



Kaleidoscopic storefronts and cacophony of sounds. Grandparents out with their grandchildren. Pleated dumplings pleases the crowd. The Chinatowns in NYC have been the milieu of childhood, identity, appreciation, dreams and home. While we know the location and signage of our favorite restaurants, most of us don't know the stories behind them or acknowledge its sentiment and the visceral impact on us until the pandemic occurred.

Since Send Chinatown Love was conceived in late March 2020, storytelling and community has been our greatest strength as we lift the veil of untold family legacies, challenges and perseverance. Our annual report encapsulates these stories and our story from a younger generation.

We could not have done this without the time and effort put in by our talented volunteers - many who volunteered after their work hours. We started with around 20 volunteers in April 2020, cold called 35+ merchants and onboarded 4. Today we have 60+ volunteers and have helped more than 33 merchants. From Texas to Australia, hundreds of volunteers from different states, nationalities, ethnicities and occupations, many who have never met in person, rallied behind these neighborhoods and businesses. Late nights of reviews, back and forth conversations and in-person hustle were demanding but rewarding. It is only a fraction of what some of these small businesses have experienced not only throughout the pandemic but to realize their dreams.

Finally, we are evermore grateful to our supporters and small businesses who have commented and emailed on how they could help or share our efforts to their friends and colleagues.

This annual report is a celebration of community and grassroots action. We dedicate this to all our merchants, volunteers, supporters and our community.

With Love, Alice Luo Annual Report Lead



**APRIL 2020** 



**MARCH 2021** 



**INITIAL DESIGNS OF SCL LOGO** 

# the report

There are many stories and achievements within Send Chinatown Love (SCL) that have not yet been communicated to the public. Since our first merchant payout on May 10, 2020, we have aimed to be transparent to the community that has supported us and entrusted us with their donations and time. In our first annual report (April 1, 2020 to March 31, 2021), we are excited to share our milestones, challenges, insights, and behind-the-scenes.

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#### **ANNUAL REPORT TEAM**

*Lead* - Alice Luo Editors - Elaine Mao & Vivian Zhong Content Writers - Eileen Ma, Mia Yamamoto & Vivian Zhong *Designer -* Tina Zhou

Special thanks to Marcia Hu, Brian Lai, Julia Lau, Lily Li, Amanda Ng, Louise Palmer, Er Li Peng, Matthew Prockup & Ling Song

#### **SCL TEAMS**

Marketing PR & Partnerships Product (Design & Engineering) Merchant Experience (Seller Empathy, Gift-a-Meal & Business Development) Operations (Finance, Legal & People)



**SEND CHINATOWN** LOVE

Do you know of a small business in need of assistance? HELLO@SENDCHINATOWNLOVE.COM

Are you a business looking to partner?

PARTNER@SENDCHINATOWNLOVE.COM

Are you interested in getting involved? VOLUNTEER@SENDCHINATOWNLOVE.COM

Otherwise, stay in touch! @SENDCHINATOWNLOVE WWW.SENDCHINATOWNLOVE.COM

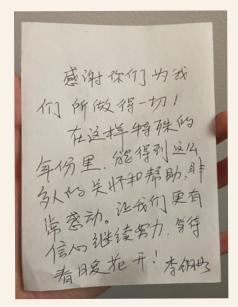












"Thank you for everything you have done for us! In such an unusual year, I am very touched by the care and help of so many people. It gives us the confidence to continue to work hard. We can't wait for the spring flowers to bloom!"

— Ruth, Boc Boc Chicken Delicious owner



— daughter of Ivy, Melonpanna Tea & Shot owner

# THANK YOU NOTES

亲们大家好.

我系阿平很感激大家对顺发饼屋 的大京持有帮助传统们从最艰苦的 日子里走出来。我们怎不顾负大家的胸 望.继续新.谢谢大家支持.感因!!

Hello everyone:

This is ping. Thank you very much for your Support and donations to shumfa Bakery with your help you have helped my tamily and I through one of our toughest times, 50 I owe it to everyone to keep perservering. Shumta Bakery Will be stronger than before thanks to you all . Thank You very much again!

— Ping, Shunfa Bakery owner

Thank you for supporting us at this time and it really means a lot to us, especially our business is still not doing as well. We are keeping every workers and avoiding cutting hours. What you guys are doing is great

— Jian, daughter of Go Noodle

亲爱的朋友们大家人好

我是caral 强i鲋大就对New Win chinese Restaurant 的支持与帮助。使我们在最困难的的候 走出困境,我们会不喜爱大家的期望继续 势力 源的名大家公司我们的表待感恩!

"Dearest friends,

I am Carol. Thank you for all your support and help towards New Win Chinese Restaurant. This was a very difficult time for us, we will not forget everyone's generosity and will continue to work hard. Thank you for everyone's support. We are so grateful!"

— Carol, New Win owner

首先祝贺 send Chinatown to love 成立一周 年。所有的成员都辛苦了! 因为你们的付出, 让很多人都受益。因为有你们,也为很多爱心 人士提供爱得桥梁。谢谢你们! 在你们的帮助 下, Noddle house at gcm 在 3 月份底才可以 在规定的时间内付好店租。虽然困难还没结 束,但我们有信心可以渡过难关!再一次为你 们地付出而感动!

"Thank you guys! With your help, Noodle House was able to pay March rent on time during such uncertain circumstances. Though hard times are not over, we have confidence that we will overcome this."

- Wing Lee, Noodle House owner

This past week, especially the weekend, we had so many customers come up to my dad and I saying they saw your post on Send Chinatown Love's page. My dad and I would just like to say thank you so much!

