

DOWNTOWN EASTSIDE PLAN

Community Newsletter #7: September 2017

Welcome

This is the seventh edition of the community update for the Downtown Eastside (DTES) Plan. These newsletters will keep you informed about progress on implementing the plan, upcoming events, and other important information. Since the DTES Plan was approved, we have been moving forward on many quick-start and short-term projects:

Improved Well-being for All

Andy Livingstone Park Playground

In April, the new Andy Livingstone Park playground opened. The playground accommodates a wide range of ages and abilities, as well as higher use due to a new elementary school next door.

The playground features separate high-quality play zones that have shade, comfortable seating, and overlook areas for caregivers.



Healthy Homes for All

Downtown-Eastside/ Oppenheimer District (DEOD) Zoning Amendments

In July, Council passed minor amendments to the zoning for the DEOD. These changes will provide options for projects on certain sites that deliver affordable housing in conjunction with DEOD priority uses: community health and well-being, local economic development, and social housing.

The amendments also include a technical definition for local economic development, and relaxations for site widths for 100% social housing projects.

These changes will allow social housing projects to be delivered that previously may not have been viable.



Vibrant & Inclusive Local Economy

Chinatown Historic Business Study

We have heard concerns from the community about the loss of traditional businesses in Chinatown. In response, we have contracted LOCO BC to undertake a study of historic businesses in Chinatown.

This team will work with the community and also study San Francisco's legacy business program. The goal is to see what measures can help cherished Chinatown businesses remain.

To learn more, contact Amy Robinson at: amy@locobc.com

Neighbourhood Fit Tool

We are piloting a new, voluntary survey on neighbourhood fit for new developments and businesses in the DTES. This gives a sense of how a project contributes to the social objectives in the DTES Plan.

We are asking members of the public to evaluate two DTES rezoning applications for neighbourhood fit: 58 and 95 West Hastings Street. The survey and other information can be found at: vancouver.ca/rezapps



Tidal Recall
by DEDOS

Improved Transportation

Gastown Street Improvements

Planning for street upgrades in Gastown has begun, to explore the possibility of a pedestrian priority district, and enhanced cycling and transit connections.

Pop-up conversations are underway to learn how people travel to and experience Gastown, and a kick-off event in October will include walking tours and a visioning workshop. For more information, please visit vancouver.ca/streets-transportation/gastown-complete-streets

Arts & Culture Opportunities

New Murals in Strathcona

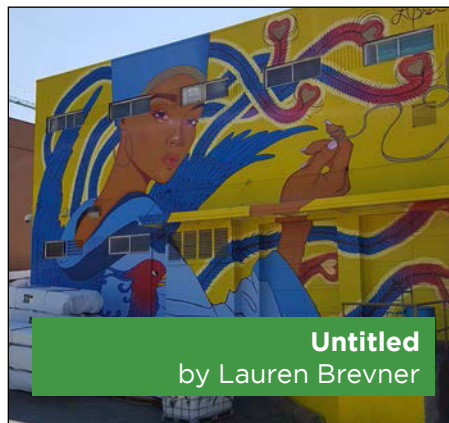
Some buildings in Strathcona have vibrant new murals, painted as part of the Vancouver Mural Festival. You may see them the next time you are walking down East Cordova Street, between Heatley Avenue and Campbell Avenue. To learn more, visit: vanmurfest.ca

Artist Studio Award Program: Call for Applications

The Artist Studio Award Program is a critical part of the City of Vancouver's efforts to provide studio spaces to support artists and their work. The program offers seven studios (two work-only and five live-work studios), awarded at significantly reduced rental rates, for a three-year term.

The program is offered once every three years through an open call to emerging professional artists living in Vancouver, as well as community members of the Musqueam, Squamish, or Tsleil-Waututh First Nations.

The application deadline for this program is September 13 at 4 pm. For more information, eligibility requirements, and how to apply, please visit: vancouver.ca/people-programs/artist-studio-award-program



Untitled
by Lauren Brevner

Celebrate Heritage

Chinese Societies

Later this year, staff plan to bring a report to Council to conclude the *Chinese Society Buildings Matching Grants Program*, which has provided funds for critical repairs to Chinese Society buildings through 40 grants. The grants enabled repairs to buildings with heritage significance, affordable housing, and commercial units.

We will build on this work through the *Chinese Society Legacy Program*. A fundraising strategy is currently being developed for this program. To learn more, visit: vancouver.ca/chinatown

Heritage Action Plan

People greatly value Vancouver's heritage buildings. To help preserve these assets, staff have been preparing the Heritage Action Plan, a comprehensive overview of the City's approach to heritage preservation.

This approach includes not just architectural heritage, but also a broad range of values and themes not previously included, such as First Nations heritage.

The complete Heritage Action Plan will be presented to Council later this year. For more information, please visit: vancouver.ca/heritageactionplan



Parks & Open Space

VanPlay: Vancouver's Park Master Plan

The Vancouver Park Board is developing *Vancouver's Playbook*, a new plan to guide how we create vibrant parks and recreation over the next 25 years.

The Park Board began public consultation early this summer, doing outreach at various events and releasing an online survey.

Later this fall, the Park Board expects to release emerging directions for the downtown area. There will be further opportunities for feedback as the process continues.

To learn more, please visit:
vancouver.ca/vanplay



Community Place-making

Maple Tree Square

Maple Tree Square is a popular public space in Gastown. To improve the experience on the street, the bollards were moved to provide more space for walking and seating.



