

## **FIFA World Cup 2026 Toronto: Legacy Update**

**Date:** October 9, 2025  
**To:** FIFA World Cup 2026 Subcommittee  
**From:** Executive Director, FIFA World Cup 2026 Toronto Secretariat  
**Wards:** All

### **SUMMARY**

---

The FIFA World Cup 2026™ (FWC26) represents an unprecedented opportunity for the City of Toronto to showcase its global reputation as a diverse, inclusive, and vibrant city.

This report provides an update specific to legacy initiatives and reflects the City's commitment to ensuring that the benefits of hosting the FWC26 are felt widely across communities, support local economic growth, enhance civic engagement, and strengthen Toronto's position as a world-class destination for major international events. This report seeks Council approval for in-year budget adjustments to advance initiatives in 2025. Development and review of FWC26 legacy initiatives is ongoing and subsequent initiatives will be brought forward in future reports.

This report is a coordinated response, providing updates and addressing directives from City Council, led by the FIFA World Cup 2026 (FWC26) Toronto Secretariat, in collaboration with various Divisions including Parks and Recreation, Toronto Water, Social Development, Economic Development and Culture, Environment, Climate and Forestry, Purchasing and Materials Management, People and Equity, and Corporate Real Estate Management.

Legacy elements are central to the planning of the FWC26 in Toronto. The infrastructure projects at both Toronto Stadium and Centennial Park represent the largest legacy investments that will benefit Torontonians long after the tournament ends. This report specifically focuses on five legacy themes and the first phase of work being done by the Program Advisory Bodies. Engagement of community leaders and organizations has been essential to this work and ensures that equity, economic inclusion, and community vibrancy remain at the core of preparations and legacy planning for 2026 and beyond.

An update specific to Community Benefits and Social Procurement was provided in the report to the FWC26 Subcommittee in [September 2025](#).

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

---

The Executive Director, FWC26 Toronto Secretariat recommends that:

1. City Council increase the 2025 Operating Budget for Parks and Recreation by \$37,500 gross and \$0 net, funded by a transfer from FWC26 legacy initiatives within the 2025 Operating Budget for the City Manager's Office.
2. City Council increase the 2025 Operating Budget for Social Development by \$120,000 gross and \$0 net, funded by a transfer from FWC26 legacy initiatives within the 2025 Operating Budget for the City Manager's Office.
3. City Council direct the Executive Director, FWC26 Secretariat to work with other Divisions as required to include additional transfers as part of the 2026 budget process, within the \$5 million designated for legacy initiatives.

## **FINANCIAL IMPACT**

---

Within the FWC26 Toronto Secretariat \$380 million budget, funding of \$5 million is included and designated specifically for legacy initiatives.

\$100,000 was previously committed to support initiatives as part of the Community Benefits Plan.

This report recommends committing \$37,500 in 2025 to support planning for programs that will be delivered by Parks and Recreation. As a component of the FWC26 Legacy Plan, Parks and Recreation will deliver four legacy programs in 2026 including Building Skills Through Recreation (BSTR) Instructor and Match Officials Training Program, Let's Get Coaching, Soccer For All Community Recreation Program, and Soccer For All Summer Camp Program. To support planning for these programs, funding of \$37,500 is required in 2025 for Community Recreation staffing costs and will be added through an in-year adjustment transferring funding from the FWC26 legacy budget within the City Manager's Office Operating Budget to the Parks and Recreation Operating Budget.

This report also recommends committing \$120,000 in 2025 to support grants delivered by Social Development. As another component of the FWC26 Legacy Plan, Social Development will augment funding to two existing grant programs, Identify N' Impact and Local Leadership Grants, in 2025 and 2026. Funding of \$120,000 is to be released to the trustee organizations in late 2025 to support the grant recipients with planning and execution of their projects.

The other legacy initiatives identified in this report are planned to begin in 2026 and have a combined estimated cost of \$1.066 million. For initiatives planned in 2026, staff will work with Divisions and Agencies to transfer the funding required as part of the 2026 budget process.

Pending Council approval of this report, a total of \$1.324 million will be committed to legacy initiatives to date. The remaining funding of \$3.676 million will be allocated to additional initiatives as the Program Advisory Bodies continue to refine and review proposals. Staff will report back with details in future staff reports.

The Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer has reviewed this report and agrees with the financial impact information identified in the Financial Impact Section.

## **DECISION HISTORY**

---

On July 23, 2025, City Council adopted MM32.26, "CityServeTO - A Youth-based Community Service Initiative", which authorized funding to community agencies for the Youth Community Service Initiative.

<https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2025.MM32.36>

On June 25 and 26, 2025 City Council adopted MM32.21, "Addressing Gaps in the City's Heat Relief Strategy", directing the Deputy City Manager, Community and Emergency Services, in collaboration with the General Manager, Toronto Water, to work with frontline agencies to determine high-priority locations for surge capacity water trucks in advance of forecast heat events.

<https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2025.MM31.21>

On June 17, 2025, Executive Committee adopted EX24.12, "FIFA World Cup 2026 Toronto: Community Benefits Plan Update, Social Procurement and Workforce Development Status, Community Activation Plan, Marketing and Communications Overview, Support for Concurrent Special Events, Principles of Bidding on International Events, and Purchase Order Amendment".

<https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2025.FWC5.1>

On May 22, 2025, City Council adopted EX23.16, "FIFA World Cup 2026 Toronto: Procurement Plan Update", updating the procurement plan to procure the goods and services required for the delivery of the FIFA World Cup 2026 Toronto.

<https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2025.EX23.16>

On May 22, 2025, City Council adopted EX23.17, "Status update of funding from the Federal and Provincial Governments for FIFA World Cup 2026", providing details around negotiations with the provincial government related to service costs for hosting the FIFA World Cup 2026.

<https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2025.EX23.17>

On April 23, 2025, City Council adopted CC29.3, "Procurement to Support Activities Funded by the Soccer for All Legacy Fund", authorizing staff to negotiate and enter into agreements for the provision of construction and professional services required to deliver up to 12 mini-pitches across Toronto.

<https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2025.CC29.3>

On March 26 and 27, 2025, City Council adopted IE19.10, "Options to Fund and Expand the HTO to GO Water Trailer Program", directing the Chief Procurement Officer to procure two 10-tap stainless steel water trailers using a limited solicitation process, inviting bids from at least three suppliers, at a cost not to exceed \$220,000 inclusive of all taxes and contingencies.

<https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2025.IE19.10>

On February 26, 2025, Economic and Community Development Committee adopted EC18.6, "Investing In Youth, Empowering Our City's Potential: Creation of a Toronto Youth Employment Program", which requested staff to consider opportunities to achieve a target of up to 10,000 additional summer jobs for young people by 2026.

<https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2025.EC18.6>

On February 5, 2025, City Council adopted EX20.19, "Authorization to Enter into Agreements to Deliver a Successful FIFA World Cup 2026", granting staff the ability to execute agreements with FIFA's exclusive vendors in a timely manner essential to staying on track and delivering an event that meets both FIFA's standards and our city's expectations.

<https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2025.EX20.19>

On December 17, 2024, City Council adopted EC17.2, "A Partnered Approach to Inclusive Economic Development", which requested divisions to apply the principles of Inclusive Economic Development in relevant plans, strategies and programs.

<https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2024.EC17.2>

On July 24, 2024, City Council adopted EX16.21, "Governance, Community Benefits Plan, Legacy and Program Advisory Framework, FIFA Fan Festival", which provided a general overview of planning, granted authority to enter in agreements with third party groups to receive funds, and accelerate RapidTO transit priorities, all associated with supporting the FIFA World Cup 2026 in Toronto.

<https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2024.EX16.21>

On March 20, 2024, City Council adopted EX12.2, "Update on Hosting FIFA World Cup 2026", which authorized staff to negotiate and enter into contribution agreements with the Governments of Canada and Ontario in support of FWC26 as well as agreements with the Greater Toronto Airport Authority and Ports Toronto (Billy Bishop Toronto City Airport) reflecting Host City Agreement obligations in support of Toronto's hosting of the FWC26. Through this report City Council also directed report backs on a number of items including revenue plans, children and youth soccer facilities and programs, community benefits, human rights plans and climate strategy.

