

Canton Alley is a historic alley with a rich and layered history. Since its establishment in the early 1900's, it has been a home and gathering space for families and workers, predominantly immigrants from the Guangdong region of China. Despite the history of mass displacement and divestment in the CID, there has been a strong emphasis on preserving this alley and others to continue to serve as community resources, open space for daily life, events and celebrations.

Site Workshop and Tori Shao worked together with the Wing Luke Museum and SCIDpda to learn from the community and gather stories of daily lives centered on a connection to place. These stories formed the basis of a street concept and art plan, a written document highlighting opportunities where art and small interventions could have a big impact on sense of place, safety, and cultural connection. It was important to the team to present a comprehensive and adaptable vision for the alley, one that can be easily broken down into phased approaches of art, paving, planting, storytelling/wayfinding elements, gateways, and lighting.