

HERITAGE ACTION PLAN

Towards a renewed Heritage Conservation Program

What is the Heritage Action Plan?

- The Heritage Action Plan (HAP) is a set of actions to update the City's Heritage Conservation Program (HCP).
- A draft Vision and Goals have been developed for the Heritage Conservation Program, along with a draft Heritage Strategy, to set strategic directions and priorities for the next 10 years.
- We are seeking public input on the proposals, and will incorporate feedback into final recommendations made to City Council later this year.

Key areas of work

1. Heritage Conservation Program Review
2. Heritage Register Update
3. Character Home Zoning Review*
 - First Shaughnessy
 - Single-family zones
4. Sustainability Initiatives
5. Awareness and Advocacy Initiatives

*Studied separately from material presented today.

A Collaborative Approach

The City is working with an interdisciplinary team of consultants to implement the Heritage Action Plan. A Public Advisory Committee comprised of key stakeholders and heritage experts is also providing input throughout the process.

The consultant team, led by Donald Luxton and Associates, has recently submitted a number of studies:

- Heritage Conservation Program Review
- Historic Context Statement and Thematic Framework
- Heritage Register Systems Plan for Vancouver



Background

Reviewing the Heritage Conservation Program

- The Heritage Conservation Program aims to identify, conserve and celebrate the city’s diverse built heritage.
- This study is the first comprehensive review of the entire program undertaken since it was established in 1986 to mark the city’s centennial.
- This review aims to expand our understanding of heritage values, improve policies and tools to support heritage, and set strategic directions and priorities for the future.
- Public input to date has been received through several open houses, stakeholder meetings, and online questionnaires, and informed the materials presented today.

Public Support for Heritage



Value historic places and buildings



Feel heritage buildings contribute to a sense of place



Believe we need to preserve heritage buildings in Vancouver

Heritage Action Plan “Talk Vancouver” public consultation questionnaire - March 2015 (1,125 completed questionnaires)

Review Milestones



An advertising mural (circa 1920) was revealed after stucco was removed from a local pizzeria on Victoria Drive in Grandview-Woodland.



Former Canadian Pacific Railway right-of-way, historic corridor linking the Burrard Inlet and False Creek now envisioned as a public walkway.



A 30 foot memorial totem pole, carved as part of a community art project stands in the Downtown Eastside’s Oppenheimer Park.



The Canadian Packers building (1938) located in the False Creek Flats was designed by architect Eric Ross Arthur.

Heritage Conservation Program

Program Overview

VISION & GOALS

(see board 4)

