

Oakland Chinatown Chamber Foundation 2021 Mid-Year Report

June 30, 2021

Oakland Resiliency Fund

Many Chinatown businesses unfortunately sustained damages after a demonstration that started in downtown Oakland and came through Oakland Chinatown. These businesses were mom and pop establishments whose owners spend hours from sunup to sundown trying to make a living for their families and had no where to turn when their storefronts were damaged by the rioters. Fortunately, we had community leaders like Nadine and Noreen Katrina Marcelo who put up a Go Fund Me campaign and raised \$29,000 to augment Oakland Chinatown Chamber Foundation's effort and together raised over \$42,000.

Fourteen Chinatown businesses received checks from the Chinatown Chamber Foundation to reimburse them for the repairs made to their storefronts. The Chamber Foundation also used the funds for on-going graffiti removal and street cleaning program in Chinatown, supported Chinatown businesses by providing funds to make the StreetFest Saturdays possible and purchasing food from local businesses to feed the needy and the first responders.

Oakland Fire Recovery Fund

Just as Chinatown businesses were recovering from the Covid 19 pandemic and the damages from the riots, a five-alarm fire broke out on 8th and Webster Streets in September of 2020 and further devastated Chinatown. Thanks to community leaders like Jocelyn Tsai who put up a Go Fund Me campaign and raised \$11,000 to augment Oakland Chinatown Chamber Foundation's effort and together raised over \$23,000.

Eight Chinatown businesses received checks from the Chinatown Chamber Foundation to help relocate their businesses from their old facilities. The rest of the funds will be used for an on-going graffiti removal, steam cleaning and street sweeping program.

Oakland Safety Fund

The Oakland Chinatown Chamber and the Oakland Chinatown Chamber Foundation is stepping up to protecting Chinatown businesses, residents, and visitors. Triggered by the staggering increase in criminal activities against Asian businesses and citizens, the Oakland Chinatown

Chamber Foundation set up a Go Fund Me campaign to solicit donations for the Oakland Safety Fund. Thanks to the Gilead Foundation and many donors from the community, we have received over \$130,000 towards the campaign and we continue to receive funds daily. In addition, we have a commitment from Verkada to donate and install twenty additional high-definition cameras to increase security in Oakland Chinatown.

The Oakland Safety Fund will be used to increase security in Oakland Chinatown by installing additional cameras, better lighting, a community ambassador program that includes volunteer safety patrols, homeless outreach, and litter and graffiti abatement, and safety education for merchants and residents. The Oakland Chinatown Chamber is currently working with Verkada and Oakland Police Department to determine the most effective placement of the cameras and lights before we embark on purchasing and installing the equipment. The Oakland Safety Fund has been used to show our appreciation to the volunteer safety patrols and continue to fund the Chinatown Ambassador Program.

Chamber Foundation Expands Support to Help Other Community Projects

In addition to Oakland Chinatown Chamber Foundation sponsored projects, the Foundation has been approached to receive funds on behalf of other community projects. For a small fee of ten percent of the proceeds, the Chamber and Chamber Foundation will conduct outreach and collect funds for other community projects and administer the funds as requested by the community partner. For more information about this service, please contact Jessica Chen, Executive Director of the Oakland Chinatown Chamber of Commerce at 510-893-8979 or oaklandctchambered@gmail.com.