



## ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Report Date: May 15, 2019  
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Meeting Date: May 28, 2019

TO: Vancouver City Council  
FROM: General Manager of Planning, Urban Design and Sustainability  
SUBJECT: 2019 Downtown Eastside (DTES) Capital Grant Program Allocation

### **RECOMMENDATION**

- A. THAT Council approve the matching grant allocation of \$712,501 to Downtown Eastside (DTES) non-profit organizations (as detailed in Appendix A) to strategically advance the social, economic and environmental objectives of the approved DTES Plan. Source of funding from various 2019 DTES Capital budgets.
- B. THAT Council approve the allocation of \$50,000 grant to EMBERS Eastside Works to support the implementation of a Community Stewardship pilot project in Chinatown. Source of funds is from the 2019 DTES Capital budget.
- C. THAT Council approve the allocation of \$75,000 grant to Tides Canada Initiatives to support the implementation of the Binner's Universal Cart Sharing program (as detailed in Appendix E). Source of funds is from the 2019 DTES Capital budget.

Approval of grants recommendations requires 2/3 affirmative votes pursuant to Vancouver Charter s. 206(1).

### **REPORT SUMMARY**

The main grant allocation is for the 2019 DTES Capital Matching Grant Program. Two additional allocations are recommended to support the implementation of a pilot project in Chinatown and the Binner's Cart Sharing Project launched in 2017.

Council approved the *Downtown Eastside (DTES) Plan* in March 2014 setting out the policies, strategies, Quick Start and Short Term actions needed to achieve the long term vision that “the neighbourhood will be made up of mixed-income communities with a range of affordable housing options (including social housing) for all residents, local serving commerce, social services and cultural activities where all feel welcome, valued and at home”.

The proposed capital grants are to be used to broaden implementation efforts to achieve this vision. In this way, City staff work with non-profit organisations to improve the lives of low income residents and revitalise the area without displacing vulnerable residents and valuable community assets.

For the DTES Capital Matching Grant Program, staff invited applications in early March 2019. A total of thirty applications were received and twenty five are recommended for funding. This report recommends grants be approved for four projects related to Community Economic Development (CED), seventeen projects related to Community Asset Management initiatives and four for Neighbourhood Improvements. Five applications are not recommended for approval at this time.

The proposed projects range from building improvements for non-profit organizations, to training and job creation for individuals facing barriers to employment. Projected benefits expected from these capital projects include:

- an upgraded senior housing operated by a Chinese Society at the edge of Chinatown,
- improved capacity to increase the hiring of workers facing barriers to traditional employment employed and successful transitioning them to fulltime employment,
- improved bathroom infrastructure and healthy environment to a significant emergency shelter in the heart of the DTES,
- improved office environment and drop-in centre for a DTES organization supporting sex-workers,
- improved women only drop-in space for over 400 women and children accessing services daily,
- an improved green space in the heart of the DTES for learning, sharing, cultural celebration and inclusion.

In addition two strategic projects are recommended for approval.

During the current Chinatown transformation process community relationships, safety and health are key issues that were identified that need urgent attention. With the successful employment operation of a community stewardship project administered by EMBERS Eastside in the DTES, the implementation of a similar project as a pilot in Chinatown is proposed. This seeks to enhance street safety and build relationships between businesses and local residents.

Following the positive development of the Binner’s universal carts and docking station, the group is ready to explore implementing the project through the construction of the carts and two docking stations. The prototype cart is more functional to the user and can be legally accessed

for use. The carts are also available to be used by not just the bidders but also street artists and other in the DTES. The docking station design is similar to the existing bike-sharing program.

### **COUNCIL AUTHORITY/PREVIOUS DECISIONS**

- In December 2016 Council approved the *DTES CED Strategy (Phase 2)*.
- In October 2014 Council approved the *Healthy City Strategy 2014-25*.
- In March 2014 Council approved the *Downtown Eastside Local Area Plan (DTES Plan and Social Impact Assessment (SIA))*.
- *In July 2012, Council approved the Chinatown Neighbourhood Plan and Economic Revitalization Strategy.*
- In January 2012 Council received for information the *Vancouver Economic Action Strategy*.
- In July 2011 Council approved the *Greenest City Action Plan 2020*.

### **CITY MANAGER'S/GENERAL MANAGER'S COMMENTS**

The City Manager recommends approval of the foregoing.

### **REPORT**

#### ***Background/Context***

The Downtown Eastside (DTES) comprises the seven mixed income neighbourhoods of Gastown, Victory Square, Chinatown, Downtown Eastside Oppenheimer District, Thornton Park, Strathcona and the Industrial Lands.

Based on Census 2016, in the DTES the median total income is \$18,458 for those over 15 years of age vs the city-wide median total income of \$32,896. Over half (53%) of the 14,300 workers living in the DTES make less than \$20,000.

Despite the high level of poverty and vulnerability, the DTES is a very creative, diverse area with close-knit communities, a mix of land uses, unique heritage assets and cultural amenities. The *DTES Plan* provides the 30 year vision, strategies and policies needed to achieve a better quality of life for the residents, and improved opportunities for businesses and industries.

A significant number of Quick Start and Short Term projects were approved as part of the DTES Plan (refer to Appendix C for a summary table) and the proposed grants provide an opportunity to work with various partners, including non-profit societies and Business Improvement Associations, to implement these projects.

