



June 2, 2020

To Mayor and City Council

CC: Mr. Sadhu Johnston, Mrs. Karen Levitt, Mrs. Sandra Singh, Mrs. MaryClare Zak

For June 3, 2020 City Council Meeting re: Council COVID-19 Recovery Committee

Community Economic Development Recommendations for City-wide COVID-19 Recovery

The City of Vancouver in collaboration with community partners has done an admirable and effective effort to contain and limit the potential negative impacts of COVID-19 on the inner city and across Vancouver. But we know the issues of poverty, addiction, mental health, employment, and homelessness that we were dealing with prior to the pandemic do not go away with physical distancing and the potential vaccination options.

Exchange Inner City and its members advocate that the City of Vancouver continue working with community partners to enhance existing and established policy and programs as a means to support the next steps in recovery of COVID-19. But also, to further the social, health, and economic sustainability of all residents and neighbourhoods across Vancouver, especially the DTES, Downtown South and West End, Coal Harbour, Grandview Woodland, and Mount Pleasant.

Beyond COVID-19 recovery, within the existing Healthy City Strategy, DTES Plan, and emerging Poverty Reduction Strategy there are several goals and objectives that can be achieved if the City of Vancouver accelerated current Community Economic Development policies and programs.

The following Community Economic Development recommendations will enhance COVID-19 Recovery:

1. Accelerate the implementation of existing social procurement policy and programs to support the recovery of small business and social enterprise.
 - a. Establish annual measurable outcomes
 - b. Implement and measure City of Vancouver social procurement activities
 - c. Unbundle larger contracts to create sub-contracting opportunities for social enterprises and small business
 - d. Direct award contracts to social enterprises
 - e. Utilize trade agreement thresholds to expand small business access
 - f. Require social value outcomes for all City of Vancouver suppliers and contractors such as;
 - i. Targeted employment
 - ii. Accessible Training
 - iii. Supply Chain Social Value Outcomes
 - iv. Community Development Outcomes

2. Expand and refine the current Community Benefit Agreement policy to include that all developments, private and public, should require a community benefit agreement commensurate with size of the project. For example, for developments less than 100,000 square feet, encourage that 3-5% of the project achieve First Source Hiring and local, social procurement goals.
3. Move all non-profit organizations and cultural-purposed City of Vancouver properties, and Property Endowment Fund properties and rentals to Community Impact Real Estate Society (CIRES), to increase access to affordable spaces for non-profits and allow for the re-investment of any profits back into the inner city communities.
4. Contribute to a re-payable social value fund to provide loans and patient capital for the inner city social enterprise sector.
5. Support existing peer-employment programs, by encouraging local business and Business Improvement Associations to partner with these programs as a key element to support business with street level concerns and outreach, while simultaneously providing accessible employment opportunities for residents with barriers, creating economic inclusion and community engagement for all.

The community engagement efforts of Exchange Inner City and its members are poised to take on an even greater role in supporting the health of the city. It is now merely a matter of implementing and expanding existing policy, programs, and practice along with the community.

We look forward to engaging with staff on furthering these efforts to build a more vibrant and resilient city.

Regards,



Alisha Masongsong
Acting Director, Exchange Inner City

Existing City of Vancouver Policy and related documents:

City of Vancouver Healthy City Strategy

“Our goal: Adequate income and access to a broad range of healthy employment opportunities”

Social Value Procurement Policy

The objective of Social Value Procurement is to leverage resources & relationships that:

- Increase economic opportunities
- Diversify the Supply Chain: promote social value business that have a recognized certification and/or are owned/controlled by an equity seeking population (including but not limited to non-profits/coops, women, Indigenous persons, people with disabilities, LGBTQ+)
- Improve economic independence and capacities
- Promote workforce diversity – underemployed, unemployed, under-represented groups
- Advance inclusion, reconciliation, equity and diversity “

vancouver.ca/files/cov/social-value-procurement-faq.pdf

Current Downtown East Side Plan

- Social enterprises are encouraged
- Local hiring and social purchasing policies are a priority;

vancouver.ca/files/cov/downtown-eastside-plan.pdf#page=12

Community Benefit Agreement Policy – October 2018

vancouver.ca/people-programs/community-benefit-agreements.aspx

DTES Social Enterprise Impact Report – December 2019

- Survey of 40 social enterprises in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside documented \$26.5m in sales with \$18.4m in wages. These enterprises have created over 2,800 jobs, with 55% of full-time and 90% of part-time workers overcoming barriers to employment.

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