

From: **"Mochrie, Paul"**

To: **"Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"**

Date: 2024-07-02 4:49:19 PM

Subject: Memo - Chinatown Memorial Square Redesign - Design Team Selection Update

Attachments: **ENG - Memo - Chinatown Memorial Square Redesign – Design Team Selection Update.pdf**

Dear Mayor and Council,

Please see the attached Council Memo from Lon LaClaire regarding **Chinatown Memorial Square Redesign - Design Team Selection Update**. A short summary of the memo is as follows:

- This project is part of the recommendations made from the 2017 Historical Discrimination Against Chinese People in Vancouver report;
- Through a competitive RFP process, the project team has awarded PFS Studio to lead the plaza design process;
- Local Nations have been invited to participate in the project and currently Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh Nations have expressed interest; and
- Staff are also continuing ongoing discussions with the 105 Keefer St. development review team.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Lon LaClaire at 604-873-7336 or lon.laclaire@vancouver.ca.

Best,
Paul

Paul Mochrie (he/him)
City Manager
City of Vancouver



The City of Vancouver acknowledges that it is situated on the unceded traditional territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Sḵwəx̱wú7mesh (Squamish), and səlilwətaʔ (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.

MEMORANDUM

June 25, 2024

TO: Mayor and Council

CC: Paul Mochrie, City Manager
Armin Amrolia, Deputy City Manager
Karen Levitt, Deputy City Manager
Sandra Singh, Deputy City Manager
Katrina Leckovic, City Clerk
Maria Pontikis, Chief Communications Officer, CEC
Teresa Jong, Administration Services Manager, City Manager's Office
Mellisa Morphy, Director of Policy, Mayor's Office
Trevor Ford, Chief of Staff, Mayor's Office

FROM: Lon LaClaire
General Manager, Engineering Services

SUBJECT: Chinatown Memorial Square Redesign – Design Team Selection Update

RTS #: N/A

This memo provides an update on the Chinatown Memorial Square Redesign project. Chinatown Memorial Square is considered the cultural heart of Vancouver's Chinatown. The plaza currently hosts well attended civic and community events throughout the year and serves as an important gathering place and informal activity space for locals and the broader community to celebrate Chinese Canadian culture and traditions. It is also a space for reflection as a monument stands within the Square to commemorate the contributions made by railway workers and Chinese Canadian veterans.

In November 2017, Vancouver City Council adopted recommendations from the Historical Discrimination Against Chinese People in Vancouver report to undertake actions towards cultural redress. One of the recommendations was to redesign Chinatown Memorial Square as a way to conserve, commemorate and enhance the living heritage and cultural assets of the Chinese Canadian community. This project is identified as a part of the recently approved *Chinatown Cultural District Framework* which includes a key goal of improving the overall environment in Chinatown including enhancing public spaces in the neighbourhood. There is also an opportunity to recognize the intertwined history of the Chinese Canadian community and xʷməθkʷəy̍əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səliłwətał (Tseil-Waututh), as well as the ongoing visibility and stewardship of the Nations, on these lands.

In 2021 and 2022, a Community Advisory Group was formed, and two phases of public engagement were completed to understand the community's and public's vision and goals for the space and explore redesign ideas, including increasing the size of the square (see Appendix A). A request for proposal was posted in late 2023 for a design team to lead the redesign of the Chinatown Memorial Square.

Seven design teams bid on the work and three teams were shortlisted based on the City's standard technical scoring process. Shortlisted teams were then interviewed by staff and two Community Advisory Group representatives to incorporate community knowledge and experience into the selection process. Interview scores were combined with staff technical scores and the team with the highest combined score was selected. The successful proponent is PFS Studio and work has started in June 2024. PFS Studio has a long-standing interest in supporting Chinatown vibrancy with several members of their team who have previously worked extensively to develop long term plans in Chinatown.

The local Nations have been invited to participate in the project, and currently Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh Nations have expressed interest. Over the next year, we will continue to engage with the local community, Community Advisory Group and the Nations. Staff are also continuing ongoing discussions with the 105 Keefer Street development review team.

Staff will continue to provide updates to the Memorial Square Redesign Community Advisory Group as well as the forthcoming Council-appointed Advisory Committee once appointed.

If you have any questions, please contact me directly.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Lon LaClaire', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Lon LaClaire, M.Eng., P.Eng.
General Manager, Engineering Services

604.873.7336 | lon.laclaire@vancouver.ca

APPENDIX A – Increased Area for Chinatown Memorial Square



Figure 1 – Increased Area for Chinatown Memorial Square