— John, son of Chef papa Vietnamese Kitchen owner

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# A YEAR in REVIEW

# MARCH

- March 21, 2020 First team meeting
- March 31, 2020 Started donations & gift cards for merchants





• *April 24, 2020* — Our first merchant launch: Shunfa Bakery in Brooklyn





- May 10, 2020 First merchant payout: \$1,131 raised and paid to Shunfa Bakery
- May 30, 2020 First Gift-a-Meal (GAM) campaign: Melonpanna Tea & Shot x Apex for Youth







## JULY

• July 21, 2020 — First Send Chinatown Love (SCL) merchandise launched: Sticky Locals x SCL sticker collection





## **SEPTEMBER**

- First Food Crawl
- Sept 5, 2020 Friend of a Friend Studio x SCL apparel collab



# **OCTOBER**

• \$118,648 raised, 17 merchants onboarded & 9 GAM campaigns

就爱华埠

## **NOVEMBER**

- First Business Development project completed: NY Go Go menu redesign
- Nov 16, 2020 SCL x Flushing **BID Holiday Mural**



# **DECEMBER**

- Light Up Chinatown
- Dec 21, 2020 2020 Recap: To date, \$174,137 raised in donations and vouchers, 25 merchants onboarded & 18 GAM campaigns
- Holiday Gift-a-Meal



## **FEBRUARY**

Lunar New Year Crawl





# **OUR IMPACT**







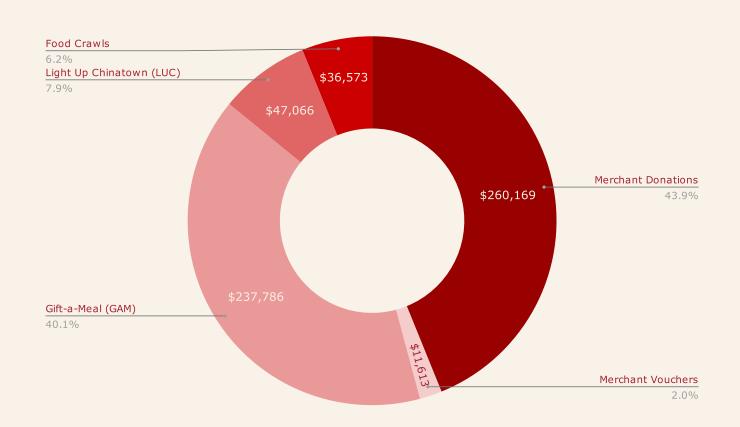


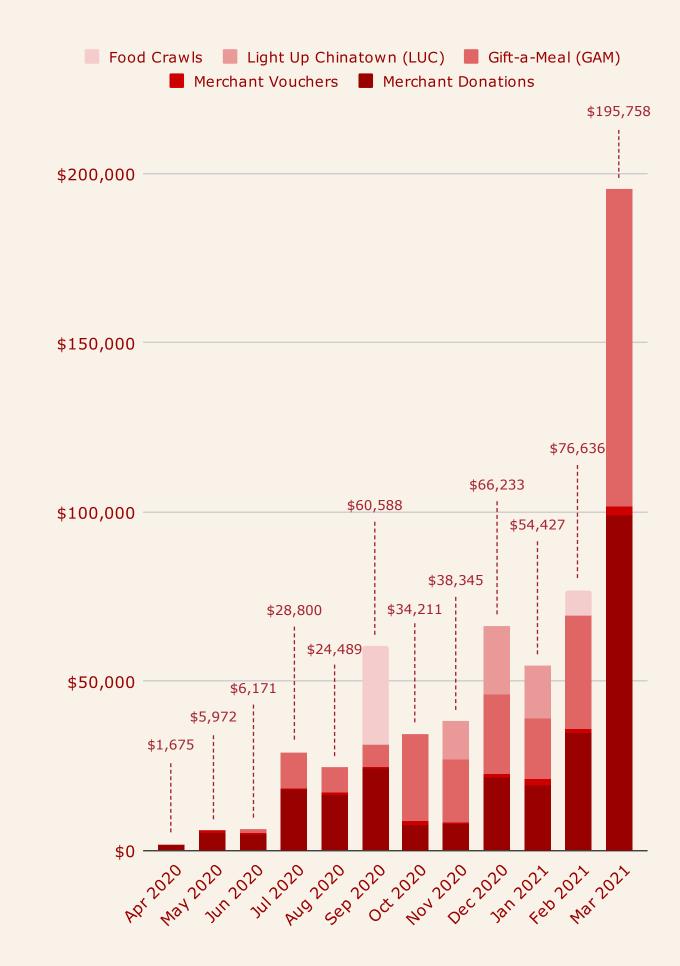


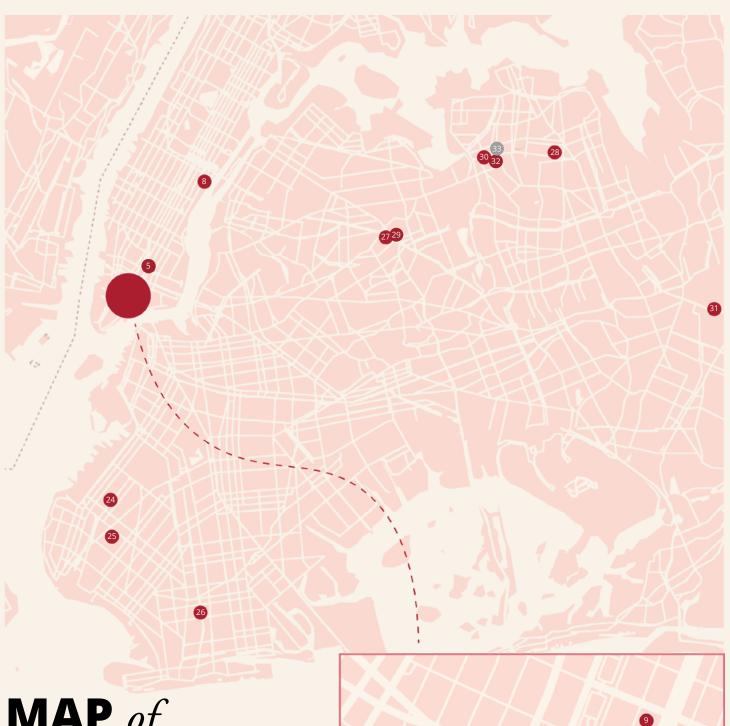


As a not-for-profit, 100% volunteer-run organization, all funds raised go to supporting our merchants. The vast majority of funds go directly to our merchants. Only 1.25% went towards our operating expenses such as web hosting, marketing expenses, and transportation/logistics for our Gift-a-Meal distributions.

## **TOTAL IMPACT**







# MAP of **MERCHANTS**

The seed of Send Chinatown Love (SCL) was planted on the streets of Manhattan's Chinatown, outside the shuttered storefront of 88 Lan Zhou. One year later, SCL has grown beyond these roots to serve a wide variety of businesses across 3 boroughs of New York City. Thanks to our volunteers and our community, we have supported 33 merchants to date: 23 in Manhattan, 7 in Queens, and 3 in Brooklyn.

