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2018 OPERATING BUDGET BRIEFING NOTE

Toronto Public Library - Youth Hubs

Issue/Background

- At its meeting on December 18, 2017, Budget Committee requested a briefing note on the number of Youth Hubs in the City of Toronto, their locations, hours of operation, staffing costs and attendance per site.
- TPL's Youth Hubs are located in Neighbourhood Improvement Areas (NIAs) and align with and support Toronto's Poverty Reduction Strategy goals to *improve access to high quality programs for children and youth*, and to *support growth in the number of high quality, out of school time programs for children and youth*.
- Youth Hubs contribute to the City's TSNS 2020 equity domains of economic development, social development and physical surroundings by providing a welcoming space, mentors, homework help, access to services and technology, and to technology support to youth in NIAs.
- TPL currently operates eight Youth Hubs at Albion, Barbara Frum, Cedarbrae, Centennial, Fairview, Maria A. Shchuka, Sanderson, and York Woods branches. A budget enhancement request has been submitted to increase the number of youth hubs by seven over the next three years.
- Library Youth Hubs are open during after school hours, Monday to Friday from 3:30 pm to 7:00 pm and these same hours during summer months and are staffed by an on-site library coordinator and supplemented with other library staff and volunteers from Toronto universities and the community. The Hubs provide homework assistance, access to technology and programs that help develop digital literacy and social and leadership skills, in a safe and welcoming environment under the supervision of adults. Youth have opportunity to give input into and to help organize activities based on their needs and interests.
- The target audience is youth ages 13 to 19 with planned average capacity for 30 youth at a time on a drop in basis, but due to their popularity the range of participants is up to 50-60 youth per day.

Key Points

- The funding for each Hub is \$130K for a full time Youth Hub Coordinator position (approximately \$105K including benefits) and programming equipment and support

(approximately \$25K) at each location. Other library staff and volunteers from Toronto universities and the community at each location will also support the service.

- The attendance at Youth Hubs for 2017 as follows:

Youth Hub Location	Address	Ward	2017 YTD Attendance (Jan - Nov)
Albion*	1515 Albion Rd.	Ward 1	3,331
Barbara Frum*	20 Convington Rd.	Ward 15	1,564
Cedarbrae	545 Markham Rd.	Ward 43	10,536
Centennial	578 Finch Ave W.	Ward 10	4,292
Fairview	35 Fairview Mall Dr.	Ward 33	8,992
Maria A. Shchuka	1745 Eglinton Ave W.	Ward 15	7,041
Sanderson **	327 Bathurst St.	Ward 20	2,280
York Woods	1785 Finch Ave W.	Ward 8	7,185
			45,221

* only from September to November

** only Mon-Wed in 2017. Moving to 5 days/week in 2018.

- TPL currently provides Youth Hubs in these eight NIA branches and is seeking to expand this successful and much-needed service to seven additional branches over the next three years. These additional branches were selected according to the following criteria: proximity to NIAs, where there are large numbers of youth attending library branches, and geographic equity.
- Informed by the popularity and success of the existing Youth Hubs, and in support of providing geographic equity throughout the City to meet identified demand, TPL is seeking \$910K over the next three years (\$390K in 2018, \$260K in 2019 and \$260K in 2020) as a budget enhancement to support the creation of seven additional Youth Hubs.
 - The proposed locations and timing of the seven additional Youth Hubs are:

