HISTORY

- Arrival of Chinese, Japanese and Filipinos beginning in the 1800s
- Incarceration of Japanese Americans in the 1940s
- Proliferation of Single Room Occupancy Hotels with isolated Asian elderly in the 60s
- Arrival of Vietnamese and other SE Asians in the 70s
CURRENT STATE

- 2,693 residents -- 59% identify as API, 62% not born in the U.S., 72% speak a language other than English at home
- Median household $29,464
- Over 30% of residents in poverty
- 9% unemployment rate (vs 6% for city)
- 40% of the neighborhood is 55+ in age
- 16% of units lacking kitchen and/or plumbing
- High concentration of immigrant and refugee-owned family businesses
- Many “safety net,” regional non-profit service providers
- High concentration of Unreinforced Masonry buildings in historic district
- Underutilized and deteriorating properties in the area
- Unregulated homeless encampments
ISSUES CONFRONTING CHINATOWN INTERNATIONAL DISTRICT

- Lack of Equity
- Gentrification and Displacement
- Health and Healthcare
LACK OF EQUITY

- Redlining of people of color in the 1920s
- Public investment in transportation to serve the region with little consideration to the impacts on the CID; location of highway systems through and around the neighborhood
- Lack of infrastructure improvements in neighborhood; water, sewer, and electrical systems almost 100 years old
- Placement of regional stadium(s), potential prisons, and potential garbage/incineration plants near neighborhood
- Lack of usable public space; many public space improvements are initiated and funded by neighborhood
GENTRIFICATION AND DISPLACEMENT

- Land values skyrocketed and still skyrocketing
- Fastest growing US city with over 1,000 new residents arriving weekly; percentage of people of color in Seattle is declining
- Traditional residents, small businesses, and non-profits being pushed out of the neighborhood and dispersed throughout the region
HEALTH AND HEALTHCARE

- According to the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency in 2015, CID has some of the worst air quality in the region.
- Higher averages for asthma, diabetes, chronic obstructive pulmonary disorder.
- Numerous elders with complex conditions.
- Immigrants and refugees are fearful of accessing care due to the political climate.
- Languages and cultures need additional supportive services for health and healthcare.
A nonprofit organization established in 2011 to advocate for Little Saigon small business owners and community stakeholders

Our mission is to preserve and enhance Little Saigon’s cultural, economic, and historic vitality

Our work is focused on community organizing and advocacy, economic development, and cultural preservation.
FLS: CHALLENGES

- Social, cultural, and economic displacement due to the massive redevelopment projects in Little Saigon
- Affordability of commercial space for small businesses
- Lack of housing opportunities for Vietnamese community
- Lack of community gathering spaces, specifically outdoor green public spaces
- Landmark Project - a vision for a mix-use development owned and operated by the community that includes a Vietnamese Cultural Center, Southeast Asian public market, and affordable housing.
- Small Business Technical Assistance - working with partners to provide one-on-one support to businesses at risk of being displaced.
- Cultural Placemaking - organizing public art projects and events to claim space and create an identity for Little Saigon.
CID BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT AREA

Chinatown-International District Business Improvement Area (CIDBIA or BIA) is an organization tasked to improve and promote the Chinatown-International District neighborhood. CIDBIA contracts services for sanitation, manages public safety issues, produces events and marketing activities, and advocates on behalf of constituents. CIDBIA is managed by a board of directors, and has 3 staff members onsite. The BIA is funded through an assessment of businesses and properties, grants, and event sponsorships.

**Mission:** To ensure a clean and welcoming district and together with our partners, advocate for an increase in public safety and a healthy environment for businesses and the community.

