

Heritage Advisory Panel Report

For the Meeting of April 9, 2024

To: Heritage Advisory Panel Date: April 5, 2024

From: Laura Saretsky, Heritage Planner

Subject: Heritage Alteration Permit Application No. 00264 for 700 Government Street

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Heritage Advisory Panel (HAPI) is requested to review a Heritage Alteration Permit Application for 700 Government Street and provide advice to Council.

The proposal is to add welded metal holders mounted to the edge of the walkway for 12 umbrellas on the south side of the lower causeway. The umbrellas will provide shade and protection for the artists who participate in the Greater Victoria Harbour Authority's (GVHA) Indigenous Artists Causeway Program and will feature art by Songhees Nation artist Butch Dick.

The causeway, including both the lower and upper sections, is heritage designated and the Statement of Significance identifies the pavers and arrangement of walkways and seated areas as character-defining elements. The Official Community Plan (OCP) and Downtown Core Area Plan (DCAP) encourage sensitive and minimal alterations to protected heritage property, placemaking initiatives and the beautification of publicly accessible spaces. The proposal is minimal and reversable, while serving to enhance the sense of place and make the causeway a more accessible place for Indigenous artists.

The Options section of this report provides guidance on possible recommendations the Panel may make, or use as a basis to modify, in providing advice on this application.

Description of Proposal

The application proposes mounting 12 umbrella holders to the side of the lower step along the southern portion of the lower causeway walkway in the Inner Harbour.

The proposal includes the following major design components:

 12 welded metal tube holders, painted black, mounted to the side of the lower step adjacent to the lower causeway walkway.

Consistency with Policies and Design Guidelines

Official Community Plan

The proposal is consistent with the policies in Section 8: Placemaking- Urban Design and Heritage of the OCP, which includes objectives to conserve and enhance heritage property and public spaces, including with art that reflects the culture and heritage of Victoria.

Downtown Core Area Plan

The proposal is consistent with the heritage objectives of DCAP, such as the integration of art and cultural programming that is responsive to and representative of heritage values and history in streetscapes and open spaces.

Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada

The proposal is consistent with the Standards and Guidelines, which encourages minimal intervention and reversible alterations to heritage property where possible, while allowing for alterations that enhance the useability of historic places.

Accessibility

The umbrellas and holders will not impact the accessibility of the walkway.

OPTIONS

The following are three potential options that the Panel may consider using or modifying in formulating a recommendation to Council:

Option One

That the Heritage Advisory Panel recommend to Council that Development Permit Application No. 00264 for 700 Government Street be approved as presented.

Option Two

That the Heritage Advisory Panel recommend to Council that Development Permit Application No. 00264 for 700 Government Street be approved with the following changes:

as listed by the Panel.

Option Three

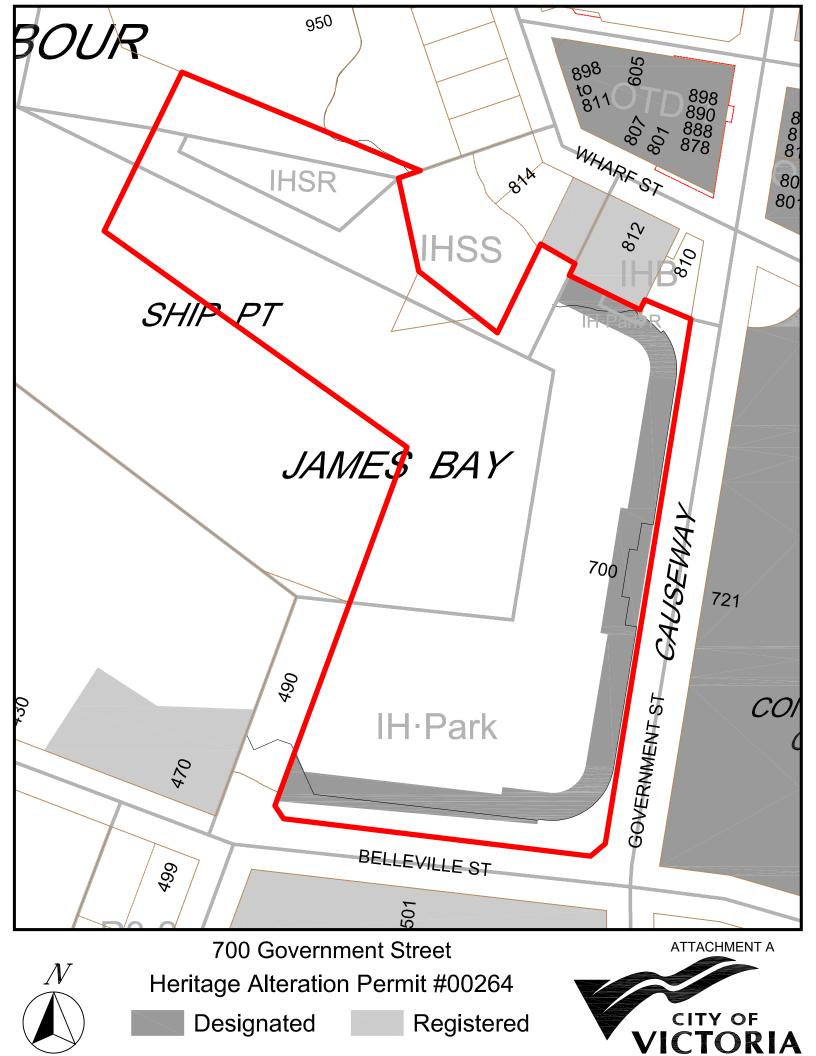
That the Heritage Advisory Panel recommend to Council that Development Permit Application No. 00264 for 700 Government Street does not sufficiently meet the applicable design guidelines and polices and should be declined (and that the key areas that should be revised include):

