

## Chinatown Cultural Plan and Local Area Plan – Letters of Support



February 26, 2019

Re: Chinatown Cultural Plan and Local Area Plan Council Innovation Fund application

Dear Mayor Nenshi and Council,

As the city's destination marketing and development organization, Tourism Calgary evaluates opportunities that relate to the visitor economy through the lens of what's needed to make Calgary the Ultimate Host City. To support cultural preservation and development in Chinatown for the benefit of Calgarians and visitors, Tourism Calgary is in favour of resources from the Council Innovation Fund being allocated toward the development of the Chinatown Cultural Plan and Local Area Plan.

Chinatown has served as an iconic experience and integral part of Calgary's downtown core for over 100 years. The district's existing Area Redevelopment Plan is over 30 years old and no longer aligns with the Municipal Development Plan or other significant city policies and objectives. An opportunity also exists to align strategic cultural and development planning in Chinatown with recommendations outlined in Calgary's long-term, stakeholder-led and endorsed Destination Strategy: Ultimate Hosts. Ultimate Host City.

As steward of Calgary's Destination Strategy, Tourism Calgary is committed to fostering collaborative action toward the advancement of its recommendations, including the need to energize Calgary's iconic anchor experiences. Chinatown is not only an iconic neighbourhood, it is a social and historically-significant hub that helps shape Calgary's cultural fabric and make our city a vibrant, exciting and active place to live, work and visit. To grow Chinatown's importance and contributions to the community and economy, the district must continue to be energized. Developing a Chinatown Cultural Plan and Local Area Plan is a unique opportunity to accomplish this by developing a common, culturally conscious vision and development strategy for Calgary's Chinatown that supports collective efforts to become the Ultimate Host City.

Tourism Calgary looks forward to working alongside the City of Calgary and key stakeholders like the Calgary Heritage Authority and Calgary Economic Development to support the development of the Chinatown Cultural Plan and Local Area Plan for the benefit of Calgarians and visitors.

Sincerely,

Cassandra McAuley  
Executive Director, Stakeholder Engagement & Destination Development  
Tourism Calgary | 403-835-0711 | cassandram@tourismcalgary.com

**Calgary Economic Development's**  
**collaborative** energy makes us a  
**conduit, connector, catalyst** and  
**storyteller** for Calgary.

February 26, 2019

Office of the Mayor,  
The City of Calgary  
P.O. Box 2100, Station M  
Calgary, AB, T2P 2M5

**Re:** Support for funding for the *Chinatown Cultural Plan* and *Local Area Plan* from the Council Innovation Fund

Mayor Nenshi and Council,

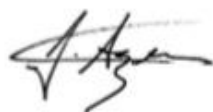
I am writing this letter as the Commissioner for Film, Television and Creative Industries for Calgary Economic Development ("CED"). Part of my job is to support the *Cultural Plan for Calgary* by working with individuals, companies, organizations and government to increase employment through the development of Creative Industries in Calgary. As such I would like to lend my support for Support for the application of funding for the *Chinatown Cultural Plan* and *Local Area Plan* from the Council Innovation Fund.

Chinatown has been recognized as one of Calgary's most distinctive and important neighbourhoods due to its history, rich cultural life, contribution to the economic success of downtown Calgary and its role in fostering cultural activity. Given this importance, Creative Industries sector of Calgary Economic Development supports the funding application to the Council Innovation Fund for the development of the *Chinatown Cultural Plan* and *Local Area Plan*.

The plans will help sustain Chinatown by guiding development and cultural life into the future. They support the implementation of the Cultural Plan for Calgary through strategic cultural planning in Chinatown, engagement approaches that reflect the nature of the community and the integration of cultural considerations into planning documents. It is our understanding that results from the overall project will help integrate cultural considerations into planning processes in the future.

If you would like to discuss this application further please feel free to contact me.