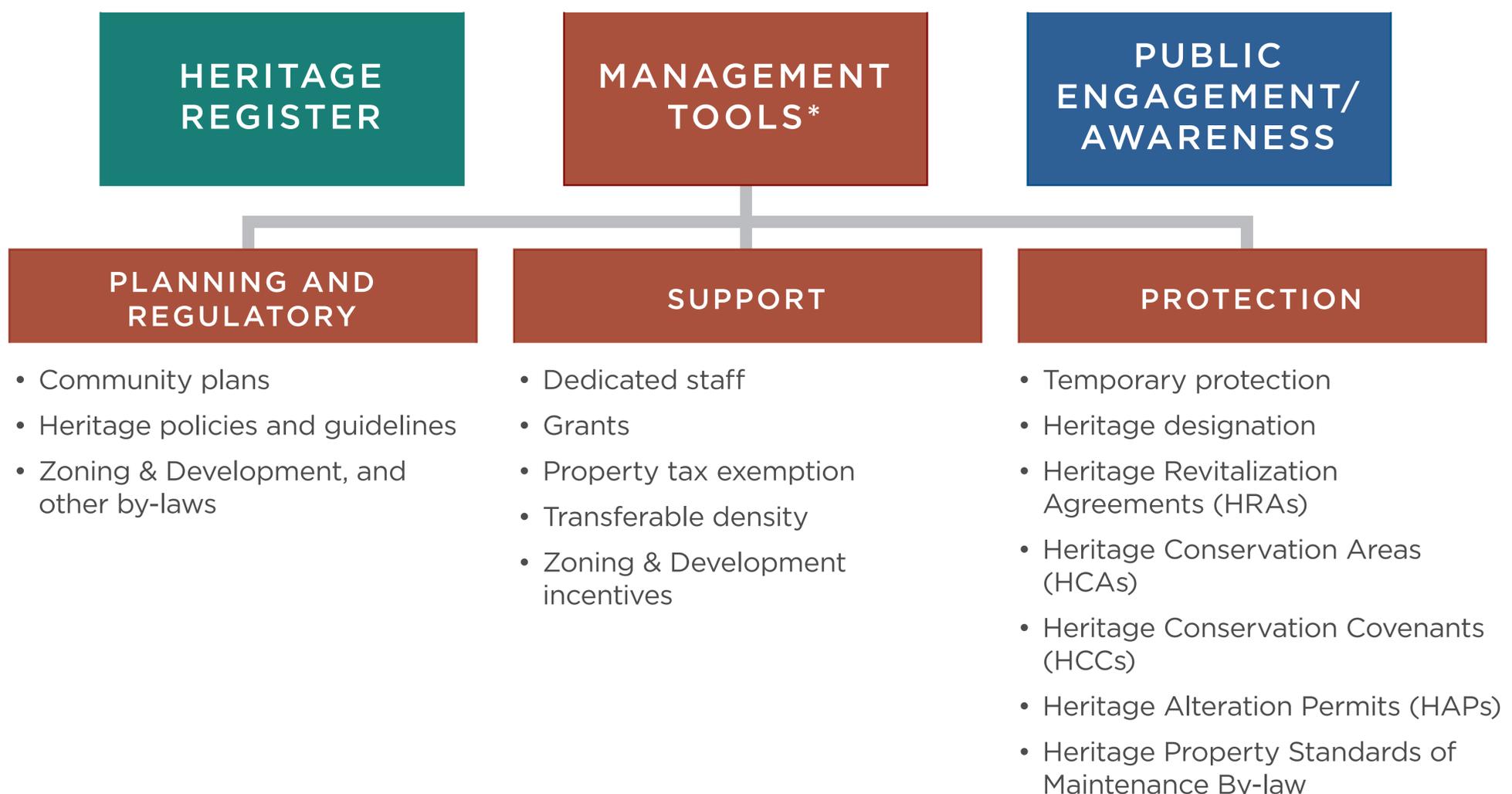
HERITAGE STRATEGY (2017-2027)

(see board 5-8)

- Strategic Directions to implement Visions & Goals
- Sets out 10 year priorities for action
- Will be monitored and updated over time

Heritage Conservation Program Components

Heritage resources are identified, supported, and celebrated through a number of program components. The new Vision and Goals for the Heritage Conservation Program and the Heritage Strategy will inform updates to these components, and detailed recommendations on policies and procedures will be developed for Council consideration.



*Management tools are enabled by the Vancouver Charter.

Heritage Conservation Program

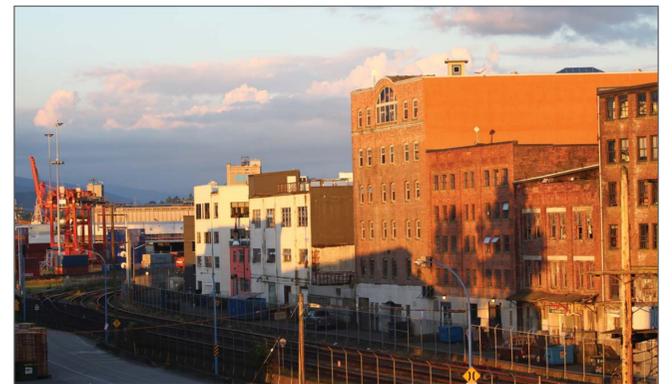
Proposed Vision

The City of Vancouver's Heritage Conservation Program encourages and fosters the retention and conservation of historic places across the city, while supporting the ongoing sustainable development of its neighbourhoods.

