

**City of Seattle, Office of Planning & Community Development (OPCD)  
Chinatown International District (CID) Framework and Implementation Plan  
Advisory Committee Meeting**

July 27, 2017

5:30 – 7:30pm

Hirabayashi Place, Donnie Chin Community Room

**Agenda**

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

Gary Johnson of OPCD opened the meeting, and Angela Powell of Imago, LLC facilitated the meeting. Patricia/Patty Julio was also introduced as a facilitator in this process. Angela invited meeting participants to introduce themselves and name the organizations and groups they are connected to.

In attendance:

Cassie Chinn, Wing Luke  
Diane Wiatr, Seattle Dept. of Transportation  
Elaine Ishihara, Nisei Vets Community Foundation  
Jessa Timmer, CIDBIA  
Maiko Winkler Chin, SCIDPDA  
Marlon Herrera, CID Grassroots Coalition Fighting Displacement  
Miye Moriguchi, Uwajimaya  
Pradeepta Upadhyay, InterIm CDA  
Sue-May Eng, Chong Wa Benevolent Association  
Tam Nguyen, owner of Tamarind Tree  
Tanya Woo, owner of the Louisa

Gary Johnson, OPCD  
Janet Shull, OPCD  
Ben Han, Seattle Dept. of Neighborhoods  
Heidi Hall, Seattle Office of Economic Development  
Joaquin Uy, Seattle Office of Immigrant & Refugee Affairs  
Rebecca Frestedt, Seattle Dept. of Neighborhoods  
Robert Scully, OPCD  
Shanti Breznau, SCIDPDA  
Ubox Gardheere, OPCD

**Honoring The Past, Looking To The Future**

Angela led committee members in an opening activity, asking members to think about what they hope for in working with OPCD and what has disappointed them in the past. Members wrote their hopes on green leaves and disappointments on brown leaves.

**Green leaves**

- 24-hour vibrant, sustainable community
- Legacy business work & commercial affordability options
- City options to expand South Lake Union facility instead of Charles Street with CID input
- Hing Hay Park expansion – yay!

- Culturally appropriate outreach efforts from city are getting better
- Outreach that is clear & frequent communication builds trust. Voices heard & respected.
- Community spirit, people watch out for each other. Business owners help each other.
- Younger generation getting more involved, more social media, more communication
- Young activist leaders increase energy, ideas and commitment
- Good faith desire to move forward together
- Possibility of a good plan, hope for implementation
- New design / use guidelines and process for entirety of Little Saigon
- Clear guidelines and assistance for decision & development
- Excitement that this inclusive process will strengthen relations with the city
- My show!
- Expectation that this process will be strengthened by open, honest conversations, which benefit the community
- Thriving, vibrant, safe neighborhood & economically stable
- Rich cultural history to move forward
- More and economically diverse housing options
- Strong, dedicated community activists & organizers: past, present and to come
- The amplification of our community voice
- Hope of authentic community & neighborhood for my future grandkids
- Construction / re-development of the Louisa

#### Brown leaves

- Agencies in CID claiming to represent the community to the city without community input
- Lack of accountability, not using the city's own RSJI tool
- Lack of transparency, lack of community engagement
- Mistruths spread, fear mongering, manipulation, exploitation of CID community, especially most vulnerable – non-English speaking, elderly, youth/children
- Lack of follow-up regarding Donnie Chin
- Lack of community engagement, decision making
- RSJI? Who's defining and implementing?
- Lack of understanding of neighborhoods
- I-5 construction splits CID
- Lack of investment in physical environment
- Crime (public safety) – SPD response times, graffiti
- Cost of historic building maintenance getting help
- Over a century of public works projects & initiatives that have negatively impacted / harmed / destroyed the CID
- Reactive nature of events in the neighborhood
- Siting of Navigation Center
- Gentrification & displacement
- Donald Trump!
- 2013 closure of major CID intersections for street car construction during Lunar New Year
- Street car construction – longer than expected, businesses closed or were severely hurt by it

Angela briefly summarizes the activity by highlighting the strength of the CID community. She also acknowledges the feeling that power has not always been shared/equalized in community engagement between the community and City Departments and decision-making not always clear. This process is an opportunity to develop a working model that will benefit all players and the community as a whole.

