



2018 April 24

The City of Calgary
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Dear Allison,

Thank you for meeting with the Chinatown District Business Improvement Area (CDBIA) and the Chinatown Community Association on April 6th and providing the CDBIA this opportunity to review and comment on the 3 options in response to Calgary City Council's decision on 2016 December 6:

7.1 CHINATOWN AREA REDEVELOPMENT PLAN (ARP) SCOPING REPORT, C2016-0864
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.

The CDBIA Board of Directors along with members of the Chinatown Community Stakeholders' Committee (CCSC) have worked to best understand and advocate for Calgary Chinatown in reviewing and evaluating the 3 options for a Chinatown Area Redevelopment Plan (ARP) and its aspirations for a

- Clean and Safe Chinatown
- A Place Where Chinatown is a Destination for All
- Chinatown that is a thriving and growing Mixed Use Residential, Commercial Retail, and Cultural Community

Specifically, we aspire for a Chinatown which is

- a balanced, multi-generational and vital residential community,
- a viable and prosperous business district,
- a vibrant place to live, work and play
- a cultural destination to experience by Calgarians, visitors and tourists, and
- a visually iconic and culturally unique district

recognized and appreciated by everyone - local, nationally and internationally.

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The CDBIA and CCSC strongly support Option 3 as it best addresses Recommendation #3 and the need to evaluate and establish a new or updated Chinatown Area Redevelopment Plan (ARP). We believe that City Administration should take into consideration the following as it finalizes its recommendation for Option 3. In particular,

- the Chinatown Cultural Plan must be prepared contextually specific to Calgary Chinatown and give priority to
 - Chinese culture and language,
 - Chinatown's history and heritage, and
 - as Calgary's unique and exclusive Chinese cultural destination.

It cannot be an 'homogenized' extension of the Calgary Cultural Plan. It must have distinctly unique and relevant goals, strategies and measures.

- the Chinatown 'Local Area Plan' would be appropriate if its is contextually specific to the Chinatown Cultural Plan and addresses the specific aspirations of this community including
 - the desires for a holistic Chinatown community, society, land use, and built form
 - the need for a sustainable and culturally rewarding and socially satisfying community
 - the CDBIA and CCSC's vision that 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.
 - a Chinatown community that desires:
 - services that meets the vital needs of Chinatown residents and the broader Calgary Chinese / Asian community
 - a visually contextual 'Asian' cultural community
 - a vibrant community that engages our residents, our businesses, our property owners, and our visitors
 - a viable community to invest, work, play and live in
 - a clean and safe Chinatown
 - a destination hub for Chinese goods, services and experiences
 - an environment that supports small businesses and our tourist visitors
 - is focused on supporting the resident's dreams of a 'complete community'
 - inclusion of Option 2 updates to current land use planning tools, policies, and processes
 - consideration of Chinatown as part of an interconnected community including Bridgeland, Crescent Heights, Hillhurst / Sunnyside, East Village, Inglewood, etc. and the surrounding amenities (e.g. Bow and Elbow rivers, pathways, bike paths, etc.)
 - the 10 principles of Chinatown and the Chinatown development guidelines as established by CCSC and presented to Calgary City Council (2016 December 6)

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- active engagement of CDBIA and CCSC members plus other Chinatown stakeholders as — Partners in Chinatown
- positive, professional, and constructive engagement with Chinatown stakeholders
- focuses on the intrinsic and extrinsic value of the benefits of a cultural plan and a new, workable Chinatown area development plan; not the cost of producing an ARP
- measures the downstream benefits of a vibrant Chinatown will pay in spades
- a strong focus on the future of Calgary Chinatown as a tourist, dining and entertainment district
- recognition that Calgary Chinatown is an economic, social and cultural catalyst for a city of diversity
- acknowledgement that Chinatown is the hub of Chinese interactions in Calgary

We do not consider Option 1 or 2 as a viable approach to fulfilling Recommendation #3 nor improving the prospects of developing Calgary's Chinatown for the 21st century and beyond.

Once again, the CDBIA, CCSC and other Chinatown stakeholders are Partners in Chinatown. Thank You!



Terry Wong
Executive Director

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