
Chinatown Action Plan Community Meeting #2

SUMMARY REPORT

December 2015 - Aloha Tower Marketplace

Summary

Community Meeting #2 was held on December 1st 2015 to present the Draft Chinatown Action Plan, which was the result of the Chinatown Action Summit held in the summer of 2015. The Chinatown Action Plan, consists of relatively short-term, doable “actions” identified by various City departments and community partners. The purpose of this meeting was to receive feedback on this draft plan and prioritize these actions in order of importance to the community. The meeting also served as an opportunity to receive any additional ideas or comments not addressed by the plan. This report outlines the priorities and comments received, and the next steps to be taken in further developing the final Chinatown Action Plan. Meeting presentation slides are attached to the end of the report.

Meeting Overview

The community meeting took place from 6:00 p.m. to 7:45 p.m. on Tuesday, December 1, 2015, at the Aloha Tower Marketplace, Multipurpose Room 3. The format of the event included 12 group tables and 2 projector screens.



A resource table provided information about the Downtown Neighborhood Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) Plan and other previous neighborhood plans. The Neighborhood Commission Office and the Honolulu Authority for Rapid Transportation also had resource tables with informational brochures. There were two interactive displays around the room for the public to provide information and input. One of the displays was a ‘Live, Work, Play’ map on which participants put a red dot where they live, a blue dot where they work or own property, and a yellow dot where they ‘play’ (also understood as areas where they conduct other activities like shopping, recreation, etc). The second display was for dot voting, during the work session. Three dot voting displays were set up around the room providing an opportunity for people to indicate their favorite and least favorite actions from the draft Chinatown Action Plan (Action Plan).

Upon check-in, participants were given a handout (Figure 1) which listed all the actions included in the Action Plan and a reference map of the Chinatown area. At least 80 individuals attended the community meeting. In addition to individual residents from Chinatown and surrounding communities, participant affiliations included local neighborhood boards and community associations, non-profit groups, and

government agencies. At least 2/3 participated in the dot voting exercises, and some participated in the other poster activities.

The meeting began with a welcome by Mayor Kirk Caldwell and the recognition of all the different partners and stakeholders that have been involved in this community process: elected officials, community organizations and the public. Harrison Rue, TOD Administrator for the City, followed by explaining the agenda and the desired outcomes of the meeting. The program consisted of a PowerPoint presentation on each of the 21 actions included in the Action Plan, and a work session that allowed the participants to provide their feedback. In addition, participants were provided with comment cards to ensure everyone had a chance to provide further comments and feedback.

The work session followed the presentation and it consisted of two elements: the dot voting exercise and a group table discussion. The participants had the chance to share their preferences with the dot voting exercise and, right after, participants were guided through a series of questions/topics for discussion at their tables. The group discussion was based on two actions from the Action Plan—Nuuanu Stream corridor and River Street—and the discussion topic #3—Kekaulike Street—was determined through the dot voting activity. Lastly, time was given for discussion of any other topics that the participants wanted to address. Each table was accompanied by City or consultant personnel, who facilitated discussion and recorded key points. The results of these table discussions are described in Part 2 of this document.

Group discussion

1. What are your top priority physical improvements for the Nuuanu Stream corridor?
2. Brainstorm ideas to make Hotel Street a gathering place.
3. Discuss design ideas for Kekaulike Street (*dot voting priority action*).
4. Anything missing from Action Plan?

With the PowerPoint presentation and work sessions concluded, the community meeting was completed.

Community Input

Dot Voting Exercise

The dot voting exercise allowed meeting participants to directly share their preference of actions included in the Action Plan. Each participant was given 3 green dots to mark their favorite actions and 1 red dot to mark their least favorite action. Voting took place after the PowerPoint presentation. The overall results are found in Table 1, and the favorite top 5 actions of the dot voting activity, marked with the most number of green dots, are found in Table 2.



There were a total of 265 votes cast, including 27 red dots. The low number of red dots indicates that, overall, the participants approve of the actions included in the Action Plan. The actions that got the most number of red votes, only had 4 votes or less, which indicates that there was not a major disagreement with any specific actions included in the Action Plan. On the other hand, some actions were clear favorites, and the ones included in the top 5 had more than 15 positive votes. Generally, the four Action Plan Categories were supported equally.

