

# Jane Finch Initiative

Presentation to the Aboriginal Affairs Advisory Committee  
January 14, 2022





# Purpose

1. Overview of the Jane Finch Initiative
2. Discussion and feedback on the proposed Indigenous engagement strategy

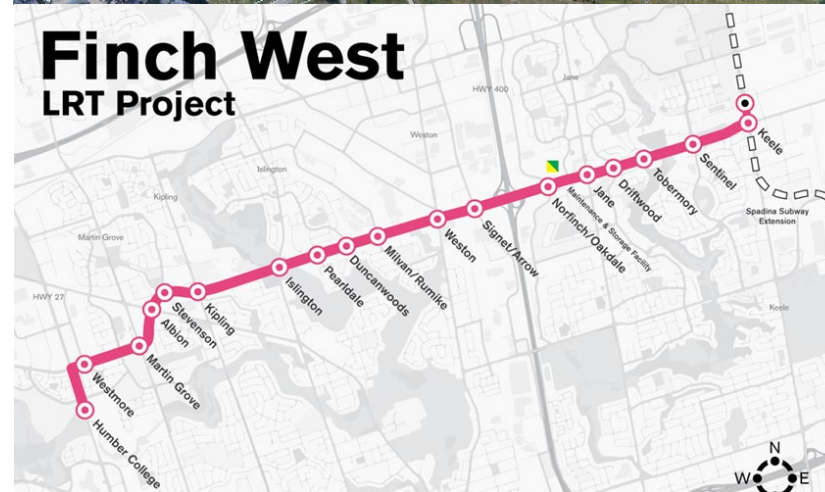
# The Jane Finch Initiative

City Council directed staff in 2020 to develop a community-informed plan for the area so that people and businesses are supported as the area changes over time with the opening of the Finch West LRT:

- social equity
- economic inclusion
- appropriate kinds of growth and development
- investment in community improvements

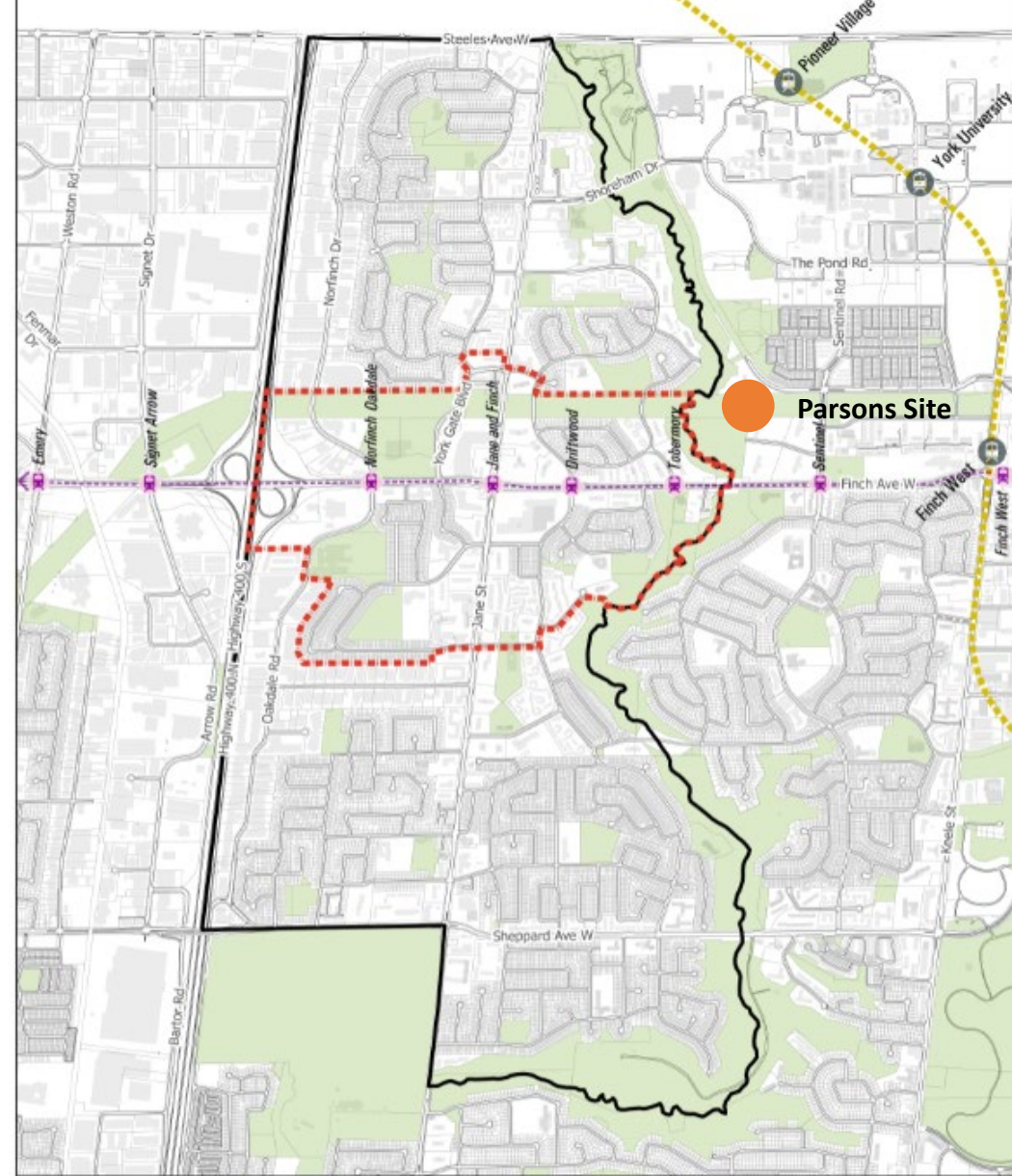
An inter-divisional approach:

