

#### CITY OF VANCOUVER

# **POLICY REPORT URBAN STRUCTURE**

Date:

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Meeting Date: February 15, 2005

TO:

**Vancouver City Council** 

FROM:

Director of Current Planning, in consultation with Manager of Special Projects, General Manager of Engineering Services, Director of the

Housing Centre, Director of Social Planning, Director of the Office of

**Cultural Affairs, and Director of Corporate Communications** 

**SUBJECT:** 

Chinatown Revitalization Program (Phase II):

Chinatown Community Plan and Ongoing Community Development

#### RECOMMENDATION

- THAT Council approve the development of a Chinatown Community Plan as the A. second phase of the Chinatown Revitalization Program, based on the work program outlined in this report.
- THAT Council instruct staff to begin organizing the Chinatown Community Plan B. at a cost of \$57,680, without offset, which will be added to the Community Services Group's 2005 operating budget, subject to 2005 budget considerations.
- THAT, subject to 2005 budget considerations, Council approve staffing **C**. resources for the development of a Chinatown Community Plan, including:
  - i. A temporary Policy Planner for a 32 month period, to develop policies and manage the overall work program, subject to classification by the General Manager of Human Resources, at an approximate cost of \$57,680 for 2005, \$88,685 for 2006 and \$90,905 for 2007 including benefits.

- ii. A temporary half-time Heritage Urban Designer (Development Planner II) for an 18 month period, to examine complex development projects and develop an overall urban design strategy for Chinatown, at an approximate cost of \$28,840 for 2005 and \$36,955 for 2006 including benefits. If necessary, the funding will be converted into a consultancy.
- iii. A temporary Social Planner for a 32 month period, to continue and build on the community development work in Chinatown and the Downtown Eastside area, subject to classification by the General Manager of Human Resources, at an approximate cost of \$57,680 for 2005, \$88,685 for 2006 and \$90,905 for 2007 including benefits.
- D. THAT, subject to 2005 budget considerations, funds in the amount of \$140,750 be allocated, without offset, for program development, public consultation, communications and research.
- E. THAT the Director of Current Planning, in consultation with relevant departments and the Manager of Special Projects, report back at least once a year on the progress of the Chinatown Community Plan, including the following strategies as priorities:
  - i. A strategy for the rehabilitation of the buildings owned by the family association and benevolent societies in Chinatown;
  - ii. A strategy for residential intensification and land use for Chinatown;
  - iii. A parking strategy for Chinatown; and,
  - iv. An update on the community development initiatives in the Chinatown and Downtown Eastside area.
- F. THAT Council direct staff to continue to work with the senior governments through the Vancouver Agreement to leverage funding for the implementation of the Chinatown Community Plan.

#### **GENERAL MANAGER'S COMMENTS**

The General Manager of Community Services RECOMMENDS approval of the above.

#### **CITY MANAGER'S COMMENTS**

The City Manager RECOMMENDS approval of the above.

#### **COUNCIL POLICY**

In 1998 Council approved A Program of Strategic Actions for the Downtown Eastside, which includes an application to the National Crime Prevention Centre for an extensive community mobilization and capacity building project in the Downtown Eastside.

In July 2002 Council approved the Chinatown Vision Directions to help guide City policy decisions, priorities, budgets and capital plans in the Chinatown community.

In June 2003 Council approved heritage incentives for Gastown and Chinatown, including the Heritage Façade Rehabilitation Program and the Heritage Building Rehabilitation Program.

In May 2004 Council passed a resolution instructing staff to report back on the steps necessary to establish, in consultation with community leaders, a comprehensive community plan, based on the Chinatown Vision, to encourage private sector investment in Chinatown.

#### **PURPOSE**

This report recommends Council approve a three-year work program to develop and implement a Chinatown Community Plan as the second phase of the Chinatown Revitalization Program, including an action plan and budget requests for staffing and program development.

#### **BACKGROUND**

## Chinatown and the Chinese-Canadian Community

Vancouver's Chinatown has long since been an active and diverse community with many organizations providing programs and services that enhance its role as the heart of the Chinese-Canadian community and a significant historic area with a unique cultural and heritage legacy. However, the profound changes that have occurred within Vancouver's Chinese-Canadian community over the past thirty years pose a critical challenge to the revitalization of Vancouver's Chinatown.

The residential pattern of the Chinese Canadian community shifted from a single population centred in the historic Chinatown area to polycentric populations settled around a number of urban and suburban clusters throughout the Greater Vancouver region. Shifts in commercial activities soon followed the residential settlement changes and consequently Chinatown is no longer the only place that provides Asian goods and services. These developments in the Vancouver area paralleled those experienced in many other North American jurisdictions and illustrate the need for a new approach to the revitalization of urban Chinatowns.

#### Chinatown Revitalization Program (2000-2004)

The Chinatown Revitalization Program began in 2000 as part of the Downtown Eastside Revitalization Program. It was supported by funds from the National Crime Prevention Centre (NCPC) to initiate a community development and mobilization process, bringing together local stakeholders to address the issues of community safety and economic revitalization. The five-year DTES Crime Prevention / Community Development Project has often been referred to as the NCPC Project.

With the assistance of the NCPC Project, the Vancouver Chinatown Revitalization Committee (VCRC) was officially formed in January 2001 to bring together more than twenty of the area's social, cultural, resident, and business groups to work in collaboration with the City to develop short-term revitalization initiatives as well as a long-term vision for Chinatown, along

with strategies to implement that vision. The three levels of government, through the Vancouver Agreement, have already supported and funded a number of these initiatives and capital projects recommended by the VCRC.

Chinatown Vision (July 2002)

Working closely with the VCRC and the Chinatown community, staff studied land use changes that took place in Chinatown from 1970 to 2000, conducted a telephone survey to better understand the Chinese-Canadian market for Chinatown, and researched the revitalization experiences of other North American Chinatowns. The research confirmed that Chinatown's major strengths are its retail shops, cultural facilities, markets and festivals. It also concluded that a successful revitalization strategy should be targeted at attracting more residents, young people and visitors to the area.

After an extensive public process, the Chinatown Vision Directions were developed and endorsed by 38 Chinatown organizations and 7 other resident groups in area neighbourhoods (Appendix A). In July 2002, City Council adopted the Chinatown Vision Directions to guide City policy decisions in the Chinatown community. A number of initiatives have been implemented since then which move towards realization of the Vision. This has resulted in increased interest in the revitalization process.

With the NCPC Project ending in March 2004, Council requested staff report back on the steps necessary to develop a Chinatown Community Plan, based on the Chinatown Vision, which will encourage private sector investment in Chinatown and improve conditions for those who live, work and visit the area. This report outlines a three-year action plan and associated budget for the development of a Chinatown Community Plan.

