King Street is a key community thoroughfare that connects Chinatown and Little Saigon in the International District. Within Chinatown, King Street serves as a main spine that connects many important landmarks, amenities, and businesses. In Little Saigon, King Street is served by three main grocery stores that attract visitors to the neighborhood.

As a neighborhood main street, improvement of the King Street corridor is critical to the economic and social vitality of the neighborhood. In comparison with other Chinatowns or Asian neighborhoods in North America, however, King Street lacks the unique dynamism often associated with such neighborhoods. The goal of this project is to involve community stakeholders in proposing strategies for improving the King Street corridor and revitalizing the economic and social life of the district.

King Street Vision Project
L ARCH 503 Community Design Studio | Winter 2009 | Jeff Hou

For more information and to download this pamphlet, visit: http://courses.washington.edu/kingst/
ACTIVATION
- Improve physical attractiveness of King Street to enhance livability for residents, draw visitors, and boost economic development.
- Approach sidewalks as “hybrid” urban spaces, creating provisions that allow for multiple activities at different times of the day and in all seasons.
- Allow flexibility in the use of open spaces and parking zones (including parking lots) to enable 24/7 use.

IDENTITY
- Support and enhance local identity by supporting activities such as social gathering, festival and events, and specific shopping experiences, and through design elements and details that are relevant to historic and present conditions, such as signage, awnings, materials, street furniture, and vegetation.

CONNECTIONS
- Improve connections within the neighborhood and beyond by enhancing pedestrian experience on King Street.
- Improve connections between areas west and east of I-5 by reprogramming and enhancing the area under I-5.
- Improve the real and perceived safety of potential pedestrian connectors, including the alley network and the area under I-5.

GREENING
- Claim open spaces now within areas slated for redevelopment especially for Little Saigon, to ensure proper future open space ratios.
- Encourage flexible greening strategies as ways to activate and enhance underused spaces and voids.
- Enhance pedestrian experience by bringing vegetation into the streetscape.

STUDENT TEAMS
- king street/little saigon
  - Tori Halligan
  - Rachel Miller
  - Eric Scharnhorst

- signage, lighting, interpretation
  - Sarah Ferreter
  - Katherine Wimble

- I-5: east/west connections
  - Jordan Monez
  - Josho Somine

- alleyways
  - Mike Pickford
  - Rubi Vazquez Cruz

- façades
  - Erin Berg

- king street/chinatown
  - Erica Huang
  - Yosuke Oi
  - AJ Yang
This project proposes a phasing strategy that builds on Little Saigon’s strongest asset, its grocery stores.

Phase I (1-2 years) infuses the streets with vendors, on sidewalks and at proposed mid-block connection entrances. In this phase, temporary installations and murals suggest the possibilities of future development.

Phase II (2-5 years) focuses on establishing vendor-garden-grocer relationships by incorporating urban agriculture into underused land in the neighborhood. The new 11th and 14th Avenues are paired with vendors and gardens to initiate connectivity.

Phase III (5 - 20 years) the grocery district and mid-block connections are preserved within the new development. Development incentives (height bonuses) are provided to ensure continued operation of grocery stores and small businesses in the neighborhood.

For more information and to download this pamphlet, visit: http://courses.washington.edu/kingst/
1-2 YEARS

Paint murals and install sectional banners on blank facades to show the possible storefronts, alleys, and gardens. Use lights to show potential building heights. Utilize the Neighborhood Matching Fund and community volunteers.

2-5 YEARS

Concentrate activity at proposed mid-block paths. Work with local businesses to allow vendors in the front 15' of parking lots. String lights in proposed paths.

Infuse the sidewalks with vendors. Work with DPD and Health Dept. to relax the permitting process. Use NMF and business associations to acquire vending equipment and subsidize vendors.

Propose gardens in empty lots. Install signs designating proposed gardens. Plant 10’-20’ “test strips” on proposed garden lots.

Establish mid-block paths: 11th Ave Alley and 14th Ave Alley. Work with local businesses to introduce paths along parcel seams. Encourage vendors along the paths and entrance points to activate the network. Support vendors through NMF and business associations.

Introduce unifying features: street lamps, street trees, improved paving, and green streets drainage system. Work with City of Seattle Public Utilities, Office of Economic Development, and Department of Transportation.

