



## Heritage Vancouver

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March 9, 2020

Mayor Stewart and Vancouver City Council  
Vancouver City Hall  
453 West 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Vancouver BC V5V 1V4

RE: Heritage Action Plan – Vancouver Heritage Program

Dear Mayor and Council,

We are writing to express our support for the Vancouver Heritage Program (VHP) as presented in the report to the Mayor and Council.

In our opinion, The Vancouver Heritage Program (VHP) starts the City on a path to adopt current heritage practices which have been developed with becoming strong contributors to societal well-being in mind. It is encouraging to see the attention directed at this goal within a municipal program framework. The goals of Truth and Reconciliation, cultural redress, and the incorporation of values that recognize other underrepresented groups, are necessary and extremely relevant to our current societal condition. We appreciate the direction staff will be taking to address the inclusion of Indigenous perspectives and history, ethnocultural communities, and intangible heritage values which staff found needed more focus through community input.

The adoption of widely accepted current approaches to heritage in this report - values based heritage and Historic Urban Landscapes- is promising. One of the important tasks of a successful heritage program is how well the experience of places is addressed. Much of that experience of place is intangible, even when the heritage issue in question is around physical preservation. Given this, it is a significant first step for the VHP to call for the implementation of Historic Urban Landscape at the macro level. This complements the micro level site specific identification through the heritage register, which is undergoing an update based upon values based principles. Following these best practices will provide for a stronger heritage program addressing meaning and sense of place.

We strongly support the intention to evolve Heritage Revitalization agreements from a redevelopment tool to a conservation tool. We also support the transfer of density program which can be a powerful tool in addressing heritage retention across the city.

In particular we support the process developed by staff to Statements of Significance so they can reflect living culture, Indigenous Cultural Heritage and pre-settler Indigenous history as a way to provide us all a richer and more inclusive understanding of place.

Overall, we are happy to see the upcoming completion of the Heritage Action Plan to respond to our current cultural and social conditions. We look forward to continued dialogue and consultation with city staff and Council as we work together to develop the finer details and implement the heritage program, and move heritage towards community planning.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Javier", with a vertical line to the left of the name.

Javier Campos  
President, Heritage Vancouver Society