



February 14, 2020

MEMO TO : Park Board Commissioners

FROM : Malcolm Bromley
General Manager, Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation

SUBJECT : **Sun Yat-Sen Courtyard Project Update – Board Briefing Memo**

Dear Commissioners,

The purpose of this memo is to provide an update on the Sun Yat-Sen Courtyard project, which responds to the [Creating a Public Square Legacy in Chinatown](#) motion approved by the Board on June 18, 2018.

The Park Board is responsible for maintaining Sun Yat-Sen Park as well as the courtyard located between the adjacent Chinese Cultural Centre and Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Classical Chinese Garden. The courtyard can be accessed from both Pender and Carrall streets. Due to its open nature and design, which includes discrete spaces with poor oversight, the courtyard has been experiencing ongoing issues such as arson, theft, drug use, and vandalism. These issues generally occur during the evening and overnight, but also during times when there is less activity in the courtyard.

In conjunction with the City of Vancouver Planning department's Chinatown Transformation Team, Park Board staff have been working with community stakeholders, including representatives from the Chinese Cultural Centre and Sun Yat-Sen Garden, to identify opportunities to increase the programming of the Courtyard.

In 2019, the courtyard played venue to: [Shape the Courtyard](#) artisan market (1200 attendees total); a community movie night (500 attendees); public engagement events (140 attendees); and a weekly pop-up market in the summer (1400 attendees total). The Cultural Centre also hosts many cultural and community events every year, from Vancouver Fashion Week shows to Cantonese opera performances.

Site interventions to improve security have also been explored. Through community consultation, it was determined that the best structural solution to improve safety and protect the courtyard would be to install decorative security gates that could be closed overnight on a daily basis. Additionally, new lights and door wraps in the courtyard were added to support activations and community events.

In 2019, Park Board staff initiated a [Sun Yat-Sen courtyard gates design process](#) informed by community engagement. With the assistance of JYW Architects, the original architects for the cultural centre and Chinese garden, a conceptual design for the new gates was developed (see Figure 1).



Figure 1: Conceptual Design of New Sun Yat-Sen Courtyard Gates

Staff received positive feedback and support on the designs through an engagement process that included two open houses, and a presentation to key stakeholders (Chinese Cultural Centre & School, Sun Yat-Sen Gardens, and Chinatown Historic Area Planning Committee). Information was also shared through community newsletters.

The new gates are currently being fabricated and are scheduled for installation in early 2020.

Regards,



Malcolm Bromley
General Manager - Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation

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PB Communications
Park Development