PHASE I

VENDORS

- Pedestrian Routes
  - Width is related to use
  - Garden Strip
  - Vendors
  - Murals
  - Improved Pathway
  - Installation/Banner

PHASE II

GARDENS

- Pedestrian Routes
  - Width is related to projected use
  - Gardens
  - Vendors
  - Connections
  - Street Trees
  - Street Lamps

1-2 YEARS

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Introduce unifying features: street lamps, street trees, improved paving, and green streets drainage system. Work with City of Seattle Public Utilities, Office of Economic Development, and Department of Transportation.
This project is intended to enhance the pedestrian experiences on King Street through activities and designs. The specific goals of our project are to: (1) highlight the cultural and historical value; (2) encourage commercial activities and pedestrian movement; (3) maintain economical sustainability, and; (4) create flexible and multifunctional space, based on assets of the community. Overall improvements of street designs require both short-term and mid/long-term strategies. The short-term phase aims at activating diverse cultural, traditional and commercial events along the street and encouraging pedestrian activities by introducing flexible street furniture. The mid/long-term phase involves expanding the existing sidewalks and other permanent enhancements.

For more information and to download this pamphlet, visit: http://courses.washington.edu/kingst/
**SHORT TERM**

**PHASING**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Short-Term</th>
<th>Mid-/Long-Term</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

### PARKING LOT

**PEAK TIME USE** (CURRENT USE)

- **ALTERNATIVE 1:** MORNING MARKET/EVENT
  - Ex. AM 9:00 - 11:00/PM 1:00
- **ALTERNATIVE 2:** MOBILE VENDOR LUNCH SERVICE
  - Ex. AM 11:00 - PM 1:00

**EVENT**

- **ALTERNATIVE 1:** NIGHT MARKET
  - Ex. Until AM 9:00 or Varying by event dates and times
- **ALTERNATIVE 2:** FESTIVAL EVENTS

### MOVABLE PLANTERS/ FURNITURE

- Put temporarily portable planters, and movable chairs and tables on sidewalks.

### SIDEWALKS

- **BANNER**
  - Install designed banners reflecting Chinatown’s features.

### ALLEYS

- **ALLEY CLEAN-UP!! ART EXHIBITION SPACE**
  - Clean up and use alleys as art exhibition spaces, especially Guangdong Alley.

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**Golden Street New Face of 2018-2020**

- **ALTERNATIVE 1:** LIGHT POLE ATTACHMENT
- **ALTERNATIVE 2:** WALL ATTACHMENT

- **ALTERNATIVE 1:** MOVABLE PLANTERS
- **ALTERNATIVE 2:** MOVABLE CHAIRS

- **ALTERNATIVE:** ART EXHIBITION USE
**WHAT WILL THE FUTURE BRING?**

At an uncertain time in our country’s and city’s history it is hard to imagine how Seattle will look in 50 years. If you can, think back to how Seattle and the International District looked and operated a half century ago, before the construction of Interstate 5. How did the interstate change the International District and the city? Seattle’s initiative to build light rail could bring a station to the space under I-5, especially if our city continues to move toward more independence from cars and fossil fuels and expand the existing light rail system. The next half century will almost certainly bring skyrocketing gas prices, requiring localization of food sources and densification of the region into the city of Seattle. Looking to new and innovative ways to grow food locally, such as on the highway, could become a possibility, as more people move to the city to be close to mass transit.

What do you think this area will look like in 2060?

**CREATING ACTIVITIES UNDER I-5**

The ownership of the space under the highway is mostly public, and currently managed as parking by Inter*Im. Non-peak hours have the potential to be used for activities such as markets, festivals, and outdoor movies. By keeping the space occupied throughout the day and week, it will become a safe and lively destination in the city, promote business in the district and improve the connection between Chinatown and Little Saigon.
PROJECT PHASES
LAYERS OF INTERVENTION IN SPACE AND TIME

Three proposed phases for the space below I-5 are broken down by three temporal phases, and then further into three categories: ACTIVITIES + COORDINATION, PUBLIC ART + STRUCTURES, and GREENING + PEDESTRIANIZATION. For each phase, different alternatives and activities are identified within each of these categories. An additional phase, Phase IV, offers a possible view of the future of I-5 after another half-century — approximately the amount of time since the highway was constructed that altered Seattle so drastically.

