

Summary of Chinatown Task Force Concerns with Administration's Recommendations

The Chinatown Taskforce appreciates Administration's efforts to address Chinatown's broadly held concerns in its recommendations, along with Administration's acknowledgement that it lacks key cultural competencies and information to engage with the Chinatown community with respect to development issues. Therefore, we consider the City's consultation work to still be deeply flawed and incomplete. Consequently, the results of the City's consultations do not represent the views of Chinatown and should not be used to hastily make any planning decisions, including current planning decisions that could profoundly damage the long-term future of Calgary's Chinatown.

Administration's Planning Recommendation

The City's gaps in information and skills highlight Chinatown's concerns that engagement regarding site 1b needed to be more effective, and highlight a key reason for the City to not rely on that consultation's limited outputs for planning. Both Chinatown and the City lack sufficient information about potential social, economic, environmental, and cultural impacts (among others) of a large-scale development that would fundamentally change Chinatown's character. Those gaps motivate Chinatown stakeholders to work with the City to work together toward a long-term plan for Chinatown.

Approval of Guiding Principles

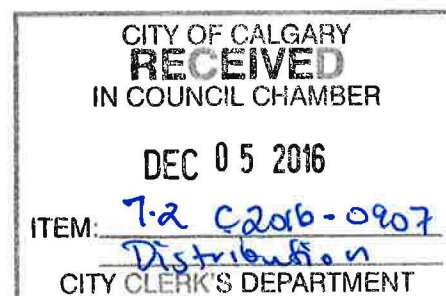
Administration's work on Guiding Principles as a supplement to the Chinatown ARP shows enthusiasm on the part of the City to achieve progress quickly. However, the rather generic Guiding Principles do not address the stated need for clearer planning policies by which the City could judge potential Chinatown developments.

Developing a revised Chinatown ARP and Cultural Plan

Administration's 2016 Chinatown consultations demonstrated substantial gaps in the City's ability to consult and engage with Chinatown communities. Building the City's cultural competence to support a developing a new ARP, and to define a Cultural Plan for Chinatown are positive steps toward sustainable engagement.

Administration's proposed changes to the land use amendment

This version of the land use amendment reflects more community input than previous versions, but impact of Chinatown input appears to remain limited. Inadequate time was provided to consult with Chinatown stakeholders on several hundred pages of English-language technical documentation provided by the City prior to the December 5, 2016 meeting.



Land Use Amendment

Overall, Administration appears to recognize that a decision is not supported by a majority of the community could compromise the City's ability to engage Chinatown on the new ARP or future planning decisions. While seeing some community input reflected in policy outputs is a positive step toward trust, Administration must do more to understand and recognize Chinatown's unique characteristics and needs without being dragged at every step by Chinatown residents and stakeholders. Administration's proposal do little new to recognize Chinatown's value as an enclave for seniors, and a walkable attraction or escape from the downtown core.

Some Chinatown stakeholders remain concerned with the change from DC to CC-X, which is viewed as a designation for downtown core land use. The potential to expand the anonymous character of the downtown core into Chinatown risks turning Chinatown into a second Beltline area, thereby diminishing the role and distinctiveness of Chinatown in Calgary.

Since Administration's above recommendations did not receive full or rigorous consultation with the Chinatown community, their acceptability to the Chinatown community remains to be determined. The Chinatown Taskforce has not had sufficient time to fully consult or discuss the proposed changes with community members, and therefore cannot support the proposed changes.

Chinatown Taskforce's Continued Recommendations

Despite some positive work and collaboration, the Taskforce believes that much more work remains to be done to enable the City and Chinatown community to make good planning decisions with a solid base of information and competence. Therefore, our previous recommendations are sustained:

1. Establish a constructive relationship between the Chinatown community and City of Calgary in the form of a Planning Task Force.
2. Suspend consideration of specific changes to the current Chinatown ARP until a new ARP or a Master Plan has been developed and approved by City Council.
3. Support integrated long-term planning, including developing a new ARP that encompasses new Guiding Principles, which adequately capture the desires and vision of its stakeholders, the Green Line LRT strategy, Chinatown's place in Centre City planning, the Chinatown Retail Strategy, and other Chinatown related plans/initiatives.