

Authority to Enter into Use of Space Agreements for Enhanced Youth Spaces Programs

Date: October 5, 2023

To: Economic and Community Development Committee

From: Acting General Manager, Parks, Forestry & Recreation

Wards: Etobicoke-Lakeshore - 3, University-Rosedale - 11, Scarborough-Guildwood - 24

SUMMARY

This report seeks City Council authority to enter into agreements with three not-for-profit organizations for the joint operation of Enhanced Youth Spaces at various locations across the city. Five of the 22 Enhanced Youth Spaces are located in non-City facilities and operated in connection with Native Child and Family Services of Toronto (2 locations), Strides Toronto (1 location) and LAMP Community Health Centre (2 locations).

Since 2016, Parks, Forestry and Recreation (PFR) has successfully delivered its Enhanced Youth Space program in collaboration with these organizations. The youth served at these locations have been provided the opportunity to develop meaningful relationships with peers and staff in order to foster life and social skills that can help lead to employment.

PFR is requesting Council approval to formalize the agreements with each organization in order to continue delivering service within non-City facilities.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Acting General Manager of Parks, Forestry and Recreation recommends that:

1. City Council authorize the Acting General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation, or its designate, to negotiate and sign on behalf of the City of Toronto, use of space agreements with those Not-For-Profit organizations - Native Child and Family Resources, Strides Toronto and LAMP Community Health Centre whose space is accessed for the delivery of Enhanced Youth Space Programming as required, for a term of five years, renewable for an additional five-years, at the sole discretion of and with terms and conditions acceptable to the Acting General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation, in a form satisfactory to the City Solicitor.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There is no cost to the City to enter into this agreement with the not-for-profit organizations as the spaces are provided free of charge to the City. Base budget funding of \$0.751 million gross and net to deliver enhanced youth space programming for the five youth spaces is included in the Parks, Forestry and Recreation's 2023 Council Approved Operating Budget and future years which is associated with the staffing and program related equipment required to operate.

The Interim Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer has reviewed this report and agrees with the financial impact information.

DECISION HISTORY

At its meeting on February 19, 2020, City Council adopted the 2020 Staff Recommended Operating Budget for Parks, Forestry and Recreation and associated increase of six Enhanced Youth Spaces and 17 staff positions in 2020.
<https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2020.EX13.2>

At its meeting on August 25, 2014, City Council directed Parks, Forestry and Recreation to expand the Youth Lounge Advisory Committee to be reflective and inclusive of the diversity of youth experiences in Toronto.
<https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2014.CD31.9>

At its meeting on January 29, 2014, City Council approved Parks, Forestry and Recreation 2014 Operating Budget which included ten Enhanced Youth lounges with a three year phase-in plan for implementation: four sites in 2014; three sites in 2015 and three in 2016..
<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2014.EX37.1>

At its meeting on December 4, 2013 Council referred the Recreation Services for Youth: Expansion of Youth Spaces report to the Budget Advisory Committee for consideration in the 2014 Operating Budget.
<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2013.CD25.6>

At its meeting on October 8, 2013, City Council adopted the Recreation Services for Youth Report, with the Youth Recreation Engagement Strategy.
<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2013.CD23.1>

COMMENTS

In 2014, the City secured funding for ten Enhanced Youth Spaces to support outcomes from the Recreation Services for Youth: Expansion of Youth Spaces report. This report outlined an enhanced service model that included dedicated youth spaces designed to create a safe and welcoming environment. The enhanced service model was based in

part on an approach arising from the St. Stephen's Community House that had inspired the City's Enhanced Youth Spaces.

In 2020, citing consistent demand for Enhanced Youth Spaces, budget was allocated for an additional ten Enhanced Youth Spaces as a matter of divisional priority and in collaboration with Toronto Public Library (TPL) Youth Hubs. Combined with TPL's 24 Youth Hubs, the City's 22 Enhanced Youth Spaces create a network of 46 Youth Hubs and Enhanced Youth Spaces that create connections in the lives of youth in underserved areas of Toronto.

Through the site selection process, Parks, Forestry and Recreation (PFR) staff reviewed community data to better understand demographic need for the city's youth populations, in relation to prevalence of violence and income. PFR worked closely with TPL and used a robust socio-demographic analysis, along with youth and stakeholder input, to create this network of Youth Hubs and Enhanced Youth Spaces.