#### DISCUSSION

#### Area Context: Downtown Eastside Revitalization

Chinatown is part of the downtown core and one of the Downtown Eastside (DTES) area's diverse communities. The Chinatown Community Plan will be part of an overall strategy to revitalize this part of the City's historic precinct. Appendix B outlines the plans and strategies that are currently being developed and/or implemented in the Downtown Eastside.

#### Chinatown Vision Implementation: 3-Year Action Plan

Implementation of the Chinatown Vision is an ongoing effort. Appendix C outlines a three-year Action Plan to develop critical strategies and ultimately a comprehensive community plan. The plan focuses on an expansion of residential development, including non-market housing, revitalization of the retail and business district of Chinatown, youth and senior involvement, and enhancement of Chinatown's role as a regional social and cultural hub.

The Action Plan includes five key areas of work and lists actions to be undertaken by the City, recognizing there are many other community initiatives underway. Actions which could be carried out by the community or other agencies without the City's direct involvement are not listed. The five areas are:

Community and Social Development;

- Residential Intensification and Land Use;
- Public Realm and Transportation;
- Cultural Development; and,
- Economic Development.

The following section provides background information, highlights of the achievements, lessons learned, recent developments and next steps required in these five areas of work. The timing for the action plan implementation is subject to Council approval of the staffing and program funding requests.

# 1. Community and Social Development

Community development and public education are integral components to the success of the Chinatown revitalization work to date. In 2000 when the City approached local leaders and invited them to establish a community steering group to address health, safety and economic issues in the area, the climate was one of significant tension and mistrust. A number of community groups in Chinatown, Strathcona and Gastown voiced strong public opposition to the City's approach to addressing the impacts of the illegal drug trade and demanded a stronger enforcement strategy. Chinatown's leadership was concerned that more drug dealers and addicts would be drawn to the area as a result of implementing harm reduction strategies and that this would further weaken the area's economy. Residents and agencies that supported additional low income housing, health and social services in the area also staged protests.

Staff resources were dedicated to work with the community and hold workshops and focus group discussions in order to foster better understanding of the drug and poverty issues facing the area. A proactive Chinese media strategy was also developed to ensure that the information being disseminated to the immigrant community presented a balanced discussion of these critical issues. Over the years, this work in capacity building, leadership development and public education, has resulted in the Chinatown community working strategically with the City and other levels of governments to discuss issues and develop a future plan for the area. A testament to these efforts was when key Chinatown organizations came forward to support the City's four-pillar drug strategy.

Relationships with low income resident groups and agencies have also been improved. One example was the successful fundraising event in May 2003 that was organized by the VCRC to celebrate the Carnegie Community Centre's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary and to raise money for an arts endowment fund. This was the first large community event that brought together leaders and communities from diverse neighbourhoods and socio-economic backgrounds that traditionally did not interact.

#### **Next Steps**

While the community development efforts in Chinatown provide a foundation for revitalization work to be possible, the issues are extremely complex. These positive relationships between the area's diverse communities and with the City need to be maintained and nurtured. In order to sustain this success, there must be staff resources dedicated to this community development work which is essential to continue engaging the many organizations in Chinatown and the DTES to discuss the issues that concern them most, build consensus, foster community cohesion and work towards a common vision.

Other neighbourhoods in the DTES are developing their own processes to build capacity and develop initiatives that are modelled after the process in the Chinatown area. For example, the Strathcona community is learning from the Chinatown experience and formed a Strathcona Revitalization Committee last year. Similar interest has been expressed in Gastown. The Action Plan of this report outlines the community development work needed in the Chinatown and Strathcona areas.

#### 2. Residential Intensification and Land Use

Residential intensification has been identified as a central goal in the Chinatown Vision. New residents in the area will create an increased demand for local commercial services that will subsequently increase business opportunities and fill empty storefronts. They will also help improve public safety by providing more eyes on the street and encourage conservation of many of the area's heritage buildings by re-occupying vacant upper storeys.

The four key housing directions identified in the Chinatown Vision are:

- Encourage market housing;
- Improve living conditions in the existing hotels;
- Encourage affordable rental housing; and,
- Explore possibilities of housing in the upper floors of buildings with commercial storefronts.

The recently completed Chinatown Market Housing Study explores ways to expand the area's housing stock while maintaining the existing social, cultural and historic character of the district. To ensure that new development in Chinatown blends in or enhances the unique attributes of the neighbourhood, a team of architects were commissioned by the City to examine several Chinatown building typologies. They proposed several new development models which were displayed at a well-attended open house on September 11, 2004, and which received a great deal of positive feedback from the public.

The Study concluded that the existing fine-grain development pattern is integral to Chinatown's urban fabric from both a design and economic perspective. Traditionally, buildings in Chinatown were about 50'-70' tall and were built on narrow lots (25' or 50' wide) and current property ownership patterns still reflect this fine-grain development pattern. The study determined that both new and renovated buildings need to be at a scale compatible with this historic character. This will provide Chinatown with a strong economic distinctiveness in the housing market.

#### **Next Steps**

#### 1) Housing Policies

Much of Chinatown was developed with housing above shops. The housing was mainly for single Chinese immigrant men. Over time many of these spaces were converted to offices, storage, society uses or left empty. Almost all of the current housing in the area is either SRO units or social housing. There are currently no market condo units and only a limited number of rental units in the area.

Staff will develop housing policies to encourage affordable market housing and replace the stock of low-income SRO units with better quality housing targeted to low-income and aging residents. The overall housing policies for Chinatown are being developed through the Downtown Eastside Housing Plan process. The DTES Housing Plan will be brought before Council in the winter of 2005 for adoption.

# 2) New Developments: comprehensive land use and parking strategies

Chinatown has a number of sites that are currently vacant or contain buildings with little heritage value which can be used for new construction. Under the existing guidelines, several new buildings have given expression to larger aggregations that are not in character with the area's fine-grained historic fabric. Staff will carry out a comprehensive review and propose regulations and guidelines that will encourage narrow lot development and new construction on larger lots to be more compatible with the area's current urban design pattern. This will include a comprehensive land use strategy for residential intensification with a report back to Council in the fall of 2005, should the budget for the three-year work program be approved.

In addition to the land use strategy, a renewed parking strategy is essential to appropriate redevelopment of Chinatown's narrow lots. Staff will review this issue and prepare the necessary amendments to the parking bylaw. Should the budget for the three-year work program be approved, a comprehensive parking strategy would be developed by the fall of 2005 to help facilitate development on narrow-lots. The strategy will also examine the overall parking capacity for Chinatown and its adjacent areas and explore the possibility of using parking relaxation as an incentive for affordable rental housing developments.

