

# 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

00:05:12 --> 00:05:17: limited

00:05:17 --> 00:05:22: amount of blocks less than a kilometer that's under the

00:05:22 --> 00:05:25: study that's proposed and my understanding is it's to take

00:05:26 --> 00:05:30: an 18 month long period now the BIA.

00:05:30 --> 00:05:34: Focus Group stakeholders we've been working on it for

00:05:34 --> 00:05:37: decades.

00:05:37 --> 00:05:41: All the work has been done. In fact the city

00:05:41 --> 00:05:44: when they want to act fast, they can act fast.

00:05:45 --> 00:05:49: And they wanted to do a little subsection of a

00:05:49 --> 00:05:51: few blocks rezoning about a year or two ago and

00:05:52 --> 00:05:57: they moved lightning fast to make that happen and that

00:05:57 --> 00:06:01: was the same time that the.

00:06:01 --> 00:06:05: You know, politically expedient decisions were made like

00:06:05 --> 00:06:10: converting the

00:06:10 --> 00:06:14: hotel to residential and COVID and so the city can

00:06:14 --> 00:06:19: act fast when they want to. But that hasn't been

00:06:19 --> 00:06:21: the case here. All the stakeholders have been for decades

00:06:21 --> 00:06:25: chasing the city to do something. They've done nothing. In

00:06:25 --> 00:06:29: fact, we've, you know, we've worked on multiple projects on

00:06:30 --> 00:06:34: Granville St. and and.

00:06:34 --> 00:06:38: Going on half a decade, can you put the slide

00:06:38 --> 00:06:43: up please, Rachel, there are a few. There are a

00:06:43 --> 00:06:45: few things that can be done quickly and one is

00:06:46 --> 00:06:50: what I've got on the slide here. This shows what's

00:06:50 --> 00:06:55: currently allowed in the masking now for those of you

00:06:55 --> 00:06:59: who don't really know.

00:06:59 --> 00:07:04: The real estate lingo FSR is 4 square ratio. What's

00:07:04 --> 00:07:09: allowed is a building that's 90 feet tall and but

00:07:09 --> 00:07:13: what's only allowed to be built there's 3.5 times. So

basically 3 1/2 times volume to to fill the space,

the envelope. That's permissible, but in fact we can fit

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  
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,  
which are  
00:13:56 --> 00:14:01: critical for new businesses and even business licenses take  
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  
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  
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 DV BIA 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  
 be  
 and they're not listening to the citizens, they're listening to  
 their own ideologies and their own agendas. So that's  
 another  
 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

00:26:40 --> 00:26:41: Chewing Royce. I'll

00:26:42 --> 00:26:45: pass it to you.

00:26:46 --> 00:26:48: Thanks very much Rachel. Thanks Kerry. Thanks carm.

00:26:48 --> 00:26:50: Great comments

00:26:51 --> 00:26:53: and I'll take I'll be out of it and take

00:26:54 --> 00:26:56: a little bit of a different approach.

00:26:56 --> 00:26:59: For those of you that have been around long enough,

00:26:59 --> 00:27:02: you'll remember a term that that popped out over a

00:27:02 --> 00:27:06: decade ago, well over a decade ago, and that was

00:27:06 --> 00:27:08: white elephant. And the white elephant term referred to the

00:27:08 --> 00:27:12: Vancouver Convention Center that that when that was built,

00:27:12 --> 00:27:14: that

00:27:14 --> 00:27:17: would be a white white elephant. It would not be

00:27:17 --> 00:27:18: additive to downtown. It would impact downtown. It would not

00:27:19 --> 00:27:22: be used. And we can see now from the evidence

00:27:22 --> 00:27:25: that happens on a daily annual basis that that is

00:27:25 --> 00:27:29: simply not the case.

00:27:29 --> 00:27:32: That the policy decisions that were made to allow that

00:27:32 --> 00:27:36: structure to go up in what it did to be

00:27:37 --> 00:27:41: a massive additive force for downtown has reaped huge

00:27:41 --> 00:27:44: benefits

00:27:44 --> 00:27:47: all the way around. We're not just talking about from

00:27:48 --> 00:27:51: tax base, of course, job creation, experience creation, it is

00:27:51 --> 00:27:54: an epicenter of culture and creativity coming together. It is

00:27:54 --> 00:27:57: really a center of transformation. So when we think about

00:27:57 --> 00:28:02: the Granville Entertainment district.

00:28:02 --> 00:28:05: And Granville St. as a whole, we think about it

00:28:05 --> 00:28:09: as as water to water that entire strip. And in

00:28:09 --> 00:28:11: the center of that entire strip, you have the opportunity

00:28:12 --> 00:28:15: to rebuild and recreate an incredible anchor, a destination

00:28:15 --> 00:28:19: within

00:28:19 --> 00:28:22: the destination. I reflect back to what Mayor SIM has

00:28:22 --> 00:28:25: been saying lately since he's been elected and that is

00:28:25 --> 00:28:29: that Vancouver's open for business.

00:28:29 --> 00:28:33: And if you look at that statement, Vancouver must be

00:28:33 --> 00:28:37: open for business, not only for investors, because investors

00:28:37 --> 00:28:41: were

00:28:41 --> 00:28:45: 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  
 00:42:04 --> 00:42:08: it's safe, where families can watch. There could be  
 00:42:08 --> 00:42:11: animation,  
 00:42:08 --> 00:42:11: multi uses. You know, I look at the Tom Lee  
 00:42:11 --> 00:42:16: building, it had, you know, ballroom dancing. It had music  
 00:42:16 --> 00:42:16: lessons.  
 00:42:17 --> 00:42:20: 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  
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

more

00:51:24 --> 00:51:24: often.

