

VICTORIA CHINESE MESSENGER

CULTURAL AND HISTORICAL ADVISORY PANEL

Victoria Chinese Messenger's objective is to bring community to a broader base of the Chinese and Asian community as well as the general community. As a result of our public service aspect of the publication, we have a number of boards and panels, to assist us when issues or topics of significance arise to engage the Chinese community in Victoria. The Cultural and Historical Advisory Panel is another voice in the Chinese community cultural or historical affairs in Victoria and the province. Any views expressed are to be non-partisan.

These are appointments to provide advice and suggestions to VCM on cultural and historical matters of community interest. All our appointees are volunteers and donate their time to serve on this Panel.

Dr. Tzu-I Chung

Dr. Tzu-I Chung is Curator of History at the Royal British Columbia Museum in Victoria, BC, Canada. After receiving a Ph.D. from the University of Arizona, she taught and conducted research at the University of Texas at El Paso and the University of Michigan across the fields of transnational Asian American studies, comparative ethnic and cultural studies, and diversity studies. She has published in the fields of cultural and ethnic studies, and was awarded Exemplary Diversity Scholar by the National Center for Institutional Diversity at the University of Michigan. Since arriving in British Columbia, she has focused on the multicultural communities and intercultural histories of British Columbia within the transnational context of historical, cultural, and economic interactions between North America and Asia-Pacific.

Dr. David C. Lai

After 35 years teaching at the University of Victoria, where he is Professor Emeritus, Dr. Lai is active in public affairs and sits on various committees, including the BC Multicultural Advisory Committee. Without the work of Dr. Lai many records and artifacts of Victoria's Chinatown may have been lost. He was instrumental in the redevelopment of Chinatown, including the Gate of Harmonious Interest and the Chinatown Care Center. His research led to the designation of Victoria's Chinatown and the Chinese Cemetery at Harling Point, as National Historic Sites. He also collaborated with Royal BC Museum staff on the reconstruction of the herbalist shop, historic Chinatown Exhibit and other

exhibitions. He has lectured regularly and has published 200 scholarly publications. He was recognized by the Association of American Geographers based on his research on Chinatowns and Chinese Canadians.

Dr. Hua Lin

Dr. Lin is a professor of linguistics at the University of Victoria. She has worked to build ties with China. She organized a conference for 117 scholars specializing in Chinese language. She is a well-known and respected academic and has appeared on CBC Radio. In addition, to her the Chinese language, she has a passion for Chinese dance and culture. She was the recipient of a Golden Mountain Achievement Award in 2008 (to recognize 150 years of Chinese Canadian Achievements in 2008) and University of Victoria's Asia-Pacific Service Award.

She is also a talented organizer and choreographer of Chinese Dance. With others, she was instrumental in establishing and has established the Victoria Chinese Culture Club which has produced cultural events featuring Chinese Dance, music and culture. She has also volunteered her time to perform and choreograph for many events in the Chinese community.

Charlayne Thornton-Joe

Charlayne Thornton-Joe is a third generation Victorian. She attended the University of Victoria where she received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Pacific and Asian Studies. Before being elected to Victoria City Council, she was employed in the hospitality industry since 1979.

Charlayne has a "passion for serving people" and has been active in the community by volunteering as a Board Member for the Victoria Women's Transition House, served as President for three years on the Board of the Inter-Cultural Association of Greater Victoria, was Interim Executive Director in 2001 for the Lion's Society for Children with Disabilities, and with her husband Phil, co-chaired Vancouver Island's 24 Hour Relay for three years.

Charlayne has also served the Chinese community in various roles. She was Director of the Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association, and has also been a member of the Victoria Chinatown Lioness Club since 1991, serving four terms as President.

For her many years of volunteering, Charlayne was the recipient of the Honourary Citizen of Victoria in 2001, was recognized with a YM-YWCA Woman of Distinction Award, a Lion's International Brian Stevenson Service Award, and a Zonta Woman of the Year Award.