**Vision:** A well-known and respected neighborhood that is clean, vibrant, and inviting for all while preserving the unique history and cultural heritage.
CID BIA CHALLENGES

- Busy, one-family business operations don’t have capacity to engage in more broad, holistic community efforts
- Language/cultural
- Some outdated business models, no business plan
- Increase in commercial rents
- Aging city infrastructure (side sewers, drainage, etc.)
- Threats of displacement
- Mistrust of government
- Lack of education/understanding in city policies, procedures, and regulations
CID BIA ACTIONS

Ensure public realm (sidewalks, alleys, public spaces) is clean and smells good
- Decrease time interval of clean up for spilled garbage, illegal dumping
- Increase frequency of picking up compost, garbage, and grease during summer months
- Increase frequency of alley cleaning
- Increase education of business/property owners of their responsibility
- Increase of business/property owners keeping area clean
- Increase litter can pick up

Work with partners to improve the public safety of the district, specifically after dark
- Objectives to follow Task Force recommendations
- Increase capacity to support camera system

Understand and support the economy of the C-ID
- Increase effectiveness in City response to construction coordination and other business specific issues
- Implement and continuously improve database of property owners, property managers, and businesses
- Improve consistency of communication to business and property owners
- Increase positive relations with property owners and managers leading to accessible and relevant retail, improved public safety, and an increase in preferred businesses
- Increase in technical assistance capacity between City and businesses

Promote the C-ID as a unique cultural destination
- Develop branding style guide for the district
- Increase in local foot traffic
- Increase in tourist foot traffic
- Develop marketing materials and talking points to promote the offerings of the neighborhood (print and social media)
INTERIM COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

Advancing social justice and equity for low income, Asians and Pacific Islander, immigrant, and refugee communities.

- Direct housing services
- Civic engagement
- Financial literacy training
- Health and nutrition education
- Fitness and physical activity
- English as a second language
- Community development
- Affordable housing and real estate development
- Youth leadership development
- Gardening
- Community engagement and outreach
- Advocacy, planning, and public policy
- Sustainability
INTERIM CDA CHALLENGES

- Language barriers
- Displacement of residential units, commercial spaces
- Cultural dislocation
- Environmental quality
- Social isolation among residents
INTERIM CDA ACTIONS

- Great team effort in staff
- Cross connecting programs and activities to build a stronger foundation and staff capacity
- Including residents and community members for assistance and capacity building
- Working with partner organizations
- Establishing trust and long-term familiarity with residents and community members
SEATTLE CHINATOWN INTERNATIONAL DISTRICT
PRESERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
(SCIDPDA)

Mission: to preserve, promote, and develop the CID as a vibrant community and unique ethnic neighborhood

Who we serve
- Property owners
- Residents
- Business owners
- Employees of businesses and nonprofits
- Community members who are actively involved

Our Programs
- Property Management
- Real Estate Development
- Economic and Community Development
- Senior Services
SCIDPDA CHALLENGES

- Cultural and language barriers
- Community lack of trust of financial systems and access to capital
- Out-of-date infrastructure
- Valuable and desirable land
- Ever-changing population
SCIDPDA ACTIONS

- Development focused on multi-generational family housing
- Development of public owned, underutilized land
- Property owner and business assistance
- Support for public and community spaces
- Mission oriented real estate development and property management

Mission: Deeply rooted in the Asian Pacific Islander community, ICHS provides culturally and linguistically appropriate health and wellness services and promotes health equity for all.

Federally Qualified Health Center founded in 1973 in the CID as a storefront clinic to serve the Chinese and Filipino elderly, expanded quickly to serve Vietnamese refugees

Served close to 31,000 patients for 135,000 qualified health center visits and 421,000 health encounters in the region in over 50 languages
ICHIS CHALLENGES

- Healthcare rapidly changing and destabilizing
- Increased diversity of immigrant and refugee patients viewed unfavorably by federal government though state and local governments are sanctuaries
- Dispersion of patients, clients, families and communities challenged by ICHS’ commitment to serve where they live, work and play; limited resources to extend where they pray beyond health fairs
- Workforce – national shortage of providers, local competition and pirating of medical assistants, dental assistants and other clinical support staffs
ICHS ACTIONS

- Advocacy at the national, state and local levels
- Practice Transformation: balancing fee for service, managed care and moving into Pay for Value
- Increased partnerships and collaborations to address social determinants of health
  - 1115 Medicaid waiver
  - Coalitions for the safety net, immigrants and refugees, women and children, people of color, LGBTQ, elderly, social justice, civic engagement etc.
  - CID efforts as a key partner and major employer in the neighborhood
  - Geographic partnerships with service providers
DISCUSSION AND QUESTIONS
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