

January 19, 2024

Dear Councillor Carroll:

I am writing on behalf of Surrey Place to strongly endorse Toronto and Region Conservation Authority's (TRCA) funding request for Black Creek Pioneer Village (to be renamed The Village at Black Creek in spring 2024.)

Surrey Place is a Toronto-based not-for-profit serving people of all ages with developmental disabilities, autism spectrum disorder and visual impairments. Black Creek Pioneer Village's commitment to inclusion and accessibility, being a space that welcomes all to learn and enjoy, aligns with our work to connect with and support communities with complex needs – and we're excited that dedicated funding will enable the museum's work to continue.

Our organization collaborated with Black Creek Pioneer Village in 2023 on a successful "Relaxed Visit" program, highlighting its commitment to accessibility. Our clinicians were welcomed into the museum to provide insight on how to tailor the visitor experience for people with disabilities – and, through collaboration with the TRCA staff, a welcoming and accommodating program for our community, including the clients we directly serve, was created. The success of the "Relaxed Visit" program demonstrated the museum's proactive steps to ensure accessibility, fostering an environment where everyone, regardless of ability, can enjoy unique cultural experiences.

I am enthusiastic about this new partnership, and continued collaboration with Black Creek Pioneer Village to further enhance accessibility initiatives. This requires sustained funding support to implement innovative and accessible programs and continue to enhance engagement with communities like the one we serve.

I urge your support for TRCA's request, as it directly contributes to the advancement of accessibility in Toronto.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration.



Terri Hewitt,
Chief Executive Officer