

Webinar

The Future of Granville Street: A Revitalization and Preservation of Character

Date: March 28, 2023

00:00:08 --> 00:00:13: Hello everyone. Welcome to ULIBC's latest virtual event. Today we

00:00:13 --> 00:00:19: are going to be talking about Granville St. the revitalization

00:00:19 --> 00:00:24: of Granville St. and the preservation of character. It's a

00:00:24 --> 00:00:28: topic that I think many are passionate about.

00:00:29 --> 00:00:32: It's been in the news quite a bit and Granville

00:00:32 --> 00:00:35: St. has seen, you know, quite a decline and lots

00:00:35 --> 00:00:38: of ideas on how that can improve and we can

00:00:38 --> 00:00:42: make the streets really a excellent center to our downtown.

00:00:42 --> 00:00:45: So I think it's going to be a great conversation.

00:00:45 --> 00:00:48: We've got some excellent speakers. Just to give you a

00:00:48 --> 00:00:52: really brief background on ULIBC. For those of you who

00:00:52 --> 00:00:55: are not aware, ULIBC is a nonprofit organization.

00:00:56 --> 00:01:01: Dedicated to research, education, city building. We like to lead

00:01:01 --> 00:01:06: with dialogues like this, where we bring experts from various

00:01:06 --> 00:01:11: industries together to lead conversations, bring new ideas to the

00:01:11 --> 00:01:15: table. And so my name is Rachel Thexton. I'm the

00:01:15 --> 00:01:19: communications chair here at ULIBC. And with that, I will

00:01:19 --> 00:01:23: pass it off to our first speaker. But before I

00:01:23 --> 00:01:24: do that.

00:01:24 --> 00:01:27: I just want to give you a quick rundown of

00:01:27 --> 00:01:31: who is joining us today. We're fortunate to have our

00:01:31 --> 00:01:36: wonderful moderator, Lorraine Lowe. She is the executive director of

00:01:36 --> 00:01:41: the Doctor Sunvat San Classical Chinese garden here in Vancouver.

00:01:41 --> 00:01:45: We have Carrie Bonus who is the property owner, cofounder,

00:01:45 --> 00:01:50: coprincipal of bonus properties. We also have Royce Chewin

of
00:01:50 --> 00:01:51: Destination Vancouver.
00:01:52 --> 00:01:56: And Karm sumal, who is cofounder of Daily Hive, one
00:01:56 --> 00:02:01: of the city's largest country's largest digital news sources. So
00:02:01 --> 00:02:06: we are fortunate to have a wonderful group today. And
00:02:06 --> 00:02:10: with that, I'll pass it off to our first speaker,
00:02:10 --> 00:02:13: Carrie bonus. Thank you very much.
00:02:14 --> 00:02:17: I thanks Rachel, and thanks to the fellow panel and
00:02:17 --> 00:02:19: to everyone who's attended who.
00:02:20 --> 00:02:24: Shares the passion for Granville St. and for the City
00:02:24 --> 00:02:29: of Vancouver. Appreciate all of you participating in this and
00:02:29 --> 00:02:33: forum. I've been just to speak with terms of background.
00:02:33 --> 00:02:37: I was born in the 60s. I'm almost 60 years
00:02:37 --> 00:02:41: old when Granville St. was first closed to public and.
00:02:43 --> 00:02:48: Private transit and was made a pedestrian mall in the
00:02:48 --> 00:02:53: 70s. I don't know. Sorry. Pardon me. Can you hear
00:02:53 --> 00:02:59: me? Oh, sorry. There's somebody at speaking. Anyways, I
have
00:02:59 --> 00:03:04: a long history with Grandma Street, with my cousins, my
00:03:04 --> 00:03:09: friends, kids, brother, and so I've I've seen it in
00:03:09 --> 00:03:12: its heyday. I I have photos from.
00:03:13 --> 00:03:16: My immigrant parents and seen many parents, there was
people
00:03:16 --> 00:03:20: being snapped down. So I've done a lot of research.
00:03:20 --> 00:03:24: My brother and I bought property there, including the
Commodore
00:03:24 --> 00:03:28: almost a quarter century ago. We've been working and
participating
00:03:28 --> 00:03:32: with the downtown Business Improvement Association and
other stakeholders from
00:03:33 --> 00:03:36: small business holders and visitors and everyone who has a
00:03:36 --> 00:03:40: love and passion for downtown core in general and Granville
00:03:40 --> 00:03:41: St. in particular.
00:03:42 --> 00:03:47: And that's why I think speaking for myself and and
00:03:47 --> 00:03:52: our company, we have a lot of expertise with respect
00:03:52 --> 00:03:57: to Gramble Street and the needs and of what it
00:03:57 --> 00:04:03: requires and what it requires most is immediate action. And
00:04:03 --> 00:04:07: I I'm going to be very critical today.
00:04:11 --> 00:04:14: What's proposed now is is is is too slow and
00:04:14 --> 00:04:20: not enough, especially when policies can be enacted
immediately to
00:04:20 --> 00:04:25: affect the media change. City planning and city staff have
00:04:25 --> 00:04:30: already proven their track record actually is quite terrible in

00:04:30 --> 00:04:32: the middle of a housing crisis.

00:04:33 --> 00:04:37: We spent about a decade working on the Broadway plan.

00:04:37 --> 00:04:42: It's being passed, there's a lot of inconsistencies, unanswered questions

00:04:43 --> 00:04:47: with it, and we basically froze any development in the

00:04:47 --> 00:04:51: middle of a housing decade long plus housing crisis to

00:04:51 --> 00:04:55: to do nothing really. And there is no interim policy

00:04:55 --> 00:04:58: to boost housing and live in workspace.

00:04:58 --> 00:05:03: And I'm afraid we're going down the same slippery slope

00:05:03 --> 00:05:07: and the same dangerous path with Granville St. with the

00:05:07 --> 00:05:12: proposed study. I don't understand why we're talking a limited

00:05:12 --> 00:05:17: amount of blocks less than a kilometer that's under the

00:05:17 --> 00:05:22: study that's proposed and my understanding is it's to take

00:05:22 --> 00:05:25: an 18 month long period now the BIA.

00:05:26 --> 00:05:30: Focus Group stakeholders we've been working on it for decades.

00:05:30 --> 00:05:34: All the work has been done. In fact the city

00:05:34 --> 00:05:37: when they want to act fast, they can act fast.

00:05:37 --> 00:05:41: And they wanted to do a little subsection of a

00:05:41 --> 00:05:44: few blocks rezoning about a year or two ago and

00:05:45 --> 00:05:49: they moved lightning fast to make that happen and that

00:05:49 --> 00:05:51: was the same time that the.

00:05:52 --> 00:05:57: You know, politically expedient decisions were made like converting the

00:05:57 --> 00:06:01: hotel to residential and COVID and so the city can

00:06:01 --> 00:06:05: act fast when they want to. But that hasn't been

00:06:05 --> 00:06:10: the case here. All the stakeholders have been for decades

00:06:10 --> 00:06:14: chasing the city to do something. They've done nothing. In

00:06:14 --> 00:06:19: fact, we've, you know, we've worked on multiple projects on

00:06:19 --> 00:06:21: Granville St. and and.

00:06:21 --> 00:06:25: Going on half a decade, can you put the slide

00:06:25 --> 00:06:29: up please, Rachel, there are a few. There are a

00:06:30 --> 00:06:34: few things that can be done quickly and one is

00:06:34 --> 00:06:38: what I've got on the slide here. This shows what's

00:06:38 --> 00:06:43: currently allowed in the masking now for those of you

00:06:43 --> 00:06:45: who don't really know.

00:06:46 --> 00:06:50: The real estate lingo FSR is 4 square ratio. What's

00:06:50 --> 00:06:55: allowed is a building that's 90 feet tall and but

00:06:55 --> 00:06:59: what's only allowed to be built there's 3.5 times. So

00:06:59 --> 00:07:04: basically 3 1/2 times volume to to fill the space,

00:07:04 --> 00:07:09: the envelope. That's permissible, but in fact we can fit

00:07:09 --> 00:07:13: six to seven plus stories in that same envelope and

00:07:13 --> 00:07:15: what we have in green.

00:07:17 --> 00:07:20: Shows what can be fit and what's allowed is in

00:07:20 --> 00:07:25: red. Now we could have interim policy that would allow

00:07:25 --> 00:07:28: for this density to be passed. It could be done

00:07:28 --> 00:07:32: in a day or two, just really a formality that

00:07:32 --> 00:07:36: would allow for increased density to be fit with no

00:07:36 --> 00:07:40: change in the current heights and no change in the

00:07:40 --> 00:07:42: current setbacks.

00:07:42 --> 00:07:46: And we brought this to the attention of the senior

00:07:46 --> 00:07:50: planners half a decade ago. We actually have a building

00:07:50 --> 00:07:54: under construction on 900 block that where we've asked for

00:07:54 --> 00:07:58: this, we pitched them five years ago, but the need

00:07:58 --> 00:08:01: to add density and the benefits of it and we

00:08:01 --> 00:08:05: followed up for three years straight and two years ago

00:08:05 --> 00:08:09: we had some meetings and conversation and it's almost.

00:08:10 --> 00:08:13: A year and a half to two years now, we're

00:08:13 --> 00:08:17: still waiting to hear back from them. Now these two

00:08:17 --> 00:08:21: senior planners, they're the ones in charge for the Granville

00:08:21 --> 00:08:25: St. Plan. So I'm concerned that they can't be relied

00:08:25 --> 00:08:29: on to deliver what's needed and their their focus and

00:08:29 --> 00:08:33: passion is simply not there. And I encourage, you know,

00:08:34 --> 00:08:37: with respect to this study, we can add more bodies

00:08:37 --> 00:08:39: and have more ridership.

00:08:40 --> 00:08:45: More density, more security, a plethora of diverse uses rather

00:08:45 --> 00:08:51: than limiting the density. But most importantly, limiting

00:08:51 --> 00:08:56: density is inconsistent with the city's policy to to be a green

00:08:56 --> 00:09:00: city. If we reduce supply, that demands not going away.

00:09:01 --> 00:09:04: So what happens? We have to, you know, build.

00:09:05 --> 00:09:08: Well, we could fit in one building. We have to

00:09:08 --> 00:09:12: build 2 buildings. So we have twice the construction cost,

00:09:12 --> 00:09:16: twice the carbon footprint and it's irresponsible. So there are

00:09:16 --> 00:09:20: a lot of policies that are incompatible with the city's

00:09:20 --> 00:09:23: primary focus of being a green and sustainable city. And

00:09:23 --> 00:09:27: these solutions can be passed and approved within seconds.

00:09:27 --> 00:09:31: But

00:09:27 --> 00:09:31: to our experience, City staff are being tone deaf to

00:09:31 --> 00:09:33: it and and and done nothing.

