



November 28, 2025

To:

**Chair and Members of the Infrastructure & Environment Committee
City of Toronto**

Re: Support for Asian Garden Project with the Chinese Cultural Centre of Greater Toronto (CCCGT)

Hello Chair and Committee Members,

I am writing to express my full support for the proposed Asian Garden at Cynthia Lai Park, led in partnership with the Chinese Cultural Centre of Greater Toronto (CCCGT).

The establishment of this Garden marks a significant milestone, and I want to extend my gratitude to the team of volunteers and staff who have brought this vision to fruition. We are also grateful to the Federal and Provincial governments for their support in making this project possible. This project represents a significant opportunity to create a meaningful public space that celebrates our city's rich cultural diversity. Spaces like the Asian Garden play a vital role in fostering cultural understanding, community pride, and a stronger sense of belonging for residents across Toronto.

Over the past 27 years, CCCGT has become an integral part of Toronto's social and cultural fabric, hosting performances, workshops, festivals, and educational initiatives that engage residents of all backgrounds. The Centre also plays a civic role, partnering with the City on events such as Lunar New Year receptions, reflecting its commitment to preserving heritage and fostering cross-cultural understanding.

The vision for this Garden at this location, which was part of the founder of CCCGT, Dr. Ming Tat Cheung's, big vision three decades ago, reflects the values we strive to uphold as a city—embracing diversity, enhancing our public realm, and supporting initiatives that bring people together. I am pleased to support efforts that highlight and honour Toronto's many cultures through accessible and thoughtfully designed public spaces.

"Alone we can do so little. Together, we can do so much." – Helen Keller



I want to acknowledge the thorough and thoughtful approach taken by City staff and CCCGT, particularly the emphasis on meaningful community engagement, responsiveness to resident feedback, and ensuring alignment with City policies and expectations. The results of the consultation process demonstrate that this initiative is being advanced with transparency, care, and strong community partnership.

I am pleased to lend my support to the continued advancement of this initiative and look forward to seeing more culturally significant spaces throughout our city.

Sincerely,

Lily Cheng
City Councillor, Ward 18 – Willowdale
Toronto City Council

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