

Chinatown Cultural Plan and Local Area Plan – Letters of Support



Calgary Chinatown Community Association

卡加利華埠街坊會

August 7, 2019

The City of Calgary
800 MacLeod Trail SE
Calgary, Alberta T2P 2M5

Attention: His Worship Mayor Nenshi & Members of Calgary City Council

Chinatown Cultural Plan and Local Area Plan Scope of Work

The Calgary Chinatown Community Association (CCCA) has participated in the discussion and sharing ideas with respect to the refined scope of work for the ARP/Cultural Plan. We hereby express our support of the scope of work.

We look forward to working together with other stakeholders to establish a new Area Redevelopment Plan that includes a Chinatown Cultural Plan.

Yours truly,



Ed Tam
President

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2019 August 8

The City of Calgary – City Clerks
Members of City Council and City Administration
Standing Policy Committee – Planning and Urban Development
P.O. Box 2100, Station 'M'
Calgary, Alberta T2P 2M5

Chinatown Phase 2 Work / Tomorrow's Chinatown Project

Three years ago, Chinatown and Calgary's concerned Chinese community marched on City Hall to protest the lack of consultation regarding a land use redesignation application on a large parking lot property in the community (i.e. El Condor Lands). The concern was development without a complete understanding of the design and use would dramatically impact the core of Chinatown and the affect the characteristics of Chinatown's historical and cultural community. Chinatown has been and must remain an iconic cultural community, a **'Must Visit Destination'** for all visitors leaving **'Great Memorable Experiences'**.

Several community stakeholders including members of the Chinatown District Business Revitalization Zone (CDBRZ) Board of Directors expressed grave concerns that this redesignation without a modern, relevant, and culturally appropriate land use design would devastate this 109-year community and Calgary's 136-year Chinese cultural heritage. There was hope for a better process and path forward to tomorrow's Chinatown before this and any future land use or development permit application could proceed.

The Chinatown Community Stakeholders' Committee (CCSC), which many members of the CDBIA Board were a member of, presented to City Planners and City Council a renewed vision for Chinatown that is,

**Calgary Chinatown is an iconic place and cultural community
that prides itself for its heritage, open space and Asian streetscape and architecture.**

**It is a most walkable, accessible and livable community
a thriving authentic small-business district,
an intergenerational social and community hub, and
a most visited local and tourist destination.**

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Today, the Chinatown Business Improvement Area (CBIA) formerly known as the CDBRZ, wishes City Council and Administration, other community stakeholders and future collaboration participants to know that this vision statement remains relevant for "Tomorrow's Chinatown".

The engagements and efforts of CCSC, the CBIA, and other community organizations has since become more unified, more determined, and more resilient. There is great commitment to ensure tomorrow's Chinatown is renewed, revitalized, and redeveloped to the benefit of property and business owners, residents and cultural associations, and our valued visitors. Our hope is for Calgary Chinatown to remain an invaluable cultural enclave to Canada's social fabric, a gem in Alberta history, and a rich heritage in Calgary's future society.

Over the past three years and especially in the last three months, Calgary City Planners, Arts and Culture strategist, and City engagement and community staff have consulted diligently with the Chinatown BIA and community stakeholders in defining the Cultural Plan Scoping Report. Their kind, considerate, thoughtful and respectful approach is greatly admired and appreciated. **The CBIA agrees with the Scoping Report.**

The CBIA stands to be counted in developing a quality, effective, and sustainable plan for Tomorrow's Chinatown.

Sincerely,



Grace Su, CBIA Chair



Terry Wong, CBIA Executive Director

pc: Stuart Dalglish, General Manager, Planning and Development
Katie Black, Acting General Manager, Community Services
Fazeel Elahi, Senior Planner, Community Planning, Planning and Development
Janet Lavoie, Business Strategist, Recreation-Arts & Culture, Community Services