

Chinatown - International District

Neighborhood Strategic Plan
2022-2032



Project Sponsor:
**CID Visioning Project
Advisory Group**

April 2022

Acknowledgments

The thoughts, hopes and dreams of many CID community members who participated in this project over the past two years are the foundation for this plan. The plan was drafted by consultant Trang Tu in service to reflecting community perspectives and voices, with the guidance of the CID Visioning Advisory Group, and in collaboration with additional project contributors, listed below.

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Chong Wa Benevolent Association

Chinatown International District
Business Improvement Area (CIDBIA)

Chinese Information and
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Denise Louie Education Center

Friends of Chinatown–Seattle

Friends of Japantown

Friends of Little Sài Gòn

Hop Sing Tong

International Community
Health Services (ICHS)

InterIm Community Development Association
(ICDA)

Lee Family Association

Seattle Chinatown International District
Preservation and Development Authority (SCIDPDA)

Wing Luke Museum of the Asian Pacific American
Experience

Yee Fung Toy Family Association

Project Support

Funder: City of Seattle

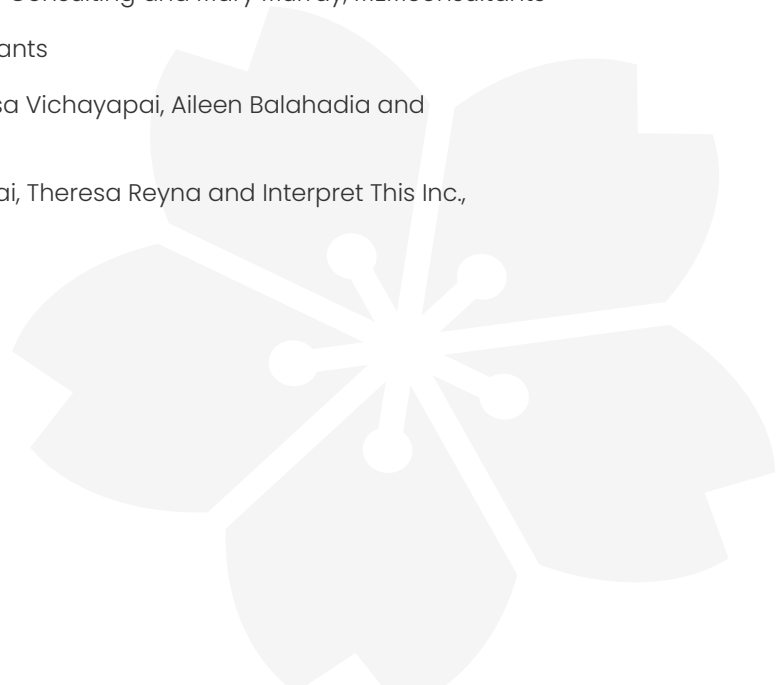
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Message from the Chinatown-International District (CID) Visioning Advisory Group

Two years ago, a group of leaders in the Chinatown-International District (CID) saw a need for a shared community vision and neighborhood plan. We came together as the CID Visioning Advisory Group, successfully advocated for seed funding and sponsored a community-led process that reflects our diversity and addresses the complexity of the CID. This resulting neighborhood plan outlines a vision for our community, concerns and strengths, and priority issue areas, goals and strategies.

Our commitment to this work has been rooted in providing an authentic community voice that does not compromise the integrity of the variety of opinions offered by business owners, community leaders, seniors, residents, monolingual non-English speaking community members and/or creed.

We thank the hundreds of community members who have participated and provided critical input, through interviews, focus groups, and a communitywide survey; and Tu Consulting and MEMconsultants for facilitation and planning support throughout this effort.

This plan was built around the priorities that emerged from community input and identifies community issues we will need to consider and tackle together. The CID has been hit particularly hard by the pandemic, racial reckoning, the

homelessness crisis, public safety issues, and transit impacts as noted by the voices in this year's work. The plan provides a guide for the CID Vision Group and challenges the neighborhood to come up with strategies and proposed resources to address the issues the community hopes we can find solutions for in the near and far-term.

As we envision the CID in 2040, we recognize that there will be significant shifts to our daily lives due to changes in anything from technology and climate change to transportation, displacement, and land use patterns.

In the next phase of our neighborhood planning efforts, our goal is to identify and integrate strategies and the investments needed to preserve the unique social fabric of our history and celebrate the complexity of the diverse voices within the CID community so that it will remain a vibrant, sustainable neighborhood now and for future generations.

CID Visioning Advisory Group

April 1, 2022



Chinatown- International District

Neighborhood Strategic Plan 2022-2032

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Summary



About the Project

The Chinatown-International District (CID) is a historically significant and culturally rich community in Seattle's south downtown that has seen decades of insufficient investment, harmful public policies, and institutional racism. In recent years, the community has faced new public and private development pressures, the devastating impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and a rise in anti-Asian hate crimes and violence.

In 2019, several CID organizations came together informally as the CID Visioning Advisory Group to identify how the community can have a stronger voice and influence in the face of these multiple pressures. With funding from the City of Seattle, the group has sponsored a community process to:

- Build a structure for inclusive community engagement and decision making,
- Ensure community self-determination in projects that impact the CID, and
- Create a long-term community vision and plan.

Phase 1 resulted in the creation of a "**CID Community Engagement Toolkit**" to support the community to collectively engage and advocate for community interests when faced with projects that could impact the CID; and for public and private sponsors of projects to engage the community and carry out projects in a way that avoids community harm and respects community vision and self-determination.

Phase 2 focused on a community survey and the creation of this document, the CID Neighborhood Strategic Plan. Below are key steps in the creation of this plan:

CID Visioning Timeline	
Phase 1 (Spring/Summer 2020 - March 2021)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community interviews and focus groups • Creation of Community Engagement Toolkit
Phase 2 (March 2021 - April 2022)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning of planning process • Review of previous community planning documents • Drafting of initial community vision, goals, and strategies • Community Survey and analysis • Revisions to vision, goals, strategies based on survey results • Drafting of complete CID Neighborhood Strategic Plan

Phase 3, starting in April 2022, will develop detailed actions, timelines and budgets for implementation of this plan. We hope that in phase 3, more in-person opportunities will open up, increase community engagement and collaboration and further strengthen the plan and the success of its implementation.

The CID Today – Community Concerns and Strengths

This plan was developed based on multiple sources of community input, including:

- Community input from Phase 1, including in-depth interviews with sixty CID community leaders and three focus groups with residents,
- Previous CID plans and studies, which are listed in Appendix F,
- Community feedback from Phase 2, including a community survey that received 580 responses, and whose results most directly shaped this plan, and
- Feedback from the CID Visioning Advisory Group, who were key advisors to the work and brought deep insights and perspectives about community needs.

Below is a summary of current concerns, needs, challenges and strengths of the CID.

Top Concerns and Issue Areas

- **Public safety is the most often and most strongly voiced community concern by far.** It is seen as connected to other issues, whether business, housing, homelessness, health or community activities. Many feel public safety must be addressed first and foremost.
- **Maintaining the cultural identity of the CID is a priority.** The community values activities that celebrate cultural traditions, the stability of longstanding residents and businesses, and balanced development that honors the history and cultures of the neighborhood.
- **Centering the experience of CID residents and business owners is important.** Respondents to the community survey frequently expressed a desire for prioritizing the voices and needs of people who live in and/or own businesses in the CID.
- **Issue areas and topics identified as priorities** include business and economic strength; neighborhood character, culture & history; housing; transportation and mobility; public spaces; and community dynamics. These form the categories for the strategies in this plan.

Concerns of Specific Populations

Elders. Historically and continuing through to today, elders have comprised a significant proportion of residents in the CID, especially Asian and non-English speaking seniors. Community input gathered in both phases of this project clearly identified elders as an important part of the community with unique needs, concerns and recommendations.

Concerns of Elders

- Public safety is by far their top concern and includes safety on public transportation; during mass gatherings like protests; and throughout the day and night.
- Elders have unique transportation needs, including the need for easier use of and fewer transfers on bus routes, and improved sidewalks.
- Some do not get involved in the community or avoid “speaking up with the government” because they are fearful and/or do not think their voices can make a difference.

Recommendations from Elders

- Provide outreach in elders’ primary languages.
- Build consistent and personal relationships with elders to help them trust and feel comfortable with community and government activities.
- Hold community meetings during the day and provide transportation.

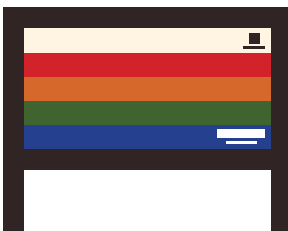
Asian communities. Even though Asian communities have been a central presence in the history of the CID, some including Little Saigon and the Filipino community, continue to feel marginalized, invisible or erased in the identity of the CID. Japantown is also affected by issues that impact the rest of the area. And there are community members of Asian heritage beyond the CID who care deeply about it and want to be involved.

Other racial and ethnic groups. The CID has also had and continues to have significant contributions from communities beside Asian groups, including its origins as Indigenous land and the presence of Black, Latinx, and Pacific Islander residents and business owners. Some community members from these groups do not feel welcome or are marginalized and express a desire for more inclusion and belonging in the CID.



Community Strengths

- **A history of successful community activism** that continues across generations and that has led to significant improvements and investments in the CID.
- Improvements that have attracted **new businesses including younger business owners**, and **new and younger families** to live in the neighborhood.
- **Mutual support during the COVID pandemic**, including support for local businesses, murals and neighborhood beautification, and COVID testing and health volunteers.
- **Mutual respect and hope across older and younger generations.**
- **Collaboration among community organizations.**
- **Community leadership** that has evolved and is held among a diverse range of leaders.
- **Breadth and diversity of groups and people who care** about the CID and want to support the neighborhood.



Chinatown-International District 10-Year Vision

Seattle's Chinatown-International District is a distinct, culturally-rich community in Seattle where those who have long faced a history of injustice find safety and belonging, residents of all ages and backgrounds thrive, locally-owned businesses prosper, and residents and visitors activate public spaces.

The community, located on the ancestral land of the Duwamish people, continually honors its history as a home for generations of Asian and Pacific Islander immigrants and refugees, while also offering an affordable, healthy foundation for success and prosperity for all who call it home.



Issue Areas, Goals and Strategies

Issue Area 1. Community Safety & Health (CSH)



Goal 1: Individual and community safety, health and wellness.

Strategies

- 1-A.** Address community public safety issues, including desired roles and levels of community and/or City policing.
- 1-B.** Ensure availability of community-based health care and social supports, with a priority on residents.

Issue Area 2. Business & Economic Strength (BES)



Goal 2: Thriving neighborhood businesses, including preservation of longstanding/legacy businesses¹ who wish to stay in the CID.

Strategies

- 2-A.** Stabilize, support, strengthen and prevent displacement of CID businesses including investment in and technical assistance for neighborhood legacy businesses.
- 2-B.** Encourage and promote customer activity in the neighborhood through increased social, community and business activities during the day as well as evenings.
- 2-C.** Attract and promote additional and ethnically diverse businesses in the neighborhood that contribute to its distinct, culturally rich character.

Issue Area 3. Neighborhood Character, Culture & History (NCCH)



Goal 3: The Asian culture and history central to the CID's identity is preserved and honored, and other communities that are part of the neighborhood's diverse history and identity are also recognized and celebrated.

Strategies

- 3-A.** Improve and activate public spaces so they are welcoming and safe, honor CID history and culture, foster health and wellness, allow for community connection and attract customers.
- 3-B.** Encourage an intentional mix of land uses (residential, commercial, public spaces) that harnesses desired development while avoiding displacement of existing residents and businesses.
- 3-C.** Encourage continued rehabilitation of historic buildings including looking at new strategies to provide financial support, incentives, and technical assistance to building owners, and considering emergency planning.
- 3-D.** Adopt and implement revised guidelines for the International Special Review District (ISRD) that support community values.

¹City of Seattle defines a legacy business as a "small business that supports community identity and stability through its long tenure."

Issue Area 4. Housing (H)



Goal 4: Housing available for both longtime/existing residents, particularly elders and families, and for residents who can strengthen customer base to support neighborhood businesses.

Strategies

- 4-A.** Prevent displacement of residents, especially longtime and vulnerable elders; and provide opportunities to repair/undo displacement that has already happened.
- 4-B.** Reduce risk of and address homelessness and evictions.
- 4-C.** Work toward a mix of housing balanced in affordability (low-income, middle-income, workforce , and market rate housing) and type of housing (family housing, elder housing).
- 4-D.** Address concerns of rental tenants about building maintenance and security, and renter rights and empowerment; and at the same time support and address needs of building owners in their relationships with tenants.

Issue Area 5. Transportation & Mobility (TM)



Goal 5: Ease of getting around within and to and from the neighborhood, with a priority on residents, particularly elders.

Strategies

- 5-A.** Balance neighborhood needs for diverse transportation capacity including: parking needs of different types of users; pedestrian safety; and public transportation.
- 5-B.** Address traffic and congestion that negatively impacts the CID.
- 5-C.** Advocate for inclusive access across all transportation modes and infrastructure.

