

I Care About the Square

ATT: Justin Niddrie
City Clerk's Office
RE: Notice of Public Meeting 483-491
Initial Statement of Interest

I strongly object to the proposal as it stands. It would be a mistake to see the square as underused space when there is a \$250.00 cost for a licence to advertise events. The lack of programming on the square means that people don't fully appreciate or understand the importance of the square and the labyrinth and therefore it is undervalued.

Trinity Square Park has the potential to offer programs that could not only benefit the wellness of Toronto citizens and students and could create excitement in tourism.

It is a space for the community, where shoppers and tourist who need a break from the busyness of Eaton Centre can rest. It is a space where residents can meet, outside in fresh air and sunshine surrounded by trees. It is a place where those that work in the towers can could meet with their bag lunches to practice mindful exercises in quietness, experience sunshine – activities that promote good mental health. It is a place where those who visit the centre, alone or in groups can use the labyrinth as a walking meditation.

The square and the labyrinth provide an opportunity to develop theatre and dance productions that contribute to our wellness, culture and history.

- The story of Taddle Creek and the surrounding buildings around the square could be performed by Theatre Groups with lighting projected on the buildings and the labyrinth.
- The labyrinth has been used by The Sacred Dance Guild to teach about the sacred circle. See attached video dancing - [Wendy Morrell: Circle Dance on Vimeo](#). Learning about the sacred circle is something that touches all cultures: Medicine Wheel, Mandala, Hopi. Learning about dance is an exercise that helps so many: seniors, disadvantage groups, workers who can't afford the gym, dance schools, etc
- The labyrinth could support local musicians, story tellers, celebrations like Earth Day, International Day of Peace, World Labyrinth Day.
- The labyrinth is interfaith; therefore the perfect tool to use in the Holiday Season.

The square, the surrounding areas and the labyrinth should demonstrate Toronto's commitment to Peace. Beginning at The Cloud Gardens, Cenotaph at Old City Hall and the statue of the Archer, Nathan Phillips Square, The McMurtry Gardens of Justice - the story of Frederick G. Gans. The trees, water, benches, and a classic archway leading to a stone labyrinth create a peaceful space, mirroring the former course of Taddle Creek. The

The Labyrinth Society's mission: "To support all those who create, maintain, and use labyrinths and to serve the global community by providing education, networking, and opportunities to experience transformation."

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granite blocks have been set into the paving at the entrance to the labyrinth and the nearby water feature in the square serve as reminders of the buried Taddle creek.

- Teachers should offer students field trips. A walk that ends at the labyrinth would be a very meaningful teaching tool. Students learn mostly from a lecture given in the classroom – they need to ask questions; they need to see the statues and they need to reflect on their meaning. A walking meditation is the perfect place for students to understand how to manage conflict. This link will give you a better idea of education in schools and the health benefits the labyrinth brings to education. [The Labyrinth: \(ed.gov\)](#)
- The above walk could also be offered by City Tourism in their Greeter program, or the Parks (similar to the walks at Montgomery Place in Etobicoke – that showcase the history of the area).
- Every year The Labyrinth Society (TLS) hosts a World Labyrinth Day where people around the globe “Walk as One at 1:00” [World Labyrinth Day](#). This international group collaborated with other labyrinth groups during the pandemic. The Australian Labyrinth Network developed material for schools to teach about the labyrinth, the research study “Big Connections” has been studying the impact of walking a labyrinth (as a walking meditation with intentions towards climate change, social justice, human rights and connections). Here is a link to a research paper looking at ways to reduce violence “The Power of the Collective by John Hagelin” with the Washington Police department and other justice organizations. [\(MeditationAsheville.org • Transcendental Meditation Courses • Free Introductory Lectures: John Hagelin: The Power of The Collective.](#)
- The violence in Toronto and Ontario is hard to comprehend. A four-year-old child left in a dumpster, children shooting each other, young men shooting a family in London – there is too much violence and not enough focus on developing programs that teach Peace in meaningful ways.

As the Regional Rep for The Labyrinth Society, I am hopeful there can be a solution to this proposal that respects the unique character of the Church of the Holy Trinity, Trinity Square Park and the Toronto Public Labyrinth. I am hopeful that the City of Toronto, the BIA, Schools, Churches, Entertainment Venues can come together to discover the full potential of this square and the Labyrinth.

Susan Murphy

The Labyrinth Society – Regional Rep in Ontario