Proposed Goals

1 Diversity of Heritage Values

Identify, celebrate and protect a broad range of historic places, including those with social and cultural heritage values, which illustrate Vancouver's history, rich diversity, and development over time.



2 Effective Heritage Management Tools

Provide leadership through clear and consistent heritage policies, effective heritage management tools, and meaningful heritage conservation incentives.



3 Connection to Other City Goals

Acknowledge the environmental, social and cultural benefits of heritage conservation. Leverage heritage conservation to meet other City goals and strive for outcomes that balance multiple objectives.



4 Broad Public Awareness, Engagement, and Support

Promote and support the celebration and protection of the City's heritage values and historic places. Provide opportunities for a broad spectrum of public education and awareness.



Heritage Strategy

1 DIVERSITY OF HERITAGE VALUES

Proposed Strategic Directions

- Engage citizens and community partners in identifying and recognizing heritage values and historic places.
- Include consideration of heritage values and historic places into all planning-related activities.
- Update the Vancouver Heritage Register to better reflect a values-based understanding of historic places.

Proposed Actions

Engage citizens and partners

- Work with the public and community partners on initiatives that focus on the identification and celebration of heritage values.
- Host community dialogues to discuss heritage values and identify potential sites to add to the Heritage Register representing Indigenous values, multi-cultural communities, and women's history.
- Coordinate City initiatives that recognize and support diverse heritage and cultural values, including the Heritage Conservation Program, Healthy City Strategy, City of Reconciliation framework, and Canada 150+ Place Naming Project, etc.

Include heritage values in all planning work

- Undertake development of Historic Context Statements and Thematic Frameworks as part of major project and community planning initiatives.
- Utilize, refine and expand the Vancouver Historic Context Statement and Thematic Framework as a tool to understand historic places.
- Identify heritage features in the public realm, including engineering works, as opportunities arise.

Note: See board 9 for information about the Historic Context Statement and Thematic Framework.

Update the Heritage Register

- Update the Heritage Register evaluation procedures, i.e. methodology, ranking, categories.
- Address gaps in the Heritage Register by adding priority sites.

Note: See board 10 for information about the Heritage Register.

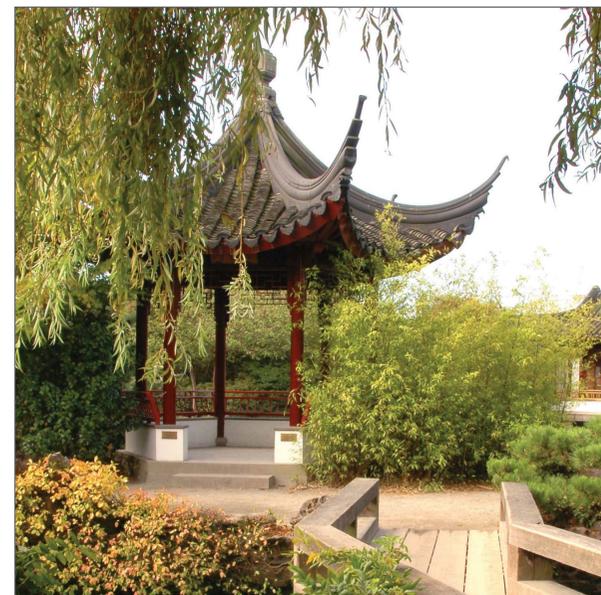


Heritage Strategy

2 EFFECTIVE HERITAGE MANAGEMENT TOOLS

Proposed Strategic Directions

- Ensure effective heritage conservation incentives by updating and expanding programs.
- Ensure supportive regulations and policies to improve flexibility and clarity.
- Streamline processing of heritage applications by clarifying permit processes, developing and training special staff teams, and improving public information.