Issue Area 6. Community Strength & Self-Determination (CSS)



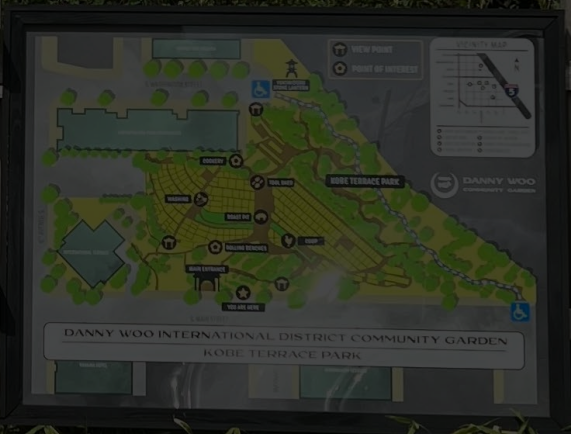
Goal 6: A CID inclusive of diverse groups and across generations, who use collective voice and power for community self-determination the CID's growth and development.

Strategies

- 6-A.** Address divides among communities and across generations, foster healing and trust.
- 6-B.** Support community leadership, social connections, civic engagement and knowledge building.
- 6-C.** Bring strong community voice and advocacy on external projects and policies so that public and private entities: center community priorities and goals; provide mitigation and public benefits; maintain public infrastructure (roads, sidewalks, parks and public spaces); and invest in CID businesses, properties and communitywide efforts.
- 6-D.** Explore community ownership of commercial and residential property as a possible vehicle for greater community control and self-determination.

Complete Neighborhood Plan

國際區花園
胡進培
WELCOME TO
THE DANNY WOO
INTERNATIONAL
DISTRICT
COMMUNITY
GARDEN
DANNY WOO
COMMUNITY GARDEN



About the Project

Neighborhood Context. The Chinatown-International District (CID) is a historically significant and culturally rich community in Seattle's south downtown that has seen decades of insufficient public and private investment, harmful public policies, and institutional racism. In recent years, the community has faced new development pressures that will impact the neighborhood. These major projects include the Sound Transit West Seattle Ballard Link Extension (WSBLE), and significant updates to the City of Seattle's Comprehensive Plan and Transportation Plan. And since early 2020, the COVID pandemic and a surge in anti-Asian hate crimes and violence have added to neighborhood challenges.

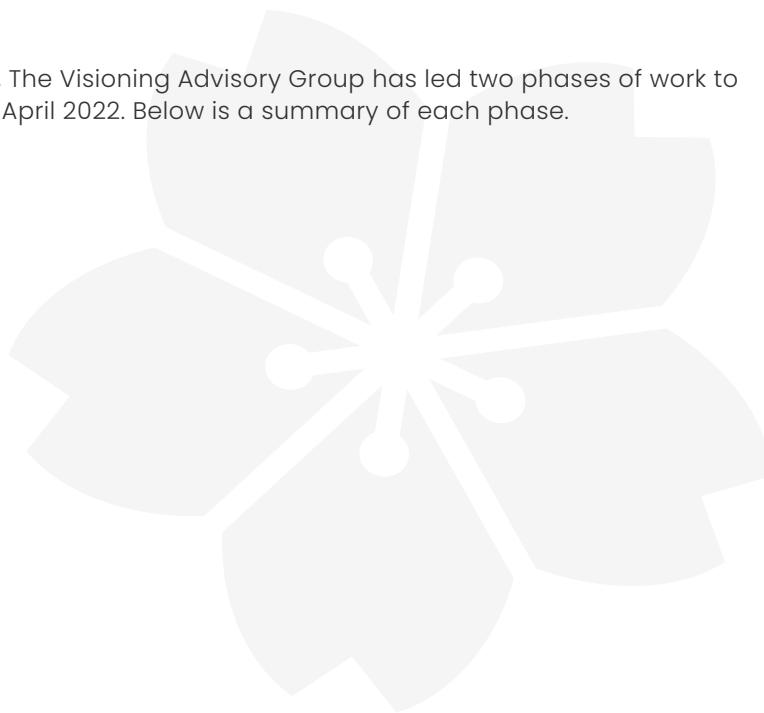
Formation of CID Visioning Advisory Group. In 2019, several CID organizations came together informally to identify how the community can have a stronger voice and influence in the face of these multiple pressures. An earlier effort between the City of Seattle and a number of CID community participants from 2016 to mid-2018 was called the CID Framework and Implementation Plan. This disbanded in 2018, with many of the community participants re-establishing a community-led process, called the CID Visioning Advisory Group.

The Advisory Group secured funding from the City of Seattle Department of Neighborhoods to support a community process that would:

- Build a structure for inclusive community engagement and decision making,
- Ensure community self-determination in projects that impact the CID, and
- Create a long-term community vision and plan, as a road map to center and advocate for the community's goals and needs.

The CID Visioning Advisory Group includes representation from: API Coalition Advocating Together for Health (APICAT), Chong Wa Benevolent Association, Chinatown International District Business Improvement Area (CIDBIA), Chinese Information and Service Center (CISC), Denise Louie Education Center, Friends of Chinatown Seattle, Friends of Japantown, Friends of Little Sài Gòn, Hop Sing Tong, International Community Health Services (IHS), InterIm Community Development Association (ICDA), Lee Family Association, Seattle Chinatown International District Preservation and Development Authority (SCIDPDA), Wing Luke Museum of the Asian Pacific American Experience, and the Yee Fung Toy Family Association.

Community-led CID Visioning work. The Visioning Advisory Group has led two phases of work to date, with a third phase beginning in April 2022. Below is a summary of each phase.



Phase 1 (Spring/Summer 2020 to March 2021). In March 2020, the Advisory Group selected a consulting team led by Tu Consulting, with support from MEMconsultants, to conduct Phase 1 work. Delayed by the start of the COVID pandemic in March 2020, the team began work in July 2020. The long-term outcomes for Phase 1 were to ensure:

- Meaningful opportunities for participation across diverse communities in the CID.
- Powerful community voice on projects and policies that impact the CID,
- Implementation of projects that support community goals and needs.

The main goal of phase 1 was to build a model for inclusive community engagement, decision making and advocacy. The model would include strategies for community representation and desired roles for the City of Seattle and other project sponsors. It would also include a plan for participation of diverse community members in decision making, with special attention to centering groups that have not had the opportunity to participate meaningfully in the past. The work was divided into three sub-phases:

CID VISIONING PHASE 1		
July – September 2020	October – Dec 2020	Feb – March 2022
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plan and preparation • Gathering diverse community input <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sixty community interviews • Three resident focus groups 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research on community engagement and decision-making models • Report back on community input and research • Development of Community Engagement Toolkit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community feedback on draft Toolkit • Revised Toolkit • Phase 2 Planning

Informed by community input, along with Advisory Group guidance, the initial focus evolved. Instead of a static, one-size-for-all model that would not be ideal for different community engagement efforts, work shifted to building a Toolkit that could be tailored for different efforts. Called the “CID Community Engagement Toolkit,” this became the primary deliverable for Phase 1. The complete Toolkit can be found [here](#) (click on word “here” to reach link) and the Final Report for Phase 1 can be found [here](#) (click on word “here” to reach link). The Toolkit is intended for:

- The CID to **collectively engage, make decisions about and advocate for community interests** when faced with issues, concerns or projects that could impact the CID;
- **Public and private sponsors of projects that impact the CID**, such as the City of Seattle, King County, and state government; other public agencies; private developers; non-profit organizations; and others: to meaningfully and equitably engage the community in processes and projects and to carry out those projects in a way that avoids community harm and respects community vision and self-determination;
- **Different types** of community issues or projects, recognizing that one cookie-cutter model may not fit for different situations or issues; and
- Scoping and planning an **intentional and tailored** process for the community to come together on a specific issue or project.

The Toolkit includes a set of Core Values for CID community processes, created by the Advisory Group with feedback from others in the community, and intended to guide all projects that impact the CID. The Core Values include a special focus on Equity Principles.

Core Values for CID Community Process

Transparency and Trust

- Be clear and open about the process and decision-making.
- Report back how input and feedback was used or informed the work.

Collaboration and Shared Purpose

- Reach back to reach forward, embracing history between neighborhoods to move forward.
- Focus on working together for the common good.
- Work through differences of opinion respectfully and constructively.
- Be open to mistakes, learning, and improving over time.

Civility

- Create spaces where people are comfortable sharing opinions.
- Listen and understand others' ideas and perspectives.

Inclusion and Equity

- **Recognize and work to mitigate the impact of historic inequities**
 - Build shared understanding of the roots of inequities and systems of power.
 - Create opportunities for community healing.
- **Infuse equity into every aspect of the work**
 - Include diverse people, voices, ideas and information and recognize different communities equally.
 - Prioritize underrepresented people and communities, and those most impacted.
 - Offer multiple and varied opportunities for participation, including responding to the needs of specific groups and/or cultures.
 - Avoid overtapping "the usual suspects."
 - Do not tokenize or co-opt people.
- **Level the playing field. Ensure people can participate meaningfully:**
 - Address barriers to participation such as language, knowledge gaps, logistics and transportation, and family support.
 - Invest in building community knowledge and capacity to engage meaningfully.
 - Ensure high-quality language support.
 - Value community members' time by offering compensation for participation.

Phase 2 (March 2021 to March 2022). With the completion of Phase 1, the Advisory Group continued work to develop a long-term vision for the CID. This second phase of work began in March 2021 with a new team of consultants; however, the lead consultant had to withdraw unexpectedly due to health concerns. Subsequently, in June 2021 MEMconsultants and Tu Consulting were retained and returned to support Phase 2.

The main goals of Phase 2, which was divided into three sub-phases, were to:

- Engage community in a visioning process that results in a neighborhood plan with a long-term community vision, key issue areas and strategies;
- Test and refine the CID Community Engagement Toolkit created in Phase 1, by piloting its use to plan the community visioning process; and
- Build a structure for Phase 3 work to create implementation details for the neighborhood plan.

CID VISIONING PHASE 2		
June – July 2021	August – October 2021	Jan 2022 – March 2022
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use Toolkit to plan visioning process • Collect feedback on and refine Toolkit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review past plans and relevant reports • Develop initial draft of neighborhood plan for community input • Design and implement community survey on first draft 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analyze survey data and report results • Use survey results to revise neighborhood priorities, goals and strategies • Pull together complete plan • Plan Phase 3

The primary deliverables in Phase 2 were a community survey, which garnered 580 responses from community members; a refined Community Engagement Toolkit; and this document, the Chinatown-International District Neighborhood Strategic Plan with a 10-year Vision and identification of priority issues, goals and strategies.

Phase 3 (starting Spring 2022). Phase 3 will continue and build on the first two phases of work. It will develop detailed actions, timelines and budgets for implementation of the strategies in this plan.

Limitations of the process. While the intended deliverables and meaningful results were produced, the process was not without limitations. The COVID-19 pandemic significantly influenced and shaped the first two phases of work and will impact at least part of Phase 3 work. To ensure public safety and to comply with public health mandates, the project conducted almost all community outreach and engagement through virtual methods. In Phase 1, informant interviews, focus groups and open houses were done remotely via video and in Phase 2, initial ideas for community workshops or charrettes were replaced by a community survey that was distributed online and in person. In both phases, all Advisory Group meetings were held by video conference.

The inability to use in-person outreach methods created challenges for individuals who do not have access to the internet or technology. Even though the Advisory Group represents a significant cross-section of stakeholders and organizations in the CID, deeper involvement from more community members and groups in phase 3 will further strengthen the plan and the success of its implementation. We hope that as more in-person activities open up in 2022, Phase 3 will provide additional opportunities for community collaboration.

The CID Today – Community Concerns and Strengths

Data sources. The strategies in this plan were developed based on multiple sources of community input about current needs in the CID. Each source is described below.

Community input from Phase 1. In Phase 1, in-depth interviews were conducted with sixty CID community leaders. The list was carefully crafted with Advisory Group guidance and assistance, to ensure representation and perspectives from diverse communities and interests within the CID. Additionally, to support equitable outreach, three focus groups for residents were held, two of which were with Chinese-speaking resident elders. Interviews and focus groups discussed three topics:

- projects and initiatives that will impact the CID
- community leadership gaps and opportunities
- community decision-making structure and community engagement

The input from this work directly informed the creation of this plan. A detailed report from the Phase 1 work can be found [here](#) (click on word “here” to reach link).

Review of previous plans and studies. To build on previous work, numerous planning documents and studies were reviewed in both Phase 1 and Phase 2 to identify current issues in the CID. Specifically, these previous reports and plans informed the creation of an initial draft of issues and strategies that became the content for a community survey to solicit community feedback. Documents reviewed are listed in the table below, with hyperlinks where available. The documents and links are also in Appendix E.