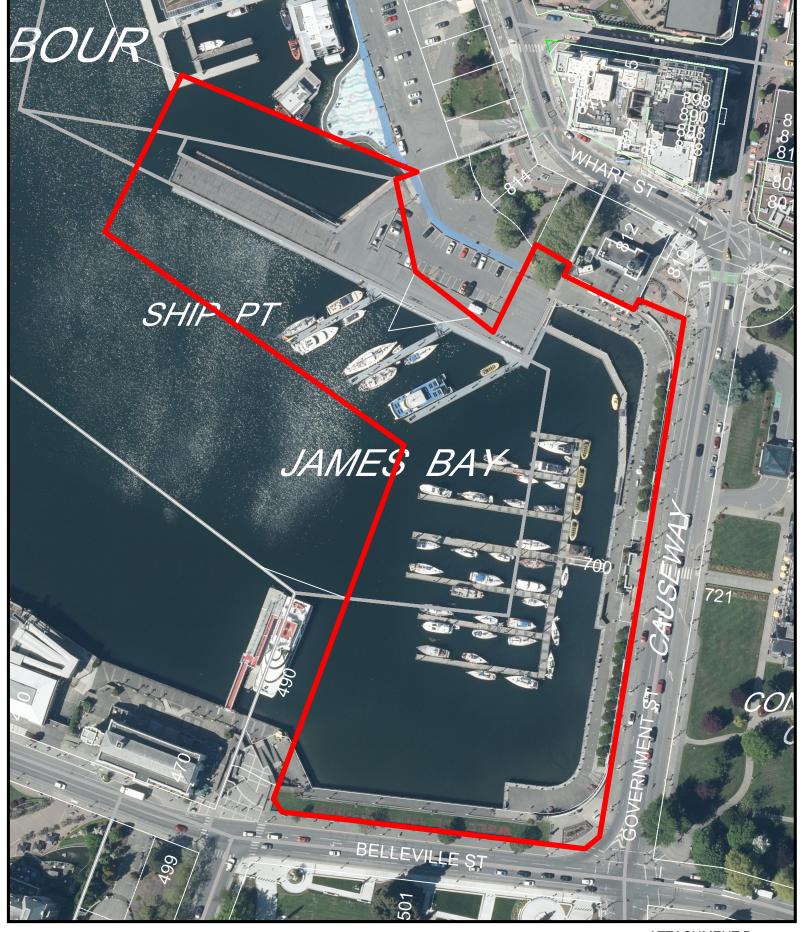
 as listed by the Panel, if there is further advice they would like to provide on how the Application could be improved.