Proposed Actions

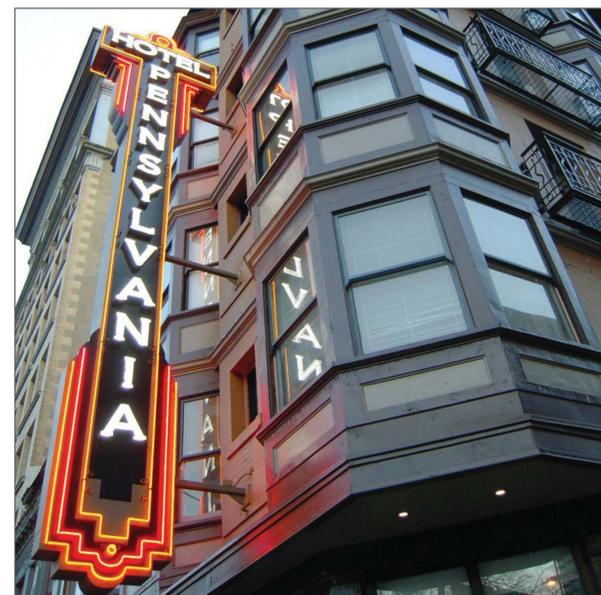
Effective Incentives

- Work with partners to expand heritage grant programs.
- Update and expand the heritage incentive program to assist with heritage conservation costs.

Note: See board 11 for information about the Heritage Incentives.

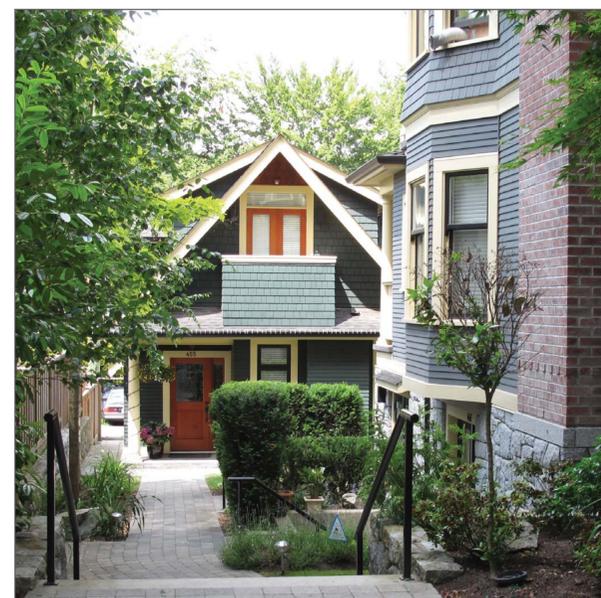
Supportive Regulations and Policies

- Amend the Vancouver Building By-law to improve clarity on sustainability requirements and alternative compliance solutions.
- Amend the Heritage Property Standards of Maintenance By-law to apply to designated heritage properties city-wide.
- Amend the Subdivision By-law to require assessment of heritage values and character of significant buildings prior to subdivision approval.
- Develop a policy and process for how future Heritage Conservation Areas will be identified and considered.



Streamlined Processing

- Supplement staff training and resources to improve permit process timing and consistency in advice from project enquiry to final inspection.
- Expand public education tools to support heritage projects.
- Flag known potential heritage sites in City database to ensure they are identified early in enquiry processes.



Heritage Strategy

3 CONNECTION TO OTHER CITY GOALS

Proposed Strategic Directions

- Apply a heritage conservation lens and instill heritage values while developing City plans, programs and policies.
- Link heritage conservation to environmental sustainability through integrated design processes and improved public and industry awareness.
- Steward the conservation of City-owned heritage resources through interdepartmental coordination and management.



