



Above is one of the lanterns created by a Kalani High School student for the CID's Taste of Chinatown and Lantern Festival

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The Chinatown Improvement District is a 501(c)3 non-profit comprised of over 300 business owners, property owners, residents, and members of the general public both within and outside of Chinatown.

The organization works to improve conditions within the Chinatown historic district while also preserving the area's special cultural, ethnic and historical character. Donations are tax exempt to the fullest extent of the law.

P.O. Box 37764 Honolulu, HI 96837 Ph: 589-9927



Taste of Chinatown & Lantern Festival Sept 2018







This year the CID served up the Taste of Chinatown with a new twist and combined it with a Lantern Festival. Students from Kalani High School created and built amazing lanterns which were hung in each participating restaurant.

Festival goers purchased small plates from multiple eateries and visited each spot to pick up their dish and view the unique lanterns. Participating eateries included Fete, Little Village, Tea at 1024, Rangoon, Yield, Topped, Domo Café, O'Kims, Maria Bonitas, Brickfire Tavern, and Wing Ice Cream Shoppe.

After collecting their assorted small plates, festival goers had the option of returning to Smith Beretania Park where live entertainment and activities were taking place, or continuing on to explore the neighborhood.

A big thank you goes out to our sponsors and partners: American Savings Bank, Mun Lun School, Kalani High School, and CID members, volunteers and friends: Vina, Michael, Janice, Foster Gardens, Lynell, Colleen, Clifton, Roth, Matt, Johnathan, Allen, Bob, Christy, Tita, and Wing Tek. Also mahalo to the Star Advertiser TGIF which posted photos of the event.

Courtyards Tour July 2018

Once again, the CID collaborated with Hawaii Heritage Center on a walking tour of historic Chinatown courtyards. Over 100 people signed up for the half day tour of 5 courtyards which included dim sum, a brief talk on Chinatown's history and a short talk at each courtyard.

Photos below courtesy of Milton Hee.









Graffiti Prevention Study



The Problem

In 2018 the CID received a grant from the Atherton Foundation to study coatings which could be applied to the surfaces of historic buildings to aid in prevention and easier removal of graffiti.

Products to be tested included breathable coatings (to allow moisture evaporation through the stone) as well as sacrificial (coatings that wash off along with the graffiti) and non-sacrificial (permanent). Also tested were different products available to remove graffiti.

The results are being finalized and the study should be available at the end of January 2019 for dissemination. This work should assist both owners and managers of historic structures in Chinatown as well as those across the state who own or manage buildings created with historic materials such as brick, coral, or lava rock masonry.

Many thanks to the Atherton Foundation for funding this study and to Mason Architects for conducting the research and product testing.



Working towards a Solution

Security Patrol Pilot Project 2018-2019

The CID is assisting business and property owners with a pilot project security program. Working with a private security company, walking patrols are set to occur over a 3 month test period.

The project has district-wide support and participation and the area covered includes business and properties from Nuuanu Street to River Street and from Nimitz to N. Pauahi Street.

This project has proved especially timely given the City's closure and patrol of neighborhood parks late in 2018 such as Aala park.

Concerned business owners recently met with members of the Honolulu Police Department (HPD) Community Policing Team to go over aspects of the project.

Security personnel will be securing private premises and reporting sit-lie violations at different sites. Currently, coverage extends for five days per week.

Businesses and residents who are interested in supporting this project may contribute via the CID website (www.cidchinatownhawaii.org) or by sending in a check or via phone. With additional contributions, hours, days and areas of coverage could all be extended. A suggested contribution for a business is \$30 per month.

The CID is a 501(c)3 charitable organization and deductions for contributions are allowed to the extent set by law.