ATTACHMENTS

- Subject Map
- Aerial Map
- Plans date stamped March 22, 2024
- Applicant's letter dated March 20, 2024.

cc: Judy Kitts, Greater Victoria Harbour Authority





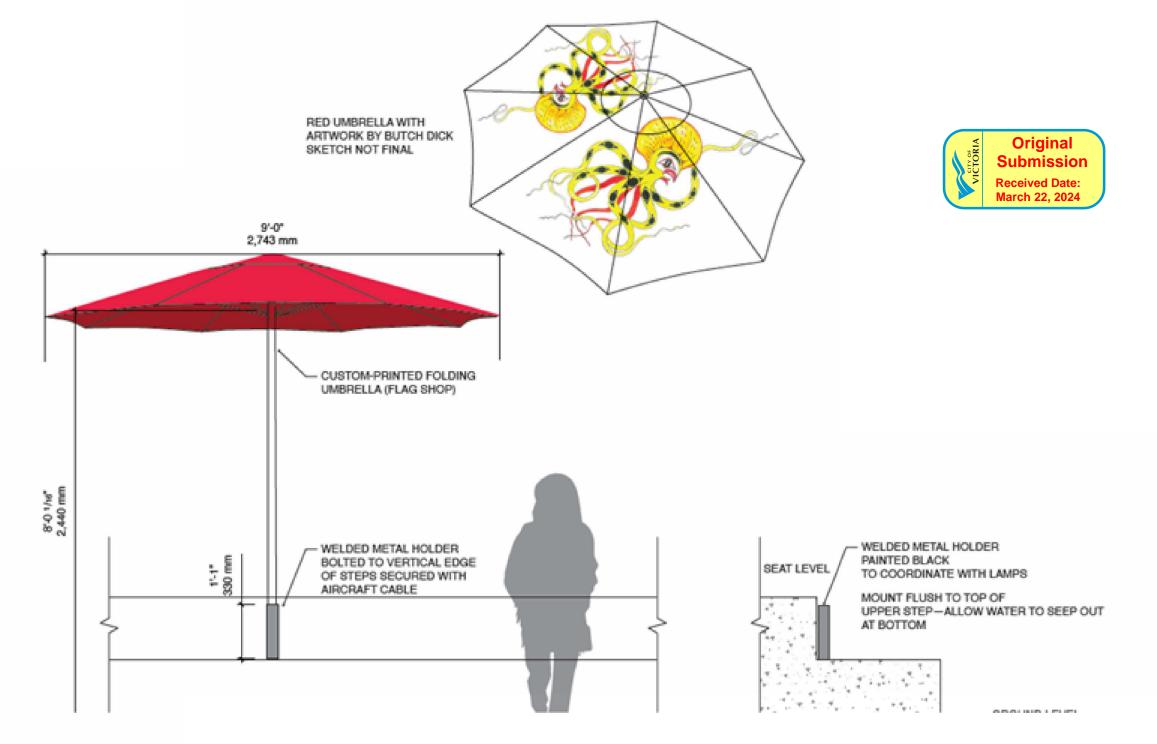


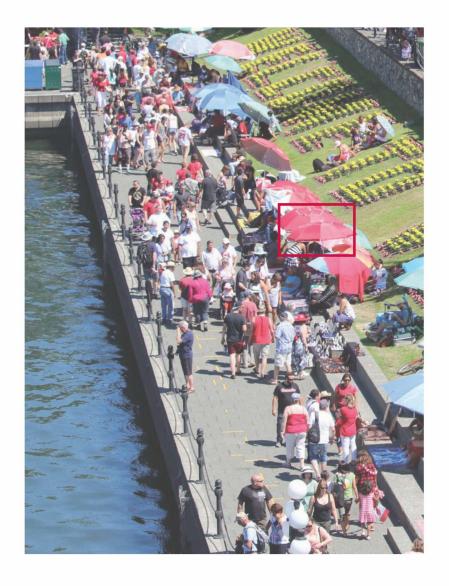
700 Government Street
Heritage Alteration Permit #00264

