



# Chinatown Workshop

# Northeast False Creek

## Saturday, January 27, 2018

## THANK YOU!

On January 27, 2018, 110 stakeholders from the Chinatown community attended a workshop to learn about updates to the Northeast False Creek (NEFC) Plan and to provide their personal, professional and community-based input.

After a staff presentation, 10 groups of attendees were led through a facilitated discussion about Chinatown - past, present and future - and their vision for the Chinatown Cultural District, including what the NEFC Plan could do to help enhance this area.

Key themes and neighbourhood-specific priorities as follows were outlined by the attendees (detailed workshop notes follow a summary of key points throughout this document):

- **Connectivity, Accessibility, and Permeability**
- **Park Design**
- **Architecture, Design, and Heritage**
- **Multi-generational Design**
- **Community and People**



# Questions

Workshop attendees were asked to consider the following questions:

- Today, what are some of the characteristics that make Chinatown special to you?
- What types of cultural programming and community gathering are important to accommodate in the new Chinatown Cultural District, or other areas of NEFC?
- How can the NEFC Plan help remove barriers and actively reconnect Chinatown to the surrounding districts, including the new waterfront and Events and Entertainment District (i.e. Quebec Street strengthened for all modes, including future streetcar; Carrall Street direct walking/cycling connection to the waterfront; Main Street as a local business high street)? How can the NEFC Plan help emphasize public life at the ground plane?
- What would make you feel welcome in the future park?
- How can the park become a part of Chinatown?
- What would bring you to the park and what would you do there?
- Recognizing the viaducts disconnected Chinatown from the communities to the south, how can the new Quebec and Main Street gateways best reconnect Chinatown?





# Connectivity, Accessibility, and Permeability

## WHAT WE HEARD

### Key points and themes:

- Provide safe and comfortable access to and through Chinatown for pedestrians, bikes and vehicles, with a focus on seniors' needs.
- Strong connections from waterfront to Chinatown and vice versa are needed. Provide a breadcrumb trail to Chinatown from the NEFC waterfront – through the park, not around the park.
- Provide a clear and distinct pathway from NEFC Sub-area 6C (Concord Pacific's site) into Chinatown, with activating elements that reflect Chinatown: with food trucks, public art, kiosks, lights and lanterns.
- Connect Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Garden, seniors' housing and activities on Pender Street all to the waterfront.
- Provide clear and easy access to Chinatown with new gateways on Quebec and Main Streets. Gateways can also be marked with programming: Keefer Street and Andy Livingstone Park provide opportunities for night markets and other culturally appropriate activities.
- Public transportation and parking need to be well thought out to avoid congestion.

### Discussion Notes

- “New gateways should ‘say’ Chinatown.”
- “Street paving on entryways into Chinatown, similar to brick road in Gastown. New Chinatown gates at Main St and Quebec St.”
- “New gates set up to let people know exactly the boundary of Chinatown.”
- “Lots of people on the streets = safety.”
- “Along Keefer: make strong visible connection to Chinatown.”
- “Community access to park; desire not to be playing field (move it); consider seniors, tai chi, walking.”

- “Parking spots desired; 2-hour free parking.”
- “Carrall St: worry about car traffic flow if closed to cars; there may be traffic congestion; traffic diverted to Chinatown - how will it be managed?”
- “Shuttles. Better buses.”
- “Sports fields are vital, but seniors are inconvenienced by it. Need to make this area more accessible and amenable for seniors, and give that area of the park more of an entrance.”
- “Flow of people from NEFC to Chinatown must be enabled. How to do this?”
- “Concern about traffic on new Pacific: too many cars; not going to be good for the park, and access; parking problems will be exacerbated.”
- “Parking: there are people who are going to drive and who need to drive; Pacific is going to be problematic for pedestrians.”
- “How do we attach Chinatown to the water? Introduce water into the landscape.”
- “Stadium/Main St Skytrain connection to neighbourhood. Make it more accessible to seniors, Chinese-friendly, inviting.”
- “More parking spaces.”
- “Gateway at Quebec/Prior and Main/Prior.”
- “Concerns around creating a new barrier.”
- “How does closing Carrall St result in better circulation?”
- “Chinatown integrates well with new neighbourhoods.”
- “Respect need for strong vehicular connections to Chinatown. Create safe, accessible, inviting connections which create “must-visit” streets to draw this vibrancy from NEFC to Chinatown.”



