



# CHINATOWN RENEWAL

## NEWSLETTER

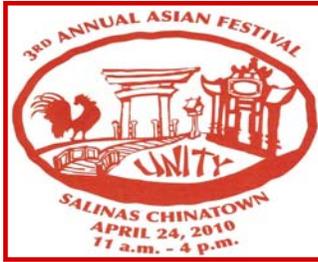
SPRING 2010

“CREATING A THRIVING COMMUNITY”

IN ASSOCIATION WITH SDCB

### ANNUAL ASIAN FESTIVAL AND NATIONAL EXHIBITION TO CELEBRATE SALINAS CHINATOWN

#### COME CELEBRATE THE HISTORY AND RENEWAL OF SALINAS CHINATOWN!



The 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Asian Festival will offer a day of free cultural entertainment, demonstrations, and displays, walking tours of Chinatown and the Buddhist Temple. The public will enjoy freshly prepared ethnic food for sale. Opening ceremonies begin at 11 a.m. on Soledad Street near the old Republic Café with taiko drumming, martial arts demonstrations, and Chinese lion dancing. At 11:30 a.m., the various Festival programs will be presented at the Salinas Confucius Church and Buddhist Temple; the Filipino Cultural Center; the Chinatown Community

Garden, Dorothy’s Place, @risk Gallery, and CSUMB Community Learning Center; and Ted Ponton’s Glass Shop. The Festival, a special event of the ongoing Salinas Chinatown Renewal Project, is aimed at bringing the public to the Chinatown area and sharing the contributions, histories, and cultures of the three ethnic groups—Chinese, Japanese, and Filipino—that had lived and worked in the Chinatown area since 1893. For more Festival information, go to [www.salinasianfestival.com](http://www.salinasianfestival.com). Also on April 24, the National Steinbeck Center opens its doors to the first-ever Salinas Chinatown Exhibition, specifically telling the story of the Chinese in Chinatown since it was established over a hundred years ago. The exhibition will continue until July 4. Steinbeck Center Curator Deborah Silguero has worked with Chinatown native Wellington Lee and former Chinatown resident Wally

Ahtye to gather a plethora of historic photographs, documents, and artifacts that will be on display. The exhibition will tell the good and “bad” of Chinatown life—from large Chinese families to tong war shootings. In between are other stories of Chinese laborers, merchants and their shops, the Exclusion Act, celebrations, joss houses, illegal gambling, floods, fires, opium dens, Chinese School, the “Mayor of Chinatown,” the backyards and alleyways, parade floats, bound feet, the Republic Café, herbs, Chinese clothes, Chinese coins hanging, and the children of Chinatown. For more Exhibition information, go to [www.steinbeck.org](http://www.steinbeck.org). 🌸



Bonsai display at the Buddhist Temple of Salinas during the 2008 Asian Festival.

#### CALTRANS UPDATE: SEEKING INPUT

The update and refinement of the 2007 Chinatown Renewal Plan is moving forward to the City Council June 1, 2010. Since the October 15, 2009 Community Meeting held at the Buddhist Temple, five consultants have been working with the local action teams to create land-use, and sign implementation plans. A draft of this implementation plan

was shared with the SDCB Wednesday March 31, 2010. During the past six months, a 16-page study concerning the ability to reconnect Chinatown to the rest of the community has been distilled into two or three serious considerations. Soledad Street will be the focus of the development, and

*(Caltrans on page 2)*

#### CHAT MOVING FORWARD

The Chinatown Homeless Action Team (CHAT) is moving forward with an emerging new vision of services for those in need. CHAT’s consultant on this project is Homebase, a nationally renowned expert on homeless/housing issues based in San Francisco, with over 10 years of assistance to nonprofits in Monterey County. Taking to heart community feedback and need, this emerging new vision has several components and themes, at its core being a “multi-service center campus”, to maximize flexibility and adjust to the

neighborhood’s needs over time. This ‘campus’ concept has been very successful in other communities around the country, and creates co-located services to improve access by the public while concurrently fostering a deeper collaboration among providers. Services available will be comprehensive, including employment opportunities, and have strong linkages to shelter and housing, both within Chinatown and in adjacent neighborhoods of the city. Stay tuned as this exciting new vision develops! 🌸

