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There's a piece of China at our City Hall

Tracee Lee-Holloway
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A little piece of China has come to Hamilton.

On Saturday, I attended the opening extravaganza launching the first Chinese cultural exhibit at City Hall.

This event marks one part of the city's initiative to promote mutual understanding among different ethnic groups and diverse multicultural communities, by showcasing their cultures in revolving multicultural exhibits.

Strengthening Hamilton's Community Initiative is the community-based project whose objectives are to foster interfaith and intercultural understanding and respect, combat racism, and foster civic leadership.

After the opening speeches and introductions of the dignitaries, representatives and special guests, the crowd was entertained by a traditional Dragon/Lion dance, young performers, a choir, and an amazing group of talented musicians and vocalists from Columbia School to kick-off the festivities.

Kudos to event chair Solomon Ngan, Gwen Ly, Louis Tsai, Rick Sue, Michael and Susan Ng and all the many volunteers of the planning committee for a tremendous effort and job well done.

By bringing young and old alike together on this occasion, it was also a chance to celebrate mundialization, with Hamilton and Ma'Anshan, China -- twin cities for the past 18 years.

Mundialization is one of the oldest of municipal peace activities. The word is derived from the Latin word "mundus" meaning "world." It is an act whereby city council declares its city to be a "world city," interdependent with other communities worldwide. It involves the linking or twinning of cities around the world, in the belief that future peace and progress are dependent on co-operation, goodwill and understanding. Visit the website at www.mundialization.ca.

The Chinese Cultural Exhibit showcases themes about Chinese civilization, steeped in tradition, philosophy, art, history and cuisine. It runs until June 30th. Don't miss it.

Tracee Lee-Holloway of Hamilton is a freelance copywriter on a genealogical dig when not consumed by the family restaurant business.