Workshop outputs demonstrating opportunities for connections through and to the area - with a focus on permeability, accessibility and safety.



# Park Design

## WHAT WE HEARD

### Key Points

- It is essential to reflect Chinese heritage in the park design (i.e., with culturally-appropriate uses).
- Re-align the sports fields to create an accessible route to the water from Chinatown.
- The park uses should allow for seniors' activities (e.g. dragon dance, tai chi, lion dance). Include interior or covered spaces that are flexible and practical within the park
- Address homelessness, safety, and ongoing maintenance of the park.
- Reflect elements from Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Garden, a unique cultural asset in North America, in the park design.
- Allow for ample and flexible programming opportunities in the park and in the cultural precinct.
- Ensure the park uses are flexible, culturally-supportive, and multi-generational.
- Consider alternate uses in Andy Livingstone Park - two soccer fields do not serve Chinatown.

### Discussion Notes

- "Cultural spaces and accessibility for seniors; Keefer and Quebec as a central gathering space (waterfront park is too far). Seniors activity centre at Keefer and Quebec where the playing fields are."
- "Homelessness: improved safety and maintenance of public spaces (needles); impacts to tourism."
- "1000 performing tai chi at a time. Non-slip surfaces."
- "Walkway and exercise loop."
- "Park elements: multi-purpose uses; ping-pong; ampitheatre to watch dancing and other cultural performance."
- "Soccer fields use: people come to play only but leave after they are done. Need to encourage people to stay in Chinatown after."







# Architecture, Design, and Heritage

## WHAT WE HEARD

### Key Points

- Focus on the interface between the old and the new.
- The Main Street blocks should reflect Chinatown in their design and architecture.
- Ensure the design of the Chinatown Cultural Precinct is intentional and culturally-appropriate.
- Look to Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Garden to inform architecture and design (tiled roofs, wall paintings, street signs, gateway signs).
- Integrate Chinese history into the design of the Chinatown Cultural Precinct. Accentuate the importance of Chinatown Memorial Plaza and explore the opportunity for a museum.
- Ensure that the edges of Keefer Street, Quebec Street and Andy Livingstone Park signify an entrance to Chinatown. It is important to use programming (e.g. street markets) to announce this entrance, in addition to architecture.

### Discussion Notes

- “HA-1A is preserved... what about the outskirts?”
- “Heritage: physical and intangible.”
- “UNESCO: Not just architecture, but culture, organizations, community.”
- “Buildings should be modest.”
- “Build new viaducts with buildings on top – a tunnel.”
- “Special design for lighting all along all streets in Chinatown Area.”
- “Main Street Blocks should be added to Chinatown. Design should use traditional architectural elements, recessed balconies, courtyards, mezzanines.”
- “Don’t create Yaletown East.”
- “Colour: Red should not be tokenistic: only sometimes (red is for celebration only). Lampposts okay.”

- “Vibrant lighting for safety and visual interest.”
- “Neon lighting and lanterns.”
- “Authentic feeling.”
- “Chinese writing and statues: public art, signage.”
- “Showcase culture.”
- “Future land use on the City-owned blocks?”
- “Main St: lighting, seating down Main Street to connect.”
- “Feels like entering Chinatown at Main St.”
- “Water canal from Quebec and Keefer: seniors have difficulty getting to water (water is a symbol of wealth and prosperity).”
- “2 blocks: ensuring city blocks are a part of Chinatown.”
- “Gateways, architecture: Main & Prior; Quebec gate Prior to Keefer: make a part of Chinatown.”
- “Water canal access.”
- “Beautiful streetscape: safe and secure; vandalism, homelessness, drug use, security for businesses.”
- “Want to see more neon.”
- “Consideration of a cultural component in Hogan’s Alley/Main Street blocks: very important.”
- “Main Street blocks: keep some character of Chinatown. Chinatown would like to have some input into the design.”
- “Character is key.”
- “Integration with other neighbourhoods.”
- Enlarge Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Garden: new front door.”
- “Garden-like pathways, Asian planting, landscape. Reinforce heritage of Chinatown. Walkable. Culturally relevant plants.”
- “Central and public gathering space: clear heart of the neighbourhood.”
- “Edge activation important.”
- “Better interface, not an isolated Chinatown.”
- “Covered but allow sunshine.”
- “Respect need for strong vehicular connections to Chinatown. Create safe, accessible, inviting connections which create “must-visit” streets to draw this vibrancy from NEFC to Chinatown.”