The grants program is designed to build partnerships with non-profit organisations, charities, social enterprises, Societies and Business Improvement Associations to help implement the Quick Start and Short Term projects in the DTES Plan. Eligible projects must include at least

one of the following criteria as set out in the 2019 *DTES Capital Grant Program Guidelines* (refer to Appendix D), allowing the funds requested to be used for the following:

- Expenses associated with building asset improvements, upgrades to premises and/or facades needed to implement the Plan.
- Capital improvement related “soft costs” for feasibility studies, investigations, project management etc., to build capacity leading towards capital related improvements.
- Strategic opportunities where projects have potential for substantial outcomes that meet Council and DTES priorities.
- Movable assets such as machinery, tools, equipment, appliances, etc.

Applications were also compared to the *DTES Plan Social Impact Objectives* for example:

- Ensure that developments and businesses fit the DTES neighbourhood context, offer needed, locally-serving uses, and do not significantly exclude or negatively impact the low-income community.
- Improve the overall quality, accessibility and inclusiveness of the public realm in the DTES, recognizing the uniqueness of each sub-area.
- Maintain diversity of existing businesses and commercial uses and support affordable commercial spaces for social enterprises, micro enterprises and small businesses providing low-cost goods and services for residents.
- Retain, preserve and celebrate local heritage, arts and culture for all.
- Maintain adequate health and social services within the community, as well as community amenity and gathering spaces to serve the needs of the diverse local population.

### *Capital Grants*

A total of thirty applications were received and twenty five are recommended for funding to a total of \$712,501. A multi-departmental staff team reviewed the applications and considered the benefits to the neighbourhood that would be created through the proposals including local hiring, job creation, value-added local serving retail, micro enterprises, upgraded SRO building, improved access to services, cultural asset maintenance and related opportunities. Five applications are not recommended.

#### *Chinatown Pilot Community Stewardship project*

EMBERS Eastside Works has been managing a stewardship service in the DTES that provides employment to local residents and manages relationships between businesses and local residents. The residents employed are those with barriers to traditional employment. The improvements to the area are well received by the local residents and the community. Chinatown would like to pilot a similar street cleaning program with EMBERS Eastside (supported by Exchange Inner City) to address the key issues identified through the transformation process. A grant of \$50,000 is requested to support this initiative.

#### *Binner’s Cart project – Implementation stage*

In 2017, Council approved funding to assist the Binner’s project to build operational capacity and create a prototype universal cart. Over 100 people on low-income were consulted in creating the prototype. In 2018, \$75,000 was approved by Council towards the testing and refinement of the cart and the development of a cart sharing docking station. The binner members worked with local architects, city staff and other stakeholders towards their goal. The

project is now at the implementation stage to build and deliver a fleet of carts and two docking stations. A grant of \$75,000 is requested to support the implementation.

### **Strategic Analysis**

The DTES Capital Grants Program presents a strategic opportunity to implement the *DTES Plan* in three key priority areas identified in the planning process: protecting community assets, neighbourhood improvement and community building, and community economic development. The program also supports the *DTES Community Economic Development Strategy* which reinforces the local economy as a livelihoods continuum, from survival and informal work to supported employment, formal employment and entrepreneurship.

The grants recommended in this report align with Council priorities and strategies, in particular the *Healthy City Strategy*, the *Greenest City Action Plan* and the *Vancouver Economic Action Strategy*. The grants focus mostly on the *Healthy City Strategy*, an inspirational strategy for all residents of Vancouver, particularly to the diverse neighbourhoods of the DTES. This strategy aspires to the vision of a “Healthy City for All” through three focus areas of “Healthy People” (taking care of basics) “Healthy Communities” (cultivating connections) and “Healthy Environments” (ensuring liveability now and into the future).

The Chinatown Community Stewardship Pilot and Binner’s Universal Cart Projects both support council priorities, sustainability and community economic development strategy. It also assists to reach goals in the Healthy City Strategy and the DTES plan around income, employment and poverty reduction. It supports the central concept of a Livelihoods Continuum that respects the diverse ways in which individuals make ends meet. The Chinatown Pilot project also contributes to the Chinatown UNESCO nomination exploration process by addressing issues related to health and safety that have been identified.

Most of the applications are related to Community Asset Management priority areas. All applications support the DTES Plan’s vision to improve the lives of low income residents and revitalise the area without displacing vulnerable residents and valuable community assets. Table 1 is a summary of the type of groups that may benefit from the allocation of the DTES Capital funding. Some projects benefit more than one group.

**Table 1: Group Beneficiary summary**

<b>Group type</b>	<b>Number of groups</b>
Artist	11
Low-income residents	24
Seniors	15
People with barriers to employment	9
Youth	15
Indigenous	16
Women	18
Ethnic (Chinese/ Japanese)	15

Groups that submitted an application that are being recommended include:

- The Potluck Café Society, an award-winning social enterprise that operates a business that employs neighbourhood residents and uses training and employment as a dignified means of helping people regain their confidence, skills and economic independence. They need to vacate their current location by April 2020. A business plan will assist with determining their growth and new space. This new space will allow Potluck to employ more DTES residents with barriers to traditional employment.
- Eastside Movement for Business and Economic Renewal Society (EMBERS) is a Community Economic Development (CED) organization in the DTES. They work with a variety of people in the DTES including immigrants, First nations, parolees, and people with addictions recovery. EMBERS request funding for web-based software to improve their operations. This will allow them to increase the number of workers employed and the success rate of transitioning workers into full time employment.
- First United Church provides a place where community members can find support and belonging. They provide many services including shelter for 60 people every day, showers, and meals. They request funding for a bathroom renovation in the women' gendered area. This will provide a bathroom space that is updated, functional and doesn't flood the surrounding area.

