



CHINATOWN'S FOODSCAPE Inter-business Connections

In the city of Vancouver

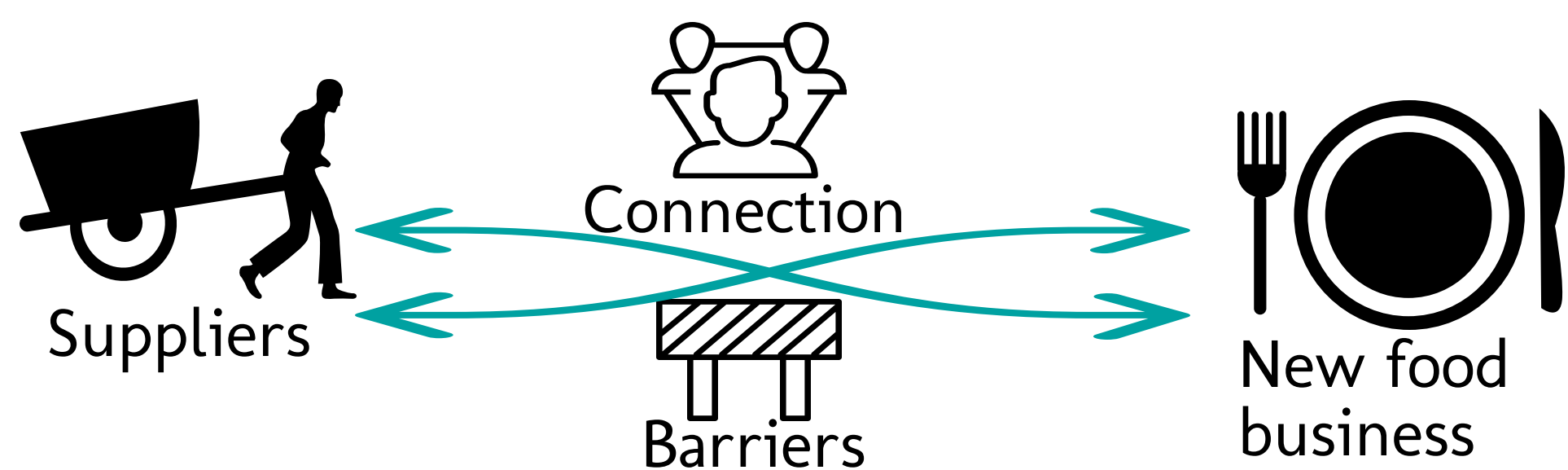
In partnership with the 

The Issue

Strengthening business-to-business relationships in Chinatown's food network

Objective

To investigate current business interactions to begin to identify barriers between new businesses and suppliers while highlighting existing connections



Methods/ Approach

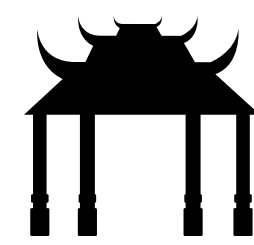


Conducting interviews with 7 **NEW** food businesses



Data analysis connecting commonalities and noting distinctions between business connections

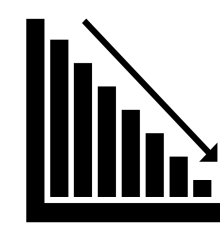
Significance



Chinatown is an important hub for the parallel Chinese food distribution network¹



Current dynamic changes are endangering cultural food assets in the neighborhood



From 2009-2016, there was a 50% loss of cultural food assets²



The emergence of new food businesses in the neighborhood can help strengthen existing cultural food assets through business to business relationships.

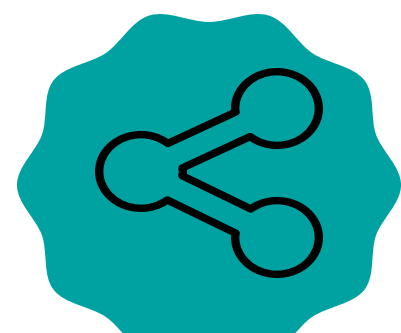
Findings

Strengthening connections

Businesses currently connect with another by:



Procuring from neighborhood suppliers



Sharing resources



Participating in neighborhood events



Partnering with local social causes



Patronage



Socializing

Challenging connections

While all businesses reported supplying from the neighborhood, many stated the following challenges in connecting with neighborhood suppliers due to:



Language barriers



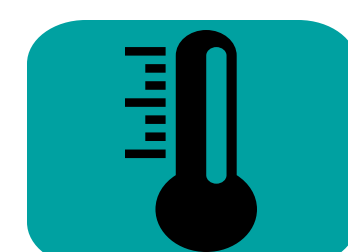
Service and attitude



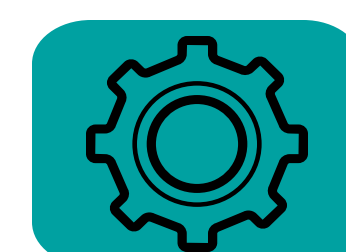
Quality



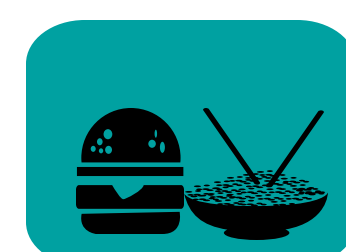
Quantity



Hygiene and food safety



Efficiency



Types of foods provided

Conclusion

1

There are varied efforts from businesses to support pre-existing neighborhood cultural food assets

2

The suppliers in Chinatown are more conducive to supplying to traditional Cantonese food businesses, but can diversify their offerings to accommodate for new businesses with varied needs

3

New food businesses have an opportunity to partake in the prominent Chinese food distribution system through local procurement practices that support existing neighborhood suppliers

References

¹ Gibb, N., & Wittman, H. (2013). Parallel alternatives: Chinese-Canadian farmers and the Metro Vancouver local food movement. *Local Environment*, 18(1), 1-19. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13549839.2012.714763>

² Ho, A., & Chen, A. (2017). Vancouver Chinatown Food Security Report. Retrieved from hua foundation website: <http://www.huafoundation.org/foodreport/>

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