



## ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Report Date: February 10, 2016  
Contact: Kevin McNaney  
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Meeting Date: March 8, 2016

TO: Vancouver City Council  
FROM: Acting General Manager of Planning and Development Services  
SUBJECT: Recognizing Lilian To

### **RECOMMENDATION**

- A. THAT Council support the installation of two name monikers at the entrances to Shanghai Alley in recognition of Lilian To, while opportunities to name a future street or civic asset is pursued by the Civic Asset Naming Committee.
- B. That Council support the joint project between S.U.C.C.E.S.S. and the City's Great Beginnings Program to mount a bi-lingual Commemorative Panel to the building façade of S.U.C.C.E.S.S. head office at 28 West Pender Street in recognition of Lilian To's contributions to Vancouver, with the City's Great Beginnings Program providing funds up to \$30,000.

### **REPORT SUMMARY**

This report responds to Council's resolution on November 25, 2014, (refer to Appendix A) to bring forward options to identify an appropriate place or civic asset or street, preferably in the Chinatown area or close to S.U.C.C.E.S.S.'s office, to be named in recognition of Lilian To, and options available to commemorate the legacy and achievements of Lilian To, working with the input of her family, S.U.C.C.E.S.S. agency, the Civic Asset Naming Committee, and other appropriate stakeholders.

It was concluded after a substantial search and consultation with staff and S.U.C.C.E.S.S. representatives that no suitable naming options for usual civic assets (e.g. streets, plazas, etc.) are currently available in that area and her name will remain active on the Civic Asset Naming Committee list.

In the interim, a 'Lilian To Way' name moniker will be installed at both entrances of Shanghai Alley, which is adjacent to S.U.C.C.E.S.S.'s head office.

To commemorate Lilian To's contributions to Vancouver, a commemorative panel will be installed on the front façade of S.U.C.C.E.S.S. head office. This is a jointly sponsored project between the City's Great Beginnings Program and S.U.C.C.E.S.S..

### ***COUNCIL AUTHORITY/PREVIOUS DECISIONS***

On July 12, 2005 Council passed a motion requesting the Street Naming Committee to consider naming a street after Lilian To. Her name has been added to Civic Asset Name Reserve List for consideration as future civic assets come available.

On October 28, 2014 Council passed a motion, attached as Appendix A, recognising Lilian To's significant contributions to Vancouver. Council directed staff to report back on options to identify an appropriate place or civic asset or street to be named in recognition of Lilian To and her lifetime achievements advocating for the rights, responsibilities and benefits of newcomers to the City Of Vancouver.

Council uses the Street Name By-law, No. 4054, to name and regulate public roads in the City of Vancouver. The Civic Asset Naming Committee was established by Council on February 29, 2012. The Committee approves names to be added to the Names Reserve List and also recommends names to Council for new streets and roads, development areas, pedestrian and cycling infrastructure, and other civic assets (excluding Parks and Library assets).

### ***ACTING GENERAL MANAGER'S COMMENTS***

The Acting General Manger of Planning and Development Services recommends APPROVAL of the foregoing.