88 Lan Zhou closed permanently due to the effects of the pandemic.

- 1 3 TIMES 90 Clinton St, New York, NY 10002
- **2) 46 MOTT ST** 46 Mott St, New York, NY 10013
- **3** 47 DIVISION ST TRADING INC 47 Division St, New York, NY 10002
- (4) BODHI KOSHER VEGETARIAN RESTAURANT 77 Mulberry St, New York, NY 10013
- **5** CAFE HIMALAYA 78 E 1st St, New York, NY 10009
- **6 COLOR MATRIX CAFÉSALON** 297 Grand St, New York, NY 10002
- **DREAMERS COFFEE HOUSE** 54W Henry St, New York, NY 10002
- (8) GO NOODLE 1069 1st Ave, New York, NY 10022
- (9) GRAND TEA & IMPORTS 298 Grand St, New York, NY 10002
- (10) KELLY HAIR SALON 19 Pell St A, New York, NY 10013
- (1) KUIH CAFE 46 Eldridge St, New York, NY 10002
- 12 LANZHOU RAMEN 107 E Broadway, New York, NY 10002

- (3) NEW CHINA BEAUTY SALON 15 Doyers St # C, New York, NY 10013
- (4) SUN'S ORGANIC GARDEN 79 Bayard St, New York, NY 10013
- (15) TING'S GIFT SHOP 18 Doyers St, New York, NY 10013
- (6) TONII'S FRESH RICE NOODLES 83 Bayard St, New York, NY 10013
- 17 WINNIE'S BAR 58 E Broadway 2nd fl, New York, NY 10002
- **18 WONTON NOODLE GARDEN** 56 Mott St, New York, NY 10013
- 19 YUE WONG RESTAURANT 60 Bayard St, New York, NY 10013
- 20 YI FA HAIR SALON 16A Doyers St, New York, NY 10013
- (21) RABBIT HOUSE 41 Essex St, New York, NY 10002
- **22) TAIWAN BEAR HOUSE** 11 Pell St, New York, NY 10013
- **23 88 LAN ZHOU** 40 Bowery St, New York, NY 10013

#### **BROOKLYN**

**MANHATTAN** 

- **24** MELONPANNA TEA & SHOT 5105 7th Ave, Brooklyn, NY 11220
- **25** SHUNFA BAKERY 6221 Fort Hamilton Pkwy, Brooklyn, NY 11219
- **26 WING HING SEAFOOD RESTAURANT** 1217 Avenue U, Brooklyn, NY 11229

# QUEENS

- **② BOC BOC CHICKEN DELICIOUS** 90-15 Queens Blvd, Queens, NY 11373
- **28 CHEF PAPA VIETNAMESE KITCHEN** 42-05 162nd St, Queens, NY 11358
- 29 NOODLE HOUSE 9015 Queens Blvd, Flushing, NY 11373
- 30 NY GO GO FAST FOOD 135-50 Roosevelt Ave, Flushing, NY 11354
- 188 Jericho Turnpike, Floral Park, NY 11001
- **32 4 CHOICE LUNCH BOX** 136-75 Roosevelt Ave, Flushing, NY 10013
- **33 NANBEI FOOD** 136-20 ROOSEVELT AVE, FLUSHING, NY 11354

\*Despite our best fundraising efforts, 2 merchants, Nanbei Food and MANHATTAN CHINATOWN



# **EXPERIENCE**



#### **FAST FINANCIAL RELIEF**

Donations and vouchers from our website go directly to the merchant



#### **GIFT-A-MEAL**

Fundraising to pay merchants to provide meals and other services to the community



#### **BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT**

Pro bono business consulting and marketing service

**MERCHANT ONBOARDING PROCESS** 



Seller Empathy interviews the merchant to learn their story, discuss logistics, and gauge their interest in different SCL services.

SCL funnels donations directly to merchants in the form of checks. SCL keeps in touch to make sure merchants' needs are met.



Merchant is officially onboarded for the SCL donation website and Instagram.



Seller Empathy and Legal team draw up a contract to make things official.

Send Chinatown Love (SCL) was founded to help merchants across New York City's Chinatowns navigate the COVID-19 pandemic through linguistic and/or technological support. The guiding principle behind our work has always been based in empathy for the struggles and needs of the merchants. Rather than trying to prescribe solutions for merchants, SCL has endeavored to meet our merchants' selfdescribed needs. We speak their language, listen to and understand their pains, and only then, create a solution for each individual merchant while respecting their comfort zone.

The Merchant Experience team was established to center our operations around merchants' desires and their changing circumstances and needs. Our initial response at the onset of the pandemic was fundraising for fast relief via our Seller Empathy team.

"Cold calling businesses was difficult because we couldn't get a hold of anyone since all businesses were closed and we couldn't go door to door (due to the stay-at-home order). Initial outreach strategy had a lot to do with tapping into our own networks and seeing if anyone knew a merchant in any NYC

Chinatown who needed help and would be willing to trust us.

After we got our first merchant on board, we used their experience to iterate our product and continue to build that trust within the community. Building trust within the community was really important and really difficult to do - we spoke to a lot of Chinatown figureheads to learn about the community and what they needed now. That helped us be better informed when we started speaking to merchants themselves."

- Ling Song Seller Empathy founding team member



To accomodate merchants who were uncomfortable with the idea of receiving donations, we introduced the option for customers to instead purchase redeemable gift vouchers that would still provide merchants with immediate cash relief.

We are Chinese, and Chinese people are built to weather these types of things. We are making ends meet for now. I'd rather money from donations go to people who need it more than us... However, we'd be happy to sell digital gift cards to help our business stay afloat if that's an option."

- SCL merchant

As operating conditions and merchants' desires changed, we adapted over the course of the year to focus on the projects that have become our flagship services: our Gift-a-Meal and Business Development initiatives. Gift-a-Meal, which directs donations towards providing meals and personal care necessities from our merchants to underserved communities in and around Chinatowns across New York City, evolved from conversations with business owners who weren't interested in either vouchers or direct donations. The Business Development team was formed to help merchants strengthen the foundations of their businesses and build towards long-term success; the team offers free services including restaurant consulting, digital marketing, and web design.