00:51:24 --> 00:51:28: No, sorry, sorry. They should not request strip. They should

00:51:28 --> 00:51:32: not be requesting timelines, right? That's like a I opened

00:51:32 --> 00:51:35: a \$6 million restaurant. I tell the chef, hey, what

00:51:35 --> 00:51:38: do you think we should stock it with? Who should

00:51:38 --> 00:51:41: we buy the things from? Who's going to be my

00:51:41 --> 00:51:45: demographic? No, I'm sorry. They work for us, the citizens.

00:51:46 --> 00:51:50: They work for management, they work for council. We've all

00:51:50 --> 00:51:54: told Council what we want. Council can ask us any

00:51:54 --> 00:51:57: time they need not to request city staff what to

00:51:57 --> 00:52:00: do and when to do it, and what time frame

00:52:01 --> 00:52:04: they need to tell them we need this precisely, we

00:52:04 --> 00:52:08: need in this time frame, and if you need help,

00:52:08 --> 00:52:10: we'll give it to you. But there's.

00:52:11 --> 00:52:14: We don't ask the the you know, when you do

00:52:14 --> 00:52:18: a restaurant, you create your concept, you know your

00:52:18 --> 00:52:22: demographic,

00:52:18 --> 00:52:22: you choose what's served and how it's prepared, and the

00:52:22 --> 00:52:25: chef executes what you tell them to. So we got

00:52:25 --> 00:52:28: it, you know, make this happen at the city level

00:52:28 --> 00:52:31: and make city staff work how the rest of the

00:52:31 --> 00:52:36: world operates in every industry, from multinationals, from

00:52:36 --> 00:52:39: organizations, every with this is how it's got to be.

00:52:40 --> 00:52:42: Sorry to interrupt. Sorry to interrupt. Carrie, we've got a

00:52:42 --> 00:52:44: few questions here and I just don't want to make,

00:52:44 --> 00:52:46: I want to make sure that we get to them.

00:52:46 --> 00:52:48: I'm so sorry. I wish we had longer for this

00:52:48 --> 00:52:49: event because there's just so.

00:52:49 --> 00:52:50: Much none of my apologies.

00:52:51 --> 00:52:53: No, your insight is amazing. I just, I just don't

00:52:53 --> 00:52:54: want to miss. We have so many here.

00:52:56 --> 00:52:56: Right. Thank you.

00:52:57 --> 00:53:00: So I just want to get a quick thoughts from

00:53:00 --> 00:53:03: Royce and Carm. I there's rumors that you know rec

00:53:03 --> 00:53:07: rooms going in. How about more play based bars bring

00:53:07 --> 00:53:11: more of that interactive entertainment options like Dave and

00:53:11 --> 00:53:15: buster's

00:53:11 --> 00:53:15: like with the bar with Bowling Alley, Lucky Strike, I

00:53:15 --> 00:53:19: think it's called like I'm vision envisioning like Bellevue.

00:53:19 --> 00:53:22: You know how it's connected to the hotel. There's a

00:53:22 --> 00:53:25: 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

00:56:13 --> 00:56:16: musicians

00:56:16 --> 00:56:19: to play. They don't have to be large, it doesn't

00:56:19 --> 00:56:22: have to great. But you then can rotate and have

00:56:22 --> 00:56:25: the talent that we have in the city. We have

00:56:25 --> 00:56:27: great artists, musicians, creators that in our own town. We

00:56:28 --> 00:56:31: don't give them an outlet to perform.

00:56:31 --> 00:56:34: So create an outlet to perform live. Jazz bars are

00:56:34 --> 00:56:37: something that people go to of all ages. People love

00:56:38 --> 00:56:41: that stuff. We have live music in this city's been

00:56:41 --> 00:56:43: kind of killed by bureaucracy by these rules that are

00:56:43 --> 00:56:47: put in place for I don't know what. Like I

00:56:47 --> 00:56:49: don't know who these people are that are in charge

00:56:49 --> 00:56:52: and what happened to them as a child.

00:56:52 --> 00:56:55: Or in high school, how bullied they were or what?

00:56:55 --> 00:56:57: But something happened for when they became in charge

00:56:57 --> 00:57:00: that

00:57:00 --> 00:57:02: they went on this ego and power trip and that

00:57:02 --> 00:57:05: to what Kerry's been saying is we as citizens need

00:57:05 --> 00:57:07: to demand that. They either need to shape up or

00:57:07 --> 00:57:10: get the hell out. Because if we're open for business,

00:57:10 --> 00:57:12: then these people need to get out of our way

00:57:12 --> 00:57:14: or they need to jump on the fucking train. I'm

00:57:14 --> 00:57:17: sorry, I'm supposed to not say, but or they need

00:57:17 --> 00:57:20: 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,

01:00:21 --> 01:00:23: guarantee you, people don't know that. They have to go

01:00:23 --> 01:00:25: to LA, they got to go to New York, they

01:00:25 --> 01:00:28: got to go to Toronto to get the stuff put

01:00:28 --> 01:00:31: on display. Some of the greatest, some great musicians, their

01:00:31 --> 01:00:35: billboards are going up in Times Square. You know,

01:00:35 --> 01:00:38: Toronto's

01:00:38 --> 01:00:38: whatever square, the young Dundas Square, like, they're

01:00:39 --> 01:00:42: paying to

01:00:42 --> 01:00:45: get the stuff put on there. Why aren't we retaining

01:00:45 --> 01:00:48: some of that?

01:00:48 --> 01:00:51: Cash here, like they would pay to put some stuff

01:00:51 --> 01:00:55: here or we would just advocate for them and have

01:00:55 --> 01:00:55: the, the advertisers pay for stuff and and do exchange.

01:00:55 --> 01:00:55: So I mean I'm, I just feel like we have

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

01:00:55 --> 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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