**ACTIVITIES + COORDINATION**
1. Engage stakeholders
2. Raise funds and apply for grants for short and long-term projects
3. Consider creating a local currency for the International District
4. Promote the space under I-5 to businesses and other investors
5. Begin coordinating markets during non-peak parking hours
6. Hold movie nights in lot with radio station tuned to audio of movie
7. Create program for homeless housing at night
8. As markets and activities become a fixture in the space, add new stakeholders and types of markets and activities; expand the hours

**PUBLIC ART + STRUCTURES**
1. Temporary public art installations
2. Improve lighting under the highway with pedestrian-scale fixtures
3. Create temporary storage facilities from shipping containers and provide tents for vendors
4. Paint columns along King Street to match Jackson Street, creating equality and connection between the two streets
5. Make food bank building a permanent structure
6. Create bike vendor program to coordinate with the addition of public gardens in the neighborhood, and encourage local gardeners, grocery businesses, and other local businesses to participate
7. Create permanent market structures such as a market administrative building, permanent vendor areas, and a gate
8. Build parking garage and create temporary parking and expanded market/activity space next to pedestrian street

**GREENING + PEDESTRIANIZATION**
1. Begin planting strategy along King Street, with mosses, ferns, and small trees supporting current volunteer vegetation
2. Create planter beds in parking lot
3. Create public space and seating next to the mural at 8th and King
4. Connect King and Jackson Streets with sidewalks
5. Create pedestrian street connecting King and Jackson Streets
6. Acquire land on Jackson Street next to public land for park
7. Acquire land on Jackson Street next to public land for park

**CURRENT**

**PHASE I**
0-3 years
- View looking west on King Street with potential art installation and improved lighting (PHASE I)
- View of parking lot use during non-peak hours for art and music with food vendors (PHASE II-III)

**PHASE II**
4-7 years

**PHASE III**
8-11 years

**SECTION OF PHASE III: PEDESTRIAN STREET BETWEEN KING ST AND JACKSON ST**
- gate to the pedestrian street and permanent structures for vendors makes the public area a permanent fixture in the district and gathers attention when not in use
- bicycle vendors bring local goods from around the ID to the market
- tents made for market activities can be stored on-site and create flexibility in use of the space
- empty shipping containers from the nearby Port of Seattle can serve as storage spaces in phases I-III
- greening in and around the parking lot filters the air, reduces highway noise, collects storm water, and makes the space more attractive

**LEGEND**
- state-owned land
- SDOT right-of-way
- existing buildings
- sidewalk/pedestrian area
- art/structures
- bikes
- low plants (ferns, grasses)
- groundcover plants (mosses)
- parking and activities
- parking only
- high-density parking (valet, double-deck)
- road edge
- highway
- contour line
- fence
This proposal aims to enliven an unsafe, unusable space with plantings and activity. Since the site is in the public right-of-way, city and state agency priorities are engaged to bring new energy and support into the International District. At the same time, a distinctive pedestrian passage is created that honors both ‘Northwest’ and ‘Far East’ cultures.

Three program elements are invoked to gradually transform the space: **community gardening**, **stormwater greening**, and **skatepark activation**. Each provides benefits to the local community while also encouraging participation from a wider circle of organizations. Each aspect can be implemented collaboratively in phases as resources permit.

**PROGRAM ELEMENTS**

For more information and to download this pamphlet, visit: [http://courses.washington.edu/kingst/](http://courses.washington.edu/kingst/)
Vacant lots are gradually given over to community garden plots. Since the local community garden is full beyond its capacity, and up a steep hill, these new plots make it easier for elders to garden and socialize closer to home and the vibrant street life on the King Street corridor.

Stormwater drains are enhanced with planters of bamboo, which can be harvested periodically for craft applications by the community. Wedges of native forest plantings harvest freeway runoff and sunlight in the gaps between overpasses. Green walls of native ferns and mosses clean the air and water.

Skaters can make good use of leftover spaces under freeways with minimal alterations to the existing grading and paving. The presence of their youthful activity helps to keep the space watched and safe, and brings a new kind of tourist business to the International District.