Well-Managed Built Form

Hastings-Kiwassa Urban Design Guidelines: Open Houses

We are developing urban design guidelines for Hastings Street and Kiwassa, as an action in the DTES Plan. Please join us at an open house to share your thoughts:

Thursday, Sept 21, 4-6 pm, or
 Sunday, Sept 23, 10 am - noon

néca?mat ct Strathcona Library
 730 East Hastings Street

Please arrive at the beginning of the event for a short presentation by staff. To learn more, visit:
vancouver.ca/hastings-kiwassa

Chinatown Development Policy

We are presenting to Council recommendations to ensure that new buildings in Chinatown better fit the character of the area. This includes removing the rezoning policy that allows consideration of higher buildings above 90 feet.

The City wants to see the kind of development that makes Chinatown so special and unique to many of us. This includes smaller buildings with narrow storefronts, spaces for businesses and culture, and housing for all.

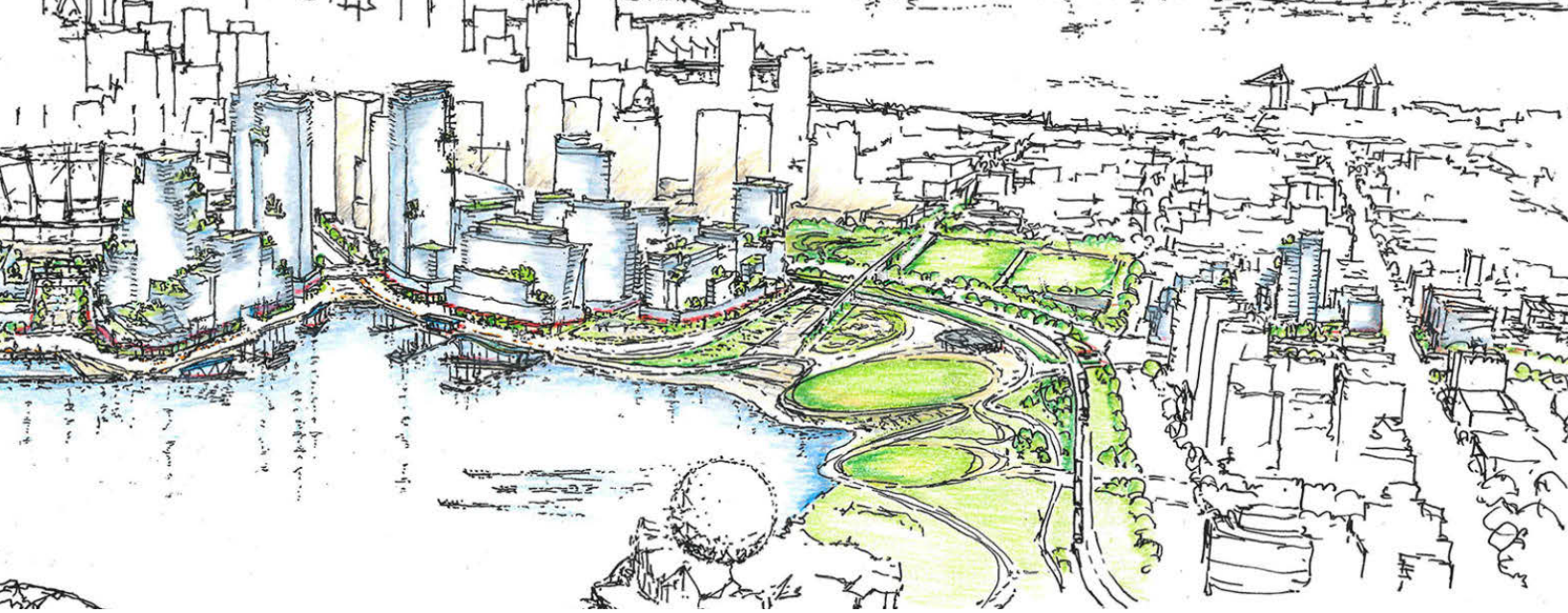
Council is expected to refer these proposed zoning changes to a public hearing this fall. You are welcome to share your thoughts with Council at the public hearing.

To learn more, please visit:
vancouver.ca/chinatown



FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Phone 3-1-1,
vancouver.ca/dtes
dtes@vancouver.ca



Projects Near the DTES

The New St. Paul's Hospital

St. Paul's Hospital is planning to move from its current location in the West End to a new site in the False Creek Flats near Pacific Central Station, directly south of the DTES.

Over the last 18 months, City staff worked with Providence Health Care on a Policy Statement to guide the design of the new health campus. The site will provide a state-of-the-art hospital with supporting office, retail and hotel uses. New streets and public open space will also be provided.

In June, Council approved the Policy Statement, which will guide the rezoning and development of the site. Further public consultation will take place during the upcoming rezoning process.

For more information, please visit: vancouver.ca/newstpauls

Northeast False Creek

In 2015, Vancouver City Council chose to move forward with a plan to replace the Georgia and Dunsmuir Viaducts with a new complete street network that would better serve the area.

This decision is dependent on a new Area Plan for Northeast False Creek. This new Area Plan will allow us to reconnect local communities to an inclusive and accessible new waterfront.

Since September 2016, we have engaged over 13,000 people. You may have seen us at our week-long pop-up storefront in the International Village mall in February, or the Carrall Street Block Party in June.

We are continuing to work with community groups to develop the final Area Plan for Northeast False Creek. This will be presented to Council for consideration when finalized. To learn more, visit: vancouver.ca/nefc

False Creek Flats

The False Creek Flats planning process was launched in May 2015 to develop a new area plan for the employment lands to the south of the DTES. Numerous open houses, workshops, and stakeholder meetings were held over the last two years to gather ideas and public input on the future of the Flats.

Key issues for this unique part of the city included improving connectivity and securing and intensifying employment space for an evolving economy.

Council approved the False Creek Flats Plan in May, and in July referred associated zoning changes to a Public Hearing expected to be held in the coming month.

To learn more, visit our website: vancouver.ca/falsecreekflats