00:09:34 --> 00:09:38: For years and they focus on policies for their own

00:09:38 --> 00:09:44: ideology and their own self-interest, like protection of sunlight

00:09:44 --> 00:09:48: and

00:09:44 --> 00:09:48: things like this. That's fine when we want to protect

00:09:49 --> 00:09:53: the park, but we're talking about the core of our

00:09:53 --> 00:09:58: downtown city that drives this province economically and for tourism

00:09:58 --> 00:09:59: and and.

00:10:00 --> 00:10:05: Self-interest decisions like protecting sunlight so one can go lecture

00:10:05 --> 00:10:08: in New York and so forth instead of putting the

00:10:08 --> 00:10:13: focus to develop workspace and process sign permits quickly and

00:10:13 --> 00:10:17: have change of use processed within days when there's no

00:10:17 --> 00:10:20: changes, when they take months. The message to all the

00:10:21 --> 00:10:24: retailers we have is that Vancouver's at the tough place

00:10:24 --> 00:10:27: to work in and there a lot of people don't

00:10:27 --> 00:10:29: want to open here and.

00:10:30 --> 00:10:34: The problem is that the city staff has been directing

00:10:34 --> 00:10:38: the past Council and telling them, oh, this is what

00:10:38 --> 00:10:41: we'll do and this is our time frame. I'm sorry,

00:10:41 --> 00:10:45: that's simply not acceptable. I, you know, I'm Greek, I

00:10:45 --> 00:10:49: speak in metaphors and analogies and when one opens a

00:10:49 --> 00:10:50: restaurant.

00:10:51 --> 00:10:54: They don't tell the chef. You decide the menu, you

00:10:54 --> 00:10:59: decide when the food gets delivered. You decide everything. City

00:10:59 --> 00:11:03: staff is there to serve management and management answers to

00:11:03 --> 00:11:07: Council and Council answers to the Vancouver citizens. Citizens of

00:11:07 --> 00:11:11: Vancouver are not happy with the status quo. Somebody was

00:11:11 --> 00:11:16: murdered yesterday, I believe in downtown Vancouver. People butchered with

00:11:16 --> 00:11:17: machetes.

00:11:17 --> 00:11:22: We can affect policy right now without changing the envelope

00:11:22 --> 00:11:27: of anything as an interim to increase security, increase sustainability,

00:11:27 --> 00:11:30: and these things are not being done and it's simply

00:11:30 --> 00:11:33: not acceptable. And I'd I'd like to see some of

00:11:34 --> 00:11:38: these things passed and I'm always open and every stakeholder,

00:11:38 --> 00:11:42: hundreds have consulted with the city, but we've just seen

00:11:42 --> 00:11:45: in action this time frame of a year and a

00:11:45 --> 00:11:46: half is unacceptable.

00:11:48 --> 00:11:52: If it's passed in 2 years, a rezoning application will

00:11:52 --> 00:11:55: take two 2 1/2 years. A building permit will take

00:11:55 --> 00:11:59: a year, year and a half. It'll be six years

00:11:59 --> 00:12:03: out before a shovel goes ground. Best case scenario, then,

00:12:03 --> 00:12:08: two years to construct. That's eight years. So we're speaking.

00:12:08 --> 00:12:12: Whatever this timeline is now is to be, you know,

00:12:12 --> 00:12:14: realized 8 to 10 years from now.

00:12:15 --> 00:12:19: Well, as we've seen in other parts of the world,

00:12:19 --> 00:12:23: from the Middle East to Asia, there've been entire cities

00:12:23 --> 00:12:28: that have been built from scratch within two decades. We

00:12:28 --> 00:12:32: are a leader in terms of British Columbia and Canada,

00:12:32 --> 00:12:36: in terms of our ability to construct, to design. We

00:12:36 --> 00:12:41: export all our knowledge. Yet here at home, we're allowing

00:12:41 --> 00:12:43: for, you know, the planning to.

00:12:45 --> 00:12:50: Have a lackadaisical and chase their own self-interest in ideologies

00:12:50 --> 00:12:54: rather than deal with what's necessary at hand and I

00:12:54 --> 00:12:58: think it's unacceptable and I think we have to pass

00:12:58 --> 00:13:01: set time frames. We need to condense the time frame.

00:13:02 --> 00:13:05: There's not a year and a half is required for

00:13:05 --> 00:13:08: a 6-7 size. This can be done in weeks. I

00:13:08 --> 00:13:12: think Council has to revisit it and consult with the

00:13:12 --> 00:13:13: stakeholders.

00:13:13 --> 00:13:17: And find a logical time frame that's not going to

00:13:17 --> 00:13:21: be dropped out. The results to be realized 7 to

00:13:21 --> 00:13:24: 8 to 10 years from now. I'm sorry, that's not

00:13:25 --> 00:13:29: acceptable. And if the staff does not have the resources

00:13:29 --> 00:13:34: to do for this, well, let's quantify. Let's allocate resources.

00:13:34 --> 00:13:38: If they can't do it, then let's outsource their certified

00:13:38 --> 00:13:42: professional engineers that could actually review.

00:13:43 --> 00:13:48: And stamp and certify that everything's compliant with

00:13:48 --> 00:13:51: current zoning

00:13:48 --> 00:13:51: and it could. There are so many ways to fast

00:13:51 --> 00:13:56: track things. It's unacceptable that code compliance signs,

00:13:56 --> 00:14:01: which are

00:13:56 --> 00:14:01: critical for new businesses and even business licenses take

00:14:01 --> 00:14:05: months

00:14:01 --> 00:14:05: when really the approval to the review and approval is

00:14:05 --> 00:14:09: minutes, if not, you know, maybe 10 or 15 minutes

00:14:09 --> 00:14:11: to an hour at Max to approve.

00:14:11 --> 00:14:15: It's crazy that change of uses that have not even

00:14:15 --> 00:14:19: in a nail or a screw changed in the premises

00:14:19 --> 00:14:24: for permissible uses take months. This is unacceptable. The

00:14:24 --> 00:14:28: status

00:14:24 --> 00:14:28: quo is not acceptable and I think we have to

00:14:28 --> 00:14:33: demand counsel to change the time frames. Speak with

00:14:28 --> 00:14:33: outside

00:14:33 --> 00:14:38: of the staff to determine what's necessary and I hope.

00:14:39 --> 00:14:43: We can have a discussion about all this. You know,

00:14:44 --> 00:14:49: having a polylog and many stakeholders and experts speaking is

00:14:49 --> 00:14:53: how we find solutions and then open in an open

00:14:53 --> 00:14:57: country, in an open city. And this is not what's

00:14:57 --> 00:15:02: going on in City of Vancouver, City of Vancouver City

00:15:02 --> 00:15:07: staff are dictating what's what's to be done and they're.

00:15:09 --> 00:15:13: They can't be relied on pass on their past record

00:15:13 --> 00:15:17: and and furthermore they're not being responsive to the current

00:15:17 --> 00:15:21: needs of the stakeholders. And I I think I don't

00:15:21 --> 00:15:25: think it's acceptable for them to do on quick whims

00:15:25 --> 00:15:30: like converting hotels to residential. Fine during COVID that was

00:15:30 --> 00:15:34: actually a good solution but it should have been temporary

00:15:34 --> 00:15:38: and I I I don't agree with hotels and other.

00:15:38 --> 00:15:43: Changes being to the city get done without proper consultation

00:15:43 --> 00:15:47: and they they don't correspond to the history of Granville

00:15:47 --> 00:15:51: St. Granville St. was a commercial St. It had a

00:15:51 --> 00:15:54: lot of density. What I showed you on the on

00:15:54 --> 00:15:59: the envelope, the green represents actually the density and height

00:15:59 --> 00:16:03: historically, of what Granville was for a full century. And

00:16:03 --> 00:16:06: that's not what's what's here now.

00:16:06 --> 00:16:10: So I encourage everyone to speak to Council and put

00:16:11 --> 00:16:16: pressure to put some interim policies in place with immediate

00:16:16 --> 00:16:20: action and we can see immediate change but the status

00:16:20 --> 00:16:24: quo is not acceptable and and I hope we can

00:16:24 --> 00:16:28: make changes to revisit that, I'll pass it on.

00:16:28 --> 00:16:31: Thank you very much, Carrie. I appreciate that. Appreciate your

00:16:31 --> 00:16:32: insight and.

00:16:33 --> 00:16:36: And ideas? I'm going to pass it straight to the

00:16:36 --> 00:16:40: president, cofounder of Daily Daily Hive, Karm sumo.

00:16:41 --> 00:16:44: Thanks, Rachel, and thanks, Kerry. That was very insightful. And

00:16:44 --> 00:16:47: since you've already kind of spoken to the city staff

00:16:47 --> 00:16:50: and all the other stuff and how they've held most

00:16:50 --> 00:16:53: of this, the processes in the city almost like hostage,

00:16:53 --> 00:16:56: I'll, I'll kind of talk about something different and talk

00:16:56 --> 00:16:59: about, let's say, in a perfect world that the city

00:16:59 --> 00:17:01: staff finally got their shit together.

00:17:01 --> 00:17:05: And we knew that we can make progress. What would
00:17:05 --> 00:17:08: we want Granville St. to look like? I look at
00:17:08 --> 00:17:11: it, you know, having traveled all over the place when
00:17:11 --> 00:17:14: I was in my 30s, now being in my 40s,
00:17:14 --> 00:17:17: I still consider myself young at heart and I still
00:17:17 --> 00:17:21: gravitate towards entertainment districts and zones such as
like this.

00:17:22 --> 00:17:25: And I feel like in Vancouver we have this opportunity
00:17:25 --> 00:17:27: to create something great.

00:17:28 --> 00:17:31: What was once great, as Carrie alluded to, can be
00:17:31 --> 00:17:36: great again. I see an opportunity where culture, creativity and
00:17:36 --> 00:17:39: commerce can collide. It's that street that can have it
00:17:39 --> 00:17:43: all. It's that street that many cities would love to
00:17:43 --> 00:17:46: have a street like this. And we kind of have
00:17:46 --> 00:17:49: the skeleton already in place to make it happen. We
00:17:49 --> 00:17:53: just need the policies and the individuals to drive it
00:17:53 --> 00:17:54: forward.

00:17:54 --> 00:17:57: It's got to be the destination we got to. We
00:17:57 --> 00:18:00: got to think about it as a destination that isn't
00:18:00 --> 00:18:03: just to serve Metro Vancouver or BC or hey, someone
00:18:03 --> 00:18:07: from Toronto. Montreal came over. Yeah, you got to check
00:18:07 --> 00:18:10: out Granville St. when people come over from all over
00:18:10 --> 00:18:13: the world, Granville St. is a spot where they want
00:18:13 --> 00:18:16: to go. It's something that we should look at in
00:18:16 --> 00:18:19: a way to attract more tourism from the 20 to
00:18:19 --> 00:18:21: 30 year olds that aren't looking to just go on
00:18:22 --> 00:18:22: a hike.

