

# Background

Commenced in 2016, Chinatown Phase 1 work was undertaken with the purpose of assessing the need for a culturally-based Area Redevelopment 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 Area Redevelopment 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 Area Redevelopment 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 program to commence with hiring the Cultural Plan consultant through a Request for Proposal (RFP) process. On 2020 September 8, Administration provided an update on the program, refer to [PFC2020-0922](#). The Council-directed changes to the program's scope pertaining to Centre Street streetscape plan and the renaming of the James Short site without new funding were identified as a risk within the report.

## Context

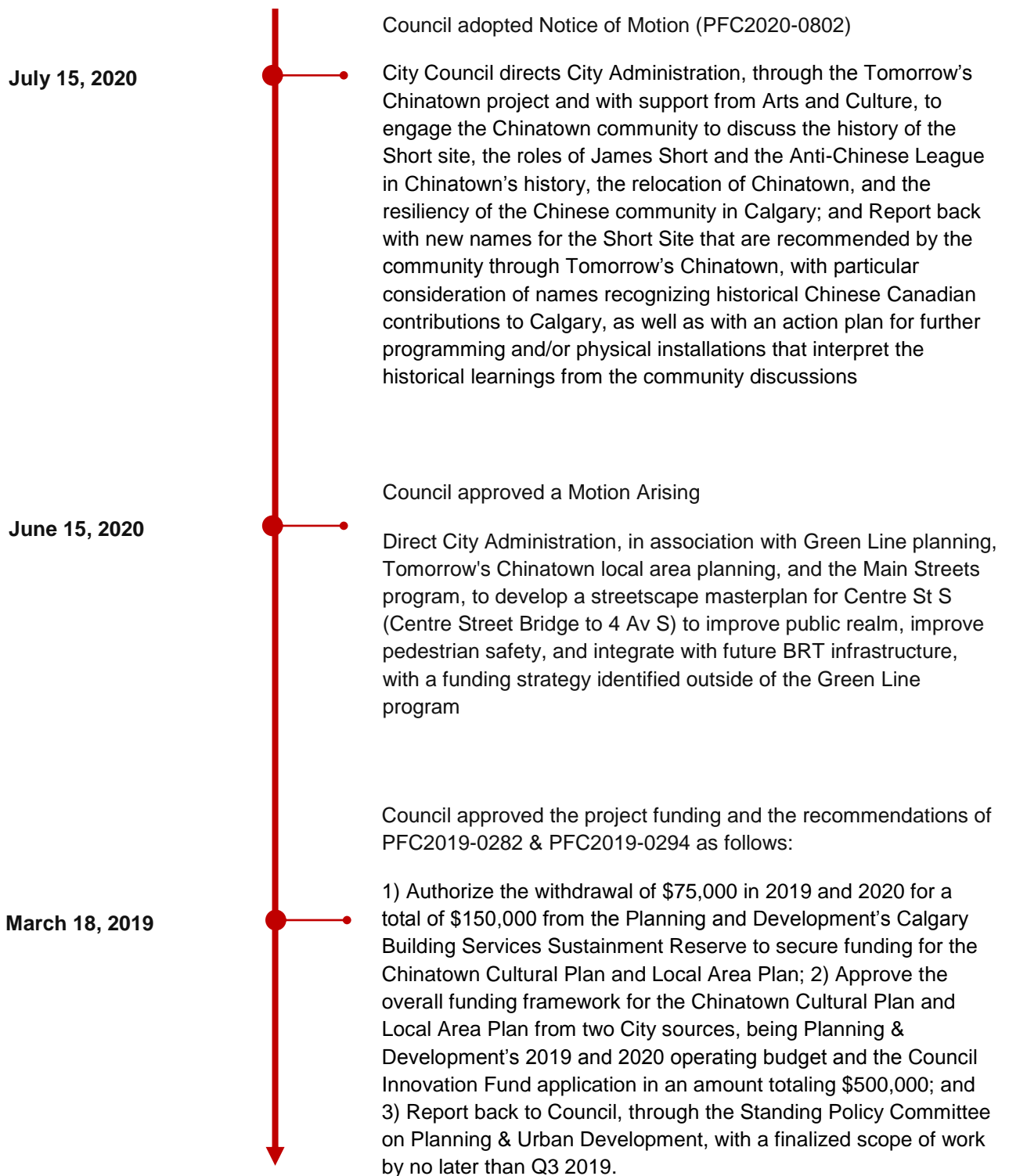
Tomorrow's Chinatown is a City-led program that is working together with community stakeholders to create the first ever area-based cultural plan and a new Area Redevelopment Plan (ARP) for Chinatown. The focus of the program is to ensure that Chinatown thrives to be a vibrant, culturally-rich place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

In 2016, the extensive engagement carried out on 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 the Tomorrow's Chinatown program and specifically the culturally-informed ARP, 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 ARP will provide a consistent reference point and certainty to developers, community stakeholders and decision-makers.

## Previous Council Direction

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**October 15, 2018**

At Confirmation of the Agenda, Council referred back

Report PFC2018-1107 and PFC2018-1133 to Administration to reduce the forecasted budget/contingency by refining the project scope and by continuing to work with external partners, including Urban Alliance, returning to Council not later than Q1 2019

**June 25, 2018**

With respect to Report PUD2018-0514, Council directed Administration to:

a).proceed with Option 3 Chinatown Cultural Plan / Culturally-based Local Area Plan, as presented; b) develop funding options including a potential Council Innovation Fund application and external partnerships including but not limited to the Urban Alliance to return to Council through the Priorities and Finance Committee as soon as possible; and c) report back to Council, through the Standing Policy Committee on Planning & Urban Development, with a detailed scope of work for Option 3 by no later than 2019 July, if budget for Option 3 is approved

**December 5, 2016**

Council approved the recommendations of C2016-0864 as follows:

1) Reconsider the reporting requirement arising from Council's direction regarding 2016 January 11 Notice of Motion NM2016-01 for Administration to report back to Standing Policy Committee on Planning & Urban Development by 2016 December on the broader scope of the work conducted with stakeholders, and direct Administration to report to the 2016 December 05 meeting of Council. 2) Approve the Guiding Principles as outlined in Attachment 1 to be used as an interim guide to reviewing planning applications, in conjunction with the Chinatown ARP, Centre City Plan and other City policies, until a new ARP is approved by Council. 3) Direct Administration to conduct Phase 1 of work as outlined in the Chinatown Area Redevelopment Plan and Cultural Plan Scope of Work (Attachment 2) and report back to Council, through the Standing Policy Committee on Planning & Urban Development, with a progress report by no later than 2018 Q2.