

**City of Seattle, Office of Planning & Community Development (OPCD)**

**Chinatown International District (CID) Framework and Implementation Plan**

**Advisory Committee Meeting**

May 23, 2018  
5:30pm – 7:30pm  
Hing Hay Coworks

Next up for review in June:

- Draft workgroup recommendations

**Agenda**

**Gathering, Welcome and Introductions Around the Table**

Maiko Winkler Chin and Pradeepta Upadhyay, Advisory Committee Co-Chairs, opened the meeting and greeted the group. Angela Powell and Patricia Julio were introduced as the facilitation team. Angela began the meeting by briefly describing the evening’s agenda.

In attendance:

Maiko Winkler-Chin  
Pradeepta Upadhyay  
Shanti Brezneau  
Cassie Chinn  
Tammy Deets  
Tiernan Martin  
Quynh Pham  
Jessa Timmer

Gary Johnson, Office of Planning & Community Development (OPCD)  
Janet Schull, OPCD  
Quanlin Hu, OPCD  
Katie Sheehy, OPCD  
Jenifer Chao, Department of Neighborhoods (DON)  
Kristian Alcaide, DON  
Rebecca Frestedt, DON  
Diana Falchuk, Office of Civil Rights (OCR) and Office of Arts & Culture

**Community Engagement / Racial Equity Toolkit**

Jenifer thanked the Advisory Committee members for their input in the draft community engagement plan and the city’s racial equity toolkit. Over the last several months, DON worked with OPCD, Office of Civil Rights and Office of Arts & Culture to merge the community engagement plan with the racial equity toolkit (RET). The result is a “Draft CID Framework and Implementation RET Community Engagement Process.” *Refer to the handouts for details. A revised neighborhood map and informational (visual) brochure was also distributed.*

Diana Falchuk, Office of Civil Rights and Office of Arts & Culture, described a proposal to pilot the Creative Strategies Program in this CID planning process. The pilot imbeds artists in community engagement and RET implementation.

Committee members had several questions about the draft, newly merged plan:

- How do you define a RET “eligible” project? What level of project triggers RET analysis? For example, do curb bulb projects trigger RET analysis?
- What is the process for providing feedback to community after RET analysis? How does the RET determination – is the project beneficial or negative – get announced? Where is the feedback loop?
- How are the RET cumulative impacts of projects tracked?
- We know that the guideline is for each city department to apply RET on at least 4 projects, but how does the community request a RET on a new/5<sup>th</sup> project? Unfortunately, the community must take the initiative to request a RET. Some community members may not be so savvy to request one, nor able to navigate the toolkit.

DON explained that there are feedback loops planned for each phase of the plan. They will work with each workgroup to identify/affirm engagement activities that are proposed in the draft plan. They will commit to compensating community consultants, i.e. community folks that are providing valuable information and time. Community liaisons will propose desired length of meetings based on their outreach.

Jenifer then asked the group to review the process outcomes under the draft plan. The process outcomes are center race and will be applied to the entire planning process. DON will work further with the workgroup to gain feedback on the outcomes from each workgroup as the process outcomes should be the focus of each workgroup. For example, we know that the work of ISRD workgroup will have race and equity impacts.

- **Action: Advisory Committee members are asked to review and provide feedback on the 4 draft process outcomes via email, as not all members were present for discussion. OPCD will work with DON to send information and collect feedback via email.**

Committee members also had some comments and questions about the Community Strategies pilot:

- Using city resources to support and/or bring in more community liaisons will add value. It is unclear how artists will add value to this planning process.
- How does art and/or artists fit into the community engagement process?
- What is the definition of “artist?” This is a broad term.
- What is the process to select artists?

City staff explained that artists make engagement more interesting and meaningful and that by collaborating with artists, they can help shape guidelines that resonate with the larger community.

- Action: OPCD/DON/OCR need to provide a positive example of how artists have been engaged in an engagement/RET plan and the results of the artists' work.
- Action: Advisory Committee members will continue to discuss and decide if they want to pursue the "Creative Strategies" pilot that enlists artists to conduct outreach and engagement for this CID planning process.

**Workgroup Progress/Budget Prioritization**

Maiko and Pradeepta introduced this strategic discussion by requesting feedback on draft priorities in preparation for tomorrow's meeting with Deputy Mayor Mike Fong. They distributed a *handout titled "Early Priorities Budget Proposals"* for members to review. The list was generated by Pradeepta, Maiko, Janet and Gary based on budget ideas from conversations in the Workgroups.

The goal of this meeting with the Deputy Mayor is to propose and include CID priorities in the Mayor's budget, which begins in June. Although, the timing for the conclusion of the CID planning process doesn't quite align with the start of the Mayor's budget process, the Advisory Committee will proactively present early priorities to be included now.