The DTES Capital grants will also support partnerships to build capacity and leverage additional matching funding (at least 50%) through the sourcing of other funds. With these series of applications, the amount of funds leveraged is just over two times the amount granted. All projects will be monitored regularly and the matching funds leveraged for each application will be confirmed before the final grant is released.

### ***Financial***

This report is seeking approval of the following:

- Twenty five (25) grants totalling \$712,501;
- A grant of \$50,000 to EMBERS for the Chinatown Community Stewardship Pilot;
- A grant of \$75,000 to Tides Canada Initiatives for the Binner's Project Implementation Phase.

The total amount for grants being allocated is \$837,501. The source of funding for this program is various DTES Capital Program funding included in the 2019 DTES Capital Budget. After allocation of these grants approximately \$736,000 remains in the Capital Budget for the DTES Capital Program (not including future amounts to be allocated from the 2019-22 Capital Plan).

Once these grants have been approved by Council, a Letter of Understanding will be signed between the applicants and the City of Vancouver outlining the terms, conditions, budget, and grant release details including confirmation of matching funds.

The funding area of the recommended grant applications are shown and summarized in Table 2 - (See Appendix A for a more detailed description of each project and Appendix E for a description of the Binner's project).

**Table 2: Recommended DTES Capital grants**

<b>Funding Area</b>	<b>Objectives</b>	<b>Number of Grants</b>	<b>% of Grants</b>	<b>Total Funding</b>
Community Economic Development	A vibrant and inclusive economy through Community Economic Development	4	15%	\$132,353
Community Asset Management	Retention and improvement of valuable assets identified in the DTES Plan and SIA	17	62%	\$428,448
Neighbourhood Improvements	Improvements to the neighbourhood places and spaces for community wellbeing, safety and walkability	4	15%	\$151,700
<b>Total</b>		<b>25</b>	<b>92%</b>	<b>\$712,501</b>
Chinatown Community Stewardship pilot	Make Chinatown safer and cleaner, and support residents with barriers to employment.	1	4%	\$50,000
Binner's Cart Sharing Project	Provide universal carts to people in the DTES to use through a simple low-cost cart sharing system.	1	4%	\$75,000
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>27</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>\$837,501</b>

**CONCLUSION**

The grants and funding recommendation in this report align with the policy objectives of the DTES Plan and will help the City to address its priorities of fostering community economic development, protecting community assets, neighbourhood improvement, and community building. These projects will assist greatly in implementing various Quick Start and Short Term projects identified as priorities in the DTES Plan.

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**2019 Downtown Eastside Capital Matching Grants  
Recommended**

No	Organization	Project Description	Outcomes	Quick Starts (see Appendix C)	Amount Recommended
1	Creative Cultural Collaborations Society	Complete the sprinkler system connection costs so that the building can accommodate workshops, art projects	Secure studio space for a local artist collective at \$1.00 for 5 years.	Culture (D1,D2)	\$ 14,892
2	Langara College	Workshop with local residents on the issue of urban heat islands. The project team will consist of City Studio, Langara College and the Strathcona BIA.	A shaded gathering space for vulnerable people.	Open Space (E1)	\$ 42,000
3	Chau Luen Kon SI Society of Vancouver	Medicine cabinets, baseboard heaters, stove and fridge, existing LED lights, paint common areas and hallways	Upgraded senior housing at the edge of Chinatown.	Housing (B3)	\$ 50,000
4	Mah Society of Canada	Fix east interior wall of ground floor commercial unit and address increasing dangers related to water damage, exposure of piping and other potential safety and structural implications	Continued revenue source for the maintenance of the Mah society building.	Economy (C8) Heritage (D4)	\$ 5,000
5	Potluck Cafe	Undertake a business planning process to help us determine how much they can grow before they relocate in 2020	A business plan for a new space. More DTES residents employed with barriers to traditional employment	Economy (C6,C9)	\$ 10,000
6	Hastings-Crossing BIA	Improving street cleanliness and safety through an enhanced street and alley cleaning. Partnership with a local social enterprise Mission possible.	Work for local social enterprise, Mission Possible and reduced biohazardous litter.	Economy (C3)	\$ 9,700
7	EMBERS	Develop and implement new operational software to increase operational abilities and improved handling of our temporary staffing.	Increase number of workers employed and successful transitioning workers to fulltime employment.	Economy (C6,C8,C9)	\$ 48,499
8	Vancouver	Renovation of the basement of the	Resource and workshop	Arts + Culture	\$ 50,000