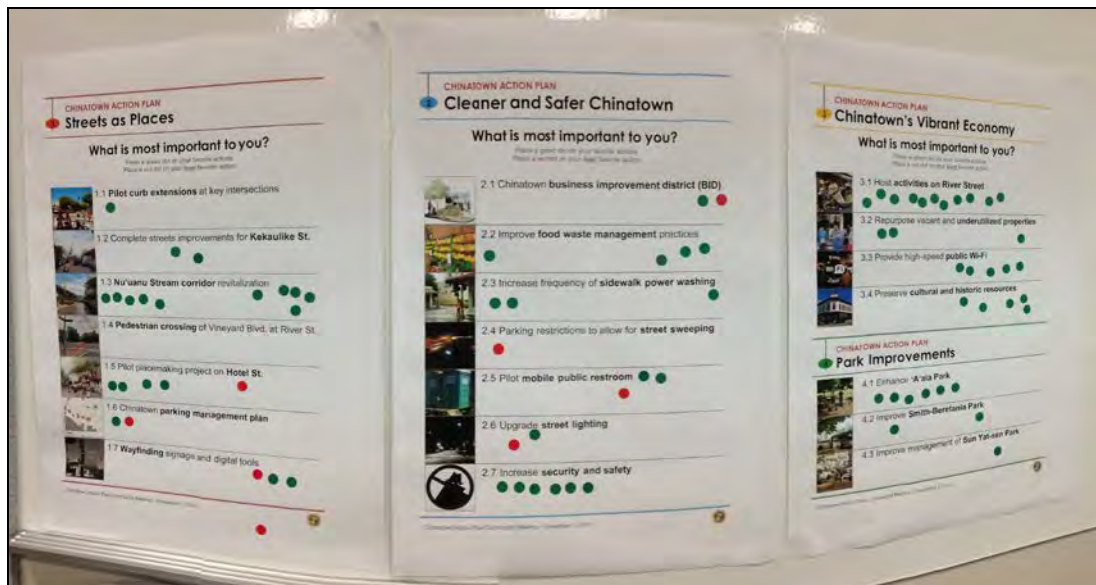


Table 1 - Dot Voting Overall Results

	Green Dots #	Red Dots #
1. STREETS AS PLACES		
1.1 Install pilot curb extensions at key Chinatown intersections	8	2
1.2 Plan and design complete streets and rail access improvements for Kekaulike Street	16	0
1.3 Revitalize the Nuuanu Stream corridor	26	0
1.4 Provide pedestrian crossing of Vineyard Boulevard at River Street	4	4
1.5 Explore a pilot placemaking project on Hotel Street	12	2
1.6 Develop a Chinatown parking management plan	7	1
1.7 Plan and implement wayfinding signage and digital tools	6	3
2. CLEANER AND SAFER CHINATOWN		
2.1 Establish a business improvement district (BID) for Chinatown	4	4
2.2 Develop improved food waste management practices	19	0
2.3 Increase the frequency of sidewalk power washing on particular streets	13	0
2.4 Revise the street sweeping schedule based on alternate side parking restrictions	1	2
2.5 Pilot a mobile public restroom	15	1
2.6 Upgrade street lighting	7	1
2.7 Improve communication, collaboration, and enforcement to increase security and safety	16	1
3. CHINATOWN'S VIBRANT ECONOMY		
3.1 Host activities on River Street	23	1
3.2 Repurpose and market vacant and underutilized properties	13	0
3.3 Provide high-speed public Wi-Fi	8	1
3.4 Preserve the neighborhood's cultural and historic resources	13	0
4. PARK IMPROVEMENTS		
4.1 Enhance 'A'ala Park	15	0
4.2 Increase usage and sense of safety at Smith-Beretania Park	8	2
4.3 Develop a management and programming plan for Sun Yat-sen Park	4	2
Total Votes (265)	238	27

