



# Crystal Garden Status Report

## GPC Meeting – October 23, 2014



# Crystal Garden Chronology

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- 1925 Designed by Francis Rattenbury and inspired by the Crystal Palace*
- 1967 Crystal Garden is closed.*
- 1977 The City of Victoria gives the building to the Province for one dollar.*
- 1980 Crystal Garden reopens as a botanical garden and conservation centre.*
- 2004 A RFP for a long-term lease issued by the Provincial Capital Commission (PCC).*
- 2007 The City of Victoria takes over a long term lease of the facility from the bankruptcy trustees.*
- 2014 City gains ownership of Crystal Garden in Provincial land swap.*



# Crystal Garden as expansion to Victoria Conference Centre Expansion

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- 2007 lease for additional 23,000 Sq. Ft.
- 2008 opened to accommodate additional and larger conference programmes
- 2010 City provides subsidy to offset operating costs
- 2013 identified for review of business model in VCC Optimization Review
- 2014 City directs staff to review business model and to report back in December 2014



# Crystal Garden Market Sounding

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- Issued to gauge interest in facility from community
- Respect historical and heritage significance of building
- Enhance the vibrancy of downtown
- Viable from a sustainable perspective



# Crystal Garden Market Sounding

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- Three distinct proposals with a variety of uses: Ocean Networks Canada, Butterfly Gardens, Macaloney Brewers and Distillers Ltd.
- Encouraging to see the potential for investment in downtown
- Collaboration of City and industry partners to secure that investment in Victoria



# Next Steps

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- Work with proposers to further qualify them for a more in depth Expression of Interest (RFEI)
- Issue RFEI by November 3, 2014
- Report to Council on December 18, 2014 with full information on VCC/Crystal Garden as well as other detailed information from proposals received.