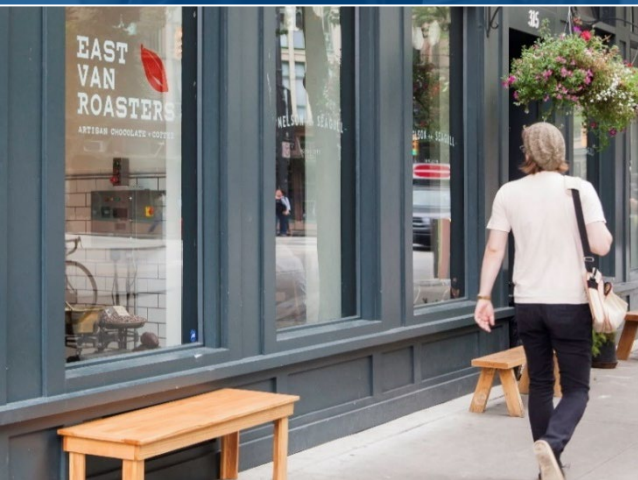




# Special Enterprise Program (pilot)

Economic revitalization towards community recovery



DTES Planning |  
Community Planning Division

January 19, 2021

# Recommendation Summary

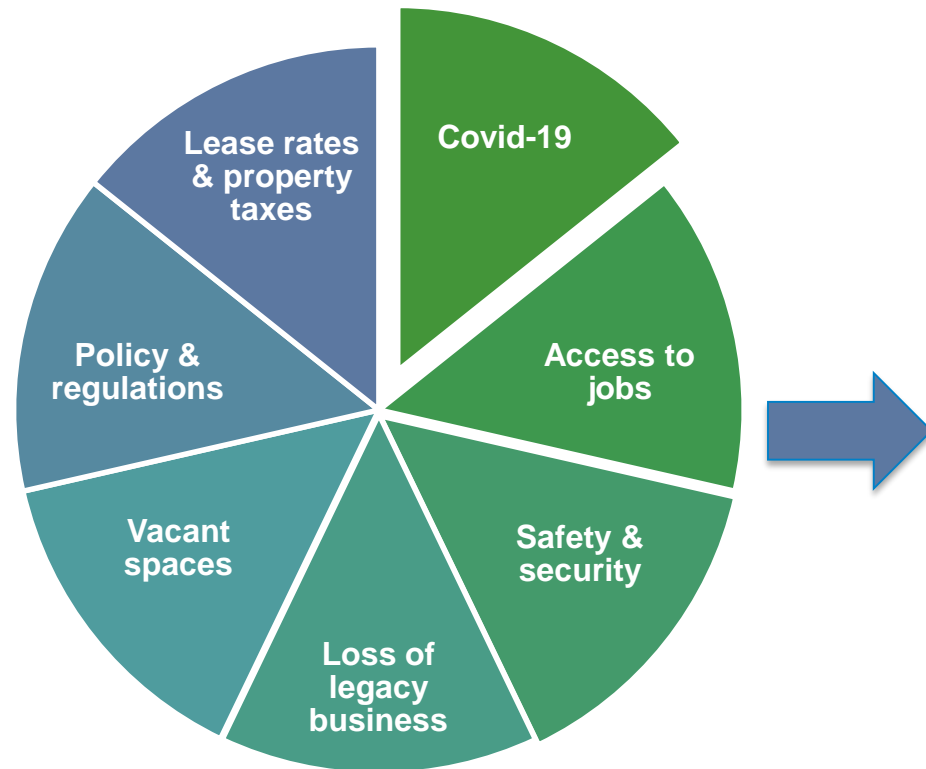
- A. THAT Council approve the **Special Enterprise Program (SEP)** pilot.
- B. THAT Council approve an initial amount of **\$500,000** to advance the objectives of the Special Enterprise Program.

The source of funding is the DTES Capital Grants funding:

- i. \$150,000 to continue supporting the **community-serving retail** project;
- ii. \$150,000 for **capacity building** to businesses, non-profits and social enterprises;
- iii. \$200,000 to improve **access to affordable spaces**.

**\*\* Source of funding:** DTES Capital Grants (Approved 2021 Capital Project Budget)

## Challenges



## COV Plans & Strategies



2017

## Legacy Business Study



- A plan with business support tools for heritage businesses;
- Engage property owners and developers to develop affordable leases;
- Investigate the drivers of business closures and the needs of heritage businesses.

2019

## Activate DTES (Phase 1)



- 55+ organizations are looking for suitable spaces;
- Businesses are looking for stable, longer-term leases of at least 5 years;
- Limited vacancy in existing industrial shared spaces point to the success in providing smaller scale, supportive spaces at more affordable rates, including shared service at professionally managed industrial co-working spaces.



## Purpose

**Preserve** and **strengthen** the cultural diversity, long-term viability, and economic opportunity for heritage businesses, social enterprises, non-profit organizations and co-ops.