Data sources. (continued)

Previous Plans and Reports Reviewed (links included where available)	
Title	Date
1. Chinatown-International District Strategic Plan	June 1998
2. Nihonmachi Community Open Spaces Initiatives: Community Design Study Report	2005
3. Little Saigon, Japantown, Chinatown – International District [sic] Vision 2030 (summary and brochure)	June 2006
4. Chinatown-International District 2020 Healthy Community Action Plan	2016
5. Equitable Development Implementation Plan	April 2016
6. Unreinforced Masonry and Neighborhood Preservation Report	June 2016
7. Commercial Affordability Advisory Committee Recommendations Report	2016
8. Mayor’s Commercial Affordability Action Plan	2016
9. Chinatown-International District Public Safety Task Force Report	June 2016
10. Mayor’s CID Public Safety Action Plan	July 2016
11. South Jackson Street Connections Final Report	November 2016
12. Legacy Business Study	September 2017
13. Chinatown-International District Toxics Study: Community Report	2018
14. Chinatown-International District Framework and Implementation Plan: 2018 Status Report	November 2018
15. Jackson Hub: Reconnecting Neighborhoods: Final Concept	March 2019
16. South Downtown Neighborhood Priorities Review and Summary for Sound Transit West Seattle to Ballard Link Extension	Summer 2019
17. Post-occupancy Evaluation of Two Chinatown-International District Parks: Donnie Chin International Children’s Park & Hing Hay Park	November 2019
18. Planning for Inclusiveness: Evaluating the Public Involvement Process of the Hing Hay Park Expansion Project in Seattle’s Chinatown-International District	June 2020
19. Chinatown-International District Visioning Project Phase 1 Community Input	Summer 2020
20. I-5 Underpass Action Project Report	December 2020

Community feedback from Phase 2. Phase 2 included a community survey to solicit feedback on initial draft strategies and issues. The survey was conducted in the fall of 2021; provided in paper and online formats; and translated into English, Tagalog, traditional Chinese, simplified Chinese, and Vietnamese. The survey resulted in 580 responses, 60 percent from non-English speakers and 33 percent from elders. Survey feedback was the most direct and current source that shaped the goals and strategies in this plan. An Executive Summary of the survey is in Appendix F and a detailed survey report can be found [here](#) (click on word “here” to reach link).

Feedback from CID Visioning Advisory Group. Throughout Phase 1 and 2 work, members of the CID Visioning Advisory Group served as key advisors and sounding boards to the work. Additionally, as longtime community leaders and representatives of range of organizations in the CID, they also brought deep insights and perspectives about community needs.

Summary of Community Concerns and Strengths. Below is a summary of current concerns, needs, challenges and strengths of the CID that draws from the multiple sources of community input described in the previous section. The section is divided into three sub-sections: Top Concerns and Issue Areas, Concerns of Specific Populations, and Community Strengths.

Top Concerns and Issue Areas

- **Public safety is the most often and most strongly voiced community concern by far.** It is seen as connected to other issues, whether business, housing, homelessness, health or community activities. Community members describe a rise in crime that is increasingly violent and homicidal, creating a “war zone” environment in the CID and a deep sense of fear. Many feel issues of public safety must be addressed first before other neighborhood issues can be fully addressed.
- **Maintaining the cultural identity of the CID is a priority.** The community values activities that celebrate cultural traditions, the stability of longstanding residents and businesses, and balanced development that honors the history and cultures of the neighborhood.
- **Centering the experience of CID residents and business owners is important.** Respondents to the community survey frequently expressed a desire for prioritizing the voices and needs of people who live in and/or own businesses in the CID (especially businesses that serve residents). This view was common among those within the CID but also among visitors and others from outside the CID.
- **Issue areas and topics identified as priorities** include business and economic strength; neighborhood character, culture & history; housing; transportation and mobility; public spaces; and community dynamics. These form the categories for the strategies in this plan. A later section describes needs and concerns for each of these areas, along with 10-year goals and strategies to address the issues.



Concerns of Specific Populations. In addition to perspectives by issues, specific groups of CID community members also voiced unique needs. These are highlighted below.

Elders. Historically and continuing through to today, elders have comprised a significant proportion of residents in the CID, especially Asian and non-English speaking seniors. Community input gathered in both phases of this project clearly identified elders as an important part of the community with unique needs. Their concerns and recommendations are summarized below.

Concerns of Elders

- Public safety is by far elders’ top concern. Many have lived in the CID for a long time, consider it very much their home, and are highly active in it but especially in recent years have been limited in their activities due to safety concerns.
- Elders shared concerns about safety in a variety of settings including: while using public transportation; during mass gatherings in the neighborhood such as protests; and throughout the day, from morning to nighttime.
- Elders have unique transportation needs, including the need for easier use of and fewer transfers on bus routes, and improved/accessible sidewalks.
- Some do not feel empowered to be involved with community or civic affairs or “speaking up with the government.” They are fearful and/or do not think their voices can make a difference.

Recommendations from Elders

- Provide outreach in elders’ primary languages.
- Community organizations and leaders should build consistent and personal relationships with elders to help them trust and feel comfortable with community outreach and activities.
- Hold community meetings during the day and provide transportation.

Asian communities. Even though Asian communities have been a central presence in the history of the CID, members of some communities, particularly Little Saigon and the Filipino community, continue to feel marginalized, invisible or erased in connection to the identity of the CID. Japantown, or Nihonmachi, is also affected by issues that impact the rest of the area. And there are community members of Asian heritage beyond the geographic area of the CID who care deeply about it, whether as longtime visitors or descendants of family members who were early pioneers in the neighborhood. They expressed a desire to be involved in and support the CID.

Other racial and ethnic groups. The CID has also historically had and continues to have significant contributions from communities beside Asian groups, including its origins as Indigenous land and the presence of Black, Latinx, and Pacific Islander residents and business owners. Community members from these groups acknowledge the shared history, but some say they do not feel welcome or are marginalized. They also expressed a desire for more belonging and to bridge across communities in the CID.



Community Strengths

Community Strengths. Despite the broad range of needs and concerns in the CID, community members also spoke to many strengths in the community. These include:

- **A history of successful community activism** that continues across generations.
- Community advocacy that has achieved **significant improvements and investments** in the CID including more affordable housing, a library, community center, parks development, health clinic, childcare, and senior programs.
- Improvements that have attracted **new businesses including younger business owners, and new and younger families** to live in the neighborhood.
- **Mutual support during the COVID pandemic**, including support for local businesses, murals and neighborhood beautification, and COVID testing and health volunteers.
- **Mutual respect and hope across older and younger generations**, even as there may be tension or conflict.
- **Community organizations** that often collaborate even though they may sometimes compete.
- **Community leadership** that has evolved and now may be different from the past, in not relying on only a few well-known leaders but being held more and shared by many leaders.
- **Breadth and diversity of groups and people who care** about the CID and want to support the neighborhood, despite disagreements and tensions.

Definitions

The following sections include an overall 10-year Vision for the Chinatown-International District, along with Goals and Strategies to achieve the vision, organized by Issue Areas. Vision, goals and strategies are inter-related, and defined below.

10-Year Vision. A vision is a statement of what the community would like the neighborhood to ideally look like, be like, and feel like, over the long-term. It forms the foundation, or “north star”, to guide what strategies and actions are intended to achieve.

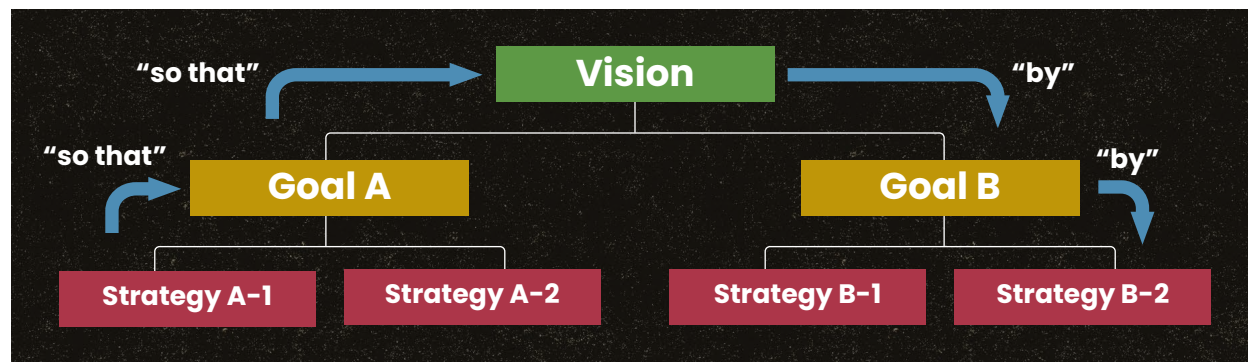
Goals. Goals are statements of a desired outcome. They should be more specific than the overall vision, and achievable. In this plan, each issue area has an overall goal statement, under which are multiple strategies to achieve the goal.

Strategies. Strategies are more specific than goals and are statements of what needs to be done to fulfill a goal. For this plan, the focus was to identify a discrete set of strategies that would be most effective and impactful in achieving a goal. The intent of this is to help focus actions and advocacy of the community as well as of community partners.

Implementation Actions. Implementation Actions are specific tasks to accomplish strategies. Actions should be specific and identify who will carry them out, cost and resources required, and a timeline. For this project, implementation planning will take place in Phase 3 starting in early 2022. Additional description of this subsequent work is in the later section titled “Implementation Planning.”

Relationship among Vision, Goals, Strategies and Implementation Actions. The purpose of having these multiple interconnected elements is to provide a clear and intentional path to achieve the vision. They are intended to help keep efforts focused, use community efforts and resources strategically, and provide a basis for future checks on progress toward the vision.

A word aid to help remember how these elements relate to each other is, “by and so that.” Higher elements are achieved “by” lower elements (for example, Vision is achieved “by” implementing goals), while lower elements are done “so that” higher elements are achieved (for example, Actions are done “so that” Strategies are achieved).



10-Year Vision



Chinatown-International District 10-Year Vision

Seattle's Chinatown-International District is a distinct, culturally-rich community in Seattle where those who have long faced a history of injustice find safety and belonging, residents of all ages and backgrounds thrive, locally-owned businesses prosper, and residents and visitors activate public spaces.

The community, located on the ancestral land of the Duwamish people, continually honors its history as a home for generations of Asian and Pacific Islander immigrants and refugees, while also offering an affordable, healthy foundation for success and prosperity for all who call it home.



Issue Areas, Goals and Strategies

The tables on the following pages lay out goals and strategies to address six topics, or Issue Areas, which reflect the top concerns among CID community members:

Community Safety & Health



Business & Economic Strength



Neighborhood Character, Culture & History



Housing

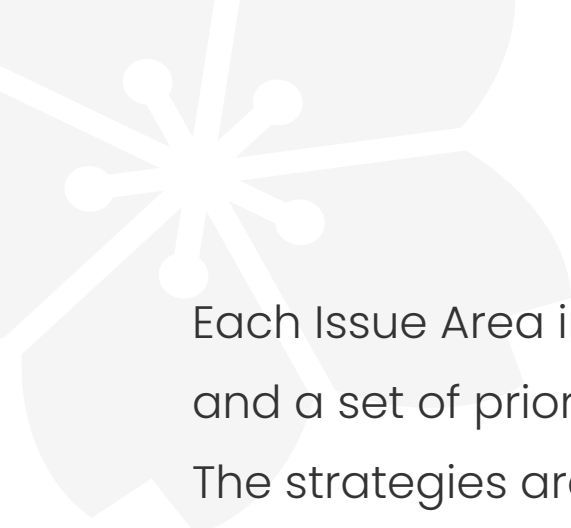


Transportation & Mobility



Community Strength & Self-Determination





Each Issue Area includes an overall long-term goal, and a set of priority strategies to help achieve the goal. The strategies are not exhaustive; rather, emphasis was put on identifying a small set (3 to 5) strategies that are most critical and potentially highest impact.

For each Issue Area, community concerns are also described, including ones where community members have different perspectives. Often, there is agreement on the importance of an issue or overall goal, but different views on the approach that should be taken. These will need further community conversation and reconciliation during Phase 3 action planning. Selected quotes from community members drawn from the Fall 2021 Community Survey data are also included.

Lastly, many of the concerns cut across multiple issues or are interdependent. These are also noted in this section and in Appendix C.



Issue Area 1.

Community Safety & Health (CSH)

Goal 1: Individual and community safety, health and wellness.

Strategies

1-A. Address community public safety issues, including desired roles and levels of community and/or City policing.

1-B. Ensure availability of community-based health care and social supports, with a priority on residents.

Concerns

- Safety and security concerns in the CID have reached historic highs with community members reporting a deep sense of fear and a “war zone” feel to the neighborhood. Issues span a wide range including crime (especially violent crime), personal safety, property safety, cleanliness, hygiene, graffiti and homelessness. Concerns about community safety are most strongly expressed by residents, business owners and property owners, but are also expressed by visitors and others outside the CID.
- In the past two years, the COVID-19 pandemic and anti-Asian hate and violence have significantly added to community safety and health concerns, especially for resident elders.
- Many community members see the need to clean up and improve public spaces and public environments so that they are safe and welcoming, and to continue efforts to activate public spaces, a sentiment voiced by diverse groups including young and old, residents and visitors.
- Community-based health care and social services are critical supports for residents, especially elders and non-English speakers.

Different Perspectives

- Community policing. Many desire a stronger police presence in the CID, a sentiment frequently expressed by residents, elders and non-English speakers. Others disagree with the calls for more policing and prefer alternative public safety solutions.
- Services for homeless people. There are different perspectives on whether services for the unhoused should be provided in the CID. Some wonder if additional services attract those with high health care needs from outside the neighborhood rather than serving people within the CID.

Links to Other Issues

- Public spaces, public safety and finding appropriate responses to increased homelessness intersect.
- There is also a relationship between the needs of people who are unhoused and the availability of community supports.