00:18:22 --> 00:18:23: Or.

00:18:23 --> 00:18:25: Go to the you know go on a kayak and
00:18:25 --> 00:18:27: and do all that how do we how do we
00:18:27 --> 00:18:30: attract different types of tourism and I think Bramble has
00:18:30 --> 00:18:32: that has the ability to do that. So some of
00:18:32 --> 00:18:35: the things and I know we're kind of I I
00:18:35 --> 00:18:37: want to be mindful of the time. So some of
00:18:37 --> 00:18:39: the things that I in in my head where you
00:18:39 --> 00:18:41: know if you look at the DVBI plan that they
00:18:41 --> 00:18:44: put out I think a couple years ago that plan
00:18:44 --> 00:18:47: was pretty damn close to being perfect and should be
00:18:47 --> 00:18:50: something that City Hall should have been like. Thank you
00:18:50 --> 00:18:52: for putting this together let's make this.

00:18:53 --> 00:18:55: Let's, let's put this in action. Was it perfect? No.

00:18:55 --> 00:18:58: But was it enough to get the ball rolling? Hell

00:18:58 --> 00:19:00: yeah. And I think you know if we look at
 00:19:00 --> 00:19:03: Gramble St. and if we specifically look at, you know,
 00:19:03 --> 00:19:06: I look at it from like let's say Georgia and
 00:19:06 --> 00:19:09: Gramble to Drake, that should be our entertainment zone.
 That
 00:19:09 --> 00:19:11: is where people that it it as much as it
 00:19:11 --> 00:19:14: can be a 24/7 playground on certain streets. The certain
 00:19:14 --> 00:19:17: days of Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday, we should aim
 to
 00:19:18 --> 00:19:20: make it that. And how do you do that? I,
 00:19:20 --> 00:19:21: I, you know, I think it like.
 00:19:22 --> 00:19:25: Number one, I think we got to up the cleanliness
 00:19:25 --> 00:19:28: and the security. I think the street is, you know,
 00:19:28 --> 00:19:31: I live a couple blocks away from it. It's usually
 00:19:31 --> 00:19:35: pretty disgusting. And on my way to work, it's eight
 00:19:35 --> 00:19:37: AM, 8:30. You know, there's a lot of lot of
 00:19:37 --> 00:19:40: just litter and gum and all the stuff. And I
 00:19:40 --> 00:19:44: think having it clean, treating it with the respect that
 00:19:44 --> 00:19:48: it deserves, you'll see that the residents will also start
 00:19:48 --> 00:19:51: to overtime treat it with that same level of respect.
 00:19:53 --> 00:19:55: And I think cleanliness is something that we can enact
 00:19:55 --> 00:19:58: action quickly. So every every day at 2:00 AM or
 00:19:58 --> 00:20:00: 3:00 AM, somebody should be out there scrubbing the
 streets
 00:20:00 --> 00:20:03: hard, getting rid of all the gum, the cigarette butts,
 00:20:03 --> 00:20:05: the trash, the puke and piss and everything else that
 00:20:05 --> 00:20:08: happens on that street. It should be all clean. So
 00:20:08 --> 00:20:10: the next day it's renewed and you're like, whoa, I
 00:20:10 --> 00:20:13: didn't even know a big party happened here. That's what
 00:20:13 --> 00:20:15: they do in all major cities. I just came back
 00:20:15 --> 00:20:17: from Tokyo, and you would not know that anything even
 00:20:17 --> 00:20:18: hit the ground there.
 00:20:19 --> 00:20:21: We could do that in certain areas, and I think
 00:20:21 --> 00:20:24: that's one of the things that we should look at.
 00:20:24 --> 00:20:27: Security is another thing. They should be foot patrol. I,
 00:20:27 --> 00:20:29: I, you know, having foot patrol cops going up and
 00:20:29 --> 00:20:32: down the street, friendly cops, there's nothing wrong with
 that.
 00:20:32 --> 00:20:34: I think we need more of that in the city.
 00:20:34 --> 00:20:37: It deters it. It has a deterrent effect on, you
 00:20:37 --> 00:20:40: know, certain types of behavior. The other thing that I'd,
 00:20:40 --> 00:20:42: I'd love to see in Granville St. is better placemaking.
 00:20:43 --> 00:20:46: You know, I I think as a whole Vancouver doesn't

00:20:46 --> 00:20:48: do a good job of placemaking. We have a gate
 00:20:48 --> 00:20:51: in Chinatown. That's great. That's the one thing that I
 00:20:51 --> 00:20:54: can think of where you know you're entering the significant
 00:20:54 --> 00:20:57: area. You go to Gastown. Sure you're there. But you
 00:20:57 --> 00:20:59: know I I know it's there because I live here.
 00:20:59 --> 00:21:02: But a tourist doesn't know what Gaston is. There's no
 00:21:02 --> 00:21:05: sign. Whopping the same thing with Gramble St. you should
 00:21:05 --> 00:21:08: look at the digital signage and getting digital billboards
 00:21:09 --> 00:21:10: putting
 00:21:11 --> 00:21:14: it up and have it where it's.
 00:21:14 --> 00:21:16: That those could be sponsored. You can have those be
 00:21:17 --> 00:21:20: paid by an advertiser and have a sign that says
 00:21:20 --> 00:21:24: welcome to the Gramble Entertainment District on both ends.
 00:21:24 --> 00:21:26: Large
 00:21:27 --> 00:21:30: digital signage, place it on Georgia and Gramble. Place it
 00:21:30 --> 00:21:32: on on Drake and Gramble wherever you wanted to end
 00:21:32 --> 00:21:35: and have it signify that you've entered the zone. That
 00:21:36 --> 00:21:39: alone makes a big deal. And then taking that a
 00:21:39 --> 00:21:43: step further and going back to our neon roots and.
 00:21:43 --> 00:21:48: Going a step above that and embracing technology and art
 00:21:48 --> 00:21:51: and culture that is transformed and really going hard on
 00:21:51 --> 00:21:55: digital billboards and really looking at certain intersections,
 00:21:55 --> 00:21:57: certain buildings
 00:21:57 --> 00:22:01: and part of the requirement for new buildings should be,
 00:22:01 --> 00:22:03: hey, you need to look at digital signage. What kind
 00:22:04 --> 00:22:08: of signage are you going to in? Are you going
 00:22:08 --> 00:22:11: to put into your building either neon signage or digital
 00:22:11 --> 00:22:15: signage, the London drugs building?
 00:22:15 --> 00:22:20: Has that blank wall that's white. It's boring. It's pathetic.
 00:22:20 --> 00:22:23: And I think in a lot of ways signifies what's
 00:22:23 --> 00:22:27: wrong with Vancouver. We become boring and as a lifelong
 00:22:27 --> 00:22:31: resident it's become pretty pathetic in many ways. And how
 00:22:31 --> 00:22:33: boring we become. And it's annoying because I know we
 00:22:33 --> 00:22:36: have the people and the and the businesses and the
 00:22:36 --> 00:22:39: ideas to do things. But it continually gets thwarted and
 00:22:39 --> 00:22:42: to what Kerry eluded it's.
 00:22:42 --> 00:22:44: Mainly if City Hall and the few people that have
 00:22:44 --> 00:22:47: hijacked the narrative of what they think Vancouver should
 00:22:47 --> 00:22:50: be
 00:22:50 --> 00:22:53: and they're not listening to the citizens, they're listening to
 00:22:53 --> 00:22:56: their own ideologies and their own agendas. So that's
 00:22:56 --> 00:22:59: another
 00:22:59 --> 00:23:02: thing that I think that we could really do other

00:22:47 --> 00:22:49: things that I mean, the Sr. O's should not be
 00:22:49 --> 00:22:51: on gramble, they should be relocated. I'm not saying get
 00:22:51 --> 00:22:54: rid of Sr. O's. I think it's a great program.
 00:22:54 --> 00:22:56: I think it should not be on a primary district
 00:22:56 --> 00:22:59: where there's booze, alcohol, partying going on. The two
 don't
 00:22:59 --> 00:23:01: mix well. You got to put them in a different
 00:23:01 --> 00:23:02: environment, wherever that is.
 00:23:03 --> 00:23:06: Hopefully not the downtown east side because there's
 already too
 00:23:06 --> 00:23:09: many there but like spread them out and you can
 00:23:09 --> 00:23:13: work with developers. I know developers are more than
 welcome
 00:23:13 --> 00:23:16: to and open to discussion on making you know that
 00:23:16 --> 00:23:19: work but you know don't put them on grammar St.
 00:23:19 --> 00:23:24: there should be hotels, commerce, bars, restaurants, cafes,
 whatever, commercial
 00:23:24 --> 00:23:26: like retail but not not S Toro's and a few
 00:23:26 --> 00:23:30: other things that are live music and Busters the amount
 00:23:30 --> 00:23:30: of.
 00:23:31 --> 00:23:34: We used to have great busking happen on Granville St.
 00:23:34 --> 00:23:36: and then I don't know if something happened and then
 00:23:36 --> 00:23:39: kind of went away. I think we should bring that
 00:23:39 --> 00:23:41: back. Shutting down the streets. I know this is a
 00:23:41 --> 00:23:44: contentious 1 Translink, you know, has its thoughts, but I
 00:23:44 --> 00:23:46: think there's a way where you can shut down the
 00:23:46 --> 00:23:48: street just on certain days. You don't need to shut
 00:23:49 --> 00:23:50: it down 24/7, 7 days a week.
 00:23:50 --> 00:23:53: I actually think the bus is going up and down
 00:23:53 --> 00:23:57: Granville, add an element of vibrancy and bring people to
 00:23:57 --> 00:24:00: that street right now. And I think for the time
 00:24:00 --> 00:24:03: being I think it needs to be that way until
 00:24:03 --> 00:24:07: it completes its transformation. But on Thursday, Friday,
 Saturday nights
 00:24:08 --> 00:24:10: from a certain, let's say 6:00 PM or 7:00 PM,
 00:24:10 --> 00:24:14: it gets shut and the buses get diverted. I think
 00:24:14 --> 00:24:17: that's a, that's a bit more achievable looking at ideas
 00:24:17 --> 00:24:18: of like bar hopping.
 00:24:19 --> 00:24:21: If you, if you're on the Granville St. District and
 00:24:21 --> 00:24:22: you want to go to a bar and you're trying
 00:24:23 --> 00:24:24: to get in those long lineups piss me off. I
 00:24:24 --> 00:24:27: don't like going into those long like you're just waiting
 00:24:27 --> 00:24:29: there. Like sometimes you go into a bar and you're

