

4 June 2018

Toronto and East York Community Council
100 Queen St W, Toronto ON M5H 2N2

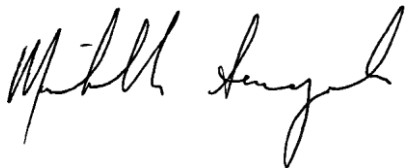
To the Toronto and East York Community Council,

The Laneway Project is a non-profit planning and placemaking firm working to unlock the potential of Toronto's laneways as complete public spaces fully integrated into our larger public space network. Over the past four years, we've worked with local stakeholders to revitalize laneways in more than 25 neighbourhoods throughout the city. We do this because neighbourhoods with a range of tools and options, which can be used to tailor growth to their particular context, are more able to grow as unique, liveable communities – which is something that we all want for our city. A liveable community is one that has, along with a diversity of high-quality housing options, a diversity of high-quality public spaces available near to where people live.

As noted variously in the Toronto Complete Streets Guidelines, upcoming Public Realm amendment to the Official Plan, and TOcore Proposed Downtown Plan, laneways are well-placed to augment the city's pedestrian network by providing additional safe and accessible walking routes, and where possible should be designed with consideration for safe, accessible and comfortable pedestrian and cyclist movement. Residential Lanes in particular have the potential to become attractive public spaces that support informal play and social interaction.

Laneway suites will help to unlock this noted potential of our city's laneways as safe, appealing public spaces and routes by activating them with routine, everyday use, passive surveillance, and design features like lighting and greening to improve the attractiveness and public space amenity of the laneway. For this reason, we strongly recommend that the TEYCC adopt the proposed OP and Zoning Bylaw amendments to help to add this tool to the city's toolkit, and unlock the potential of our laneways to help foster sensitive growth and a vibrant public realm.

Sincerely,



Michelle Senayah
Co-Founder and Executive Director