

Salinas Chinatown Renewal Project: PHASE III
University Corporation at California State University Monterey Bay
Service Learning Institute

California State University Monterey Bay (CSUMB) in collaboration with the Salinas Downtown Community Board, City of Salinas Redevelopment Agency and three faith-based organizations plans to transform a building that has not been used in thirty years into a vibrant cultural showcase. The cornerstone of the project is the renovation of the *Republic Café* into the *Asian Cultural Center and Museum*. While Phase I and II focused on planning and building community capacity and engagement, Phase III focuses on physical infrastructure. The work enjoys the full support of the area's diverse constituencies: property and business owners; Japanese-, Chinese-, and Filipino-American communities; homeless services providers; and the homeless themselves.

We are committed to assist the Chinatown community take the next step in its transformation from a forgotten neighborhood dominated by drug-dealing and crime, to a vibrant, culturally-connected and inclusive mixed-use community. In Phase III CSUMB will:

1. **Build an Asian Cultural Center and Museum:** Launch the first economic-based building in Chinatown in fifty years by stabilizing and remodeling the first floor of the *Republic Café* to useable space that meets environment, building and permit requirements.
2. **Create an Asian Cultural Center:** Identify and gather (virtual and tangible) cultural artifacts that tell the story of the impact of immigrants on the development of the Salinas Valley. Design and construct exhibits and displays with a target opening date of May 2012.
3. Provide employment opportunity for unemployed persons in the construction and museum operation. A minimum of 20% of the work force in the construction and operation will be low or very-low income (Section 3) individuals.

Project Contact

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