	Chinatown Foundation	Vancouver Chinatown Foundation 'Storytelling Centre'	space to complement the Storytelling centre.	and Heritage (D2,D4)	
9	First United Church Community Ministry Society	Funding for a bathroom renovation project in our emergency shelter – replacement of two toilets and two shower stalls	Improved bathroom infrastructure and healthy environment.	Well-being (A1,A3)	\$ 40,000
10	West Coast Technology Innovation Foundation	Improve co-working space in Chinatown by creating room partitions with sound-dampening technology. The sound partitions would support more sensitive dialogues with participants	Improved space to support more community events and workshops.	Economy (C6)	\$ 35,000
11	Vancouver Moving Theatre Society	Develop VMT's Woodward's office and resource centre with additional equipment, including a multimedia workstation, filing cabinets, rugs, fridge and filing cabinets.	Improve VMT capacity to support community events and increase training and employment. \$5,000 rental savings per year.	Arts + Culture and Heritage (D2)	\$ 14,686
12	Hives for Humanity Society	The Hastings Folk Garden will invest in the pathways and garden bed supports for accessibility and safety in the garden.	Improved green space in the heart of the DTES for learning, sharing, cultural celebration and inclusion.	Well-being (A1,A2)	\$ 3,050
13	Vancouver Buddhist Temple	This project will improve the reliability of the elevator for current Buddhist education and practice, arts	Improved accessibility in an important heritage building.	Arts + Culture and Heritage (D2)	\$ 50,000
14	Kids Up Front Foundation	Upgrade hardware and software to better communicate with our agencies and donors	Continued access for DTES vulnerable residents to local arts and cultural experiences.	Well-being (A3)	\$ 10,434
15	221a Artist Run Centre Society	Fire alarm panel upgrades required to complete and close the permit from COV	Safer Chinatown society building with SRO units and a supportive environment for a cultural hub.	Arts + Culture and Heritage (D2,D4)	\$ 20,000
16	Strathcona Business Improvement Association	To create opportunities for community serving retail and micro-enterprises in Chinese society buildings	Sustainable Chinese society building with a community-serving business.	Economy (C6,C9) Heritage (D4)	\$ 46,250
17	Providing Advocacy	Repairing central air system to ensure climate control for vulnerable clients,	Improved office environment and drop-in	Well-being (A1,A3)	\$ 6,000

	Counseling and Education Society	purchasing furniture, and hiring an indigenous artist to develop a mural to create a welcoming space	centre for an important DTES organization.		
18	Strathcona Community Centre Association	Beautification project aims to improve the physical appearance of the Centre, specifically the Youth Lounge	Re-established the youth lounge, mural created by a local artist and an inviting environment to the centre.	Well-being (A3)	\$ 19,000
19	Mission Possible Compassionate Ministries Society	Mission Possible Maintenance is a social enterprise seeking funding for the purchase of equipment and replace the awning skin of the building	Social enterprise increased capacity to train and hire more individuals facing barriers to employment.	Economy (C6,C8,C9)	\$ 27,604
20	DTES Women's Centre Association	Updates of furnishings and equipment to maintain a safe place for the women who utilize their facilities	Improved facility for over 400 women and children that is open 7 days a week.	Well-being (A1,A3)	\$ 41,166
21	Atira Women's Resource Society	Purchase and installation of a new gas range and smoker to enable to launch Sisele's Kitchen – an intergenerational Indigenous traditional meal mentorship program.	Upgraded kitchen to support community programs and connection to culture and access to food for women on fixed income	Well-being (A1,A2,A3)	\$ 12,569
22	Gastown Business Improvement Society (Gbis)	Funding for year round lit up trees in Gastown. Review of power inventory to determine where receptacles can be added	Improved public realm to foster outdoor activities, increase physical attraction and additional lighting.	Open Space (E4) Place-making (F3)	\$ 50,000
23	Gastown Business Improvement Society (Gbis)	Projection / laneway alley project to sponsor the visual feature of Vancouver's history working with the Coast Salish people	Lane activation and improved public space.	Open Space (E4)	\$ 50,000
24	Powell Street Festival Society	Upgrade software and systems and invest in festival signage to improve accessibility to the festival site	Improved accessibility and sustainability to the free cultural festival.	Arts + Culture and Heritage (D4)	\$ 16,151
25	Creative CoWorkers	Health and safety upgrades to an affordable industrial co-working space, alley activation and reducing the building environmental foot print.	An affordable space for social enterprises, small businesses, artists and community organizations.	Economy (C6) Open Space (E4)	\$ 40,500

2019 Downtown Eastside Capital Matching Grants

**NOT Recommended**

No	Organization	Project Description	Amount Requested	Comments
1	Vancouver Native Health Society	Renovation of areas in VNHS Dental Clinic in preparation for the installation of a Cone Beam Computed Tomography (CBCT) Machine	\$ 10,000	Organizations that mainly focus on health care are not eligible. Referred to alternative funding source.
2	Po Yuen Taoist	To provide a library and learning centre in a mixed-use project on a Society owned site in the DTES.	\$ 50,000	Project is not short term and is at the preliminary application stage. Consider applying in the future.
3	Aboriginal Land Trust Society	Indigenous Housing and Healing Centre which will have housing and SRO studio units, a Healing Centre and a bank.	\$ 50,000	Project is not short term and is at the preliminary application stage. Consider applying in the future.
4	Strathcona Community Centre Association	VSB vacant space (former Strathcona Elementary School Library) feasibility study for childcare programs. The feasibility study could support a request for renovation costs.	\$ 47,000	Space is currently not available for any other use by VSB. Consider applying in the future when status of the space is more certain and available.
5	Urban Promise Ministries	Facility upgrades for Children Youth and Families: computer lab, foyer & youth multipurpose room, shower facility and outdoor signage.	\$ 50,000	Recommendation deferred. Further research into groups and individuals being served needed. Consider applying in the future.  \$50,000 DTES grant approved in 2018

**QUICK START ACTIONS and SHORT TERM PROJECTS**  
(Summary of Section 18.6 – Action Plan 2013-43 of the approved DTES Plan)

