

HARBORD VILLAGE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

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Mayor Olivia Chow and
City of Toronto Council.

Re Item CC28.1 Authority to negotiate agreements related to Queen's Park North through
Philanthropic Partnerships March 24, 2025.

Harbord Village Residents' Association welcomes your initiative to form an alliance with private investors to ensure quality public realm and park space for Downtown. This is critical social and environmental infrastructure in a part of the city undergoing huge development pressures and population growth.

Good oversight of public parks is critical. The most recent, respectful, and successful restoration of the park by the City was necessary to correct years of damage that had been done by use of the park as an event space. Vandalism during Nuit Blanche is unfortunate but should not be taken as a reason to change the heritage landscape from its present use.

Queen's Park North acts as a refuge, where residents and visitors of all ages can enjoy a bit of rest, sitting in the sun, watching the birds and chipmunks and dogs and people going about their days. It's a well-travelled pedestrian route and part of a wildlife corridor that starts in Philosopher's Walk, and will one day connect to University Park, a critical and imaginative project that will run along its western boundary, from Hoskin to College, down University to Queen Street.

Such spaces are a rare and precious public amenity.

We trust the Weston Foundation will follow the imaginative contributions from other private sector partners in past projects. All Toronto has benefitted from the generosity of Judy Matthews in the revitalization of St. George Street and the private donations that led to the realization of the Bentway. We hope Queen's Park North might now be added to the list.

Through the University of Toronto Area Liaison Committee, at the Ontario Land Tribunal, with University of Toronto and at City, adjacent communities and park advocates have long fought to protect Queen's Park North. We are eager to assist as part of a broad consultation.

With thanks,

Sue Dexter,
Board,
Harbord Village Residents' Association,
416-985-0222.