

**Chinatown Legacy Stewardship Group (LSG) 9th Meeting
Meeting Summary Notes**

Date: Tuesday, February 18, 2020
Time: 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
Location: Chinese Cultural Center, 50 E Pender (Boardroom, 2nd Floor)

Present: Anita (Chan) Bardal 陳維英, Aynsley Wong Meldrum, Bill Kwok, Carmut Me, Charlotte Li, Fred Kwok, Fred Mah, Glynnis Chan, Jugen Li, Jun Ing, June Chow, Kevin Huang 黃儀軒, Kimberley Wong 黃壯慈, Laiwan Chung, Yu Rong Li 李玉榮, Louis Lapprend, Michael Sing Yau Tan 譚聖祐, Sonny Wong, Stephanie Leo, Terry Hunter, Wang Zhao, William Ma

Guests: Morris Lum (Friends of Chinatown, Toronto), Shawn Tse (Friends of Chinatown, Edmonton), Nick Yung (Co-Chair of Low-Income Working Group), 3 Seniors (CCG), Sarah Ling, Henry Yu

Staff: Wendy Au, Tom Wanklin, Baldwin Wong, Helen Ma, Helen Lee, Joseph Li, Alan Chen (Chinatown Transformation Team /CTT), Shinie Tan (Interpreter)

Regrets: Alain Chow, Cecil Charles Chi Chung Fung, Danny Quon, Elisha Yao, Inge Roecker, Jordan Eng, Leslie Shieh, Mark Lee, Michelle Fu, Minna Van, Robert Sung, Ross Lam, Susan Ma, To Trinh Diep, Vincent Kwan, Willie Chan, Y Vy Truong

Agenda

Time	Item	Presenter/Facilitator
5:30 p.m.	Welcome	Kimberley Wong & Mike Tan LSG Co-chair
5:35 p.m.	Ranking of Priority Actions for Improving Streets and Public Realm	Kimberley Wong, LSG Co-chair Baldwin Wong, Co-lead, CTT
6:05 p.m.	CTT Update: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preparation of the Cultural Heritage Assets Management Plan Supporting working groups from ideas to actions 	Helen Ma and Baldwin Wong, Co-lead, CTT
6:20 p.m.	Discussion: Explore Connections Between Working Groups Priorities	Working Groups Sponsors
7:00 p.m.	Meeting Adjourned	Kimberley Wong & Mike Tan LSG Co-chair

1. Welcome

- As a show of community solidarity, Chinatown elders and youth gathered in solidarity with the Wet'suwet'en last week with signage in various Asian languages. Kimberley will reach out to various WG Sponsors to discuss potential collaboration.
- LSG acknowledges that the spread of news regarding COVID-19 has adversely impacted Chinatown businesses and wishes everyone the best during this troubling time.

2. Ranking of Priority Actions for Improving Streets and Public Realm

- Michael, Kimberley, Baldwin, Helen, and some members of the Streets, Safety and Health, and Public Spaces Working Group met with the General Manager of Engineering from the City of Vancouver to discuss waste and needle issues in Chinatown. She expressed interest in addressing streets and public realm issues in Chinatown.
- The group came up with a list of about 20 ideas on how to improve streets and public safety. LSG members used a limited number of dots per person to identify their top street improvement priorities in Chinatown. Refer to attachment for the ranking results.
- Comments and clarifications:
 - Re: "Laneways painted like crosswalks – potentially public art opportunities", the idea was not to just paint the laneways themselves; usually people cross the street at the laneway location because they use them as a shortcut. The idea was to create a crosswalk to connect opposing laneways so people are not expected to walk from one laneway to the crosswalk, and then make their way to the other laneway.
 - Re: "Encourage online parking payment systems to address frequent jamming of parking meters" – you're not supposed to park in front of a broken meter. If the meter is not working, you can still get ticketed
 - Additionally the phone-number on broken parking meters doesn't work.
 - Many people who don't know how to speak English come to Chinatown, so these phone numbers must also be multi-lingual.
 - Re: "Wayfinding signage to Chinatown" – should be signs at the Cambie Bridge Crossing and Oak street bridge crossing directing people to Chinatown
 - Chinatown storefront designs lack Chinese language signage. However, this issue does not belong under the City's Engineering mandate. The Cultural Heritage and Small Business Working Group are looking at this issue right now, so that recommendation can come forward from another working group.

3. CTT Update – Preparation of the Cultural Heritage Assets Management Plan:

- The draft plan will be presented to council by end of 2020. LSG and CTT have between February and Fall 2020 to put the plan together.
- Most working groups have already started drafting content that will end up in the plan, such as their themes, principles, as well as long/medium/short-term priorities.

- In mid-spring, CTT proposes to host a workshop with LSG to go through all the long/medium/short-term priorities for each of the working groups. LSG and CTT will work through ideas together to be brought forward and incorporated into CHAMP.
- In summer 2020, LSG can host a community check-in (an “Open House”) on all the working group’s long/medium/short-term priorities.
- Idea: CTT wants to host a Chinatown Summit with an even broader public audience before they go to Council with a first draft. Different Chinatowns can be invited to share their lessons learned, working experiences, and how we might be able to collaborate with each other.
- After working groups confirm their Priority Documents, some working groups might transition into a project-support type group instead of their current form. Other working groups might decide they don’t need to meet every other week and may decide to meet every month instead after that.
- CTT may convene a different working group on summit planning for the 2nd half of 2020
- CTT may also have another working group focused on CHAMP plan writing
- Scheduling LSG meetings on every 3rd Tuesday is conflicting for some LSG members, so members will choose between the 1st and 2nd Tuesday of each month instead. Results will be sent over email.