00:24:29 --> 00:24:31: like, nothing's even happening in here. And I waited 30
00:24:31 --> 00:24:33: minutes to get in. There should be some sort of
00:24:33 --> 00:24:33: like.
00:24:34 --> 00:24:36: You go into one bar, you get a pass. That
00:24:36 --> 00:24:38: pass lets you get into another bar because that bar
00:24:39 --> 00:24:41: is already pre qualified. You, you've gone through all the
00:24:41 --> 00:24:44: bar watch stuff, you're ready to go. You can go
00:24:44 --> 00:24:46: into the other ones or at least you don't have
00:24:46 --> 00:24:49: to stand in line again or something like having a
00:24:49 --> 00:24:51: bar hopping element again adds an element of liveliness to
00:24:51 --> 00:24:54: the street. And then the final thing is like, I
00:24:54 --> 00:24:57: think then the other thing that we sometimes forget is
00:24:57 --> 00:24:59: the alleyways sometimes become a almost like a nogo zone.
00:24:59 --> 00:25:02: But if we look at the alleys and we animate
00:25:02 --> 00:25:03: those alleys with.
00:25:03 --> 00:25:06: Doing what Toronto did with a they had this alley,
00:25:06 --> 00:25:10: graffiti alley. And you put Graffiti Alley on both sides.
00:25:10 --> 00:25:12: You put it on the House St. side and on
00:25:12 --> 00:25:16: the Seymour side. Let the artists create, let them create.
00:25:16 --> 00:25:19: And then what happens is you find that people end
00:25:19 --> 00:25:22: up walking those alleys and they want to see what's
00:25:22 --> 00:25:26: been created. So there's alleys that essentially become
places where
00:25:27 --> 00:25:30: you kind of like, hey, don't go there, become overtime
00:25:30 --> 00:25:32: places where you'll walk through and.
00:25:33 --> 00:25:36: From that, businesses are born like people are doing tours
00:25:36 --> 00:25:40: of graffiti Alley in Toronto, and I remember I specifically
00:25:40 --> 00:25:42: would go and seek it and go and check it
00:25:42 --> 00:25:45: out. And there's lots of people that love that kind
00:25:45 --> 00:25:48: of stuff. And there's a lot of travel and tourism
00:25:48 --> 00:25:51: around graffiti and art that I think we in the
00:25:51 --> 00:25:53: city tend to ignore. And I think we need to
00:25:53 --> 00:25:56: look at how do we evolve our ourselves and how
00:25:56 --> 00:25:58: do we pitch ourselves to the world beyond.
00:25:59 --> 00:26:03: Or competitive advantage, which everybody knows by now.
But how
00:26:03 --> 00:26:06: do we get them to now explore the city from
00:26:06 --> 00:26:10: a urban landscapes perspective? Because I think our urban
landscape
00:26:10 --> 00:26:13: is pretty good. It just needs, it just needs some
00:26:13 --> 00:26:16: TLC. So that's kind of like my quickly condensed gist
00:26:16 --> 00:26:19: of how we want to do it. You can always
00:26:19 --> 00:26:22: find me ranting on Twitter more about how what we

00:26:22 --> 00:26:25: should do as well. So I'll let Royce go next.

00:26:26 --> 00:26:29: Thank you, carm. I like that. I think TLC is

00:26:29 --> 00:26:33: a great way to describe it, some some awesome ideas

00:26:33 --> 00:26:35: there. I'm now going to pass it on to the

00:26:35 --> 00:26:40: President and CEO of Destination Vancouver, Royce Chewing Royce. I'll

00:26:40 --> 00:26:41: pass it to you.

00:26:42 --> 00:26:45: Thanks very much Rachel. Thanks Kerry. Thanks carm. Great comments

00:26:46 --> 00:26:48: and I'll take I'll be out of it and take

00:26:48 --> 00:26:50: a little bit of a different approach.

00:26:51 --> 00:26:53: For those of you that have been around long enough,

00:26:54 --> 00:26:56: you'll remember a term that that popped out over a

00:26:56 --> 00:26:59: decade ago, well over a decade ago, and that was

00:26:59 --> 00:27:02: white elephant. And the white elephant term referred to the

00:27:02 --> 00:27:06: Vancouver Convention Center that that when that was built, that

00:27:06 --> 00:27:08: would be a white white elephant. It would not be

00:27:08 --> 00:27:12: additive to downtown. It would impact downtown. It would not

00:27:12 --> 00:27:14: be used. And we can see now from the evidence

00:27:14 --> 00:27:17: that happens on a daily annual basis that that is

00:27:17 --> 00:27:18: simply not the case.

00:27:19 --> 00:27:22: That the policy decisions that were made to allow that

00:27:22 --> 00:27:25: structure to go up in what it did to be

00:27:25 --> 00:27:29: a massive additive force for downtown has reaped huge benefits

00:27:29 --> 00:27:32: all the way around. We're not just talking about from

00:27:32 --> 00:27:36: tax base, of course, job creation, experience creation, it is

00:27:37 --> 00:27:41: an epicenter of culture and creativity coming together. It is

00:27:41 --> 00:27:44: really a center of transformation. So when we think about

00:27:44 --> 00:27:47: the Granville Entertainment district.

00:27:48 --> 00:27:51: And Granville St. as a whole, we think about it

00:27:51 --> 00:27:54: as as water to water that entire strip. And in

00:27:54 --> 00:27:57: the center of that entire strip, you have the opportunity

00:27:57 --> 00:28:02: to rebuild and recreate an incredible anchor, a destination within

00:28:02 --> 00:28:05: the destination. I reflect back to what Mayor SIM has

00:28:05 --> 00:28:09: been saying lately since he's been elected and that is

00:28:09 --> 00:28:11: that Vancouver's open for business.

00:28:12 --> 00:28:15: And if you look at that statement, Vancouver must be

00:28:15 --> 00:28:19: open for business, not only for investors, because investors were

00:28:19 --> 00:28:22: global capital can work and it can be additive, but

00:28:22 --> 00:28:25: open for business in terms of the citizens here, in
00:28:25 --> 00:28:28: terms of the developers here, in terms of the communities
00:28:28 --> 00:28:32: here, the Community members that want to invest in the
00:28:32 --> 00:28:34: city to transform it and to evolve it and make
00:28:34 --> 00:28:37: it better, you can't be one of the best cities
00:28:37 --> 00:28:38: in the world.
00:28:39 --> 00:28:43: If policy decisions are in place that inhibit transformation and
00:28:43 --> 00:28:46: evolution, that inhibit an investment in a downtown core for
00:28:46 --> 00:28:50: which Vancouver is noted for globally. When I talk to
00:28:50 --> 00:28:53: my peers around the city or, sorry, around the globe,
00:28:53 --> 00:28:56: whether it's Los Angeles, New York, it's the UK, it
00:28:56 --> 00:29:01: doesn't matter. We are globally recognized progressive city.
So we
00:29:01 --> 00:29:04: need to think about the right kinds of decisions that
00:29:04 --> 00:29:07: will enable development to happen that will enable.
00:29:08 --> 00:29:12: An evolution of the downtown core. As we often say,
00:29:12 --> 00:29:17: there's tourism policy and there's policy that impacts tourism.
Destination
00:29:17 --> 00:29:21: Vancouver doesn't own anything, but we have a
responsibility and
00:29:21 --> 00:29:25: an ability to amplify and share the stories of what
00:29:25 --> 00:29:28: makes the city great, not just from a tourism perspective
00:29:28 --> 00:29:33: but also from a community perspective perspective. And
that's what
00:29:33 --> 00:29:36: this idea and this re envisioning of the GEGED does.
00:29:37 --> 00:29:41: It rethinks about how to reconnect with the downtown core,
00:29:41 --> 00:29:45: especially with a number of downtown cores throughout
North America
00:29:45 --> 00:29:49: are suffering. Vancouver score has been one of the cores
00:29:49 --> 00:29:52: that's come back the quickest. So how do you continue
00:29:52 --> 00:29:56: to demonstrate leadership in a civic arena around
development of
00:29:56 --> 00:30:00: downtown cores that make it livable for workers, for
community
00:30:00 --> 00:30:04: and visitors when you put policy in place or decisions
00:30:04 --> 00:30:05: in place or speed by which?
00:30:06 --> 00:30:10: That inhibits a continuing need for transformation and
renewal, which
00:30:10 --> 00:30:13: is what you want to do to attract people. Attracting
00:30:13 --> 00:30:19: people attracts more people, attracts commerce, attracts
creativity, attracts transformation.
00:30:19 --> 00:30:22: And then that's a great story to show to sell
00:30:22 --> 00:30:26: because we are in competition with destinations around the
world

00:30:26 --> 00:30:30: for investment, talent, thought leadership and visitors. So the bodice

00:30:30 --> 00:30:32: development as a great example.

00:30:33 --> 00:30:35: Is a stake in the ground that says we can

00:30:35 --> 00:30:39: see something different, we can see something better and we're

00:30:39 --> 00:30:41: willing to put the capital into it to continue to

00:30:41 --> 00:30:44: be additive to Vancouver story. And that creates a great

00:30:44 --> 00:30:48: story to sell beyond just adding visitors, but destination transformation

00:30:48 --> 00:30:51: and that's the story and that builds competitiveness. So I'll

00:30:51 --> 00:30:54: stop there for questions and engagement and people that have

00:30:54 --> 00:30:57: joined the call. And now turn it back over to

00:30:57 --> 00:30:58: you, Rachel. Thank you.

00:31:00 --> 00:31:03: Thank you so much, Royce. Appreciate that.

00:31:05 --> 00:31:08: I'm now going to pass it off to our moderator,

00:31:08 --> 00:31:12: the lovely Lorraine Lowe, executive director of the Doctor Sun

00:31:12 --> 00:31:16: Yatsan Classical Chinese Garden, and I will leave it to

00:31:16 --> 00:31:20: you to ask some questions of our panelists and audience.

00:31:21 --> 00:31:24: That's great. Thank you so much, Rachel. It's been wonderful

00:31:24 --> 00:31:28: listening to everybody's comments. I think we are all on

00:31:28 --> 00:31:30: the same page here. Things need to change.

00:31:31 --> 00:31:35: You know, Carrie, I'm going to propose this question to

00:31:35 --> 00:31:38: you first. You did discuss how the narrative has been

00:31:38 --> 00:31:41: hijacked and you know what can, what more can we

00:31:41 --> 00:31:44: do as as public, this group here to even get

00:31:44 --> 00:31:48: the ball moving? Even more because you said it's been

00:31:48 --> 00:31:52: over a couple decades we've had different administrations come in.

00:31:52 --> 00:31:55: Now we've got a majority ABC Council. So you know

00:31:55 --> 00:31:59: there there's going to be repercussions within the next few

00:31:59 --> 00:32:01: years if we don't act on this.

00:32:01 --> 00:32:04: Soon so and and I know that there's been calls

00:32:04 --> 00:32:07: from Counselor Kirby Young to help speed up the process.

