

Dear Commissioners of the OCPM,

My name is Kyla Yin James and I am a visual artist who recently moved to Montreal. Chinatown has been an important place where I have found a sense of community, the groceries and ingredients I cook with, and businesses and restaurants that help me feel at home in the city.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed new height and density permissions of buildings situated in Chinatown. I strongly support the City of Montréal's proposal to lower the height and density allowances.

I ask that the City of Montréal affirm the heritage designation of Montréal's historic Chinatown from René-Levesque to the North to Viger to the South, and Rue de Bleury to the West and Sainte-Elizabeth to the East. I also ask the City of Montréal to affirm their proposal to lower the height and density allowances to encourage the preservation and promotion of community and cultural life, and local economic growth in the neighbourhood.

I am particularly encouraged that with these additional measures, current residents, especially seniors, will be able to remain in affordable housing and age in dignity. The proposal will also help ensure that the physical historical buildings are protected and preserved which is vital for ensuring that the histories of the neighbourhood are not erased and remain a part of the Canadian and Québec narrative. This helps Chinatown continue to be a gathering place embedded with memory and history, alive with arts and culture, that generations of Asians in Montréal identify with. Helping arts and culture thrive in Chinatown is important for continued intercultural and intergenerational exchange, which is vital for ensuring that the histories of the neighbourhood are not erased and remain a part of the Canadian and Québec narrative.

Beyond affirming the heritage designation of Chinatown and the height and density limits, I join our fellow neighbours and community members in their concerns that the current measures alone will not sufficiently bring about the desired results mentioned above. I hope with the adoption of the proposed changes to the Plan d'Urbanisme, the City of Montréal and the Borough of Ville-Marie will further consider creating a more holistic development plan for Montréal's historic Chinatown that aims to protect, preserve, and promote the history and culture of its historical populations. This should also include considerations for affordable housing for Chinatown's residents, and arts and cultural development.

I hope you will take this recommendation seriously and continue to use the feedback of residents and community members to develop a holistic plan that values the unique character of Montréal's Chinatown.

Regards,

Kyla Yin James