious enough	1
children's space should be more open and inviting	1
reflect neighborhood's rich history	1
job skills classes for adults	1
language learning center	1
senior programming area	1
faster elevator	1
more DVDs and CDs	1
more community events and classes	1
separate children's reading area	1
separate teen's reading area	1
playgrounds and activity facilities for young people and children	1
Increase activities for seniors and new immigrants	1
safe restroom	1
translation service	1
staff to help Chinese senior	1