00:32:07 --> 00:32:10: We have a new counseling place, So what else can

00:32:10 --> 00:32:12: we do as a public to to get things get

00:32:13 --> 00:32:14: moving on this quicker?

00:32:21 --> 00:32:23: You're on mute, Kerry. Kerry.

00:32:26 --> 00:32:26: Sorry.

00:32:29 --> 00:32:33: Thanks Larry for the question. I think you know, I

00:32:33 --> 00:32:38: think it has to be up to Council and citizens

00:32:38 --> 00:32:42: to demand what's required and and and state we need
 00:32:42 --> 00:32:47: this within this time frame. And for example we have
 00:32:47 --> 00:32:52: FIFA coming up, we have a lack of hotel rooms.
 00:32:52 --> 00:32:56: Royce spoke about you know, the Convention Center.
 00:32:57 --> 00:33:01: For years I've been hearing we're short 3 to 5000
 00:33:01 --> 00:33:05: hotel rooms and now I'm hearing 2030 thousand. So it
 00:33:05 --> 00:33:10: was actually a travesty that the city allowed change of
 00:33:10 --> 00:33:14: use from the budget hotels on Granville St. to be
 00:33:14 --> 00:33:18: converted to residential. If I bought that hotel and asked
 00:33:19 --> 00:33:23: for a change of use to residential, they would have
 00:33:23 --> 00:33:27: showed me the curb. And so it's it's absolutely crazy.
 00:33:27 --> 00:33:31: That we are destroying, you know, doing quick fix knee
 00:33:31 --> 00:33:36: jerks solutions. They're not even solutions because you
 know, people
 00:33:36 --> 00:33:41: need to be housed with dignity in residential areas.
 Historically,
 00:33:41 --> 00:33:46: Granville St. was never residential, even the Sr. O's. They
 00:33:46 --> 00:33:50: were short term residences for a hotel. Like people would
 00:33:50 --> 00:33:53: come in for a few weeks. They'd be like a
 00:33:53 --> 00:33:56: lumberjack coming to get a job.
 00:33:56 --> 00:34:01: Or, you know, small business. All these affordable hotels
 disappeared
 00:34:01 --> 00:34:04: with the Sr. O's and we we need to house
 00:34:04 --> 00:34:08: those people in residential areas but we also need to
 00:34:08 --> 00:34:12: stop the conversion of hotels to residential. And just as
 00:34:12 --> 00:34:16: the city on a dime turned and allowed the province
 00:34:16 --> 00:34:20: to buy the hotel in Granville St. that was converted,
 00:34:20 --> 00:34:24: they should pass the law pass, you know, a motion
 00:34:24 --> 00:34:24: and say.
 00:34:25 --> 00:34:28: We want this hotel return to hotel use because it's
 00:34:28 --> 00:34:32: that's to the historic use because, okay, it's all the
 00:34:32 --> 00:34:35: thing. But there are no kitchens in there. I believe
 00:34:35 --> 00:34:38: the per room cost was half \$1,000,000 per unit. So
 00:34:38 --> 00:34:42: it's actually inexcusable for the province to buy that. If
 00:34:42 --> 00:34:45: the city had actually denied the use, it would have
 00:34:46 --> 00:34:49: never been purchased. They could have built 3 to 4
 00:34:49 --> 00:34:51: units for the price of 1 room.
 00:34:51 --> 00:34:55: That doesn't even provide the occupant with the dignity of
 00:34:56 --> 00:34:59: a kitchen to cook or warm or eat something. So
 00:34:59 --> 00:35:03: I think these, you know, it's crazy because the city
 00:35:03 --> 00:35:08: reacts really fast, making decisions that lack common sense,
 but
 00:35:08 --> 00:35:12: then common sense decisions like passing a change of use

00:35:12 --> 00:35:17: when there's no structural change, passing a code compliance sign

00:35:17 --> 00:35:19: that could be done in.

00:35:19 --> 00:35:22: An hour or two takes three to six months. We

00:35:22 --> 00:35:26: have a 40,000 square foot approximately tenant that's moving in

00:35:26 --> 00:35:30: to the former Steve Nash gym next to the Hudson.

00:35:30 --> 00:35:34: That whole building's vacant has been ravaged through COVID. There's

00:35:34 --> 00:35:38: just the keg on the corner and Judith and Charles.

00:35:38 --> 00:35:41: Judith and Charles, they lock the door and they have

00:35:41 --> 00:35:45: to buy key, lock and unlock for every customer because

00:35:45 --> 00:35:48: there's mayhem. It's anarchy out on the streets.

00:35:48 --> 00:35:52: Now I just got an e-mail while we're talking here

00:35:52 --> 00:35:56: from the tenant Rep going what's going on with the

00:35:56 --> 00:36:00: sign, it's a neon code compliant sign. I personally reviewed

00:36:00 --> 00:36:05: it to make sure it corresponded precisely to what's required

00:36:05 --> 00:36:09: for Granville St. it's been around three months. This multinational

00:36:10 --> 00:36:13: tenant is concerned that they won't have a sign. So

00:36:13 --> 00:36:17: this is the message we're sending, you know, to to.

00:36:18 --> 00:36:20: You know to to echo what Roy said to to

00:36:20 --> 00:36:24: retails to visitors that this is not a place to

00:36:24 --> 00:36:27: do business. And I think with the city needs to

00:36:27 --> 00:36:31: quantify what the correct processing times are. They need to

00:36:31 --> 00:36:35: take higher third party or and and analyze how long

00:36:35 --> 00:36:38: does it take to approve something. And just like you

00:36:38 --> 00:36:42: know there's a warranty for Volvo saying an oil change

00:36:42 --> 00:36:45: takes 20 minutes a break, change like this.

00:36:46 --> 00:36:49: We should quantify the time frame to do this. We

00:36:49 --> 00:36:53: have all the historical data to see how many applications

00:36:53 --> 00:36:56: are coming in and we can say, okay, we need

00:36:57 --> 00:37:01: X amount of resources, people to process this current need.

00:37:01 --> 00:37:05: It's actually so simple and it infuriates me that instead

00:37:05 --> 00:37:10: of city management finding these solutions and Speaking of people

00:37:10 --> 00:37:13: that have common sense intelligence to.

00:37:13 --> 00:37:18: Suggest these things. It all files on deaf ears. It's

00:37:18 --> 00:37:22: like the staff are in charge of basically self monitoring

00:37:23 --> 00:37:28: and doing whatever they want and they're held unaccountable and

00:37:28 --> 00:37:32: it's just wrong. So I think we need to provide

00:37:32 --> 00:37:36: the resources to find the time frames and demand that

00:37:36 --> 00:37:37: our city.
 00:37:38 --> 00:37:42: At least meets the minimum sort of speed that it
 00:37:42 --> 00:37:45: takes to process it. I mean it's it's crazy that
 00:37:45 --> 00:37:48: it takes up to half a year to effect some
 00:37:49 --> 00:37:54: changes that actually there's nothing physically changed. We
 on 500
 00:37:54 --> 00:37:57: block, we wanted to divide a space into two. It
 00:37:57 --> 00:38:00: took a year and a half to get to put
 00:38:00 --> 00:38:02: a wall to divide the space.
 00:38:03 --> 00:38:06: We had a multinational 10 and a 400 year old
 00:38:06 --> 00:38:09: stationery shop that wanted to go in. Would have been
 00:38:09 --> 00:38:13: fantastic to use for Granville St. they walked. They couldn't
 00:38:13 --> 00:38:16: stay for a year and a half. They were obligated
 00:38:16 --> 00:38:19: to pay rent. Well, we didn't charge them rent so
 00:38:19 --> 00:38:22: we ate it. They lost and they they went elsewhere.
 00:38:22 --> 00:38:26: They didn't. They ended up not locating in downtown
 Vancouver,
 00:38:26 --> 00:38:28: but I'm sure they spoke to many people.
 00:38:29 --> 00:38:32: So I think we need to define what's needed. We
 00:38:33 --> 00:38:36: need to have time frames. We have to, you know,
 00:38:36 --> 00:38:40: demand that we want to see this by then. And
 00:38:40 --> 00:38:44: we want to see immediate interim policies that signs, you
 00:38:44 --> 00:38:48: know, we asked the city plan planners and staff, when
 00:38:48 --> 00:38:52: will we hear? We never get a definitive answer. The
 00:38:52 --> 00:38:56: whole world does not operate that way, and I don't
 00:38:56 --> 00:38:57: know why.
 00:38:58 --> 00:39:01: You know, maybe we're too polite as Canadians, but we
 00:39:01 --> 00:39:04: allow city staff to do whatever they want to not
 00:39:04 --> 00:39:08: be accountable and not work on the same time frame
 00:39:08 --> 00:39:10: that the rest of the world and all of us
 00:39:10 --> 00:39:13: are obligated to work under. So I think we should
 00:39:13 --> 00:39:17: put pressure on the Council and we should tell them,
 00:39:17 --> 00:39:21: you know, we want policies definitively made. And you know,
 00:39:21 --> 00:39:24: echoing what Karm said, you know, there were so many
 00:39:24 --> 00:39:27: studies. There's so many brilliant ideas passed.
 00:39:28 --> 00:39:32: But we don't need big you know big change. It's
 00:39:32 --> 00:39:37: not rocket science. What's laughable is that rocket science in
 00:39:37 --> 00:39:42: the last decade has progressed far further than the City
 00:39:42 --> 00:39:46: of Vancouver has. And it's it's it's crazy. But I
 00:39:46 --> 00:39:51: think you know we can we can affect change immediate
 00:39:51 --> 00:39:55: you know we can actually have a a pilot program
 00:39:55 --> 00:39:56: because gramble St.

