

# 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 project to commence with hiring the Cultural Plan consultant through a Request for Proposal 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 Area Redevelopment Plan (ARP) 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 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 *Tomorrow's Chinatown* project, 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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**May 10, 2022**



Council received report (EC2020-0802) for information and the corporate record

1. fulfilling the reporting requirements for the Council Innovation Fund; 2. Approve a one-time budget increase of \$250,000 in 2022 to the City Planning and Policy Service budget to be funded from the Fiscal Stability Reserve and Budget Savings Account Merged Reserve to accomplish project deliverables of the Tomorrow's Chinatown program; and 3. Direct Administration report back through the Infrastructure & Planning Committee on the three projects of Tomorrow's Chinatown program, being: a. Chinatown Cultural Plan; b. Chinatown Area Redevelopment Plan; and c. Renaming of the James Short Park and Parkade, by no later than Q4, 2022.

**July 15, 2020**

Council adopted Notice of Motion (PFC2020-0802) whereby City Administration was 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 to 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.

**October 15, 2018**

At Confirmation of the Agenda, Council referred back

Report PFC2019-1107 and PFC2019-1133 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 proceed Option 3, Chinatown Cultural Plan and a culturally-based Local Area Plan, as presented

**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.