

## Public Art

**Public art will play a significant role in reinforcing the urban design principles of the Fort York Neighbourhood Public Realm Plan.**

Opportunities for public art range from integrated streetscapes and open space designs, to independent sculptures, to public art incorporated within building elements. The Link Park, the spaces under the Gardiner, and places identified for corner articulation and to terminate views are potential public art sites. Given the rich history of this area, public art can also help to tell the stories by celebrating its past.

Buildings larger than 20,000 sq. metres will pay a public art levy equivalent to 1% of the project's construction costs, similar to comparably-sized projects elsewhere in the city.

The City's Public Art Commission oversees the process of reviewing and selecting public art proposals that owners will follow. All owners will comply with the public art provisions set out in the Fort York Neighbourhood Secondary Plan by siting works within the publicly-accessible areas of their properties or off-site in community gathering places such as the Link Park.

For owners with more than one block, the purpose of the District Public Art Plan is to prepare a framework for the execution of individual public art projects for each parcel or building. Owners of single buildings or blocks will prepare a Project or Block Public Art Plan, but are not required to prepare a District Public Art Plan.

The District Public Art Plans will guide, in general, how public art is to be conceptualized, planned, commissioned and implemented for individual locations or projects. Each district plan would articulate the public art principles, the relevance of the site context, broad conceptual approaches to a series of projects, and the administrative procedures and the available budgets to execute the public art program. One point of doing a broad-based plan is to explore the merits of a comprehensive public art approach for larger landholdings, and to enable smaller owners to participate in bigger neighbourhood public art initiatives. It should also consider prime locations for public art comprehensively within the neighbourhood, so that important locations are used to full advantage.



*Windscreens at the Synthetic Garden of Eden, One Financial Place, Toronto*



*Monument to Chinese Railway Workers, the Railway Lands, Toronto*

## Environmental Sustainability

This new high-density urban neighbourhood is well located with respect to transit. It integrates new walking and cycling routes and makes connections between the neighbourhood and the broader city. The relatively dense built-form and transit-friendliness of the design will make positive contributions to big-picture sustainability objectives.

This neighbourhood is being redeveloped on a significant brownfield area on the Toronto waterfront, and thus remediation of the property will occur as the new community is built, bringing it to provincial residential/parkland standards.

There are sustainability opportunities on both private and public lands in the neighbourhood. Consideration should be given in park and development designs for the possible actions described below.

On public parkland, and on privately owned, publicly accessible open space:

- **North Fort York Boulevard edge** (old lake shoreline; Gore Park; Mouth of the Creek Park) - Encourage indigenous vegetation and trees similar to the early natural environment.
- **Tree planting in road allowances** - Plant in soil where possible. If in tree trenches, use engineered soil. Secure regular watering by irrigation systems or regular watering programs, to the City's satisfaction, to ensure street trees survive and thrive.
- **Link Park and throughout the neighbourhood** - Allow for open areas for natural storm drainage to occur where possible.

On private lands:

- Broad principles of environmental sustainability have begun to permeate municipal regulation of buildings, and many builders are voluntarily incorporating so-called green materials and practices into their projects. A US group called Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (or LEED) promotes a Green Building Rating System, and a modified Canadian approach is in preparation. This is a rigorous voluntary assessment tool, on the cutting edge of environmental materials and processes, advocating for example recycled building materials and the use of composting toilets. Toronto practitioners and developers acknowledge the merits of environmental sustainability, and the marketing potential in incorporating environmentally responsible materials and processes in their projects.
- Builders in the Fort York Neighbourhood will incorporate environmentally responsible materials and processes in their projects to the extent feasible, meeting municipal requirements for stormwater management, waste and recycling systems, and energy conservation.
- Builders shall strive to ensure that energy conserving features and environmentally appropriate materials are utilized to the greatest extent possible.
- Owners have already begun to investigate the feasibility of serving the neighbourhood with an alternate in-ground heating and cooling technology.
- All projects will meet City requirements for recycling and waste management.

*Demonstration Plan*

