

## ***Imagining ChinaTOWn in 2050 Trailer video Transcription***

00:01 - 00:14

So there's a quote by Toni Morrison that I really like which is 'Definitions are made by the definers, not the defined.'  
My name is Linda Zhang. I'm an assistant professor at Ryerson University, also an architect at Studio Pararaum.

00:14 - 00:34

This project is called Chinatown, which comes out of ongoing research I have been working on. So the project is really asking, how do we define Chinatown? How has Chinatown historically been defined, but also maybe more projectively into the future, what are some possibilities of maybe how we can more inclusively define that for the future.

00:35 - 01:00

I think the example that I always give as the worst possible thing that could happen to a future Chinatown is if Chinatown persists in 50 years but it's actually all been taken over by Chinese franchises so like Chinese versions of McDonald's which are like, you know, bubble tea shops and so all of Chinatown is just Chinese franchises and there's no community there anymore, and it's only business, but it looks Chinese. that would be kind of the most detrimental thing that I could imagine.

01:00 - 01:22

I hope that over the next 10 years I can advocate for some change in our city planning and policies that move beyond superficial appearances and towards things that would really prioritize the needs of community and people in the space, as opposed to capital business and these sort of exoticized appearance of 'Chineseness'.

01:23 - 01:44

Taking a moment to actually talk about these things and generate those conversations, I think is really critical that in order to help our city move forward in a way that is actually inclusive of different bodies and gives the right kind of access to everybody in the city.