



Heritage Vancouver

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June 27, 2016

Yan Zeng, Rezoning Planner

Dear Ms. Zeng,

We would like to reiterate our concerns for the development proposal at 105 Keefer. Although this third proposal has addressed some of the architectural comments made regarding the second proposal, it has failed to address the larger context of Chinatown. While form is important, it is but one aspect of the various considerations necessary when addressing places of historic, social and cultural significance. Current best practices in heritage conservation, planning documents for the area, and the recommendations of the Heritage Action Plan call for a melding of culture with place.

As one example, page 18 of the Chinatown Neighbourhood Plan & Economic Revitalization Strategy June 2012 reads:

The [Chinatown] Statement of Significance describes heritage value in a broader sense including historic, aesthetic, scientific, educational, cultural, social and spiritual significance. This tool is particularly applicable to Chinatown, a neighbourhood whose heritage value lies not only in its physical environment, but also in its cultural activities and social networks.

It is our contention that any development on this site should fully apply and recognize the spirit of this statement and the best practices in the conservation of areas/neighbourhoods. As we do not see the current Chinatown culture and social mix reflected or promoted in this latest proposal, we cannot extend our support for this current iteration of the 105 Keefer project.

Sincerely,

Bill Yuen
Manager, Heritage Vancouver Society