The results of the dot voting activity further confirmed the priorities and concerns expressed by the community members at the Chinatown Action Summit on June 26, 2015. **‘Revitalize the Nuuanu Stream corridor’** (26) and **‘Host activities on River Street’** (23) were identified as the favorite actions from the Action Plan. The third highest votes went to **‘Develop improved food waste management practices’**. The fourth and fifth highest votes went to **‘Plan and design complete streets and rail access improvements for Kekaulike Street’** and **‘Improve communication, collaboration, and enforcement to increase security and safety’**, respectively. The results indicate that revitalizing the Nuuanu Stream corridor and increasing activity on River Street are the most important actions, but revitalization efforts have to go hand in hand with keeping the area clean and safe. The community support for Kekaulike Street shows that there is awareness of the need to improve future rail access by implementing complete streets elements.

Table 2 - Top 5 Favorite Actions (green dots)

FAVORITE ACTIONS	Green Dots #
1.3 Revitalize the Nuuanu Stream corridor	26
3.1 Host activities on River Street	23
2.2 Develop improved food waste management practices	19
1.2 Plan and design complete streets and rail access improvements for Kekaulike Street	16
2.7 Improve communication, collaboration, and enforcement to increase security and safety	16

Table Discussion

Table exercises allowed participants to discuss specific key actions from the Action Plan. In general the questions served as points of departure for further discussion on the subject posed. The discussion activity allowed meeting participants to directly share their views, opinions, and hopes for the future. The following are the group discussion questions and summary.



1. What are your top priority physical improvements for the Nuuanu Stream corridor?

Participants were asked to think about physical improvements for the Nuuanu Stream corridor, considering a scenario where only limited funding is available. The question asked participants to prioritize ideas for physical improvement.

The most frequently mentioned physical improvement was to clean and restore the Nuuanu Stream. Various ideas came from different groups, but overall the participants identified the need to dredge, clean, repair and maintain the stream. Access to water, a way to connect people to the stream, was identified as a potential long term project. Participants focused on the need to improve accessibility and connectivity, mostly focused on pedestrian improvements. Comments proposed to widen sidewalks, install improved crosswalks, and to create pedestrian friendly street designs. Other topics mentioned were to provide bike facilities, to create a connection to the harbor front, reinforcing the mauka-makai connection of the Nuuanu Stream corridor, and to create gathering and activity spaces along the corridor.

The following are some elements that were identified by the participants for the Nuuanu Stream corridor:

- Improved aesthetics, beautification
- Shade – trees, trellises, etc.
- Better lighting
- More green on sides – planters, rain gardens on edge of sidewalk
- Better tree maintenance

To transform the Nuuanu Stream corridor into a more lively space, the participants identified that other elements besides physical improvements are needed. Elements such as activities and events were mentioned several times. Several participants raised the idea of having arts and cultural events, to have markets (night markets, arts and crafts, etc.), and to utilize the stream and have water activities.

2. Brainstorm ideas to make Hotel Street a gathering place

Action 1.5 of the Action Plan ‘Explore a Pilot Placemaking project on Hotel Street’ elaborates on the idea of changing the main use of Hotel Street from a bus transit street to a pedestrian priority street. This action is the result of comments from participants at the Chinatown Action Summit (June 2015). There was overwhelming support for making Hotel Street a pedestrian-only street with very limited access to vehicles and traffic from cross streets. A majority of the tables supported the idea of the pilot project, and many comments elaborated on necessary elements to consider. Some groups were supportive of making Hotel Street a 100% pedestrian only street all day long, while other groups mentioned that the pilot project could close the streets during certain times of the day (e.g., only in the evenings), and other groups considered the idea of allowing traffic for deliveries and other purposes early in the mornings. Participants provided ideas regarding what to do with the bus routes that currently run along Hotel Street. While a majority of groups supported removing buses completely off Hotel Street and turning the street into a mall, others proposed to keep buses in only one lane, either east or west-bound, and only one group mentioned that the project imply too much closure to auto traffic. Other considerations were whether bike facilities should be included into the new street design, what furniture to allow in the street (tables, chairs, etc.), and how to maintain a safe and accessible walking space for pedestrians.