# 3) Heritage Buildings: façade and building rehabilitation incentives

The Heritage Incentive Program, introduced by the City for Chinatown, Gastown and the Hastings Corridor last year, is designed to encourage the conservation and rehabilitation of heritage buildings. To date, there have been 3 projects completed; 6 applications; and, 10 serious inquiries. Of these, there are two applications in process and two pending for buildings in the Chinatown area.

Chinatown currently has thirty-two (32) buildings on the Vancouver Heritage Register. Outreach efforts, including promotional material and workshops to better inform property owners of those heritage buildings about the Program are currently underway.

There are also nineteen (19) character buildings that could potentially be added to the Register, should the owners choose to do so. In October 2004, Council approved funds to match a provincial government contribution to hire consultants to develop Statements of Significance for these character buildings so they could be candidates for national as well as City heritage incentives. Staff and community representatives will meet with property owners of the buildings to encourage them to take advantage of these incentives by adding their buildings to the Register.

# 4) Family and Society Buildings: facilitation and special incentives

Of Chinatown's 32 heritage buildings, approximately 15 are owned by a family association or a benevolent society. The society meeting rooms in these buildings are of important heritage

value. Currently, staff are working with the Chinese Canadian Historical Society to better understand the social and architectural history of these associations and their buildings.

Staff will work closely with the family associations and benevolent societies and report back to Council in 2005 on the possibility of special incentives to upgrade these buildings and the unique design features and artefacts they contain, subject to the approval of the three-year work program.

# 3. Public Realm and Transportation

In recent years a number of significant public realm improvements have been completed, including the Millennium Gate, Shanghai Alley, the Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Courtyard, the historic markers, pedestrian lighting, and the Chinatown Memorial Square. These projects not only commemorate the history of Chinatown but also strengthen its cultural identity and create opportunities for many community organizations to work together. The planning of physical improvements and cultural events has also helped bring different DTES community organizations together.

#### **Next Steps**

Studies indicate that improving the linkages to nearby neighbourhoods - Strathcona, Gastown, International Village and City Gate - is essential for creating and enhancing vibrant and sustainable retail in Chinatown. While local merchants are working on marketing strategies for the area, the Greenway and upcoming transit projects will enhance the physical links that help promote movement between Chinatown and the adjacent neighbourhoods. This will also help bring more visitors to the area, contribute to the economic revitalization efforts in the DTES, and ensure this community is a strong part of a larger regional economy.

# 1) Chinatown Memorial Square

In this plan, the Chinatown Memorial Square (at Keefer and Columbia) has been identified as a strategic place making and community development opportunity. The Chinatown Memorial Square is the south-west entrance to Chinatown and the community has been using this space to hold public events such as the Chinatown Festival. It has been identified as a potential Downtown Street Car station and as an important node for the Downtown Historic Trail/Silk Road Project. Currently, the VCRC is working on a proposal to engage the wider community in discussing ways to improve this space. Staff will be working closely with the community to bring all of these design opportunities together.

#### 2) Downtown Streetcar Project

The Downtown Streetcar will provide a unique transportation service for Chinatown that is well suited to its specific historic and cultural environments and needs. The Downtown Streetcar will focus on providing community transit for its residents as well as support its tourism and economic development. Specific attention to Chinatown's streetcar station location and design will provide opportunities to enhance its public realm.

Council approved proceeding with further work on planning for the Downtown Streetcar in 2003, including determining more accurate ridership estimates, both commuters as well as tourist and recreational users, and defining a more detailed layout plan for track location and

operation. A report back to Council on the findings of the Downtown Streetcar project update is anticipated in early 2005.

# 3) Public Realm & Transportation Projects to Foster Linkages to Nearby Neighbourhoods

The following projects have been identified as other priority public realm and transportation projects through the Downtown Transportation Plan, the Greenway Program, the Street Furniture Program, and the DTES Economic Revitalization Plan. They are essential to the future of a revitalized Chinatown with a focus on public infrastructure improvements and new physical links that will promote movement between Chinatown and adjacent neighbourhoods. These projects include:

- Carrall Street Greenway;
- Downtown Historic Trail Greenway;
- Main Street Transit Showcase Project;
- New street furniture; and,
- Way-finding system.

The majority of these projects already have some staffing and programming resources allocated for project development and implementation. However, with so many public realm initiatives underway, it is essential that they all be properly coordinated and designed in a manner that is consistent not only with the Chinatown Vision but other area-wide plans.

#### 4) Neon Signs

Restoration of the colourful neon signs with Chinese characteristics has been identified as one means to help revitalize Chinatown. This requires design research and work with the sign industry to select the appropriate neon signs for the Chinatown area as well as drafting potential amendments to the sign by-law. Most importantly, property and business owners must be engaged in a process that will encourage them to purchase and use the neon lights.

#### 4. Cultural Development

Chinatown has many layers of history and is part of several social networks. All Chinatowns across Canada and the United States have historically served a vital function for new immigrants. Chinatown institutions and services usually reach beyond their geographic boundaries and in some Chinatowns serve as the regional centres not only for Chinese, but other people of Asian decent.

In the past three decades, Chinatowns have also evolved to play a critical role in shaping the local city and regional economic, social, and political landscape. The long-term viability of these Chinatowns as residential, commercial and cultural centres remains a key issue for Chinese-Canadians and Chinese-Americans. For example, the Chinatown USA Project, which took place in 1992, brought together community leaders from Chinatowns in eight major American cities to discuss issues of common concern affecting their respective communities, particularly in housing and community development.

While the Vancouver Chinatown revitalization process continues to evolve, Chinatowns in other jurisdictions are looking to our process as an example and model. New York's Rebuilding Chinatown Initiative which was launched in the aftermath of September 11

referred to Vancouver's community development experience in their planning process. Seattle's International District community members, through the University of Washington and the City of Seattle, already had two exchange workshops with Vancouver City staff and Chinatown community leaders to learn from each other's planning experiences and develop future partnership opportunities.

Academic presence in Chinatown, as part of the cultural precinct concept, has also been identified as a goal of the Vision. University students and faculty are bringing forward fresh ideas that help raise awareness of important community issues and their possible solutions. The Chinatown Vision also calls for more young people - especially students - living, working and visiting the area. ESL schools and post secondary institutions have many other spin offs that could help local cultural facilities and the economic vitality.

Partnerships with universities have been developed through the public lecture series "Repositioning Chinatown in Time and Space," an event co-organized by the City, the VCRC, UBC and SFU. The partnership will continue through the UBC Green College Thematic Lecture Series "Re-thinking Chinatown: urbanism mediated through community" throughout the year. All of the lectures in these series have been very well attended.