SCL came into existence during a time of unprecedented difficulty for New York City's Chinatowns, and while much has changed since those early days of the pandemic, our founding principle of empathy continues to inform every decision we make and fuel our continued dedication to this community. It is—and will always be—necessary to be attuned to the voices of Chinatown, and to recognize and truly see those merchants who have historically been overlooked.

Even before the citywide shutdown, my family's restaurant was losing business due to COVID fears. Then came a 6 month mandated closure with no rent negotiation. When we were able to open again, business was so slow that my parents started to lose hope. But through every step of our recovery, Send Chinatown Love was able to uplift us.

We were able to pay rent thanks to donations, gift cards & Gift-a-Meal campaigns. When it was time to negotiate our lease, Send Chinatown Love helped us write a letter to management. When grant applications opened, the team sent updates & tips to apply. Now that we've finally started to see some

business coming back, Send Chinatown Love is helping us establish a digital presence to thrive even after the pandemic.



Ruth Li (on left) and Boc Boc Chicken Delicious staff

Being able to volunteer with Send Chinatown Love and help support the family business that helped put me through college has been one of the most rewarding experiences. It means everything to me to take care of people that have loved me through their labor."

> - Lily Li, SCL social content lead and daughter of Ruth Li, owner of Boc Boc Chicken



Lily as a child with her parents





# **GIFT-A-MEAL**

Gift-a-Meal (GAM) emerged in May 2020 as an initiative to simultaneously uplift both underserved, food-insecure populations as well as businesses that were negatively affected by COVID-19. We partner with local organizations to provide culturally-sensitive meals and personal care items or services from our merchants to assist Asian elders, homebound senior neighbors, people without housing, and low-income students and families. We compensate our merchants \$5-10 for each meal\*, in accordance with each merchant's regular retail pricing structure and costs.

Since its inception, GAM has evolved into a crucial component of SCL, extending beyond prepared meals to also include personal necessities and fresh produce from our non-restaurant merchants, with multiple concurrent GAM campaigns serving Chinatown communities across NYC.

\*Since May 2021, we now compensate our merchants \$10-\$15 per meal due to increased cost of goods incurred by the merchants.

Mid-Autumn Festival is an important and joyous occasion, celebrating family and togetherness. Tea and mooncakes are traditionally served and shared among family and loved ones, but COVID-19 prevented many families from being together. Our 2020 Mid-Autumn Festival GAM campaign raised \$3,700 to donate care packages to 385 elderly Chinatown residents in the Confucius Plaza and Chung Pak Complexes. Over 30 volunteers and community leaders prepared a care package of mooncakes (Golden Fung Wong Bakery) and tea (Grand Tea & Imports and Sun's Organic Garden) to provide some comfort during the isolating pandemic.





# Notable GAM CAMPAIGNS

Since February, residents of the NYCHA Bland Houses in Flushing had been without gas or working stoves; a sobering reminder that BIPOC communities have been disappropriately impacted by COVID-19. La Jornada Food Pantry relocated to Bland Houses as an emergency food distribution center to help these residents weather this storm. Partnering with the La Jornada and the Greater Flushing Chamber of Commerce, SCL raised \$1,866 for NY Go Go Fast Food and provided 622 meals to our Flushing neighbors.

"My mom gave me the name Tian Bao Pan ["heavenly gift"] and I feel like it's been a lucky omen all my life. Hardships is something I've faced before and my journey overcoming the (2017) fire has encouraged me to believe that we will make it out alive again."

I am very thankful that Send Chinatown Love has connected me with an opportunity to serve my community. Business has been slow so I deeply appreciate their hard work in funding my meals to go towards a local food pantry."

> - Tian Bao Pan, NY Go Go Fast Food owner



Chinatown staple 88 Lan Zhou's temporary closure in early 2020 was the initial inspiration for the founding of SCL. Unfortunately, the beloved noodle and dumpling destination had to close permanently later that year in October. Determined to send them off with love, we ran a GAM campaign that raised over \$20,000 to gift dumplings from 88 Lan Zhou to our homebound seniors and houseless neighbors in and around Chinatown.

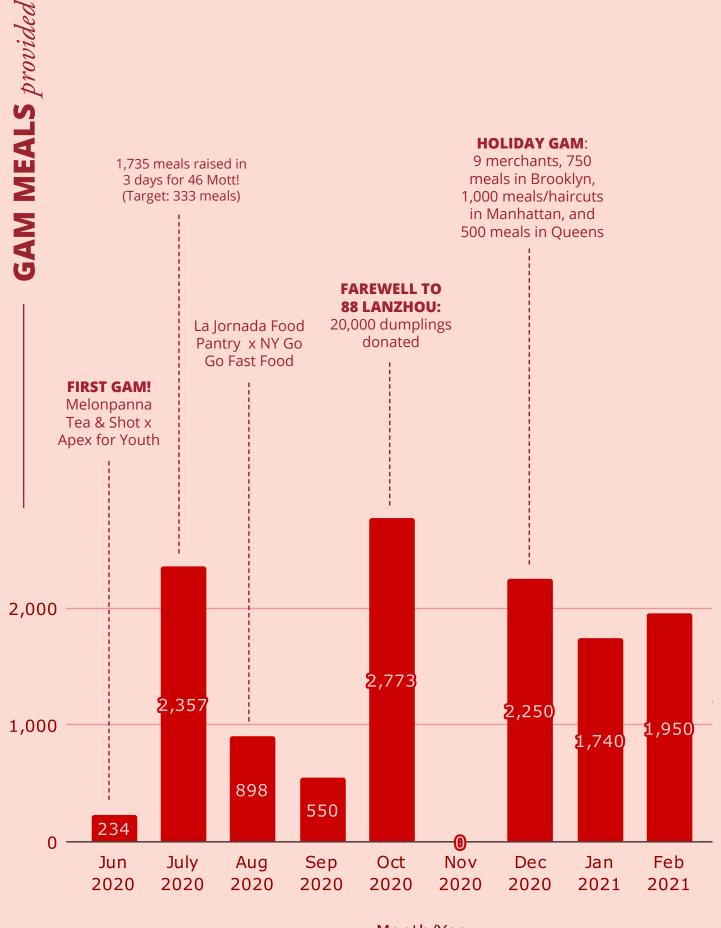
DECEMBER 2020

Our holiday campaign raised \$22,500 and distributed hot meals and self-care bundles from nine merchants across Brooklyn, Manhattan, and Queens to NYC seniors and students. This campaign saw our non-restaurant merchants participating in our GAM program for the first time with haircut vouchers from Kelly Salon and New China Beauty Salon.