<b>A - Well-Being</b>
1. Enhance residents sense of safety, inclusion and belonging, including implementing actions from the City’s Task Force on Sex Work and Sexual Exploitation and Missing Women’s Inquiry
2. Improve access to affordable, nutritious, and culturally-appropriate foods
3. Continue to prioritize that the safety of women, children, seniors, and culturally-diverse groups through well-designed spaces and inclusive programs
<b>B - Housing</b>
1. Offer grants to non-profits to upgrade SROs while maintaining affordability
2. Continue working with the Residential Tenancy Branch to improve tenant/landlord relations.
3. Address urgent social housing needs.
4. Explore creative financing using a ‘cost-benefit’ approach for scattered supportive housing sites.
<b>C - Economy</b>
1. Investigate regulatory changes and building code modifications to accelerate small conversions and renovations of business premises (especially in older buildings that are costly to maintain) to allow business owners who wish to make physical improvements.
2. Work with the four Business Improvement Associations to create a neighbourhood-wide business characteristics survey.
3. Work with VEC and BIAs to attract suitable new enterprises with retail strategies
4. Use City-owned properties, affordable leases, and revitalization tax supports to provide affordable goods and services to the area.
5. Undertake a study of vending alternatives and the establishment of neighbourhood market-selling facilities.
6. Facilitate social and green enterprise practices and innovative business methods to achieve Social Impact objectives and Greenest City Action Plan objectives
7. Innovate and support opportunities for market-selling, small business and micro-enterprise opportunities for DTES residents to build the survival economy
8. Identify, secure and maximize economic/business assets that serve the low-income community (particularly in the CBDA)
9. Increase local employment encouraging inclusive local hiring opportunities.

<b>D - Arts &amp; Culture and Heritage</b>
1. Stabilize key existing physical assets and secure ownership in public domain
2. Retain/create flexible multi-use neighbourhood spaces such as studios, offices, rehearsal/production and indoor/outdoor space
3. Support community efforts to recognize Aboriginal First Nations heritage and the Salish Sea Civilization concept
4. Support community initiatives such as raising the stature of the Japanese Canadian heritage, preservation and rehabilitation of the Chinatown Society buildings, identify, preserve and improve places with social and cultural meaning to the community, such as CRAB Park, Pigeon Park, Oppenheimer Park, Powell Street (Japantown), Chinatown, Strathcona, historic lane ways and alleys.
5. Initiate the work on updating the Vancouver Heritage Register.
6. Create a framework and business plan for a Chinatown Society Building Grants Program
<b>E - Parks &amp; Open Space</b>
1. Convert over-paved or under-used areas into mini-parks or plazas where possible.
2. Review existing street trees to fill gaps and replace ailing trees, and prioritize planting new trees in areas with few or no existing street trees.
3. Make existing parks more useable by adding new features
4. Enhance the public realm to improve walkability, and reinforce the distinct identity of historic areas
<b>F - Community Place-Making</b>
1. Encourage the revitalization of laneways through temporary installations and development opportunities.
2. Hastings Street and Kiwassa Urban Design Framework and Public Realm Plan
3. Undertake improvements to Water Street and Maple Tree Square, including the public realm, pedestrian, cyclist, and traffic safety, and introduce amenities for community programming and celebrations.
<b>G - Well-Managed Growth &amp; Development</b>
1. Amend land use and development policies and bylaws to support plan implementation, including the adoption of a new DTES Rezoning Policy and Social Impact Objectives



# 2019 DTES Capital Grant Program

Deadline: 4:00 pm – Tuesday March 26,, 2019

## **PROGRAM SUMMARY & APPLICATION GUIDELINES**

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

The Planning Department is accepting applications to its 2019 Downtown Eastside (DTES) Capital Matching Grant Program. We are looking for a small number of projects that will achieve the Social Impact Objectives (DTES Plan - page 11) and support the implementation of DTES Plan through Quick Start, and other actions as set out in Chapter 18 of the Plan.

Key priority areas of the DTES Capital Grants are also to be linked to the DTES Plan by:

- Supporting community-based initiatives (for example; micro enterprise establishment, youth outreach, child care and co-op projects etc.),
- Fostering community economic development (CED) (for example; retail space improvements, façade upgrades, storefront activation, social enterprise equipment and fittings etc.)
- Protecting community assets (for example; upgrades to space occupied by social or cultural service providers, social enterprise premises and support to the SRO upgrading program etc.),
- Improving the walkability and safety of the neighbourhood (for example; street improvements, furniture, lighting, signage and information boards etc.).

