



Special Enterprise Program (pilot)

Economic revitalization towards community recovery



DTES Planning |
Community Planning Division

January 19, 2021

- A. THAT Council approve the **Special Enterprise Program (SEP)** pilot.

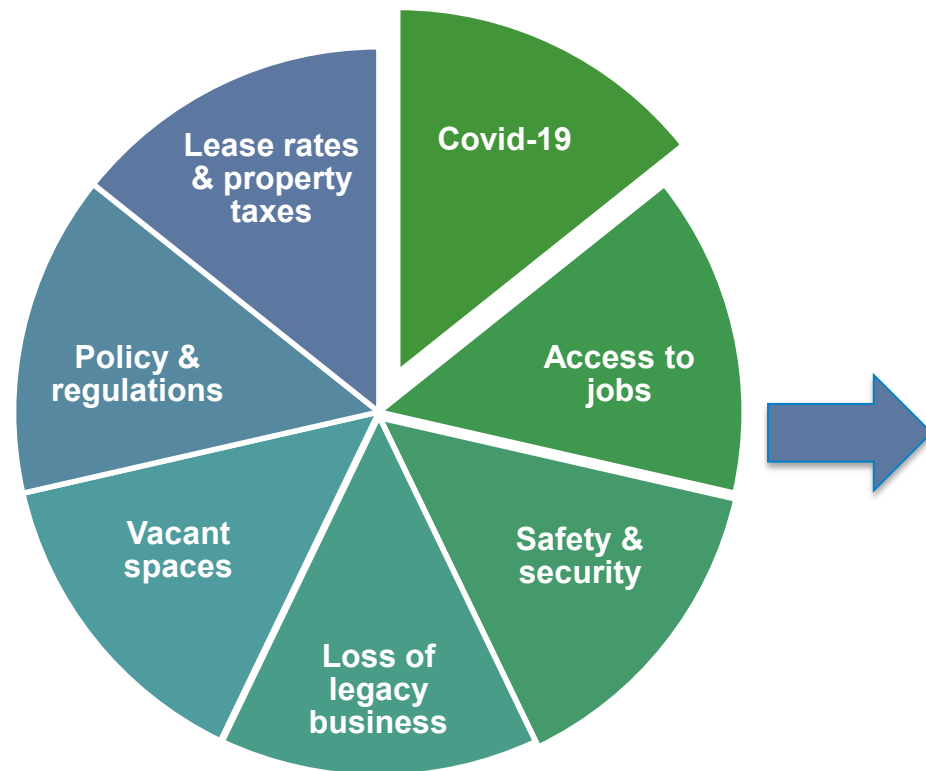
- B. THAT Council approve an initial amount of **\$500,000** to advance the objectives of the Special Enterprise Program.

The source of funding is the DTES Capital Grants funding:

- i. \$150,000 to continue supporting the **community-serving retail** project;
- ii. \$150,000 for **capacity building** to businesses, non-profits and social enterprises;
- iii. \$200,000 to improve **access to affordable spaces**.

**** Source of funding:** DTES Capital Grants (Approved 2021 Capital Project Budget)

Challenges



COV Plans & Strategies



2017

Legacy Business Study



- A plan with business support tools for heritage businesses;
- Engage property owners and developers to develop affordable leases;
- Investigate the drivers of business closures and the needs of heritage businesses.

2019

Activate DTES (Phase 1)



- 55+ organizations are looking for suitable spaces;
- Businesses are looking for stable, longer-term leases of at least 5 years;
- Limited vacancy in existing industrial shared spaces point to the success in providing smaller scale, supportive spaces at more affordable rates, including shared service at professionally managed industrial co-working spaces.

Purpose

Preserve and **strengthen** the cultural diversity, long-term viability, and economic opportunity for heritage businesses, social enterprises, non-profit organizations and co-ops.

Objectives

Attraction and
prevention of
displacement

Capacity
building

Activation of
vacant and
underutilized
spaces

Areas of Focus



Affordable Spaces



Business Supports



Community-serving Retail

- **5-year** pilot
- **Downtown Eastside** and **Chinatown Historic Area**
- CoV partners: **PDS & ACCS**
- External advisors and funders