- City Planning
- Social Development, Finance & Administration
- Economic Development & Culture



# The Study Area

- Neighbourhood 24: Black Creek
- Neighbourhood 25: Glenfield-Jane Heights
- Secondary Plan area will focus on areas near LRT stops
  - Tobermory
  - Driftwood
  - Jane and Finch
  - Norfinch Oakdale
- 2016 Census recorded **365 Indigenous residents** out a total 52,235 people living in Jane and Finch
- Nearby are the **remains of a 15th-century ancestral Wendat village**, a significant and well-documented archaeological site known to archaeologists as the Parsons Site



**TORONTO**

Jane Finch Initiative  
Draft Secondary Plan Area

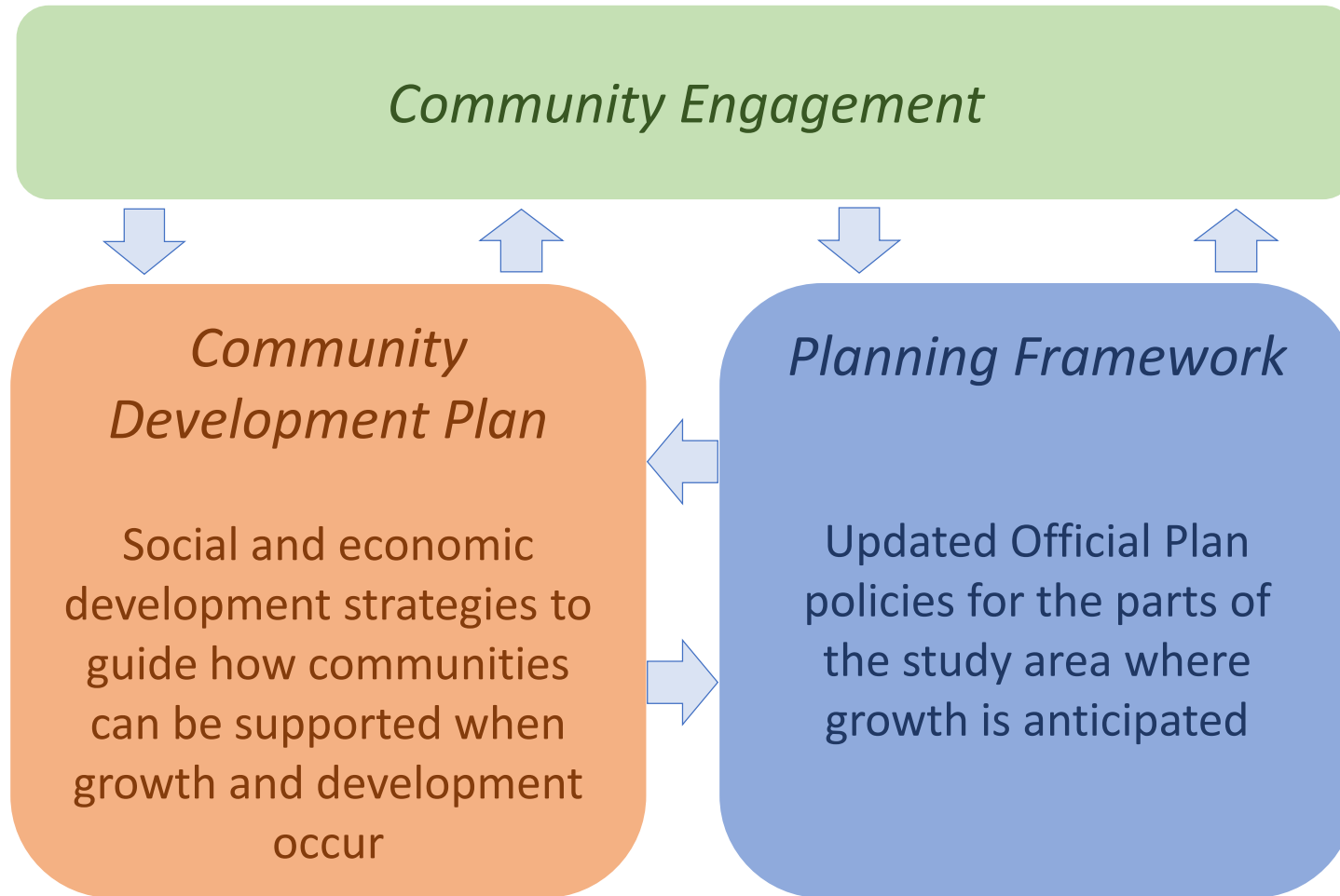
## Legend

- Draft Secondary Plan Area
- Study Area
- Existing Streets
- Existing Built Form
- Finch West LRT Stations
- Finch West LRT Line
- Subway Line 1