Comments about long-term viability mentioned that more physical improvement should be considered, such as widened sidewalks, increased shade, improved building façades, and landscape elements. It was emphasized that a long term vision of Hotel Street needs to consider what will happen when the rail is operating. Participants also mentioned that there is a need to activate 2nd floors and vacant properties in

the area, and they identified building codes and high renovation costs as barriers. Again, activities and events were mentioned as opportunities to complement this project. Although there were a variety of complementary and differing ideas, participants were open to changing and improving Hotel Street.

3. Discuss design ideas for Kekaulike Street

This discussion topic was determined at the event by initial results of the dot voting exercise. Participants were asked to brainstorm and identify changes that they would like to see on Kekaulike Street.

The most commonly identified idea was the need for pedestrian safety and comfort and better utilization of Kekaulike Street. Comments included thoughts on extending Kekaulike Street as a seamless extension of Kekaulike Mall and conversion of Kekaulike Street into a 'woonerf' or shared street, where priority and more space would be given to pedestrians, while providing limited access to cars and slow vehicle traffic. Among those who supported the idea of allowing vehicle traffic, many commented that there should be specific restrictions, such as time of the day for vehicular access, for example, only early morning and at very slow speed. Some groups thought that no parking should be allowed, but designated zones for drop offs, handicapped loading and loading and unloading of merchandise should be considered. As for visual and design elements, participants would like to see the visual design of Kekaulike Mall extended to Kekaulike Street, and participants would like Kekaulike Street have more shade.

Some participants thought that Kekaulike Street should be considered as the entrance or gateway to Chinatown from the rail station. The uses and businesses around the area should support pedestrian traffic that the rail station will attract. Comments included the need to have a mix of uses, businesses that support commuter needs, and gathering places. Wayfinding elements and information kiosks should be provided on Kekaulike Street. One group focused on the need to improve cleanliness and trash pick-up on Kekaulike Street. Participants proposed many changes to Kekaulike Street, but they would like to maintain and preserve the existing character of the street and see the Oahu Market stay open and benefit from street improvement.

4. Additional comments

The last section of the group discussion provided time for the table to discuss anything that the participants thought was missing from the Action Plan. The table below summarizes the key topics provided by the participants. Overall the participants reiterated many topics that were covered in the Action Plan, but they wanted to point out or highlight specific elements that should be considered, such as bike facilities and self-cleaning public toilets.

Below are additional comments from the table discussion and the comment cards:

- Pedestrian improvements
 - Widen sidewalks
 - Better crosswalks
 - Pedestrian and bike connectivity and access
- Food waste
 - Implement a bin collection system
 - Food and boxes attracts homeless
 - Compost for community gardens
 - Evening trash pickup
- Events programming
 - Dedicated person/organization
 - Consistency – something always happening and small events
- Bikes
 - Bike share
 - Better bike parking
 - Lighting for bike lanes
- Restrooms
 - Self-cleaning toilets
 - Advertising
- Safety
 - Walking between parking and destination needs to be safe
 - Security cameras don't work
- Others
 - Relocate River Mission of Life meal operations
 - Public-private partnerships
 - Chinatown is an international destination

Next Steps

The findings of this report and feedback from Community Meeting #2 will be used to update and finalize the Chinatown Action Plan, and the priorities identified in this report will be shared with City leaders. Actions in the plan currently not being handled by an agency or community partner will be reviewed to determine the appropriate lead. The City will use the Chinatown Action Plan as a road map for ongoing Chinatown improvements in the coming years.

Figure 1 - Chinatown Action Plan Community Meeting Handout



The Chinatown Action Plan is a set of strategies identified by the community for improving the historic neighborhood. It includes the following groups of actions to be led by various public agencies in collaboration with community partners.

