

# Downtown Public Realm Plan



## Background

- *Downtown Victoria Beautification Strategy and Kit-of Parts* last updated in 1995
- Development of a renewed strategy and updated kit-of parts was a key action of the Downtown Core Area Plan (2011)
- The Downtown Public Realm Plan was developed through the Visual Victoria Process, which also included development of the City Wayfinding Strategy



Downtown Public Realm Plan

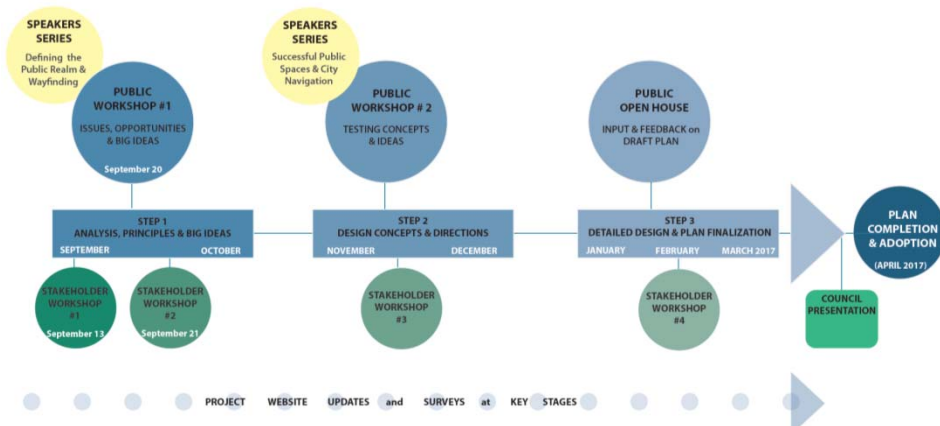
## Project Considerations

- 1995 Beautification Strategy directed 9 character precincts, each with its own colour palette, street furniture and paving materials.
- A number of improvements have occurred over the years to Government, Broad and Douglas Streets.
- Unique frontage improvements and business precinct branding have sometimes deviated from the kit-of-parts.
- Together, this has resulted in a “patchwork quilt” of finishes resulting in a cluttered public realm that can be difficult and costly to maintain.
- Key public spaces such as Centennial Square and Douglas Street are showing signs of age and a lack of vitality.
- Other significant capital projects, City programs and initiatives need to be seamlessly integrated with public realm design.



Downtown Public Realm Plan

## The Process



Downtown Public Realm Plan

## Engagement

- Public and stakeholder workshops in each of 3 phases
- Organizations consulted:
  - ✓ Downtown Victoria Business Association
  - ✓ Greater Victoria Harbour Authority
  - ✓ Downtown Residents Association
  - ✓ Neighbourhood Associations
  - ✓ Tourism Victoria
  - ✓ Greater Victoria Place-making Network
  - ✓ Heritage Advisory Panel
  - ✓ Accessibility Working Group
  - ✓ Downtown Service Providers
  - ✓ Other business, resident and heritage organizations and representatives

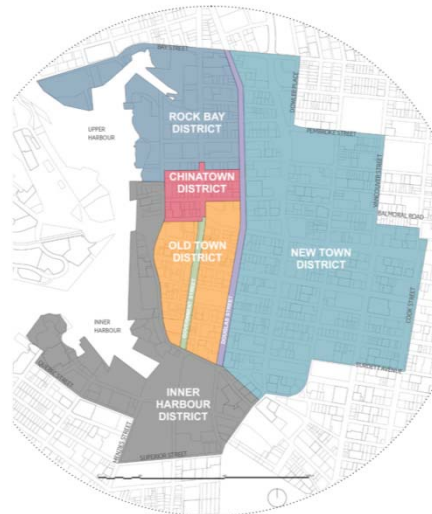


Downtown Public Realm Plan

## Design Response

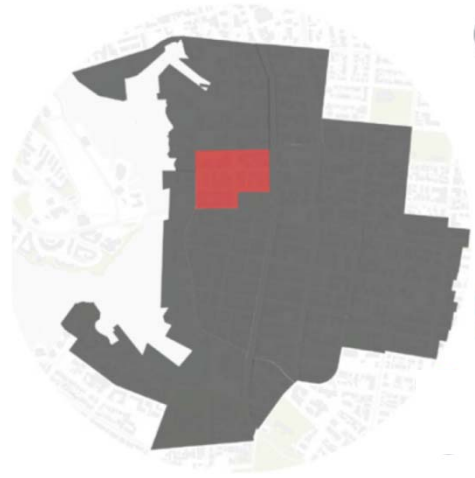
Reduced number of precincts and simplified 'kit-of-parts' to:

- Create a cohesive and 'timeless' public realm that responds to different character areas
- Support the heritage and architectural fabric that gives Downtown its unique identity and character
- Support a more efficient maintenance program through the use of fewer, higher quality and more durable materials



Downtown Public Realm Plan

## Simplified Colour Palette



**Unified Colour: Glossy Black**



**Chinatown Unique: Red**



Downtown Public Realm Plan

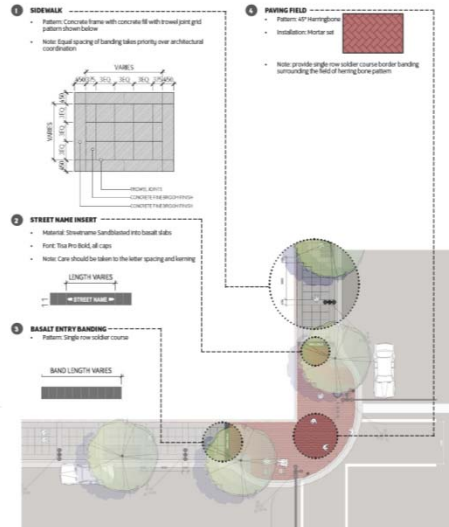
## Street Corners as Outdoor Rooms



Downtown Public Realm Plan

## Design Response

- Detailed set of streetscape standards and catalogue of product specifications
- Use of established and readily available furnishings and materials, where possible
- Use of 'in-house' furnishings, materials and light standards where practical



Downtown Public Realm Plan

## Pedestrian Lighting Strategy

- Maintain and focus cluster lights in iconic heritage precincts and streets
- Maintain Chinatown lighting
- Develop new 'modern heritage' style pedestrian light design )



- Heritage Cluster Globe
- Lights Districts
- Feature Lighting
- Modern Heritage Style
- Lantern Lights Districts



Downtown Public Realm Plan

## Benches: Victoria's Own

TYPE A



TYPE B



TYPE D



TYPE E



Downtown Public Realm Plan

## Centennial Square

### Long Term Change Beginning with Temporary Interventions

- Create active edges with temporary installations and activities and, over the long term, through new building development
- Create better connection with and open up to Douglas Street
- Open up the Square to better support events, festivals and a diversity of programming and activities



Downtown Public Realm Plan

# Government Street

## Shared Space

### Short Term:

- Replace street trees and planters



### Medium Term:

- Complete the Street - extend pedestrian treatment to Chinatown



### Envision long term change:

- Curb-less shared street with multi-modal users and flexibility for events and festivals

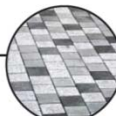


Downtown Public Realm Plan

# Douglas Street

## Long-Term Change Beginning with Temporary Interventions:

- Develop distinct kit-of-parts
- Continuous street trees
- Unique street and pedestrian lights scaled for Douglas Street
- More space for people (parklets, etc.)
- Temporary interventions to test long-term vision
- Long-term reconfiguration as a rapid transit corridor



Intings



Downtown Public Realm Plan

## Douglas Street

### Lighting Strategy:

- Undertake strategy to develop new integrated pedestrian and street lights as defining element for Douglas Street
- Modern heritage style with visible light source
- Integrate with Banner Strategy and catenary lighting strategy
- Use of existing light bases



Downtown Public Realm Plan

## Implementation Strategy

### Updated Streetscape Standards (Kit-of-Parts):

- ✓ Developer initiated (frontage) improvements
- ✓ Operations and maintenance program
- ✓ Capital plan and projects



Downtown Public Realm Plan

# Implementation Strategy

## Short Term Projects (0-5 Years)

- Centennial Square Master Plan
- Government Mall Streetscape Update Design and Implementation
- Downtown Pedestrian Light Strategy
- Douglas Corridor Streetlight and Furnishings Strategy
- Ship Point Master Plan Phase 1 Implementation
- Concept and detailed design for Government Street expansion
- Waterfront Public Art Strategy

## Medium Term Projects (5-10 Years)

## Long Term Projects (10+ Years)



Downtown Public Realm Plan

# Recommendations

1. That Council consider approving the City of Victoria Downtown Public Realm Plan, 2017 to replace the City of Victoria Downtown Beautification Strategy and Kit-of-Parts, January 26, 1995.
2. That Council direct staff to amend the Subdivision and Development Services by-law to reference the Downtown Public Realm Plan to direct frontage improvements for development within Downtown.



Downtown Public Realm Plan