Community Quotes

“Infrastructural improvement of Alleyways that includes better, culturally relevant lighting as well as ... measures regarding trash, recycling, and waste disposal in order to keep it better contained and processed, if not removed, sooner, thus making the Alleyways cleaner and more pedestrian friendly as well as safer at night too.”

~ Resident, Pacific Islander

“Creating a section that addresses the way developers would be required to contribute to the public spaces, including public alleyways and courtyards within their projects.”

~ Business Owner, Native Hawaiian

“Needs to be a balance of social services that not all services get concentrated in one area. Needs to be spread out throughout the city.”

~ Chinese Family Association, Member, Elder

“I love this...but...community policing makes me a little nervous. Describe “policing” and get good feedback from residents and businesses.”

~ Black/African American

“Police are missing! We need them! Too much shoplifting, car prowls, graffiti, drug use and selling, theft, window-breaking, etc.”

~ Resident & Owner

“How do we continue or create our own IDEC [International District Emergency Center] instead of relying on Seattle police?”

~ Resident, Vietnamese

“Public safety is a critical point that touches everything in this survey. If the residents and employees in the CID don’t feel safe, we can’t expect people visiting to feel safe.”

~ Resident & Worker, Japanese

“Ensure public safety without over-policing or displacing homeless people.”

~ Asian

“I am all for it BUT first - drug dealing & crimes have got to STOP.”

~ Customer, Vietnamese

“I hope more health service choices would be available. Add more services such as eye, dental clinical, private health service offices.”

~ Resident, Chinese

“Good: because seniors have no income they all rely on social resources.”

~ Resident, Chinese Elder

“The availability and easy access to health and human services are vital in keeping neighborhood residents, business owners, and employees healthy.”

~ Community Volunteer, Filipino

“I disagree with the call for more community policing. Police pose more danger to community residents.”

~ Resident, Filipino



Issue Area 2.

Business & Economic Strength (BES)

Goal 2: Thriving neighborhood businesses, including preservation of longstanding/legacy businesses who wish to stay in the CID.

Strategies

- 2-A.** Stabilize, support, strengthen and prevent displacement of CID businesses including investment in and technical assistance for neighborhood legacy businesses.
- 2-B.** Encourage and promote customer activity in the neighborhood through increased social, community and business activities during the day as well as evenings.
- 2-C.** Attract and promote additional and ethnically diverse businesses in the neighborhood that contribute to its distinct, culturally-rich character.

Concerns

- Community members describe that development pressures continue to put neighborhood businesses, including longstanding and historic businesses, at risk of displacement.
- CID businesses have also been devastated by both the COVID-19 pandemic and surge in anti-Asian hate and violence.
- At the same time, there is also a need to attract new and diverse businesses to help revitalize vacant storefronts and boost economic activity.

Different Perspectives

- Community members have a range of views about the desired types and mix of businesses. Most survey respondents prioritize existing local businesses, while some are open to or eager for new businesses. Many also wish to prioritize businesses that serve residents over those that attract visitors.

Links to Other Issues

- Public safety concerns have a major negative impact on businesses' ability to operate, sustain themselves, and thrive.
- Business income is linked to the ability and desire of the neighborhood residents, workers and visitors to shop in the CID.

Community Quotes

“Strengthen the community businesses so our community would be more prosperous. If the businesses move elsewhere, our community would not be prosperous.”

~ Resident, Chinese Elder

“There’s still much room for CID to grow. I wouldn’t necessarily prevent further diversification of other businesses.”

*~ Business & Property Owner,
Vietnamese Young Adult*

“There are many small businesses in CID and we need to help and support them. With good business, it’ll bring more people to the area and also make the area safer.”

~ CID Worker, Chinese

“To stabilize, support and strengthen the businesses in this community, the 1st thing is to make sure this environment is a secure community. People like me don’t dare to go out without a buddy currently, which means we will avoid to come and enjoy the activities in this community.”

~ Worker & Customer, Pacific Islander

“Can we prevent the displacement of the neighborhood and make sure that small family-owned businesses stay around and not have so many chain businesses?”

~ Resident, Vietnamese

“Local businesses owned by individuals have been neglected significantly in recent years. City has done almost nothing to protect businesses and their customers from attacks and harassment... Things like economic strength that we need to discuss about IS MEANINGLESS if theses security measures (for residents and businesses) are not dealt with first.”

*~ Worker & Customer,
Japanese/Native American*

“My main questions, more of a comment, is that we should keep in mind “who are these activities for” and “who ultimately benefits”. As long as the immigrant and refugee family businesses benefit, that is great. They are a key part of the neighborhood. But if gentrifying or boutique establishments are the primary beneficiary’s, I am less thrilled.”

~ Worker, Chinese Young Adult



Issue Area 3.

Neighborhood Character, Culture & History (NCCH)

Goal 3: The Asian culture and history central to the CID’s identity is preserved and honored, and other communities that are part of the neighborhood’s diverse history and identity are also recognized and celebrated.

Strategies

- 3-A.** Improve and activate public spaces so they are welcoming and safe, honor CID history and culture, foster health and wellness, allow for community connection and attract customers.
- 3-B.** Encourage an intentional mix of land uses (residential, commercial, public spaces) that harnesses desired development while avoiding displacement of existing residents and businesses.
- 3-C.** Encourage continued rehabilitation of historic buildings including looking at new strategies to provide financial support, incentives, and technical assistance to building owners, and considering emergency planning.
- 3-D.** Adopt and implement revised guidelines for the International Special Review District (ISRD) that support community values.

Concerns

- Preserving the cultural and historic identity of the CID is among the top desires expressed by the community. Many call for inclusion of all the diverse cultures and communities that have been and/or are part of the CID.
- The CID has a significant proportion of older and/or historic buildings needing rehabilitation. This requires sustained efforts to work with building and property owners, including looking for creative strategies, since some programs tried in the past have not been effective.
- Community members have concerns about safety issues presented by older buildings, and see a need for emergency planning (for example, in the event of an earthquake) and review of the City of Seattle’s unreinforced masonry resolution.
- Some community members expressed need for new guidelines for the International Special Review District (ISRD).

Different Perspectives

- Survey comments reflect a tension between preservation and development, with most desiring a balance between the two.

Links to Other Issues

- Historic preservation can play a role in limiting or supporting business expansion and development.
- The condition of older buildings can present safety concerns.

Community Quotes

“Preserving the historic and cultural asset of our neighborhood is our greatest strength for our community and greater Seattle. We can’t afford to lose this important asset to vandalism, crime and ignoring the illegal dumping and garbage issues and confronting the houseless issue.”
 ~ Business Owner, Japanese

“It would be great to see more partnerships with the wider Asian American and Pacific Islander communities as well as Black, Latinx, and Indigenous peoples.”
 ~ Worker, Filipino

“I understand preservation of the cultural and historic identity, but we need to reestablish an actual cultural and historic identity again; just look at the plain, poorly lit lights in the Hing Hay expansion or the hideous metal, postmodern archway, none of which compares to the beauty and elegance of the Hing Hay Pagoda or the ornate lamp posts in the neighborhood. We NEED to build culturally AGAIN, not IMITATE the boring that exists outside our neighborhood.”
 ~ Resident, Pacific Islander

“While I fully support the idea of preserving the community’s cultural history and identity, I wonder if they could be additional space for intersectional identities within these communities!”
 ~ Worker, Latinx Young Adult

“How are you preserving the cultural and historic identity of the neighborhood if you are only including, Chinese, Japanese and Vietnamese culture. The CID is much more and has history in other cultures, that are never recognized or spoken about.”
 ~ Black/African American

“The balance between freezing something in time while allowing for innovative and relevant advances in a rapidly changing Seattle will be important to include in the “plan.”
 ~ Business Owner, Native Hawaiian

“I agree with preserving the history, but to a certain point. Many people are saying it’s very hard to change their store, even their street sign in CID. There’s no reason CID be the hardest place for business in the whole Seattle area.”
 ~ Worker, Chinese

“Rehabilitation of older buildings is KEY to not losing the personality of the ID.”
 ~ White Young Adult



Issue Area 4.

Housing (H)

Goal 4: Housing available for both longtime/existing residents, particularly elders and families, and for residents who can strengthen customer base to support neighborhood businesses.

Strategies

- 4-A.** Prevent displacement of residents, especially longtime and vulnerable elders; and provide opportunities to repair/undo displacement that has already happened.
- 4-B.** Reduce risk of and address homelessness and evictions.
- 4-C.** Work toward a mix of housing balanced in affordability (low-income, middle-income, workforce, and market rate housing) and type of housing (family housing, elder housing).
- 4-D.** Address concerns of rental tenants about building maintenance and security, and renter rights and empowerment; and at the same time support and address needs of building owners in their relationships with tenants.

Concerns

- Community perspectives about housing include several inter-related concerns. Development pressures continue to put residents at risk of displacement, especially if there is lack of affordable housing. This raises the need to create a mix of housing for residents with a range of income levels, so people can continue to live in the CID as their economic circumstances improve.
- Within the mix of housing, there is also a need for more family housing and workforce housing. Workforce housing is especially important for employees in the CID who may also wish to live in the community.
- Renters have concerns about building maintenance, security, affordability, evictions, and tenants' rights. Evictions can lead to chronic homelessness. At the same time, building owners need support in managing and maintaining buildings.

Different Perspectives

- Response to homelessness in the CID. While a concern for all, there are divergent perspectives about the most appropriate or effective response. Some express a desire to relocate the homeless population outside the neighborhood; in the community survey these sentiments were most expressed by elders (who frequently are also non-English speakers) and shared by other residents and business owners. Others express a desire to support the homeless population within the community; these comments were expressed by some residents and business owners, especially young adults.
- Mix of housing. Community members have different opinions about the appropriate balance of different types of housing. Some call for more low-income housing to counter potential displacement, while others express a desire for more market rate housing to support local businesses and neighborhood economy. Survey respondents who are directly in the CID often spoke to the need for affordable housing and family housing, while comments from outside the CID had more diverse opinions.

Links to Other Issues

- Having a residential base with diverse incomes is connected to and supports neighborhood business activity.
- Homelessness impacts business growth and public safety.

Community Quotes

The combination of a mixed-income, types of housing, revitalizing unused space, and potential of homeownership is key in building a vibrant community...

~ Filipino

Need compassionate, progressive approaches that don't criminalize and punish homelessness, drug addiction, mental illness, etc.

~Young Adult Resident, Multi-ethnic

There is so much to be cleaned up in the neighborhood. It would be nice to first address this public health concern. Hundreds of homeless and homeless camps throughout the Jackson neighborhood. Let's talk about how to address this first.

~ Elder, Latinx

We need more low income and family sized housing, not luxury condos and apartments.

~ Resident, Chinese Young Adult

Housing is imbalanced today towards low income. Not enough market rate housing to support businesses. Even the low-income residents want a hotel and market rate housing because they know it supports the businesses while they can't.

~ Elder, Chinese

Who are these tent people (people who live on streets) who steal, harass, give damage to the local residents, businesses and tourists? They are not choosing NOT to be sheltered, so it's meaningless until the city bans living on streets for consecutive days. Most important thing is to BAN living on streets. This will start resolving the issue of tons of dangerous trash on the streets and random people walking around with knives and guns.

~ Japanese Indigenous/Native American

The owners need to be responsible for the upkeep of the building it shouldn't take months to solve an issue.

~ Resident, Black/African American Young Adult



Issue Area 5.

Transportation & Mobility (TM)

Goal 5: Ease of getting around within and to and from the neighborhood, with a priority on residents, particularly elders.

Strategies

- 5-A.** Balance neighborhood needs for diverse transportation capacity including: parking needs of different types of users; pedestrian safety; and public transportation.
- 5-B.** Address traffic and congestion that negatively impacts the CID.
- 5-C.** Advocate for inclusive access across all transportation modes and infrastructure.

Concerns

- Community members expressed the need to balance different transportation modes in the neighborhood, especially car/driving/parking, pedestrians, public transportation and bicycle modes.
- Traffic and congestion impacts, especially significant from sports facilities on game and event days as tens of thousands of facility patrons come to the CID, take up limited parking, and often pass through the neighborhood without bringing benefits such as business patronage. At the same time, many businesses see parking as a critical element in customer access.
- Improving pedestrian safety, especially for elders, was called out as a need.
- Several concerns center on public transportation. Sound Transit's future light rail extension will have a major impact on the neighborhood. Many community members cited the need for affordable and accessible public transportation. Some also called for regular and adequate maintenance of public transportation infrastructure (roads, sidewalks, bike lanes, etc.).
- Some community members said that transportation issues are not self-contained within just the CID, and require a broad view, collaboration across communities, and engagement from city government.

Different Perspectives

- Many survey comments described the tension in balancing different transportation modes and priorities of different transportation users.
- Many respondents also call for more affordable parking to encourage customers to visit businesses while others want to limit parking to discourage car use.

Links to Other Issues

- Transportation is linked to business activity, especially parking for customers and workers in the neighborhood and movement of commercial goods.
- Public safety was a theme in community input about pedestrian safety and parking.

Community Quotes

There are zero safe parking areas in the International District. We need safe parking garages.

~ Owner and Resident

Safe, affordable parking in the CID has always been a growing issue. Many people still use their personal vehicles because there aren't many convenient options.