Best Regards,



► Commissioner | Film, Television & Creative Industries  
► tel: 403 221 7868 | email: [lazevedo@calgaryeconomicdevelopment.com](mailto:lazevedo@calgaryeconomicdevelopment.com)

**calgary** economic  
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February 26, 2019

The City of Calgary  
800 Macleod Trail SE  
Calgary, Alberta  
T2P 2M5

**LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR CHINATOWN POLICY WORK – NEW CULTURAL PLAN AND LOCAL  
AREA PLAN**

Dear Mayor Nenshi and respected members of Council:

The University of Calgary wishes to confirm our enthusiastic support for the proposed Council-directed Chinatown policy work that envisions the delivery of a Cultural Plan and a culturally-based Local Area Plan for Calgary's Chinatown.

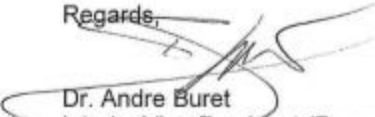
Members of Council are likely aware that the Urban Alliance is our strategic research partnership between The City of Calgary and the University of Calgary dating back to 2007. Based on Council direction, The City of Calgary's Chinatown project team reached out to the University and we had a great response from our faculty members. The City team has been collaborating with professors from several faculties/departments (Environmental Design, Haskayne School of Business, Geography, Sociology, Education and others) through the Urban Alliance framework since July of 2018. Research proposals have been put forward that are targeted to the knowledge gaps identified by the City team.

The partnership between city departments and university researchers is of mutual benefit to both organizations, and reinforces the collaborative framework that enables the transfer of research between the University and The City, with the broader benefit to Calgary's Chinatown. University research provides tremendous value for low cost by engaging top-level experts with deep knowledge of relevant issues, accessing the ability to leverage other funds and resources, and providing hands-on experience tackling city problems to students who may eventually be employed in positions of value to The City.

The proposed policy formulation work will advance development direction for one of Calgary's most unique communities. Based on the project scope we are supportive of Green Line integration, and applaud the overall aim of raising the community profile as a cultural hub and a destination. We hope that this will be the first of ongoing opportunities for the City and University to work together on culturally sensitive and informed community (re)development of real benefit to Calgarians.

The University of Calgary strongly supports the project and looks forward to continued collaboration.

Regards,

  
Dr. Andre Buret  
Interim Vice-President (Research)





February 25, 2019

**Mayor Nenshi & Council**  
City of Calgary  
P.O. Box 2100, Stn. M, MC 8001  
Calgary, AB T2P 2M5

Dear Mayor & Council:

**Subject: Chinatown Cultural Plan and Local Area Plan**

It is recognized that Chinatown is one of Calgary's most distinctive and important neighbourhoods due to its history, rich cultural life, contribution to the economic success of Downtown, and its role in local and regional tourism.

Given this importance, the Calgary Heritage Authority (CHA) supports the funding application to the Council Innovation Fund for the development of the Chinatown Cultural Plan and Local Area Plan.

These two documents will help sustain Chinatown by guiding development and cultural life into the future. They support the implementation of the Cultural Plan for Calgary through strategic cultural planning in Chinatown, engagement approaches that reflect the nature of the community and the integration of cultural considerations into planning documents. We understand that learnings from the overall project will help integrate cultural considerations into planning processes in the future.

Currently, the CHA is undertaking evaluations in Chinatown thanks to a grant from the Community Initiatives Program (CIP). With this grant we will be evaluating or re-evaluating 11 sites to be added or re-added to the Inventory of Evaluated Historic Resources. These sites were identified through a Historic Context Paper for the community that is being developed in partnership with the City's Community Planning group. The grant will also allow local community groups to develop a photographic exhibit of Chinatown.

As an important cultural district and historic neighborhood in Calgary we know how important it is to preserve Chinatown's heritage and history.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Josh Traptow".

