



**Safety for All
Community (SFAC)**
300 Block of Alexander St
Vancouver, BC

Improving the safety of our community by knowing our neighbours!

November 13, 2009

Dear Neighbours,

The Safety for All Community (SFAC) Committee is a neighbourhood group striving to improve safety on the 300 Block of Alexander Street. The committee has been working with residents to identify areas of common concern and determine ways to improve the design and look of the street for everyone.

It's been a little while since we last provided an update on the "Blooming Boulevard" project, and I wanted to thank you for your patience.

I am pleased to announce that the Safety for All Committee has received a Public Realm Improvements grant from the City for this project. The \$51,000 grant will be used to develop a communal garden space along the northern sidewalk of the block. The garden will provide residents of the neighbourhood with a chance to work together and to create a safe and beautiful place to live, work and visit. Details of the grant can be found in the City Clerk's Notice on the back of the page.

Many of you have already had a chance to contribute ideas for the initial garden design. Later this month we will be holding two open houses to review the revised designs for the project. We'll be looking for your feedback at these sessions and your input on a short survey (see attached). And if you're interested in volunteering to help with this project, there'll be opportunity to sign up to lend a hand.

Designs can be viewed and surveys dropped off at the Evelyn Saller Centre from November 23rd through November 27th. Copies of the survey are also available at www.communitystudio.org

The Design team from Community Studio and information sessions will be held at:

Evelyn Saller Centre
Thursday November 26, 2009
6:15 to 8:15 pm
320 Alexander Street Vancouver

Barrick Technology Center (rear entrance)
Saturday November 21st 2009
12:00pm (noon) – 3:30pm
~ 370 Railway Street Vancouver

Sincerely,

Lori Schlechtleitner **SFAC Chair**
SFAC.Committee@gmail.com

“Blooming Boulevard” (300-Block Alexander Street) Project (Public Realm Improvement)

(Source: <http://vancouver.ca/ctyclerk/cclerk/20090721/documents/a11.pdf>)

In 2007, a group of neighbours came together to discuss concerns and areas of interest regarding the 300-block of Alexander Street. This group of businesses, social service organizations and residents coalesced into the ‘Safety for All Community’ (SFAC) - a collective of concerned neighbours that share an interest in creating a safe and healthy community. In 2008, the SFAC Committee engaged a facilitator to bring this diverse group of stakeholders together around common goals and objectives, to assist the group to develop networks and relationships and to identify common goals and solutions to begin to address the group’s main issues of concern.

The first action item that the SFAC Committee identified through this facilitated process was to build a ‘community garden’. The idea of building a community garden is intended to provide a space where neighbours can work together on a tangible project, develop community pride, and strengthen communication and relationships in addition to bringing much needed greenery into the area. In its initial phase, this community garden will take the form of a ‘blooming boulevard’ or growing wall located in the north boulevard of the 300-block of Alexander Street.

Project funding will be used to support the SFAC Committee to create this ‘blooming boulevard’, with the City providing assistance related to Engineering works in the boulevard. The process of building and creating the growing wall will further support the Committee in working towards its broader goal of fostering relationships between neighbours to build a safe and healthy community for all that live, work, and move through this area.

The total estimated budget for this project is approximately \$66,000, for a total of three years. The costs include both expenses to build the garden, and to maintain it over a three year period. Staff recommend that Council approve \$51,000 from the 2008 DTES Capital Budget to cover these costs. A private company will be providing approximately \$15,000 towards ongoing maintenance and irrigation costs.

Total Project Cost: \$ 66,000

City of Vancouver – DTES Capital Budget Request: \$ 51,000

Private Sector Funding: \$15,000