

## Chinatown Legacy Stewardship Group (LSG) 30<sup>th</sup> Meeting + Social Meeting Summary Notes

**Date:** Tuesday September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2022

**Time:** 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

**Location:** Floata Seafood Restaurant

**Present:** Alain Chow, Anita Chan, Aynsley Wong, Bardal, Bill Kwok, Fred Mah, Glynnis Chan, Henry Tom, Inge Roecker, Janssen Ong, June Chow, Kevin Huang, Leslie Shieh, Michael Tan, Robert Sung, Ross Lam, Russell Chiong, Stephanie Leo, Sonny Wong, Susan Ma, Terry Hunter, William Ma

*Guests:* Carven Li, Jada-Gabrielle Pape

*CoV Staff:* Belle Cheung, Bonnie Ma, Fausto Inomata, Helen Lee, Neil Hrushowy, Sandra Singh, Tom Wanklin, Tyler Mark

**Regrets:** Charlotte Li, Danny Quon, Jordan Eng, Jugen Li, Li Yu Rong, Lorraine Low, Minna Van, Fred Kwok, Todd Huang, Rosie Wang, Sinder Kaur

### AGENDA

Time	Item	Presenter/Facilitator
5:05 p.m.	<b>Welcome and Land Acknowledgement</b>	<b>Michael Tan &amp; Stephanie Leo</b>
5:10 p.m.	<b>Community Updates</b>	<b>Michael Tan &amp; Stephanie Leo</b>
5:15 p.m.	<b>Update from City Leadership &amp; CTT</b>	<b>Sandra Singh, Neil Hrushowy, Belle Cheung</b>
5:25 p.m.	<b>Questions?</b>	<b>Belle Cheung</b>
5:40 p.m.	<b><i>Break</i></b>	
6:00 p.m.	<b>Small Group: Implementation Process and Discussions</b>	<b>Jada-Gabrielle Pape</b>
6:40 p.m.	<b>Report Back &amp; Wrap Up</b>	
7:00 p.m.	<b>Meeting Adjourned</b>	

## **Welcome and Land Acknowledgement - Start time 5:16pm**

### **Community Updates – Stephanie Leo**

- [Heart of the City Festival](#) (Oct 26 – Nov 6) – presenting a Cantonese opera, “[The Prop Masters Dream](#)”
- LSG and Hua are supporting a mayoral/council candidates survey on cultural heritage and food assets
- Wong’s Benevolent Association – opening building for guided tours Sept 24<sup>th</sup>
  - o Also to contact City to discuss sinking and damaged sidewalks from sea lv fluctuations
- Chinese veterans will participate in the Remembrance Day ceremony happening this year
- Yarrow will be partnering with Vancouver Coastal Health to host a bivalent vaccine clinic at Strathcona or Carnegie community centre in early October
- Chinese Cultural Centre will host early voting for seniors in early October
- Past events and updates:
  - o Yarrow, Carnegie Community Centre and other community partners held a Mid Autumn Celebration that hosted ~300 seniors and activities (Sept 9<sup>th</sup>)
  - o Fire Dragon Festival (Sept 17<sup>th</sup>)
  - o Fred Mah received the Order of BC in August

### **Update from City Leadership - Sandra Singh (ACCS) and Neil Hrushowy (PDS)**

- The City wants to thank LSG and the community for their work and dedication to CHAMP
  - o Moving forward the City will be taking a ‘whole city’ interdepartmental approach to Chinatown work
- Sandra Singh (General Manager of Arts, Culture and Community Services) and Theresa O’Donnell (General Manager of Planning, Urban Design and Sustainability) met with each of the five organizations mentioned in the [Council motion](#)
- The goal of these shifts are to centre the vision and goals in CHAMP, which span many different departments. A ‘whole city’ approach will ensure that goals and strategies identified in CHAMP – along with implementation actions identified by LSG – are supported properly.
- Staff do not anticipate Council commitments to CHAMP to change – it would be unlikely

*Break – CTT updates pushed to after ‘Break’*

### **Update from CTT – Belle Cheung**

- [CHAMP has been approved with amendments](#). We are now moving towards implementation and recommendations after further engagement with the community
- We will be transitioning from the development to the implementation stage of CHAMP
  - o The next steps will include implementation, funding, and work reorganization/hiring
    - This also means there may be slower response times as we reorganize

### **Small Group: Implementation Process and Discussions – time 6:08pm**

*There were 4 self-led small groups. City staff were present to provide guidance and to note take. Groups were encouraged to facilitate their own conversation but the following questions were provided to help guide the process. Key takeaways from conversations are summarised below.*