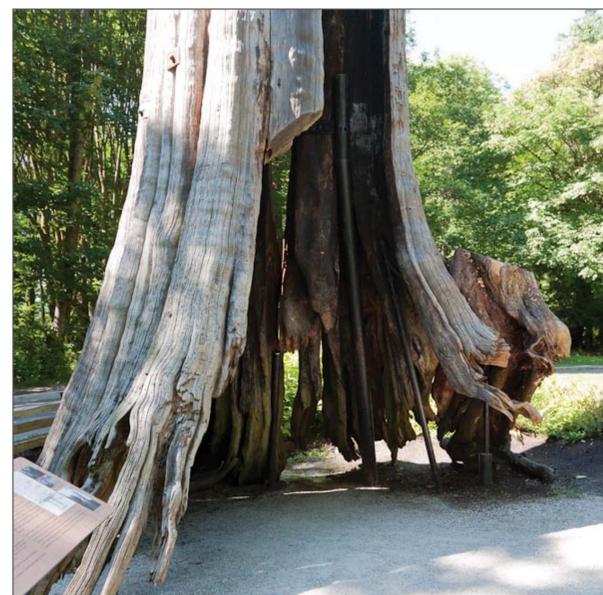
Proposed Actions

Heritage Lens

- Include heritage values when updating and developing City plans, programs and policies, i.e. Greenest City Action Plan, Housing Vancouver Strategy.

Sustainability

- Support green building innovation as part of heritage conservation.
- Encourage renovation and reuse of existing buildings, particularly those of heritage and character value.
- Undertake life-cycle assessments and carbon budget impact analysis when considering heritage building demolition and replacement.



Stewardship

- Prepare heritage conservation plans for City-owned heritage resources when undergoing renovation and renewal.
- Add City-owned sites with heritage value to the Heritage Register.



Heritage Strategy

4 BROAD PUBLIC AWARENESS, ENGAGEMENT AND SUPPORT

Proposed Strategic Directions

- Improve heritage awareness and engagement programs, tools, and resources.
- Work with interdepartmental and community partners in the celebration of heritage values and historic places.
- Maximize strategic partnerships to build greater public awareness, engagement and support for heritage.

Proposed Actions

Heritage Awareness

- Improve access to information about Heritage Register sites through expanded partner programs and improvements to the City's website.
- Strengthen the Heritage Register Plaque and Heritage Awards programs.

Strategic Partnerships

- Support expansion of partner education and awareness programs.
- Support programs, projects and initiatives that celebrate Vancouver's heritage values and historic places.

Interdepartmental and Community Coordination

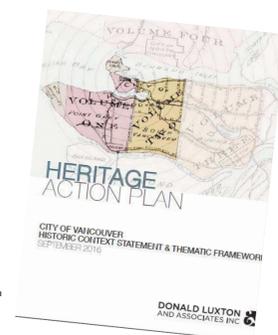
- Coordinate the documentation and management of City-led commemoration and interpretation initiatives.
- Inventory monuments, public art, and interpretive plaques in the public realm that embody heritage values and develop a process to celebrate and manage these resources.
- Review the role of heritage public advisory committees.



