



MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

***A Seat at the Table*, Exhibition on Chinese Canadian History Receives CHA Public History Prize**

(Vancouver, Canada, June 17, 2021) – *A Seat at the Table: Chinese Immigration and British Columbia*, co-produced by Museum of Vancouver and University of British Columbia in partnership with Chinese Canadian Museum of BC, receives the Public History Prize in the products and projects category from Canadian Historical Association.

Commended by the [Canadian Historical Association](#) (CHA) Prize Committee in their award announcement, *A Seat at the Table* is "based on deep research and extensive community consultation and collaboration... Food is a key part of the story... which invites visitors to 'take a seat' and engage with home video, personal stories, artifacts and public art projects. The project strikes an effective balance between challenging histories of racism and discrimination, and stories of resilience and vibrant community life."

The annual Public History Prize recognizes work that achieves high standards of original research, scholarship, and presentation; brings an innovative public history contribution to its audience.

"The Chinese-Canadian community had a vision for a museum that showcases its history and culture, past and present, in all its diversity," said Melanie Mark, Minister of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport. "This exhibition is that vision made real. This award recognizes the incredible collaboration, research and ingenuity that went into bringing 'A Seat at the Table' to life. I loved visiting with my daughters, and this summer I encourage everyone to visit this award-winning exhibition in the heart of Vancouver's historic Chinatown."

Three years in the making, this highly collaborative project was funded by the B.C. government, City of Vancouver, and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada.

A Seat at the Table is a multi-sited and collaborative exhibition project that explores historical and contemporary stories of Chinese Canadians in BC and their struggles for belonging.

"A Seat at the Table offers visitors fresh perspectives on migration, diaspora, cultural representation and agency," said George Chow, Minister of State for Trade. "I'm delighted this dynamic exhibition is being recognized for its excellence. I congratulate all the partners for their work bringing these important stories together. It is auspicious the Chinese Canadian Museum's first exhibition is being honoured this way and I know they will continue to champion the contributions of Chinese Canadians."

Using food and restaurant culture as entry point, the project highlights stories that reveal the great diversity of immigrant experiences and communities immigrants develop. It also



addresses themes of belonging, racism, agency, resilience and reparation as important facets of the complex picture of Chinese migrants and their descendants in the province.

Participatory approach is central to this exhibition. People can interact with the exhibit such as the paper shadow displays and virtual reality stations. Visitors are also encouraged to share their stories through the multimedia storytelling booths and add to the exhibition's content.

Co-curated by Denise Fong (Doctoral Candidate, Interdisciplinary Studies, UBC), Viviane Gosselin (Curator, Director of Collections and Exhibitions, MOV) and Henry Yu (Professor, Department of History, UBC), the exhibition showcases Chinese Canadian histories and culture, as well as their social connection with other migrant and Indigenous communities in BC. Along with a diverse advisory committee of public historians, activists, academics, local artists, and museum professionals, two cohorts of students from the Centre for Digital Media and the [Initiative for Student Teaching and Research in Chinese Canadian Studies](#) (INSTRCC) at UBC also created the micro-documentaries and digital animations on display.

This award-winning multi-sited exhibition project is currently on view at Chinese Canadian Museum's temporary site in Chinatown and at Museum of Vancouver. *A Seat at the Table* is expected to travel throughout B.C. in 2022.

About Chinese Canadian Museum | chinesecanadianmuseum.ca

The Chinese Canadian Museum Society of British Columbia was first established in March 2020. The organization's goals are to create a provincial hub museum in Vancouver's Chinatown, multiple regional hubs and spokes throughout B.C., and an online portal and digital experiences for historical locations throughout the province.

Guided by its mission statement "Connecting to the Chinese Canadian story – addressing inclusion for all", the Chinese Canadian Museum aspires to provide an invigorating and transformative experience for present and future generations through its exhibitions and programming throughout B.C. and Canada.

About Museum of Vancouver | museumofvancouver.ca

The Museum of Vancouver connects Vancouverites to each other and connects Vancouver to the world. The museum's programs, exhibitions, and collections bring people together and inspire conversation about the future. The museum, an enthusiastic civic advocate, is an independent non-profit organization dedicated to inspiring a socially connected, civically engaged city.

About INSTRCC at UBC | instrcc.ubc.ca

The Initiative for Student Teaching and Research in Chinese Canadian Studies (INSTRCC) at UBC was created to engage and empower students to conduct crucial and groundbreaking community-based research relevant to Chinese Canadian communities. In addition, INSTRCC seeks to gather and share the stories and histories of Chinese Canadians, their families, and



their communities so future generations will be aware of the rich and complex stories that make up diverse aspects of Canadian history and identity. To achieve these aims, students are encouraged to use the latest digital technologies to distribute and create informative and engaging materials that anyone can easily access to learn about the importance of Chinese Canadians.

Listing Information A Seat at the Table: Chinese Immigration and British Columbia

Dates: MOV Exhibition November 19, 2020 – December 2021
Chinese Canadian Museum Exhibition: August 2020 – 2022

Locations: Museum of Vancouver: 1100 Chestnut Street, Vancouver, BC
Chinese Canadian Museum: 27 E Pender, Vancouver, BC

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