



# CHINESE SOCIETY BUILDINGS IN THE DOWNTOWN EASTSIDE

A NEW GRANT PROGRAM AND STRATEGIC SUPPORT  
FOR BUILDINGS WITH HERITAGE, AFFORDABLE  
HOUSING, OR CULTURAL ASSETS

July 8, 2014

# OUTLINE

1. Recommendations
2. Background
3. Downtown Eastside Context
4. New Matching Grant Program
5. Strategic Support
6. Alignment with DTES Plan
7. Budget

# RECOMMENDATIONS

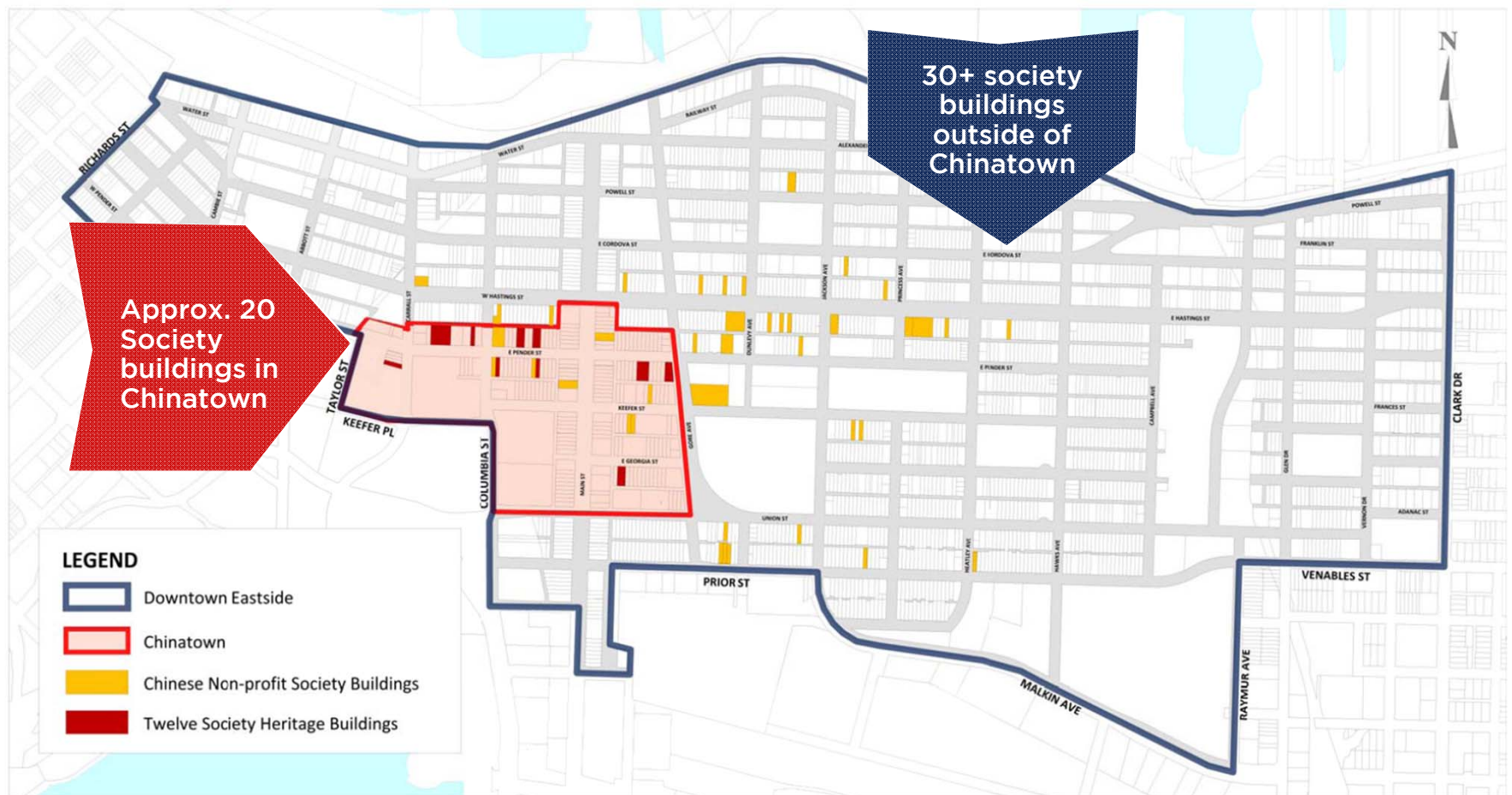
- A. THAT Council approve the Chinese Society Building Matching Grant Program (Appendix A) to support critical building upgrades in the DTES;
- B. THAT Council approve funding for strategic support to implement the Grant Program and to undertake a consultation study (Appendix B); and
- C. THAT Council approve a budget of \$2.5 million for the Grant Program and strategic support.