<https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2024.EX12.2>

## COMMENTS

---

## Legacy Planning Update

The City of Toronto continues to advance planning for legacy initiatives focused on goals such as inclusion and equitable distribution of benefits from hosting FWC26. To guide this work a Program Advisory Framework was established, with strategies related to each of the five legacy themes:

- 1. Sport, Active Living, Health & Wellness*
- 2. Environmental Sustainability*
- 3. Arts & Culture*
- 4. Human Rights, Equity, Diversity, Inclusion & Anti-Racism*
- 5. Tourism & Economic Development*

Each legacy theme is supported by a dedicated Program Advisory Body (PAB). In addition to the five FWC26 legacy themes noted above, a Community Benefits and Social Procurement PAB is supporting the implementation of the Community Benefits Plan. Work specific to the Community Benefits Plan was provided in a Staff Report to the FWC26 Subcommittee in [September 2025](#). Each PAB is comprised of representatives from community organizations, industry partners, and equity-deserving groups as requested by Council. Using a targeted approach to facilitate engagement and consultation, each PAB provided advice and identified opportunities to create lasting community impact and legacy as a result of Toronto hosting the FWC26. A thorough review and evaluation process has ensured that the planning and delivery of the FWC26 will both highlight and enhance the City's existing policies, plans, programs and initiatives.

### Program Advisory Bodies and Approach

Since their launch, each of the six PABs has convened a minimum of three times. These meetings have brought together a broad cross-section of participants to exchange insights and provide input on potential legacy opportunities.

The FWC26 Toronto Secretariat engaged City Divisions to gather preliminary insights and determine key areas of focus for the PABs. Ideas and feedback were collected with attention to the diverse needs and perspectives of Toronto's communities. PAB members were tasked with reviewing and identifying legacy opportunities and helping to prioritize initiatives that could leverage the tournament to benefit Toronto's residents, businesses, and visitors. Through this engagement approach, the PABs helped to identify the anticipated positive long-term impacts of Toronto hosting the FWC26, ensuring benefits would be broadly shared, while reinforcing and enhancing the City's existing policies, plans, programs, and initiatives. The collaborative relationship between the FWC26 Toronto Secretariat and the PABs has demonstrated trust, teamwork, and a shared commitment to equity, diversity, and inclusion.

Based on the work of the PABs to date, this update reports on the first phase of recommended legacy initiatives that require approval and funding in 2025 to ensure timelines can be met for successful implementation in 2026. These programs, projects and opportunities have also been reviewed and endorsed by the FWC26 Forever

Committee. Development and review of FWC26 legacy initiatives is ongoing and subsequent phases and initiatives will be brought forward in future reports.

## **Recommended FWC26 Legacy Initiatives**

### **Sport, Physical Activity, Health & Wellness**

Within the Sport, Physical Activity, and Health & Wellness legacy theme, the City aims to utilize soccer's popularity to inspire lifelong participation in sports, physical activities, and a healthy lifestyle. A central focus has been placed on reducing barriers to participation and expanding access for children and youth, Indigenous and Black communities, women, and other equity-deserving groups. The recommended initiatives developed under this theme will play a key role in ensuring that the benefits of hosting the FWC26 are widely felt across Toronto and that a meaningful sport and wellness legacy is established for the city.

Recommended Sport, Physical Activity, and Health & Wellness legacy initiatives, being led by the Parks and Recreation Division include:

- Building Skills Through Recreation (BSTR)
- Let's Get Coaching
- Soccer For All Community Recreation Program and Summer Camps

### ***Building Skills Through Recreation***

BSTR is a free employment readiness program designed for youth ages 14 to 24 across Toronto, offered by Parks and Recreation. The program helps participants develop transferable skills and build a strong foundation of knowledge to obtain, retain and advance in meaningful employment.

The BSTR program has two streams:

- The Instructor Training Program equips youth with the skills and certifications needed to pursue employment opportunities in sport and recreation. Participants receive credentials including Standard First Aid and CPR (National Lifesaving Society), Fundamental Movement Skills (Coaches Association of Ontario), and the Learn to Train soccer coach certification under the National Coach Certification Training Program (facilitated in collaboration with Ontario Soccer). In addition, participants take part in an employment readiness workshop focused on job applications and interview preparation.
- The Match Officials Training Program provides youth with certifications that qualify them to work as soccer referees. Training includes Standard First Aid and CPR (National Lifesaving Society), Fundamental Movement Skills (Coaches Association of Ontario), and either Entry Level Match Officials or Small-Sided Match Officials certification (Ontario Soccer). An employment readiness workshop is also included to prepare participants for job applications and interviews.

