

**Chinatown Legacy Stewardship Group (LSG) 10th Meeting
Meeting Summary Notes**

Date: Tuesday, July 14, 2020
Time: 4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.
Location: Zoom Video Conferencing

Present: Aynsley Wong Meldrum, Bill Kwok, Carmut Me, Charlotte Li, Danny Quon, Elisha Yao, Fred Kwok, Fred Mah, Glynnis Chan, Inge Roecker, Jugen Li, Kevin Huang, Kimberley Wong, Leslie Shieh, Li Yu Rong, Louis Lapprend, Michael Tan, Minna Van, Ross Lam, Sonny Wong, Stephanie Leo, Susan Ma, Terry Hunter, Wang Zhao, William Ma

Guests: Alisha Masongsong and Nick Yung, (Co-Chairs of Low-Income Working Group), Sarah Ling (REC Working Group), Henry Yu (UBC), Tiffany Zhang (Interpreter), Doris Chow, Wendy Au

CTT Staff: Baldwin Wong, Helen Ma, Helen Lee, Joseph Li, Alan Chen, Tom Wanklin (CoV DTES Planning),

Regrets: Alain Chow, Anita (Chan) Bardal, Bob Sung, Cecil Charles Chi Chung Fung, Jordan Eng, June Chow, Laiwan Chung, Joey Wong, Jun Ing, Mark Lee, To Trinh Diep, Vincent Kwan, Willie Chan, Y Vy Truong

Agenda:

| Time | Item | Presenter/Facilitator |
|-----------|---|--|
| 4:00 p.m. | Welcome | Kimberley Wong and Mike Tan LSG Co-chair |
| 4:10 p.m. | LSG Co-chair & Community Updates | Kimberley Wong and Mike Tan LSG Co-chair |
| 4:20 p.m. | Indigenous Relationship Building Update | REC Working Group |
| 4:30 p.m. | Northeast False Creek Update | City of Vancouver |
| 4:40 p.m. | Chinatown Transformation Team Updates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Working group project proposals CHAMP Revised Timeline Community Survey from City - Support in Recovery Process | Baldwin Wong and Helen Ma CTT Co-lead |
| 5:00 p.m. | Working Group Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Working group goals and objectives document update Project proposals next steps | Working Groups Sponsors |
| 5:15 p.m. | Meeting Adjourned | Kimberley Wong and Mike Tan LSG Co-chair |

Meeting Notes:

LSG Co-chair & Community Updates

Chinatown Plaza, Glynnis Chan

- Tenants at the mall are struggling; a few stores have left already because they can't afford rent increases with no support from the CoV. Tenants approached City management, but received a response: "there's nothing we can do".
- Some shops are open but they aren't doing well. Basic expenses are going uncovered
- Glynnis met with City Councillors Melissa De Genova and Sarah Kirby-Yung 10 days ago. Will be meeting again on July 16 to discuss a plan for how they can help the mall tenants.
- Mall was told they were receiving no more promotional funding to attract tourists to the mall, which will hurt businesses there further.
- Disappointed in the government's response.

Michael Tan

- Wrote an op-ed to describe how Chinatown is falling through the cracks of government support. Cited how Granville Island received federal emergency funding but Chinatown did not receive any.
- Will be sending a letter to the federal government tomorrow asking for more support for Chinatown. The letter will be forwarded to the LSG for input and reference.
- Reminder that we can start coming back to Chinatown, with many businesses and storefronts reopening, including the Garden

Barriers to seeking rent subsidies for Jade Dynasty

- As the landlord for Jade Dynasty, William Ma applied for the Federal rent subsidy program and experienced barriers:
 - The process required disclosure of private personal bank statements, which William did not feel comfortable disclosing.

Kimberley Wong

- "Pride in Chinatown" celebration is postponed until August, and will feature 8 visual art locations in CT, from queer pan-Asian artists
- A "Letter to Chinese-Canadians on Anti-Black Racism" (written by Kimberley, Mike, Baldwin, Kevin, and Louis) has received 400 signatories.
 - [Link in English](#)
 - [Link in Chinese](#)

Update on Indigenous Relations Strategy

- Wade Grant has been brought on as an advisor, on a volunteer basis, to LSG and CTT work
- REC will work with Co-Chairs to host events for the LSG members.

NEFC Update

- “Group of 10” (10 representatives from various Chinatown organizations) held a smaller meeting with Gil Kelley and Sandra Singh from the City
 - Worked out miscommunications from previous NEFC planning process
 - Reached agreement to organize a series of working meetings, each focusing on one of 4 key issues in the NEFC Plan
- First working meeting will be planned for early September
 - Expressed a sense of urgency; in part because of the progress that Hogan’s Alley is making and the feeling that Chinatown should be on equal footing.