~ Business & Property Owner, Vietnamese

More building with more parking should be built because it is hard to park and it is greatly impacting the consumers coming to the CID.

~ Chinese

"Ensure pedestrian safety..." is huge. The sidewalks and streets are ankle twisters for people who do not have mobility needs and absolutely treacherous for anyone who needs a cane/walker/wheelchair to get around. Also, too many drivers heading down Jackson often turn left without regard to people in the crosswalks.

~ Filipino

Traveling from CID to other places is inconvenient due to route changes. We need vehicles with direct routes. Seniors have problem taking bus that switch routes and requires buying tickets twice, especially inconvenient are the light rail buses.

~ Chinese

Hope drivers slow down a bit when seniors cross the road.

~ Resident, Chinese Elder

I think addressing parking needs is a big must, but would require working with neighboring communities as well! Many people who work in the neighborhood struggle to find adequate parking when there are events downtown or at the stadium.

~ Resident, Asian

I'd hope that there is continued vigilance around future light rail and extension proposals. I do not trust Sound Transit to value our neighborhood as past options reveal this. I'm specifically reminded that one potential option would tear down the building and businesses by the China-town gate.

~ Japanese

I think it is important to develop a plan that addresses the inherent conflict between a parking plan for a neighborhood that thinks it needs parking for people using the neighborhood as a destination and current progressive ideals that cars destroy neighborhoods by using up valuable space through parking lots.

~ Business Owner, Native Hawaiian



Issue Area 6.

Community Strength & Self-Determination (CSS)

Goal 6: A CID inclusive of diverse groups and across generations, who use collective voice and power for community self-determination in the CID's growth and development.

Strategies

- 6-A.** Address divides among communities and across generations, foster healing and trust.
- 6-B.** Support community leadership, social connections, civic engagement and knowledge building.
- 6-C.** Bring strong community voice and advocacy on external projects and policies so that public and private entities center community priorities and goals; provide mitigation and public benefits; maintain public infrastructure (roads, sidewalks, parks and public spaces); and invest in CID businesses, properties and communitywide efforts.
- 6-D.** Explore community ownership of commercial and residential property as a possible vehicle for greater community control and self-determination.

Concerns

- Community members described relationships in the CID as complex and for many, a source of frustration and anger. Tensions and divides exist among communities and organizations, and across generations. Each community wants to be heard and recognized.
- Some business owners and residents unaffiliated with any formal organization, do not know who represents what, how to connect, and how to get involved with community activities.
- Some see structural racism as a root cause of community tensions, describing roots in colonization in homeland countries for refugees and immigrants and in how dominant systems have set up communities to compete and hurt one another, even unintentionally.
- Community members call for building community unity and fostering healing and trust, while also strengthening the community's collective voice in advocating with city government and other public and private bodies.
- Many voice frustration with government powers, especially city government. Concerns include inequities in local government outreach, funding and accountability; unfair expectations that the community speak with one voice; pitting communities of color against each other in competing for scarce resources; and a continued approach of "doing things to the community" often without community consultation or self-determination.

Different Perspectives

- Different views exist about who comprises the community fabric.
- Different perceptions of what racism is, often along generational lines.

Links to Other Issues

- Community self-determination and collective advocacy strength is a foundational factor that influences the success of addressing other issues and concerns.

Community Quotes

I support and coordinate community leaders work together, union is strength and ethnic cultural activities that has no age or race discrimination and support mutual respect and understanding. CID plans and policies should be deCIDEd by residents through voting and community representation and participation
 ~ Worker & Customer, Chinese Young Adult

We need to distinguish the importance of AAPI and the cultural, and historical, significance of our neighborhood and community with regards to AAPI while we lend our support to marginalized communities, like BIPOC, outside, culturally and historically, our neighborhood and community without putting them above ourselves.
 ~ Resident, Pacific Islander

We need to address the feeling and actions of certain parts of our community that take a “us first” attitude when supporting or fighting neighborhood initiatives. We are all in this together and we need everyone to take a broader view of the CID beyond one street.
 ~ Resident, Japanese

How will community deCIDE futures? How do you engage people and empower them and reassure them that, all past evidence to the contrary, their needs and wants matter?
 ~ Customer & Worker, Chinese

Pay attention to and address how ableism, homophobia, trans hostility, anti-Blackness, and classism are showing up in the “Social Fabric”, in organizations, discussions, research, and in leadership positions.
 ~ Chinese Young Adult

I believe in fostering the fabric of a neighborhood but you’re hinting at a lot with these strategies. I want to hear more about community dynamics. ~ Customer, Black/African American

Wondering about ways social fabric can be cultivated.
 ~ Business Owner, Native Hawaiian

Implementation Planning

Implementation Planning

To further build out this plan, the CID Visioning Advisory Group will launch a third phase of work in April 2022 to plan detailed implementation actions. This section describes and makes recommendations for this future phase of work.

Developing Implementation Actions. This is typically the last component of a neighborhood plan, yet is critical because it includes the details of how work towards the vision will be accomplished. Action planning should include the following elements:

For each Issue Area

- Specific Implementation Actions for each strategy in the plan
- Who should implement – lead implementers, other partners or collaborators
- Estimate of costs, funding and other resources needed
- Role of City of Seattle, King County, Sound Transit, and other public and/or private partners
- Timeline for implementation of tasks, and prioritization of issues or tasks as needed
- Examples of potential Implementation Actions by Issue Area might include:
 - “Research appropriate mix of housing types and income levels and determine target mix for the CID.”
 - “Research Right to Return/Right to Stay programs as a way to address displacement.”
 - “Evaluate land use codes in the CID for alignment with community vision and goals.”

For the plan overall

- Steps and timing for adoption into City of Seattle Comprehensive Plan
- Steps and timing for adding implementation funding into Citywide or department budgets (for example, capital improvements)
- Examples of potential Implementation Actions for the plan overall might include:
 - “Work with Seattle City Council to adopt plan into City’s Comprehensive Plan.”
 - “Secure multi-year funding of X\$ over X years from the City of Seattle and/or other partners to implement the CID Plan.”
 - “Work with relevant city departments to integrate action items that should be part of departmental operations and budgets, such as public infrastructure work.”

Monitoring Progress and Adjusting the Plan. A critical element of implementation planning is to build in steps for monitoring progress, ensuring accountability, and adjusting the plan as needed over time. This should include steps to:

- Monitor plan implementation on an ongoing basis.
- Schedule for reviewing progress, determining if/when adjustments are needed either to the plan or in implementation work.
- Who or what entity will lead and manage the above.

Appendices

Appendix A.

Summary of Issue Areas, Goal & Strategies

Appendix B.

Intersections of Strategies Across Issue Areas

Appendix C.

Compiled Comments from Advisory Group in response to Draft Issue Areas and Strategies (11-30-21 version)

Appendix D.

Compiled Comments from Advisory Group on Draft CID Neighborhood Strategic Plan (1-4-2022 version)

Appendix E.

Links to Other Project Documents

Appendix F.

Community Survey Executive Summary




























Appendix A. Summary of Issue Areas, Goal & Strategies

Issue Area	Goal	Strategies	
Issue Area 1: Community Safety & Health (CSH)	Goal 1: Individual and community safety, health and wellness.	1-A	Address community public safety issues, including desired roles and levels of community and/or City policing.
		1-B	Ensure availability of community-based health care and social supports, with a priority on residents.
Issue Area 2: Business & Economic Strength (BES)	Goal 2: Thriving neighborhood businesses, including preservation of longstanding/ legacy businesses ¹ who wish to stay in the CID.	2-A	Stabilize, support, strengthen and prevent displacement of CID businesses including investment in and technical assistance for neighborhood legacy businesses.
		2-B	Encourage and promote customer activity in the neighborhood through increased social, community and business activities during the day as well as evenings.
		2-C	Attract and promote additional and ethnically diverse businesses in the neighborhood that contribute to its distinct, culturally-rich character.
Issue Area 3: Neighborhood Character, Culture & History (NCCH)	Goal 3: The Asian culture and history central to the CID's identity is preserved and honored, and other communities that are part of the neighborhood's diverse history and identity are also recognized and celebrated.	3-A	Improve and activate public spaces so they are welcoming and safe, honor CID history and culture, foster health and wellness, allow for community connection and attract customers.
		3-B	Encourage an intentional mix of land uses (residential, commercial, public spaces) that harnesses desired development while avoiding displacement of existing residents and businesses.
		3-C	Encourage continued rehabilitation of historic buildings including looking at new strategies to provide financial support, incentives, and technical assistance to building owners, and considering emergency planning.
		3-D	Adopt and implement revised guidelines for the International Special Review District (ISRD) that support community values.

¹ City of Seattle defines a legacy business as a "small business that supports community identity and stability through its long tenure."

Issue Area 4: Housing (H)	Goal 4: Housing available for both longtime/ existing residents, particularly elders and families, and for residents who can strengthen customer base to support neighborhood businesses.	4-A	Prevent displacement of residents, especially longtime and vulnerable elders; and provide opportunities to repair/undo displacement that has already happened.
		4-B	Reduce risk of and address homelessness and evictions.
		4-C	Work toward a mix of housing balanced in affordability (low-income, middle-income, workforce, and market rate housing) and type of housing (family housing, elder housing).
		4-D	Address concerns of rental tenants about building maintenance and security, and renter rights and empowerment; and at the same time support and address needs of building owners in their relationships with tenants.
Issue Area 5: Transportation & Mobility (TM)	Goal 5: Ease of getting around within and to and from the neighborhood, with a priority on residents, particularly elders.	5-A	Balance neighborhood needs for diverse transportation capacity including: parking needs of different types of users; pedestrian safety; and public transportation.
		5-B	Address traffic and congestion that negatively impacts the CID.
		5-C	Advocate for inclusive access across all transportation modes and infrastructure.
Issue Area 6: Community Strength & Self-Determination (CSS)	Goal 6: A CID inclusive of diverse groups and across generations, who use collective voice and power for community self-determination in the CID's growth and development.	6-A	Address divides among communities and across generations, foster healing and trust.
		6-B	Support community leadership, social connections, civic engagement and knowledge building.
		6-C	Bring strong community voice and advocacy on external projects and policies so that public and private entities: center community priorities and goals; provide mitigation and public benefits; maintain public infrastructure (roads, sidewalks, parks and public spaces); and invest in CID businesses, properties and communitywide efforts.
		6-D	Explore community ownership of commercial and residential property as a possible vehicle for greater community control and self-determination.

Appendix B. Intersections of Strategies Across Issue Areas

Issue Area		Strategies	CSH	BES	NCCH	H	TM	CSS
Issue Area 1: Community Safety & Health (CSH)	1-A	Address community public safety issues, including desired roles and levels of community and/or City policing.						
	1-B	Ensure availability of community-based health care and social supports, with a priority on residents.						
Issue Area 2: Business & Economic Strength (BES)	2-A	Stabilize, support, strengthen and prevent displacement of CID businesses including investment in and technical assistance for neighborhood legacy businesses.						
	2-B	Encourage and promote customer activity in the neighborhood (BES) through increased social, community and business activities during the day as well as evenings.						
	2-C	Attract and promote additional and ethnically diverse businesses in the neighborhood that contribute to its distinct, culturally-rich character.						
Issue Area 3: Neighborhood Character, Culture & History (NCCH)	3-A	Improve and activate public spaces so they are welcoming and safe, honor CID history and culture, foster health and wellness, allow for community connection and attract customers.						
	3-B	Encourage an intentional mix of land uses (residential, commercial, public spaces) that harnesses desired development while avoiding displacement of existing residents and businesses.						
	3-C	Encourage continued rehabilitation of historic buildings including looking at new strategies to provide financial support, incentives, and technical assistance to building owners, and considering emergency planning.						
	3-D	Adopt and implement revised guidelines for the International Special Review District (ISRD) that support community values.						

Issue Area	Strategies	CSH	BES	NCCH	H	TM	CSS
Issue Area 4: Housing (H)	4-A	Prevent displacement of residents, especially longtime and vulnerable elders; and provide opportunities to repair/undo displacement that has already happened.					
	4-B	Reduce risk of and address homelessness and evictions.					
	4-C	Work toward a mix of housing balanced in affordability (low-income, middle-income, workforce, and market rate housing) and type of housing (family housing, elder housing).					
	4-D	Address concerns of rental tenants about building maintenance and security, and renter rights and empowerment; and at the same time support and address needs of building owners in their relationships with tenants.					
Issue Area 5: Transportation & Mobility (TM)	5-A	Balance neighborhood needs for diverse transportation capacity including: parking needs of different types of users; pedestrian safety; and public transportation.					
	5-B	Address traffic and congestion that negatively impacts the CID.					
	5-C	Advocate for inclusive access across all transportation modes and infrastructure.					
Issue Area 6: Community Strength & Self-Determination (CSS)	6-A	Address divides among communities and across generations, foster healing and trust.					
	6-B	Support community leadership, social connections, civic engagement and knowledge building.					
	6-C	Bring strong community voice and advocacy on external projects and policies so that public and private entities: center community priorities and goals; provide mitigation and public benefits; maintain public infrastructure (roads, sidewalks, parks and public spaces); and invest in CID businesses, properties and communitywide efforts.					
	6-D	Explore community ownership of commercial and residential property as a vehicle for greater community control and self-determination.					