Designated

Registered

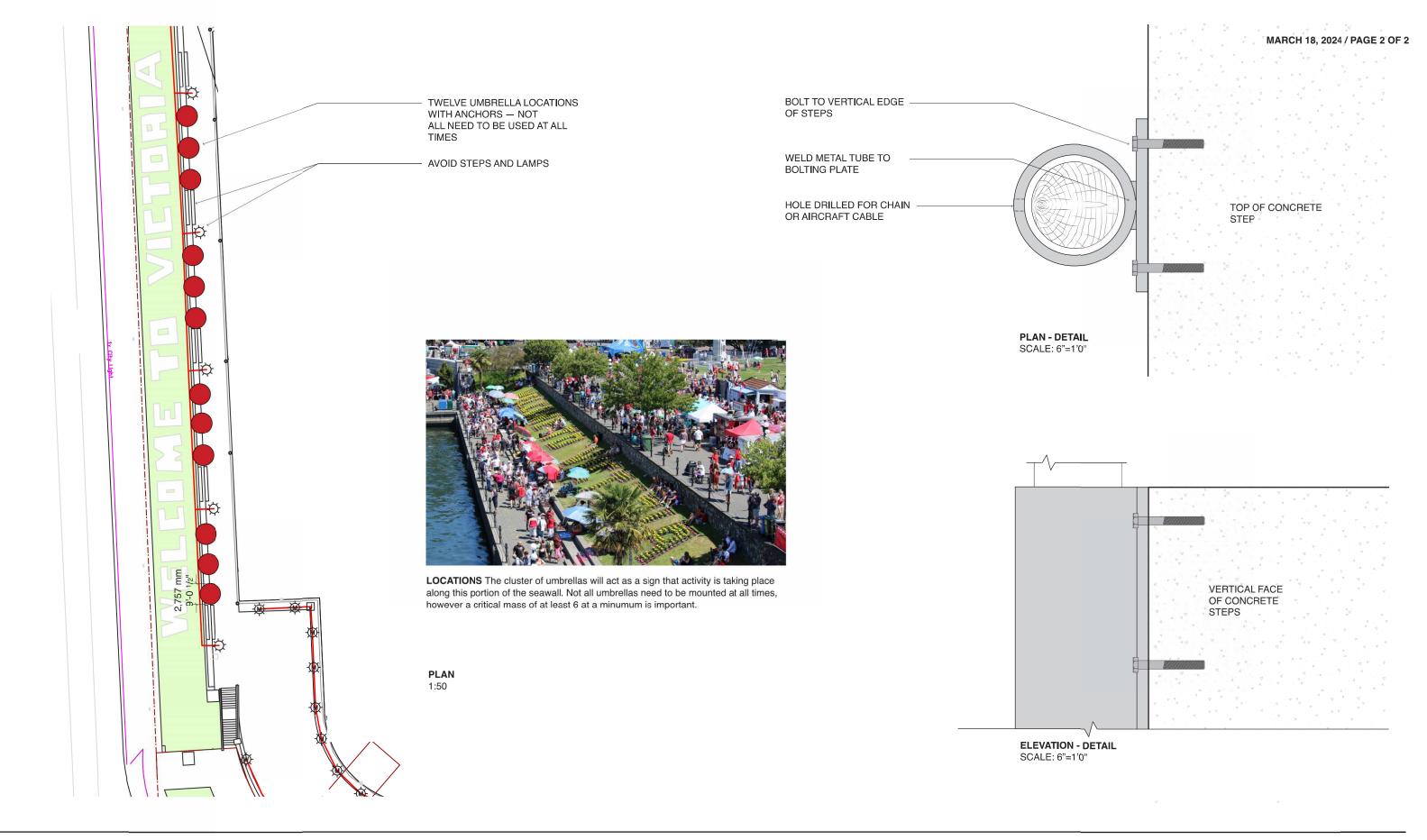






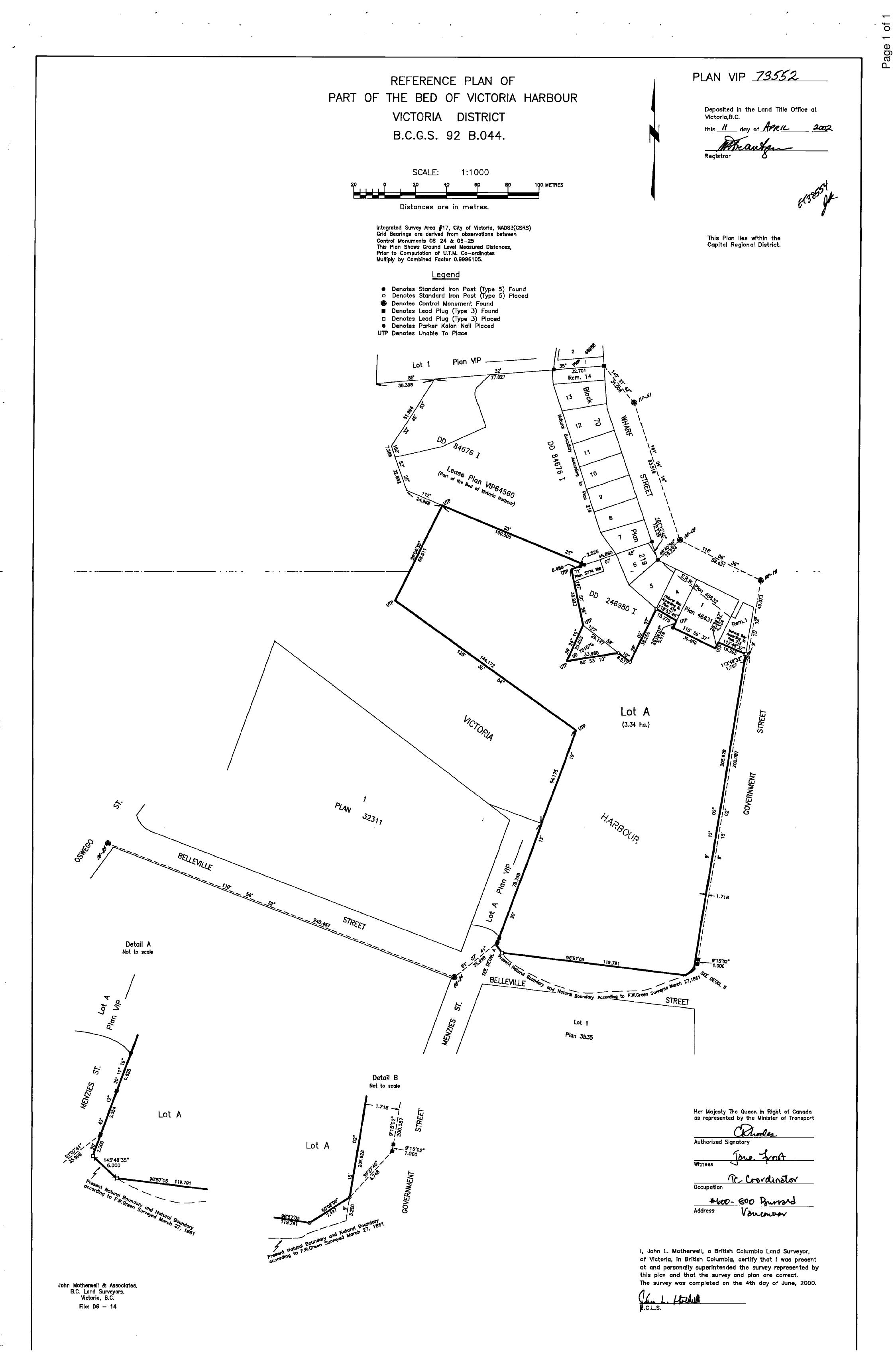














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March 20, 2024

Attention: Mayor Alto and City Council

RE: Heritage Alternation Permit, Lower Causeway – Umbrella Mounts

On behalf of the Greater Victoria Harbour Authority (GVHA), I wish to submit an application for a Heritage Alternation Permit. Over the last year we have been working closely with the Songhees Nation and Xwsepsum Nation on a Lekwungen Placemaking Project in the Inner Harbour. The project has many initiatives aimed at the beautification and cultural revitalization of the lower causeway.

One initiative aims to support the Indigenous Artists Causeway Program by adding beautiful and well secured umbrellas along the south side of the causeway to add shade for the artists and cultural vibrancy to the area.

The Indigenous Artists Causeway Program has been in place for many years. The Program reserves the south side of the causeway for Indigenous carvers and artists to sell their goods, and while it has not been as active since the pandemic, we are hoping that through this initiative, we may have bring more Indigenous artists back to the Inner Harbour.

Please find attached a proposal for the placement of 12 umbrellas along the south side of the causeway. The umbrellas, adorned with artwork by Songhees Nation artist Butch Dick, would be secured by a welded metal holder painted black to coordinate with the lamp posts and mushroom lights.

This project has been developed and endorsed by the Lekwungen Inner Harbour Placemaking Working Group made up of Songhees Nation and Xwsepsum Nation members. We also have the support of both Nation's Chief and Councils.

We look forward to presenting this initiative to the Panel at an upcoming meeting and answering any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Judy Kitts

First Nations Engagement Manager