

Rebuild DTES

An Open Invitation to Build Vancouver's Next Great Neighbourhood

The Downtown Eastside and Chinatown should not be defined by poverty, addiction, vacant storefronts, or boarded-up buildings. They should be known for opportunity. This initiative exists independently of any political campaign. Whether or not I am elected, I intend to bring together entrepreneurs, employers, tradespeople, researchers, property owners, grant writers, philanthropists, educational institutions, and community organizations to help fill vacant storefronts with productive businesses that create jobs, restore hope, and rebuild the local economy.

We are looking for: Business owners, property owners with vacant storefronts, investors, grant writers, charitable foundations, skilled trades, universities and colleges, non-profit organizations, equipment suppliers, retired professionals, volunteers, and employers willing to mentor and hire.

Initial Storefront Concepts

Technology: Cell phone repair; Computer repair; Electronics refurbishment; Used electronics; AI and digital skills lab

Transportation: Bicycle repair; Electric scooter repair; Cart manufacturing and repair; DIY automotive repair bays

Trades & Manufacturing: Trade skills academy; Construction training; Furniture building; Cabinet shop; Welding shop; Woodworking makerspace; Tool library

Employment: Worker-owned temporary employment agency; Resume and interview centre; Wage subsidy matching; Small business incubator

Recovery & Health: Walk-in detox; Recovery research partnership with UBC; Recovery employment centre; Peer mentorship

Retail: Discount clothing; Used furniture; Reuse and recycling centre; Building materials reuse

Arts & Culture: Indigenous art gallery; Independent artist studios; Tattoo studios; Podcast and video production studio

Food: Community café; Teaching kitchen; Vegetarian cooking classes; Commercial kitchen incubator

Animals: Affordable pet supplies; Grooming; Vaccination clinics; Boarding; GPS dog walking

Community: Childcare; Meeting rooms; Public washroom maintenance; Community laundry; Repair café

Chinatown and the DTES

The future of Chinatown and the Downtown Eastside is interconnected. A stronger Chinatown benefits the DTES, and a revitalized DTES benefits Chinatown. This initiative seeks partnerships across both communities.

Suggested Partners

Vancouver Chinatown BIA; Vancouver BIA Partnership; UBC researchers; employment organizations; community foundations; grant writers; local businesses and property owners.

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