# BACKGROUND

- *Chinatown Vision* (2002)
- *Society Heritage Buildings Rehabilitation Strategy* (2008)
- *Chinatown Society Buildings Planning Grant Program* (2008)
- *Chinatown Neighbourhood Plan and Economic Revitalization Strategy* (2012)
- Council directed staff to develop a **new fund to assist the Chinatown Society Heritage Building Association** with the critical rehabilitation of their buildings (March 2013)
- *Downtown Eastside Plan* (2014)

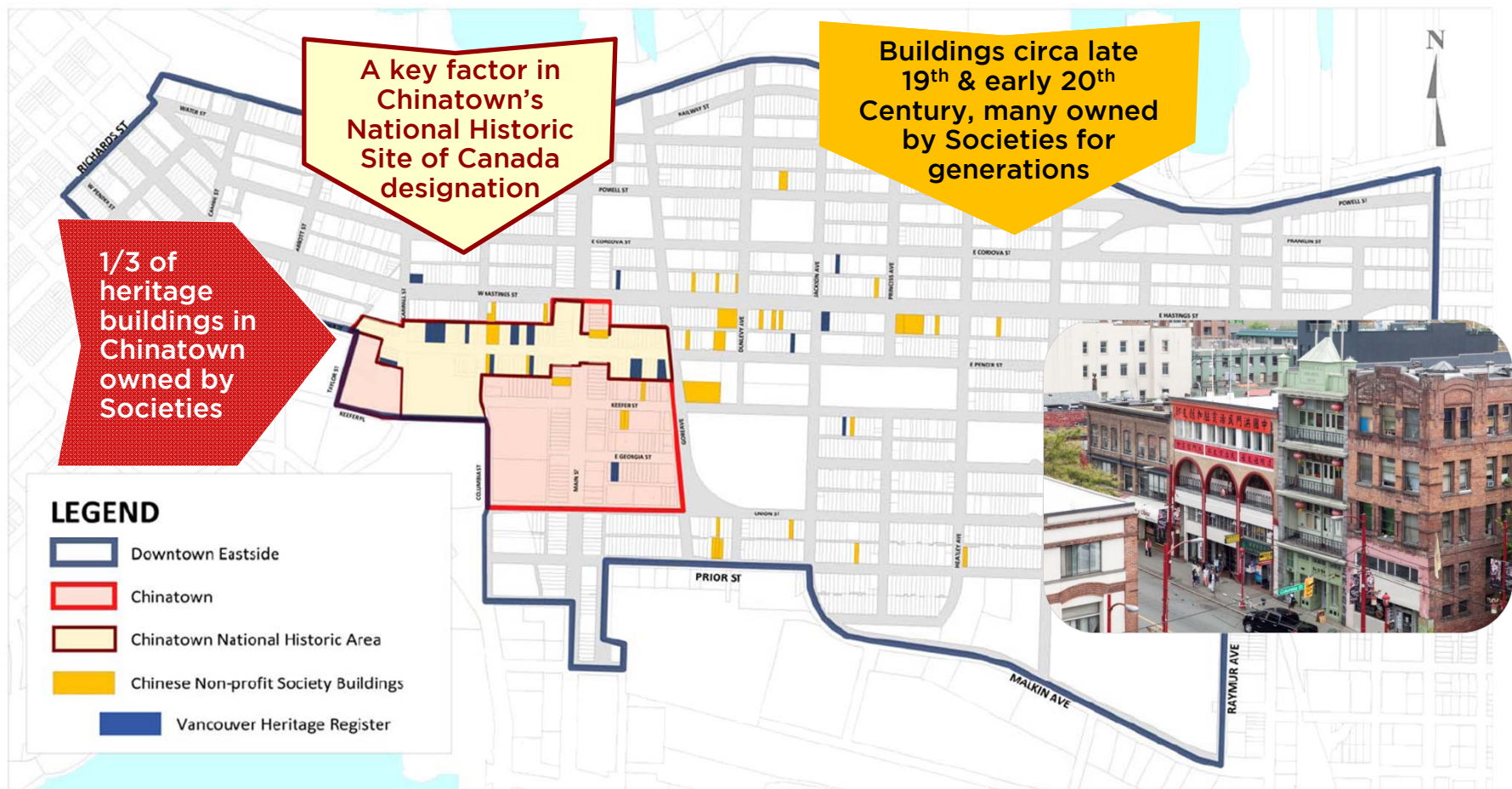
# CONTEXT - DTES & Chinatown

Approximately 100 Chinese Societies in Vancouver, many that own property in and around Chinatown



