



REPORT FOR ACTION

St. Lawrence Centre Redevelopment - Update

Date: September 3, 2021

To: St. Lawrence Centre Redevelopment Committee of the Board of Directors of TO Live

From: President and Chief Executive Officer

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the public consultation for the reimagining of the St. Lawrence Centre for the Arts.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The President and Chief Executive Officer recommends that the Board of Directors of TO Live:

1. Receive this report for information.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There is no financial impact other than what is outlined in this report.

DECISION HISTORY

At its June 18, 2021 meeting, the Board of Directors of TO Live received a report on the consultant activity for the reimagining of the St. Lawrence Centre for the Arts.

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2021.CT25.6>

COMMENTS

Public Engagement

Virtual consultations with the Stakeholder Working Group (SWG) commenced on June 17, followed by three other workshops on July 6, July 27 and August 12, 2021.

The SWG provided their aspirations for how the St. Lawrence Centre (STLC) could be reimaged to provide an accessible, flexible civic hub that will serve traditionally under-represented voices, the cultural sector, the neighbourhood and the City. The consultation was specifically designed to prioritize an equity lens to place-making opportunities, access to equity deserving groups, and the use of state-of-the-art technology to support the next generations while inclusively serving the diverse, multigenerational neighbourhood surrounding the footprint of the STLC, Meridian Hall, Berczy Park and connecting roadways.

After completing the four workshops, the following draft Design Principles and Vision Statements were summarized by the consultants KerrSmith (full report Attachment 1);

Workshop 1

Vision: STLC is responsive to gaps in facilities experienced by the arts ecosystem and local communities by ensuring all spaces and surfaces are flexible and can accommodate different sizes and types of uses for different audiences.

Principle: Ensure Dynamic and Highly Flexible Spaces.

In Practice: The building will be a multiuse facility with functionally optimized, specific performance spaces within it that meet the current gaps in the live arts ecosystem and for communities in Toronto. For example, ancillary spaces should be adaptable for gatherings, workshops and rehearsals but performance and rehearsal spaces need to be functionally specific (such as sprung floors for dance, acoustically optimized places for non-amplified presentations).

Workshop 2

Vision: All bodies, regardless of age, culture, ability or identification are able to create, work and play, using optimized technologies in any part of STLC.

Principle: Build for extreme usability.

In Practice: The building goes beyond meeting AODA requirements to ensure that all who are anticipated to access the space feel comfortable to do so and experience no barriers. This includes all possible users of the space such as creators, performers, workers, audiences and the public.

Workshop 3

Vision: Performance and creation are demystified, and previously excluded users are welcomed into a space that complements and integrates with the surrounding architecture.

Principle: Create a bold and open building that fits the neighbourhood.

In Practice: Exchange and connection with communities are promoted by inviting the public to interact with the space. Boundaries between the exterior and interior are permeable, making the building more open and providing opportunities for outside performances, projects or screenings from new vantage points. The building's compelling and unique structure will speak to the iconic architecture and history of the neighbourhood such as the Flatiron Building, Berczy Park, St. Lawrence Market and Meridian Hall, as well as the emerging vertical landscape.

Workshop 4

Vision: The building's construction and operations anticipate the demands of evolving performance platforms while favouring environmentally sustainable practices.

Principle: Be future-facing for a decarbonized world.

In Practice: The building goes beyond the City's current net-zero standards and ensures its carbon footprint is minimized using holistically effective practices and materials.

Next Steps

The consultants KerrSmith are now providing DTAH (Architects), Novita (Theatre) and Heritage the aggregated information from Phase "0" and the SWG workshops to continue the work. In the next four months, we will be collaborating on a building program, business model and funding strategy as well as establishing a fair, equitable and public process to decide who the principal tenants could be for STLCLC.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

Clyde Wagner
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ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 - KerrSmith Consultation Deck