### **What worked in terms of CHAMP, the LSG and the working groups' format?**

- Unprecedented to have so many diverse Chinatown community organizations working together
- Workshops and meeting format were conducive of collaboration - generated ideas and higher participation including people outside of Chinatown
- Hybrid (in-person and virtual) meetings were more flexible and accessible, resulting in less absenteeism while in-person allowed for informal side conversations
- It is important to acknowledge the amount of City support as some do not appreciate the amount of support staff have provided to Chinatown, noting no other area and cultural group has the same dedicated staff team and funding. – i.e. resources, funding, events, plan implementation and creation
- Recognise the depth of institutional community and staff knowledge and participation
- Chinatown is not uniform with a diversity of organizations bringing their own cultures, dialects, history and own idea of Chinatown

### **What didn't work in terms of CHAMP, the LSG and the working groups' format?**

- There was more time needed before decision were made – reporting times, notifying respective organization and boards, decision making, fully understanding and digesting information
- Diversity is good, but also led to challenges as there were so many differing voices, opinions and ideas on Chinatown (and other BIPOC communities), its history and directions for the future
  - o Some noted the challenges of adjacency to the DTES (Main & Hastings area), and highlighted the importance of the neighbourhood and investments
- Three key issues: structure, leadership, and communication:
  1. Stronger leadership - LSG and CTT were looking to each other for leadership and guidance without clear direction
  2. More structure - Working groups worked in silos with little or no collaboration
    - Would like to see a clearer understanding of LSG and working group structures – i.e. terms of reference for each group with roles, clear goals, and reporting structure into the broader LSG structure
  3. Better communication - Fracture in LSG in front of Council resulted in disappointment from both CTT and some LSG organizations
    - Goals changed for some without being communicated to the larger group, resulting in broken relationships and loss of trust
    - Examples of lack of communication/better communication:
      - CHAMP included content not fully discussed by the larger group, e.g. Indigenous peoples, Japantown, Hogan's Alley, etc.
      - People were afraid of being honest with each other
      - The UNESCO goal was never clear to LSG, and it sounded like the centre in CHAMP
      - Meeting minutes should be shared the following week, not the following meeting (more time for review, and gives absentees a chance to check with their organizations and come with a response)

### **What would you like to see specifically in the CHAMP implementation process (not the content)?**

- Would like to see a more formalized process on decision making
  - o i.e. a voting system or becoming a 'true' advisory committee
- Transparency on engagement with and between other groups and how it went
- Would like to have more opportunities to discuss rather than have ideas just presented
- Would like to be told explicitly about implications of work
- Create some kind of general depository of knowledge

**How can we work better together? Are there different ways of communication, engaging, gathering, meeting or having discussions? Should we be meeting more or less often, should we have more or less sharing and updates?**

- Hybrid meetings are still viable but perhaps we can utilize online breakout group function
  - o Smaller groups can feel more productive especially with 1 or 2 focused topics
  - o Need to accommodate or set aside specific time for discussion vs updates
- Would like more time and input into agenda making – recognize that this is a difficult process and trying to work with(in) City institutions and structures

**Are there other things you would like done differently in Phase 2 (the implementation process) that fall outside of engagement?**

- We need to reflect individually, and our positionality (as representatives or as individuals). What are our responsibilities and intentionality of being a part of LSG? It's not just about showing up.
- Need to define terms:
  - o What do we mean by clarity, communication, trust?
  - o What does it mean to be a part of LSG? What is the role of CTT? Of LSG?
- Would like to have timelines and milestones we are working towards clearly laid out
- Would be good to have follow up actions from LSG Evaluation Survey from July 2021
- LSG structure and way of engaging with the City (via CTT) is very new and differs from how the Planning Department has typically done engagement
- Having smaller groups/working groups helps people find a focus on the things they care most about, and often there are actions/direct projects related to participation in small groups
- Having an LSG once a month is good but some working groups meet a lot
  - o Want to flag that people have different capacities and commitments
- We would like to see more streamlined reporting for each working group and more info shared
- Large groups can be intimidating – there are also barriers with onboarding, new members, continuity and technical challenges
  - o Need more opportunities to work across generational divide
- What kept you coming back?
  - o Connecting with people, meaning making, multigenerational culture, shared love of Chinatown
- How can we respectfully disagree?
  - o Need to build a process where differences of opinion can be discussed as a group – “we saw how not having a process in LSG for this allowed some individuals to come to Council and voice their disagreement there instead, when that should happen in LSG together with community and each other, instead of externally”
  - o Come, listen, and have feedback - LSG also has homework to do
  - o This is conventional engagement and it takes learning to engage in certain way
  - o Need a process that is more equitable / inclusive to EVERYONE regardless of their place or opinions in the community
- Still hard to get through the whole CHAMP plan
  - o Want staff to walk through plan and talk through what could cause disagreements
- Identifying ways that people want to receive information from staff
  - o Finding ways to present info that is not just reading
  - o Presenting info in a non-report format