1. STREETS AS PLACES

- 1.1 Install pilot curb extensions at key Chinatown intersections
- 1.2 Plan and design complete streets and rail access improvements for Kekaulike Street
- 1.3 Revitalize the Nu'uuanu Stream corridor
- 1.4 Provide pedestrian crossing of Vineyard Boulevard at River Street
- 1.5 Explore a pilot placemaking project on Hotel Street
- 1.6 Develop a Chinatown parking management plan
- 1.7 Plan and implement wayfinding signage and digital tools

2. CLEANER AND SAFER CHINATOWN

- 2.1 Establish a business improvement district (BID) for Chinatown
- 2.2 Develop improved food waste management practices
- 2.3 Increase the frequency of sidewalk power washing on particular streets

- 2.4 Revise the street sweeping schedule based on alternate side parking restrictions
- 2.5 Pilot a mobile public restroom
- 2.6 Upgrade street lighting
- 2.7 Improve communication, collaboration, and enforcement to increase security and safety

3. CHINATOWN'S VIBRANT ECONOMY

- 3.1 Host activities on River Street
- 3.2 Repurpose and market vacant and underutilized properties
- 3.3 Provide high-speed public Wi-Fi
- 3.4 Preserve the neighborhood's cultural and historic resources

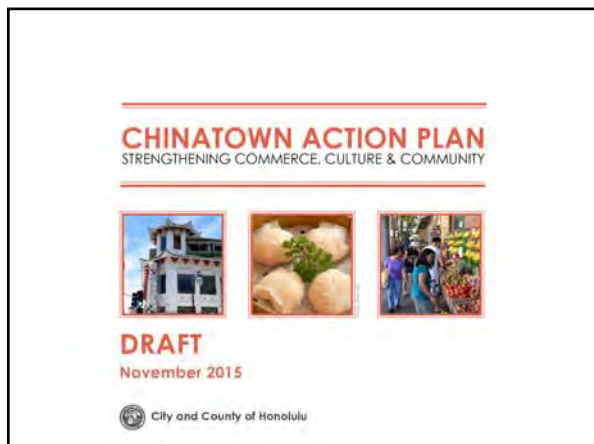
4. PARK IMPROVEMENTS

- 4.1 Enhance 'A'ala Park
- 4.2 Increase usage and sense of safety at Smith-Beretania Park
- 4.3 Develop a management and programming plan for Sun Yat-sen Park

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STRENGTHENING COMMERCE, CULTURE & COMMUNITY



www.connecthonolulu.com



WHAT WE'LL DO TONIGHT

- Review draft Chinatown Action Plan
 - Mostly near-term, a few planning for longer term
 - Includes lead agencies, funding commitments
- Select your key priorities (dot voting)
- Discuss selected actions

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- Senator Chun Oakland
- Representative Rhoads
- Councilmember Fukunaga
- Arts District Merchants Association
- BCause
- Chinatown Business & Community Association
- Chinatown Improvement District
- Chinese Chamber of Commerce
- Chinatown Community Center Association
- SHADE Institute | Dean Sakamoto Architects LLC
- Enterprise Honolulu
- HDR Inc.
- United Chinese Society
- Hawaii Heritage Center

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CHINATOWN ACTION SUMMIT

JUNE 27, 2015

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TOP PRIORITIES IDENTIFIED AT THE SUMMIT

- Pedestrian-Friendly Streets
- Cleanliness
- Safety
- Wayfinding
- Nu'uuanu Stream corridor (incl. events)

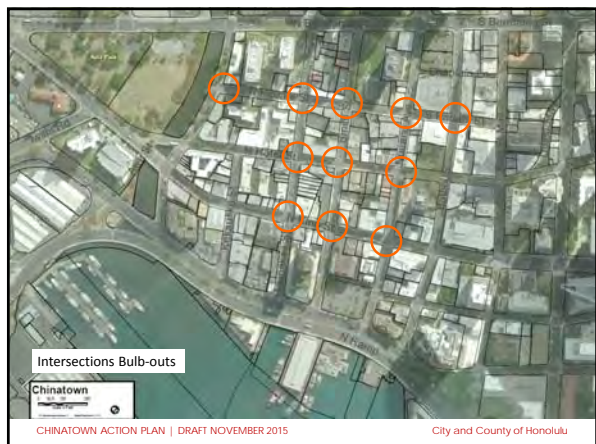
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1. STREETS AS PLACES

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1.2 Plan and design complete streets and rail access improvements for Kekaulike Street

Status: Planning and design funded; consultant selection underway

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1.3 Revitalize the Nu'uuanu Stream corridor

Status: Funding for planning requested, with additional appropriations in future years for design and construction

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Action Summit Ideas

1. Create a pedestrian promenade (walking and biking only) with outdoor dining, seating, and shade that connects to Foster Botanical Garden.
2. Dredge and clean up the stream.
3. Provide access to the water.
4. Beautify the space.
5. Clean up A'ala Park, and add new park facilities and supportive amenities.
6. Add more trees adjacent to the stream (rather than next to the buildings).
7. Upgrade lighting in the corridor with LED bulbs, red Chinese lanterns, solar lighting, and colorful electronic lights.
8. Experiment with pop-up installations and parklets to provide greenery, seating, and food.