**Josh Traptow**  
Executive Director  
Calgary Heritage Authority

**Cc:** Janet Lavoie, Business Strategist – Arts & Culture

Calgary Heritage Authority, P.O. Box 75065 Cambrian, Calgary, AB T2K 6J8  
403-805-7084 | [www.calgaryheritageauthority.com](http://www.calgaryheritageauthority.com) | CRA Number: 782117691 RR0001



2019 February 25

The City of Calgary  
800 MacLeod Trail SE  
Calgary, Alberta T2P 2M5  
Canada

Attention: His Worship Mayor Nenshi  
& Members of Calgary City Council

**PFC2018-1107**

**Chinatown Cultural Plan and Local Area Plan – Update on funding and external partnerships**

Refined Chinatown Cultural Plan and Local Area Plan Scope of Work

The Chinatown District Business Improvement Area (CDBIA) supports the development of a Chinatown Cultural Plan and a new Local Area Plan to replace the former Chinatown Area Redevelopment Plan (ARP) starting later this year with completion, hopefully, by 2021.

Chinatown is a living, serving and vital community for its 2,000 residents, 200+ small / mid-size businesses and corporate entities, 50+ cultural associations / societies, and the tens of thousands of visitors every year. Our cultural distinctiveness and celebration of festivals, events, culinary delights, arts, culture, academic, and social gathering is vibrant and unique in Calgary as evident in recent Chinese Lunar New Year celebrations. Calgary's Chinese and Southeast Asian community of 100,000+ residents enjoy Chinatown as a place of gathering, socialization, learning, shopping and dining. We cannot afford to lose this unique visual, vibrant, vital and valued community characteristics to development that is less than consistent (if at all).

Together with the Chinatown Community Association, the Calgary Chinese Elderly Citizens Association and others, the CDBIA pledges its support of The City's plans to establish a Chinatown Cultural Plan and Local Area Plan as presented in the scope of work to Calgary City Council. We are also committed to its intent, expressed outcomes, and an efficient plus effective process through contribution of our community facilitators, language translators, meeting spaces, and public gathering venues within our capacity.

Sincerely,

Grace Su, CDBIA Chair

Terry Wong, CDBIA Executive Director



卡城華人耆英會

*The Calgary Chinese Elderly Citizens' Association*



February 25, 2019

The City of Calgary  
800 MacLeod Trail SE  
Calgary, Alberta T2P 2M5

Attention: His Worship Mayor Nenshi & Members of Calgary City Council

**PFC2018-1107**

**Chinatown Cultural Plan and Local Area Plan – Update on funding and external partnerships**

Refined Chinatown Cultural Plan and Local Area Plan Scope of Work

The Calgary Chinese Elderly Citizens' Association (CCECA) supports the development of a Chinatown Cultural Plan and a new Local Area Plan to replace the former Chinatown Area Redevelopment Plan (ARP).

CCECA was established in 1985. We run a senior drop in centre in Chinatown which is a cultural hub for 2,064 members, 5,245 clients with 145,120 client contacts in 2018. Our citywide services include outreach, health, social/recreational, education and adult day support program are provided to all Calgarians not limited to the residents in Chinatown.

Chinatown is second home for many seniors who live, play and volunteer on a daily basis. Seniors can live independently in Chinatown to pursue their interests and to lead a healthy and happy life. We cannot afford to lose this unique, vital and valued community characteristic to development that is less than consistent (if at all).

In support of the City's plan to establish a Chinatown Cultural Plan and Local Area Plan, CCECA is prepared to provide free space and volunteer interpreters/facilitators for community consultation and meetings.

Yours truly,

Liza Chan  
Executive Director

Partly Funded by



United Way  
Calgary and Area



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Charitable Registration Number: 126698018 RR0002 



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February 22, 2019

Fazeel Elahi  
Senior Planner, Centre West Team  
Community Planning, Planning & Development  
The City of Calgary  
Floor 5, The Municipal Building, 800 Macleod Trail S.E.  
P.O. Box 2100, Station M, Calgary, AB T2P 2M5

**Re: Chinatown Cultural Plan and Local Area Plan**

Dear Fazeel:

Please accept this letter as QuadReal Property Group's formal support for the work currently underway by the City of Calgary's Community Planning Group on the Chinatown Plan and Local Area Plan. We share the view of other stakeholders that this work is important to ensure the cultural character of Calgary's Chinatown is respected and preserved, while also planning for future growth in the community that will result in a vibrant and progressive community that will be enjoyed by residents and Calgarians alike for many years to come.

