



GRANGE

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November 07, 2023

To: Toronto and East York Community Council

Re: TE 9.9 - 317 Dundas St West – ART GALLERY OF ONTARIO Zoning By-law
Amendment - Application number: 23 124224 STE 10 OZ

Representatives of the Grange Community Association (GCA) have had the opportunity to meet with the Art Gallery of Ontario to discuss their plans and provide our comments.

Among the issues raised by the GCA were: the number and type of windows, the appearance of a blank wall on the south façade, the shape of the building – i.e., square without curves – and the impact of this development on the future expansion of OCADU.

Based on the discussions between the AGO and the GCA, we are satisfied that the concerns have been addressed. In addition, we have been advised that the surface of the exterior walls will be softened by the use of terracotta.

We must also note – as a matter of historical record – that, during an earlier expansion of the AGO, we proposed that the loading dock area be used, rather than what was proposed as outlined in the brief submitted to the City’s Land Use Committee meeting of April 20, 1988. At that meeting, the City’s Land Use Committee considered a report from a Working Group chaired by former Councillor Jack Layton. The AGO architects insisted that it was not possible to use the loading dock area. Obviously, necessity and new considerations have changed the position previously taken by the gallery.

The AGO’s announcement of March 2023, states: “This will be the seventh expansion that the AGO has undertaken since it was founded in 1900.” It is our sincere wish that no further expansion of the AGO be undertaken. Over the years, this neighbourhood has endured the impact of these expansions caused by significant increases in gallery attendance and the loss of parkland on the southwest corner during the 1989 expansion.

Respectfully,

Ceta Ramkhalawansingh
Acting Chair and Honorary President, Grange Community Association
and
Max Allen, Vice President – Development, Grange Community Association