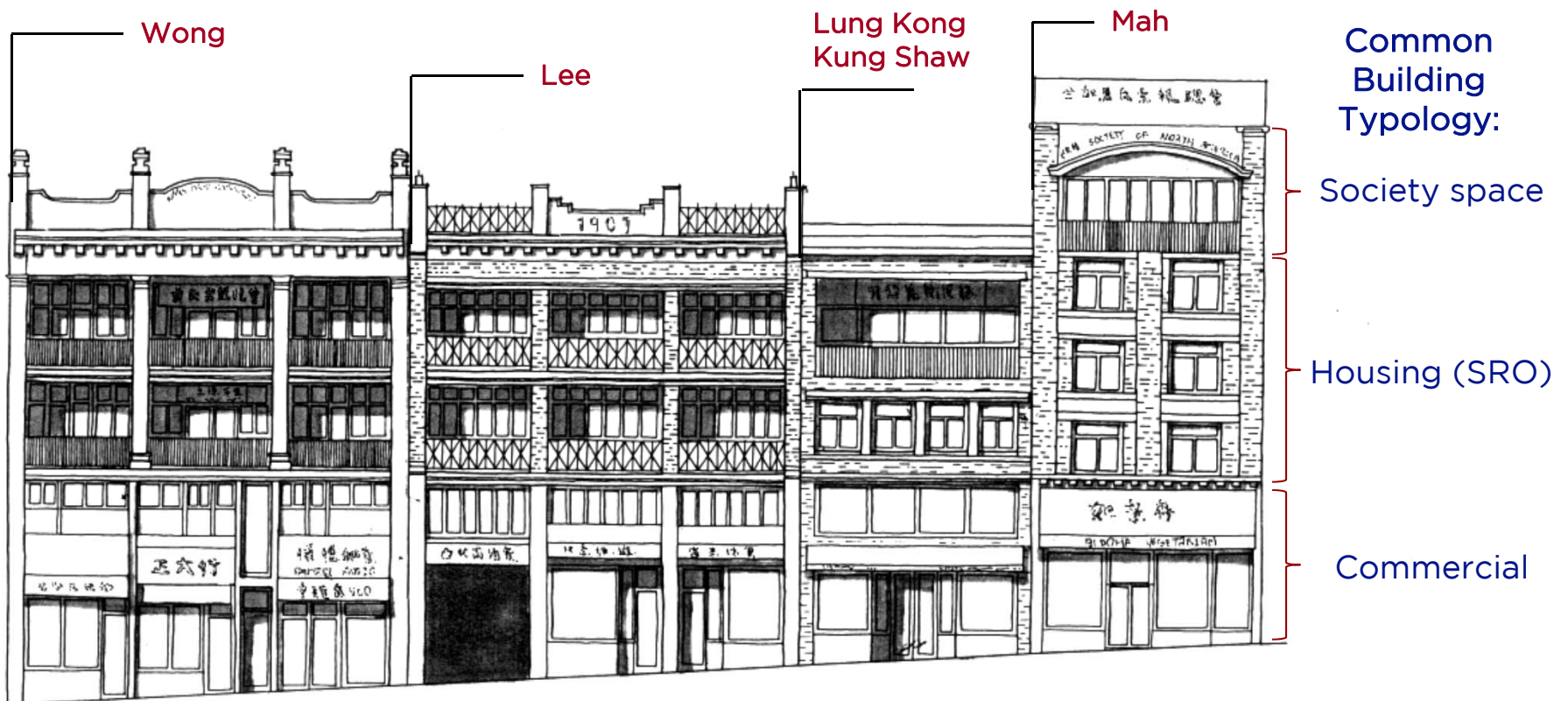
# CONTEXT - Built Heritage Stewards

Societies are critical in preserving the unique cultural and heritage assets of local, national, and