

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

Date: Wednesday, May 27, 2020
Time: 4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.
Location: Zoom Video Conferencing

Present: Alain Chow, Anita (Chan) Bardal, Bill Kwok, Bob Sung, Carmut Me, Charlotte Li, Elisha Yao, Fred Kwok, Fred Mah, Jordan Eng, June Chow, Kevin Huang, Kimberley Wong, Laiwan Chung, Louis Lapprend, Michael Tan, Sonny Wong, Stephanie Leo, Susan Ma, Terry Hunter, Vincent Kwan, William Ma, Y Vy Truong

Guests: Alisha Masongsong and Nick Yung, (Co-Chairs of Low-Income Working Group), Sarah Ling (REC Working Group), Henry Yu (UBC), Wendy Au, Lara Honrado (CoV Emergency Operations Center), Neil Hrushowy (CoV Community Planning), Sandra Singh (CoV Arts, Culture, and Community Services), Tom Wanklin, Wesley Joe (CoV DTES Planning)

CTT Staff: Baldwin Wong, Helen Ma, Helen Lee, Belle Cheung, Joseph Li, Alan Chen

Regrets: Aynsley Wong Meldrum, Cecil Charles Chi Chung Fung, Danny Quon, Glynnis Chan, Inge Roecker, Joey Wong, Jugen Li, Jun Ing, Susan Ma, Li Yu Rong, Mark Lee, Minna Van, Ross Lam, To Trinh Diep, Wang Zhao, Willie Chan

Agenda

Time	Item	Presenter/Facilitator
4:00 p.m.	Welcome	Kimberley Wong and Mike Tan LSG Co-chair
4:10 p.m.	Update by LSG Co-chair	Kimberley Wong and Mike Tan LSG Co-chair
4:20 p.m.	Update on Community Initiatives In Response to the Pandemic and Rise of Racism <i>(Update items requested before meeting)</i>	LSG Members
4:35 p.m.	General Community Updates <i>(Update items requested before meeting)</i>	LSG Members
4:45 p.m.	City of Vancouver Updates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> City-wide emergency response and anti-racism work Planning for recovery 	Sandra Singh General Manager, Arts, Culture and Community Services Neil Hrushowy Assistant Director, Community Planning

		Lara Honrado Director, Emergency Operations Centre;
5:00 p.m.	Chinatown Transformation Team Updates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emergency response in Chinatown • Funding support to LSG projects 	Baldwin Wong and Helen Ma CTT Co-lead
5:15 p.m.	LSG Priority Projects Overview <i>(questions requested before meeting)</i>	Kimberley Wong and Mike Tan LSG Co-chair
5:30 p.m.	Meeting Adjourned	Kimberley Wong and Mike Tan LSG Co-chair

Meeting Notes

1 & 2) Update on Community Initiatives In Response to the Pandemic and Rise of Racism; General Community Updates

- #HealthNotHate media awareness campaign via Sonny Wong
 - Met with great response and pro bono support; national media coverage, free ad space, billboards, global television, participation from TV celebrities, etc.)
- Racism Incident Reporting Center: <https://www.project1907.org/reportingcentre> through VAFF EliminateHate campaign
- Grocery Delivery Initiative from Hua Foundation, Yarrow Intergenerational Society for Justice, and Bao Bei
 - Ongoing fundraising and packaging groceries, information and masks for weekly Mondays deliveries to Chinatown seniors to encourage them to stay safe and stay inside, through volunteers connected with Yarrow and SUCCESS.
- C19help.ca – Community-developed, federally-funded online resource with multilingual translations via Hua Foundation and Bao Ve Collective (LSG members Carmut Me, Mark Lee and Y Vy Truong)
 - The website combats misinformation about the pandemic by providing credible translated resources in Chinese, Vietnamese and Tagalog for the community.
- Procurement and donations of face masks via Chinese Benevolent Association, Chinese Cultural Center, Mah Society, (LSG members Bill Kwok, Fred Kwok, William Mah)
 - Fundraised money to buy 20,000 face masks to those in need. 4000-5000 were donated to the City for their discretionary use (DTES, seniors' care homes, etc.), with more on the way.
 - 4000 to 5000 masks still available for donation. Suggestions are welcome.
- Update from the Vancouver Chinatown Business Improvement Association
 - CoV financially supported increased security presence to 24hr/day patrol for two months until end of May (now being extended), security cameras were added by VPD to combat increased racism, as well as additional micro-cleaning/graffiti removal contracts.
 - Over the next few weeks, VCBIA will be starting a social media campaign promoting open businesses with other BIAs; Vancouver Chinatown Foundation will also assist businesses to assess federal subsidy programs