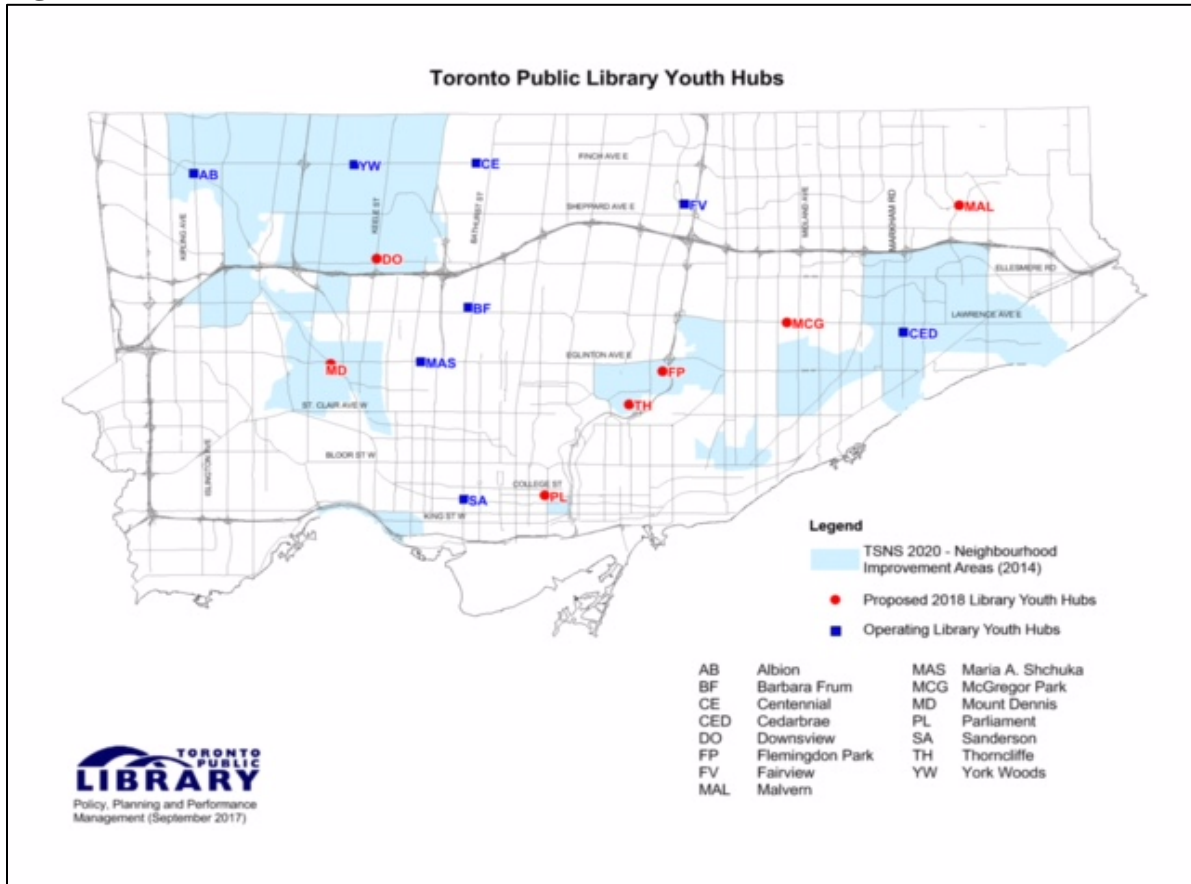
Year	Branch	Address	Ward
2018	Downsview	2793 Keele St.	Ward 9
2018	Flemingdon Park	29 St. Dennis Dr.	Ward 26
2018	Malvern	30 Sewells Rd.	Ward 42
2019	Parliament St.	269 Gerrard St. E	Ward 28
2019	Thornccliffe	48 Thornccliffe Park Dr.	Ward 26
2020	McGregor Park	2219 Lawrence Ave. E	Ward 37
2020	Mount Dennis	1123 Weston Rd.	Ward 11

- Programming equipment in Youth Hubs includes laptops and specialized software, tablets and apps, textbooks and educational resources, and a broad range of current technology,

equipment, and supplies to support programming of interest to the target age group and to provide equitable access to technology and equipment that may not be present in NIA households.

- 2016 performance results:
 - Youth made 24,945 visits to Toronto Public Library Youth Hubs
 - 1,647 youth received homework help from placement students and volunteers
 - Placement students and volunteers made 1,627 visits and contributed 6,178 hours
 - The Youth Hubs offered 386 programs
- A 2016 survey of Youth Hub participants showed that:
 - 71% felt attending the program increased feeling of safety
 - 78% agree they are comfortable asking the coordinator or tutors for help
 - 55% agree that they made new friends at the Youth Hub
- Program goals of the Library Youth Hubs are:
 - To provide a safe, welcoming space for youth during after school hours with access to supportive adults, technology, and youth-centered programming
 - To mitigate the digital divide that youth in NIAs face by providing free use of laptops, software, tablets and apps, and Wi-Fi to promote digital literacy and learning
 - To provide youth with quality after school homework assistance in English, French, math, science and other subjects
 - To help youth develop social and leadership skills through participation in a variety of activities
 - To provide a high quality volunteer experience for community members interested in working with youth
 - To support parents and caregivers to help their teens succeed in school
- Youth have the opportunity to give input and help organize activities and workshops based on their needs and interests.
- Toronto Public Library will continue to seek additional funding through the Toronto Public Library Foundation to support program and operating costs not covered by the City's funding.
- The geographic distribution of these total fifteen Youth Hubs is provided in *Figure 1*, to show the increase in geographic service equity sought with this proposal.

Figure 1:



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