Building Empathy, Sustainability, and Wellbeing in the Lee Kai Hung Chinese Culture Gallery

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17 May 2023
Manchester Museum, University of Manchester
University Museums Group Spring Conference
University of Manchester celebrated the official opening of the Lee Kai Hung Chinese Culture Gallery

• 5 years of preparation, including:
  ➢ consultation with Chinese communities
  ➢ 4 visits to China
  ➢ research on Chinese collections
  ➢ Collaborations
  ➢ Artists’ commissions

• Supported by Manchester Chinese businessman and philanthropist, Dr Lee Kai Hung
Aims and Themes

• The CCG is part of hello future transformation of Manchester Museum which aims to be more inclusive, imaginative and caring

• The purpose of the CCG gallery is to build empathy and better understanding between different cultures

• The themes of the gallery:
  1. Our Shared Environment
  2. Caring and Healing
  3. Identity and Belonging
  4. Trade and Collecting
  5. Movement and Migration

• People are at the heart of the gallery
Partner: Manchester China Institute

• The UoM Institute focuses on research and teaching about China
• Supported by Dr Lee Kai Hung
• UK-China International Photography Competition displayed on CCG
• The themes of friendship, family, caring, home and treasures are in line with the aims of CCG
• Partnership throughout the development of CCG project
• Co-host seminars, lectures, talks
First met in 2019
Lunar New Year celebration

Culminated in 2023
Chinese Culture Gallery opening celebration

The relationship with XCA led to objects donation and programming
Empathy: consultation and relationship building

Radio Sheung Lok, Wai Yin Society, June 2018

Promoting the new Chinese Culture Gallery, Wai Yin Society, International Women’s Day 2018

Wai Yin Society Members Manchester Museum September 2022
Empathy: consultation and relation building

Consulting with diverse Chinese communities:

- Chinese Art Zone Manchester, Ardwick
- Chinese Supplementary Schools
- Han peoples, Vietnam Chinese, Inner Mongolian, and Cantonese speakers

Manchester Museum, September 2022

Chinese communities feedback session with designers ImageMakers
CCG, Autumn 2022
Empathy: consultation and relation building

Zoom meeting with Chinese students, February 2021

Chinese Students collection workshop at the Museum
Empathy: consultation and relation building

Chinese Culture Gallery stall at the University’s Community Festival, June 2022

• Promoting CCG on campus
• Engaging with public and academics
• Chinese students' wellbeing at CCG
Wellbeing: on campus and in the community

• Institute of Pharmaceutical Science, UoM visit to China Pharmaceutical University, Nanjing, China, January 2020
• Its annual welcoming event for students from China will be in CGG since September 2023

Biomedical smart clothing has been developed by Chinese Professor and his team, UoM
Wellbeing: on campus and in the community

TCM, longevity practice, Tai chi and Dragon Boat Race all promote wellbeing

Annual UK Chinese Dragon Boat race Festival
Sustainability: environment and international collaboration

- Bamboo objects were loaned from Bamboo Ware Museum, part of Chen Lyusheng Museum group
- Director of the Museum of the University of Science and Technology of China
- Currently discussing repatriation of palaeontological material to China and collaboration on Chinese artwork acquisition and exchange of exhibitions

Chen Lyusheng Museum cluster, China - many parts of the building are made of bamboo, almost entirely powered by solar energy
THANK YOU
谢谢

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Hope to see you at the next University Museums Group conference