Appendix C.

Compiled Comments from Advisory Group in response to Draft Issue Areas and Strategies (11-30-21 version)

The table below compiles comments on the second draft of the CID Neighborhood Plan Issue Areas and Strategies, dated 11-30-2021, from the CID Visioning Advisory Group. The Advisory Group was asked to submit comments by December 8, 2021. The table reflects comments received by that date. Each comment is provided with a response from the project consultant team, describing how each comment was incorporated into revisions to the Plan (as reflected in this document), or in some cases, why it was not and/or how it will be included or considered elsewhere.

<p>Comments 1-11 below were shared by an Advisory Group member on 11/29/21 and 11/30/21, with agreement by two additional Advisory Group members, prior to the Advisory Group's meeting on 11/30/21. Most of the comments were also discussed during the meeting, which contributed additional guidance and input to inform revisions.</p>		
Comment	Consultant Response	
1	<p><i>I want to add another comment on “community policing and/or city policing.” What is community policing and where is the research on it? I think we can see what most people want from recent election results</i></p>	<p>Noted and will hold this comment for inclusion in Phase 3 work to develop Implementation actions for the plan strategies.</p>
2	<p><i>Housing—what happened to the role of market rate housing? Shouldn't we find out what the data is on the “right” proportion of market rate to low income? Don't studies show mixed housing is best for a neighborhood?</i></p>	<p>In Housing issue area, added wording to Strategy 3 to explicitly state “low-income, middle-income and market rate...”</p> <p>Will also hold this comment for inclusion in Phase 3 work to develop Implementation actions for the plan strategies.</p>
3	<p><i>Why the promotion of Community ownership when we don't know what it is or what it means, how it works? And what role does private ownership have?</i></p>	<p>Wording revised to say “consider.”</p>
4	<p><i>I didn't see anything about attracting businesses, just customers. Shouldn't there be a strategy about attracting business? Half the storefronts in Jackson Plaza are empty! And The Seattle Times has written of two major restaurants that are about to close.</i></p>	<p>New strategy added under Business & Economic Strength issue area.</p>
5	<p><i>What's with advocating for disability access? Is this a problem? Where was it mentioned in the surveys as an issue? Don't we have ADA laws that must be followed? Is this a veiled reference to curb bulbs? I know Seniors in Action and elderly residents are dead set against curb bulbs.</i></p>	<p>Wording revised to replace “disability” with “inclusive”, to broaden to include all users of transportation infrastructure.</p>
6	<p><i>Continuing to support rehab of historic buildings—building owners need more than tech assistance, incentives, and the usual. They need money! Tons of grant money! Or wealthy owners—it's extremely expensive. One historic window restoration, for example, is \$3,000. One building owner I know of has 66 windows, maybe more in their building.</i></p>	<p>Under Strategy 3 in issue area Neighborhood Character, Culture and History, added wording to emphasize and clarify the large scale of funding needed.</p>

7	<i>What's the definition of gentrification?</i>	See response for comment 12.
	<i>What's the role or mention of white business/property owners? East Africans? Latinx? Shouldn't they be included and specifically mentioned?</i>	Wording added in new strategy under Business & Economic Strength issue area.
9	<i>Glad to see Indigenous people in there.</i>	Noted.
10	<i>Shouldn't the ISRD guidelines be a focus of concern? There was a huge committee of 40-50 of us who were on the ISRD Re-Design Committee to revise the guidelines but now it's on the back burner. Our committee work hasn't had a final review and community vote on adoption. Shouldn't we advocate for that as a strategy since it's a huge influence on development in the CID?</i>	New strategy added under Neighborhood Character, Culture and History issue area.
11	<i>With that \$800,000 [budgeted for Phase 3] we can hire a couple of researchers to get the data we need on housing, community policing, census data to facilitate data-based decision making among ourselves and community members.</i>	Noted and will hold this comment for inclusion in planning for Phase 3 work to develop Implementation actions for the plan strategies.
Comments 12-17 below were shared verbally by Advisory Group members at their regular meeting 11/30/2021, and are drawn from consultant notes taken during the meeting.		
Comment		Consultant Response
12	<i>Several comments about use of the word "gentrification." It can be a loaded word understood in different ways.</i>	Under Strategy 2 in issue area Neighborhood Character, Culture and History, removed word "gentrification", maintained "avoiding displacement" and added "of existing residents and businesses."
13	<i>Under Housing, in addition to concerns of renters, should also include needs of building/property owners.</i>	In Housing issue area, added wording to Strategy 4 include this.
14	<i>The wording of the goal statement for Housing is confusing. Historically and currently, the portion of the residential population that are elders are often low-income so on its own is not an adequate customer base to support neighborhood businesses. The goal statement should be clarified to make that distinction.</i>	Wording of goal statement revised to clarify this.
15	<i>I like the tables/matrices [at the end of the draft document that put draft Issue Areas, Goals and Strategies together].</i>	Noted. Will keep these in the document.
16	<i>Thanks Trang and Mary and Vision Group for your continued work. Much work to continue to do but much forward progress and great work.</i>	Thank you and thank you to the Advisory Group for your continued leadership and support.
17	<i>Incredible work synthesizing and analyzing the community feedback!</i>	Thank you.

Appendix D.

Compiled Comments from Advisory Group on Draft CID Neighborhood Strategic Plan (1-4-2022 version)

The table below compiles comments on the first draft of the CID Neighborhood Strategic Plan, dated 1-4-2022, from the CID Visioning Advisory Group. The Advisory Group was asked to submit comments by January 18, 2022. The table reflects comments received by that date. Each comment is provided with a response from the project consultant team, describing how each comment was incorporated into revisions to the Plan (as reflected in this document), or in some cases, why it was not and/or how it will be included or considered elsewhere.

	Comment	Consultant Response
1	<p>Comment below was in response to consultant question about formatting preference for plan content describing community needs and concerns, goals, and strategies.</p> <p><i>I like the Option 2 table formatting starting on page 20, rather than the Option 1 rolling text. This is from a readability standpoint; also I like having integration of the concerns with the goals and strategies all in one place.</i></p>	<p>Done. The sections describing community concerns have been integrated into the goals and strategies tables, which have been reformatted to one-column rows to improve ease of reading.</p>
2	<p>Comment below was in response to consultant question about formatting preference for plan content describing community needs and concerns, goals, and strategies.</p> <p><i>Format — I prefer the paragraph style because everything is in context. I found the boxed, grid style harder to read since I had to flip around to another page to see the rest of the boxes and some were blank, leaving me to wonder why. Also, it was harder to match what was on the left to what was on the right. Kept looking around to orient myself vs just scrolling through as in the paragraph version.</i></p>	<p>Done. The sections describing community concerns have been integrated into the goals and strategies tables, which have been reformatted to one-column rows to improve ease of reading.</p>
3	<p>Comment below was in response to consultant question a paragraph about the relationship among vision, goals and strategies.</p> <p><i>I also like the “by and so that” paragraph for further clarification of the definitions and their relationship to one another.</i></p>	<p>This paragraph has been kept and a graphic added as a visual aid. This paragraph has been kept and a graphic added to provide a visual aid.</p>
4	<p>Comment below was in response to consultant question regarding a paragraph about the relationship among vision, goals and strategies.</p> <p><i>Consultant comment on deleting the paragraph. Good idea.</i></p>	
5	<p><i>I appreciate that the plan responded directly to the survey we put out. At the same time, these issues show us forward thinking. To respect the survey/rooted in community voice, while also noting that we need to think to the future, perhaps include these topics in the advisory group intro letter at the beginning of the neighborhood plan (that states “this is what we heard, and these are the issues we need to think about as we consider what the community asked for”), then we can align with the City without compromising the integrity of the community survey.</i></p>	<p>Consultant worked with Advisory Group volunteer crafting the introductory message to integrate this.</p>

6	<i>I like the 10-year span, since it aligns with the Comp Plan update requirements (at least I think it does).</i>	Done
7	<i>For the Business & Economic Strength strategies, we might want to add a qualifier to #3, i.e. “Attract and promote additional and ethnically diverse businesses in the neighborhood, that contribute to its distinct, culturally-rich character.” (This helps to qualify “diverse” and reinforce our Vision.)</i>	Done
8	<p><i>For Housing, other communities of color who have already been displaced out of neighborhoods are implementing affirmative marketing and/or calling for first right of return. It’d be great to see this paired alongside preventing displacement, enabling residents who have historic connections to the neighborhood come and live here as well. (This also can be a restorative measure for the housing exclusionary policies that kept Asian Pacific American communities for owning homes/land in the area in the first place, or within the Japanese American community who were forcibly removed from their homes.)</i></p> <p>This comment was also discussed at the Advisory Group’s 2/8/22 meeting, which provided additional feedback to inform the revisions. Comments from that meeting are below.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>My preference would be that displacement doesn’t even happen</i> • <i>Residents and business have already been displaced, that’s a reality that we have to work with.</i> • <i>Right to Return or Right to Stay is what it’s called by the City.</i> • <i>Through my work related to the Sound Transit station, it has become clear to me that gentrification is almost unavoidable if economy is going well. Some properties scream of redevelopment (buildings next to the Gates, empty lots). Displacement is unavoidable: best case scenario is to relocate them inside the district as part of the redevelopment planning.</i> • <i>Agreed that this plan shouldn’t get to the action level. I would like the plan to note, at a high level, that want to prevent displacement from happening, but given that it’s happening, prevent and restore where already happened.</i> • <i>Anti-displacement tools can be used to include our community in development projects. LIHI owns Little Saigon property. Would we want them to have affirmative marketing towards the South Asian community, to foster inclusivity of our community?</i> 	<p>Done. Added to Strategy 4-A: “...and provide opportunities to repair/undo displacement that has already happened.”</p> <p>Also added to list of potential actions to consider in phase 3 implementation planning: “Explore creation of Right to Return or Right to Stay programs as anti-displacement and restorative justice measures.”</p>
9	<i>On page 31, it looks like there’s a stray colon (:) in #3.</i>	Done
10	<p>Comment below was in response to consultant question about whether there is a need to include more about the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic or surge in anti-Asian hate crimes.</p> <p><i>I think it’s fine as stated, otherwise, the plan may extend even further in length. Plus there are so many layers to all that those statements mean that it would take too much to go into it.</i></p>	Thank you. Noted.
11	<i>I would like to see inclusion of mention of our values in description of Phase 1 of the work. I think that set us off on a strong foundation. It’s healthy and helpful to keep reiterating them.</i>	Done
12	<i>Additional note for page 9: I think I might be getting the phases and years mixed up, but just in case, under the “Community feedback from phase 2” should the sentence read, “The survey was conducted in the fall of 2021 and provided in paper...”?</i>	Thank you for the correction. Done.
13	<i>The charts in the Appendix are great!</i>	Thank you. Noted.

<p>14</p>	<p>Comment below was in response to consultant question about whether potential actions should be added to the strategies.</p> <p><i>I wouldn't put actions in the table, since some could misinterpret them as actual actions that were agreed upon in the planning process. Instead, they could be provided as examples in the Implementation Planning section.</i></p>	<p>Done</p>
<p>15</p>	<p>Comment below was in response to consultant question about whether to add graphic design, including images, to the plan.</p> <p><i>While I understand this will create more work, I think it would help in encouraging people to read the plan, which is what we want people to do. The Wing Luke Museum can contribute photos if we have a list of what photos to look for.</i></p>	<p>Consultants are working with a community graphic design firm on this.</p>
<p>16</p>	<p>Comment below was in response to consultant question about whether to use a numbering system for the goals and strategies in the plan.</p> <p><i>I think numbering system would be helpful for reference as we talk about the Issue Areas/Goals/Strategies. It just makes it easier and more efficient for future discussions.</i></p>	<p>Done</p>
<p>17</p>	<p><i>Project Background page: "anti Asian targeted hate crimes [suggest delete targeted as this is the only place "targeted" appears. Confusion over what's targeted—the hate crimes or anti Asian</i></p>	<p>Done</p>
<p>18</p>	<p><i>Toolkit name under the graphic CID Vision Phase 1: suggest name "CID Community Engagement Toolkit" because Advocacy maybe seen as one way whereas Engagement involves actions on both sides</i></p>	<p>Done</p>
<p>19</p>	<p><i>... Toolkit intended for.... [need wording to include sponsors of projects because we've talked about the Toolkit as a way for project sponsors (city, county, state, whoever) to approach us]</i></p>	<p>Done</p>
<p>20</p>	<p><i>P. 8 Phase 2: great list of resources; would it help to provide links to these for those who want to read them?</i></p>	<p>Done</p>
<p>21</p>	<p><i>P. 10 I like the terms "balanced development" and "divergent perspectives."</i></p>	<p>Thank you. Noted.</p>
<p>22</p>	<p><i>P. 17 strategies "...most strategic and impactful" [how about "most effective and impactful] to avoid a tautology</i></p>	<p>Done</p>
<p>23</p>	<p><i>P. 18 CID...neighborhood; should another word be used to avoid confusion with the 3 neighborhoods inside the CID? Maybe area or community? ...a culturally rich district/community/area/entity/zone.... Maybe check Synonym Finder.</i></p>	<p>Done</p>

