



## Agenda Item # 6:

### 2021/22 ANNUAL REPORT

The Board of Directors are pleased to provide this annual report highlighting activities and supports Hastings Crossing BIA (HxBIA) has delivered this past year ending March 31, 2022.

We begin with acknowledging and thanking Adam Hayashi, outgoing Executive Director for his efforts to continue keeping our agency functioning well. We also wish to thank Chris Neale-Clarke who expanded his role to provide administration, coordinate initiatives and support businesses for the HxBIA while we worked to find a new Executive Director. Kevin Barlow is HxBIA's new Executive Director.

As you are all likely aware, HxBIA is the smallest of all the BIAs, both in geographic area as well as budget. A significant area that we serve is currently struggling with the housing crisis and the resulting encampment that is affecting residents and businesses alike, in Hastings Crossing, as well as other areas of the city, and indeed the province. We further acknowledge there are several other issues currently affecting the health and well-being of many parties, concerning given the winter rainy season is here.

As you are all likely aware, HxBIA is the smallest of all the BIAs, both in geographic area as well as budget. A significant area that we serve is currently struggling with a humanitarian crisis with homeless people living on the streets in tents. This is especially concerning given the winter rainy season about to arrive. HxBIA and the neighborhood we serve is a community with heart. Together, we continue to press the various levels of government to find permanent solutions to this crisis. We know this is not an easy task, especially since several SROs have burned in recent months. We cannot give up though.

To this end, HxBIA continues to work with key agencies in our neighborhood such as United We Can and Mission Possible to keep the neighborhood as safe and clean as possible. HxBIA provides funds to Mission Possible to remove graffiti from the neighborhood. We also work with them to do street patrols and clean debris from the area.

HxBIA works with other non-profit leaders to provide a social enterprise approach to the systemic barriers many people in our neighborhood face regarding employment also. We are part of the Exchange Inner City network and contribute to discussions regarding community benefit agreements that help our neighborhood when developments are being considered.

We are also part of a provincial networks of BIAs (BIABC), many of whom come from urban areas that are also struggling with homelessness and substance use challenges. In addition, we are part of a Vancouver Partnership between 22 local BIAs also. Here we share ideas, plans, information and advocacy. HxBIA continues to sponsor events that reflect and keep our spirit alive for this neighborhood with a heart. This past year's events included: **LOCO BC Buy Local Week; Victory Square Block Party; Fair in the Square; Mission Possible Cleanest Day Event; Hub Cycling; and Binnars Coffee Cup Revolution.**

We have also been involved in a DTES Business Directory and have contracted photographers to take photos of the businesses in our area, both outside and inside so visitors and residents to our area know the diversity of over 650 business members who operate in our neighborhood. We have taken many of these pictures and posted them on our new Instagram account - **@haxbia.com** and our hashtag of

**#xperiencehastingscrossing** in order to provide more exposure of our members businesses. Our numbers of followers continue to increase.

COVID-19, like everywhere else, created a lengthy period of uncertainty and financial insecurity. Many businesses struggled to stay open, and indeed, some closed. As we near what we hope is an end to the pandemic, we continue to stay on top of this and advocate for greater government supports to stimulate economic recovery.