

PB17.4.50

From: [Rita Bilerman](#)
To: [Toronto East York Community Council](#)
Subject: PB 17.4 Comments on Queen's Park heritage
Date: September 28, 2020 3:56:05 PM

Attention: Chair and Members of the Toronto Heritage Preservation Board

I am writing to voice my opposition to the proposal from the University of Toronto regarding the planetarium site, situated just south of the ROM. My understanding is that there are many other sites the University can develop, so there is no need for the acceptance of this proposal that is so out of scale and the design so out of context with the surrounding area.

Not only is the proposal terribly out of place, the process through which it was allowed to reach this stage is questionable. The initial Design Review Panel process of more than a year ago, well before the current pandemic, was in itself flawed: several of the participants had ties to the University and therefore cast biased votes of approval. Despite the challenges of COVID and the understandable changes in public process, the residents of this city still deserve a fair process and a more robust framework for decision making.

Mr. Layton acknowledges that "Queen's Park is a site of citywide historical significance" and states that its quality and character must be respected. I agree. Queen's Park is a flagship area and any development proposal must be sensitive to this and the entire historic precinct considered. Therefore, I urge you not to support this proposal.

Sincerely,

Rita Bilerman
Chair, Annex Residents' Association