The program will serve youth ages 14–24 years (Instructor training) and 12–24 years (Match Official training), coordinated by City of Toronto Recreation staff in partnership with provincial sport organizations delivering the technical training. Offered at no cost to participants, the program is targeted for delivery in Neighbourhood Improvement Areas and is designed to increase access for equity-deserving groups.

This initiative builds on a long-standing Parks and Recreation program (formerly the Toronto Sport Leadership Program), through which thousands of youth have been trained over many years. The expansion introduces a greater emphasis on soccer to support legacy goals tied to the FWC26.

The targeted program outcomes for 2026 are:

- 96 participants will complete the Instructor Training Program.
- 125 participants will complete the Match Officials Entry Level stream, enabling them to officiate 9v9 or 11v11 matches.
- 140 participants will complete the Match Officials Small-Sided stream, qualifying them to officiate 7v7 matches.

This initiative is scalable with potential to expand or extend delivery beyond 2026 if additional funding is allocated.

### ***Let's Get Coaching***

The Let's Get Coaching Training Program will provide free coach education for youth ages 14–24, preparing participants for both employment and volunteer coaching roles with community soccer clubs and organizations. A total of 288 participants will be trained in 2026.

The program will be coordinated by City of Toronto Recreation staff, with technical delivery led by provincial sport organizations. It is designed for delivery in Neighbourhood Improvement Areas, with a strong focus on access for equity-deserving groups.

Three levels of soccer coach training will be offered, each delivered to 96 participants (4 groups of 24 participants each):

1. Soccer Active Start – Coaching U5–U6
2. Community Sport – Soccer Fundamentals – Coaching U7–U9
3. Community Sport – Soccer Learn to Train – Coaching U10–U12

Originally launched in 2014, as part of the City's Pan Am/Parapan Am Games Host City Showcase (Legacy) Program, Let's Get Coaching trained over 2,000 community coaches across multiple sports. The program was discontinued due to funding constraints but had a proven track record of success, contributing significantly to the availability of quality coaches in community-based sport programs. The proposed revival will focus specifically on soccer to support FWC26 legacy goals.

Similar to BSTR, this initiative is scalable with potential to expand or extend delivery beyond 2026 if additional funding is allocated.

### ***Soccer For All Mini-Pitches***

Soccer For All continues to advance as an important FWC26 legacy initiative that will expand access to safe and inclusive soccer facilities across Toronto. Funded through philanthropic donations secured by the Champions Table, the Soccer For All Legacy Program aims to build new soccer mini-pitches in parks across the city, creating more opportunities for residents of all ages to play, learn, and connect through sport. These facilities are designed to be safe, inclusive, and accessible, with sites selected based on equity needs, projected population growth, youth population, and existing park amenities.

The sites selected for the first phase of mini-pitch construction include: Grandravine Park (Ward 6), Amesbury Park (Ward 5), and Scarborough Village Park (Ward 24). Led by Parks and Recreation, community engagement for the first mini-pitch sites was carried out from September 12 to 26, 2025 with the purpose of collecting community feedback to confirm the location of a soccer mini-pitch within each park and the inclusion of any additional amenities to support their use. Construction on the first set of mini-pitches will start in early October 2025, with completion targeted for Spring 2026.

### ***Soccer For All Community Recreation Program and Summer Camps***

Soccer For All programming will expand access to introductory soccer opportunities for children across Toronto, advancing the City's commitment to equitable access to sport as part of the FWC26 legacy. The program is designed to introduce soccer in an inclusive, age-appropriate, and accessible format at the new Soccer For All mini-pitch locations.

A Community Recreation Program, coordinated by City of Toronto Recreation staff, will be offered for three age groups: 4–5 years, 6–9 years, and 10–12 years. Each class will include instruction and game play, ensuring participants build both skills and confidence. The program will operate in the spring, summer and fall of 2026 and is currently planned for up to 2,220 potential participants.

In addition to the Community Recreation Program, a Soccer For All Summer Camp Program is proposed to expand summer recreation opportunities for children by offering soccer-focused day camps. Also delivered at the new mini-pitches, this program complements the Community Recreation Program as a different format, creating additional grassroots opportunities for children to engage in soccer. Serving children ages 6–12, each location will accommodate 20 participants per week, for 8 weeks, supporting up to 800 campers through the summer. Campers will benefit from soccer instruction each day, complemented by other camp activities that promote fun, inclusion, and social connection. This program provides children with structured opportunities to be active, develop teamwork skills, and build confidence, while leaving a lasting grassroots soccer legacy for Toronto.