Historic Context and Themes

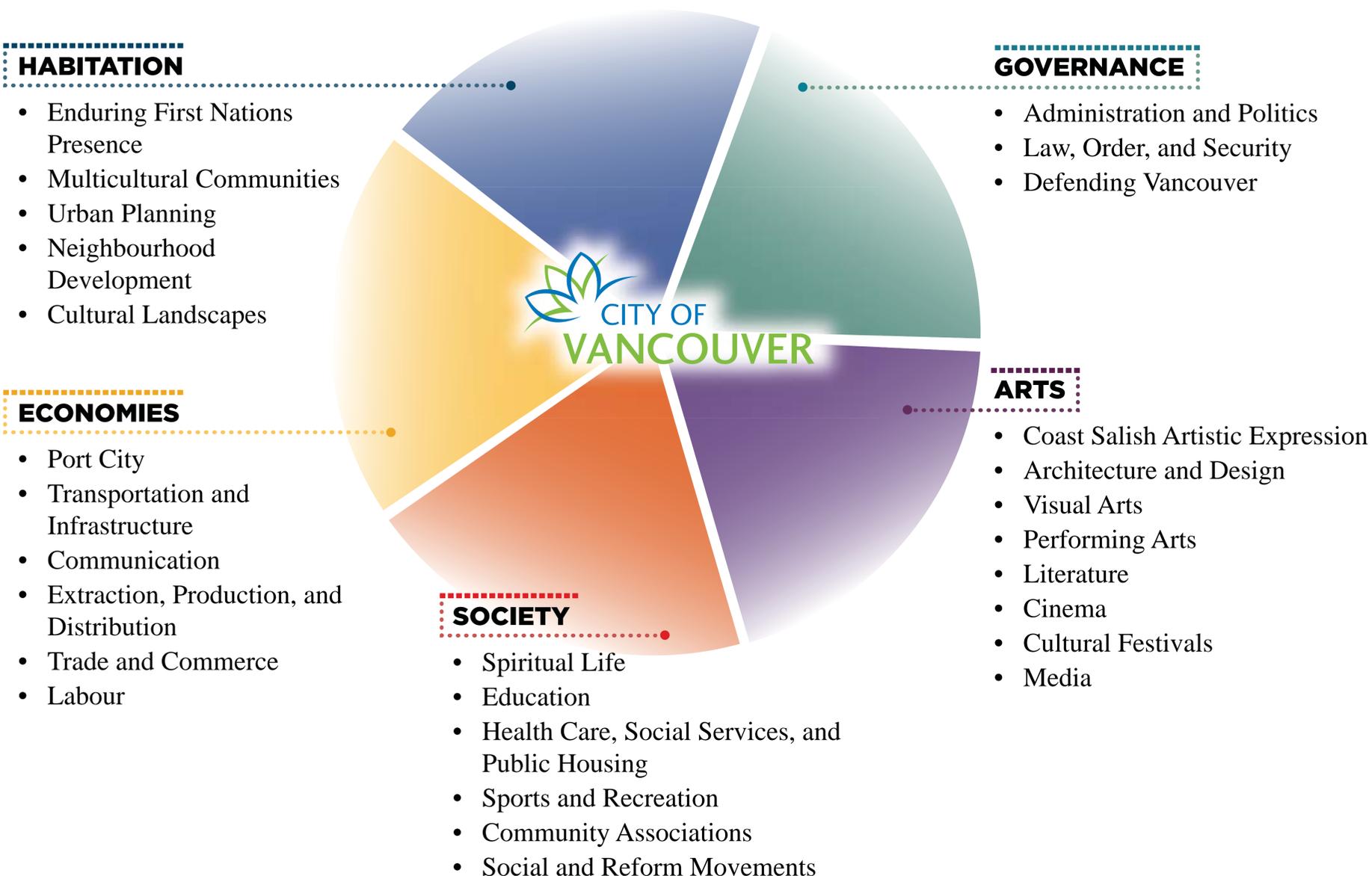
What are Historic Context Statements and Thematic Frameworks?

- These tools summarize and describe any aspect of the past, either tangible or intangible, such as a city's history, and people, events, and eras that shaped it.
- They support understanding, assist in describing heritage values, and can inform planning work. Recent examples include: Pre-1940 recent landmarks, Japantown, Grandview-Woodland, and Marpole.
- An Historic Context Statement and Thematic Framework for Vancouver have been prepared by the consultants. They are dynamic documents that will be refined and expanded in an ongoing basis through community engagement and input as part of the implementation of the Heritage Strategy.
- A diagram of the draft themes is presented below.



