

**From:** "Johnston, Sadhu" <Sadhu.Johnston@vancouver.ca>

**To:** "Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"

**CC:** "City Manager's Correspondence Group - DL"

"LaClaire, Lon" <lon.laclaire@vancouver.ca>

**Date:** 4/2/2020 4:54:12 PM

**Subject:** Memo - Blood Alley Square Tree Management Update

**Attachments:** Memo - Blood Alley Square Tree Management Update.pdf

Dear Mayor and Council,

Please see the attached memo from Lon LaClaire. A short summary of the memo is as follows:

- As per the Blood Alley Square tree management plan, on April 2, 2020 three unhealthy trees were removed in coordination with the adjacent development construction activities, and of the trees being retained, two trees were pruned.
- The tree management plan was based on feedback received during public consultation on the Blood Alley Square redesign, which includes the retention of five trees within the Square. When the redesign is implemented, it will include the planting of two large size specimen trees to ensure that the tree canopy is restored and enhanced.
- Next steps include design refinement based on feedback received at the 2019 open house, engagement with local stakeholders to develop community partnerships for stewardship of Blood Alley Square, and coordination of a final design open house in conjunction with the Gastown Complete Streets. The timing for these steps will be determined following the current Covid-19 health issues.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Lon LaClaire at 604-873-7336 or [lon.laclaire@vancouver.ca](mailto:lon.laclaire@vancouver.ca).

Best,  
Sadhu

**Sadhu Afochs Johnston** | City Manager  
Office of the City Manager | City of Vancouver  
604.873.7627 | [sadhu.johnston@vancouver.ca](mailto:sadhu.johnston@vancouver.ca)

Pronouns: he, him, his



*The City of Vancouver acknowledges that it is situated on the unceded traditional territories of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh peoples.*

## MEMORANDUM

April 2, 2020

TO: Mayor and Council

CC: Sadhu Johnston, City Manager  
Paul Mochrie, Deputy City Manager  
Karen Levitt, Deputy City Manager  
Lynda Graves, Administration Services Manager, City Manager's Office  
Rena Kendall-Craden, Civic Engagement and Communications Director  
Katrina Leckovic, City Clerk  
Anita Zaenker, Chief of Staff, Mayor's Office  
Neil Monckton, Chief of Staff, Mayor's Office  
Alvin Singh, Communications Director, Mayor's Office

FROM: Lon LaClaire  
General Manager, Engineering Services

SUBJECT: Blood Alley Square Tree Management Update

---

Further to the May 14, 2019, and August 2, 2019 memos on Blood Alley Square (attached), this memo provides an update to Mayor and Council on the Blood Alley Square tree management plan.

As per the Blood Alley Square tree management plan, on April 2, 2020 three unhealthy trees and one tree stump (previously damaged during a weather event) were removed in coordination with the adjacent development construction activities, and of the trees being retained, two trees were pruned.

Blood Alley Square is an important public space, and the redesign aims to create a space that is inclusive and respectful of its heritage assets and intended tree canopy, surrounding urban area, and social and community context guided by the nine social impact objectives in the Downtown Eastside (DTES) Plan.

The tree management plan was based on feedback received during public consultation on the Blood Alley Square redesign and it includes the retention of five trees within the Square. Additionally, we have developed a tree succession strategy that incorporates the planting of two large size specimen trees. This will ensure that the tree canopy is restored and enhanced when the redesigned Square is implemented. The City will also be exploring locations near Blood Alley Square to plant additional street trees to ensure there is no net loss of trees related to the project.

Next steps for Blood Alley Square include design refinement based on feedback received at the 2019 open house, engagement with local stakeholders to develop community partnerships for stewardship of Blood Alley Square, and coordination of a final design open house in conjunction with the Gastown Complete Streets. The timing for these steps will be determined following the current Covid-19 health issues.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me directly.



Lon LaClaire, M.Eng., P.Eng.  
General Manager, Engineering Services

604.873.7336 | [lon.laclaire@vancouver.ca](mailto:lon.laclaire@vancouver.ca)

## **MEMORANDUM**

August 2, 2019

**TO:** Mayor and Council

**CC:** Sadhu Johnston, City Manager  
Paul Mochrie, Deputy City Manager  
Lynda Graves, Administration Services Manager, City Manager's Office  
Rena Kendall-Craden, Civic Engagement and Communications Director  
Katrina Leckovic, City Clerk  
Neil Monckton, Chief of Staff, Mayor's Office  
Alvin Singh, Communications Director, Mayor's Office  
Anita Zaenker, Chief of Staff, Mayor's Office  
Margaret Wittgens, Director, Public Space and Street Use  
Gil Kelley, General Manager, Planning, Development and Sustainability  
Neil Hrushowy, Assistant Director, Planning, Development and Sustainability  
Sandra Singh, General Manager, Arts, Culture & Community Services

**FROM:** Jerry Dobrovolny  
General Manager, Engineering Services

**SUBJECT:** Blood Alley Square Public Engagement Summary and Next Steps

---

Further to the May 14, 2019 memo on Blood Alley Square, this memo provides information to Mayor and Council on engagement feedback, resulting changes to the tree management plan and next steps.