## **Environmental Sustainability**

With the support of the Environmental Sustainability PAB, staff have been advancing sustainability plans for the tournament across several key areas:

- Greening of stadium and training facilities, ensuring that these sites meet high standards of environmental and energy performance and resilience.
- Efforts to avoid, reduce, reuse, and recycle tournament-related waste, aiming to minimize the environmental footprint of the event.
- Promotion of water conservation, protection, and stormwater management, integrating best practices to ensure sustainable use and management of water resources.
- Enhanced access to low-carbon transportation options for visitors, volunteers, staff and residents.

Ongoing work continues at Toronto Stadium (BMO Field) to achieve LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certification for Existing Buildings: Operations and Maintenance, a requirement for all FIFA World Cup 2026 host stadiums. A study has been completed to identify pathways to certification, and the project is now wrapping up its required performance period. The next step is submitting documentation to the Green Business Certification Institute for review. The project remains on track to secure certification before the tournament begins.

The training site at Centennial Park is designed to Tier 4 of the Toronto Green Standard, featuring a net-zero emissions building that is highly energy-efficient and free of on-site fossil fuel combustion. The project also includes a stream restoration initiative to rejuvenate and naturalize approximately 600 meters of Elmcrest Creek. Construction is making significant progress, remains on schedule, and is expected to be completed before the start of the tournament.

While work is continuing across these areas, the PAB has identified the Enhanced HTO To Go Operations initiative described below as a key legacy initiative that requires approval and funding to meet delivery timelines.

### ***Enhanced HTO To Go Operations - Water Trailer***

During extreme heat events, access to clean, cool drinking water becomes a critical public health need. Vulnerable populations, including individuals experiencing homelessness, older adults, outdoor workers, and those with limited mobility, face heightened risks of dehydration, heat exhaustion, and heat stroke. Toronto Shelter & Support Services identifies the need for the deployment of water trailers, which offer a practical and scalable solution to protect these populations during extreme heat events.

Delivered by Toronto Water, the HTO To Go Water Trailer Program is primarily mandated to support emergency responses, including both operational and public health needs. When not required for emergency purposes, City-owned water trailers may be scheduled for use at public events that meet the program's established criteria.

In March 2025, City Council approved the following direction:

- The Chief Procurement Officer was directed to procure two 10-tap stainless steel water trailers using a limited solicitation process, inviting bids from at least three suppliers, at a cost not to exceed \$220,000 inclusive of all taxes and contingencies.
- City Council amended the Toronto Water 2025 Capital Budget and 2026–2033 Capital Plan to include funding in the amount of \$220,000, fully funded from unspent allocations in the 2025 Toronto Water Capital Budget, to be identified through a future variance report.

Building on this direction, it is recommended to use designated FWC26 legacy funding to procure a third 10-tap trailer dedicated to FWC26 Host City operations. Following the tournament, this trailer would be incorporated into the City’s broader inventory to augment the Heat Relief Strategy and expand support for future community events.

### **Human Rights, Equity, Diversity, Inclusion & Anti-Racism**

The FWC26 Toronto Secretariat recognizes the importance of complying with all applicable legislation and remains committed to upholding the City’s human rights obligations throughout the planning and delivery of the tournament, including the prevention of discrimination and harassment and the advancement of equity, diversity, and inclusion.

Recommended Human Rights, Equity, Diversity, Inclusion & Anti-Racism legacy initiatives include:

- Enhanced Social Development Community Funding for FWC26 Community Celebrations and Sport-Related Projects
- PrideHouseTO
- Ask for Angela

### ***Enhanced Social Development Community Funding***

Additional grant funding is being recommended to support the Identify N’ Impact (INI) and Local Leadership Grants delivered by the Social Development Division. As established long-standing City programs, these grants align with multiple Council-approved strategies and priorities, including the Toronto Youth Equity Strategy, Toronto Strong Neighbourhoods Strategy, the Action Plan to Confront Anti-Black Racism, the Reconciliation Action Plan, SafeTO, and the legacy objectives identified by the FWC26 Human Rights Program Advisory Body. The legacy of providing community grant funding ensures that the benefits of hosting the FWC26 extend beyond the tournament itself and include the local level. Key benefits include: equity, inclusion and capacity building; which is also a focus of both programs - resident engagement and community leadership. For the 2026 grant cycle, new eligibility criteria were introduced to support sport-related projects in recognition of the FWC26. As such, it is recommended that additional legacy funding be provided to supplement this program and the funding of successful sport-related projects.