00:39:57 --> 00:40:01: It's in major decay and it's accelerating with murders now
 00:40:01 --> 00:40:05: happening on a daily basis and personal attacks. We can
 00:40:05 --> 00:40:08: use Granville St. as a pilot program and go, you
 00:40:08 --> 00:40:12: know what we're going to allow third parties or, you
 00:40:12 --> 00:40:16: know, let's say what a specific time is to process
 00:40:16 --> 00:40:20: something. If it's code compliant and no change or nothing
 00:40:20 --> 00:40:23: like this business license should be fast track.
 00:40:23 --> 00:40:27: Let's do a fast track with defined time frames, do
 00:40:27 --> 00:40:30: it as a pilot program, see if it works and
 00:40:30 --> 00:40:33: you know the pros and cons and how we got
 00:40:33 --> 00:40:37: to tweak it for Granville St. so then you know
 00:40:37 --> 00:40:41: if it would obviously be successful and then actually look
 00:40:41 --> 00:40:45: at exporting that sort of pilot program to be in
 00:40:45 --> 00:40:49: all the main high transit density areas throughout the city
 00:40:49 --> 00:40:52: and then spread, you know, put it.
 00:40:52 --> 00:40:56: That sort of program where it's most needed and and
 00:40:57 --> 00:41:01: Granville St. needs it. But you know Granville St. was
 00:41:01 --> 00:41:05: the host to the 2010 Winter Olympics. This is where
 00:41:06 --> 00:41:10: we hosted the entire world. I I've never felt more
 00:41:10 --> 00:41:14: proud as the Vancouver right as to the vibe, the
 00:41:14 --> 00:41:20: energy, the enthusiasm, the community, the camaraderie that
 00:41:20 --> 00:41:20: existed for
 00:41:20 --> 00:41:20: those.
 00:41:21 --> 00:41:25: Leading weeks. I know it's just some people only hours
 00:41:25 --> 00:41:27: and days but here it is years later and I
 00:41:27 --> 00:41:31: I'm like, I almost, you know, get goosebumps talking about.
 00:41:32 --> 00:41:35: It was so exhilarating and that was us at the
 00:41:35 --> 00:41:38: best and we need to work towards doing that. But
 00:41:38 --> 00:41:42: just as we did everything fast track for the Olympics,
 00:41:42 --> 00:41:45: we need to do it now. And not just because
 00:41:45 --> 00:41:46: of FIFA, you know.
 00:41:47 --> 00:41:51: You want to make your home nice for visitors, but
 00:41:51 --> 00:41:55: first you have to make your home nice for yourself
 00:41:55 --> 00:41:59: and the citizens of Vancouver, they deserve to have a
 00:41:59 --> 00:42:03: street downtown with arts and culture, with multiple uses,
 00:42:04 --> 00:42:08: where
 00:42:08 --> 00:42:08: it's safe, where families can watch. There could be
 00:42:08 --> 00:42:11: animation,
 00:42:11 --> 00:42:16: multi uses. You know, I look at the Tom Lee
 00:42:16 --> 00:42:16: building, it had, you know, ballroom dancing. It had music
 00:42:17 --> 00:42:20: lessons.
 00:42:21 --> 00:42:24: The 6-7 stories, that's the history of Granville St. let's
 00:42:21 --> 00:42:24: learn from the past and let's do that now. Now

00:42:24 --> 00:42:27: let's not change. Chase the sun, you know, shadow, sunlight,

00:42:27 --> 00:42:32: protection and the nonsense that these senior planners are talking

00:42:32 --> 00:42:36: about, which is only for their self-interest and personal agendas,

00:42:36 --> 00:42:39: which actually was never voted on and is not policy.

00:42:39 --> 00:42:43: They're spending time on these little self-interest projects.

00:42:44 --> 00:42:47: Instead of affecting immediate, change where it's required.

00:42:47 --> 00:42:51: Right. OK. Thank you, Carrie. Sorry, we're just a little

00:42:51 --> 00:42:54: bit sure in time I feel your frustration and and

00:42:54 --> 00:42:57: yeah, it's, I've got a question for Royce here, you

00:42:57 --> 00:43:00: know, events and and in the city, placemaking in the

00:43:01 --> 00:43:05: city, weather's a huge factor here. Affordability is another big

00:43:05 --> 00:43:07: issue. What do you think our city can do to

00:43:07 --> 00:43:11: make Vancouver a more appealing city to attract the talent

00:43:11 --> 00:43:14: to come work here and live here, you know?

00:43:14 --> 00:43:16: We have such a small group here in Vancouver that

00:43:16 --> 00:43:19: puts on a lot of these placemaking events. There's a

00:43:19 --> 00:43:22: lot of work and there's a lot of burnout is

00:43:22 --> 00:43:24: a huge factor. And you know, to piggyback on that

00:43:24 --> 00:43:27: like what types of industries besides tech, as we heard

00:43:27 --> 00:43:30: Mayor SIM in his address, do you want to see

00:43:30 --> 00:43:32: in the city that will attract that type of talent?

00:43:33 --> 00:43:37: Great question. How much time do we have? As you

00:43:37 --> 00:43:41: know, a city is successful as the alchemy or the

00:43:41 --> 00:43:43: mix of things that are happening.

00:43:44 --> 00:43:49: Whether it's vents, whether it's tech, whether it's existing industries,

00:43:49 --> 00:43:53: we have an incredible and thriving restaurant industry that is

00:43:53 --> 00:43:57: an industry nobody ever said I want to move to

00:43:57 --> 00:44:00: a gulag, come to a place that attracts people because

00:44:00 --> 00:44:04: it has a variety of interest. We have the competitive

00:44:04 --> 00:44:07: advantage in where our city is located.

00:44:08 --> 00:44:11: You can and it is true, you can golf during

00:44:11 --> 00:44:13: the day or ski in the morning and golf in

00:44:13 --> 00:44:17: the afternoon. You can literally do that. We have a

00:44:17 --> 00:44:20: city that is a major shipping port. We have a

00:44:20 --> 00:44:22: city that is a major hub as it relates to

00:44:22 --> 00:44:25: air service. So we have a lot of the necessary

00:44:25 --> 00:44:30: ingredients that can connect regionally, locally, nationally and internationally as

00:44:31 --> 00:44:32: it relates to placemaking.

00:44:33 --> 00:44:36: And activities. During COVID we are able to convene a

00:44:36 --> 00:44:40: call of over 70 event producers that spend the time
00:44:40 --> 00:44:43: spend the the, the time, the effort, the lifeblood and
00:44:43 --> 00:44:46: animating putting on events for the city. So to say
00:44:46 --> 00:44:50: that there's nothing going on which I hear from time
00:44:50 --> 00:44:52: to time is simply not true. One of the things
00:44:53 --> 00:44:55: that I would suggest that we look at is while
00:44:55 --> 00:44:59: we've got a very action-packed summer, we need to stop
00:44:59 --> 00:45:01: apologizing for the weather it rains.
00:45:02 --> 00:45:05: Get over it, the city is green, not by accident,
00:45:05 --> 00:45:08: it's because of this the weather is part of the
00:45:08 --> 00:45:12: environment. So how do we think of place making, how
00:45:12 --> 00:45:15: do we think of further developments in the city that
00:45:15 --> 00:45:19: account for the seasonality that we have so that we
00:45:19 --> 00:45:23: can spread out visitorship, we can spread out a Community
00:45:23 --> 00:45:26: use throughout the season and not just bundle up for
00:45:26 --> 00:45:29: late spring, summer and and early fall that.
00:45:30 --> 00:45:33: In our opinion would start to entice event producers. It
00:45:33 --> 00:45:36: would give reason for event creation and other parts of
00:45:36 --> 00:45:39: the city that would allow for more visitation and spreading
00:45:39 --> 00:45:42: out the commerce. So there's not one solution here. It
00:45:42 --> 00:45:45: is a mix of a bunch of different things to
00:45:45 --> 00:45:47: have to come into place. And I go back to
00:45:47 --> 00:45:50: my earlier comment, there's tourism policy and then there is
00:45:50 --> 00:45:53: policy that impacts tourism and that can be as simple
00:45:53 --> 00:45:55: as patio permitting.
00:45:55 --> 00:45:57: How do we do things rapidly to open up the
00:45:57 --> 00:46:00: city for visitors and residents and to do that and
00:46:00 --> 00:46:03: create activity and channels throughout the city can do that
00:46:03 --> 00:46:05: with place making and we can do that as it
00:46:05 --> 00:46:08: relates to seasonality, but we have to create the conditions
00:46:08 --> 00:46:10: to allow this to happen.
00:46:11 --> 00:46:15: Great answer. Yes, I agree work with the weather and
00:46:15 --> 00:46:18: not against the weather. And next question I have for
00:46:18 --> 00:46:23: Carm there, it's in the chat group here about Nordstrom's.
00:46:23 --> 00:46:27: What do you see? It's a huge void to fill
00:46:27 --> 00:46:30: here. So let me just ask the question that was
00:46:31 --> 00:46:35: proposed. Let's see here. Where is it? It's got about
00:46:35 --> 00:46:39: what could go in there. I believe we see the
00:46:39 --> 00:46:43: effects of Nordstrom leaving and what we could do to
00:46:43 --> 00:46:46: fill that hole. What do you envision?
00:46:47 --> 00:46:50: I mean Nordstrom leaving.
00:46:51 --> 00:46:54: Does suck because it was one of the more profitable

00:46:54 --> 00:46:57: locations that the that that they had. That being said,
00:46:57 --> 00:47:00: it's you know if you look at it, I see
00:47:00 --> 00:47:02: it as an opportunity. It was a place where it
00:47:02 --> 00:47:07: didn't fail because Vancouver couldn't support it. We could support
00:47:07 --> 00:47:10: it. We had the we, we had the pedestrian activity,
00:47:10 --> 00:47:13: we had the mall. The mall does really well right.
00:47:13 --> 00:47:16: So I think you have an opportunity now to maybe
00:47:16 --> 00:47:18: go back and see if you can get.
00:47:18 --> 00:47:22: Some of the the stores or you know restaurant groups
00:47:22 --> 00:47:25: or something like that that can fill that 300 almost
00:47:25 --> 00:47:28: 300,000 square feet and we we we we had kind
00:47:28 --> 00:47:31: of our our writer do up an article and he's
00:47:31 --> 00:47:35: like well split the space into 300,100 thousand 100,000 get
00:47:35 --> 00:47:38: assignments a uniflow in a in a downtown IKEA in
00:47:38 --> 00:47:41: there those three if split and done right hell I
00:47:41 --> 00:47:43: heard that what's my call.
00:47:44 --> 00:47:47: One of those burgers that a smash burgers or whatever,
00:47:47 --> 00:47:49: I can't remember they're coming into Canada. Put a little
00:47:49 --> 00:47:51: like where the milk bar used to be put a
00:47:51 --> 00:47:54: little restaurant with a patio action there you can do,
00:47:54 --> 00:47:56: you can do a lot with that space and I
00:47:56 --> 00:47:58: think there is an appetite so long as the city
00:47:58 --> 00:48:01: doesn't get in the way obviously. Sorry K you wouldn't
00:48:01 --> 00:48:01: say something.
00:48:02 --> 00:48:05: Yeah, I just want to jump in. So just just
00:48:05 --> 00:48:09: I was actually speaking with the top decision makers at
00:48:09 --> 00:48:13: Cadillac Fairview with regard to the space last week and.
00:48:14 --> 00:48:18: Nordstrom, actually Vancouver, that was one of the top three
00:48:18 --> 00:48:21: performing locations in their entire chain. So it was a
00:48:21 --> 00:48:25: big success. But Canada is it's an Internet. You know,
00:48:25 --> 00:48:29: it's it's a sovereign country so there's you know bilingual
00:48:29 --> 00:48:33: requirements, import tax duties, admin. So the assisted, you know
00:48:33 --> 00:48:36: the whole chain couldn't you know rest on one or
00:48:36 --> 00:48:40: two successful stores when the rest of the chain was
00:48:40 --> 00:48:41: failing within Canada.
00:48:42 --> 00:48:45: I think what it, you know, to echo a karm
00:48:45 --> 00:48:49: saying it really presents itself with a huge opportunity. And
00:48:49 --> 00:48:53: you know and in our discussions there's like well, it
00:48:53 --> 00:48:57: would make sense to open up some storefronts along
00:48:57 --> 00:49:01: Granville
00:48:57 --> 00:49:01: and how and Robson in addition to the entries of

