

FINAL Video_Susan Xianshu Huang

[00:00:00] Montreal Chinese Culture and Art Foundation was founded in 2015 in Montreal, and it's a nonprofit organization. Its mission is to promote and expand Chinese culture in Canada, and then promote the culture exchange between China and Canada, and to build the platform for culture and the arts and to serve the Chinese community and the the local community. And in the past six years MCCAFA has created three famous brands: one is Montreal Chinese New Year Concert and the other one is Montreal International Dragon Boat Challenge and Cultural Festival. And then the Jade Dragon Culture Festival at Week-ends du monde, a famous brand in Montreal too. And in the meantime, of course, we support the nonprofit [00:01:00] cultural organizations in Montreal in the Chinese community.

I have been involved in the nonprofit organization of my family called the Fushun Sichuan Opera Troupe in Sichuan Province of China since 1993. I have been the main sponsor of this opera troupe for over 15 years, which really brought you joy to the elder people in Fushun County. My parents tried their best to, you know, to keep this troupe for over 20 years with their own salary and my support, for over 20 years, and, uh, which had a great influence on me because they, they are all doing the volunteer job, you know, to, to have more than fifteen artists always with the troupe. In 1998, I founded a nonprofit organization called the Montreal Oriental Culture and the Arts Troupe [00:02:00] and decided to promote the Chinese culture in Montreal. Besides, myself, I love singing. I love culture myself and am fond of singing, since I was a kid. Of course I also got some professional training, but I am not a professional. But I love singing, that is my best hobby in my life. So all this led me to founding MCCAFA in 2015.

I think I must say it has created a strong impact on the Asian community in Montreal as a leader in the Oriental culture and the arts, with high class performance, presentation, colorful cultural events organized here, as well as a strong supporter of the nonprofit organizations in the Asian community. It has created the proudness and visibility of the [00:03:00] Asian community. I believe that Chinese art will have greater impact in Montreal, adding colour to the diversity of Montreal, and will be loved by more and more people in Montreal. That's...I think the Chinese art is so colourful, it has a great future here.

All of the events organized by MCCAFA have highlighted the Chinese community, through social media and local advertisement. And the Montreal International Dragon Boat Challenge and Culture Festival has been the best platform to promote the Chinese community, as we have the National Bank Cup Chinese Friendship Dragon Boat Competition during the Dragon Boat Festival, with more than 20 Dragon Boat teams from the Chinese associations in the Chinese community participating in the past six years. Every year, we will have more than 150 Dragon Boat [00:04:00] teams from the world and, uh, I know, to participate in this festival. MCCAFA was the one to reconnect the Chinese, uh, the Chinese community with the local Dragon Boat clubs in 2016, after the Chinese community discontinued organizing the Montreal Chinese Dragon Boat Festival for three years. So it's MCCAFA that has brought the Chinese community back to the Dragon Boat Challenge and, uh, created the, the Chinese Community Dragon Boat Friendship Competition. It's the first week of July. It's three days, in Olympic Basin. So it's amazing. Before, they only had the Challenge, they they, it was the

Mission Dragon Boats. They, they held just the Challenge, no Cultural Festival. So after MCCAFA, you know, cooperated with them to organize this festival, then we changed the name to be the Montreal [00:05:00] International Dragon Boat Challenge and Cultural Festival. So that has the culture, the Chinese culture. So that's why, that's something, we're really proud to continue that. So, because when we're at the festival, the flag of Chinese, uh, you know, of China and the flag of MCCAFA and Mission Dragon Boats were flying in the air, you know?. Yeah. In Olympic Basin, and you really feel proud. You're proud of something we are doing. This activity promoted the Dragon Boat sport and the culture of China, and helped to promote the spirit of Dragon Boat, uh, which is to help each other in the same boat as we did during the pandemic.

Well, MCCAFA has been affected by the pandemic heavily. Due to the pandemic, the Montreal [00:06:00] International Dragon Boat Challenge and Cultural Festival had to be canceled, and Week-end du monde, our Jade Dragon Cultural Festival, had to be cancelled too. But thank God we could organize the Montreal Chinese New Year Charity Concert Online in partnership with the Rotary Club of Old Montreal, of which I'm the president this year. This February, as you know everything has to be moved to virtual, we took the challenge and we have raised \$10,000 to be donated to Beijing Hanfuer (mentally handicapped children) in China. So that's something we did. As the pandemic started in Montreal, many hospitals were in bad need of medical masks. As MCCAFA is the promoter of the Dragon Boat Spirit, helping each other in the same boat, we decided to be the practitioner of Dragon Boat Spirit. So MCCAFA decided to use [00:07:00] 5000 medical masks and 150 coveralls we originally aimed for donation to China to donate to the local hospitals and the Chinese overseas students, cause they had an urgent need. So on March 23rd MCCAFA has donated 2500 medical masks and 150 coveralls to the McGill University Health Centre, um, and, and then 25,000 masks to the Chinese overseas students in Montreal through the Chinese consulate in Montreal. And then also, on March 30th, MCCAFA has donated another 2000 medical masks to Montreal Chinese Hospital. And, uh, also on April 2nd, MCCAFA and the members of the Dragon Boat Festival Committee and [00:08:00] Madame Lily Wang, we, together we donated another 2000 medical masks to the Institute of Cardiologie de Montreal. So besides that, MCCAFA has donated 5300 medical masks and 150 coveralls to China, to help in fighting COVID-19. So we are glad to be able to offer any help to the organizations that were in bad need of the masks, mostly in Montreal and in China. So that's what we have done.

The future of MCCAFA I believe will be better after the pandemic, for sure. Yeah. We will have continued support from the National Bank of Canada, Quebec National Assembly, and Vive Montreal, as well as the corporate and the Chinese community. So at MCCAFA we are continuing to develop its existing cultural brands and at the [00:09:00] same time, uh, continue to support the nonprofit cultural organizations in Montreal, in the Chinese community especially. It will also continue the project with the National Bank of Canada to support the Chinese artists with the Chinese Artistic Scholarship Award, which has been the second year now. After the pandemic, the demand for entertainment and the cultural activities will be booming, I believe. I'm sure of that. So I believe that MCCAFA will take the opportunity and create another milestone in the future.