→ How to fit in to historic  
Chinatown?  
→ Understanding the  
values  
→ access



# Multi-generational Design

## WHAT WE HEARD

### Key Points

- Ensure that uses for youth are included. Consider a museum component for learning opportunities about historical Chinatown.
- Create a 'Community Campus of Care' for Chinese seniors (housing, services) - creating connections to the new hospital precinct.
- Ensure a strong connection from Chinatown to the waterfront and to other water features in a way that is safe and welcoming for seniors.
- Ensure ample accessible cultural spaces for seniors. The corner of Keefer and Quebec Street is an important gathering space. Explore the opportunity for a seniors' centre at this intersection, within the park.
- Design and programming should attract people to this area: all ages, at all times of day.

### Discussion Notes

- "Preserve seniors' housing."
- "Seniors join together daily - social life."
- "Seniors' Centre in the parkade now existing."
- "Youth: jobs for youth; attracting younger people to Chinatown."
- "Chinese seniors and cultural performances: shelter is important."
- "Age variety."
- "Seniors have difficulty getting to water."
- "Plenty of services for Seniors: S.U.C.C.E.S.S. is the only thing there right now."
- "Seniors need to have accessible walking environment, one that is safe."

- “Put gates to ensure more controlled access in and out of assisted living building/S.U.C.C.E.S.S.”
- “Want to attract people. Want to see more elderly people on the street.”
- Chinatown for “all ages”, not just seniors.”
- “If it is attractive with appropriate amenities and services, the families and a diversity of people will be attracted to the area.”
- “Cultural value for future generations.”
- “A legacy.”
- “More seniors’ housing.”
- “Make it safer. Multi-generational.”
- “Support the needs of seniors.”
- “Andy Livingstone opportunities: flexibility for culturally appropriate activities and programming which supports multi-generational use.”





# Community and People

## WHAT WE HEARD

### Key Points

- Focus on the character that the people and the community bring to Chinatown, not just the architecture and built form.
- Preserve the living heritage of Chinatown.
- Explore culturally-appropriate programming and activities, such as night markets, particularly at the entrances to Chinatown.
- Build off existing community, services and businesses in Chinatown.
- Recognize the new hospital, and focus on health and well-being for all aspects of design.
- Activate the Keefer and Quebec Street edges with storefronts and pavilions.

### Discussion Notes

- “Legacy businesses.”
- “Foster Chinese culture in the long term.”
- “Museum to allow youth to learn about history. Display important objects and relics.”
- “Cultural performance: dancing, line dancing, dragon dance; social dance groups; plaza dancing ensemble.”
- “Cantonese Opera.”
- “Street market: Quebec City example, containers with food stalls, traditional Chinese Foods.”
- “Vibrance.”
- “Culturally relevant.”
- “Different activities: shopping, eating, walking, business.”
- “From the community: genuine integration.”
- “People-focused.”
- “Chinatown identity.”
- “Chinese writing and characters.”
- “Night market: opportunity to experience Chinese culture; multicultural; enrich peoples’ life.”



- “History of Chinatown: what people did, trades; reflect and tell the story (plaques).”
- “Share the story: highly visible.”
- “Parade: desire for more area: maybe start at Main and Prior?”
- “No economic benefit bringing people to Chinatown from fields. Need to draw people in.”
- “History of Indigenous and Chinese culture.”
- “Connecting communities: Indigenous, Chinese, Black community.”
- “Mahjong.”
- “Share stories: signage, design, visibility, programming opportunities.”
- Crime on the street corners, hard to control things. Alley off Pender.”
- Cleanliness and waste.”
- Chinatown shuts down at 6 pm. How to make it a more active place, more hours, to help increase safety.”
- Businesses need to be for everyone, not just Chinese people. Unique businesses, more diverse types of businesses.”
- “Shops in laneways: to change them into shopping lanes with all forms of commercial.”
- “A legacy.”
- “Cultural reflection and uniqueness.”
- “Creating Chinatown as a must-stop.”
- “Expensive to close down the street for night market.”
- “Tai chi, dancing: part of character.”
- “Hard to come to Chinatown and enjoy cultural heritage. Create for Chinese 20-40, not just tourists/visitors.”
- “Schools for children.”
- “Relevant cultural activities.”