Blood Alley square is an important public asset, and the redesign aims to create a space that is inclusive and respectful of its heritage assets, surrounding urban area, and social and community context guided by the nine social impact objectives in the Downtown Eastside (DTES) Plan.

An open house for the project was held on May 15, 2019, to seek feedback on the design for Blood Alley Square in Gastown which was informed by public and stakeholder feedback from previous open houses, questionnaires and meetings.

The May 15 open house was attended by a total of 231 people. 93 respondents provided feedback on the Blood Alley Square redesign by completing a questionnaire accessible between May 16 and June 16, 2019. The results of the hard copy and online questionnaire, and feedback from conversations at the open house indicate that there is overall support for the design presented; feedback emphasized a strong desire to retain as many existing trees in the square as possible.

---

The tree management plan for Blood Alley Square initially retained four of nine existing trees that were evaluated by a professional arborist and determined healthy enough to have the highest likelihood of survival. The trees that are scheduled to be removed are noted to be unhealthy and not likely to survive. In direct response to feedback received during public consultation, the tree management plan has been updated to retain an existing significant tree located at the northern edge of the square for a total of five retained trees. Additionally, we have developed a tree succession strategy that incorporates the planting of two large size specimen trees that will replace existing trees that are to be removed due to their poor health. This will ensure that the tree canopy is restored and enhanced. The City will also be exploring locations near Blood Alley Square to plant additional street trees to ensure there is no net loss of trees related to the project.

Next steps will include distribution of a consultation summary in August 2019, commencement of unhealthy tree removals in summer of 2019 in coordination with the adjacent development, design refinement based on feedback received at the May 15 open house, engagement with local stakeholders to develop community partnerships for stewardship of Blood Alley Square, and coordination of a final design open house in conjunction with the Gastown Complete Streets Project in early 2020.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me directly.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'J. Dobrovoly', is positioned above the typed name and title.

Jerry W. Dobrovoly, P.Eng., MBA  
General Manager, Engineering Services

604.873.7331 | [jerry.dobrovoly@vancouver.ca](mailto:jerry.dobrovoly@vancouver.ca)

## MEMORANDUM

May 14, 2019

TO: Mayor and Council

CC: Sadhu Johnston, City Manager  
Paul Mochrie, Deputy City Manager  
Lynda Graves, Administration Services Manager, City Manager's Office  
Rena Kendall-Craden, Civic Engagement and Communications Director  
Katrina Leckovic, City Clerk  
Neil Monckton, Chief of Staff, Mayor's Office  
Alvin Singh, Communications Director, Mayor's Office  
Anita Zaenker, Chief of Staff, Mayor's Office  
Margaret Wittgens, Director, Public Space and Street Use  
Gil Kelley, General Manager, Planning, Development and Sustainability  
Sandra Singh, General Manager, Arts, Culture and Community Services

FROM: Jerry Dobrovolny  
General Manager, Engineering Services

SUBJECT: Blood Alley Square Public Open House

---

This memo is to inform Mayor and Council that there will be a public open house on May 15, 2019 to seek feedback on the design progress for Blood Alley Square in Gastown. The open house will be held at the Woodward's Atrium from 4-7 pm.

The detailed draft design being presented at the open house is one that has been informed by public and stakeholder feedback from previous open houses, questionnaires and meetings.

The redesign of Blood Alley Square seeks to:

- Update the space for neighbourhood gatherings
- Conserve its heritage characteristics and 1970s character look
- Create a stewardship plan that involves the local community

The redesign process is guided by the nine social impact objectives in the Downtown Eastside (DTES) Plan. The square is an important public asset, and the redesign aims to create a space that is respectful of its heritage assets, surrounding urban area, and social and community context.

Blood Alley Square serves a wide range of people with various needs and interests. Staff have received extensive public feedback and have heard that tree preservation, how the space can be used for activities and events, the value of historic elements, and ensuring the space is inclusive and inviting are important issues.

Next steps will be to refine the design based on feedback received at the open house, engaging with local stakeholders to develop community partnerships for stewardship of the Blood Alley Square and coordinating with the Gastown Complete Streets Project which will develop a holistic vision for the streets and public spaces in the area.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me directly.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Dobrovlny', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jerry W. Dobrovlny, P.Eng., MBA  
General Manager, Engineering Services

604.873.7331 | [jerry.dobrovlny@vancouver.ca](mailto:jerry.dobrovlny@vancouver.ca)