PFR's selection criteria for Enhanced Youth Spaces was based on socio-demographic analysis of neighbourhoods that included: higher youth density, service gaps for youth and ready-to-convert space that meets facility-related criteria. Facilities are required to be AODA compliant spaces that can be dedicated to the provision of Recreation Services for Youth, have access to a gymnasium and kitchen during after-school hours, and be available on evenings, and weekends.

This network of Youth Hubs and Enhanced Youth Spaces aims to address service gaps for youth, provide recreational, social and literacy supports for youth, and enhance opportunities in areas of the city experiencing higher incidents of violence, poverty, and marginalization.

Five of the City's 22 Enhanced Youth Spaces are located in non-City facilities and operated in connection with the following not-for-profit organizations: Native Child and Family Resources, Strides Toronto, and LAMP Community Health Centre. In these situations, each of these organizations are responsible for providing:

- dedicated space for the City's Enhanced Youth Space
- janitorial services, repairs to and maintenance of the Youth Space
- all utility services associated with the Youth Space

The City of Toronto is responsible for providing:

- one full time staff and part-time program staff for the Youth Space
- funding the operation of the Youth Space

Agreements with respect to these three will help to define the relationship, roles, and responsibilities assigned to each of the specific not-for-profit organizations in relation to the youth programming services the City is providing at the Enhanced Youth Spaces outside its property.

Enhanced Youth Spaces are open five or six days a week for a minimum of three hours per day, 52 weeks a year. Staff provide general supervision and skill-based instruction as well as drop-in programming, events and community-based partnership programs.

In 2022, the City's 22 Enhanced Youth Spaces were visited 102,338 times, and provided a combined 33,320 service hours to Toronto youth.

PFR conducted a survey in 2022 through the Youth Outcome Framework model of monitoring and evaluating programs. The results indicate that 87 per cent of respondents were satisfied with their experiences at the City's Enhanced Youth Spaces, and 82 per cent indicated that they had become more involved in their communities or interested in being involved since joining the City's Enhanced Youth Space program.

This report is requesting Council approval to formalize agreements with each organization in order to continue delivering service within non-City facilities.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

Howie Dayton
Acting General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: Table 1 - Enhanced Youth Spaces locations

Attachment 1: Table 2 - Enhanced Youth Spaces locations

Enhanced Youth Spaces Location	City of Toronto Ward	Address
Antibes Community Centre	York Centre – 6	140 Antibes Drive
Don Montgomery Community Centre	Scarborough Southwest – 20	2467 Eglinton Avenue East
Driftwood Community Centre	Humber River - Black Creek – 7	4401 Jane Street
Elmbank Community Centre	Etobicoke North – 1	10 Rampart Road
Falstaff Community Centre	York South - Weston – 5	50 Falstaff Avenue
Heron Park Community Centre	Scarborough - Rouge Park – 25	292 Manse Road
Jimmie Simpson Community Centre	Toronto- Danforth – 14	870 Queen Street East
Lamp Community Health Centre	Etobicoke - Lakeshore – 3	185 Fifth Street
Rathburn Area Youth Space	Etobicoke Centre – 2	385 The West Mall
Lawrence Heights Community Centre	Eglinton - Lawrence – 8	5 Replin Road
Masaryk Cowan Community Centre	Parkdale - High Park – 4	220 Cowan Avenue
Native Youth Resource Centre	University - Rosedale – 11	655 Bloor Street West
NCFST Scarborough Child and Family Life Centre	Scarborough - Guildwood – 24	156 Galloway Road
New Generation Youth Recreation Centre	York South - Weston – 5	2694 Eglinton Avenue West
North Kipling Community Centre	Etobicoke North – 1	2 Rowntree Road
Northwood Community Centre	Humber River - Black Creek – 7	15 Clubhouse Court

Enhanced Youth Spaces Location	City of Toronto Ward	Address
O'Connor Community Centre	Beaches - East York – 19	1386 Victoria Park Avenue
Parkway Forest Community Centre	Don Valley North – 17	55 Forest Manor Road
Power House Recreation Centre	Etobicoke - Lakeshore – 3	65 Colonel Samuel Smith Park Drive
Regent Park Community Centre	Toronto Centre – 13	402 Shuter Street
Strides Toronto	Scarborough Guildwood - 24	1200 Markham Road (suite 313)
Wellesley Community Centre	Toronto Centre – 13	495 Sherbourne Street