In addition to the public lectures, in 2003 the UBC School of Architecture established a Chinatown Design and Research Studio on Columbia Street in the Chinese Cultural Centre complex. This community-based studio generates interesting design ideas, partners with the community to hold public open houses, provides a venue for inter-disciplinary discussions on Chinatown community issues, provides the students with community-based learning experiences, and helps bring many young people into the area. The City has been facilitating the establishment of this studio.

#### Next Steps

Vancouver Chinatown is taking leadership in multicultural planning for a diverse community, and developing itself as a unique cultural precinct for local, regional, national and even global communities. This plan encourages these kinds of partnerships and requires that staff resources be available to continue facilitating strategic initiatives with community organizations and educational institutions. Staff will initiate this work with the community and report back as specific projects emerge.

#### 5. Economic Development

Currently, Chinatown contains many commercial premises that sell basic goods and services or arts, cultural or tourism-oriented products. Diversification of this base has been identified as a goal of the Vision. With funding from the Vancouver Agreement and City staff assistance, local business organizations such as the Vancouver Chinatown Merchants Association (VCMA) and the Business Improvement Association (BIA) launched a series of marketing and promotional initiatives.

A logo was developed to strengthen Chinatown's marketing identity; a bilingual campaign was also launched to re-position Chinatown as friendly to English as well as Chinese speaking customers; shopping tours were developed for residents from International Village, City Gate and Strathcona; a resource kit, including a CD-Rom, was created and distributed among the tour operators to familiarize the tourism industry with the products Chinatown can offer; and

a three-year Marketing Plan was completed to guide the local business community in developing a holistic Chinatown experience and a consistent marketing presence.

## **Next Steps**

Local business organizations will continue taking the lead to work with local merchants in implementing the Chinatown Marketing Plan and to initiate other business improvement projects. Staff will continue providing support and facilitation to enhance community participation in this process.

The foundation of the Chinatown economy continues to be centred on small enterprises. It is essential to work with the local business community to ensure a healthy mix of services and therefore the delivery of a holistic Chinatown experience for local residents and visitors. These efforts will be supported through the implementation of the Vancouver Agreement's DTES Economic Revitalization Plan which focuses on programs that systematically help retain existing businesses, attract new businesses and social enterprises, and provide employment opportunities for local residents.

#### **Program Staffing**

The three-year Action Plan involves a wide range of City departments and boards and includes various policy reviews. To complete the planning work outlined in this report, a team comprised of a Policy Planner, a Heritage Urban Designer and a Community Development Social Planner is required, with support from the existing planning staff. A Project Steering Committee will be established with directors and managers of participating departments in this report to guide policy development of the Chinatown Community Plan.

A temporary Policy Planner position is proposed to: 1) manage the overall work program; 2) develop planning initiatives such as a land use strategy for residential intensification, public realm plan and a cultural development strategy; 3) track and follow up on implementation actions; 4) help assess and monitor the effectiveness of zoning amendments, development applications, and public works in Chinatown for consistency with the Chinatown Vision; and, 5) facilitate communication and co-operation between City staff and the community. The Planner would be responsible for preparing the annual progress report to City Council, in consultation with the community and other staff from the City and the Vancouver Agreement.

The nature of development in cultural/historical precincts demands a more delicate intervention of new construction with existing built form which equates to additional enquiry time in the resolution of successful solutions. These early solutions will become precedent setting and inform future market responses, therefore we need to devote adequate attention to "getting it right" with the first wave of completed projects. These sites are generally characterized by challenging adjacencies, with related Vancouver Building Bylaw implications leading to complex technical solutions that achieve objectives for by-law compliance, built-form quality, livability and innovation in housing form.

A half-time Heritage Urban Designer (Development Planner II) is also proposed for an 18-month period to: 1) lead interdepartmental and community discussions in developing new housing and building types that address the unique challenges and opportunities of the Chinatown context, including economic viability and optimizing fit within the heritage context and house market; and, 2) lead development of specific financial and adaptive re-use

strategies for the heritage buildings and interiors owned by family associations. Staff may seek to combine urban design resource needs of other projects which may end up equaling a full-time resource or, if necessary, to convert the funding into a consultancy.

A temporary Social Planner position is proposed to continue the community development work in the Chinatown and Strathcona areas. This will include: 1) liaising with and providing support to the Vancouver Chinatown Revitalization Committee and other community organizations; 2) assisting the community in developing initiatives for sustainable youth and senior involvement; 3) engaging the cross-cultural community in developing partnerships; 4) continuing public education work with community leaders and the ethnic media; and, 5) providing linkages between the community groups and the work of the Vancouver Agreement.

#### **COMMUNICATIONS**

A communication strategy will be developed with the Corporate Communications Division. The objective of the strategy will be to support the public processes that will be needed on the various initiatives. Another objective will be to develop a mechanism whereby citizens and researchers from other jurisdictions can easily find information about Vancouver's comprehensive approach towards the revitalization of its Chinatown.

Currently, there is no mechanism for people to easily obtain an overview of our Chinatown strategy and the numerous individual initiatives the City has undertaken and will be undertaking with the community. The result is that critical staff time is taken up with assembling and explaining information for each request.

The communications budget includes development of tools for outreach, such as print advertising in support of open house and workshops, display materials for venue activities, as well as a comprehensive Web site, templates for facts sheets, and a brochure on the program. A significant amount of the budget costs are loaded into the first year due to start up costs for original design and production of the website, venue displays, and print material.

#### FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Total cost of the 32-month program including salaries and benefits for two temporary full-time positions, one temporary half-time position and overhead and programming budget totals \$681,085 as outlined in Appendix D. Both temporary full-time positions are subject to classification by the General Manager of Human Resources. This report proposes that the work program start in May 2005 and that the total budget of \$681,085 for the 32 month period be approved in advance of the 2005-2007 budget consideration, without offset.

In January 2005, the staff team was assembled to start preparations for the start of the Chinatown Community Plan work in May 2005. The cost of \$57,680 associated with the start-up activities will be added to the Community Services Group's 2005 operating budget, without offset, subject to 2005 budget considerations.

#### PUBLIC CONSULTATION FEEDBACK

The success of the Chinatown revitalization work to date is built on community support. The following key Chinatown organizations have reviewed the three-year action plan, and

expressed strong support and interest in their future participation in development of the community plan:

- Vancouver Chinatown Merchants Association;
- Vancouver Chinatown BIA;
- Chinese Cultural Centre;
- Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Chinese Classical Garden:
- SUCCESS:
- Vancouver Chinatown Revitalization Committee; and.
- Vancouver Chinatown Historic Area Planning Committee.