global significance.



# CONTEXT - Built Heritage Stewards

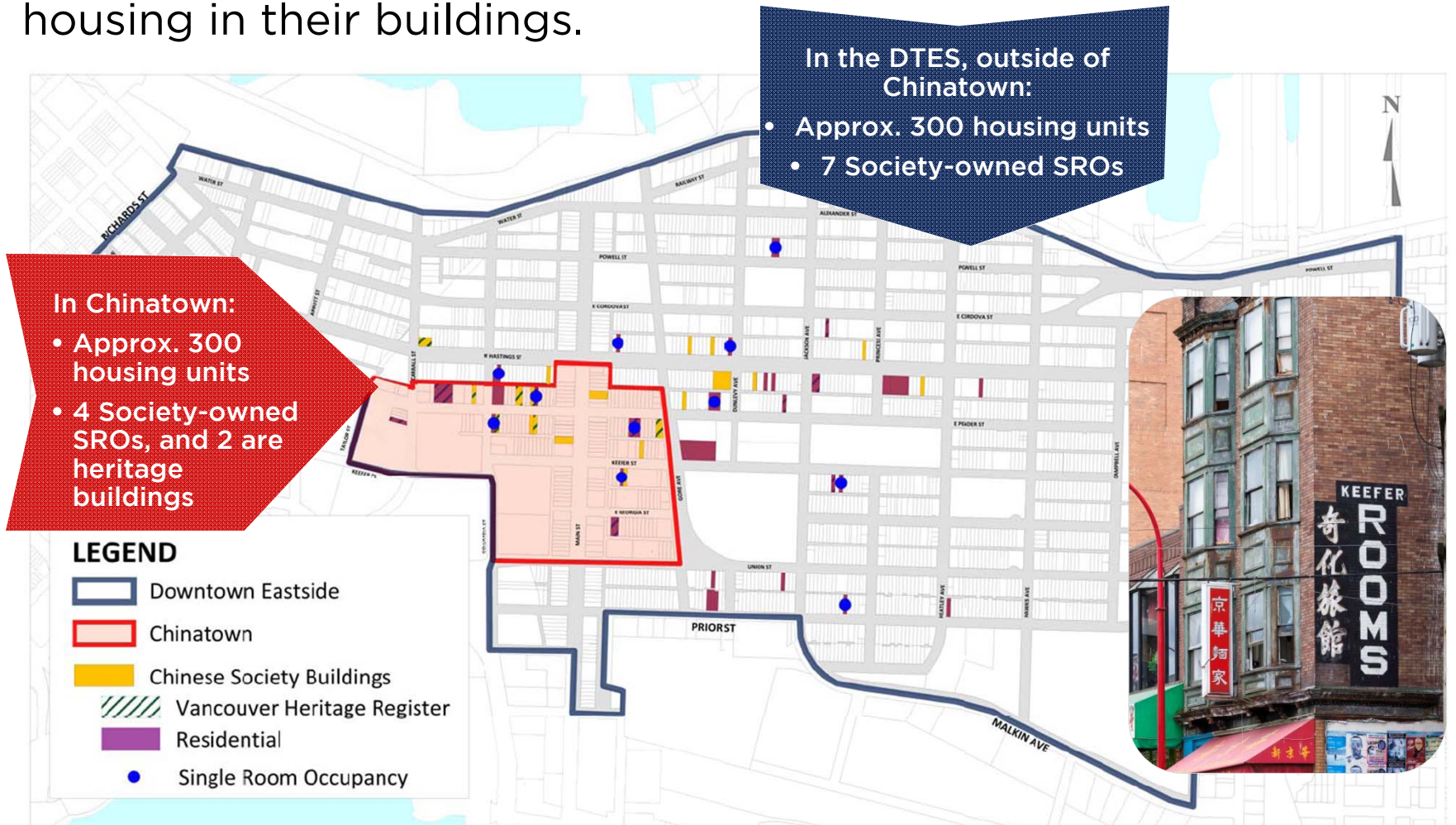
Unique architectural building styles, uses, and urban pattern.



