

From: "Mochrie, Paul" <Paul.Mochrie@vancouver.ca>
To: "Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"
Date: 10/12/2023 8:50:59 AM
Subject: Upcoming news release: Share your thoughts on the future of public space in Gastown (October 12, 2023)

Dear Mayor and Council,

I am writing to inform you that the City will be issuing the below news release this morning, October 12, 2023, to launch the public engagement process on the Gastown Public Spaces Plan. As the City takes steps to make Gastown's unique streets, laneways and public spaces more people-friendly, residents, local businesses and local organizations are invited to help shape the future of Gastown's public spaces and get involved through a city-wide survey and in-person pop-up events later this month. Please keep this news release embargoed until it goes live from the City media email account.

Angela will reply to this email with the relevant Vancouver.ca link and social media links, once these are live. We invite you to share and amplify on social as you see fit.

Best,
Paul

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The City of Vancouver acknowledges that it is situated on the unceded traditional territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Sḵwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səlilwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.

City of Vancouver
News release
October 12, 2023

Share your thoughts on the future of public space in Gastown

The City is taking steps to make Gastown's unique streets, laneways and public spaces more people-friendly. In response to [Council direction](#), staff are launching a public engagement process on the Gastown Public Spaces Plan to establish a shared vision for a vibrant destination with more seating, patios, live music, events, festivals and active transportation options. The plan will also explore transforming Water Street into a pedestrian zone, either seasonally or year-round.

Residents, local businesses and local organizations are invited to get involved through a city-wide [survey](#) and in-person pop-up events later this month.

"I'm really excited that we are starting this very important conversation with Vancouver on the future of public space in Gastown, including restoring its streets and sidewalks and making Water Street a pedestrian zone," says Mayor Ken Sim. "We want to hear from area residents, businesses and all of

Vancouver to ensure that the changes Gastown needs work for everyone. I want to thank the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), the Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and the səliłwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations for their partnership on this project as we work together to ensure their visibility is part of Gastown's future public spaces."

The new Gastown Public Spaces Plan will serve as a guide to:

- Establish a vibrant, people-focused Gastown with enhanced gathering places, streets and laneways to support a range of activities.
- Explore how to pedestrianize Water Street, seasonally or year-round, starting with a pilot in summer 2024.
- Improve the street network, including walking, cycling, transit and vehicle connections and consideration of Cordova as a two-way street.
- Advance Reconciliation with the local Nations and support their visibility on their lands.
- Evolve and deepen the unique heritage feel of the area, including improved street materials and amenities.
- Identify phased project timing and funding.

Some of the streets and sidewalks in Gastown are in poor condition and repairs and maintenance will continue alongside the development of the Gastown Public Spaces Plan.

Gastown is situated on the unceded traditional territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam Indian Band), the Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish Nation), and the səliłwətał (Tsleil-Waututh Nation) Nations, however its streets and public spaces do not currently reflect the histories, culture and visibility of the local Nations. The Gastown Public Spaces Plan is an opportunity to advance the City's Reconciliation efforts and work with the Nations to support their visibility on their lands.

"This initiative by the City of Vancouver is an important step forward in sharing our deep history and connection with the area now known as Vancouver," says Sxwixwtn, Wilson Williams, Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw Spokesperson and Council Member. "We look forward to seeing our history and our culture reflected in these shared public spaces, for all to enjoy."

"I am pleased to see the progress of this important work of increasing visibility of səliłwətał (Tsleil-Waututh Nation) alongside our relatives xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam Indian Band) and the Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish Nation) in Gastown," says Chief Jen Thomas, səliłwətał (Tsleil-Waututh Nation). This good work led by the City of Vancouver helps put the face of səliłwətał back on our shared traditional territory, and I am looking forward to seeing this vibrant space reflect our Indigenous cultures and communities."

Share your thoughts

There are many ways to get involved:

- **Complete an [online survey](#)** (translations in Traditional Chinese, Simplified Chinese, Spanish, Tagalog and Vietnamese available by request).
- **Visit us at an upcoming pop-up information event:**
 - 131 Water Street
 - October 19, 11 am to 6 pm
 - October 20, 11:30 am to 7 pm
 - October 21, 2 pm to 6 pm
 - November 16, 11 am to 6 pm
 - November 17, 11:30 am to 7 pm
 - November 18, 2 pm to 6 pm
 - 333 Abbott Street
 - November 9, 2 pm to 6:30 pm
 - November 10, 8:30 am to 1 pm

Public feedback will be shared in an engagement summary and presented to Council in early 2024. Input from businesses, including their loading and access needs, will play an integral role in shaping the Water Street pilot in summer 2024.

More information on the Gastown Public Spaces Plan is available at vancouver.ca/gastown

Note to editors

Lisa Parker, Director of Public Space and Street Use, will be available today speak to media between 12:15 pm and 2 pm. Please email media@vancouver.ca for further details.

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Media contact:

Civic Engagement and Communications

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