

TEAM SNAPSHOT

San Francisco, California



LISA CHEN

CITYWIDE POLICY PLANNER, SAN FRANCISCO PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Lisa Chen develops long-range plans and policies at the San Francisco Planning Department. Some of her projects include: managing the Sustainable Systems Framework; development of transportation policies and financing strategies; coauthoring the Green Connections Plan; and, coauthoring the Makers and Movers Economic Strategy. Lisa has also worked as an educator, researcher, and project manager at organizations focused on youth development, sustainable food systems, and health impact assessment. She graduated with a BA in architecture from UC Berkeley, and holds a dual master's degree from UC Berkeley in city planning and public health.



RICHARD CHIEN

SENIOR ENVIRONMENTAL SPECIALIST, SAN FRANCISCO DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

Rich Chien is a Senior Environmental Specialist with the Department of the Environment and currently serves as Program Manager for San Francisco's PACE program "GreenFinanceSF," which provides low-cost, long-term financing for clean energy and water conservation upgrades to privately owned buildings. Prior to joining the department, he worked as a city planner, and practiced architecture, construction project management, and sustainability consulting at a number of Bay Area design firms. Rich holds a BA in Urban Studies and Planning from the University of California, San Diego, an M.Arch from the San Francisco Institute of Architecture, and is a LEED AP.



SHANNON DODGE

PROJECT MANAGER, CHINATOWN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CENTER

Shannon has worked in the field of affordable housing and community development in San Francisco since 1994. She is currently managing the rehabilitation of Ping Yuen, an aging public housing complex. As Project Manager with Chinatown Community Development Center, she secures project financing, builds and coordinates project teams, obtains entitlements, and oversees construction and closeout. She has managed several green renovation projects, including a historic YMCA converted to 174 studios for chronically homeless adults Ms. Dodge holds a Master of City Planning from the University of California at Berkeley and a BA in Political Science from McGill University.



SCOTT EDMONSON

STRATEGIC SUSTAINABILITY PLANNER/ECONOMIST, SAN FRANCISCO PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Scott Edmonson is a strategic sustainability planner-economist with over 30 years of experience. He focuses on the emerging practice of living city planning and regenerative urbanism along with developing information systems and analysis for long range and sustainability planning. He is the founder and past director of the APA California Sustainability Committee, current Committee Research Lead, and is Sustainability Champion for the APA Sustainable Communities Division working with the APA California Chapter.



GEETA RAO

SENIOR PROGRAM DIRECTOR, ENTERPRISE COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Geeta Rao has more than 15 years of experience in affordable housing and community development, most recently as the Initiative Officer for the Great Communities Collaborative at the San Francisco Foundation. Previously, she was the Program Manager for a Massachusetts foreclosure-acquisition program at Citizens' Housing and Planning Association. She served as the Policy Director at Non-Profit Housing Association of Northern California. She also served on the boards of Housing California and TransForm. She has a BS in anthropology from Bates College and a Masters in City Planning from University of California, Berkeley.



JOHN SWAE **team lead**

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT PLANNER, SAN FRANCISCO PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Using more than 10 years of experience creating sustainable neighborhoods, Swae manages the San Francisco's Eco-District Program, which works with communities to set sustainability goals and create programs and projects to achieve them. In addition, he leads green infrastructure planning projects including the San Francisco Urban Forest Master Plan and development of a citywide biodiversity program. Prior to joining the Planning Department, Jon worked on multi-family recycling projects, high-rise green building assessments and sustainable procurement strategies in Portland. He has a BA from New York University and a Masters of Urban & Regional Planning from Portland State University.



CINDY WU

DEPUTY DIRECTOR, CHINATOWN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CENTER

Cindy is the deputy director of Chinatown Community Development Center. From 2007-2014 she managed Chinatown CDC's planning program, empowering residents in a citywide planning dialogue to advocate for improvements to the Chinatown neighborhood. Cindy also serves as the Vice-President of the San Francisco Planning Commission. In this role, she has worked on housing policy, information transparency, and support for small businesses. She holds a Masters in City Planning from Massachusetts Institute of Technology and BA in Architecture from UC Berkeley.

PROJECT SNAPSHOT

Sustainable Chinatown Initiative



Why this Neighborhood?

Chinatown is one of the last affordable neighborhoods in an increasingly expensive city. Among Chinatown's assets are its incredible density, and its role as an immigrant gateway, cultural mecca and tourist destination. It is also home to a severely disadvantaged community of low-income and foreign born residents who face a high risk of displacement due to aging infrastructure and a building stock that has not seen significant improvements since they were constructed in the wake of the 1906 earthquake. Since the project is in its early stages, the EcoDistricts approach and tools will help to structure the Sustainable Chinatown project so that it can deliver maximum impact and results in order to achieve its goals.

top 3 Neighborhood PRIORITIES:

1. Preserving housing affordability and cultural sustainability
2. Improving environmental performance (energy + water) and livability of public and market rate affordable housing
3. Enhancing public realm and infrastructure projects (streetscapes, parks and open spaces, transportation investments) to achieve environmental goals (habitat, public health, stormwater managements, etc.)

top 3 Neighborhood CHALLENGES:

1. Coordinating existing building improvement project timelines with proposals for "deep green" retrofit projects
2. Identifying funding for building improvements
3. Engaging the largely immigrant, monolingual community

San Francisco's Chinatown is a high-needs neighborhood comprising a 30-block area located in northeastern San Francisco. The neighborhoods' median household income is just 30% of California's median household income and 26% of San Francisco's median household income. This, coupled with a high unemployment rate, result in the neighborhood having one of the highest poverty rates in San Francisco. More than 80% of its residents are monolingual and of Asian descent. The neighborhood requires planning for its long-term sustainability at all levels - social, cultural, economic and environmental. Through an eco-district framework, the Sustainable Chinatown Plan will confront these needs within an equity lens. The project will be carried out through a unique partnership between public agencies (San Francisco Department of the Environment & Planning Department), philanthropic supporters (San Francisco Foundation & Enterprise Community Partners) and the Chinatown Community Development Center. The project will ultimately support the health and well-being of Chinatown's residents by (1) greening 438 units of public housing, (2) engaging property owners in building-scale approaches for energy/water efficiency and cost savings, (3) identifying greening strategies for already-scheduled public realm improvements, and (4) outreach and education to the majority monolingual community. The Plan will provide a model for cultural enclaves across the country to engage communities in dialogue around long-term neighborhood sustainability as a gentrification prevention strategy. Sustainable Chinatown is projected to benefit over 14,500 low-income San Franciscans.