100 Block Pender Street (north side)

# CONTEXT - Providers of Rental Housing

Societies will continue to provide, or expand affordable housing in their buildings.





# CONTEXT - Cultural Anchors in a Changing Chinatown



Social hubs for the Chinese-Canadian community, particularly seniors and youth



Provide space for housing, office, recreation, and ground floor retail



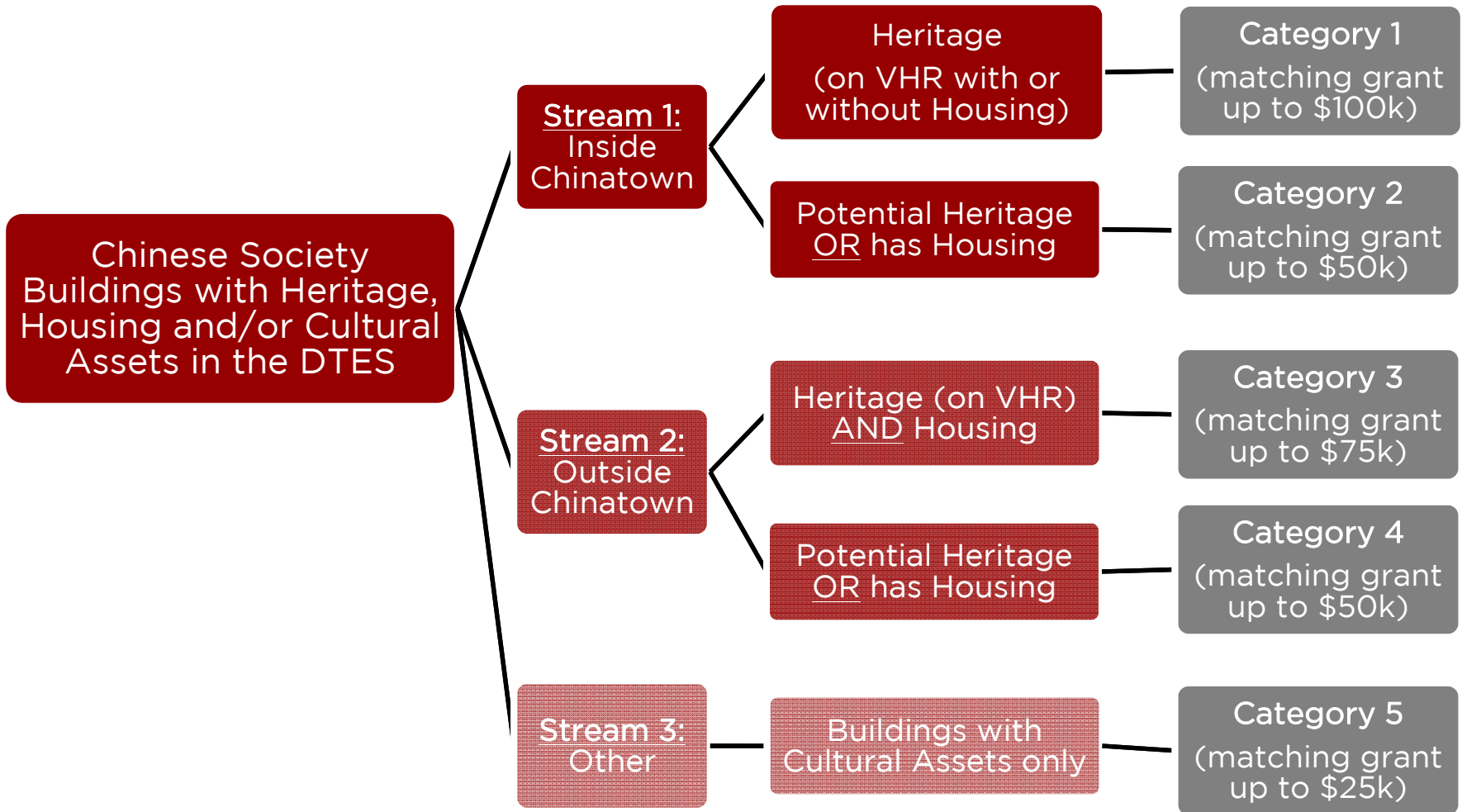
Hold cultural activities and traditional festival celebrations