<p>24</p>	<p>Appendix A p. 35 Strategy 3: <i>In my experience this has been tried with not much success. How about adding creative thinking, or new solutions or creative thinking or creative solutions to the mix? So it's not more of the same that hasn't worked.</i></p> <p>Comment below was a follow-up comment after consultant asked for clarification.</p> <p><i>I was referring to the strategy of tech assistance, some kind of tax credits to help building owners, low cost loans. These haven't been successful w/ property owners who claim low cost loans don't pencil out for them cuz of the super low rents they charge. Was wondering if adding any new strategies would help or even adding creative solutions would help that strategy. I don't remember where I saw that strategy mentioned but it had to do with helping property owners and their buildings. Don't spend any more time on it if that's easier. I was just trying to think of something that hasn't been tried, other than the usual; but not being in that field, I'm at a loss except to hope for a multi gabillionaire to drop money on those buildings to get them fixed up.</i></p>	<p>Done. In Strategy 3-C, added "looking at new and creative strategies..."</p>
<p>25</p>	<p>p. 37 on community ownership [add "possible" in front of 'vehicle for'; so it reads "...as a possible vehicle for..."]</p>	<p>Done</p>
<p>26</p>	<p><i>Fantastic job on this 2nd round of revisions. I suggest when using phase 1 or phase 2 or phase 3 to capitalize Phase 1, Phase 2 Phase 3.</i></p>	<p>Thank you. Done.</p>
<p>27</p>	<p><i>As we conduct an inventory of community assets in the neighborhood by public – parks, community, streets, alleys – and private owners (open spaces, plazas, common spaces), we should not only review problems/deficits but investigate opportunities where investments can be made. Do we need or want additional public spaces/parks? Can we physically improve our existing parks? Can we enhance some of our streets to accommodate public events (festival streets – like Canton Alley or Green Streets)? In addition to public safety, can we enhance our streets with public art and other amenities? Are there opportunities with the community's ST3 station, other public lands?</i></p>	<p>Added to Strategy 3-A: "...potentially expand public spaces..."</p> <p>Also added to list of potential actions to consider in phase 3 implementation planning: "Inventory community assets and identify opportunities for additional investments."</p>
<p>28</p>	<p><i>As we move into the next decade, two decades, there will be significant shifts to our daily lives due to changes in technology and climate change, how do we take that into account with our planning? For example, there will be a transformation with cars (from internal combustion to electrical) – how will that impact our infrastructure, land use patterns?</i></p> <p>This comment was also discussed at the Advisory Group's 2/8/22 meeting, which provided additional feedback to inform the revisions. Comments from that meeting are below.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Climate change is largely missing from the plan as drafted. How should we consider/anticipate changes that will come from that?</i> • <i>I think about Social Determinants of Health, Public Health. URM belongs under public safety as well, because people died after last earthquake. Climate change, environmental justice, air quality is relevant to our neighborhood. The challenge is how to look ahead.</i> • <i>I propose that we look to historic districts in other cities, to see if there are role models. Rezoning in an historical district, it's always very hard. A historical district is a snapshot of an era, maintained for the future; with major upzoning (which is already happening), it sets the context for the rest of the unbuilt sites and changes the image of the community. Looking ahead 10-15 years, what do we hope it will look like? Boarded up buildings and homelessness are impacting the image as well.</i> 	<p>Consultant worked with Advisory Group volunteer crafting the introductory message to integrate this. Also added to list of potential actions to consider in phase 3 implementation planning:</p> <p>"Discussion of impact of technology and climate change in the community, especially on infrastructure and land use patterns."</p>

<p>29</p>	<p><i>The neighborhood has undergone land-use changes through the last decade and a half? Should we (re) evaluate our land use codes and review them to see if we need to make any recommendations to Council regarding our zoning? How does that relate to the ISRD?</i></p> <p>This comment was also discussed at the Advisory Group’s 2/8/22 meeting, which provided additional feedback to inform the revisions. Comments from that meeting are below.</p> <p><i>The topic of land use can be paired with a variety of topics. It’s an important tool, such a good tool for open space, businesses, housing. It can provide a lot resources into the neighborhood. And, it’s a hard topic to move on since it is relevant to so many different interests. Maybe it makes more senses for action planning.</i></p>	<p>Also added to list of potential actions to consider in phase 3 implementation planning:</p> <p><i>“Review and evaluate land use codes for alignment with community vision and development goals, and work with City to amend land use codes and ISRD guidelines as needed.”</i></p>
<p>30</p>	<p><i>Due to our older infrastructure and built environment, should emergency planning be a more prominent feature in this plan (what is our plan if an earthquake occurs)? Should this plan review the unreinforced masonry resolution?</i></p> <p>This comment was also discussed at the Advisory Group’s 2/8/22 meeting, which provided additional feedback to inform the revisions. Comments from that meeting are below.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>CID is an unusual community because we have lots of older architecture: 40 – 60% older building stock. Maybe this should be talked about.</i> • <i>Unreinforced Masonry Resolution issue is an anti-displacement tool. If there is mass destruction from an earthquake, there will be displacement. One of Durkin’s last actions was to look at passing an URM mandate across the city.</i> 	<p>Strategy 3-C revised to add “<i>emergency planning.</i>”</p> <p>Description of concerns in same Issue Area revised to include older historic building stock, unreinforced masonry resolution, and need for emergency planning.</p> <p>Also added to list of potential actions to consider in phase 3 implementation planning: “<i>Review unreinforced masonry resolution (URM).</i>”</p>
<p>31</p>	<p>CSH: Some of the resident services programs already do this.</p>	<p>Noted. Strategy doesn’t note whether programs currently exist or not, but focuses on end goal of adequate availability of services.</p>
<p>32</p>	<p>BES: We often attract business activity when we build a new building.</p>	<p>noted. Thank you.</p>
<p>33</p>	<p>BES: Strongly support some kind of affordable commercial setup or commercial ownership setup for the legacy or immigrant serving businesses</p>	<p>Added to list of potential actions to consider in phase 3 implementation planning: “<i>Explore potential for affordable commercial setup or commercial ownership for legacy or immigrant-serving businesses.</i>”</p>
<p>34</p>	<p>NCCH: <i>Need to ensure that building rehab and anti displacement ideals are rolled out in a way where they respect each other, and that historic preservation and development is done in a way which honors the culture</i></p>	<p>Noted, thank you. Balancing these goals is reflected in several areas, including the overall goal for Issue Area 3 (honoring culture), and in strategies in the same issue area (Strategies 3-A and 3-B) as well as Housing (Strategy 4-A) that express the community’s desire to avoid displacement.</p>
<p>35</p>	<p>NCCH: <i>Reforming ISRD pops up here- could we do it in a way that meets our communities values</i></p>	<p>added to Strategy 3-C: “<i>...that support community values.</i>”</p>
<p>36</p>	<p>H: Share that “<i>Moderate Income</i>” should be added into the mix</p>	<p>Done</p>

37	H: Share that the idea of a “international district market rate” that is below market rate should be acknowledged	phase 3 action planning
38	H: <i>Propose idea, would the inclusion of a affordable condo building for those making low or moderate incomes.</i>	Added to list of potential actions to consider in phase 3 implementation planning: “Explore affordable condominium development.”
39	H: <i>Add that avoiding physical, economic, and cultural displacement is each important (collectively known as displacement to laypeople)</i>	Done
40	H: <i>Add this alignment: 0-50% AMI= low income housing, 51%-80 % AMI is moderate income housing, 80% AMI or above is “market rate” housing</i>	Done
41	TM: <i>Will the City could complete the streetcar soon?</i>	Added to list of potential actions to consider in phase 3 implementation planning: “Complete streetcar connector.”
42	<p>TM: <i>City could build additional parking infrastructure for CID patrons outside the CID, somewhere parking garages are more acceptable? Or! Discounted spaces in a already existing parking garage?</i></p> <p>Comment below was a follow-up comment after consultant asked for clarification.</p> <p><i>I’m not aware of any work, just in general I’m aware that the community businesses were promised more customers via the streetcar and I’m not sure if that ever really materialized. I feel like if the city connected the thing that would help. But the connector was put on pause as of June 2020. It seems like it would be a good idea to indicate the CID expects the streetcar to be connected sometime, otherwise it becomes another transportation item that very few residents use, and which caused some street havoc for little benefit. Not too sure beyond that idea what would be the best way to express this or if other possible ways to support businesses that are more resource worthy.</i></p>	Added to list of potential actions to consider in phase 3 implementation planning: “Explore creative strategies for adding parking capacity.”
43	<p>TM: Comment below was in response to consultant question about whether to add graphic design, including images, to the plan.</p> <p><i>Page 4 Comment: I would say yes to graphic design and photos/images but would like to make sure that photos/images used captures the diverse cultures in the CID.</i></p>	Noted and will convey to graphic designers.
44	TM: <i>Page 6, final paragraph comment: use of community “owners” versus community “members” - also would it be possible to include additional specificity of which groups of people from the broader community are excluded? ie individuals who do not have access to internet or unable to participate due to limited access to technology. Maybe this will be covered in the survey results portion, but wanted to flag it as I’m reviewing.</i>	Done
45	TM: <i>Page 10: Option 2 is nice that it integrates the goals and strategies linking them closely with concerns. The only drawback is when the concerns, links to other issues and divergent perspectives flows to the next page it’s harder to see the clear picture. Also, the different font sizes in the table is a little distracting. My recommendation is to do the table but to reformat it. Possibly, do the concerns then the goal then the strategies.</i>	The sections describing community concerns have been integrated into the goals and strategies tables, which have been reformatted to one-column rows to improve ease of reading.

<p>46</p>	<p><i>TM: more should be said about crime, which has increasingly become violent and homiCIDal. This has created a 'war zone' look to the CID, especially Little Saigon where cyclone fencing is becoming common. The sense of fear is deep.</i></p>	<p>Done. Language to emphasize added in sections: Summary of Community Concerns and Strengths as a Top Issue, and in Community Safety and Health describing issues and concerns.</p>
<p>47</p>	<p><i>TM: this close to final draft made me realize that Jtown is not reflected in the recommendations. Much of the same issues affect Nihonmachi.</i></p>	<p>Done. Language added to call out Japantown in Summary of Community Concerns and Strengths.</p>
<p>48</p>	<p><i>TM: affordable housing and specifically, senior and family housing are mentioned. We should also indicate workforce housing. Our own staff should be able to live in CID.</i></p>	<p>Done. Added to Strategy 4-C and in description of concerns and needs in Housing section.</p>
<p>49</p>	<p><i>TM: we need the spectrum of income in the CID so people can continue to live here even as their economic circumstance improve, especially for families, multigenerational or not.</i></p>	<p>Done. Expanded description of concerns and needs in Housing section to include this.</p>



Appendix E.

Links to Other Project Documents

[CID Community Advocacy Toolkit](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/IJHrMoOKLYZpjAFMqLxUxIHgz4fF-JoP?usp=sharing)



<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/IJHrMoOKLYZpjAFMqLxUxIHgz4fF-JoP?usp=sharing>

[Phase 1 Report](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1f-RH_J3RnKqT5Dh8iiSAYNqa-flWP2RS/view?usp=sharing)

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1f-RH_J3RnKqT5Dh8iiSAYNqa-flWP2RS/view?usp=sharing

Previous Plans and Reports Reviewed (links included where available)	
Title	Date
1. Chinatown-International District Strategic Plan	June 1998
2. Nihonmachi Community Open Spaces Initiatives: Community Design Study Report	2005
3. Little Saigon, Japantown, Chinatown – International District [sic] Vision 2030 (summary and brochure)	June 2006
4. Chinatown-International District 2020 Healthy Community Action Plan	2016
5. Equitable Development Implementation Plan	April 2016
6. Unreinforced Masonry and Neighborhood Preservation Report	June 2016
7. Commercial Affordability Advisory Committee Recommendations Report	2016
8. Mayor’s Commercial Affordability Action Plan	2016
9. Chinatown-International District Public Safety Task Force Report	June 2016
10. Mayor’s CID Public Safety Action Plan	July 2016
11. South Jackson Street Connections Final Report	November 2016
12. Legacy Business Study	September 2017
13. Chinatown-International District Toxics Study: Community Report	2018
14. Chinatown-International District Framework and Implementation Plan: 2018 Status Report	November 2018
15. Jackson Hub: Reconnecting Neighborhoods: Final Concept	March 2019
16. South Downtown Neighborhood Priorities Review and Summary for Sound Transit West Seattle to Ballard Link Extension	Summer 2019
17. Post-occupancy Evaluation of Two Chinatown-International District Parks: Donnie Chin International Children’s Park & Hing Hay Park	November 2019
18. Planning for Inclusiveness: Evaluating the Public Involvement Process of the Hing Hay Park Expansion Project in Seattle’s Chinatown-International District	June 2020
19. Chinatown-International District Visioning Project Phase 1 Community Input	Summer 2020
20. I-5 Underpass Action Project Report	December 2020

Appendix F.

Seattle Chinatown-International District Neighborhood Plan Survey Executive Summary

Project Background

Seattle’s Chinatown-International District (CID) is a historic and culturally diverse community that has suffered through decades of uneven development and public safety challenges due to public policy decisions, racism, and public underinvestment. The neighborhood currently faces challenges from unprecedented development pressures, the impact of the COVID pandemic and increased vandalism. This survey was initiated by the Chinatown-International District Visioning Advisory Group to gain broad community input into a neighborhood plan to bring powerful community voice and advocacy on projects and policies that affect the CID and drive projects that support community goals and needs.