Chinatown Transformation Team Updates

- Working Group Project Proposals
 - Adjudication process reviewed 4 LSG project proposals and 2 external proposals.
 - 2 panel members: one from CoV, one from Vancity Foundation
 - 1 LSG project proposal is still under development and will be reviewed later
 - The panel was impressed overall, and supported the funding requests in general.
 - More detail was requested for one project before funding confirmation; the respective working group sponsors will be responsible to complete those next steps.
- CHAMP
 - A workshop is being planned for the end of July. Working group sponsors and LSG project proponents will examine each working group’s goals and objectives to inform the content of CHAMP.
 - After the workshop, members will report back at the next LSG meeting and ask for more input.
- City Survey on the impact of COVID-19 on NPOs
 - What has been experienced? What are the challenges for recovery? What additional support would they like to see provided by the City?
 - The survey team needs support to reach clan societies and volunteer groups
 - CTT staff will reach out to 5-6 clan societies who may be willing to participate
- Vancouver Plan Staff
 - Pivoting due to COVID-19, and interested in hearing from Chinese-Canadian community to find out the impact of COVID-19; will engage with LSG members

Working Group Updates

Cultural Heritage

- Finalizing Cultural Heritage Charter to be shared with all WG sponsors; the charter will also serve as Cultural Heritage’s “objectives and goals” document
- Fire Dragon Festival – funding request supported, but postponing festival from October 2020 to May 2021. Next steps include hiring an event producer, confirming corporate sponsorships and additional funding, as well as working on an implementation plan.

Relationship Building, Public Education & Capacity Building (REC)

- Objectives and goals haven't changed since last year
- Convening a project committee in 2 parts
 - Building deeper relations with the Indigenous nations
 - Storytelling component, working with Chinatown Today

Small Business and Economic Development

- Funding request for Chinatown Dine-Out project is pending revisions to project application and final confirmation from adjudication panel
- Project is postponed to May 2021, same as the Fire Dragon Festival
- Will be collaborating with Cultural Heritage Working Group to reduce costs.
- Exploring an opportunity to revitalize Chinatown Plaza; reached out to CoV to determine funding availability for a feasibility study to determine new operating model possibilities
- Exploring the feasibility of a Special Enterprise Area for Chinatown to support businesses

Low Income

- Objectives and goals document have remained the same since early 2020
- Funding request approved for research project on living conditions of low-income seniors
- Next steps include:
 - Finalizing scope and methodology with Professors Miu Chung Yan and Andy Yan
 - Organizing a Community Advisory Working Group Committee
 - Recruiting local Chinese dialect-speaking seniors to begin data collection process
- Are LSG members available to support us with...
 - Identifying and/or recruiting seniors who want to be involved either with the data collection process or the Community Advisory Committee?
 - Help facilitate connections between Nick, Alisha and owners of privately-owned, single room occupancy hotels in DTES where a majority of the tenants are Chinese-speaking seniors?
 - Please reach out to Alisha Masongsong and Nick Yung at alisha@exchange.cd.com and nicolas@yungyungyung.com

Streets and Safety Working Group

- Proposed a Neighbourhood Watch Program to enhance existing services in Chinatown, with the Chinese Cultural Center as the sponsor
- Volunteers and support will be recruited from other organizations such as the BIA, Community Stewardship Program from EMBERS; Chinese Community Policing Center; SUCCESS, Carnegie, SYS, Vancouver Chinatown Merchant Association, Chinese Benevolent Association, etc.
- Program coordinator will be hired; looking for bilingual fluency in English and Cantonese (and Mandarin if possible). Responsibilities will include:
 - Being a point person for any issues regarding safety or security in Chinatown.
 - Respond to incoming calls to refer them to relevant authorities.
 - Compile a database of incidents in the area for reporting

- Participating volunteers will witness and report incidents, as well as call the program coordinator to report incidents.
- The CCC can function as a safe house to provide temporary refuge for folks experiencing distress; similar to the Safe Harbour program. Participating businesses can put a sticker in their windows to indicate that they can be used for temporary refuge too.

Comments

- Would there be a chance for mono-lingual Chinese seniors to participate in the public education component for the Bridging Arts project sponsored by Sun Yat Sen?
 - Yes, the project anticipates providing translation where feasible. The organizing group is happy to take suggestions for how to do that effectively.

Next Steps

- LSG meeting in Mandarin is being put on hold, due to the technical challenges posed by virtual meetings
- Next meeting is on September 1. There is not August meeting.
- Helen Ma will reach out to working group sponsors to connect before the end of July workshop