There is a 2<sup>nd</sup> opportunity to add CID priorities in the Council budget process in October/November, though this is a more difficult task as CID budget requests need the support of at least three Councilmembers in order to move forward. in the Council budget process.

Funding is anticipated to be available January 2019. There may be an opportunity to proposal a supplemental budget ask for 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> quarter for CID priorities that get missed in the Mayor's and Council's budget.

**Draft list of recommendations for policy/systems change and discreet projects.**

1. Continue funding for CID Public Safety Coordinator (currently Sonny Nguyen)
2. Restore funding for sanitation to prior level of \$192K, roughly divided into \$120K for Little Saigon and \$72K for CID
3. Fund at least 1 recommended project from the CID Lighting Study
4. Continue funding for CID Small Business Advocate (currently Shanti Brezneau)
5. Continue funding for SPD CID Community Engagement and Outreach Specialist (currently Vicky Li)
6. Fund development of a concept plan for projects under I-5
7. Ensure completion of Dept. of Construction & Inspection code review work
8. Develop plan for more rigorous code enforcement, particularly aimed at private developers
9. Support investment in un-reinforced masonry (URM) identified buildings
10. Support the city's Equitable Development Initiative, which funds implementation of projects such as the Landmark Project in Little Saigon.
11. Secure feasibility costs for the Charles Street project, including budgets for the 3 proposed options. Transition square footage along Dearborn for community use.
12. Continue funding for DON staff to provide project coordination and regular communications with the neighborhood

**The following items were selected to move forward to DM Fong with the first four having a higher degree of priority:**

1. Restore funding for community sanitation services - particularly focused on the areas east of I-5 (non-BIA Little Saigon area)- approx.. \$200,000/yr
2. Continue funding for Small Business Advocate position - \$75,000 a year including work that is funded by different City departments.
3. Continue funding for Public Safety Coordinator position- \$80,000 a year.
4. Implement Lighting Study element- cost would depend on final scope and SCL infrastructure in the area for the project.
5. Continue funding Public (capital) Projects Coordination lead beyond planning process due to high number of projects in the neighborhood - would be policy commitment that current DON resource would remain focused on CID.
6. Fund work in addressing URM property issues in the neighborhood that does not force property sales and allows residents and businesses to remain. Cost would depend on scope.
7. Ensure adequate funding for the Little Saigon Landmark project, and identify permanent source of funds for the Equitable Development Initiative (in addition to air bnb tax funding).
8. Funding for final design plan for Under I-5 Improvement/activation project.

**Other Asks**

1. Ensure City staff (OPCD/SDCI) staff complete code work elements of ISRD revision- policy direction.
2. Ensure enforcement of new codes and regulations created as part of ISRD update- policy direction but might require additional resources in SDCI?

**It was decided that some requests were premature but would likely be ready during Council's budget process (ex. Charles Street planning funds).**

**Code-Related Work from Workgroup**

In an effort to reduce redundancy between three of the workgroups - ISRD, Community Stabilization and Capital Projects - Gary presented a handout listing a suggested division of topics, which were further divided into guidelines and land use code. [Refer to the handout for details.](#) It was noted that guidelines act as a recommendation while land use code is a requirement. MHA Resolution 31754 was also briefly discussed.

The 3 workgroups are seeking an endorsement by the Advisory Committee - does the division of topics outlined in Gary's handout make sense?

- **Committee vote: Committee members voted that the division of topics was useful and approved it.**

**Staff Updates**

- Gary Johnson, OPCD, announced that the department has secured additional funding for the following:
  - \$25K to support small business efforts, including staff time for CID's Small Business Advocate
  - \$20K to support Schemata Workshop's contract for development of CID design guidelines
  - \$10K to support outreach and engagement work including such things as additional support for CID Community Liaisons and translation of materials.
- Janet Schull, OPCD, announced that a full-time summer intern, Lauren Wong, has been hired and will begin June 27<sup>th</sup> to support the CID planning process. Lauren has past work experience at both InterIm CDA and SCIDpda.

### **Community Announcements and Closure**

- Rebecca Frestedt, DON, announced that there is an open seat for a Resident/Tenant representative on the ISRD Board. The term is approximately 1.5 years. DON is taking resumes through May 31<sup>st</sup> for this Mayor appointed seat.
- Jenifer Chao, DON, announced that Sound Transit will schedule a 2<sup>nd</sup> Neighborhood Forum for the the CID this July. Of particular importance is station planning for the CID. Contact Jenifer for details at [Jenifer.Chao@seattle.gov](mailto:Jenifer.Chao@seattle.gov)