- Premier’s Roundtable on Anti-Asian Racism
 - Attendees advocated for faster prosecution of anti-Asian hate crimes, a Provincial anti-Asian Racism Act, and disaggregated data collection on ethnic/race-based health care outcomes.
 - Vancouver Immigration and Refugee Society is serving as a hub for provincial anti-racism initiatives, through a “Hub-and-Spokes” model established by Resilience BC.
- Mayor’s Roundtable on Anti-Asian Racism
 - Kimberley and Mike, with Sonny and 15 other attendees were invited by the City to give recommendations to the Mayor on specific municipal actions re: advocacy or funding needs.
 - Kimberley and Mike brought up exasperation of impacts of COVID on marginalized communities like the Black and Indigenous communities
- Bao Ve Collective
 - Y Vy Truong, Mimi Nguyen and Kathy Thai are providing Vietnamese translations of Federal and Provincial aid programs and on other resources, while doing outreach work with the Vietnamese community.
- The Chinatown Supper Club by the Youth Collective for Chinatown
 - Part of a Canada-wide Takeout Wednesday campaign, CSC is supporting Chinatown eateries by offering free pick-up and delivery. CSC is seeing 15-20 orders per evening (~\$800) and is also collecting informal data on importance of local businesses.

3) City of Vancouver Updates

Lara Honrado (Equity & Inclusion Officer for Emergency Operations Center [EOC])

- EOC is providing language access through staff with cultural and language competencies in their “Ethnocultural Communities Branch”, as well as collaborating with the Province on anti-racism initiatives in EOC;
- Anti-racism work: Prioritizing racialized communities experiencing disproportionate impacts while dealing with increased xenophobia and racism during COVID pandemic. City is announcing May 29th as “Day of Action Against Racism”; a public awareness campaign building off of other anti-racism campaigns. Issuing multi-lingual resources, video message and a Mayor’s proclamation in Chinese, Punjabi, Tagalog, Vietnamese and Korean in collaboration with the Premier’s office and Office of the Lieutenant Governor and VPD.

Sandra Singh (General Manager of Arts, Culture, and Community Services)

- EOC has been focused on communities experiencing disproportionate impacts, such as supporting people to self-isolate who live in congregate housing or sleep outside.
- Setting up community centers as emergency response centers, activating hotels to support housing and self-isolation needs with Vancouver Coastal Health and BC Housing.
- SRO meal program is an example of food security work overlapping with self-isolation supports; mix of government and philanthropic funding delivering thousands of meals.

- Transition to Phase 2: “What does meal support in support of self-isolation look like in the next few months?” Focusing on targeted interventions, while looking at food ecosystem generally.
- Public hygiene: Looking at deployment of toilet and handwashing stations, social distancing on sidewalks, restarting services such as Carnegie, Evelyn Saller, Gathering Place, and other non-profits by addressing the supports they need.

Neil Hrushowy (Assistant Director of Community Planning)

- “What is the city intending to do to help communities recover from the pandemic?” Three-pronged approach – Recovery, Restart, and Rebuild, with a focus on Recovery. The goal is to accelerate community and city recovery efforts by aligning city resources.
- See Neil’s slides for more details on City’s priorities, staff reporting structure, etc.
- Timeline: Work period from May-December 2020, with a final report to Council in January 2021 to summarize work done and pivoting to future rebuilding efforts
- “The Vancouver Plan” has also pivoted to be more recovery-focused and will be presenting reports to Council in September and December 2020.

Questions

- “Where does Culture and Heritage fit into the context of Recovery Actions?”
 - Sandra: Fits into area of non-profits and social enterprises, anti-racism and equity, Vancouver Plan, and business recovery. Want to articulate the need for an equity lens through all streams of recovery work.
- One concern that folks have in Chinatown is whether the work being funded and supported by the City will be able to continue as the recovery work continues to evolve.

4) Chinatown Transformation Team Updates:

Updates Related to VPD Work and Safety from Baldwin Wong

- Racist graffiti at the Chinese Cultural Center led to VPD putting up a new security fence and surveillance trailer in the perimeter (although the trailer has been removed now).
- The Millennium Lions were defaced and then cleaned. A new protective coating is being applied for easier future graffiti removal.
- VPD is increasing presence in the area and setting up conference calls with community groups to hear about concerns. Crime reporting guidelines are also being put together to be distributed across Chinatown regarding who to report to for what crimes and how.
- A public VPD press conference was held by Deputy Chief Howard Chow to address the rise in anti-Asian racism. They are also continuing to investigate hate crimes.
- The Community Stewardship Program is continuing, with reduced service levels. This includes services such as needle pickups, supporting local businesses with emergencies such as street-side overdose cases, and checking-in with DTES residents.

