



KENSINGTON COMMUNITY SCHOOL

401 College Street, Toronto, Ontario M5T 1S9

Telephone: (416) 393-1290

Principal: Gary Pieters

<https://schoolweb.tdsb.on.ca/kensington>



Monday, December 15, 2025

Deputation Regarding 333 College St, TE 27.8 - Community Benefits - Request for City of Toronto Improvements to the Laneway Behind Kensington Community School

Dear Councillor Dr. Dianne Saxe,

I am Gary Pieters, and I serve as the Principal at Kensington Community School, a Kindergarten to Grade 6 School that serves students in the Kensington Market area of your ward.

I would like to request that the City of Toronto consider taking ownership of the laneway behind the school and reimagining it as a linear park that connects to the school, similar to linear parks across the city including the Linear Park next to Canoe Landing Landing Park in CityPlace; the Nicholson Lane Linear Park in Downtown Toronto; Danforth Laneway Revitalization Project; and Reggae Lane, which are well maintained, lighted, vibrant and connected public realm locations that have been transformed into welcoming community spaces.

The orphaned laneway next to the school is used as the primary entry and exit to the school yard by students and families. It is used by our staff to access the school from the parking lot, and vice versa.

Staff, students and families using the laneway as a main route into the school grounds have expressed concerns that it is **not well-lit, not safe, and not accessible** and they are feeling unsafe walking through the poorly lit, and unmaintained laneway.

The Toronto Police Service – [Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design \(CPTED\)](#) Audit Report and Recommendations conducted on October 2, 2025 at Kensington Community School calls for safety improvements to the laneway including lighting, maintenance and surveillance cameras.

This would be a bold, innovative and creative idea to clean up, beautify and enliven the laneway from an orphaned laneway to a vibrant, usable publicly accessible open space that is a new model for creative use of orphaned laneways.

From the lens of transforming this “private orphaned” laneway into a thriving public laneway project that is useable, maintained, accessible and serves as a linear park, I believe that would serve the purpose of becoming accessible, with a gateway from the parking lot to the school, and as a linear park, and the laneway would then be maintained by the city!

Sincerely,

Gary Pieters
Principal
Kensington Community School

