Chinatown Storytelling Centre

Vancouver, BC



Journey through a changing community

Early Chinese immigrants to Canada faced discrimination but over the course of the nineteenth century their struggle for acceptance helped build the city, the province and the entire country. The Chinatown Storytelling Centre tells this momentous story in the heart of Vancouver's historic Chinatown.

Working within a modest space, APA's concept focused on pivotal moments for Vancouver's Chinese Canadian community, from completing the Canadian Pacific Railway to winning the right to vote. Simple, immersive structures and props form the backdrop to these moments, transporting visitors to other eras in Chinatown—the poverty-stricken decades of the 1920s and 1930s to the exuberant boom years of the 1950s and 60s. At the centre of the gallery, an enclosed theatre glows like a paper lantern, providing a unique space for community gatherings, lectures and feature presentations.