Letters of support are attached in Appendix E.

#### CONCLUSION

The Chinatown Revitalization Program has been successful in bringing together people with diverse backgrounds to work together on revitalizing Chinatown. The program developed the Chinatown Vision, strengthened the partnership between Chinatown and its neighbouring communities, leveraged funding for many initiatives, and created a momentum in the community to work together for a common goal.

Development of a Chinatown Community Plan is timely, given the emerging initiatives in the area and the opportunities presented. The momentum built through the NCPC Project presents a good opportunity to pull together diverse areas of work such as urban design, residential intensification, community development, cultural and economic revitalization.

Staff recommend that Council approve a three-year work program, including an action plan and budget requests for staffing and program development, to develop and implement the Chinatown Community Plan as the second phase of the Chinatown Revitalization Program.

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# **Appendices**

Appendix A Chinatown Vision Directions

Appendix B Area Context: Downtown Eastside Revitalization Plans

Appendix C Three-year Action Plan

Appendix D Break-down of Budget

Appendix E Letters of Support from the Chinatown Community Organizations

# Appendix A

# Chinatown Vision Directions (Adopted by Council July 22, 2002)

## A Place that Tells the History with its Physical Environment ...

- 1. Heritage Building Preservation
  - 1.1. Create incentives to preserve heritage buildings
  - 1.2. Strengthen architectural, historic and cultural tours
  - 1.3. Enhance awareness of heritage buildings
- 2. Commemoration of Chinese-Canadian and Chinatown History
  - 2.1. Foster the understanding of Chinese-Canadian and Chinatown History
  - 2.2. Develop monuments and destinations to commemorate Chinese-Canadian history
  - 2.3. Form partnerships with educational institutions
- 3. Public Realm Improvements
  - 3.1. Improve pedestrian lighting
  - 3.2. Encourage restoration of neon signs
  - 3.3. Keep the lanes and sidewalks clean
  - 3.4. Beautify public spaces
  - 3.5. Strengthen graffiti removal initiatives
  - 3.6. Improve and beautify building facades
- 4. Convenient Transportation and Pedestrian Comfort
  - 4.1. Develop a parking strategy, which includes communication, education and signage initiatives
  - 4.2. Provide more pedestrian comforts, such as benches, plantings and public washrooms
  - 4.3. Create efficient transit and safe cycling connections
  - 4.4. Develop linkages to nearby neighbourhoods through transportation measures
- 5. A Sense of Security
  - 5.1. Partner with other neighbourhoods to work on the social issues faced by the community
  - 5.2. Enhance public education on social issues
  - 5.3. Reduce the impact of the illegal drug trade
  - 5.4. Increase the sense of public safety and security
  - 5.5. Encourage more positive street activities
  - 5.6. Develop a strategy for safe parking

# A Place that Serves the Needs of Residents, Youth and Visitors ...

- 6. Linkage to the Nearby Neighbourhoods and Downtown
  - 6.1. Enhance walking corridors between Chinatown and downtown
  - 6.2. Develop walking corridors between Chinatown and surrounding neighbourhoods Gastown, City Gate, North False Creek, Science World
  - 6.3. Provide services and products that draw in people from neighbouring communities
- 7. Youth Connection and Community Development
  - 7.1. Improve co-ordination of youth initiatives in Chinatown
  - 7.2. Encourage youth to establish recreational / educational programs and services to attract young people, especially those of Chinese and Asian descent
  - 7.3. Encourage community involvement and leadership development of youth
  - 7.4. Establish formal relationships with educational institutions
  - 7.5. Develop succession plans for Chinatown organizations
  - 7.6. Encourage youth-oriented retail services
- 8. Attractions for Vancouverites and Tourists
  - 8.1. Create a holistic Chinatown experience with a focus on educational and cultural tourism
  - 8.2. Develop Chinatown promotional and educational campaigns
  - 8.3. Install directional signs
  - 8.4. Create an Information Centre
- 9. A Community with a Residential and Commercial Mixture
  - 9.1. Encourage market housing
  - 9.2. Improve living conditions in the existing hotels
  - 9.3. Encourage affordable rental housing
  - 9.4. Explore possibilities of housing in the upper floors of buildings with commercial storefronts

# A Hub of Commercial, Social and Cultural Activities ...

- 10. Diversified Retail Goods and Services
  - 10.1. Develop a comprehensive marketing strategy, targeting local residents, youth and visitors
  - 10.2. Develop customer service training programs for Chinatown merchants and their employees
  - 10.3. Encourage on-street commercial activities
  - 10.4. Encourage more businesses to open at night
  - 10.5. Improve customer services, including bi-lingual signs and services
  - 10.6. Encourage more diversified services in Chinatown, especially quality restaurants
  - 10.7. Build on the success of the night market and arts fair
  - 10.8. Provide financial incentives for new businesses
  - 10.9. Create a better environment for investment

#### 11. A Hub of Social and Cultural Activities

- 11.1. Develop a diverse educational program, targeting not only Chinese but anyone who is interested
- 11.2. Enhance the arts, cultural and recreational facilities in and around Chinatown
- 11.3. Build on the success of the Chinese Film Festival and explore opportunities for Chinese film theatres
- 11.4. Build on the success of various festivals in Chinatown
- 11.5. Encourage media groups, especially those with Asian market, to move into Chinatown
- 11.6. Integrate existing programs and facilities to create a better sense of community

## Appendix B

#### Area Context: Downtown Eastside Revitalization

Chinatown is part of the downtown and one of the Downtown Eastside's (DTES) diverse communities. The Chinatown Community Plan will be part of an overall strategy to revitalize the Downtown Eastside, the City's historic precinct. The following are the plans and strategies that are being developed and/or implemented.

