

MANCHESTER CITY COUNCIL **NEWS RELEASE**

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Volunteers wanted to preserve Chinese history

As Manchester's Chinese Community prepares to celebrate Chinese New Year, it is also being invited to take part in the Manchester China Town Project, to create an archive collection about the community's history.

The Manchester China Town **Archive** Project, which is led by the Manchester Chinese Centre and supported by Manchester City Council and the Museum of Science and Industry (**MOSI**) aims to record the memories of the Chinese community since their early settlement in Manchester in the 1900s by creating an archive for the community itself and the general public.

It has recently received a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund to help build the collection.

The Chinese Centre, the city council's Library and Information Service and **MOSI** are currently asking people to come forward with memories, photographs, documents and artifacts with particular focus on China Town that could be included in the archive.

Councillor Mike Amesbury, Manchester City Council's executive member for culture and leisure said: "We have one of the largest Chinese communities in the UK and yet it is significantly under-represented in the city's archive collections. We are excited about piecing together China's migration history and learning more about the community's early contribution to Manchester's social and cultural life. We'd be absolutely delighted to hear from anyone who has any information they could add to the collection, which will preserve the community's history for generations to come."

The Manchester China Town Project will include an archive collection, an exhibition at **MOSI** in 2011, a series of events and workshops and a website telling the story of Manchester's Chinese community.

Volunteers are essential to the success of the project and the local community, university students and local school pupils are being invited to help collect stories, undertake research, digitise archives and create the website and information booklet.

To find out more about the project and how you can become involved please visit Manchester Chinese Centre's stall at the Chinese New Year celebrations in the city on Sunday 14 February or attend a family event at the Museum of Science and Industry on Monday 15 February at xxxxx

For more information call Jenny Wong at the Manchester Chinese Centre on 0161 275 9885

For more Manchester City Council information visit www.manchester.gov.uk

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