

Appendix 1: Downtown East Revitalization Action Plan

1. Planning and Heritage

This theme is examining the current built form, policy framework and zoning in the Study Area to help inform the larger Revitalization Initiative. Staff will bring forward recommendations on potential Official Plan Amendments which may affect land use designations, urban design guidelines and potentially site and/or area specific Official Plan Policies.

Planning and Heritage: Key Actions	Action Lead	Action Support	Key Milestones
<p>Heritage Conservation District Plan A new planning framework for the area that would protect the area's heritage character, conserve existing attributes and heritage resources, and guide future development.</p>	City Planning – Heritage Preservation	City Planning – Community Planning	<p>Heritage Conservation District Study – completed July 2014</p> <p>Heritage Conservation District Plan – Summer 2015</p>
<p>Land Use Planning Study/Draft OPA An examination of the future of the built form and planning policies within the DTE area, and recommendations to more accurately reflect the prevailing built form and to facilitate important City building initiatives.</p>	City Planning – Community Planning	City Planning – Heritage Preservation	<p>Land Use Planning Study – complete August 2014</p> <p>Draft OPA changes - underway</p>
<p>Re-establishment of the laneway network and new mid-block connections. The Garden District Area Specific Policy suggests that the laneway network, currently walled off in sections, be established when appropriate. It further provides for an additional mid-block connection between Jarvis Street and George Street.</p>	Transportation Services	City Planning	Consultations underway

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2. Community Safety

This theme is focused on improving community safety and the perception of safety in both the physical environment and on a personal basis will assist in enhancing the livability of the area.

Community Safety: Key Actions	Action Lead	Action Support	Key Milestones
<p>Develop a Community Safety Committee The Committee will support the development of a community safety plan that addresses:</p> <p>Increased Service Alignments Development of inter-sectoral safety strategies.</p> <p>Enhanced Service Response Explore models of multi-service responses to complex health and safety risks and the integration of prevention, intervention and preparation strategies.</p> <p>Engagement Identify opportunities to engage and support key resident groups (including home owners, renters, and TCHC and shelter residents) and the business community in local safety planning.</p> <p>Education Create an understanding of the existing safety strategies and services available and build the capacity of the community to actively participate in local safety related initiatives.</p>	<p>Social Development, Finance and Administration – Community Crisis Response Program</p>	<p>Resident Advisory Group Toronto Police Services TCHC Community agencies</p>	<p>Establish safety committee, set meetings and develop work plan – March 2015</p> <p>Safety training and workshops for the community and business owners - to begin in June 2015</p>

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3. Economic Development

This theme is focused on exploring and creating conditions for increased economic opportunity, addressing workforce development, social enterprise, employment opportunities, and business development. Community partners are engaged to create opportunities for grassroots-led community development initiatives that build on local identity and culture.

Economic Development: Key Actions	Action Lead	Action Support	Key Milestones
Feasibility study of temporary retail opportunities Examination of potential temporary retail opportunities along Dundas Street East	Economic Development	Toronto Employment and Social Services	Development of Business Out of the Box Framework for pilot sites – October to December 2014.
Garden District branding/signage Developing greater community identity by marketing the area as a destination and developing and promoting area assets, as informed by the Garden District Heritage Conservation District Plan.	Economic Development and Culture	Parks Forestry and Recreation Transportation Services Community Advisory Group	Initial meetings – January to March 2015
Business Inc. A program delivered in partnership with Toronto Public Library that provides in depth training on business planning and market research to entrepreneurs. To be offered at Parliament Branch Library in 2014.	Economic Development and Culture Toronto Public Library		Business Inc. to begin – September 2014
Community Outreach Business Consultations Work with existing businesses to provide one-on-one consultations with their members. This program concept is still in development and the Downtown East community could be considered as a pilot community.	Economic Development and Culture		Development of pilot Community Outreach Business Consultations Framework – October to December 2014

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Aboriginal Business Workshop In partnership with Miziwe Biik, a workshop for Aboriginal entrepreneurs was delivered on March 19, 2014, and also included an awards ceremony This is an annual workshop that will be delivered again in 2015.	Economic Development and Culture	Miziwe Biik	Delivery of 2015 Aboriginal entrepreneur workshop – January to March 2015.
Historic Queen Business Improvement Area Work with interested businesses to revive the Historic Queen BIA	Economic Development and Culture – BIA office	Local Councillor	Begin re-engaging local businesses – January to March 2015

4. Parks and Public Realm

This theme is focused on strategic directions for potential for parks and public realm interventions, including parks improvements, streetscape improvements and the role parks can play as part of the larger revitalization.

