COMMUNITY BRIEF

Rooted & Resilient
IN OAKLAND CHINATOWN

CLIMATE AND COMMUNITY RESILIENCE



The *Rooted and Resilient: Climate and Community Resilience in Oakland Chinatown* initiative builds on more than 30 years of community advocacy, planning, partnership, and resident leadership to strengthen public spaces, cultural identity, community programs, and well-being.

Why This Work Matters

Lincoln Square Park and Recreation Center is a familiar place where elders exercise, children play, families gather, and neighbors connect. Often described as the "heartbeat" or the "pearl of Chinatown," it is central to community life and connection.

Building on a Strong Foundation

From August 2024 to August 2026, APEN, Friends of Lincoln Square Park, the City of Oakland, and The California Endowment partnered through the Partners for Places Round 21 Grant Program to support neighborhood resilience.

PLANNED LINCOLN RECREATION & RESILIENCE CENTER

22,221 square-feet • Two Stories • Resilience Hub

The new Center will serve as both a recreation facility and the City's first **community resilience hub**.

It will expand community programs and provide backup power, heating, cooling, and air filtration, helping residents stay safe, connected, and supported before, during, and after disruptions.



How We Listened

Community voices helped guide the work. Before the initiative began, APEN members discussed what residents needed to stay healthy, connected, and rooted in the neighborhood. Documented in *APEN's Community Visioning Report*, these conversations helped shape the future Center as a trusted space for everyday well-being and emergency preparedness. Three goals shaped this approach: strengthen partnerships, center community, and share lessons.

Building on this foundation, the initiative continued listening through surveys, workshops, walking tours, community events, and community-led groups. These different approaches created multiple ways for residents and partners to share their experiences, priorities, and ideas.

Listening meant reaching residents with different needs and experiences. Extreme heat, wildfire smoke, power outages, and aging housing can create greater risks for elders, children, people with disabilities, low-income households, and residents with limited English proficiency. Multilingual and community-based engagement helped ensure these experiences and priorities informed the work.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AT A GLANCE



194 Surveys • 3 Lincoln Summer Nights Events

English and Chinese surveys • Outreach in Cantonese and Mandarin

Lincoln Summer Nights

Familiar community gatherings offered opportunities to learn about the future Center, speak with partners, and share neighborhood priorities.

Workshops and Community Meetings

Residents participated in walking tours, community mapping, preparedness education, and neighborhood conversations.

Ongoing Participation

Community Vision Action Team (CVAT) and Community Resilience Action Team (CRAT) gatherings kept residents involved as planning developed.

What We Heard

In 194 community surveys, residents identified emergency preparedness, safe public spaces, cultural belonging, and staying connected as priorities.

SURVEY HIGHLIGHTS

Numbers show how many respondents selected each option.

Preparing for Emergencies

46 Lincoln Rec use during a power outage.

31 Earthquakes are an emergency concern.

24 More preparedness training.

Safe and Welcoming Spaces

27 More lighting.

28 More public gathering spots.

39 Activities for seniors or children.

Culture and Connection

Residents valued cultural activities, language access, and opportunities for elders, youth, and families to gather. Lincoln Rec is part of a broader network of cultural and community spaces.

Staying Connected

32 Program and activity information.

30 Volunteers and community ambassadors.

29 Better transportation options.



Community Voice

"Many residents have limited living space and Lincoln is considered as a second home for many. The access to green space, the ability to observe small social gathering and witnessing the abundance of people participating various programming. These imagery are the foundation for our community to build kindness and with families and friends." — Yin Zhou Feng

WHAT THIS MEANS

Residents see resilience as more than emergency preparedness. It is also about having places, programs, and connections that support community life every day.

Note: The survey findings reflect only the views of participants who completed the survey in English or Chinese and do not represent the views of all Oakland Chinatown residents.

From Community Priorities to Action

What residents shared helped guide the initiative from listening and planning toward action. Through preparedness, programming, partnerships, and ongoing community engagement, priorities began to take shape in practice.

Putting Priorities into Practice

Community engagement, partnerships, and shared learning helped move priorities into action.

3-Part
English/Cantonese preparedness series

~70
Participants per session

8
Organizations joined a resilience exchange

5,000+
Preparedness kits assembled

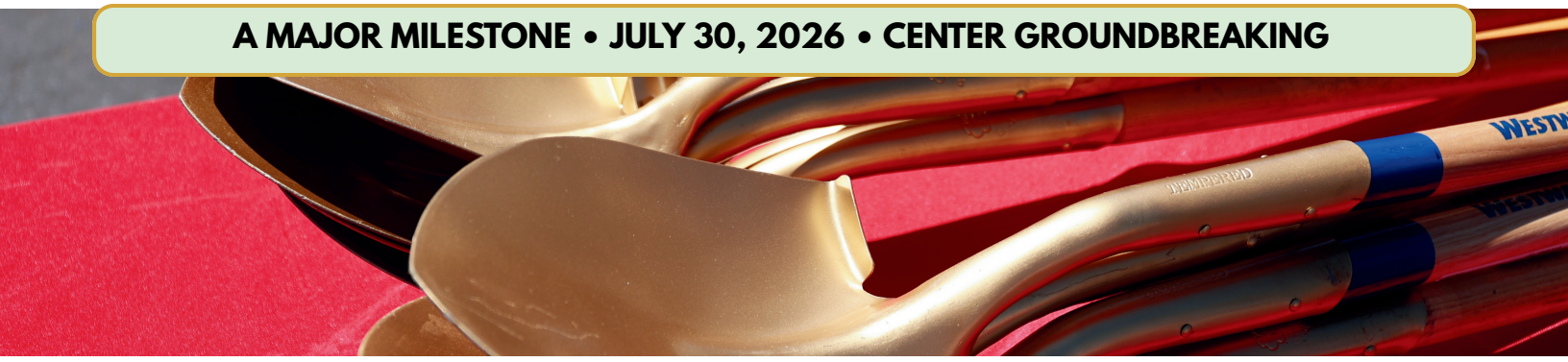
How Priorities Are Taking Shape

Preparedness
Training, backup power, refrigeration, and communications.

Health
Planned heating, cooling, and air filtration.

Connection
Alternative program spaces during construction.

A MAJOR MILESTONE • JULY 30, 2026 • CENTER GROUNDBREAKING



Partner Perspective

"I cherish the daily grandmas visiting with each other as highly as hosting community gatherings of 1,200+ people for Lincoln Summer Nights."

— Gilbert Gong, Recreation Center Director, Oakland Parks, Recreation & Youth Dev.

Looking Ahead

Partners will refine operating guidelines, plan programs, and strengthen preparedness. APEN was awarded a CalEPA grant to support continued resident leadership.

Learn More & Get Involved

Rooted in History. Resilient in Action. Stronger Together.

Thank you to the community members, partners, staff, and City departments who made the *Rooted and Resilient* initiative possible. Together, we are building a healthier, safer, and more resilient Oakland Chinatown for current and future generations.

READ & SHARE

FULL REPORT

ENGLISH — SCAN TO VIEW

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COMMUNITY BRIEF

ENGLISH — SCAN TO VIEW

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COMMUNITY BRIEF

CHINESE — SCAN TO VIEW

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GET INVOLVED

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The California Endowment

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