Toronto Public Library Chinese Canadian Archive Digital Exhibit Community Survey Results

Toronto Public Library's Chinese Canadian Archive (CCA) is a community-built archive celebrating and highlighting the history and experiences of Chinese Canadians in the Greater Toronto Area. With support from the Digital Museums Canada investment program, TPL has embarked on a project to create a digital exhibit to further share and explore this heritage, featuring stories and records from the CCA.

To seek guidance from the community for the development of the archive and the digital exhibit, the project team conducted an online survey from 4th October to 30th November, 2023.

Promotional flyer for the community survey

Here we are sharing the aggregated data of the survey.

TPL Chinese Canadian Archive | Community survey results 2023

Respondents

547

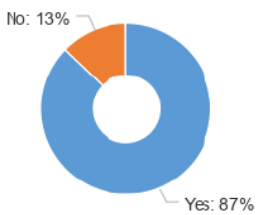
Reached end

429

78%

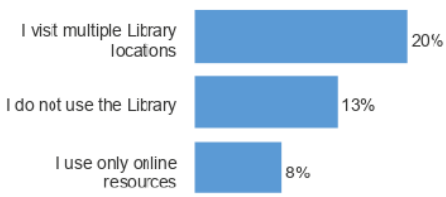
Demographic Information

Do you live in the City of Toronto or Greater Toronto Area?



N 547

Which Toronto Public Library location do you use the most?



N 513

What is your age range?

	% of responses	%
10-19		1%
20-24		2%
25-29		9%
30-54		61%
55-64		12%
65-74		8%
75+		5%
Prefer not to answer		3%

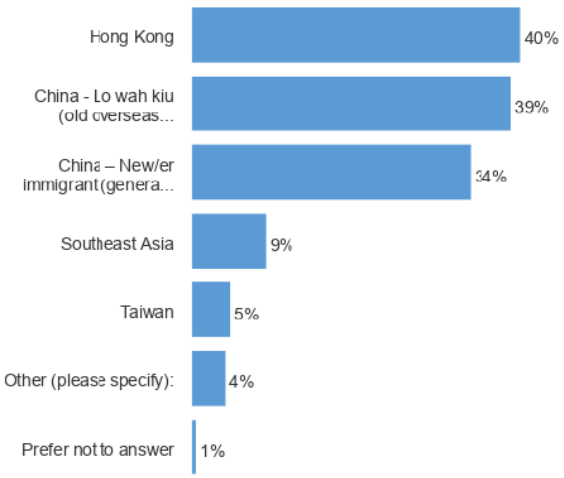
N 547

Please select one.

	% of responses	%
I identify as a member of the Chinese Canadian community (ethnically Chinese, in full or in part).		83%
I identify as a member of the Chinese Canadian community through marriage or adoption.		2%
I am interested in Chinese Canadian culture and heritage (through employment, volunteering, study, research, general interest, etc.).		11%
Prefer not to answer.		2%
None of the above.		3%

N 513

My family origins include the below. Select all that apply.



N 418

Which generation of Chinese Canadian do you identify as? If between different generations, please round up numerically.

	% of responses	%
First generation, I immigrated to Canada as an adult		17%
1.5 generation, I immigrated to Canada as a child (15 years old or younger)		23%
Second generation, I was born in Canada, one or more of my parents are immigrants		48%
Third generation		6%
Fourth generation or more		4%
Prefer not to answer		1%

N 418

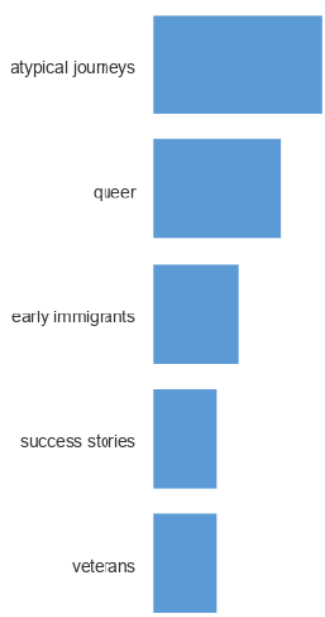
Digital exhibit design and development

Stories of Chinese Canadians are underrepresented within the historical record. Within them, there are further marginalized voices. Select up to three [3] groups from the following list whose stories in the TPL's Chinese Canadian Archive you would most like to see highlighted in the digital exhibit.

	% of responses	%
Early/pioneer Immigrants (arrived during or immediately following the Chinese Immigration Act)		59%
Ordinary individuals and families		43%
Trailblazers/firsts in their fields		42%
Women		39%
Canadian-born generations		36%
Broader immigration (gererally after 1967 and from countries other than China)		29%
Mixed heritage families and individuals		24%
Children		10%
Other (please specify):		6%

N 469

Other groups/stories specified



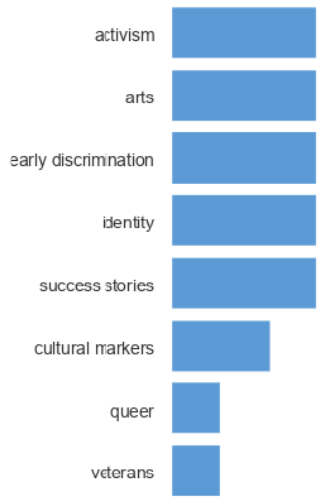
N 29

Which of the following themes are the most important for you to see reflected in the digital exhibit? Select up to three [3].