00:49:01 --> 00:49:05: Pacific Center, Pacific Center's actually being one of the top
00:49:05 --> 00:49:08: ten performing shopping centers through.
00:49:08 --> 00:49:13: Basically multiple decades in North America, top ten in North
00:49:13 --> 00:49:17: America, dollars per square foot. They actually have a supply
00:49:17 --> 00:49:21: issue they have. They don't have enough supply for the
00:49:21 --> 00:49:24: demand. So they could do a combination of some big
00:49:25 --> 00:49:29: users, expand the mall, but opening the storefronts, you
know,
00:49:29 --> 00:49:32: to the street level sort of how it is now
00:49:32 --> 00:49:33: with oritzia.
00:49:33 --> 00:49:37: You can enter on Granville and that and enter from
00:49:37 --> 00:49:41: within the mall. So you've got you know, double access.
00:49:41 --> 00:49:44: So that makes for exciting retail and our discussion was
00:49:45 --> 00:49:48: how long would it take? Well, you know, doing a
00:49:48 --> 00:49:51: few storefronts inside and out is a couple of weeks,
00:49:51 --> 00:49:54: maybe a month or two. But how long is the
00:49:54 --> 00:49:58: permit going to take, right. We have a main and
00:49:58 --> 00:50:00: Union project in Chinatown.
00:50:00 --> 00:50:05: Code compliant application every single time. 10 years ago
we
00:50:05 --> 00:50:09: started that project and it's going to take two years
00:50:09 --> 00:50:14: to construct. We still don't have building permits. So I
00:50:14 --> 00:50:18: think if this is the problem when actually planning and
00:50:18 --> 00:50:23: city staff processing take longer than the physical work to
00:50:23 --> 00:50:26: be done, something is wrong here and we need we
00:50:26 --> 00:50:29: need to hold them accountable.
00:50:29 --> 00:50:33: We need to give them firm deadlines and time frames
00:50:33 --> 00:50:36: and expectations. When we all in it in the rest
00:50:36 --> 00:50:40: of the world, we have job descriptions, we say duties
00:50:40 --> 00:50:44: and tasks and what the level of processing time to
00:50:44 --> 00:50:47: do that work. And you know what? If I fall
00:50:47 --> 00:50:50: behind my brothers, my partner, he comes and kicks my
00:50:51 --> 00:50:54: butt and says, you know what, do this, do that
00:50:54 --> 00:50:56: you're not like, and likewise and.
00:50:57 --> 00:51:00: City staff is. It just does its own thing and
00:51:00 --> 00:51:04: they're not held accountable and I think it's time the
00:51:04 --> 00:51:09: citizens and Council demand management to provide fine
night time
00:51:09 --> 00:51:12: frames and also tell them what they want to see,
00:51:13 --> 00:51:16: not allow for them to propose whatever they want to
00:51:16 --> 00:51:17: propose.
00:51:17 --> 00:51:20: Right, so, so you know, Council should be going back
00:51:20 --> 00:51:23: and requesting from staff strict timelines and report back

00:51:24 --> 00:51:24: more
00:51:24 --> 00:51:28: often.
00:51:28 --> 00:51:32: No, sorry, sorry. They should not request strip. They should
00:51:32 --> 00:51:35: not be requesting timelines, right? That's like a I opened
00:51:35 --> 00:51:38: a \$6 million restaurant. I tell the chef, hey, what
00:51:38 --> 00:51:41: do you think we should stock it with? Who should
00:51:41 --> 00:51:45: we buy the things from? Who's going to be my
00:51:45 --> 00:51:50: demographic? No, I'm sorry. They work for us, the citizens.
00:51:50 --> 00:51:54: They work for management, they work for council. We've all
00:51:54 --> 00:51:57: told Council what we want. Council can ask us any
00:51:57 --> 00:52:00: time they need not to request city staff what to
00:52:00 --> 00:52:04: do and when to do it, and what time frame
00:52:04 --> 00:52:08: they need to tell them we need this precisely, we
00:52:08 --> 00:52:10: need in this time frame, and if you need help,
00:52:10 --> 00:52:14: we'll give it to you. But there's.
00:52:14 --> 00:52:18: We don't ask the the you know, when you do
00:52:18 --> 00:52:22: a restaurant, you create your concept, you know your
00:52:22 --> 00:52:25: demographic,
00:52:25 --> 00:52:28: you choose what's served and how it's prepared, and the
00:52:28 --> 00:52:31: chef executes what you tell them to. So we got
00:52:31 --> 00:52:36: it, you know, make this happen at the city level
00:52:36 --> 00:52:39: and make city staff work how the rest of the
00:52:39 --> 00:52:42: world operates in every industry, from multinationals, from
00:52:42 --> 00:52:44: charities to
00:52:44 --> 00:52:46: organizations, every with this is how it's got to be.
00:52:46 --> 00:52:48: Sorry to interrupt. Sorry to interrupt. Carrie, we've got a
00:52:48 --> 00:52:49: few questions here and I just don't want to make,
00:52:49 --> 00:52:50: I want to make sure that we get to them.
00:52:50 --> 00:52:51: I'm so sorry. I wish we had longer for this
00:52:51 --> 00:52:53: event because there's just so.
00:52:53 --> 00:52:54: Much none of my apologies.
00:52:54 --> 00:52:56: No, your insight is amazing. I just, I just don't
00:52:56 --> 00:52:57: want to miss. We have so many here.
00:52:57 --> 00:53:00: Right. Thank you.
00:53:00 --> 00:53:03: So I just want to get a quick thoughts from
00:53:03 --> 00:53:07: Royce and Carm. I there's rumors that you know rec
00:53:07 --> 00:53:11: rooms going in. How about more play based bars bring
00:53:11 --> 00:53:15: more of that interactive entertainment options like Dave and
00:53:15 --> 00:53:19: buster's
00:53:19 --> 00:53:22: like with the bar with Bowling Alley, Lucky Strike, I
00:53:22 --> 00:53:25: think it's called like I'm vision envisioning like Bellevue.
00:53:25 --> 00:53:28: You know how it's connected to the hotel. There's a
00:53:28 --> 00:53:31: Westin, there's a Hyatt, but it it's kind of like

00:53:25 --> 00:53:28: a complex where people like families can go to like
00:53:28 --> 00:53:29: your thoughts on that?
00:53:30 --> 00:53:31: Royce, do you want to go first?
00:53:32 --> 00:53:36: Sure. There's a reason why these kinds of places have
00:53:36 --> 00:53:40: been created because there is a demand is clearly a
00:53:40 --> 00:53:44: customer base. So the question is it putting these in,
00:53:44 --> 00:53:47: putting these in the right areas?
00:53:47 --> 00:53:50: What are you trying to attract to transform the customer,
00:53:50 --> 00:53:54: the community base and the locations that they're at? And
00:53:54 --> 00:53:57: then how do you think about the surrounding amenities? It
00:53:57 --> 00:54:01: is interesting the transformation of Vancouver, which was
largely a
00:54:01 --> 00:54:03: bar culture back in the day and all the rest
00:54:03 --> 00:54:06: of that, but but the demographic and how they interact
00:54:06 --> 00:54:10: and how people interact is changing. I think it's fantastic.
00:54:10 --> 00:54:13: It provides more option and more opportunity and it quite
00:54:13 --> 00:54:15: frankly creates more salability.
00:54:16 --> 00:54:18: In the communities for which these places are at and
00:54:18 --> 00:54:22: attracts people, that's the key. If you're not attracting people
00:54:22 --> 00:54:25: for some specific reason to do something, to drop commerce,
00:54:25 --> 00:54:27: to have a great time to create memories, to create
00:54:27 --> 00:54:30: advocates of that particular location, then we are failing the
00:54:30 --> 00:54:33: community, whether it be community members or the
retailers of
00:54:34 --> 00:54:37: the investors who have been involved and quite frankly, the
00:54:37 --> 00:54:39: city brand. So I think it's a great idea if
00:54:39 --> 00:54:41: those places are coming in because to me it seems
00:54:41 --> 00:54:44: additive and that's what customers are looking for.
00:54:45 --> 00:54:48: I just want to add, you know with respect to
00:54:48 --> 00:54:51: uses, if we have more density in the things you
00:54:51 --> 00:54:55: know, we can actually have more 24/7 more animation. You
00:54:55 --> 00:54:58: know having bars at St. level is bad for the
00:54:58 --> 00:55:01: street. So we need to get the bars to be
00:55:01 --> 00:55:05: above grade or below grade open balconies and and we
00:55:05 --> 00:55:08: need to have with more density and more height or
00:55:08 --> 00:55:12: you know in the existing height we can actually have
00:55:12 --> 00:55:14: multiple uses and have an active.
00:55:15 --> 00:55:18: You know street from 6:00 AM till 4:00 AM and
00:55:18 --> 00:55:21: you know density is key to this and having policy
00:55:21 --> 00:55:23: that allows for that.
00:55:24 --> 00:55:24: I.
00:55:25 --> 00:55:28: Mean. Yeah, yeah. I agree with everything that everybody's

saying

00:55:28 --> 00:55:30: here. I think the city lacks attractions.

00:55:31 --> 00:55:33: If I'm a teenager in this city, I was like,

00:55:33 --> 00:55:35: where do I even go? Like, you know, you can

00:55:35 --> 00:55:37: only go to Stanley Park so many times when you

00:55:37 --> 00:55:40: live here. And the rec room edition I think is

00:55:40 --> 00:55:41: going to be a good test to see how we

00:55:42 --> 00:55:44: react to it. Like, there's a rec room in Brentwood,

00:55:44 --> 00:55:46: but you're not going to get me driving out to

00:55:46 --> 00:55:49: Brentwood or even taking the train out to Brentwood every

00:55:49 --> 00:55:51: day. But if it was right down the block, I'd

00:55:51 --> 00:55:53: go play some games, go grab a drink, you know,

00:55:53 --> 00:55:55: hang out at the bar. It's multi use. It's for

00:55:56 --> 00:55:58: families. I think we need more stuff like that. I

00:55:58 --> 00:55:59: think Dave and Buster's.

00:56:00 --> 00:56:03: You know, looking at supporting our, our, our own artists,

00:56:03 --> 00:56:07: working with some and you know the people at Creative

00:56:07 --> 00:56:09: BC or Music BC and being like look, let's let's

00:56:10 --> 00:56:13: create some small intimate bars that allow live local

musicians

00:56:13 --> 00:56:16: to play. They don't have to be large, it doesn't

00:56:16 --> 00:56:19: have to great. But you then can rotate and have

00:56:19 --> 00:56:22: the talent that we have in the city. We have

00:56:22 --> 00:56:25: great artists, musicians, creators that in our own town. We

00:56:25 --> 00:56:27: don't give them an outlet to perform.