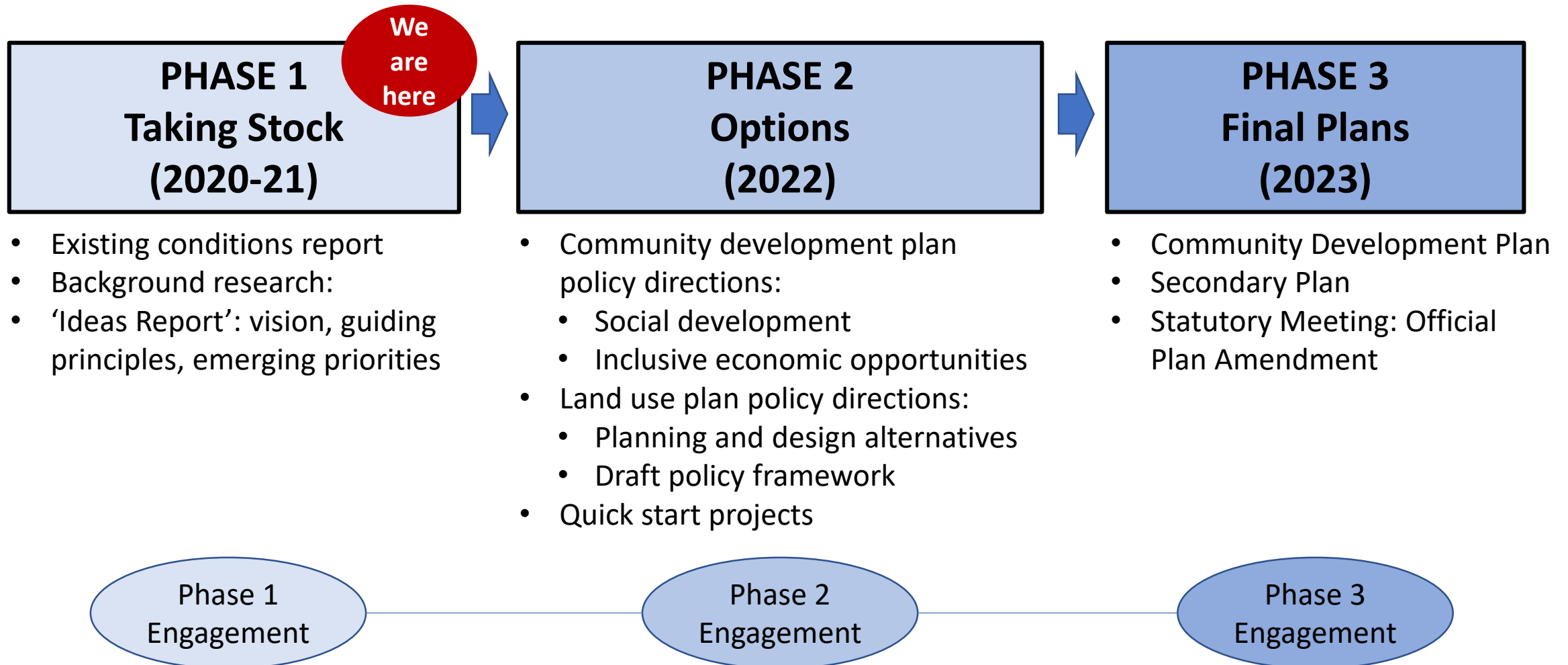
# Three Streams of Work



## Strategic Alignments

- Action Plan to Confront Anti-Black Racism
- Toronto Heritage Survey
- The Jane Finch Community Hub and Centre for the Arts
- RapidTO: Jane Street rapid transit
- Finch West Goods Movement Plan
- TCHC Revitalization of Firgrove-Grassways
- ConnectTO

# Phasing



# A Community Partnership for Engagement

- Community-based facilitation through the Jane Finch Community & Family Centre (JFC), building on the area's history of community-led organizing
- **Integrated consultation** on all aspects of the initiative
- A diverse and representative **Community Advisory Committee** selected, in part, through a **civic lottery**
- Implementing an **Indigenous engagement strategy**
- **Piloting CABR Unit's Growing in Place initiative**, aiming to address the destabilizing impacts of transit expansion upon Black residents and businesses

**JANE FINCH**  
CENTRE  
Community Matters



# Draft Indigenous Engagement Strategy

## Build relationships, respect, learn, reflect and reconcile by:

- Building Indigenous cultural proficiency among our team and community partners
- Following cultural protocols, such as provision of tobacco ties when requesting engagement
- Engaging on a nation-to-nation basis as early as possible
- Undertaking mutually beneficial engagement with a focus on relationship building
- Striving for a co-planned process in partnership with an Indigenous facilitator and Elders (and JFC)
- Communicating clearly and transparently about timing, resources, scope and potential