Draft Historic Themes for Vancouver

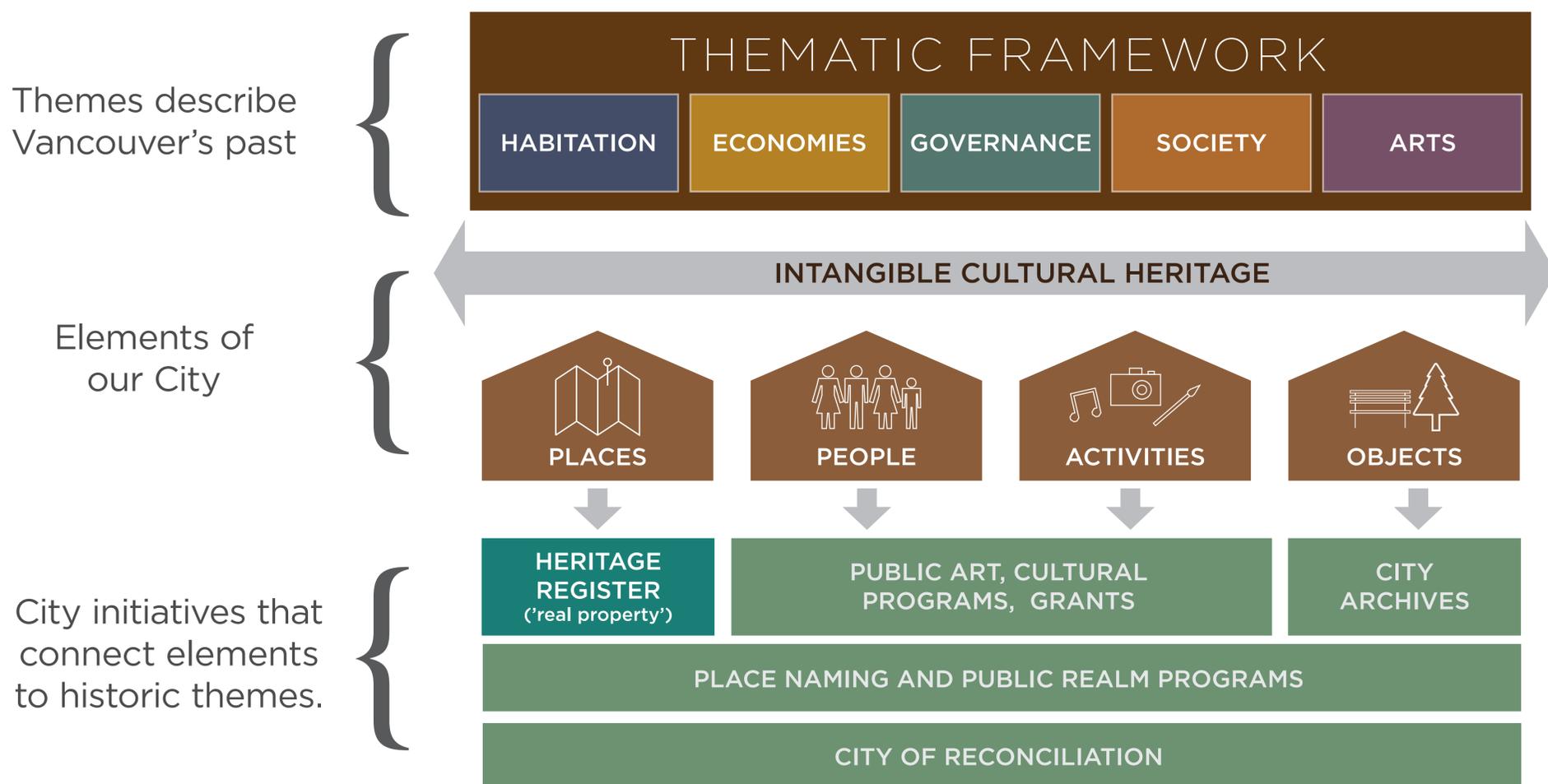
Each theme has several sub-themes and detailed components that provide additional layers of descriptive information. These themes can be used to inform additions to the Vancouver Heritage Register and other civic initiatives.



Heritage Register

Using Historic Themes to Inform City Initiatives

Themes can help describe a society's collective cultural history and assist in identifying and understanding key heritage values, as well as inform a wide range of initiatives.



About the Vancouver Heritage Register (VHR)

- The Register is an inventory of 'real property', (which means land and every improvement thereon) identified heritage value, and heritage character.
- Currently there are nearly 2,200 sites on the Register, including buildings, structures, streetscapes, landscape resources, and archaeological sites.
- Buildings only need to be a minimum of 20 years old to be considered for the Register.
- Many community values have intangible qualities which may be difficult to include on the Register, if not directly associated with 'real property'.

Identifying Gaps

- A number of gaps exist in the Register, reflecting the approach used to identify sites in the 1980s when it was created.
- Primary gaps include sites reflecting Indigenous history, multicultural communities and women.
- Engagement with these groups will be undertaken to discuss heritage values and identify potential sites for addition to the Register, as well as to inform other initiatives.