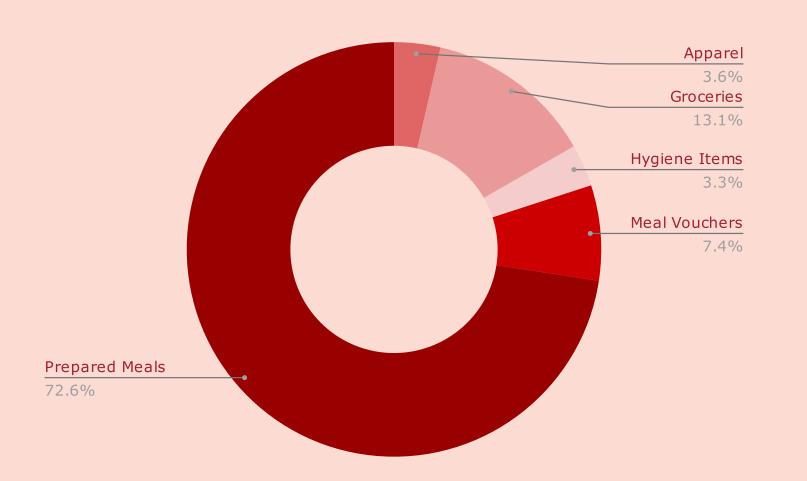
**AUGUST 202**(

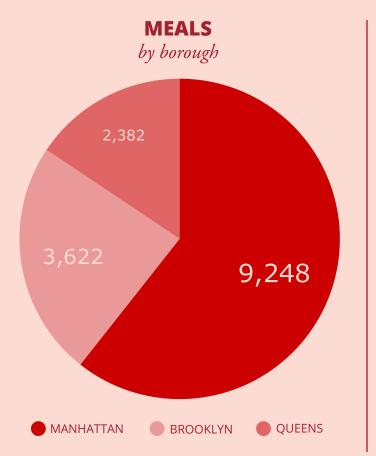




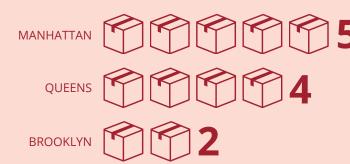
Month/Year

# **MEALS** by provision





#### **DISTRIBUTORS**



#### **MERCHANTS**

MANHATTAN

**BROOKLYN** 

**QUEENS** 

#### **MANHATTAN**

#### **DISTRIBUTORS**

46 Mott Chinese Planning Council/ **Immigrant Social Services** Jenny Low/Chung Seto/ Confucius Plaza Yuh-Line Niou

The Bowery Mission

#### **MERCHANTS**

46 Mott 47 Division St Trading Grand Tea & Imports Sun's Organic Garden Golden Fung Wong Lanzhou Ramen 88 Lan Zhou Tonii's Fresh Rice Noodle Dreamers Coffee New China Beauty Salon Kelly Hair Salon Bodhi Kosher Vegetarian Yue Wong Kuih Cafe Ting's Gift Shop 3 Times Go Noodle Nine Moon Wonton Noodle Garden

#### **DISTRIBUTORS & MERCHANTS**

#### **BROOKLYN**

#### **DISTRIBUTORS**

Apex for Youth Chinese Planning Council Brooklyn

#### **MERCHANTS**

Melonpanna Tea & Shot Wing Hing Noodle House

#### **QUEENS**

#### **DISTRIBUTORS**

La Jornada Food Pantry YWCA of Queens Flushing International H.S Queens H.S For Language Studies

#### **MERCHANTS**

NY Go Go 4 Choice Lunchbox BocBoc Chicken Delicious Fuzhou Noodle Chef Papa Vietnamese Kitchen







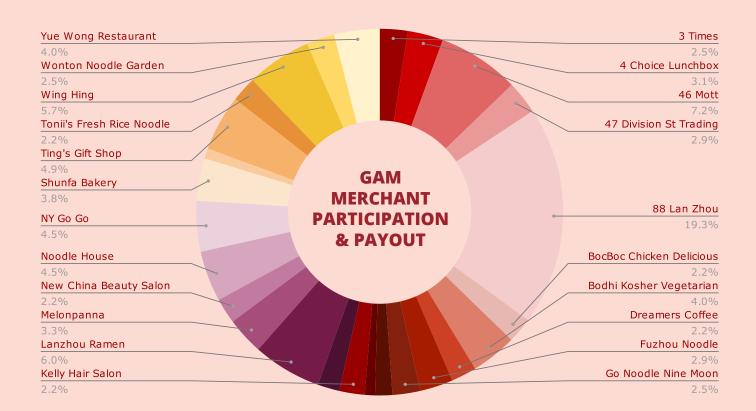
**CAMPAIGNS** 

#### **GAM FUNDS**

by month



\*As of 31 March 2021, \$237,786 was raised and \$113,826 was paid to our merchants. The remaining \$126,020 is earmarked for future GAM distributions.



# BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

SCL's initial core operation was fundraising relief for our merchants in the form of donations and gift cards. This approach, while essential to sustaining them through the pandemic, was not a solution that set these businesses up to grow and thrive in the long term. Many of our merchants had little to no online presence, relying heavily on foot traffic and word-of-mouth for business. This made them particularly vulnerable during the pandemic, and continues to be an important obstacle to overcome in our increasingly digital world.

The Business Development (BD) team was formed to address this need. The team equips merchants with the tools to be self-sufficient, working with them on areas including website development, marketing strategy, and visual design. We also support merchants by helping them overcome barriers such as English fluency and new technology.

#### **SUCCESSFUL CASES**

- NY Go Go menu design
- Tokyo Mart eCommerce
- Tonii's Fresh Rice Noodles website
- Shunfa Bakery menu design, website and branding
- Kuih Cafe branding and website

"BD helps these pen-and-paper based merchants remain competitive and sustain themselves in the digital age, which is a challenge particularly for NYC Chinatown merchants (compared to other Chinatowns around the US). The services we provide aren't touch and go — we set it up for them and ensure they know how to navigate it in the long run."