00:56:28 --> 00:56:31: So create an outlet to perform live. Jazz bars are

00:56:31 --> 00:56:34: something that people go to of all ages. People love

00:56:34 --> 00:56:37: that stuff. We have live music in this city's been

00:56:38 --> 00:56:41: kind of killed by bureaucracy by these rules that are

00:56:41 --> 00:56:43: put in place for I don't know what. Like I

00:56:43 --> 00:56:47: don't know who these people are that are in charge

00:56:47 --> 00:56:49: and what happened to them as a child.

00:56:49 --> 00:56:52: Or in high school, how bullied they were or what?

00:56:52 --> 00:56:55: But something happened for when they became in charge

that

00:56:55 --> 00:56:57: they went on this ego and power trip and that

00:56:57 --> 00:57:00: to what Kerry's been saying is we as citizens need

00:57:00 --> 00:57:02: to demand that. They either need to shape up or

00:57:02 --> 00:57:05: get the hell out. Because if we're open for business,

00:57:05 --> 00:57:07: then these people need to get out of our way

00:57:07 --> 00:57:10: or they need to jump on the fucking train. I'm

00:57:10 --> 00:57:12: sorry, I'm supposed to not say, but or they need

00:57:12 --> 00:57:14: to get on the train and be like, okay, how

00:57:14 --> 00:57:17: do we make this happen? Because it's ridiculous to me.

00:57:17 --> 00:57:18: It's frustrating seeing.

00:57:19 --> 00:57:22: Peers and the younger generation be like, you know what,

00:57:22 --> 00:57:24: I don't why do I want to be in Vancouver?

00:57:24 --> 00:57:26: It's expensive and there's nothing to do here.

00:57:27 --> 00:57:30: No, absolutely. And you know, growing up in Vancouver, Granville

00:57:30 --> 00:57:33: St. was the place to go. There was capital six

00:57:33 --> 00:57:36: there, theater there, there. There's a place where we, there's

00:57:36 --> 00:57:39: a purpose to go down there is what I'm hearing.

00:57:39 --> 00:57:42: And you're right. Like there's nothing other than like what

00:57:42 --> 00:57:45: is there. There used to be arcades down on Granville.

00:57:45 --> 00:57:48: I don't know if they're still even operating, but there

00:57:48 --> 00:57:49: was that attraction.

00:57:49 --> 00:57:52: Now I I to go on with I've got another

00:57:52 --> 00:57:55: question for you Carl about the graffiti and the legal

00:57:55 --> 00:57:59: graffiti wall. Like do you think you can see yourself

00:57:59 --> 00:58:02: working or or the city would work with like a

00:58:02 --> 00:58:05: digital hopes from our communities like just having a a

00:58:05 --> 00:58:08: tech and and like not NFT but having that graffiti

00:58:08 --> 00:58:11: alley kind of tie in with the tech and what

00:58:11 --> 00:58:14: you were talking about the digital wall.

00:58:14 --> 00:58:18: Definitely. There's great, amazing artists that create great digital art

00:58:18 --> 00:58:21: that I think we should put on display. You know,

00:58:21 --> 00:58:24: if we were to put, we got those two screens

00:58:24 --> 00:58:27: at Robson and Bramble, the two screens, they're nice, they're

00:58:27 --> 00:58:30: small, but they're nice. But I look at that corner

00:58:30 --> 00:58:33: and I was like, well, why don't you put screens

00:58:33 --> 00:58:37: everywhere in that intersection and start building it out. You

00:58:37 --> 00:58:40: have all these blank canvases that are just screaming for

00:58:40 --> 00:58:42: something to be there. This.

00:58:43 --> 00:58:45: Cities becomes bland in many ways because it kind of

00:58:45 --> 00:58:49: we don't like advertising. Why don't you like advertising? That

00:58:49 --> 00:58:52: ship pays bills and there's nothing wrong with creating a

00:58:52 --> 00:58:55: district where advertising can go. People from all over the

00:58:55 --> 00:58:57: world will go to those areas and and and it

00:58:57 --> 00:59:01: becomes animated through those, those activations and you and it

00:59:01 --> 00:59:04: creates this energy. And then from that energy it creates

00:59:04 --> 00:59:06: a sense of safety over time. I think we can

00:59:06 --> 00:59:09: do that. And I think from a graffiti alley perspective,

00:59:09 --> 00:59:10: I know that.

00:59:10 --> 00:59:12: Down the DVBA has tried to do the murals and

00:59:12 --> 00:59:14: and then I saw the price of those and I

00:59:14 --> 00:59:17: was like OK, that's that's expensive. I think you just

00:59:17 --> 00:59:20: talked to the owners and be like look your back

00:59:20 --> 00:59:22: walls are we're going to open it up to artists.

00:59:22 --> 00:59:25: They're just going to do what they're going to do

00:59:25 --> 00:59:27: and we have some guidelines, but they're going to go

00:59:27 --> 00:59:29: and just do the thing. I think we need to

00:59:29 --> 00:59:32: encourage that and create a zone where artists can feel

00:59:32 --> 00:59:35: like they can go to town and do the graffiti

00:59:35 --> 00:59:38: and then they will police themselves. Artists know not to

00:59:38 --> 00:59:39: tag. Other artists work.

00:59:39 --> 00:59:43: And if they do there's repercussions and they deal with

00:59:43 --> 00:59:45: it. So I I think we need to let people

00:59:45 --> 00:59:48: create and do and and I think what we do

00:59:48 --> 00:59:51: here is we don't allow that. We tell people what

00:59:51 --> 00:59:54: either you know you can't do that or we don't

00:59:54 --> 00:59:57: want to do that you know or it's it's unattainable.

00:59:57 --> 01:00:01: No we can't it's not achievable can't happen. We have

01:00:01 --> 01:00:04: a lot of can't do attitude where the people actually

01:00:04 --> 01:00:07: want to do stuff and you're we as a city

01:00:07 --> 01:00:08: get in the way of it.

01:00:09 --> 01:00:11: So how do we enable them to reach their full

01:00:11 --> 01:00:14: potential? How do we shine a light on great individuals?

01:00:14 --> 01:00:18: Some of the greatest digital artists actually are from

01:00:18 --> 01:00:20: Vancouver,

01:00:18 --> 01:00:20: guarantee you, people don't know that. They have to go

01:00:21 --> 01:00:23: to LA, they got to go to New York, they

01:00:23 --> 01:00:25: got to go to Toronto to get the stuff put

01:00:25 --> 01:00:28: on display. Some of the greatest, some great musicians, their

01:00:28 --> 01:00:31: billboards are going up in Times Square. You know,

01:00:31 --> 01:00:35: Toronto's

01:00:31 --> 01:00:35: whatever square, the young Dundas Square, like, they're

01:00:35 --> 01:00:38: paying to

01:00:35 --> 01:00:38: get the stuff put on there. Why aren't we retaining

01:00:38 --> 01:00:38: some of that?

01:00:39 --> 01:00:42: Cash here, like they would pay to put some stuff

01:00:42 --> 01:00:45: here or we would just advocate for them and have

01:00:45 --> 01:00:48: the, the advertisers pay for stuff and and do exchange.

01:00:48 --> 01:00:51: So I mean I'm, I just feel like we have

01:00:51 --> 01:00:55: great people, we have great producers of placemaking. The

01:00:51 --> 01:00:55: one

01:00:55 --> 01:00:57: thing that we don't do well as a city that

01:00:57 --> 01:01:01: we need to change from a placemaking standpoint is, is

01:01:01 --> 01:01:05: is different groups need to come together and work together

01:01:05 --> 01:01:07: and not compete against each other.

01:01:08 --> 01:01:11: Right. Because what happens when they compete against each other?

01:01:11 --> 01:01:14: It waters down the product to a point where you're

01:01:14 --> 01:01:17: like, yeah, it's good, but like could have been better.

01:01:17 --> 01:01:20: Now if you get them all together and find some

01:01:20 --> 01:01:23: sort of coalition and maybe this is something that the

01:01:23 --> 01:01:25: night economy person can add on to it and a

01:01:25 --> 01:01:28: cultural element to it. How do we create and work

01:01:28 --> 01:01:31: with all sorts of these groups and and maybe some

01:01:31 --> 01:01:33: of these groups have people that are running it that

01:01:33 --> 01:01:35: are no longer fit to run it.

01:01:35 --> 01:01:38: They're burnt out. They ain't or whatever. They're just not.

01:01:38 --> 01:01:41: Whatever it is, it's the same thing. Sometimes these groups

01:01:41 --> 01:01:44: need renewal to get fresh blood, fresh ideas, and it's

01:01:44 --> 01:01:46: the same as City Hall. I think we need a

01:01:46 --> 01:01:48: renewal. I think we need to get rid of a

01:01:48 --> 01:01:50: bunch of people. That's what I would do if I

01:01:50 --> 01:01:51: was kinsim.

01:01:52 --> 01:01:56: Well, thank you all. I'm getting some comments here. Excellent

01:01:56 --> 01:01:59: talk. And we've got somebody that says we need to

01:01:59 --> 01:02:02: own and be proud of our city center and it's

01:02:02 --> 01:02:04: all there. I'm going to hand it off to Rachel.

01:02:04 --> 01:02:08: Thank you guys so much. That was a very insightful

01:02:08 --> 01:02:09: chat we had, Rachel.

01:02:10 --> 01:02:13: Yes, thank you so much. I say again, I only

01:02:13 --> 01:02:16: wish that we had more time. I think that there's

01:02:16 --> 01:02:17: so much to discuss here, so.

01:02:18 --> 01:02:21: Hopefully in the near future we can plan something that

01:02:21 --> 01:02:25: expands on some of these ideas. Specifically. Thank you Lorraine.

01:02:25 --> 01:02:28: Thank you Royce Carm Kerry for for being here and

01:02:28 --> 01:02:32: for providing such honest and innovative ideas and insight. I'd

01:02:32 --> 01:02:36: like to thank the ULIBC annual sponsors for making these

01:02:36 --> 01:02:39: events possible. For everyone who came, this is a very

01:02:39 --> 01:02:42: popular event. Thank you for taking the time in your

01:02:42 --> 01:02:43: day to come.

01:02:44 --> 01:02:46: And join us and yes just have a wonderful day.

01:02:46 --> 01:02:50: Hopefully some of this actually comes to reality and we
01:02:50 --> 01:02:53: see some some great change and and Granville St. becomes
01:02:53 --> 01:02:56: the place we all see it being. Thanks everyone.
01:02:56 --> 01:02:59: Thanks everybody. Bye.

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