

# Background

Commenced in 2016, Chinatown Phase 1 work was undertaken with the purpose of assessing the need for a culturally-based Local Area Plan for one of Calgary's most culturally distinctive neighbourhoods. Phase 1 wrapped up in the summer of 2018 with unanimous support from Council, directing Administration to develop a Cultural Plan for Chinatown and integrate cultural considerations into a new Local Area Plan ([PUD2018-0514](#)).

On 2019 March 18, Council approved the overall funding framework ([PFC2019-0282](#) & [PFC2019-0294](#)) for Chinatown Phase 2 work to deliver the Chinatown Cultural Plan and the culturally-based Local Area Plan, hereon in referred to as *Tomorrow's Chinatown*. At their 2019 September 4 meeting, the SPC on PUD ([PUD2019-1108](#)) approved the final scope that allowed the project to commence with hiring the Cultural Plan consultant through a Request for Proposal (RFP) process.

## Context

Tomorrow's Chinatown is a City-led project that is working together with community stakeholders to create the first ever area-based cultural plan and a new Local Area Plan (LAP) for Chinatown. The focus of the project is to ensure that Chinatown thrives to be a vibrant, culturally-rich place to live, visit, work, and do business for generations to come.

In 2016, the extensive engagement carried out about the future of Calgary's Chinatown highlighted concerns about the erosion of the unique cultural identity and viability of Chinatown, including but not limited to the built environment.

Through *Tomorrow's Chinatown* project, and specifically the culturally-informed Local Area Plan (LAP) a master plan for Calgary Chinatown will be developed to ensure that development proposals for Chinatown are evaluated against an updated policy that adequately addresses the unique history and cultural character of Chinatown. The new LAP will provide a consistent reference point and certainty to developers, community stakeholders and decision-makers.

## Previous Council Direction

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**July 20, 2020**

Council adopted Councillor Farrell's Notice of Motion (PFC2020-0802)

City Administration directed to through the Tomorrow's Chinatown project and with support from Arts and Culture, engage the Chinatown community to discuss the history of the Short site, the roles of James Short and the Anti-Chinese League in Chinatown's history, the relocation of Chinatown, and the resiliency of the Chinese community in Calgary; and Report back with new names for the Short Site that are recommended by the community through Tomorrow's Chinatown, with particular consideration of names recognizing historical Chinese Canadian contributions to Calgary, as well as with an action plan for further programming and/or physical installations that interpret the historical learnings from the community discussions

**June 15, 2020**

Council approved a Motion Arising from Councillor Farrell

Direct City Administration, in association with Green Line planning, Tomorrow's Chinatown local area planning, and the Main Streets program, to develop a streetscape masterplan for Centre St S (Centre Street Bridge to 4 Av S) to improve public realm, improve pedestrian safety, and integrate with future BRT infrastructure, with a funding strategy identified outside of the Green Line program

**March 18, 2019**

Council approved the project funding and the recommendations of PFC2019-0282 & PFC2019-0294 as follows:

1) Authorize the withdrawal of \$75,000 in 2019 and 2020 for a total of \$150,000 from the Planning and Development's Calgary Building Services Sustainment Reserve to secure funding for the Chinatown Cultural Plan and Local Area Plan; 2) Approve the overall funding framework for the Chinatown Cultural Plan and Local Area Plan from two City sources, being Planning & Development's 2019 and 2020 operating budget and the Council Innovation Fund application in an amount totaling \$500,000; and 3) Report back to Council, through the Standing Policy Committee on Planning & Urban Development, with a finalized scope of work by no later than Q3 2019.