- The **Program of Strategic Actions for the Downtown Eastside** was adopted in 1998 and provides broad directions for the revitalization of the Downtown Eastside. The actions include reducing the impact of drug-related crime and the incidence of drug abuse, improving conditions on the street, and improving SROs while building new low-income housing.
- The Vancouver Agreement is a partnership between the Federal, Provincial and Municipal governments to develop and implement a coordinated strategy to promote and support sustainable economic, social and community development. The agreement was signed in March 2000. The first focus of the Vancouver Agreement is Vancouver's Downtown Eastside, and it includes initiatives in health and safety, economic capacity, substance misuse and housing.
- The Framework for Action is a four pillar approach for solving the city's drug problem based on prevention, treatment, enforcement and harm reduction. It was adopted by Council in 2001 and has resulted in many initiatives in the area, including the opening of North America's first safe injection site, the NAOMI heroin trials, prevention forum, and the Citywide Enforcement Strategy.
- The Downtown Eastside Economic Revitalization Strategy was created in 2003. It
  involves partnerships between levels of government and local economic development
  organizations. The strategy provides a long-term vision for the area involving the
  creation of new businesses and social enterprises, and the creation of jobs and
  commercial services for local residents.
- The draft Downtown Eastside Housing Plan was developed in 1998 to establish housing policies to deal with the full range of needs over the next 10 years. The draft plan was not adopted by the City Council of the time. In 2003, Council reactivated the Housing Plan process. The revised Housing Plan will build on the foundation created in 1998 by taking many of the conclusions drawn in the earlier plan and incorporating policy and contextual changes that have taken place over the last five years. The plan will be brought before Council in the winter of 2004/5 for adoption.
- The **Downtown Transportation Plan** was adopted by Council in May 2002, to improve downtown access and liveability by creating a balanced transportation system that includes adjusting the road network, enhancing public transit, promoting a walkable downtown, creating a network of bike lanes, maintaining efficient goods movement, managing the parking supply and implementing intelligent transportation systems.

# Appendix C

# Phase II of the Chinatown Revitalization Program Three-year Action Plan

#### **NOTES:**

The following three-year strategic actions were developed in consultation with the various City departments and discussed with the community through the on-going work with the Vancouver Chinatown Revitalization Committee.

This work plan only lists out actions to be undertaken by the City, recognizing there are many other community initiatives underway to implement the Chinatown Vision. Actions which could be carried out by the community or other agencies without the City's direct involvement are not listed.

New actions initiated after the date of this report will be added to the "working action plan" and included in the next official version of the plan when it is updated through the regular progress report to Council. It will be the role of staff working on coordinating and monitoring the vision implementation to ensure City initiatives in the community are consistent with the Chinatown Vision directions and that the community is consulted.

The actions are listed under five key areas with reference to the Vision directions they address (which are shown in brackets). Some actions identified in this report have been scheduled and for which resources are assigned or available within the next couple of years. Some actions will be delivered through ongoing City programs such as the street furniture program, BIA program and neighbourhood greenways.

ltem	Actions	Leading Department(s)	
1. Co	ommunity and Social Development		
1.1.	Provide city liaison, support and information for the Vancouver Chinatown Revitalization Committee in the development and implementation of the Chinatown Plan. (Dir.7.3)	Planning	
1.2.	Assist the Chinatown community, with special outreach to youth, in the development and implementation of the Chinatown Plan. (Dir.7.1, 7.2)	Planning	
1.3.	Assist the community in developing initiatives to create sustainable involvement of and meaningful interaction among youth and seniors. (Dir.7.5)	Social Planning	
1.4.	Engage community and cross cultural groups in the neighbouring communities to develop partnerships and collaborative activities. (Dir. 5.1)	Social Planning	
1.5.	Continue public education work on social issues with the ethnic media and community organizations. (Dir. 5.2)	Social Planning	
1.6.	Initiate community development work with the Strathcona community to enhance the linkage between Chinatown and Strathcona. (Dir.5.1, 6.2)	Social Planning / Planning	
1.7.	Assist community to partner with other neighbourhoods to work on social issues faced by the community. (Dir. 5.1)	Social Planning	
2. R	esidential Intensification and Land Use		
2.1.	Develop a land use strategy to preserve the Chinatown character and its fine grain development pattern: (Dir. 9)  - Zoning by-law and guideline review and amendment  - Building by-law review and amendment  - Parking by-law review and amendment  - Conduct a feasibility study of the alleyway improvements	Planning / Engineering	
2.2.	Develop and implement a parking strategy: (Dir.4.1, 9)  - Examine parking capacity for Chinatown in response to the residential developments in the area  - Amend parking by-law to enable small lot developments  - Examine possibility of using parking relaxation as an incentive for rental housing developments	Engineering	
2.3.	Develop a strategy for the society buildings rehabilitation: (Dir. 1.1, 1.3)  - Conduct a historic study of the society buildings in Chinatown - Develop special incentives to conserve "society meeting rooms" - Work with the family associations and benevolent societies to identify challenges and strategies to facilitate the rehabilitation	Planning	

2.4.	Implement and monitor the Heritage Incentive Program: (Dir. 1.1,3.6) - Implement façade rehabilitation program - Implement building rehabilitation program	Planning	
2.5.	Develop housing policies to encourage affordable market housing and replace the stock of low-income SRO housing with better quality housing targeted to low-income and aging residents. (Dir.9)	Housing / Planning	
2.6.	Explore possibility of developing incentives for affordable rental housing developments. (Dir.9)	Planning / Housing	
2.7.	Implement new land use policies and monitor new development activities.	Planning	
2.8.	Examine community services needs in the area. (Dir. 11.6)	CSG	
3. Pu	ublic Realm and Transportation		
3.1.	Improvements to the Chinatown Memorial Square. (Dir.3.4)	Planning	
3.2.	Design and implement Carrall Street Greenway. (Dir. 3.4, 4.3, 4.4, 6.1,6.2)	Engineering / Planning	
3.3.	Design and implement Downtown Historic Trail /Silk Road. (Dir. 3.4, 4.3, 4.4, 6.1,6.2)	Engineering / Planning	
3.4.	Design and implement Street Car Project and its Keefer Station in Chinatown. (Dir. 4.3, 4.4, 6.1,6.2)	Engineering / Planning	
3.5.	Design and implement Main Street Transit Showcase Project. (Dir. 4.3, 4.4, 6.2.)	Engineering / Planning	
3.6.	Install new street furniture, including an information kiosk and pedestrian and vehicle way finding signs. (Dir.4.2, 8.3, 8.4)	Engineering	
3.7.	Monitor and improve sidewalk commercial activities. (Dir.10.3)	Engineering	
3.8.	Develop a strategy to encourage neon signs: (Dir. 3.2)  - Design research of appropriate neon signs for Chinatown  - Research of neon sign industry  - Outreach to property and business owners  - Sign by-law review and amendment	Planning	
4. C	ultural Development		
4.1.	Assist local community cultural organizations such as Chinese Cultural Centre with their organizational development and facility enhancement. (Dir.11.2, 11.6)	OCA / Social Planning	
4.2.	Partner with educational institutions and community organizations to develop initiatives to better understand the Chinese Canadian and Chinatown histories. (Dir.2.1, 2.3, 11.1)	Planning	