Business Categories



Program Supports

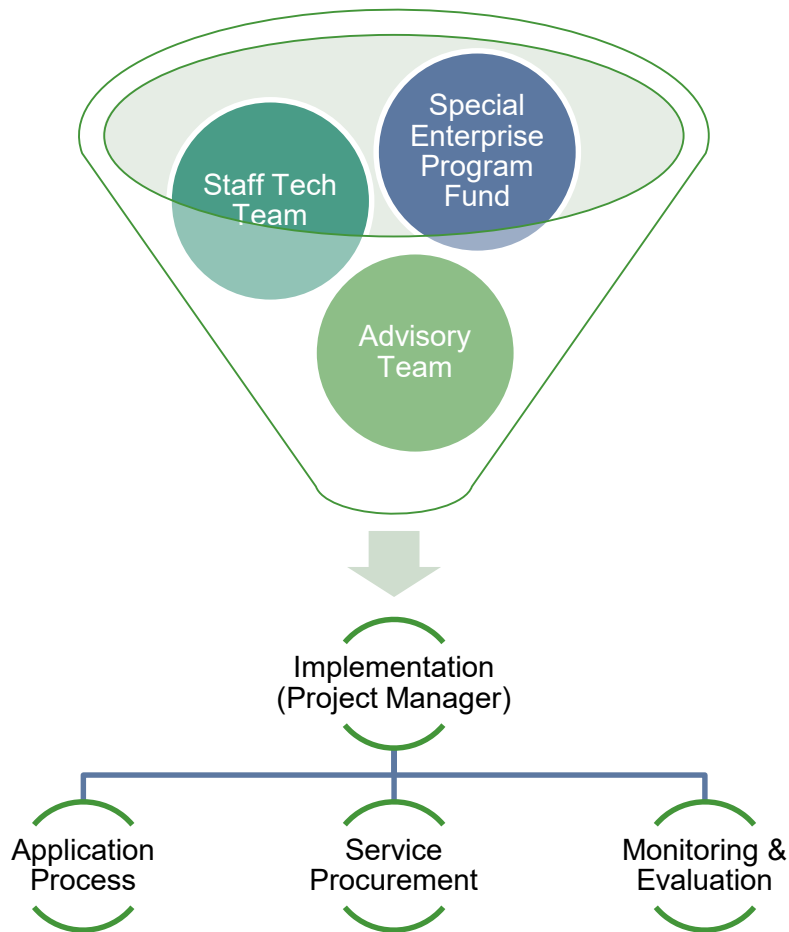
Space renovation

- Tools, equipment, furnishing
- Space layouts
- Tenant improvements
- Tenant relocation

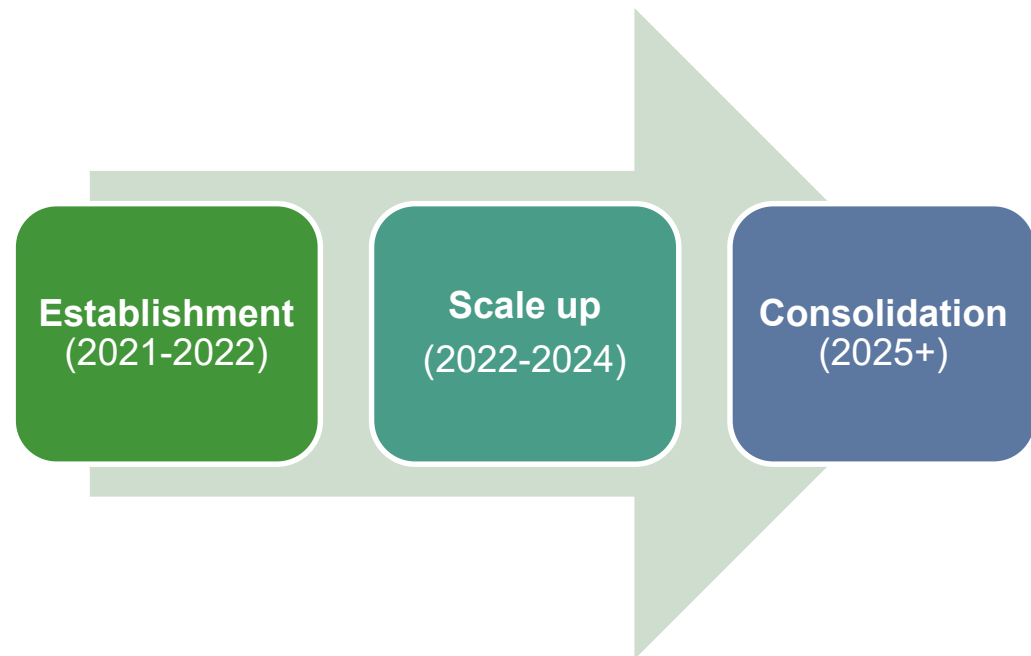
Business supports

- Marketing & promotion
- Succession planning
- Business practices & mentorships
- Business development
- Community stewardship
- Rental supplements

Implementation



Timeline

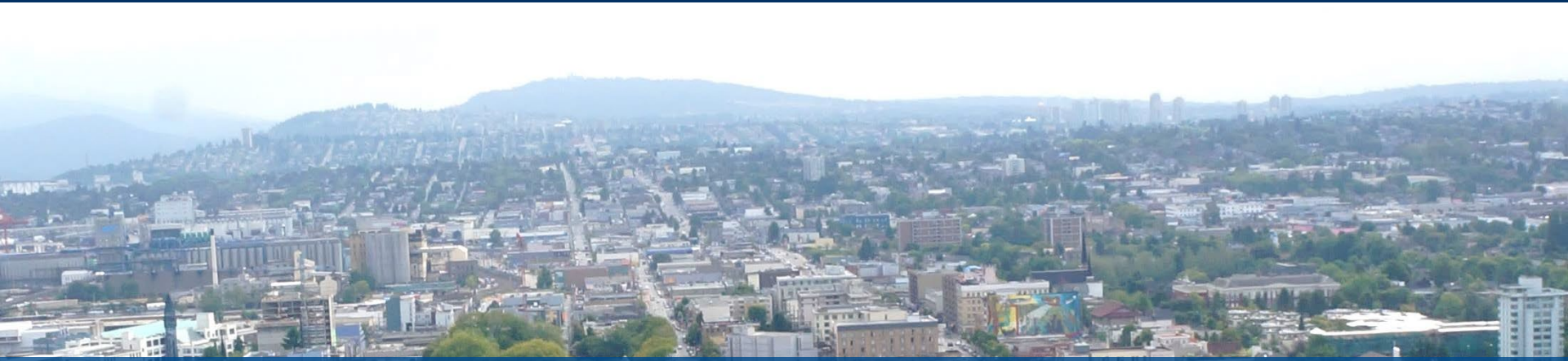


Funding Allocation

- **\$150,000 for community-serving retail** in Chinese Benevolent Society buildings, led by Strathcona Business Improvement Association;
- **\$150,000 for business supports** to procure consulting services from non-profit organizations to assist businesses, non-profits and social enterprises with capacity building;
- **\$200,000 for affordable space activation** to support potential tenants and cover the cost of tenant improvements.

Total budget \$500,000





THANK YOU!