- Providing capacity funding and honoraria where appropriate

## Engaging 3 groups of communities:

Treaty holders & original caretakers

- Mississaugas of the Credit
- Six Nations of the Grand River
- Huron-Wendat

Residents

- Indigenous representation on the CAC
- Direct engagement with local Indigenous residents

Agencies that serve Indigenous communities and residents

- Human services
- Arts and culture
- Economic entrepreneurship



# Opportunities and potentials

- This is a planning and policy exercise that will help guide the future growth and development of the community (no physical undertakings will occur through this process).
- The opportunities -- to be identified through consultation – may include:
  - Social and economic development programming and partnerships
  - Community arts & culture
  - Parks and public realm improvements
  - Walking, cycling and transit improvements
  - Affordable housing
  - Community services & facilities
  - Celebration of local heritage and diversity
  - Climate action

# Next Steps

- **Engaging an Indigenous facilitator** and co-designing a detailed engagement work plan for reaching Indigenous communities
- Participating in Lost Rivers Toronto’s “**Black Creek Walks, Talks and Dances**” as part of Myseum Intersections Festival (Spring/Fall 2022)
- **Present “Ideas Report” to Committee/Council** in Spring 2022
  - Land use
  - Community development
  - Summary of Community Input
- **Phase 2 detailed planning and public engagement** (Summer 2022 onwards)

# Discussion

- How best to engage urban Indigenous people?
- Are there any groups that you see are missing?





