

Year One (2022) Achievement

Three implementers have accomplished various milestones to bring the program a step closer to addressing issues surrounding underutilized spaces, community-serving business retention, and inclusive local employment in the DTES.



Component 1:

Business Supports/ Capacity Building

IMPLEMENTER:
**VANCOUVER CHINATOWN
FOUNDATION (VCF)**

- Eight small businesses participated in business supports: KK Boutique, Ochi Chinese Fashion, The Chinese Tea Shop, Bamboo Village, Le Chic Good Luck Entertainment Centre, Forum Appliances, Artistic Arts and Crafts, and Dragon Boat.
- Supports included improved branding, marketing and promotion, digitization of services, purchase of new furnishing, etc. to help increase foot traffic to their stores.
- Businesses expressed a stronger sense of pride for their storefronts and increased their efforts in maintaining it.
- **STATUS: VCF will continue to provide support to Chinatown businesses throughout 2023.**



Component 2:

Community-Serving Retail in Chinese Benevolent Societies Buildings

IMPLEMENTER:
**STRATHCONA BUSINESS
IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION**



- Partnered with the Chinese Nationalist League Society to activate one ground floor commercial unit at 525 Gore Avenue.
- Building permits received and the 93 square metre/1,000 square foot space is currently under renovation.
- Supported the Society around financing, property management, planning, etc.
- **STATUS: complete the demolition and remediation work, ensure the unit complies with the building code, and tenant the space to local entrepreneurs and community-serving businesses.**

Component 3:

Activation of Affordable Spaces

IMPLEMENTER:
**COMMUNITY IMPACT
REAL ESTATE SOCIETY (CIRES)**

- 24 organizations engaged and 16 consultation services offered.
- Successful activation of 450 East Hastings Street (pilot one):
 - Tenancy achieved with Lookout Housing and Health Society in February 2022.
 - 35 DTES residents employed at this location.
 - Change of Use permit issued, creating opportunities for other non-profit organizations to occupy the space in the future.
- **STATUS: two more space activations are in progress.**