## Discussion of the Advisory Committee Structure

The bulk of the meeting was spent discussing the Advisory Committee Structure, including Workgroups (discussed in next section).

Using the document, Committee Overview, Chinatown International District Advisory Committee, Gary Johnson discussed the goals and purpose of the Advisory Committee, proposed structure and workgroup priorities.

- The committee will meet monthly
- Committee members will also sit on at least 1 workgroup
- Maiko and Pradepta will serve as co-chairs of the Advisory Committee
- Workgroups will develop recommendations and relay them to the Advisory Committee
- The Advisory Committee will provide final direction to the City
- The product will be a set of recommendations that will inform the development of a planning document at end of the 12-18 month Committee process

Five workgroups will be formed to address the following issues:

1. Community development and stabilization
2. ISRD and design review
3. Charles Street campus master plan
4. Framework for strategic investment (55 city projects)
5. Public realm

There was discussion around these questions:

- *What is the relationship between the committee and the Capital Cabinet?*  
The Capital Cabinet will be kept apprised of Committee activities and convene as necessary to respond to potential requests or proposals.
- *How much “teeth” will the resulting planning document have?*  
This is an open question. The complexity of the process and resulting plan will mean that there may be multiple avenues for the work to actualize. City staff will work to be transparent about both opportunities to push and where limitations may lie.
- *How do we check-in with the larger community on this process? This committee doesn’t represent everyone in the community. Does the city have funds for translation, interpretation, community liaisons?*  
Yes, there are funds for translation and other community engagement activities. How we will fully engage the community is an open question – however there is an explicit desire and plan to engage community in real and authentic ways. Ben Han of the Department of Neighborhoods discussed some initial thoughts on this and in addition stating that there will be time to explore this question together and create a clear plan.

Angela reviewed two process pieces for the Advisory Committees’ work overall: core values for the committee and describes the “Fist to Five” decision-making model intended to create consensus.

## Discussion of the Workgroup Structure

Using three source documents, Gary describes and talks through the workgroup structure.

- CID Framework and implementation plan elements
- Overview of work program timeline
- Framework and implementation plan elements – IDT membership and focus areas

The bulk of the work done by the Advisory Committee will be carried out by the 5 workgroups. Gary then asks the committee to consider the following:

- Seattle will have a new mayor on January 1
- CID is split into 3 design review areas – this is not appropriate for the neighborhood
- Consultants will be hired to develop design guidelines for Little Saigon & Charles Street options
- There are 55 city projects to review. Need to loop in ST3 in these conversations.
- What is the cumulative impact of RSJI on a neighborhood vs. project by project?

Angela asks the group: what is the level of excitement around these 5 workgroup priorities? Do they feel right to you? Overall, the group answered in the affirmative, but expressed a sense of overwhelm at the complexity of the process.

Committee members ask questions:

- *Are workgroup recommendations needed by Q1 2018?*  
While the timeline suggests this, we will work with the timelines needed to get it right.
- *What will communications and relationships look like with the city's Inter-Departmental Team (IDT)?*  
The IDT recognizes the importance of coordination, and many expressed a strong interest in participating in a cross-departmental process to coordinate and create authentic community engagement between the CID and City Departments.
- *What is the timeline for workgroup meetings?*  
This will depend on the workgroup content and what's needed to complete the work.
- *How many people will sit on each workgroup and what is the timeframe for the entire process?*  
The workgroup process (discussed next) is in process – however, the desire is to have a flexible membership for each workgroup to accommodate all who want to participate. More specifics to come. The whole process for the Advisory Committee and workgroups is 12 to 18 months.
- *Where is commercial affordability in the 5 workgroups?*
- *What's been done already?*
- *What does a realistic conversation about a project look like?*
- *Ideas need to have legs, i.e. implementation plan*  
It is clear that there are a lot of specific pieces to be worked out in the process and each of these questions/comments is complex. They will be weaved into workplanning for each of the Workgroups.

Gary and Janet will follow-up with Committee members over the next few weeks to answer more questions and help members identify which workgroup they want to sit on.

### **Scheduling Next Meeting and Closure**

The next Advisory Committee meeting will be on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday, September 27<sup>th</sup>, 5:30 – 7:30pm at Hirabayashi Place.

Angela closes the meeting by asking each member to state 1 word that describes how he or she is feeling as they leave the meeting.