4. CTT Update – Supporting working groups from ideas to actions

- Working groups should categorize their priorities between short, medium, and long-term for implementation timelines.
- Working groups will report back to LSG on high priority short-term actions with considerations around a potential group to lead implementation, identify potential timeframes and resource needs.
- At this point, CTT will work with working groups on the feasibility of your priority actions
- For smaller actions, CTT can look for more immediate support through accessing short-term funding through the city.
- For bigger initiatives, CTT could most likely have to include them to the report to Council later in 2020.
- If each Working Group proposes 3-4 actions, the LSG will have 15-20 actions to consider in total. Then the LSG will determine which are the actions should begin first. Ideally, there will be at least one active action per working group.

5. Discussion: Explore Connections Between Working Groups Priorities

- Cultural Heritage: Narrowed Cultural Charter to 6 areas of focus. 3 imperatives moving forward – sense of urgency; action-oriented projects; and visibility of work. Will be splitting into sub-groups to focus on the 6 areas of work. Have been learning from other Chinatowns with cultural mandates. Will finalize the Cultural Charter soon and present to LSG next meeting.
 - Question: Are there other communities and neighbourhoods with culturally-specific identities (e.g. Greek or Italian) that the LSG could learn from as well?
 - Answer: Yes, Chinatowns are not the only examples. Especially because some Chinatowns only have visitor-targeted policies without living

communities to learn from. It may benefit us to look at communities where living communities still exist to learn, because that's the context we're working in within Vancouver's Chinatown.

- Question: How would working groups access that information?
 - Answer: Ask for that resourcing in your deliberations on short-term priority actions so that we can figure out some way forward. There are also additional reports that the City can provide such as the 2017 Report on Chinatown Legacy Business that should be reviewed before commissioning anything new.
 - 2010 study on heritage trusts and foundations commissioned by the City may be a good reference document to start from.
- Small Business and Economic Development: Identified 5 priority areas – supporting legacy businesses; create incentives for new and legacy businesses; develop a retail strategy; cultural-supported markets in Society buildings; design guidelines for buildings and stores (inclusive of wayfinding signage). Also looking at developing Chinatown as an economic zone, and are thinking about quick wins in the next 3-6 months.
 - 4 areas of overlap between CH and SBED working groups: tangible heritage (retail strategy & culturally-supported markets); language (wayfinding & signage); culinary heritage (culinary school, anchor culinary retail clusters); cultural businesses (retail strategy, incentive programs and tax programs targeting small businesses)
 - CH and SBED will continue their joint meeting; City may be able to support priorities identified through the joint meetings.
- Comments:
 - Granville Island operates because they are federal land. They have different types of leases and subsidize their arts programs because they typically don't involve large salaries. It's not quite a BIA, but Lisa Ono could be a potential contact through Charlotte Li for us to learn from the challenges of managing Granville Island. She's open to join an LSG meeting in the future.
 - Challenges faced by small businesses are being experienced by neighbours in Oppenheimer as well. The City is applying an economic zone geared towards preparing economic solutions tailored to the context of Hastings and Oppenheimer around community-serving economic uses. The same idea can be explored for Chinatown with a focus on supporting cultural businesses. CTT is looking at possibilities in this topic area.
 - 2017 Report on Chinatown Legacy Business Study – looked at approaches to protecting heritage businesses. Consultants did an extensive review of San Francisco's legacy business program and the various incentives they involved, as well as other tools in other international cities employed to support legacy businesses not exclusive to Chinatown cultural communities.
 - Helen Ma can send out this report to everyone if there's interest.
 - All these projects are internally focused. LSG should also plan public-facing activities for the upcoming seasons to show the public to indicate a living community in Chinatown.

- Chinatown lacks a calendar events that allows us to update each other on what events are being planned, what's going on, etc.
- Relationship-building, Capacity-building, Public Awareness: Organizing a speaker series as volunteers; LSG members appreciated hearing about the CCC's origins from Fred Kwok and Fred Mah and want to organize more of those relationship-based learning opportunities around Chinatown's living histories. The working group expresses interest in organizing with the summit group around this idea.
- Streets, Safety and Health, and Public Spaces: Prioritized some short-term actions and completed the short-term street cleaning project in partnership with Engineering from the City. However, the working group itself has not been meeting, so CTT is looking to restart the group soon and explore shifting the focus to "Community Safety". Will connect to Cultural Heritage charter via culturally-responsive safety programs supporting residents encouraging them to come out and speak to their experiences.
- Low-Income Residents, Improving Living Conditions, and Anti-Gentrification: Decided on short, medium, long term priorities. Short term actions will involve organizing a series of workshops, connecting with other marginalized groups such as Japanese-Canadians, Hogan's Alley communities, to get to know our neighbours while exploring topics such as anti-racism, tenants' rights, Indigenous issues. The working group can offer Chinese translation services to the REC working group as needed. In terms of mid-long term priorities, they are exploring ways to address the housing crisis via providing a spectrum of housing options with differing levels of health/social support for renters.

6. Meeting Adjourned + Call for Alternative LSG Meeting Venues!

- For future meetings, please let the Co-Chairs or CTT know if you are interested in hosting a meeting at your organization's building space. It's an opportunity to showcase your organization, because it would be great to learn more about the organizations that you serve. These organizations are not always accessible to the public, so the Co-Chairs are hoping to solicit invitations from LSG members. There's a small budget available for space rentals. The criteria for a meeting would be:
 - Capacity for ~40 people
 - Catering should be allowed