

Heritage

Context

The DTES has a long and rich First Nations' history. This is where Vancouver first grew and where many immigrants made their first home in Canada. The area contains many heritage buildings, monuments, and places of historical and cultural significance. These physical and spiritual heritage assets should be preserved and celebrated to educate all Vancouver residents about their significance.

Emerging Directions

- Identify, protect and improve places with social and cultural meaning to the community, such as CRAB Park, Oppenheimer Park, Japantown, Chinatown Alleys, and Strathcona
- Recognize and support community efforts to acknowledge the social heritage of the area, e.g. the labour movement and low-income community
- Support community efforts to attain national and international heritage designations for DTES neighbourhoods, including Japantown and Chinatown
- Support preservation and rehabilitation of the Chinatown Benevolent Society heritage buildings as cultural anchors for the community
- Build public awareness of the physical, social, and cultural heritage and history of the DTES
- Upgrade the Vancouver Heritage Register to reflect heritage values, e.g. Coast Salish Territory, social movements, significant street events, public places and historic areas (such as Japantown), and buildings not on the heritage register
- Protect heritage resources by reviewing and expanding planning tools and incentives, such as the Heritage Building Rehabilitation Program (HBRP) and Heritage Facade Rehabilitation Program (HFRP).
- Seek ways to integrate heritage incentives with other policies and programs (e.g. SRO improvement strategy)

QUICK-START ACTIONS

- Celebrate and support activities, practices, and events of cultural communities with heritage roots in the DTES
- Develop a renewed strategy for Chinatown Benevolent Society heritage buildings
- Support community efforts to create a memorial or cultural facility recognizing Coast Salish heritage
- Extend the Heritage Facade Rehabilitation and Heritage Building Rehabilitation programs