### ***REPORT***

#### ***Background/Context***

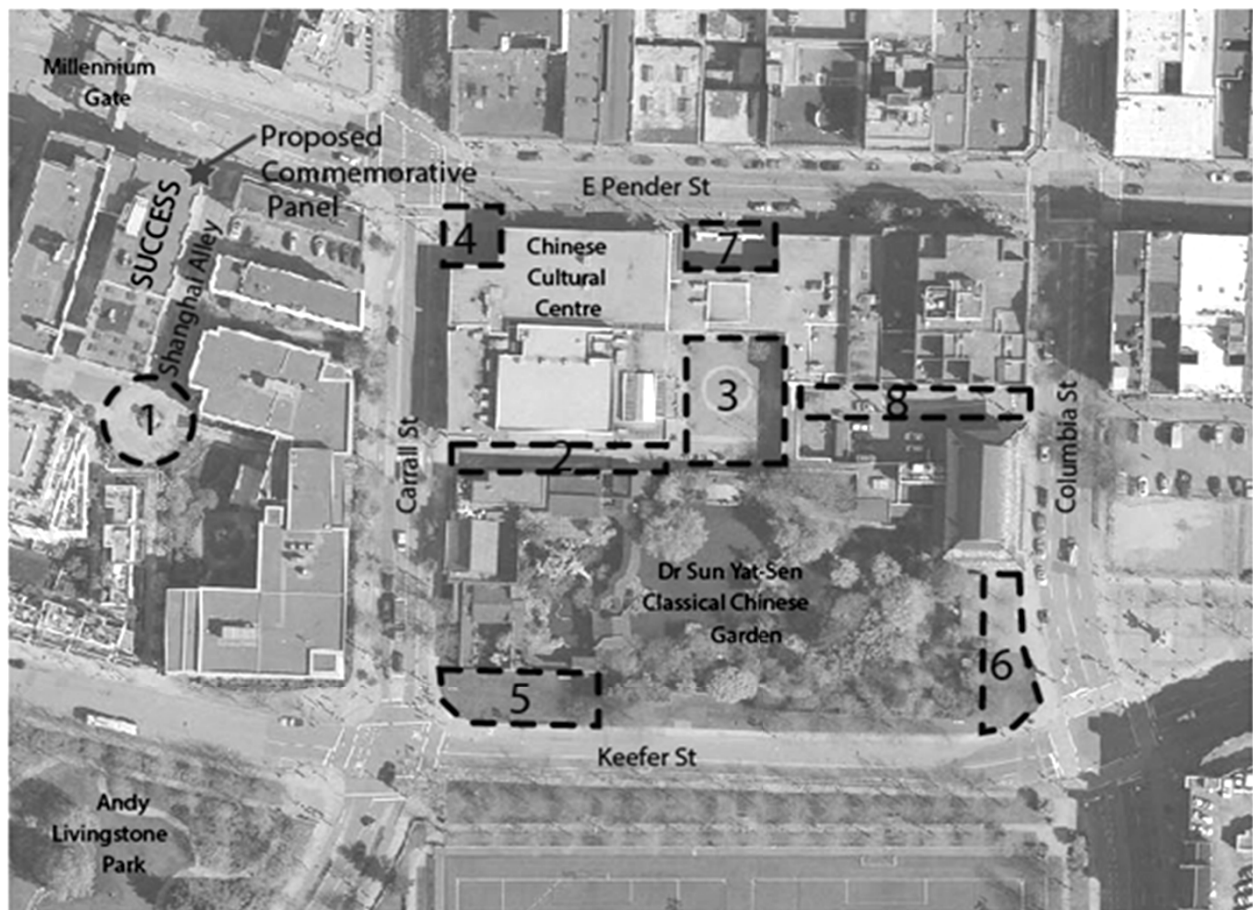
Lilian To, former Chief Executive Officer of S.U.C.C.E.S.S. left behind a substantial legacy and achievements in making Vancouver a more inclusive city, free of racism, and creating mutual understanding and respect for all residents of Vancouver. She had dedicated herself to her work tirelessly serving S.U.C.C.E.S.S. and improving the quality of life and integration into society for immigrants.

Lilian To became S.U.C.C.E.S.S.'s CEO in 1987 and unexpectedly passed away in July 2005. As noted in S.U.C.C.E.S.S. 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemorative book, "...she gave her best to lead the organisation, and under her leadership, the spirit of S.U.C.C.E.S.S. flourished. Her sincerity and humility moved all who worked with her. She is well known and respected in both Chinese and mainstream communities across the country. She generously gave her time, effort and devotion. Her dedication continues to be an inspiration to all."

She received several awards for her professional and community services, including a 1991 Vancouver Multicultural Society's Distinguished Service award, a 1999 YWCA Women of Distinction Award and a federal Citation for Citizenship in 2001.

### Strategic Analysis

For naming options, Staff identified a shortlist of civic assets and public spaces in Chinatown and close to S.U.C.C.E.S.S. with consultation with the City's Civic Asset Naming Committee as possible naming opportunities. There were 8 options (Map 1) that were presented to the current chair, two former chairs and the C.E.O. of S.U.C.C.E.S.S. for their consideration and input, with an invitation for suggestions of other potential locations. No options met the established criteria of a respectful location in Chinatown and close to S.U.C.C.E.S.S.'s office.