# Appendices

# Agencies We Propose to Engage through TASSC

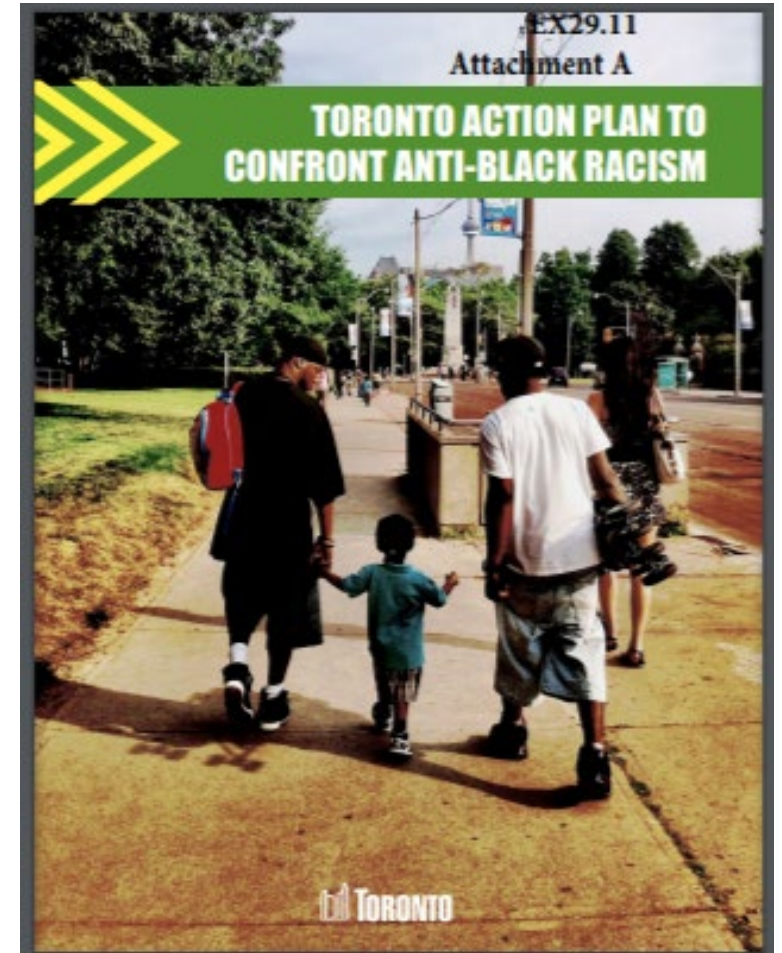
- 2-Spirited People of the 1st Nations
- Aboriginal Legal Services
- ANDPVA/Arts Indigena
- Toronto Council Fire Native Cultural Centre
- Miziwe Biik Aboriginal Employment and Training
- Native Canadian Centre of Toronto
- Native Child and Family Services of Toronto
- Na-Me-Res (Native Men's Residence)
- Native Women's Resource Centre
- of Toronto
- Nishnawbe Homes
- Thunder Woman Healing Lodge Society
- Wigwamen Incorporated
- Urban Indigenous Education Centre – TDSB
- Aboriginal Labour Force Development Circle
- Toronto and York Region Metis Council
- Toronto Inuit Association
- Ontario Aboriginal HIV/AIDS Strategy
- Gabriel Dumont Non-Profit Homes Inc.

- + Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business
- + York University Indigenous Students Association
- + Sweet Grass Roots Collective



# Confronting Anti-Black Racism (CABR)

- The City's CABR Unit oversees implementation of the Toronto Action Plan to Confront Anti-Black Racism. It calls for **improved engagement** of Black communities and a **more inclusive approach to the city building** processes
- **CABR Training** for the full project team was completed in 2020
- **An equitable engagement framework** was co-designed with community leaders, facilitated by Jay Pitter
  - Guiding Principles
  - Terms of reference for the respectful engagement of Black communities across the city, with particular emphasis on the Jane-Finch area.



# Community Conversations: Guiding Principles

- Incorporate **community input** in decision-making
- Recognize and respect the **communities as partners**
- Prioritize equity, with focus on equity-deserving groups
- Address existing community needs first, while building something great for the future
- **Learn from the past;** be informed by the area's history, assets and lived experiences
- Focus on near-term gains and success for existing residents, as the area begins to change

# Community Conversations: Vision

- Residents and businesses are **growing in place**
- **Parks and public spaces** are beautiful, connected, welcoming
- It's easy for everyone to **get around in all seasons**
- Access to a range of well-maintained **community facilities / services**
- **Arts and culture** are supported, celebrated and encouraged
- A **vibrant atmosphere**: shops, restaurants, services in walking distance
- Current and future residents have access to **affordable and good housing**
- Community initiatives address **climate action & environmental racism**
- A place full of **opportunities and supports** necessary for people and businesses to thrive
- **Neighbourhood change** process is transparent, collaborative and responsive

# Alignment: Jane Finch Community Hub and Centre for the Arts

City Council direction in May 2021 to CREM and SDFA:

- Authorizing the terms for the **transfer from Metrolinx of a 32-metre deep x 274-metre wide setback** at the Finch West LRT Maintenance & Storage Facility
- Requesting staff to **consult with the community to develop a work program**, an engagement strategy and an approach to identifying funding opportunities
- Report back in **Q1 2022**.

**Builds on a community vision and feasibility study** for a "community-driven, community-operated multipurpose facility that supports creative, social, recreational, and entrepreneurial programs for residents of the Jane-Finch neighbourhood and beyond".