4.3.	Develop formal partnership with educational institutions and academic presence in Chinatown. (Dir.7.4)	Planning  Park Board / Planning	
4.4.	Assist community in event and festival programming in public spaces. (Dir.11.3, 11.4)		
5. E	conomic Development		
5.1.	Increase the sense of public safety and security: (Dir. 5)  - Reduce the impact of the illegal drug trade  - Encourage more positive street activities	VPD / Drug Policy / Planning	
5.2.	Partner with the local business organizations in implementing the Chinatown Marketing Plan: (Dir.8.1, 8.2, 10.1)  - Create a holistic Chinatown experience  - Create a consistent marketing presence and a welcoming image  - Partner with the tourism industry  - Develop promotional and educational campaigns to nearby residents and regional visitors	Planning	
5.3.	Partner with the local business organizations in developing and implementing a business retention program. (Dir.10.2, 10.5,10.6)	Planning	
5.4.	Partner with the local business organization in developing and implementing programs to attract new businesses: (Dir.10.8, 10.9)  - Market the area to potential investors  - Develop tools to assist businesses set up operations in the area  - Support new business development	Planning	
5.5.	Partner with the local business organizations in retail management and providing a diverse and healthy retail mix. (Dir.6.3, 7.6, 10.6)	Planning	

# Appendix D

# Phase II of the Chinatown Revitalization Program Three-year Budget

# Break-down of Budget (by Fiscal Year)

Item	2005 start-up (4 mo.)	Year 1 (8 mo.)	Year 2 (12 mo.)	Year 3 (12 mo.)	TOTAL (32 mo.)
Staffing (salary, benefits) Policy Planner Social Planner Urban Designer	\$ 28,840 \$ 28,840	\$ 57,680 \$ 57,680 \$ 28,840	\$ 88,685 \$ 88,685 \$ 36,955	\$ 90,905 \$ 90,905 -	\$ 266,110 \$ 266,110 \$ 65,795
(A) Staffing Cost Total	\$ 57,680	\$144,200	\$214,325	\$181,810	\$598,015
Office & computer Overtime Training, travel, research		\$ 3,750 \$ 4,500 \$ 3,000	\$ 3,750 \$ 4,500 \$ 3,000	\$ 3,750 \$ 4,500 \$ 3,000	\$11,250 \$13,500 \$ 9,000
Communications and Public Educations	-	\$ 27,000	\$ 13,500	\$ 9,500	\$ 50,000
External Consultancy		\$ 15,000	\$ 15,000	•	\$ 30,000
Programming Costs (community projects)	-	\$ 7,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 27,000
(B) Other Program Cost Total	-	\$ 60,250	\$ 49,750	\$ 30,750	\$140,750
(A+B) GRAND TOTAL	\$ 57,680	\$ 204,450	\$ 264,075	\$ 212,560	\$ 738,765
Source of Funds					
Add to 2005 Operating Budget	\$ 57,680				
Add to 2005 Operating Budget Add to 2006 Operating Budget Add to 2007 Operating Budget		\$ 204,450	\$264,075	\$ 212,560	
New funding requested for the 32-month program					\$738,765

- 2.5% per year increase for staffing cost has been included for year two and three due to inflation and negotiated salary increases.
- Note: All figures have been rounded to the highest 5 dollar amount.

# Appendix E

# **Letters of Support from:**

- Vancouver Chinatown Merchants Association
- Vancouver Chinatown BIA
- Chinese Cultural Centre
- Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Chinese Classical Garden
- Vancouver Chinatown Revitalization Committee
- Chinatown Historic Area Planning Committee



# 溫哥華華埠商會

# **Vancouver Chinatown Merchants Association**

508 Taylor Street, Vancouver, B.C. Canada V6B 6M4
Phone: (604) 682-8998 Fax: (604) 682-8939

January 13, 2005

City of Vancouver 453 West 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue Vancouver, B.C. V5Y 1V4

Attention: The Mayor and Councillors

Dear Sirs:

Re: Chinatown Community Plan

RECEIVED
CITY OF VANCOUVER
COMMUNITY SERVICES
3rd FLOOR - RECEPTION

JAN 1 7 2005

NUMBER B 0/70

REFERRED TO J C Adams
COPY TO
ANSWER REQ'D

On behalf of the Vancouver Chinatown Merchants Association (VCMA), I am writing to support the captioned subject matter that is being-put forward to the Mayor and Councillors.

A presentation was recently conducted by the City staff, Ms. Jessica Chen-Adams and Mr. George Hui, which illustrated the captioned subject of Chinatown Community Plan to our Board of Directors. We are grateful to learn that the City of Vancouver has not forgotten our community which is an integral, an important and a heritage part of our city; that the City shall continue to endeavour on the revitalization of Vancouver Chinatown. VCMA, of course, is in full support of such revitalization program. Your staff had also clearly addressed in the Chinatown Community Plan the concerns, challenges and goals such as heritage significance (the architecture, the festivities and the history), public realm (street furniture and lighting), transportation (vehicle and pedestrian traffic), tourism (locals and foreign, young and old) and linkage (cooperation with other communities within the Vancouver's Downtown Eastside) to name a few.

VCMA wishes to emphasize that safety and security will remain as the primary concern of property owners, shop owners, workers and consumers. The perception of safety and security is paramount as without it, investors; be they either commercial or residential; will lack the confidence to invest in the community which in turn will not attract consumers to visit, to shop or to dwell. All work will be in vain if the sense of safety and security cannot be assured. VCMA, therefore, urges the City of Vancouver to continue to work closely with the Vancouver Police to curtail all illegal and undesirable activities within the Downtown Eastside. As supporter of the Chinatown Community Plan, VCMA will continue to work with both the City of Vancouver and the Vancouver Police whenever and wherever necessary.

Thank you once again for your continuing support. VCMA concurs with the vision and the concept of the Chinatown Community Plan; and we ask the Mayor and the Councillors to share and support the same. As always, I look forward to continuing working together with the City in the usual sincere and harmonious manner for the revitalization of Vancouver Chinatown.

Thank you very much for your kind attention.

Yours sincerely,

Albert Fok Chair

Vancouver Chinatown Merchants Association

c.c. Jessica Chen-Adams, Planner, Central Area Planning George Hui, Social Planner, Social Planning

# 溫哥華華埠商業促進會



## VANCOUVER CHINATOWN EUSINESS IMPROVEMENT AREA SOCIETY

Web: www.vancouver-chinatown.com Email: vcbia@vancouver-chinatown.com 508 Taylor Street Vancouver, B.C. Canada V6B 6M4
Phone: 604-632-3808 Fax: 604-632-3809

January 24th, 2005

City of Vancouver 453 West 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue Vancouver, B.C. V5Y 1V4

Attention: The Mayor and Councillors

Dear Mayor and Councillors,

Re: Chinatown Community Plan

On behalf of the Vancouver Chinatown Business Improvement Area Society, I am writing to support the Chinatown Community Plan that is being put forward to the Mayor and Councillors.

