



**Little Saigon Connection & Public Spaces Visioning**  
 Department of Planning and Development  
 City of Seattle

The Department of Planning and Development has a small amount of funds to help the Little Saigon community develop a framework/vision to help guide future decisions on pedestrian connections and public spaces in the study area as defined by Interstate 5 to the west, Yesler Terrace to the north, Rainier Avenue to the east and South Dearborn Street to the south.

As part of the Livable South Downtown planning project, the project is an initial effort to begin developing a longer-term approach to improving the urban quality of public spaces in Little Saigon consistent with the values of local businesses, property owners, cultural communities who patronize local businesses and other stakeholders in the area .

A clearly-stated vision will help community organizations, the City of Seattle and other agencies to better coordinate resources for streetscape, public space and other urban design investments. The vision will also inform and complement land use recommendations proposed by the Livable South Downtown project in 2008.

The vision will be based on an open dialogue between community stakeholders, the City of Seattle staff and the Atelier Dreiseitl consultant team. The urban design framework/vision will emphasize:

- 1) creating pedestrian connections and quality public spaces within the Little Saigon study area,
- 2) creating quality connections between Little Saigon and neighboring areas:
  - Yesler Terrace (north)
  - Jackson Place (east)
  - Chinatown (west)
  - S. Dearborn Street (south)

**Limited Scope**

The vision will guide decisions in the coming years. It will inform land use recommendations in 2008. However, the project is not a comprehensive planning process, neighborhood plan, capital improvement plan or street maintenance plan. It is hoped that this process will inform future detailed planning for the area.

**Time frame & staffing**

| <b>Date</b>                              | <b>Task/Milestone</b>  |
|--|--|
| <i>August, 2007</i>                      | Initial meeting with small group of Little Saigon community members  |
| <i>October, 2007</i>                     | Workshop with larger group of community members  |
| <i>Oct,2007 to March, 2008</i>           | Consultant develop draft framework/vision based on ideas and issues discussed by community members at the October workshop |
| <i>March 28, 2008<br/>6:30 to 8:30pm</i> | Second workshop for larger community to review proposed framework/vision   |
| <i>April, 2008</i>                       | Finalize concept document  |

## Who is Sponsoring this Project?

The Little Saigon are being coordinated by the City of Seattle's Department of Planning and Development (DPD) in conjunction with the Vietnamese American Economic Development Association (VAEDA). Seattle DPD staff is managing a consultant contract with Atelier Dreiseitl.

## Why Atelier Dreiseitl?

Atelier Dreiseitl is a world-renown landscape architecture firm from Germany. They have designed public space projects in Europe, Asia and North America. Atelier Dreiseitl was selected for this project for their technical knowledge and their innovative approaches to urban design. They were also selected for their ability to listen-to and learn-from communities as well as their ability to connect the community's culture and history to public places. Atelier Dreiseitl is also skilled at integrating sustainable principles and design features into public spaces.

The purpose of the Connections and Public Spaces Visioning is to have an innovative firm like Atelier Dreiseitl help jump-start a long term urban design-focused process in Little Saigon. We hope that architects, artists, designers and planners in the Little Saigon community will carry forward the vision developed through this process and initiate future improvement projects in the neighborhood.

## Other Related Studies for Little Saigon

### *Department of Planning and Development:*

- Open space design meetings facilitated by Nakano Associates, 2006
- Little Saigon Economic study with interviews conducted in Vietnamese, 2007
- Transportation study, 2007
- Public meetings to discuss planning issues in Chinatown/ID, 2005- 2007

### *InterIm Community Development Association:*

- Chinatown/ Japantown/ Little Saigon/ International District Urban Design Streetscape and Open Space Master Plan, 2003

### *City of Seattle and neighborhood planners:*

- International District neighborhood planning 1995-1999

## How can you get involved?

1. Complete the attached questionnaire and add your name to the mailing list
2. Attend the second community workshop in January 2008 (details pending)
3. Get further information:

Project Coordinator: Robert Scully, Urban Designer, City of Seattle, (206) 233-3854

Web site information: [http://www.seattle.gov/dpd/Planning/South\\_Downtown/UrbanDesign/default.asp](http://www.seattle.gov/dpd/Planning/South_Downtown/UrbanDesign/default.asp)