National headquarters, some with 1000+ members throughout Lower Mainland

Renewal of Society buildings is critical to ensure Societies continue to thrive and remain cultural anchors, preserving and fostering Chinese heritage and culture in Chinatown.

# RECOMMENDATION A: Matching Grant Program



# RECOMMENDATION B: Strategic Support for Heritage Buildings in Chinatown



1. Lim



2. Wong



3. Yue Shan



4. Jang



5. Wong



6. Lung Kong Kung Shaw



7. Mah



8. Chinese Benevolent Association



9. Chan



10. Shon Yee

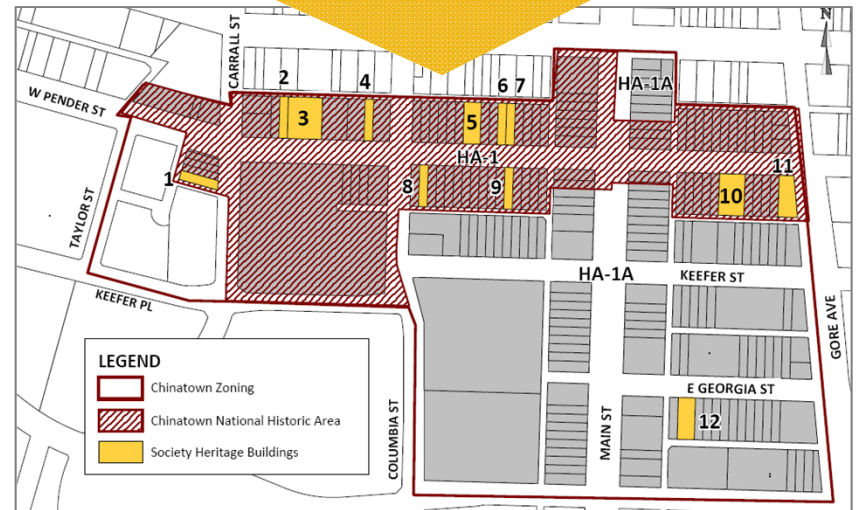


11. Chinese Nationalist League



12. Yee

12 Society-owned Heritage buildings in Chinatown



# RECOMMENDATION B: Strategic Support for Heritage Buildings in Chinatown

## Consultancy

Technical studies of Society buildings

Pursue innovative tools and partnerships

Work with Societies to build their capacity

Leverage City's capital investments



## Partnership Development

City

Senior Government

Private Sector

Foundations

Societies



## Major Upgrade Program (future report)

Full building upgrades with comprehensive funding tools

New and improved affordable housing

Renewed retail, office, society/community program space

Revitalization of Societies as cultural anchors in Chinatown

# ALIGNMENT WITH DTES PLAN

## Public Benefit Strategy

- Chinatown Society heritage buildings identified as heritage priority
- Estimated \$150M total cost to rehabilitate 12 heritage buildings (approx. \$50M shortfall/funding gap)
- Projected \$15M City contribution

## Policies and Directions

- Consistent with DTES Plan, including:
  - Chinatown revitalization
  - encouraging residential intensification
  - upgrades to SROs
- Quick start action – Grant program to support rehabilitation of Society-owned heritage buildings in Chinatown.

# RECOMMENDATION C: Budget

\$2.5M Grant Program  
(3 year) & Strategic  
Support

## Source of Funds:

\$1,238,000 - Community Amenity Contribution (633 Main St Rezoning)

\$1,262,000 - Capital Budget for DTES Revitalization



THANK YOU

