Urban vitalization is a process which is designed to “turn a place around” and “take a place to a higher level”. How do communities embark on this process? This course will focus on key aspects of community vitalization in North America—theoretical foundations, strategic planning, emerging multicultural transformations, the landscape of inclusion and innovative urban design. Through a series of lectures, case studies, an interactive group exercise as well as a neighbourhood visual observation exercise, this course will delve into the challenges and opportunities facing urban vitalization projects in both small and large communities.

Instructors:

- Judy Oberlander, BA, MS, Preservation Planning and Fund Development Consultant, Principal, Judy Oberlander and Associates Inc.
- Michael von Hausen, MCIP, RPP, CSLA, MLAUD, LEED AP, Urban Designer and Planner, President, MVH Urban Planning & Design Inc.

The learning objectives for this course are to:

- Understand the concept of urban vitalization as both a continuum and a community building process within urban design
- Define the key characteristics of a “place” as a critical foundation for its vitality
- Apply a variety of strategies to manage an urban community’s unique assets including its challenges and opportunities
- Present the above ideas in words and images as part of a discussion of urban design

DAY 1

9:00 am – 9:45 am  Course Overview and Participant Introductions
                    Judy Oberlander and Michael von Hausen

9:45 am – 10:45 am  The Big Picture: Urban Vitalization within Urban Design
                    Michael von Hausen

10:45 am – 11:00 am  BREAK

11:00 am – 12:00 pm  Turning Public Places Around: Looking Within
                       Judy Oberlander
12:00 pm – 12:15 pm  Overview of the Site Visit – Experiencing Vancouver’s Chinatown Through the Lens of Kevin Lynch

12:15 pm – 1:15 pm  LUNCH (on your own in Chinatown/International Village)

1:15 pm – 3:30 pm  Site visit to Chinatown – A visual observation exercise to explore its changing social, cultural, economic and physical character

3:45 pm – 4:30 pm  Group debrief: Observations on Vancouver’s Chinatown

4:30 pm – 5:15 pm  The Multi-Cultural City: Layers of History—Past, Present and Future – Judy Oberlander and Michael von Hausen

5:15 pm – 5:30 pm  Overview of the readings - Q and A

DAY 2

8:30 am – 10:00 am  The Rise of the Next Small Downtown – Michael von Hausen

10:00 am – 10:15 am  BREAK


11:15 am – 12:00 pm  Strategic Planning Exercise: Developing and Implementing a Strategy for Downtowns Large and Small

12:00 pm – 1:00 pm  LUNCH

1:00 pm – 1:30 pm  Group debrief: Sharing Observations on Strategic Planning

1:30 pm – 2:30 pm  Taking Stock of both Vitalization and Revitalization: What Works? + What Has Not Worked? And Why? – A Group Discussion

2:30 pm – 3:15 pm  A Changing Era: Economic, Social, Cultural, Environmental and Technological Considerations - Judy Oberlander

3:15 pm – 3:30 pm  BREAK

3:30 pm – 4:30 pm  Authentic Cultural Landscapes: Case Studies from Western Canada - An Interactive Conversation – Michael von Hausen

4:30 pm – 5:00 pm  Concluding discussion, lessons Learned + evaluations