#### WEBSITE

basic or eCommerce, copy + photography



#### **MARKETING**

social media + digital presence



# INDUSTRY/PUBLIC RESOURCES

NYC resources + partner organizations



## in-store updates +

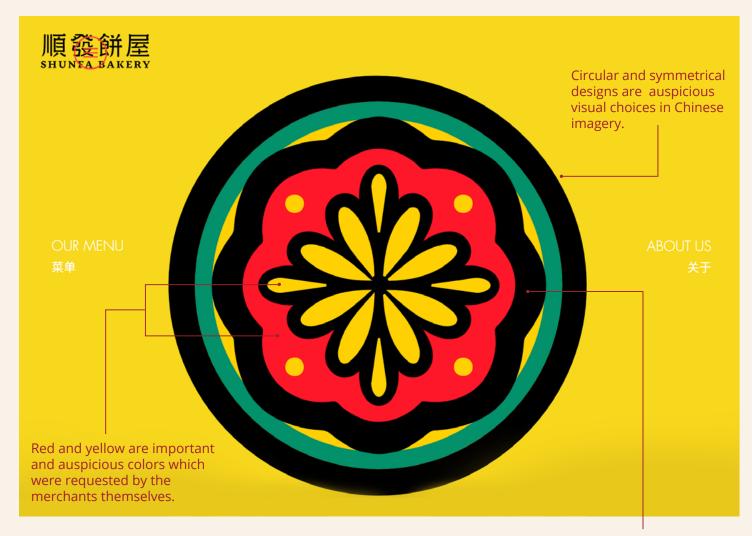
operations help

# SHUNFA BAKERY

Menu redesign, branding & logo redesign, website development



For a shop that is well-frequented by regulars, the branding and assets needed to feel at home in the space, and act as an extension, not a revamp, of Shunfa Bakery's community. It needed to look cohesive and fresh, while also remaining recognizable and culturally significant.





The hand-illustrated floral logomark was based on the shape of Shunfa Bakery's most popular item: the fluffy, paper wrapped sponge cake.

#### **◄ THE NEW MENU DESIGN**

Yellow was a prominent color in the existing Shunfa bakery, since it was the primary color of the large in-store menu. Community Initiatives

# **FOOD CRAWLS**

During the pandemic, Chinatowns across New York City were disproportionately impacted by the lack of tourism, foot traffic and outdoor dining resources. Fundraising for struggling businesses brings immediate financial relief; however, welcoming foot traffic back to our Chinatowns and shining a light on small, lesser-known, immigrant-owned establishments is indispensable to the long-term health, success, and sustainability of these businesses and communities.

To accomplish this goal, Send Chinatown Love organized two self-guided Food Crawls in September 2020 and February 2021. Through the participation of merchants, donors, and the general public, these community events not only rejuvenated our Chinatowns, but also brought together a vibrant community of both locals and returning out-of-state visitors. The premise of spending a day out in Chinatown wandering through different stores and restaurants is reminiscent of many New Yorkers' childhoods, identities, and experiences.

To maximize engagement and make the events interactive, our engineering team developed a Passport to Chinatown app to provide a digital keepsake of "destinations visited" where participants could track their progress and unlock prizes.

# **FOOD CRAWLS**

# SEPTEMBER FOOD CRAWL

Sept 1 - Sept 30 2020 1,225
FOOD CRAWLERS

3,802
PURCHASES MADE

\$29,423

DIRECTLY
TO OUR
PARTICIPATING
VENDORS

12 REWARD PARTNERS

13 VENDORS



\$7,150

DIRECTLY TO OUR PARTICIPATING VENDORS

365
PURCHASES

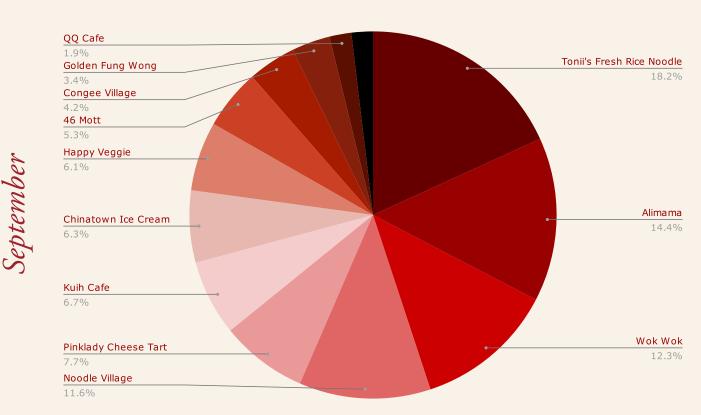
29 10 CRAW

109 34 REWARD PARTNERS

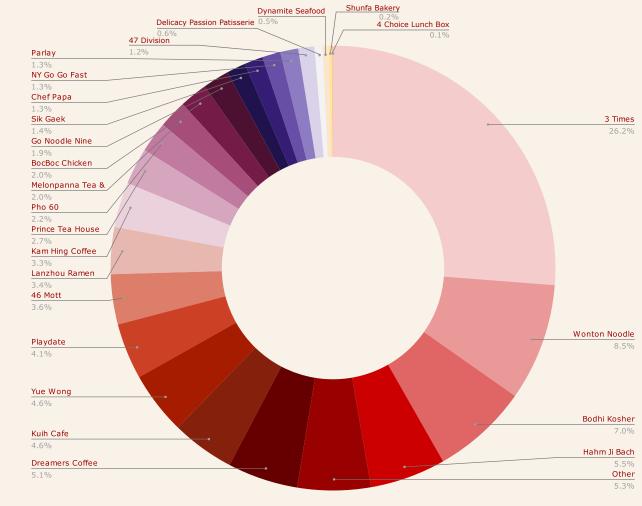
# LUNAR NEW YEAR CRAWL

Feb 1 - Feb 28 2021

# **VENDOR PROCEEDS**



# Lunar New Year



# SEPTEMBER FOOD CRAWL

Sept 1 - Sept 30 2020

For our first ever Food Crawl, we focused our efforts on Manhattan's Chinatown. Our Seller Empathy team went door-to-door to meet merchants and introduce them to the idea of participating in the event. We designed paper tickets with unique codes that customers could collect at each location, and debuted our Passport to Chinatown app.

The month-long event not only brought in a significant amount of revenue and foot traffic, but also laid the groundwork for our next food crawl and served as a valuable learning experience that helped us better understand the needs and wants of our community and our merchants.











