

November 28, 2019

Mayor and Council  
Vancouver City Hall  
453 W 12 Ave  
Vancouver, BC V5Y 1V4

**DVBIA Support for Places for People  
Downtown Public Space Strategy**

To Mayor and Council,

On behalf of the Downtown Vancouver BIA, I would like to express our support for the *Places for People Downtown Public Space Strategy*. We appreciate the extensive public consultation that informed this strategy and are pleased to see many excellent priorities outlined in the report. Often underappreciated, public spaces are now an important component of creating a vibrant and healthy city for all.

Of particular importance to the DVBIA are the following:

- Highlighting the importance of diverse public spaces that benefit people of all ages and abilities.
- Recognizing the critical role public spaces play, both directly and indirectly, in contributing to overall quality of life, increasing social interactions, supporting businesses and local economy, and encouraging healthy communities.
- Putting greater emphasis on year round public spaces and supporting more rain friendly infrastructure, activations, and events.
- Encouraging diverse public spaces throughout the City and actively supporting a wide range of uses and people within them.

Many of the strategic priorities identified in the strategy align with the DVBIA's placemaking goals for enhancing public spaces downtown and reflect similar recommendations from our 2015 Re-Imagine Downtown Vancouver public engagement process.

As the *Places for People Downtown Public Space Strategy* goes forward we would also like to continue to advocate for the following items that will be important to realize the vision for the strategy:

- Prioritizing public access for downtown spaces, in particular *šxwłænəq Xwtl'e7énk* Square, to ensure they are not regularly occupied for film crew truck parking or other functions that prevent public access and enjoyment of the space.
- Developing a stewardship model that incorporates long term operational and maintenance requirements related to public spaces

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Charles Gauthier  
Downtown Vancouver BIA

(public space activation funding and resource support, enhanced laneway maintenance, etc.).

- Improvements to the permitting process to expedite patios and parklets downtown and throughout the whole city.

Thank you for leading this effort and we look forward to continuing to partner with the City of Vancouver on enhancing the public realm.

Sincerely,



Charles Gauthier  
President and CEO

cc:

Sadhu Johnston, City Manager

Paul Mochrie, Deputy City Manager

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