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Courtesy of SHADE Institute
www.shadegroup.org

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www.shadegroup.org

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1.4 Provide pedestrian crossing of Vineyard Blvd at River St

Status: HDOT. Planning and design funded; construction begins Nov 2017



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1.5 Explore a pilot placemaking project on Hotel Street

Status: No dedicated funding identified
Pilot improvements to test options anticipated in FY2016-17



Courtesy of SHADE Institute
www.shadegroup.org

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1.6 Develop a Chinatown parking management plan
 Status: Planning study funded; consultant selection underway
 Findings and recommendations anticipated in mid-2016

LEGEND
 ■ Designated Parking Lots ■ Street Parking ■ Loading Zone

PARKING SHADE

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1.7 Plan and implement wayfinding signage and digital tools
 Status: Chinatown pilot project funded
 Pedestrian sign installation anticipated in late 2016

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2. CLEANER AND SAFER CHINATOWN

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2.1 Establish a Chinatown business improvement district (BID)
Status: Property and business owner support needed



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2.2 Improve food waste management practices
Status: Community or nonprofit partner desired



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2.3 Increase the frequency of sidewalk power washing on particular streets
Status: Assessment underway; no additional funding currently available



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2.4 Revise the street sweeping schedule based on alternate side parking restrictions
Status: To be studied in parking management plan
Recommendations anticipated in mid-2016



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2.5 Pilot a mobile public restroom
Status: Funding or partner needed for restroom attendant



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2.6 Upgrade street lighting
Status: Revised request for proposals to be issued in spring 2016



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2.7 Improve communication, collaboration, and enforcement to increase security and safety
Status: Ongoing effort



photo: Mike Dunford

3. CHINATOWN'S VIBRANT ECONOMY

3.1 Host activities on River Street
Status: Preliminary event planning underway
New events anticipated in early 2016



photo: Kim Sasaki



3.2 Repurpose and market vacant and underutilized properties
Status: Negotiations, planning, and events underway



Courtesy: Michaels Development
themichaelsong.com

Halewai'olu Senior Residences
River Street

3.3 Provide high-speed public Wi-Fi

Status: Public access anticipated in 2016



Source: www.computertownsguide.com

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3.4 Preserve the neighborhood's cultural and historic resources

Status: Additional façade improvement grants to be available in early 2016
Applying for rehabilitation funding for Holau Market and Ai-Goto buildings



Photo: J. Berman

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4. PARK IMPROVEMENTS

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4.1 Enhance 'A'ala Park

Status: Dog park and event planning underway
Funding for planning capital improvements requested, with additional appropriations in future years for design and construction



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4.2 Increase usage and sense of safety at Smith-Beretania Park

Status: No dedicated funding available; community partners needed



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4.3 Develop a management and programming plan for Sun Yat-sen Park

Status: Community partners needed



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MOVING FORWARD

COMMUNITY COMMITMENT

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YOUR TURN

HELP US REFINE THE PLAN

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YOUR TURN – Dot Voting

- Place a green ● dot next to your favorite actions (3)
- Place a red ● dot next to your least favorite action (1)

Action #1

● ● ●

Action #2

●

Action #3

● ● ● ● ●

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YOUR TURN – Group Discussion

- Agree to brainstorm together, but don't have to agree on everything
- Remember 'hats off' rule
- Write it down!

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YOUR TURN – Group Discussion

1. What are your top priority physical improvements for the Nu'uuanu Stream corridor?
2. Brainstorm ideas to make Hotel Street a gathering place.
3. Priorities from dot voting
4. What's missing?

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