The City staff, Ms. Jessica Chen-Adams and Mr. George Hui had made a clear presentation to us illustrating the Chinatown Community Plan. We are glad that City has a continuing plan about the revitalization of Vancouver Chinatown. They had also clarified us with more details through the discussion. We had voiced out our concern about the consistent plan to make the tourists and customers to feel safe in touring around in Chinatown area. The building of a positive profile of Chinatown with a thorough plan in revitalizing the area surely helps.

With the goal of promoting the business environment and the revitalization of the Chinatown area, I would like to express our support to this project. I am looking forward to working with the City concerning the Chinatown Community Plan as well as any revitalization plan for the well being of the community.

Thank you very much for your kind attention and consideration.

Yours truly,

Tony Lam

President

Vancouver Chinatown BIA Society

c.c. George Hui, Social Planner, Social Planning
Jessica Chen-Adams, Planner, Central Area Planning



# CHINESE CULTURAL CENTRE OF GREATER VANCOUVER

City of Vancouver 453 West 12th Avenue Vancouver, BC, V5Y 1V4

January 25, 2005

Attn: Jessica Chen-Adams Planning Department

Dear Sir/Madam:

Re: Chinatown Community Plan

Thank you for presenting the above Three-year'Action Plan to the Board of Directors of the Chinese Cultural Centre of Greater Vancouver ("CCC") on Wednesday, January 19th, 2005, at the Board's meeting in Richmond, BC.

CCC understands that the Plan outlines actions to be undertaken by the various City of Vancouver departments in harmony with City Council's Chinatown Vision Directions of 2002. The Board of Directors of CCC notes with approval that the Plan will be implemented on an ongoing consultative basis with the Chinatown community interests.

I am pleased to convey the Board of Directors' unanimous support in principle, recorded at its January 19, 2005, meeting to the Chinatown Community Plan. It is a comprehensive and co-ordinated action plan which merits City Council's approval.

Yours faithfully,

CHINESE CULTURAL CENTRE OF GREATER VANCOUVER

per: Monty Jang, Chairman

Vancouver Office: 50 East Pender Street, Vancouver, B.C., Canada V6A 3V6 Tel: (604) 658-8850 Fax: (604) 687-6260 555 Columbia Street, Vancouver, B.C., Canada V6A 4H5 Tel: (604) 658-8880 Fax: (604) 687-0368 Richmond Office: 860 - 4400 Hazelbridge Way, Richmond, B.C., Canada V6X 3R8 Tel: (604) 658-8875 Fax: (604) 658-8854

E-mail: ccchq@intergate.bc.ca Website: www.cccvan.com



# VANCOUVER CHINATOWN REVITALIZATION COMMITTEE

# 溫哥華振 興華 埠 委員 會會

January 27, 2005

City Council
City of Vancouver
453 West 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue
Vancouver, BC
V5Y 1V4

Dear Mayor and Councillors:

In 2002, the Vancouver Chinatown Revitalization Committee, working with the city staff and other Chinatown organizations, developed the Chinatown Vision which was adopted by Council in July that year. The Chinatown Vision has enabled us and other organizations in Chinatown to work together to achieve our ultimate goal – the revitalization of Chinatown. We would also like to help with the revitalization of the whole Downtown Eastside. We have worked with our neighbours such as Carnegie Community Centre and Friends of Victory Square to host various events and festivals.

While a lot of good work has been done, the work is far from finished. We are delighted that Jessica Chen-Adams and George Hui have prepared a work program to develop the Chinatown Community Plan to further the goals and objectives of the Chinatown Vision. There are a lot of eager and dedicated volunteers in our Committee and other Chinatown organizations but we need some guidance from the City. This work program will allow us to continue working together towards our ultimate goal.

We hope the Council will support the three-year work program to develop the Chinatown Community Plan.

Yours truly,

Rick Lam Chair



January 28, 2005

Mayor and Council City of Vancouver 453 West 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue Vancouver, BC V5Y 1V4

Dear Mayor and Council,

# Re: Support of Chinatown Community Plan

On behalf of the Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Garden Society of Vancouver, I am writing to support the Chinatown Community Plan being put forward to the Mayor and Councilors.

We were favorably impressed by the recent introduction of the Chinatown Community Plan by City staff, Mrs. Jessica Chen-Adams and Mr. George Hui, to our Board of Trustees. We compliment the great effort of the City Staff in the formulation and preparation of the Plan. Being an integral part of the Vancouver Chinatown community and a major tourist destination with 90,000 plus visitors annually, we support initiatives for the improvement and revitalization of Vancouver Chinatown.

We have been working closely with City Staff with respect to the Tour Bus Drop-off & Loading zone on the 500 Block of Carrall Street within the Carrall St. Greenway Project. We are confident we will be able to resolve any differences with a viable solution that will be a win-win for all parties prior to presentation to Council for approval. The Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Garden Society of Vancouver concurs with the vision and the concepts of the Chinatown Community Plan; and we ask the Mayor and Council to share and support our concerns.

As a supporter of the Chinatown Community Plan, the Garden will continue to work with both the City of Vancouver and the Mayor and Council for our mutual benefit and for the revitalization of Vancouver Chinatown.

Yours sincerely,
Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Garden Society of Vancouver

Michael Ng President

c.c. Jessica Chen-Adams, Planner, Central Area Planning George Hui, Social Planner, Social Planning



# Chinatown Historic Area Planning Committee

c/o City Clerk's Office, 3rd Floor, City Hall, 453 West 12th Avenue, Vancouver, B.C. V5Y 1V4
Telephone: 604.871.6353 Facsimile: 604.873.7419

FILE NO: 3136-1

COMMITTEE CLERK: Laura Kazakoff

January 12, 2005

City of Vancouver 453 West 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue Vancouver, BC V5Y 1V4

Dear Sir/Madam

Re: Chinatown Community Plan

The Chinatown Historic Area Planning Committee, at its meeting on January 11, 2005, passed the following motion:

**RESOLVED** 

THAT the Chinatown Historic Area Planning Committee supports the direction for the Chinatown Community Plan, as presented to the Committee on January 11, 2005, and would like to participate as a Committee in the City's studies with regard to land uses in Chinatown;

FURTHER THAT the Committee requests that it be kept informed on an ongoing basis through the various stages of the development of the Plan; and

FURTHER THAT the Committee requests that more incentives be provided by the City to aid development in the Chinatown community.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY** 

Yours truly,

Laura Kazakoff Meeting Coordinator