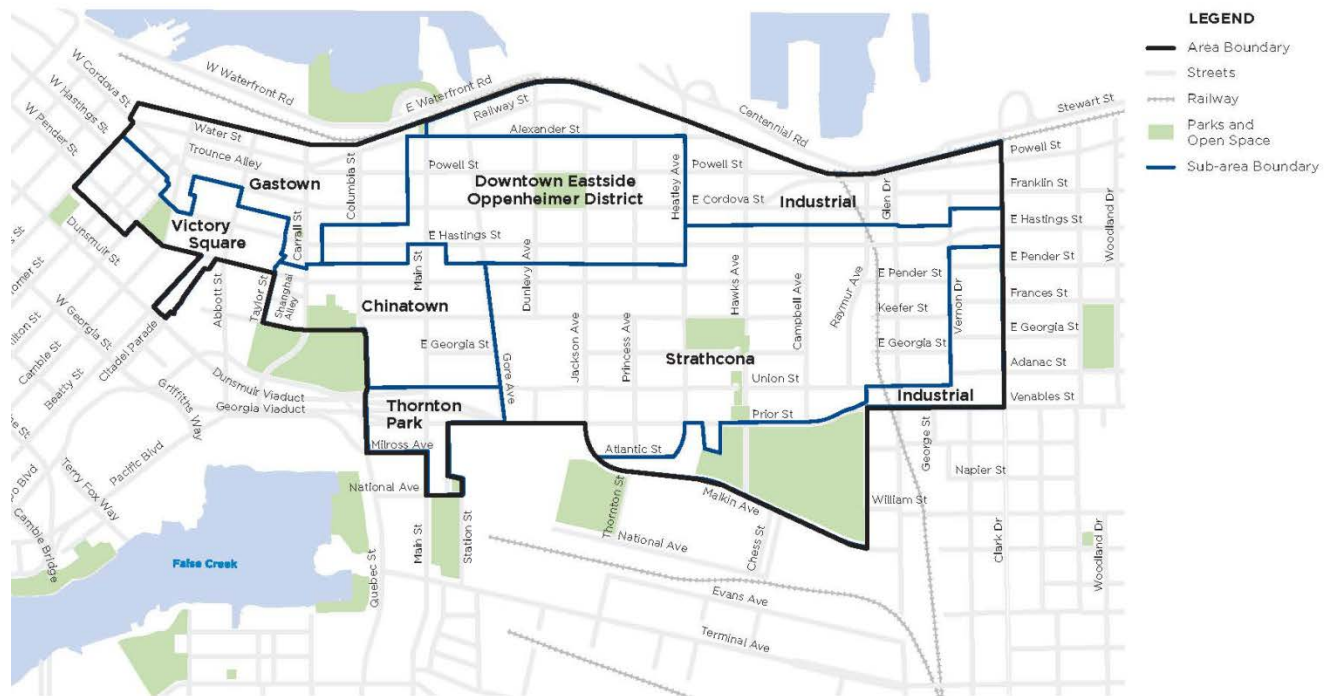
### **2. PROGRAM SUMMARY**

- Matching grants are available in the range of \$5,000 to \$50,000.
- Grants are for capital projects in the DTES (see map).
- Projects are to be completed by December 2019.
- Applicants need to be Vancouver-based non-profit organizations or social enterprises.
- Applicants should share 50% of the project cost.

### **3. ELIGIBLE ORGANIZATIONS**

We welcome applications from Vancouver-based organizations that are:

- Registered non-profit societies.
- Business improvement associations.
- Community service co-ops.
- Charities registered with Canada Revenue Agency (CRA).
- Social enterprises wholly owned by a non-profit society.
- Faith-based organizations.



In addition, organizations must:

- Be in good standing with the Registrar of Societies, be financially stable with sound administration and have a proven track record of public service.
- Have an independent, active governing body composed of volunteers whose main responsibilities shall be program and policy development and fundraising. The Board is held responsible for the effectiveness of services provided and the financial accountability for funds received from all sources. Voting members of the Board of Directors of a Society may not be remunerated for services to the society, but they may be reimbursed for expenses.
- If in City-owned or leased facilities when applying, assure work to be done is in accordance to the terms and conditions in the lease.

We do **NOT** fund organizations that:

- Focus mainly on health care or education (excluding childcare or out-of-school care)
- Exclude certain people or groups because of their religion, ethnicity, gender, age, sexual orientation, language, disability, or income.

## 4. ELIGIBLE PROJECTS

Your organization may apply if your project is located in the Downtown Eastside and is for:

- Improvements to building assets, upgrades to premises and/or facades that lead to community economic development and enhancing social connections etc.
- Feasibility studies, investigations, skills development, project management etc. and can be funded to build capacity leading to capital related improvements or CED.
- Movable assets such as machinery, tools, equipment, appliances, furniture.
- Flexibility could be made for time-sensitive, strategic projects that will produce significant outcomes that meet the DTES Plan, subject to City Council's final approval.

Your project must align with the DTES Plan in regards to the Social Impact Objectives (Page 11), or help implement a Quick Start project in the DTES Plan (Chapter 18).

You can read the DTES Plan at <http://vancouver.ca/files/cov/downtown-eastside-plan.pdf>

Funding will **NOT** pay for projects already completed.

## 5. APPLICATIONS REVIEW

Your application will be reviewed by staff and we may invite your organization for an interview. We will review your application based on these considerations:

- a. How the project supports the Social Impact Objectives of the DTES Plan (Chapter 1); applicants should describe how all or some of the objectives would be met.
- b. For CED projects, how would they:
  - Maintain diversity of existing businesses and commercial uses and supporting affordable commercial spaces for social enterprises, micro enterprises and small businesses providing low-cost goods and services for residents.
  - Encourage the use of local goods and services in the construction, operation and maintenance of the proposed development or business.
  - Encourage local and inclusive hiring in the construction, operation and maintenance phases of the improvement.
  - Establish new CED initiatives or strengthening of social and micro enterprises.
- c. The ability, effectiveness and type of service offered by your organization and project partners.
- d. Data and targets that measure project outcomes (for example: number of local jobs created, number of people trained, or amount of local-serving retail space).
- e. The amount of financial support secured from other sources as matching funds.
- f. The cost of the project and past grant applications.



## **5. COST SHARING**

The DTES Capital Matching Grants Program uses a cost-sharing arrangement with your organization in order to build capacity and leverage funding from other sources. Other funding sources could include government programs, the private sector, trusts, donations, cooperatives, applicant's own reserves and in-kind contributions.

In general, the City's contribution will not exceed 50% of the total project cost, from \$5,000 up to a maximum of \$50,000. If you have a substantial capital project that requires a grant more than \$50,000, please contact us to discuss before submitting your application.