Parks and Public Realm: Key Actions	Action Lead	Action Support	Key Milestones
Master Plan for Moss Park Develop a community-based Master Plan that guides short-term and long-term decision making for the improvement of Moss Park.	Park, Forestry and Recreation – Parks Planning	Urban Design Transportation Services	Completion of Master Plan - 2016
Continued implementation of Allan Gardens Revitalization Strategy & Management Plan Implementation of short-term and long-term improvements to Allan Gardens Park	Park, Forestry and Recreation – Parks Planning	Urban Design Transportation Services	Children's Playground - 2014 Washrooms - 2016 Artist Gardens - 2016 Replacement of storm sewer west and north of the conservatory – 2014/2015 (weather dependent)

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<p>Development of a publicly accessible private square Garden District Area and Site Specific Policy directs that a new privately or publicly owned, publicly accessible space be created at the northwest corner of Dundas Street East and Jarvis Street when that parcel of land redevelops</p>	<p>City Planning – Community Planning</p>	<p>City Planning - Urban Design</p>	<p>Dependant on submission of development application at N/W corner of Dundas Street West and Jarvis Street</p>
<p>Creation of green link between Moss Park and Allan Gardens Garden District Area and Site Specific Policy directs that this be established as parks and open spaces serve as public realm anchors in the area.</p>	<p>Park, Forestry and Recreation – Parks Planning</p>	<p>City Planning - Urban Design Transportation Services</p>	<p>Consultation ongoing</p>
<p>Re-establishment of the laneway network and new mid-block connections. The Garden District Area Specific Policy suggests that the laneway network, currently walled off in sections, be established when appropriate. It further provides for an additional mid-block connection between Jarvis Street and George Street.</p>	<p>Transportation Services</p>	<p>City Planning</p>	<p>Dependant on submission of development application in vicinity of provincial courthouse</p>

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5. Local Housing Strategy

The focus of this theme is addressing housing issues, including the availability, access to, and quality of affordable housing. The strategy includes a range of different housing options in the area, including social, co-op, private market housing, rooming houses and shelters. Local Housing Strategy actions ensure the continued presence of affordable housing in Downtown East for residents who rely on it.

Local Housing Strategy: Key Actions	Action Lead	Action Support	Key Milestones
<p>Improve Housing Options</p> <p>Leverage opportunities from the revitalization of George Street for redevelopment and to improve and increase the affordable housing stock</p> <p>Work with local housing providers to improve affordable housing options for vulnerable tenants</p> <p>Conduct community-based consultation on rooming houses with all stakeholders</p>	<p>Shelter, Support and Housing Administration</p> <p>Municipal Licensing and Standards</p>	<p>Affordable Housing Office</p> <p>Municipal Licensing and Standards</p>	<p>Council decision on the scope of the George Street Revitalization - anticipated August 2015</p> <p>Engage with service/housing providers - November 2014 to February 2015</p> <p>Engage with rooming house operators, occupants, and other stakeholders - November 2014 to May 2015</p> <p>Develop strategies to address housing access and stability with service/housing providers - April 2015</p>

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<p>Increase rental and affordable housing stock Garden District Site and Area Specific Policy allows 10% of units for all new development to be counted as a section 37 benefit provided they meet the criteria for affordable rental and/or ownership as outlined in the Official Plan.</p>	<p>City Planning – Community Planning</p>	<p>Shelter Support and Housing Administration</p>	<p>Dependant on submission of development application</p>
<p>Identification of properties with potential property standards issues Community walk about with stakeholders to identify properties with property standards issues to ensure property and community standards are maintained.</p>	<p>Municipal Licensing and Standards</p>	<p>Community Advisory Group Local Councillor</p>	<p>Engage local Councillor's office and Community Advisory Group and conduct community walk- about to identify and take action on by-law issues – Spring 2015</p>
<p>Investigation of properties with potential property standards issues Review and investigate list of previously identified unlicensed rooming houses in the DTE to ensure property and community standards are maintained.</p>	<p>Municipal Licensing and Standards</p>	<p>Community Advisory Group Local Councillor</p>	<p>Review list of properties with potential by-law issues, including unlicensed rooming houses and property standards. Investigate and take action on by-law issues – Spring 2015</p>

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6. Community Engagement

The theme of community engagement is central to the work of the DTE Revitalization Strategy. Community members are able to provide staff with nuanced feedback that helps to focus the scope of revitalization work.

Community Engagement: Key Actions	Action Lead	Action Support	Key Milestones
<p>Community Advisory Group Establish a Community Advisory Group comprised of area residents, including renters, home owners, TCHC residents and shelter residents, to provide input into the development and implementation of revitalization initiatives. This will ensure the voices of the various communities in the DTE are heard, and that the activities undertaken meet their needs.</p>	<p>Social Development, Finance and Administration</p>	<p>City Planning Local Councillor</p>	<p>Outreach to interested participants – Fall 2014 Kick-off meeting – November 2014</p>
<p>Community event to ignite a sense of community Work with community residents to animate local spaces to increase community cohesion and facilitate community ownership and stewardship through the organization of a local community event.</p>	<p>Social Development, Finance and Administration</p>	<p>Economic Development and Culture Toronto Public Health – Food Strategy Community Advisory Group</p>	<p>Host community event – Summer 2015</p>
<p>Downtown East Revitalization Website Design a web page to share information about the DTE revitalization</p>	<p>Social Development, Finance and Administration</p>		<p>Website goes live – October 2014</p>