POTENTIAL PARTNERING ORGANIZATIONS:

- Inter*Im Community Development Association
- Kay Ying Senior Citizens’ Club
- Asian Counseling & Referral Services Food Bank
- Seattle Department of Transportation
- Seattle Department of Neighborhoods
- Seattle Department of Planning & Development
- Seattle Parks & Recreation
- Seattle Public Utilities
- King County
- Washington Department of Transportation
- GrindLine Skateparks
- Skaters for Public Skateparks
Facade design contributes to the pedestrian experience across the street and at the door step. Regardless of proximity, pedestrians always view the first floor facade. As a pedestrian approaches the facade, vision is increasingly focused on the first floor. Also, the first floor facade is a very important part of the pedestrian experience traveling along the adjacent sidewalk. Therefore, it is important to carefully consider the design of the first floor facade in order to enhance the pedestrian experience on King Street.
### EXISTING AND PREFERRED FACADE FEATURES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
<th>EXISTING</th>
<th>PREFERRED</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Human Scale</td>
<td>allow people to feel comfortable using and approaching facade</td>
<td>allow people to feel comfortable using and approaching facade</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Permeability</td>
<td>provide ample and clear points of entry</td>
<td>provide ample and clear points of entry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transparency</td>
<td>allow visual discovery of building use from the sidewalk</td>
<td>allow visual discovery of building use from the sidewalk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Awnings</td>
<td>protect from rain and sun, claim the sidewalk and mark an entrance</td>
<td>protect from rain and sun, claim the sidewalk and mark an entrance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Detail</td>
<td>stimulate interest with interesting detail</td>
<td>stimulate interest with interesting detail</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Invitation</td>
<td>invite with elements that guide pedestrians to a welcoming entry</td>
<td>invite with elements that guide pedestrians to a welcoming entry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Character</td>
<td>preserve historic structures and maintain a Pan-Asian influence</td>
<td>preserve historic structures and maintain a Pan-Asian influence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Signage</td>
<td>communicate with pedestrian oriented signs</td>
<td>communicate with pedestrian oriented signs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lighting</td>
<td>provide safety and marking entrances</td>
<td>provide safety and marking entrances</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st Level</td>
<td>Variation stimulate interest from sidewalk with a variety of uses</td>
<td>provide access to alleys</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alley</td>
<td>provide access to alleys</td>
<td>provide access to alleys</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upper Levels</td>
<td>Lively design draws eye up and provide eyes on the street</td>
<td>Lively design draws eye up and provide eyes on the street</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
KING STREET VISION PROJECT
SIGNAGE, interpretation & lighting

LIGHTING
In addition to supporting safety at night, light from commercial signage, street light “spots and skirts,” and special facade treatments create sparkle, glow, and interesting shadows. Each effect is experienced sequentially as the pedestrian moves up and down the street.

Spotlights and “tree-skirts” create the effect of being under foliage while street trees grow.

1. Lighting can be used to highlight important historic buildings.
2. Strings of lights hung across King Street create a festive atmosphere.
3. Plants growing under glass pavement tiles are illuminated at night.

COMMERCIAL SIGNAGE
Signage and lighting have the ability to transform the whole street. With relatively simple and inexpensive modifications to their function, form, and content, signage and lighting can create a memorable streetscape that supports density critical to exchange, extends a feeling of comfort and safety to all hours of the day, and reinforces connections to place.

Signs that are placed perpendicular to buildings help create a more pedestrian-friendly streetscape.

For more information and to download this pamphlet, visit: http://courses.washington.edu/kingst/
GROWING GATEWAY and REPAINTED CROSSWALKS
A welcoming new gateway installed in Little Saigon is covered in mosses and vining plants. Crosswalks are repainted into designs created by local artists.

LIGHT PROJECTIONS
Nighttime projections create temporary art installations on vacant building facades. These projections would be visible from the nearby freeway.

STREET BANNERS
Hanging temporary banners across King Street would add to the vibrant character of the streetscape.

KING STREET TIMELINE
Short-Term Proposal
Historical images are painted, poster, and stenciled with powerwashers on blank facades and boarded-up windows. These temporary installations of site-specific images would be an affordable, subtle way to add interest and variety to the streetscape.

SIDEWALK STORY
Long-Term Proposal
The current sidewalks are replaced with concrete pavers and special inserts. Community residents, business owners, and local artists submit their own photos and mementos to fill the inserts, helping to create an informative design that is unique to the International District.

INTERPRETIVE SIGNAGE
Historical images are painted, poster, and stenciled with powerwashers on blank facades and boarded-up windows. These temporary installations of site-specific images would be an affordable, subtle way to add interest and variety to the streetscape.

金街新面貌
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Hanging temporary banners across King Street would add to the vibrant character of the streetscape.