# LUNAR NEW YEAR CRAWL

Feb 1 - Feb 28 2021



Ordinarily a joyous celebration and one of the busiest times of the year for Asian-owned businesses, Lunar New Year 2020 coincided with the onset of COVID-19, which saw a shift in attitudes towards the Asian community and subsequently declining patronage.

In 2021, we sought to bring back the vibrancy and life that Lunar New Year usually ushers into Chinatowns by organizing the Lunar New Year Food Crawl. The event provided an opportunity to spotlight a wide range of Asian merchants and to educate our audience on different Lunar New Year traditions and Asian cultures. Compared to our first food crawl, we expanded our reach significantly, growing to encompass 29 merchants throughout Manhattan, Queens, and Brooklyn.

Due to the cold weather and a spike in COVID-19 cases, we expanded the definition of an eligible "visit" to also include delivery, take-out orders, and donations to our merchants or Gift-a-Meal campaign. We also wanted to improve accessibility and access, allowing participants to support merchants without necessarily having to travel to be there in person or even be in NYC, and encouraging visibility and participation for merchants in the lesser-known Chinatowns.

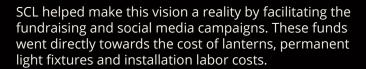




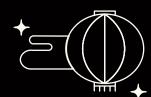
# **LIGHT UP CHINATOWN**

Nov - Dec 2020

SCL partnered with community leaders like Joanne Kwong (Pearl River Mart) and Chung Seto to bring some much-needed light and festivity to the streets of Manhattan's Chinatown by illuminating Mott St. and Bayard St. with lanterns. Conceived by Patrick Mock, community advocate and manager of 46 Mott Bakery, Light Up Chinatown was an initiative designed to offer a vision of hope and inspiration to visitors and community members alike, restoring foot traffic to the area and reminding the city that Chinatown remains open for business and as vibrant as ever.



We launched the initiative in November 2020 and surpassed our first fundraising goal of \$23,500 in just two weeks, in time for the winter solstice. Since we first launched this initiative, our donor community has helped us expand far beyond the initial two streets, bringing lanterns to Elizabeth, Mulberry, Pell, and Doyers Streets.



LANTERNS HUNG



\$47,066





#### Community Initiatives -

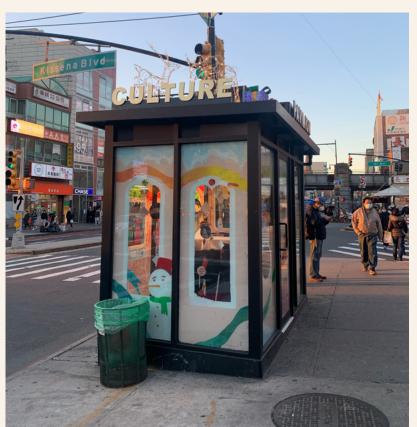
In late 2020, the streets of Flushing, Queens continued to show the toll of the pandemic, with empty storefronts, boarded up windows, and 'FOR LEASE' signs everywhere. To encourage patronage to local businesses during the holiday season, SCL partnered with the Flushing Business Improvement District (BID) to transform the BID's information kiosk into an interactive, festive gingerbread house.

For over two months, we facilitated the design, installation and painting of this holiday art mural, incorporating Flushing's landmarks and local businesses through the art piece. Located at one of the most important intersections by the Flushing Library, the art mural was revealed on November 16, 2020 and was the feature of the BID's month-long "Instagram Selfie Contest".



# **FLUSHING BID HOLIDAY MURAL**

Dec 2020



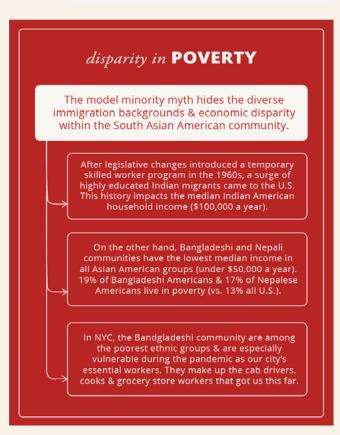
Design mockup by SCL





Citywide Administrative Services know what

the community wants. Sample e-mail by @welcome.to.chinatown link in bio.







# COMMUNITY ACTION

Send Chinatown Love is, at its core, about serving the community. Since our community includes people from so many different backgrounds and across multiple generations, communication is a crucial need for us to address. Many members of the younger generations struggle to find a common language to have conversations with their elders regarding some of the complex issues that have been at the forefront of everyone's minds in the last year.

To help facilitate these conversations, we leveraged our social media platforms to share English-Chinese translations to discuss a variety of different topics, including social justice, COVID-19 testing, civic action and identity.

# AAPI VISIBILITY and DIALOGUE

esendchinatownlove

the HISTORY
of GENTRIFICATION
in NYC CHINATOWNS

Chinatown

Chinatown

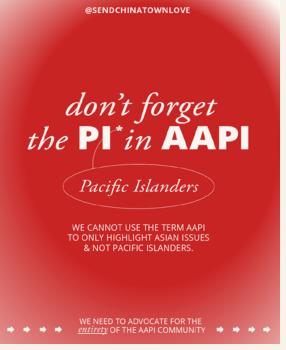
Flushing

WE SEND LOVE TO EVERY CHINATOWN AS

EACH NEIGHBORHOOD FACES ITS OWN CHALLENGES.

Asian American communities have been challenged in many ways this past year. Many of these challenges were not new, but have surged to the forefront due to the pandemic, the political rhetoric surrounding COVID-19, and the subsequent violence against our communities. We listened to community voices, shared emotions, resources, and marginalized stories, and found solidarity with our allies. Additionally, we have spotlighted and interviewed Asian American entrepreneurs, creatives, and activists on our social media to further champion the importance of representation and to provide solace and inspiration during a year of isolation.

