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## 2019 OPERATING BUDGET BRIEFING NOTE

### Cost and Funding of Additional Toronto Public Library Youth Hubs Added in the Period 2015-2018

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#### Issue/Background:

At its meeting on February 13, 2019, Budget Committee ([BU3.4](#), Motion #2b) requested the City Librarian to provide a briefing note on the following:

*The cost and funding details on the youth hubs added in the last four years*

This briefing note is divided into three parts:

- Overview and History of Toronto Public Library (TPL) Youth Hubs
- Summary of Youth Hub Expansion 2015-2018
- 2019 Budget Enhancement for Additional Youth Hubs – Recommended by City Staff

#### Key Points:

Over the last four years (2015-2018), with support from the City through the Poverty Reduction Strategy, Toronto Public Library opened 9 new Youth Hubs with total incremental funding of \$1,177,000 gross and net, as part of the multi-year plan for Youth Hubs expansion. This has brought the total number of Youth Hubs to 11.

#### Overview and History of TPL Youth Hubs

- TPL currently operates eleven Youth Hubs at Albion, Barbara Frum, Cedarbrae, Centennial, Downsview, Fairview, Flemingdon Park, Malvern, Maria A. Shchuka, Sanderson, and York Woods branches.
- TPL's Youth Hubs are located in or near 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 align with Toronto Youth Equity Strategy (TYES) goals, and specifically with the TYES recommendation to *provide equitable access to education and training for youth most vulnerable to involvement in serious violence and crime* through TPL advancing branch projects including spaces that engage youth, such as Youth Hubs and Digital Innovation Hubs.

- 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 technology support to youth in NIAs.
- Youth Hubs provide a safe and welcoming drop-in service for teens, ages 13-19. They are open after school and during summer months, and are staffed by librarians and other library staff, with support from volunteers.
- Volunteers include placement students from Toronto colleges and universities who provide daily tutoring and homework help support.
- In addition to homework assistance, Youth Hubs provide access to technology and programs that help develop digital literacy and social and leadership skills under the guidance of caring adults. They respond to the needs and interests of youth, supporting personal development and relevant learning opportunities.
- 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.
- Planned average capacity of a Youth Hub is 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 with over 70 thousand total visits in 2018.
- Youth frequently tell library staff about the impact Youth Hubs and library staff have on their lives, relating to social and leadership skills, connections to employment, newcomer integration to life in Toronto and academic achievement.

### Summary of Youth Hub Expansion 2015-2018

Year	Youth Hub Location	Ward #	Funding Detail
2015	Cedarbrae York Woods	24 7	\$200,000 gross and net permanent funding approved during the 2015 Budget process for establishment of 2 new Youth Hubs.
2016	Fairview Maria A. Shchuka	17 12	\$200,000 gross and net permanent funding approved during the 2016 Budget process to continue the 2 <sup>nd</sup> year expansion for establishment of 2 new Youth Hubs.
2017	Albion Barbara Frum	1 8	\$387,000 gross and net <b>one-time</b> funding approved during the 2017 Budget process for 2 new Youth Hubs (\$260,000) plus additional funding for all existing Youth Hubs (\$127,000), funded from Tax Rate Stabilization Reserve. <b>Permanent</b> tax base budget funding subsequently approved during the 2018 Budget process.

2018	Downsview	6	\$390,000 gross and net permanent funding approved during the 2018 Budget process to support the implementation and additional programming at 3 new Youth Hubs.
	Flemingdon Park	16	
	Malvern	25	

- Over the last four years (2015-2018), with support from the City through the Poverty Reduction Strategy, Toronto Public Library opened the following 9 new Youth Hubs with total incremental funding of \$1,177,000 gross and net. This brought the total number of Youth Hubs to 11.
- The funding for each Hub includes the addition and cost for a full time Youth Hub Librarian position as well as programming equipment and support at each location. Other library staff, college and university placement students, and volunteers from the community also support the service at each location.

### **2019 Budget Enhancement for Additional Youth Hubs – Recommended by City Staff**

- Informed by the popularity and success of the existing Youth Hubs, and in support of providing geographic equity to meet identified demand, TPL requires a total funding of \$520,000 gross and net to support the creation of four additional Youth Hubs and complete the implementation of the City Council-approved plan for a total of seven new Youth Hub locations over 2018-2020.
  - The 2019 Staff Recommended Operating Budget for TPL includes funding for additional Youth Hubs at 2 branches at a cost of \$260,000 gross and net.
  - To complete the final phase of Youth Hubs expansion, funding for the additional 2 Youth Hubs in 2020 will be included as part of TPL's 2020 Operating Budget submission for consideration.

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