LIGHT PROJECTIONS
Nighttime projections create temporary art installations on vacant building facades. These projections would be visible from the nearby freeway.
Chinatown is one of the only areas in Seattle with a history of (official) commercial activity in its alleys. Over the years, the alleys and were given over to mechanized trash collection. With little pedestrian activity, the alleys came to look neglected and unwelcoming. But aren’t they too valuable for that? Let’s change things!

**KING STREET VISION PROJECT**

**ALLEY-oriented infill**

**Enlivening Strategies**

STEP 1: THE BASICS - Start Now!

- CLEAN
  - Get rid of dumpsters!
  - Go with the City’s Clear Alleys Program

- SAFE
  - Keep a look out! Install lights and cameras, if necessary and uncover bricked-in windows.

Fresh paint and other detailed repairs make historic facades look inviting.

STEP 2: ATTRACTION TACTICS - 6 months-1 year

- ART
  - Children’s Museum
  - Providence, RI
  - Photo: flickr/karbon69

- GREENING
  - Balcony Garden
  - Photo: Picasa/kate

- ACTIVE USES
  - Alley - Tokyo
  - Photo: bcbhc.com/Tim Cook

For more information and to download this pamphlet, visit: http://courses.washington.edu/kingst/
**STEP 3 - BUILDING A PRESENCE - 1 year +**

**ALLEY ORIENTED INFILL**

Activity in the alleys can be sustained over the long term by building appealing spaces for it.

**AN EXAMPLE SITE:**
CANTON ALLEY

---

**1 YEAR:** A garden is built by the community. Gardeners watch over the alley while curious pedestrians stop by and chat.

**NOW:** No reason to stop.

---

**5 YEARS:** Infill development with alley-oriented facades, new businesses and new customers.

**OPTIONS:**
When it comes time to develop the lot, the garden can maintain its presence alongside or on top of a new structure.
Alley activation through TEMPORARY PROGRAMS

This project addresses integrating alleys to the main streets as well as pulling in pedestrian activities. In the past, the alleys were used more regularly by residents and businesses; this project looks forward to reconnect this in-between space to the current commercial activities of the district. Specifically, this project proposes engaging youths, adults, elders, and businesses in reprogramming and activating the spaces through workshops, events, and programmed activities.

ALLEY GALLERY PROGRAM

STAGE 1 Photography Workshop: The community will be invited to participate in a workshop in which they learn and develop skills in photography.

STAGE 2 Photo Contest: The workshop will be followed with an open competition, and the best photos will be selected to be printed as posters and exhibited throughout the alleys.

STAGE 3 Exhibitions: Temporarily organized exhibitions of Asian American art and a variety of artists, focusing on the district’s cultural heritages and identities.

STAGE 4 Lighting the Alley: Even at night this gallery will be a safe and attract place to walk for residents and visitors.

For more information and to download this pamphlet, visit: http://courses.washington.edu/kingst/
GREEN YOUR ALLEY PROGRAM/
STAGE 1 Green Donation: The program will encourage people to donate plants, trees or soil.
STAGE 2 Volunteers Garden: Invite the community gardeners, and everyone interested in participating in the design of little gardens in dumspsters and vertical gardens (green walls).
STAGE 3 Maintenance: Rain water will be collected from the roofs of adjacent buildings to water the green wall, paralleling with volunteer efforts for maintaining the garden.

COLOR YOUR ALLEY PROGRAM/
STAGE 1 Community Painting Workshop: Invite the people to a painting workshop, experiment with different materials and work on a design that people would like for the alleys.
STAGE 2 Working Teams: The group will be divided in three basic teams of painters, quality supervisors, and supplies managers.
STAGE 3 Color Plan: This program will focus on manholes and electricity/telephony boxes in the alleys to start with this fun activity.
STAGE 4 Enjoy: Walk through the alleys and you will finish with a smile!

VENDOR CART PROGRAM/
STAGE 1 Cart Design Contest for the Community: This contest will encourage Asian youths and elders to participate with ideas and preferences for creating a model cart, representative of the neighborhood. The community will vote for the winner.
STAGE 2 Cart Construction Workshop: This program will offer a welding workshop for the community so that they can follow instructions and build their own cart.
STAGE 3 Start your own business! Once you have finished your cart, choose which products you would like to sell, for example: artcrafts, food, movies and music cd's, videogames, clothing, fashion jewelry, etc.
STAGE 4 Traveling Plan: This plan will distribute vendors in different alleys, days of the week and hours of a day, so that all carts have the same opportunities. For security all carts will be stored at night in a parking lot.