

TO: CHAIR AND MEMBERS
COMMUNITY HERITAGE COMMISSION

DATE: 2019 May 29

FROM: DIRECTOR PLANNING AND BUILDING

FILE: 1650 20

SUBJECT: CHINESE CANADIAN HISTORY IN BURNABY PROJECT

PURPOSE: To initiate a project to research the history of Chinese migration to Burnaby and the contributions of Chinese Canadians to the development of Burnaby.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. **THAT** an expenditure of up to \$85,000 be approved from Gaming Funds for a multi-year project to expand knowledge of, and access to, the history of Chinese migration to Burnaby, and the contributions of Chinese Canadians to the development of Burnaby.

REPORT**1.0 BACKGROUND**

In 2017, the Community Heritage Commission recommended Council approve the research and production of a series of heritage markers and short videos to mark the 125th anniversary of the Incorporation of the Municipality of Burnaby. An investment of \$60,000 was made in the Burnaby 125 Heritage Marker program from the City's Gaming Fund, augmented by a \$57,500 grant from the *British Columbia Canada 150: Celebrating BC Communities and their Contributions to Canada* grant program.

The goals of the Burnaby 125 Heritage Marker program included broadening knowledge of the diverse cultural communities that have contributed to the development of Burnaby. Research related to Chinese migration to BC and Burnaby uncovered during the project has since led to additional research opportunities, and the development of the *Across the Pacific* exhibition at the Burnaby Village Museum, which is running from May 4 to September 2, 2019.

At the 2019 April 04 meeting, the Community Heritage Commission requested that staff prepare a report with recommendations for continuing research on Chinese Canadian history in Burnaby, and initiatives for making that research accessible to the community.

2.0 POLICY SECTION

The proposed approach aligns with the following goals and sub-goals of the Corporate Strategic Plan:

- A Connected Community
 - Social connection – Enhance social connections throughout Burnaby.
 - Partnership – Work collaboratively with businesses, educational institutions, associations, other communities and governments
- An Inclusive Community
 - Celebrate diversity – Create more opportunities for the community to celebrate diversity.
 - Service a diverse community – Ensure City services fully meet the needs of our dynamic community.
 - Create a sense of community – Provide opportunities that encourage and welcome all community members and create a sense of belonging

3.0 PROPOSED PROJECT

The proposed project builds on the work initiated by the Commission in 2017. Uncovering the history of cultural communities that have been under-represented in the historical record requires intensive archival research by skilled researchers, and collaboration with community members and partners.

The City's capacity to engage in research about the history of Chinese migration to Burnaby has already been enhanced through the creation of a Chinese Canadian History in Burnaby steering committee, partnerships with UBC's Asian Canadian and Asian Migration Studies program and the Chinese Canadian Historical Society of BC, and cooperation from the descendants of Chinese Canadian families who have lived in Burnaby for several generations. The Commission is well-positioned to continue with this research, and to make it more broadly accessible to Burnaby citizens.

A three-phase project is proposed to expand and distribute historical knowledge of Chinese Canadian history in Burnaby, in collaboration with community partners. The three phases are as follows:

- **PHASE I:** Community Resource Guide
- **PHASE II:** Research and Outreach
- **PHASE III:** Publication celebrating Chinese Canadian history in Burnaby

It is estimated that each phase will take 8 to 12 months to complete, at a cost of \$25,000 for phases I and II, and \$35,000 for Phase III.

3.1 Phase I: Community Resource Guide

The first phase of the project is proposed to begin in fall 2019, and continue into spring 2020 with an anticipated completion date of 2020 June 01. This project phase has two key goals:

- distribute historical materials and knowledge learned to date; and,
- grow the City's network of community contacts to increase capacity to complete the next phase of research.

3.1.1 Distribution of Knowledge

The research and information gathered to date will be compiled as a Chinese Canadian History in Burnaby resource and education guide to distribute information to the public. The guide will be published as a 14-20 page full-colour PDF document to be distributed on the City's websites, including www.heritageburnaby.ca. It will include photographs, maps, and illustrations, and be targeted to local elementary and secondary school teachers, while also being of interest to a general audience.

3.1.2 Building Community Network

The proposed project will use "community-based research" – a research methodology that involves community members in the research and telling of their own stories. During Phase I, project staff would re-convene the Chinese Canadian History in Burnaby steering committee, with additional members. The steering committee will help to shape the next phase of the project, and build the crucial community network that will be required for the next phase of work.

3.1.3 Phase I Budget

The Phase I budget is \$25,000 which will cover costs for project research, compilation of the resource guide, graphic design, and supplies.

3.2 Phase II: Research and Outreach

Phase II of the project will include research and outreach to collect additional stories and information through oral histories and collaboration with community members, including expanding the research timeframe to include outreach to community members who migrated after the Second World War. This phase will include expanding the network of farm families participating in the project, and result in an update to the City of Burnaby's Big Bend self-guided agricultural tour map (*Attachment #1*) to include historical content. The tour map is currently available only through online delivery. The project would include production of a printed map, as well as updates to the interactive web-based map.

The Phase II budget is for \$25,000, which will cover the project research, graphic design of the map, printing, and supply costs.

3.3 Phase III: Publication celebrating Chinese Canadian history in Burnaby

The last phase of the project will see the new research material gathered in Phase II incorporated into the Chinese Canadian History in Burnaby resource and education guide. It will also include publication of a printed book. The published book would be presented in three written languages: English, simplified Chinese, and traditional Chinese.

The Phase III budget is for \$35,000, which will cover the project research and writing, graphic design, translation, and printing costs.

To: Community Heritage Commission
From: Director Planning and Building
Re: Chinese Canadian History in Burnaby Project
2019 May 29..... Page 4

4.0 NEXT STEPS

With Council adoption of the recommendation of this report, City staff will initiate the project. Regular updates will be provided at Community Heritage Commission meetings.



E.W. Kozak, Director
PLANNING AND BUILDING

LC:tn:sa

cc: City Manager
Director Corporate Services
Director Public Safety and Community Services
City Clerk

BIG BEND TOUR

Did you know that Burnaby has some of the most productive farm land in the region? Did you know that there are a number of active farms, and related businesses, in South Burnaby that you can visit? Take the whole family along on this self guided tour of some of the agriculture sights of Burnaby's Big Bend. Visit Burnaby's **country in the city** to shop for fresh local produce, tour impressive greenhouses, meet some

Burnaby Food First

City of Burnaby

Sun Tai Sang Farm

4886 Marine Drive

You'll find lots of fresh local vegetables and fruit at our 80 year old family farm. Plus a large variety of vegetable starters, perennials, bedding plants and more.

Screenshot of online Big Bend farm tour map