## Objectives

Attraction and  
prevention of  
displacement

Capacity  
building

Activation of  
vacant and  
underutilized  
spaces

## Areas of Focus



### Affordable Spaces



### Business Supports



### Community-serving Retail

- **5-year** pilot
- **Downtown Eastside** and **Chinatown Historic Area**
- CoV partners: **PDS** & **ACCS**
- External advisors and funders

## Business Categories



## Program Supports

### Space renovation

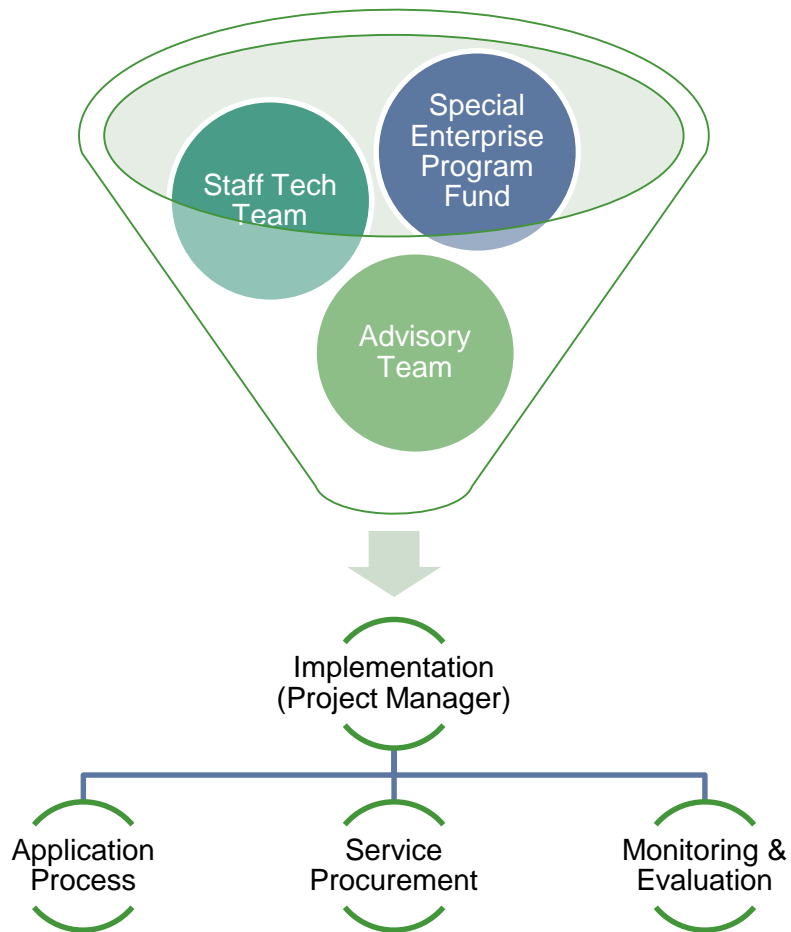
- Tools, equipment, furnishing
- Space layouts
- Tenant improvements
- Tenant relocation

### Business supports

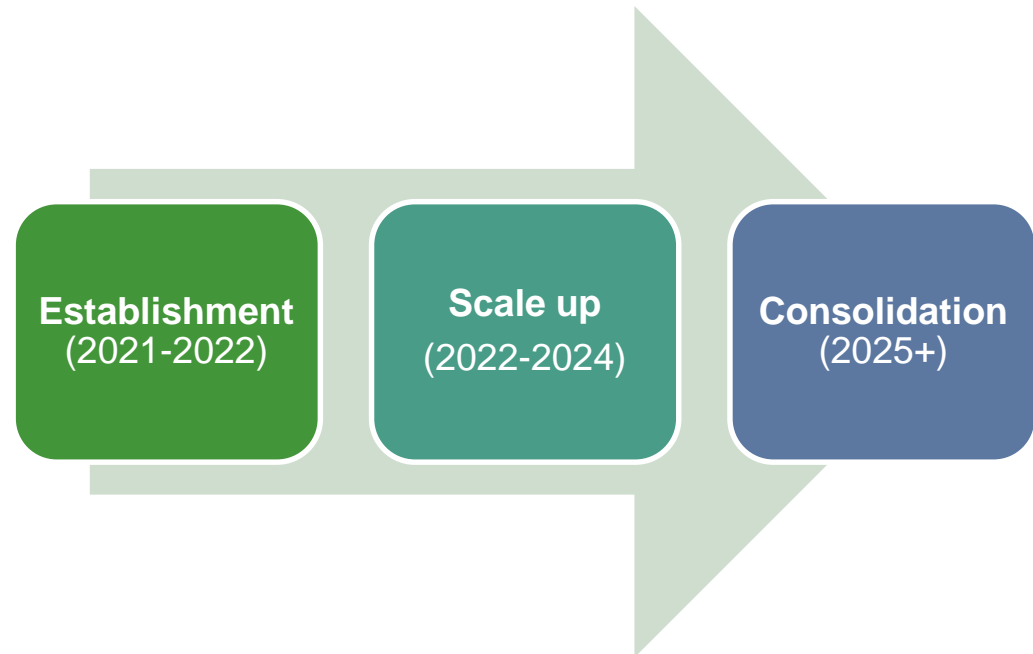
- Marketing & promotion
- Succession planning
- Business practices & mentorships
- Business development
- Community stewardship
- Rental supplements

# Implementation & Timeline

## Implementation



## Timeline





# Funding Allocation

- **\$150,000 for community-serving retail** in Chinese Benevolent Society buildings, led by Strathcona Business Improvement Association;
- **\$150,000 for business supports** to procure consulting services from non-profit organizations to assist businesses, non-profits and social enterprises with capacity building;
- **\$200,000 for affordable space activation** to support potential tenants and cover the cost of tenant improvements.

**Total budget \$500,000**





THANK YOU!