	% of responses	%
Chinese Canadian identity and experiences		84%
Family and community life		58%
Immigration/Migration		40%
Community activism		33%
Livelihoods		32%
Women's roles		32%
Other (please specify):		5%

N 469

Other themes specified



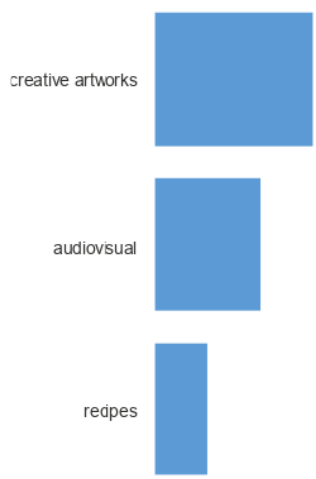
N 19

What types of materials are you most interested to see as part of the digital exhibit? Select up to three [3].

	% of responses	%
First person stories		71%
Family photos		59%
Diaries/letters		44%
Ephemera (items that were created for short-term use and considered collectibles or memorabilia today. For example, posters.)		39%
Government records		26%
Community publications		24%
Mainstream news clippings		21%
Other (please specify):		3%

N 469

Other types of materials specified



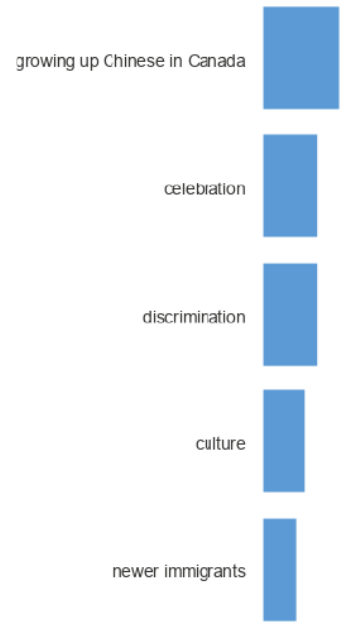
N 6

What parts of Chinese Canadian history do you feel are the most unknown among community members and/or the public and need more attention? Select up to three [3].

	% of responses	%
Erasure of Toronto's first Chinatown to build new city hall and civic square		46%
Chinese Immigration Act (includes Chinese Exclusion Act)		38%
Fight for family reunification after repeal of the Chinese Exclusion Act		37%
Formation of Toronto's Chinatown and Chinese Canadian community		37%
Service of Chinese Canadians in the Second World War and the right to vote		36%
Development of suburban "Chinatowns" in GTA		34%
Wars and other turmoil in China that fueled immigration abroad (mid-19th to mid-20th century)		33%
Arrival of ethnic Chinese refugees of the Vietnam War		17%
Other (please specify):		7%

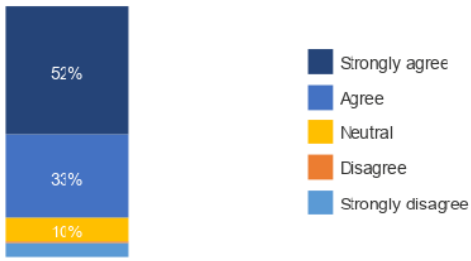
N 469

Other unknown histories specified



N 23

Agree or disagree? 'It is important to include Chinese-language items in the digital exhibit.'



N 429

What type(s) of support do you need to to understand and appreciate Chinese-language items included in the digital exhibit? Select all that apply.

	% of responses	%
Translation into English		80%
Transcription of Chinese text (especially handwritten items)		45%
Not applicable. I do not need support.		11%

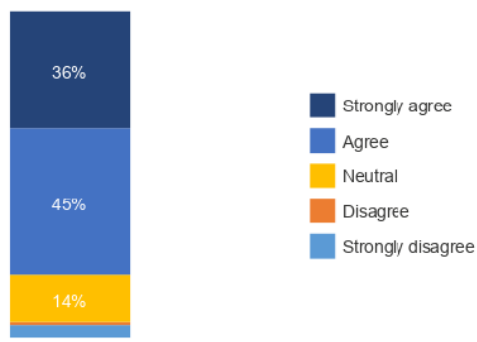
N 429

The digital exhibit will invite visitors to share their family story through an online interface. If limited to submitting one [1] item only, what format would you most likely contribute?

	% of responses	%
Image (e.g. a scanned photo or photo taken on a smartphone)		45%
I am unlikely to submit anything		28%
Text entry only		18%
Video		7%
Audio		2%

N 429

Agree or disagree? 'The digital exhibit should link to other relevant storytelling and/or archiving initiatives of the community.'



N 429