Your organization does not need to secure all funding at the time of application. When the application is approved, you have up to one year to raise the funds and complete the project.

## **6. GRANT PAYMENT**

After City Council has approved your project, payment terms will be determined and described in the Terms of Reference (ToR) and Letter of Understanding (LOU) agreement that is signed by The City and your organization.

A grant can only be paid after your organization has confirmed that all matching project financing and contribution is in place.

If your organization is not able to meet conditions of the grant, start or complete the project based on an agreed timeline, the project may be terminated and any funds paid to the project will need to be returned to the City.

## **7. CITY COUNCIL DECISION ON CAPITAL GRANTS**

City Council makes the final decision on your application. City staff will review all applications and make recommendations to City Council.

## **8. HOW TO APPLY**

Please see next page.

**APPLICATION DEADLINE IS:**  
**4:00 PM - Tuesday March 26, 2019**

**To apply, please follow these steps:**

1. Complete and sign the application form.
2. Submit application either by:
  - a) **Email:** Scan the signed form, save it as a PDF document and email it with the subject "2019 DTES Capital Grants" to: [dtes.grants@vancouver.ca](mailto:dtes.grants@vancouver.ca) .
  - or**
  - b) In person to: City Hall – West Annex, Main floor – 515 West 10th Avenue,  
Attention: Wesley Joe – Planning

In person deliveries are accepted Monday to Friday, 8:30-4:00 pm

You may find the application form online at  
<http://vancouver.ca/home-property-development/dtes-local-area-plan.aspx>

## 9. SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATIONS

The following documents are required as attachments to support your request:

1. A least two current detailed cost estimates.
2. Drawings and plans of the proposed project, if applicable.
3. Letter from Worker's Compensation Board confirming the applicant is registered in good standing and the registration number.
4. Letters of confirmation from other funding sources, if available.
5. A copy of your BC Registry Certificate of Good Standing, if not previously submitted in other grant applications.
6. If the property is not owned by the applicant, a copy of the lease and a letter from the landlord/property owner authorizing the proposed project. If the property is located in a City-owned facility, a letter from the City authorizing the project is not required, as staff will consult with the Facilities Department directly. However it is very strongly advised that you contact your City representative in the Facilities Department in advance of making an application to us to make them aware of your project.

If you have questions about your application, please contact Wesley Joe from the Downtown Eastside Planning Group.

**Wesley Joe**

**Office: 604.873.7736**

**Email: [wesley.joe@vancouver.ca](mailto:wesley.joe@vancouver.ca)**

# Binners' Project Universal Cart

Report for City of Vancouver  
September 2017 to January 2019

## ABOUT BINNERS' PROJECT

The Binners' Project is a group of waste-pickers aided by support staff dedicated to improving their economic opportunities, and reducing the stigma they face as informal recyclable collectors.

We are a project on Tides Canada Shared Platform. Tides Canada is a registered Canadian charity dedicated to providing uncommon solutions for the common good by leading and supporting actions that foster a healthy environment and just Canadian society.

## OVERVIEW

The Universal Carts Pilot was born out of a need in the community for a cart sharing system that supports physical capabilities, fosters economic opportunities, and reduces crime. Functional carts will support informal workers from the Downtown Eastside (DTES) to conduct their daily business, thus creating a pathway to income generation and work legitimacy.

This intermediary report summarizes the work that has been done so far by Binners' Project--thanks to the support of the City of Vancouver. It also maps out the next steps for 2019. This report focuses on two different aspects of the pilot program 1) the prototype testing, and 2) the next Steps for 2019.

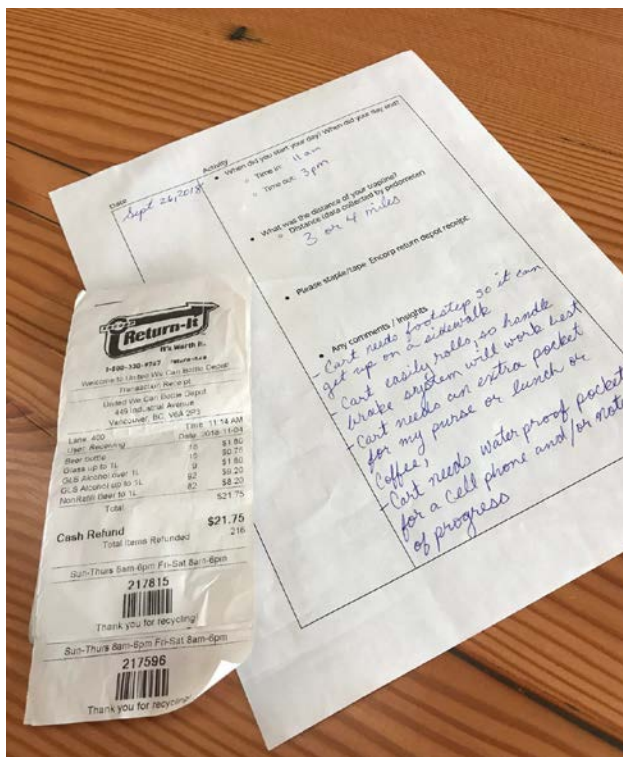
### 1. Prototype Testing - August to December 2018

A top concern for binners is the mode in which they transport refundable bottles and cans to the nearest

depot. To boost recycling capacity, the Binners' Project is creating this cart-sharing program where sturdy, purpose-built carts are borrowed and returned to serve binners' unique transportation needs.

