

Appendix A – BSRA Funding Request Letter



June 9, 2021

To the City of Victoria Mayor and Council,

The Bastion Square Revitalization Association (BSRA) operates the Bastion Square Market, which supports local artisans and generates income to revitalize the Square. Market proceeds are retained in the Bastion Square Market Fund and reinvested into improvement projects in the Square. Past projects include the Suds Alley overhead lighting and the Commerce Canoe.

In November 2020 the BSRA requested funding for festive and ambient lighting for Bastion Square, which was approved by the City and installed by the BSRA. The festive lighting was appreciated by many who frequent the Square, after such a dull year. The permanent tree lighting, which includes two maples in Bastion Square and four hornbeams on Langley Street, has received extremely positive feedback from local business owners, calling them “friendly and engaging”.

Since then the BSRA has worked with the City to secure picnic tables and chairs for the octagonal patio space overlooking Wharf Street. In the first month the area has become an extremely popular spot with the furnishings giving life to an area of the Square that was little used previously.

The BSRA has developed a list of improvement projects we’d like to undertake beginning this summer. These have been selected from the Bastion Square revitalization project list, developed over many years in consultation with local business owners, stakeholders and consultants, including Ken Kelly.

The five initial 2021 revitalization projects have been identified in consultation with City staff and have been chosen based on the following criteria - impact (high), budget (low) and ease of implementation. These projects include:

- Commercial Alley Overhead Lighting - to draw pedestrian traffic from Yates St. into the Square
- Commercial Alley Repaving (and pattern stamping and coating) - to complement the lighting
- Mural Replacement - to complement the Commercial Alley Art Gallery & discourage vandalism
- Window Art (28 Bastion Square) - to improve the look of the former Maritime Museum building as the cornerstone of the Square by providing a positive focus
- Placenaming Signs - to create a cohesive look and feel and delineate the area

We are confident that a budget estimate of \$93,000 will be sufficient to cover the cost of the proposed projects. We therefore request that these funds be transferred to the BSRA. Thank you for considering this request. The BSRA looks forward to working with the City of Victoria, as we have for many years, towards a common goal of creating a vibrant and thriving Bastion Square.

On behalf of the Bastion Square Revitalization Association,

Alexandra Cruikshank
Board President, BSRA



Top left image (above): Octagonal patio seating in use

Top right & image to left: Bastion Square Festive Lighting - installed annually on lampposts & poles throughout the Square for the duration of the festive season. The Suds Alley overhead lighting, project previously undertaken by the BSRA, is also visible

Bottom image (below): Two of the trees (maples in Bastion Square) now lit for the duration of the year.