Creating a New Approach to the Heritage Register

- Review of the following is also underway as part of this study:
 - Values-based criteria and process to evaluate potential sites
 - Ranking system (currently sites are ranked A, B or C)
 - Register categories
- Recommendations are forthcoming.

Heritage Incentives

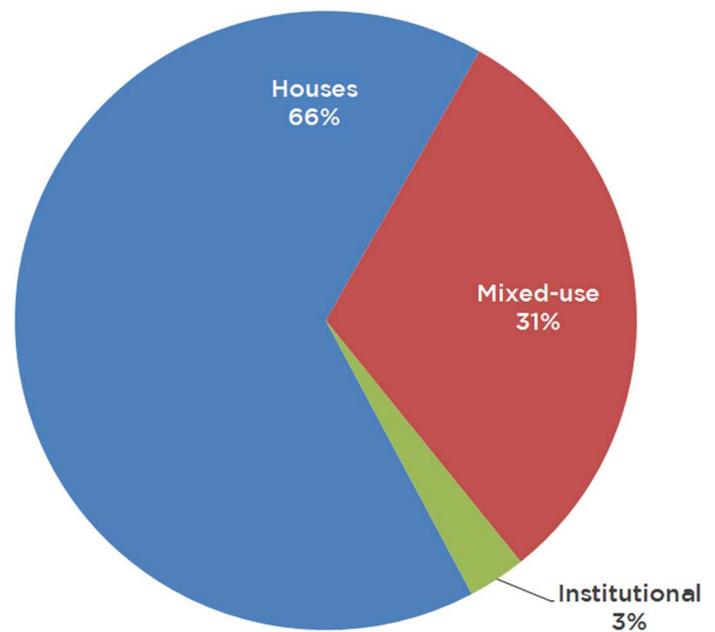
Supporting Heritage Conservation

A variety of incentive tools exist to support the long-term objective of heritage conservation. Sites must be on the Heritage Register to receive incentives through the Heritage Conservation Program. In exchange for incentives, the City typically seeks long-term protection of the property.

Conservation Opportunities

- Being on the Heritage Register means that a property owner can seek incentives from the City to support heritage conservation.
- Of the approximately 2,200 buildings on the Register, only 25% are legally protected from demolition.
- Analysis of the types of buildings on the Register is an important part of updating the incentive tools and understanding needed support, as some incentive tools are best suited for the conservation of certain types of buildings.

Building Types on the Register



Creating a New Approach to Heritage Incentives

- Review of the incentives and support tools is underway as part of this study.
- The following approach is informing this review:
 - Available city-wide and matched to building type suitability (see adjacent table)
 - Based on assisting with costs associated directly with heritage conservation
 - Criteria will be established to determine priority projects
 - Predictable to applicants and manageable within the City budget
- Recommendations are forthcoming.

Incentives under Review

Building Type	Incentive Tool
Houses (66%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zoning & development tools <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Additional uses - Bonus density (on-site) - Relaxations • Grants
Mixed-use/commercial/residential (31%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zoning & development tools <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Additional uses - Bonus density (on-site) - Relaxations • Grants • Transferable density (off-site) • Property tax exemption
Institutional (3%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zoning & development tools <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Additional uses - Bonus density (on-site) - Relaxations

Thank you!

Thank you for attending today's open house. Before leaving please take a few moments to complete a questionnaire and share your comments with us or complete it online by **July 31, 2017**.

Next steps



Do you have any questions?

Speak to staff for more details, to have your questions answered, and let us know what you think.

Ways to stay in touch:

Join our e-mail list: vancouver.ca/heritage-action-plan

Contact us by e-mail: heritageactionplan@vancouver.ca

Spread the word:



#HeritageActionPlan

All information presented is available online at:
vancouver.ca/heritage-action-plan

Have your say!

Which historic places in Vancouver do you value?

Have your say!

What does 'heritage' mean to you?