This feedback was collected via:

- 1) surveys binners completed right after using the prototype



A survey completed by a member on September 26th 2018 just after testing the cart

- 2) group discussions with consultants



*Workshop with 12 bidders and 2 consultant technology experts on Nov 5th, 2018*

3) feedback given as part of the weekly bidders meeting (cart discussion is a standing item in the meeting agenda)



*Bidder meeting on October 30, 2018. 38 members watching a CBC story aired over the weekend*

The response from bidders testing the Universal Cart has been overwhelmingly positive and centered on three themes:

**EASE OF USE** - at the top of the list is the *ease of use* of the Universal Cart. Most notably, those surveyed commented (in a free-response entry) that the Cart is **quiet**.

Many binners found the Cart to be easy to push and relatively lightweight in comparison to the shopping cart alternative. The pivot on the front-axel and the brakes in the back wheels made turning on angle easier.

*"Quiet when pushing the cart" -- Kelly.*

*"Easy to push" -- Ed.*

*"It's free wheeling, excellent to push and got a lot of room -- no noise!" -- Terry.*

- **SPACE CAPACITY** - the Universal Cart has nearly doubled the capacity of a regular shopping cart. By one binners' estimate, a shopping cart could carry \$40-\$50 worth of bottles and cans while the Universal Cart carries \$70-\$80 worth of refundables.

*"Holds a big load" -- Kelly*

*"Packed to the fullest, fullest, still easy to pull" -- Mike*

- **DE-STIGMATIZATION** - binners surveyed noted the positive response from the public of using the Universal Cart as purpose-built for binning. It gives credence to binning as a job and dignity and respect for binners doing a service to the city.

*"I did enjoy the cart, people asked if they could buy [it]. Plus there were people who gave me compliments" -- Sam.*

*"I can't go anywhere with this cart without people stopping me on the street." They want to know where it comes from. It's awesome, man!" -- Dwayne.*

*"I've been thinking... these carts are a big part of the Binners' Project. We need to 'respect' the carts" -- Amanda.*



*Dwayne, proudly ready to test out the new green cart.*

Areas for improvement:

- **SAFETY FEATURES** - improved brake system to mitigate safety concerns with larger loads. Reflectors for night-time use. Increased flexibility and/or durability on the front-axle for bicycle compatibility. Foot or hand brake to help with faster stops.
- **COMFORT/EASE OF USE** - improved handles - rubberized and padded - and adjustable to different heights.
- **ADD-ONS** - hooks on the sides of the Cart for added storage options for refundables. Larger wheels to manage heavier loads. Handles on the sides of the Cart to make it easier to push/pull.

*"It can be very heavy when pushing up the hill. I'd like a handle at the front of the cart so I can pull the cart when it's heavy and hard to stir."--Kelly*

With all this feedback we are now assessing the need to revisit our initial prototype with some potential adjustments.

## 2. NEXT STEPS IN 2019



**Focus groups** on how to implement parking stations. We'll assess ease of use and interaction of Cart and station. Assessment of selected locations with respect to nearby traplines and amenities such as local bottle return areas.  
In parallel: potential edits to the initial cart prototype



**Stations building, implementation, and testing** of technology components. Assessment of how they will work for the binner population we serve.



**Maintenance Plan:** planning for the years ahead. Binnors' Project staff will monitor the first few months and come up with a long-term plan and cost estimate for the Universal Cart pilot to perpetuate.

The cart already exists, and the prototype has been successfully tested since June 2018. We are now in phase 2 of execution: the development of the station and refinement of the cart prototype. Phase 3 will be securing final locations (one is known already) and installing within the streetscape, and subsequent activation of two stations, each harboring 10-12 carts.

The essence of the locking and release mechanism system consists of the following:

- a self sustained solar unit powering each station,
- a network of lock actuators and RFID scanners integrated with a Raspberry Pi,
- a cellular data link, and
- a user interface.

Based on information gathered during our consultations in 2017-18, our user demographic has a propensity for losing/forgetting/having items stolen. They also don't have credit cards or smartphones, so PINs and other conventional methodologies for user access are excluded. For that reason we are striving for a voice recognition type interface, with an option to default to a fob system, depending on testing outcomes and cost.

The station is a large housing for the technology — we've opted for a "smart station" model as opposed to a "smart cart" — in addition to being the physical anchor for the carts when not in use.

We had numerous meetings with leaders of shared programs, including the following:

- Modo CEO, Patrick Nangle
- Mobi & Cyclehop CEO, Mia Kohout
- Umbra City Founder and CEO, Amir Entezari
- Thingery Founder and CEO, Chris Diplock
- City of Vancouver head of Mobiteam and Street department, Margaret Wittgens



The City of Vancouver has given us access to the Mobi bike share team. Their station experience has aided a great deal in helping us define our strategy. Although we are not directly duplicating them—and we will be running a modified version of a more broadly used basic software—there are many parallels, and we almost benefited more from the research they did into systems they didn't use than the one they actually implemented. At the moment we understand all of the physical parameters required by the city for the station's street occupancy.

Many items within this project will evolve within the next few months as we make our way down the path of design resolution, but our intent is to integrate as many “off the shelf” components as we can to keep things simple. We have hired, David Schwarz, who has a strong software and electrical design background to lead the work. He will be supervised by Shane Frei and AnnaGodefroy.

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## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

We want to acknowledge the support of the City of Vancouver for the Universal Cart Initiative. The City's early support helped us leverage more funding from other partners, including Sobeys, Save on Foods, BC Housing, Central City Foundation, and more. We look forward to working more closely in 2019.