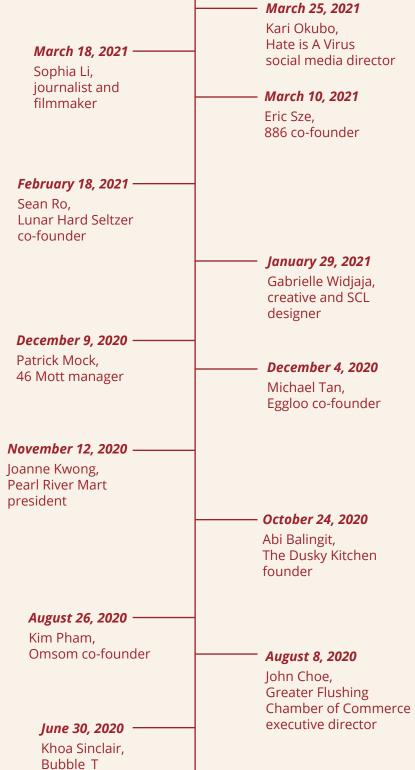




# SCL INSTAGRAM LIVE BROADCAST GUESTS





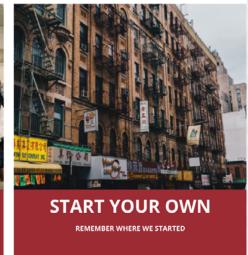


# UNIVERSITY and COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION OUTREACH

BE A LIFTER, NOT A LEANER







We have always aimed to share our learnings, experiences and advocacy with speaking engagements at a diverse range of institutions, community organizations and platforms. For example, we presented to the Greater Flushing Chamber of Commerce about our operations and our product process to NYC's School of Visual Arts. We were also featured on the Asian American podcast, With Warm Welcome.

In November and December 2020, SCL worked with seven universities in the NY Tri-State area for its first Campus Ambassador Program. The program paired a campus leader with an SCL mentor to promote leadership skills and social justice engagement.



Kin Yang, SCL social media strategist and Binghamton University Campus Ambassador

Seeing that my actions could make a positive social impact on the community I grew up in was both heartwarming and inspiring. Send Chinatown Love fostered a strong, tight-knit community of individuals that supported me throughout my time as a Campus Ambassador and it has strengthened my understanding of what it means to be Asian American."

# **PARTNERSHIPS**

April 1, 2020 - March 31, 2021

As SCL has grown, we have been grateful to have had the opportunity to partner with different businesses and organizations looking to help support our community. Our profound thanks to:

12 PELL

**ANNEMARIE GALLIPOLI** 

**ANNETTE WONG** 

BAMBU BAO BAE BOBA FIX

**BROOKLYN FOOD & BEVERAGE** 

**BUFFY** 

**CHANEL MILLER** 

CHINATOWN ICE CREAM FACTORY
CHINESE CONSOLIDATED BENEVOLENT

ASSOCIATION NYC CHOP SUEY CLUB

**CHUNG SETO AND UNITED DEMOCRATIC** 

ORGANIZATION
COCO TEA USA
CRANES FOR CHANGE

D.S. & DURGA DUY VO FAR-NEAR

**GREATER FLUSHING CHAMBER OF** 

COMMERCE HAWTHORNE JINGFONG

**LI ORGANICS** 

**JOANNE KWONG AND PEARL RIVER MART** 

JUNZI KITCHEN
KAIGO COFFEE ROOM
LABOR SKATESHOP
LAS BOMBONITAS
LAZY SUNDAES

**LUNAR HARD SELTZER** 

LYFT

MAGNOLIA JEWELERS
MOSHI YUZU SPARKLING

**NEW YORK CHINESE CULTURAL CENTER** 

NEW YORK NICO NOM WAH OMSOM

PEARL RIVER MART PICCOLINI NYC POTLUCK CLUB PRIVATE POLICY RECEPTION BAR SARAH COLEMAN

**SOUTHEAST ASIA FOOD GROUP** 

STICKY LOCALS
SUBLIMA JEWELRY
SUNDAE SERVICE
SUNNY LI

THE CHINESE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF

NEW YORK
THE DOUGH CLUB
THE QI

THINK!CHINATOWN TOCHI SNACKS

**TEA & MILK** 

TORI ENG TV DAD VICTOR LI

**VOLLEY TEQUILA SELTZER** 

YAYA TEA

YIFANG CHINATOWN

**YOUNG NAILS** 

# FRIEND OF A FRIEND X SCL







We have had the privilege of collaborating with a local husband and wife duo, Friend of A Friend Studio (FOAF), for our first apparel merchandise in September 2020. "Chinatown Love" was thoughtfully designed in celebration of Chinatown's medley of culture, food, and unwavering determination.



# LOOKING FORWARD

Our mission will always be to empower small, immigrant-owned Asian businesses to stand on a level-playing field in the increasingly competitive and digitalized hospitality and retail industries. As the city shifts towards focusing on economic recovery and begins loosening pandemic-era restrictions on restaurants and businesses, the needs of our merchants have also started to change.

As of August 2021, we updated our overall strategy to accommodate the changing needs of our merchants. Send Chinatown Love envisions a future where communities and Asian-owned businesses collectively uplift Chinatowns.

- Our purpose is to break down barriers that prevent Asian-owned business from achieving their business goals. We will also strive to bridge the gap between our SCL community and Asian-owned businesses.
- Our mission is to respond to the needs of Asian owned businesses by providing customized services and resources. For the community, we hope to create opportunities for the SCL community to connect with Asian-owned businesses.

Since July 2021, Send Chinatown Love is shifting its focus from providing fast financial relief to helping our merchants develop long-term sustainability goals — particularly through our Business Development (BD) and Gift-a-Meal (GAM) programs. At the time

of writing (October 2021), SCL has already begun its Merchant Growth Planning (MGP) process where we have discussions with each of our existing merchants to learn about their current business needs, and how they anticipate their needs changing over time. We aim to develop a comprehensive understanding of their finances and operational capacities, as well as their dreams and goals. We have also expanded our scope of merchants to include those that are only interested in GAM or BD. Since then, we have transitioned five merchants to MGP and will continue to do so in a phased approach until all of our merchants are comfortably self-sufficient.

In the meantime, we will continue to iterate and improve our products to best serve our merchants and the community.

We are grateful for your support as our organization grows, and we are excited to continue to build community partnerships, advocate for change, and preserve culture and legacies.

Solven

#### **OUR VISION**

#### **FAST FINANCIAL RELIEF**

Donations raised from our webpage that go directly to the merchant.

#### **GIFT-A-MEAL**

Our double-impact campaign that raises money to purchase food/supplies from our merchants. Those items are redistributed to community members in need.

#### **BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT**

Our in-house agency and pro-bono consultancy

#### **SELF-SUFFICIENT**

Our goal is to help merchants become sustainable and resilient long-term contributors to Chinatown; we continue to engage the community through events & storytelling.