



MOTION ON NOTICE

Activating Community Space in Chinatown

MOVER: Commissioner Shum

WHEREAS:

1. The Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Courtyard (referred to as “Courtyard” from here on) located adjacent to the Chinese Cultural Centre (CCC) and the Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Park and Garden is one of only two large, open, publicly accessible gathering spaces in Chinatown;
2. The CCC is a key cultural institution and community centre of Chinatown. The Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Garden is a top tourist destination in Vancouver recognized by Tourism Vancouver. Visitors to both the CCC and the Garden usually pass through the Courtyard, which is a public space that serves as a connector between a network of important community cultural assets in the heart of Chinatown. The CCC and the Chinatown community-at-large uses the Courtyard for special cultural events and celebrations throughout the year, such as the annual Spring Festival and Canada Day;
3. Outside of special events, the Courtyard is generally underutilized on a regular basis by community due to its inhospitable conditions and poor maintenance leading to a lack of sense of safety. I.e. Insufficient shade during the day, insufficient lighting during the evening, broken windows, insufficient seating, no bike racks, etc;
4. Neighbourhood groups and members want to activate the courtyard with more regularly planned and organically organized intergenerational activities for the neighbourhood, such as daily seniors morning and evening exercise, food pop-ups and outdoor movie nights. Many of these activities require accessible and upgraded permanent infrastructure for the Courtyard (e.g. water hookup, lighting);
5. The CCC hosts year-round weekend Chinese language and culture classes and programmes for school-aged children and youth and vibrant summer camps with students using the Courtyard as a playground before, during, and after class;
6. A renewed Courtyard that invites active vibrant public programming and is more welcoming to locals and tourists will benefit the local economy of Chinatown through potential increased visitation. This aligns with the Vancouver City Council adopted 2012 Chinatown Neighbourhood Plan & Economic Revitalization Strategy;
7. In 2014, Vancouver City Council adopted the Downtown Eastside Local Area Plan (DTES LAP) that states to “12.3.5. Ensure plazas and gathering spaces have infrastructure, (e.g. water, power, lighting, grey water disposal, and storage) to support community programming, and stewardship for all types of community events.” Chinatown is part of the DTES and the Courtyard is a recognized plaza and gathering space within that is under Parks Board’s responsibilities;
8. The Courtyard is under the jurisdiction of the Parks Board; and



9. Parks Board is undergoing capital budget planning for 2019 to 2022.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Vancouver Park Board direct staff to allocate up to \$50,000 towards the improvement of the Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Courtyard located adjacent to the Chinese Cultural Centre and the Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Park and Garden in the 2019-2022 capital plan. Furthermore, should additional funds be required, that Park Board staff work with other levels of government, agencies, associations to seek additional improvement funds and partnerships.