CID Visioning Advisory Group Members

API Coalition Advocating
Together for Health (APICAT)

Chong Wa Benevolent Association

Chinatown International District
Business Improvement Area (CIDBIA)

Chinese Information and
Service Center (CISC)

Denise Louie Education Center

Friends of Chinatown-Seattle

Friends of Japantown

Friends of Little Sài Gòn

—

Hop Sing Tong

International Community
Health Services (ICHHS)

InterIm Community Development
Association (ICDA)

Lee Family Association

Seattle Chinatown International District
Preservation and Development Authority
(SCIDPDA)

Wing Luke Museum of the Asian
Pacific American Experience

Yee Fung Toy Family Association

The City of Seattle provided funding through a grant from the Department of Neighborhoods.

Mary Murray, MEMconsultants and Trang Tu, Tu Consulting supported planning and implementation.

MEMconsultants lead the survey effort.

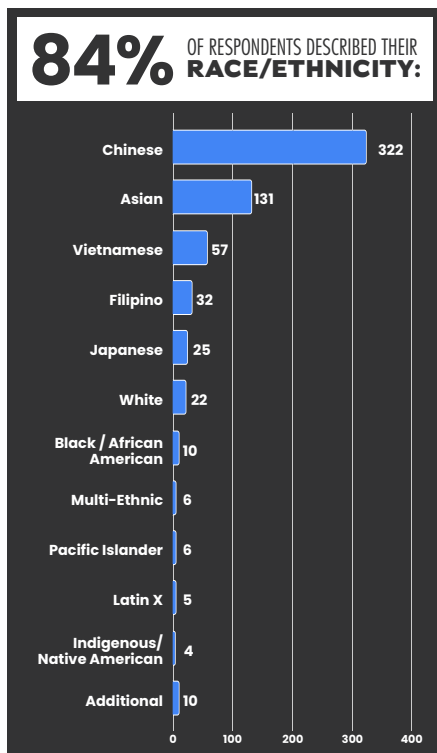
About the Survey

This survey included rating scale and open-ended questions about a draft neighborhood plan that included seven Issue Areas, each made up of 3-5 proposed Strategies, or general actions to be taken to either address an issue or achieve a vision. The survey also asked for input on a Vision Statement for the CID, or description of what is hoped for in the neighborhood's future growth and development.

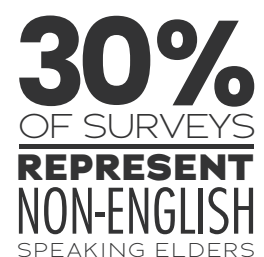
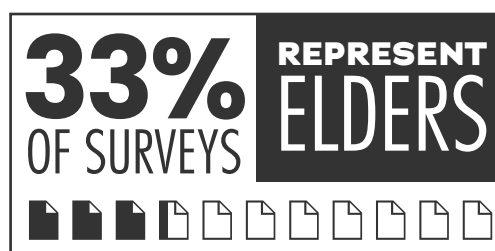
Issue Areas

1. Business & Economic Strength
2. Community Character, Culture & Arts
3. Housing
4. Health & Human Services
5. Mobility & Transportation
6. Public Safety & Public Spaces
7. Social Fabric

The survey was made available online and on paper between September 24 and October 24, 2021. Outreach include distributing during program or service delivery, tabling at community events, online paper ads, posts on Facebook, personal invitations and through organizational communication channels such as newsletters.



Additional races/ethnicities reported include Cambodian, Haole, Korean, Indian, Indonesian, Malaysian, Taiwanese, and Thai.



Key Findings

Public safety should be a priority and integrated in to the five strategies. This is paramount in promoting the livability and sustainability of the neighborhood.

~Resident

Addressing homelessness is the priority thing to help this community recover.

~Resident

What makes the CID special is the historical character and history. Maintaining that is very important as I see it.

~Business Owner

Local and community based... without these businesses this district would not have the **unique flavor and culture that all of Seattle appreciates.** They need resources to support them to survive and thrive.

~Worker

Center the groups that always called the neighborhood home, many by necessity.

~Customer

Businesses should be focused on serving the common city **residents** of ID first before focusing on attracting tourism.

~Resident

Support **festival and cultural activities** to **unify residents** and stimulate the economies and businesses.

~Worker & Customer, Young Adult

Organize **more activities,** but increase **safety.**

~Resident, Elder

Overall Affirmation of Draft Plan Issue Areas and Strategies

Survey responses indicate that all proposed Issue Areas are important and appropriate to include in the neighborhood plan.

Issue Areas and Strategies garnered 60-80% I Love It! ratings and the balance of ratings were predominantly I Like It. (See Appendices B and C for details). Comments emphasized a high-level approval of the draft plan.

Overarching Community Priorities

Public Safety emerges as the most salient priority for community members; it is relevant to almost every issue area.

- Public safety is considered a prerequisite for public activities that celebrate cultural tradition, foster health and wellness and allow for community connection.
- Increasing safety is needed to fostering Business & Economic Strength in general and to encourage customer activity specifically.
- Homelessness is described as inextricability related to public safety.
- Determining the appropriate role of policing as a strategy for safety is of great concern.

Maintaining the cultural identity of the CID is a priority for community members and visitors alike.

- Preserving the cultural and historical identity of the neighborhood earned some of the highest survey ratings.
- The community values activities that celebrate cultural traditions, the stability of longstanding residents and businesses, and balanced development that attends to historical preservation and includes cultural elements in new construction.

Centering the experience of CID residents and business owners.

- Survey respondents frequently expressed a desire for the voice and needs of people who live and own businesses in the CID to be centered and prioritized.
- Stabilizing legacy businesses, especially those that serve residents first and foremost (rather than visitors) is a common priority.

Activating public spaces with activities that celebrate cultural tradition, foster health and wellness, allow for community connection and attract customers is a cross-cutting priority.

- Almost every respondent group – young adults and elders, residents and visitors – cited their appreciation of community activities and a desire for more.
- However, Strategies related to activities are not consistently rated as a first priority, as respondents believe public safety is a prerequisite that does not currently exist.

Defining a Vision

Survey responses provide the following recommendations for a vision statement:

Center residents in the vision.

Include an inclusive, welcoming definition of community that both centers Asian and Pacific Islander immigrants and refugees while honoring many additional groups, past and present.

Use community-specific language that denotes the unique community history and struggles for justice.

Acknowledge diverse generations from youth to elders, who are central to the community.

Address community safety and health yet also aspire to be more: thriving, prosperous.

Be ambitious and visionary, positive and strengths-based.

94 responded to the prompt to offer their own vision statement.

Most frequently used words are:

# of uses	word
47	community
36	safe
24	hope
22	people
22	prosperous
18	place
17	clean
14	better
14	businesses
13	safety
13	streets
12	healthy
11	public
10	Asian
10	culture
9	history

Priority Strategies by Issue Area

The following is a list of the 1 or 2 strategies in each Issue Area that respondents underscore as the first or more pressing priority for action planning.

Business & Economic Strength

- Stabilize, support, strengthen neighborhood businesses
- Prevent displacement of neighborhood businesses

Community Character, Culture & Art

- Preserve cultural and historic identity of the neighborhood
- Foster a balanced mix of land uses (residential, commercial, public spaces) that support a vibrant, thriving community

Housing

- Reduce risk of and address homelessness and evictions
- Prevent displacement of residents

Health & Human Services

- Ensure availability of community-based health care and social supports for residents
- Encourage healthy public environments and public activities

Mobility & Transportation

- Balance and address diverse parking needs
- Ensure pedestrian safety and comfort in the neighborhood, esp. elders

Public Spaces & Public Safety

- Address chronic public safety activities (in part through a role for policing)
- Improve public spaces so they are welcoming, safe, engaging and connected

Social Fabric

- Address divides among communities and across generations, foster healing and trust
- Foster community leadership development

Recommended Additions to Plan

- A call for unity and inclusion of diverse groups with historical and current ties to the CID community. This includes attention to all racial and ethnic groups, to generational divides, to disability justice, to LGBTQIA+ communities, and to intersectional identities in general.
- A strategy related to tenant concerns, renter rights and empowerment that addresses concerns about management responsiveness regarding maintenance issues, affordability, evictions, and tenants' rights.
- An explicit response to gentrification related to the balance of housing and which businesses are valued.
- A call for infrastructure maintenance of roads, sidewalks, and public spaces, for all and especially the safety and mobility of elders.



Some think that more **police presence** would benefit the CID. Some CID residents are actively harmed by the presence of police in the CID. What compromise can be reached...?

~Resident

There's a **definite division** in the community regarding people's **stance on homeless folks** in the neighborhood. How can we make a bridge to appease both sides?

~Resident

History and culture should be preserved but do not overdo it.

Allow residents to live and work safely and happily, merchants have good development, making CID an energetic and happy land!

~Customer & Service Recipient

Hope we can **maintain a balance between community-directed business and tourist-directed business.**

~Customer

How do we renew and expand on housing in the area with **mix of market and affordable housing** and minimize gentrification?

~Worker

Address the **inherent conflict** between a **parking** plan for a neighborhood that thinks it needs parking for people using the neighborhood as a destination and current progressive ideals that cars destroy neighborhoods...

~Business Owner

We need to address the feeling and actions of certain parts of our community that take a "us first" attitude when supporting or fighting neighborhood initiatives. **We are all in this together and we need everyone to take a broader view of the CID beyond one street.**

~Resident



Existing Tensions and Opportunities for Action Planning

Strategy revision and action planning will need to reconcile divergent perspectives on the following topics.

- Approach to policing.** Community safety is a clear priority, and the appropriate role for policing in supporting safety was raised by many survey respondents, but there is not consensus on the appropriate role. Many call for a stronger police presence in the CID; this sentiment was commonly expressed by residents, elders and non-English speaking respondents. Others disagree with the calls for more policing and prefer alternative public safety solutions.
- Response to homelessness.** While a concern for all, there are divergent perspectives about the appropriate or effective response to homelessness in the CID. Some express a desire to relocate the homeless population outside the neighborhood; these sentiments were most commonly expressed by elders (who frequently are also non-English speakers) and shared by other residents and business owners. Others express a desire to support the homeless population within the community; these comments were expressed by some residents and business owners, especially young adults.
- Balancing historical preservation and development.** Comments underscore a tension between the cultural and historic preservation, and modernization and development; most desire a balance between the two, but note that currently, as implemented, business owners perceive them as at odds.
- Prioritization of business support.** Many raise the question of which businesses are prioritized for retaining, attracting and strengthening activities. Most commenters prioritize existing local businesses; some are open to or eager for new businesses. Many commenters prioritize businesses that serve residents over those that attract visitors.
- Balancing types of housing.** There are divergent opinions about how to best balance types of housing. Some comments underscore the relationship between gentrification and displacement, and relationship among affordability, evictions and homelessness. Others express a desire for more higher income residents. Primary community respondents often speak to the need for affordable housing and family housing, while comments from secondary communities are more diverse.
- Approach to parking.** Many call for more and affordable parking to support resident safety and traffic to businesses. Others want to limit parking to discourage car use and repurpose parking lots.
- Community unity.** Tensions exist around who comprises the community social fabric. More than any other Issue Area, strategies around strengthening social fabric elicited skepticism and questions about how the strategies could in fact be achieved. Many note a desire for inclusion and unity, and a history of challenges in this area.

Conclusions & Next Steps

Limitations to Survey

Survey as primary method. Surveys were used in order to prioritize safety and comply with evolving public health mandates. Surveys are not the preferred format for gathering feedback on complex topics that involve jargon or technical language, and are not the best method for building community ownership in a community-created plan.

Outreach timeline. This survey was open for only one month. A longer timeline would have resulted in additional responses; greater community ownership may have been a benefit of additional engagement.

Non-English-speaking elders provided comparatively fewer comments. Non-English-speaking elders represented many survey responses (at least 30%), but a smaller percentage provided written comments compared with other survey respondents; written comments from this group also tended to be relatively short.

Length of Survey. 13% of respondents (77 of 580) stopped completing the survey before the final page. This resulted in less community input on Crafting a Vision, and incomplete demographic information on these respondents.

Differences in online and paper surveys. Format limitations in the online platform and paper made it necessary to structure each differently so that neither would be excessively lengthy.

Survey Successes

This outreach process achieved the goals of gathering input from the CID community that can be used to craft a neighborhood plan comprised of a vision, goals, and associated strategies, and of identifying next steps that will be the foundation of future action planning. The survey delivered:

- A safe, socially distanced means of gathering input.
- A low-barrier, time-limited method of inviting input.
- Engagement of priority groups, including elders, non-English speakers, residents, business owners and property owners.
- Actionable feedback gathered from survey responses, especially comments.

Next Steps

Survey results will be used to revise the draft Vision, Issues and Strategies presented in the survey. These will form key components of a CID Neighborhood Plan, which the CID Visioning Advisory Group will finalize in early 2022. This Plan will be the basis for a third phase of work in 2022, developing implementation actions for the Neighborhood Plan. Action planning will create opportunities for broad engagement and continued refinement of the Neighborhood Plan.