Comments

- Not everyone in Chinatown feels safer with increased police presence or with contacting police. [Click here for a resource on alternatives to calling the police in times of need.](#)
 - Baldwin: Dr. SYS Garden held a meeting on the need for information on how the public can respond to situations on the street.
 - Sandra: CoV recognizes that asking racialized communities to report to police can be an issue; reporting is important for policy development and other work, but how do we support reporting when people have negative experiences with law enforcement? Trying to focus on gaps and emphasize that racism is a crime.
- Fred Kwok: Has witnessed increased verbal and physical hate crimes in front of CCC, which are sometimes are not being taken seriously by officers on duty. Community leaders are speaking out to condemn these violent acts, but little has been done to help the victims. Fred offers CCC as a platform to support victims during this time.

Helen Ma

- To respond to food access challenges that seniors are facing, EOC started a Meals program to deliver culturally-appropriate food to senior residents in Chinatown in partnership with Dr. SYS Gardens, Hua Foundation and Chinatown Today. Phase 1 supported deliveries to 250 seniors; Phase 2 now supports 170 residents and is ongoing. Funding is being provided by charitable foundation as well as BC Housing. As gradual reopening begins, the program will end soon. CoV is having conversations about increasing food security for low-income folks and seniors in the area as well as starting to plan for a second wave that might hit in the fall. Suggestions and ideas are welcome; will update the group again next meeting.
- To respond to hygiene needs in the community to combat the spread of COVID, the EOC supported proactive cleaning of common areas in SRO buildings (many owned by societies & NPOs with senior residents). Washrooms, kitchens, bathrooms, etc. are receiving regular sanitation.
- CTT wants to recognize how the pandemic response has demonstrated that all this work is dependent on a strong community, networks and its people. It's more important than ever that CoV needs to support the people to enable Chinatown's eventual recovery.

5) LSG Priority Projects Overview

Four working group sponsors spoke to their proposals, as well as two external proposals endorsed by a working group. The Streets, Safety and Public Realm working group requested an extension for their project proposal submission. Please see the attachment “List of Project Proposals” for more details. Regarding next steps, the proposals will be reviewed by an independent panel. Working groups will receive the results/feedback, with hopes that they can begin in July.

- Carmut Me, Cultural Heritage
 - Fire Dragon Festival – A Celebration of Chinatown Resiliency and Solidarity***
 - Fire dragon is a fitting theme for a celebration to kick off Chinatown’s recovery from COVID as it was believed to ward off sickness in ancient times. Will be timed with the Mid-Autumn Festival and will involve multiple smaller initiatives leading up to the event to build anticipation

- Jordan Eng, Small Business and Economy
 - Dine-Out Chinatown***
 - Culinary heritage program that will include complementary programs to the Fire Dragon Festival to promote a range of businesses from restaurants to green grocers.

- Kevin Huang, Relationship Building, Public Awareness and Capacity Building
 - Indigenous Education and Storytelling***
 - Will provide opportunities and resources to support LSG’s ongoing decolonization
 - Chinatown Storytelling with contributors from Chinatown’s intangible cultural heritage***
 - Will seek out stories about how community members contributed to Chinatown’s intangible cultural heritage before COVID, and how the pandemic has impacted them. Chinatown Today will support as a partner to host a Fall event to showcase these stories.

- Relationship-Building Working Group Approved External Projects
 - Solidarity: Bridging Arts, Building Resilience***
 - Program will convene Chinese Canadian and local Indigenous artists from the MST Nations for intercultural dialogue and education through art.
 - Heritage Significance Through Story Driven Podcast***
 - Podcast pilot building on previous legacy business study that will look at businesses’ sociocultural elements and try to create a framework of intangible cultural characteristics that can be applied elsewhere.

- Alisha Masongsong & Nick Yung, Low-Income, Improving Living Conditions and Anti-Gentrification
 - Research Study of Low-Income Seniors’ Living Conditions***

- Aim is to collect up-to-date data on the living conditions and related issues of Chinatown seniors focusing on isolated seniors to demonstrate the case for infrastructure improvements and health/social supports needed for SRO buildings.