We agree that the existing Chinatown ARP is outdated and no longer provides the appropriate framework and vision for forward thinking and thoughtful growth and development within the community. It is our expectation that a new ARP will better serve the community and City by incorporating a more modern land use framework, a vision for new building design and signage that respects the existing built forms, yet allows for the creation of modern, progressive buildings, and incorporates the existing transportation infrastructure including the future Green Line LRT project. Furthermore, by creating the ARP and Cultural Plan as separate documents, it is expected the end result will be a simpler, more understandable, user-friendly planning process that will meet the needs and expectations of all involved.

In conclusion, we reiterate our support for the work being undertaken by the City on this important initiative and remain available for ongoing engagement through the duration of this process.

Should you wish to discuss the foregoing in further detail or require any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me at (403) 202-7516.

Sincerely,  
**QuadReal Property Group**

A blue ink signature of Jeff Hyde, written in a cursive style.

Jeff Hyde  
Senior Vice President, Development





February 21, 2019

To: Fazeel Elahi, Senior Planner, Centre West Team, Community Planning, Planning & Development

Re: Chinatown Cultural Plan and Local Area Plan

Dear Fazeel,

Through this letter, Anthem Properties wishes to formally provide our strong support for the work being completed by the administration project team on the Chinatown Cultural Plan and Local Area Plan. This work is vital to ensuring that the unique cultural character of Calgary's Chinatown is preserved and celebrated, while also planning for measured, future growth within the community.

The existing Chinatown ARP is significantly outdated and no longer represents a realistic vision for well thought out development and growth within the community. The new ARP will better serve the community and the City by integrating a more modern land use framework, a vision for culturally appropriate design and signage, as well as an inclusive approach to the incorporation of the overall transportation network, including the future green line.

By creating the ARP and Cultural Plan as separate documents, the end result will be a simpler, more understandable, more user-friendly planning document which will function symbiotically with a robust and comprehensive cultural preservation plan. The work being undertaken on this project is critical to creating guidance for future development in the area while ensure the cultural roots of Chinatown are maintained for future generations.

We are happy to support the work being undertaken by the City on this project and we look forward to continued engagement as the two plans are crafted into their final forms.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Joel Tiedemann", with a stylized flourish at the end.

**Joel Tiedemann**  
Development Manager  
Office 403.266.0334  
Cell 403.477.2854  
jtiedemann@anthemproperties.com





Fazeel,

Pleased that you reached out to me as a property owner in the Chinatown district.

#### Background

I am the owner of a vacant lot at 140 2nd AVE SW – I purchased this property for investment a number of years ago when Calgary was a thriving business community that we all embraced.

The last four years have been a very real challenge with the drop in commodity prices and the change in the provincial and federal governments that choose to decouple our economic advantages that we previously had.

Long story short that is why the property remains vacant and probably will for the future until we see a change in leadership at all levels of government.

I reside in Calgary and operate an energy service company and my office looks into the Chinatown district and due also to my proximity believe I have considerable knowledge on the area and the challenges it has and will have without change.

I applaud you for this scope of planning you are undertaking as I firmly believe this district can be very special.

#### Thoughts:

The Chinatown district is ripe with opportunity if a few major items are supported.

- 1) Chinatown is in a great location and needs people to purchase, rent and reside in the district – the focus should be on younger working professionals and people that work in the downtown core. Presently the area is populated with senior residences and this is fine but we need to bring a new youthful population that is active and spends funds.
- 2) The area needs parks (real parks) for kids and activities that a family would find attractive. The current parks are boring and tired and not even used.
- 3) This area could be a haven for artists and murals and art should be considered as a new way to attract persons from outside the area and tourists to visit and spend money.
- 4) All of the above will attract new retail and restaurant business that is the cornerstone of all successful districts in cities – I know because for decades I have and still travel for business extensively and personally have witnessed the transformation.
- 5) Lastly it needs marketing and a new vibe.

The elders in the district direct the strategy for the area and to be blunt it is not working and if directed down this same path it will continue to starve and die.

Someone needs to get some vision and make the changes and allow creative thinking and opportunities to attract new blood into this very tired but very unique area.

THE POTENTIAL IS EXCITING