Map 1

For commemoration options, there were several discussions with S.U.C.C.E.S.S. representatives about possible options to commemorate Lilian To. Through collaboration with a local Architectural firm, S.U.C.C.E.S.S. supported a bench/clock commemorative structure in front of their head office at 28 West Pender Street. Unfortunately after further research and exploration, the high cost for manufacturing & installation plus ongoing maintenance concern, it was decided that it was not a viable option.

The Civic Asset Naming Committee confirms that Lilian To's name will remain active on the committee's Names Reserve List.



Image 1



Image 2

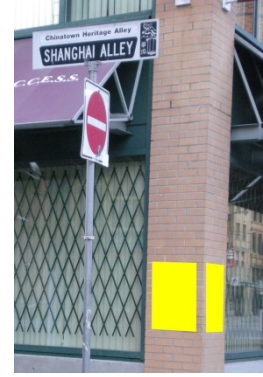


Image 3

In the interim, a name moniker ‘Lilian To Way’; similar to ‘Wasserman’s Beat’ (see image 1) that was installed on Hornby Street, will be installed on sign poles leading into Shanghai Alley (see image 2), adjacent to S.U.C.C.E.S.S. head office. The cost of the fabrication and installation of the signage will be from the City’s Engineering Streets Division funds.

A follow up decision was made by S.U.C.C.E.S.S. to commemorate Lilian To’s contributions with a bi-lingual panel installed on the building façade of their head office (see image 3). This will be a joint project between the City’s Great Beginnings Program and S.U.C.C.E.S.S., with the City’s Great Beginnings Program sharing the costs up to \$30,000. Currently the panel is in the design concept phase therefore an installation date is undetermined.

### ***Consultation***

On two occasions, staff met with the Civic Asset Naming Committee to obtain input on the options that were presented to S.U.C.C.E.S.S., the clock/bench proposal, name moniker and commemorative panel. It was confirmed that there are no naming options presently available. Lilian To’s name will remain active on the Civic Asset Name Reserve List and if any naming opportunity arises in the future, the committee would report to Council. They were also supportive of the ‘Lilian To Way’ name moniker as an interim measure.

S.U.C.C.E.S.S. has spoken to Lilian To’s family and they are grateful that Council’s resolution on the Naming of Lilian To is being pursued and are appreciative and supportive of S.U.C.C.E.S.S. decisions, efforts and direction on commemorating their mother.

### ***Financial***

The name moniker cost will be covered by the City’s Engineering Streets Division Budget. The Commemorative Panel will be a joint project between Great Beginnings Program and S.U.C.C.E.S.S., with Great Beginnings Program providing funds up to \$30,000.

### ***CONCLUSION***

The installation of the ‘Lilian To Way’ name moniker on sign posts leading into Shanghai Alley is a good interim measure while the official Naming opportunity for Lilian To’s name remains on the active list. The joint project between Great Beginnings Program and S.U.C.C.E.S.S. to install a wall panel will provide an appropriate vehicle to commemorate the legacy and achievements of Lilian To.

**MOTION ON NOTICE**

At the Regular Council meeting on November 25, 2014,

**1. Recognising Lilian To**

MOVED by Councillor Tang  
SECONDED by Councillor Jang

WHEREAS

1. It has been nearly 10 years since the passing of Lilian To, former Chief Executive Officer of S.U.C.C.E.S.S., who has left behind a substantial legacy and achievements in making Vancouver a more inclusive city, free of racism, and creating mutual understanding and respect for all residents of Vancouver;
2. Lilian To's achievements and advocacy for settlement, health, family, seniors, and youth services for newcomers reinforce the City of Vancouver's values and policies to provide accessible and culturally responsive services to the diverse population in Vancouver.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

- A. THAT Council direct staff to report back on the options to identify an appropriate place or civic asset or street, preferably in the Chinatown area or close to S.U.C.C.E.S.S.'s office, to be named in recognition of Lilian To and her lifetime achievements advocating for the rights, responsibilities and benefits of newcomers to the City of Vancouver.
- B. THAT Council direct staff to report back on the options available to commemorate the legacy and achievements of Lilian To by the next Council meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

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