### ***Identify N’ Impact (INI)***

The INI Grant supports youth-led groups (ages 15–29) in Toronto with funding to bring their ideas to life. Focused on promoting youth engagement, community safety, and empowerment, the grant supports initiatives in areas like mental health, skills development, education, and the arts. The 2026 grant cycle opened on June 25, 2025 and closed on August 12, 2025.

Through the INI Grant, FWC26 legacy funding will support a minimum of six community groups with their sport related projects. Applicants were eligible to request up to \$17,000 per project, with an additional 20% trusteeship fee where required, summing up to a maximum of \$120,000. A total of 81 eligible applications were received and reviewed, including 21 that were related to sport. The combined funding requested for these sport-related applications amounted to \$354,473.

Examples of potential INI community projects include:

- Youth-Led Soccer & Wellness Program – Engages 30 teens from a Toronto Community Housing neighbourhood through weekly indoor soccer and wellness workshops, promoting physical health, mental well-being, and leadership in a safe, inclusive space.
- Scarborough Youth Soccer League – A six-week summer league supporting at-risk youth from low-income communities, combining competitive play with teamwork, mentorship, and partnerships with local services to build community pride and support crime prevention.

### *Local Leadership Grants*

As a part of the Toronto Strong Neighbourhoods Strategy (TSNS), the Local Leadership Grant supports resident-led projects that support local activation and focus on the five domains of TSNS – economic opportunities, healthy lives, participation in civic-decision making, physical surroundings, and social development – across all neighbourhoods. The Local Leadership Grant prioritizes the leadership and participation of Indigenous, Black and equity-deserving groups within Neighbourhood Improvement Areas, Emerging Neighbourhoods, and other communities of focus. The 2026 grant cycle opened on September 15, 2025 and closes on November 24, 2025.

### ***Implementation of Ask for Angela***

For survivors of gender-based violence, seeking support can be both difficult and unsafe. To help address this, the Ask for Angela program was launched in Toronto in 2024, offering a discreet and accessible way for individuals to request assistance. By using the simple code phrase “Is Angela here?” at participating locations such as participating grocery stores and pharmacies, individuals are immediately connected with trained staff who can provide support and link them to appropriate services. Noting that trained staff and volunteers are not expected to assess risk or intervene directly - their role is limited to recognizing the code phrase and connecting individuals with Victim Services Toronto's (VST) professional crisis response.

As part of its expansion, Ask for Angela has developed a comprehensive advertising and awareness strategy. The campaign will be featured throughout TTC advertising spaces and extended to additional public venues, ensuring broad visibility for the public

and clear recognition of the program for individuals experiencing abuse or requiring immediate support. If a person is not comfortable asking, QR codes for Ask for Angela/VST will be on the ads.

With funding provided by the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services (MCCSS), VST is scaling Ask for Angela for implementation across the city, with more participating organizations and locations (including transit stations), as well as retraining staff and volunteers at over 238 locations in Toronto prior to the tournament. As a FWC26 legacy project Ask for Angela will be included in FWC26 Host City Ambassador volunteer training and implemented across key FWC26 tournament venues. The initiative advances the Human Rights Program Advisory Body priorities and aligns with the City of Toronto's Community Safety and Wellbeing Plan (SafeTO), the Toronto For All campaign, and TTC's commitment to enhancing safety for women and equity-deserving riders.

At this time, FWC26 Toronto legacy funding is not required for this program. The Ask for Angela program will be included in the FWC26 Human Rights Action Plan, recognized as part of the FWC26 Legacy Program, and integrated into Host City and tournament operations.

### ***Support for PrideHouseTO***

Pride House Toronto 2026 has partnered with Pride House International, an organization that promotes 2SLGBTQI+ inclusion and combats homophobia and transphobia through major international sporting events, to establish and operate a dedicated Pride House during the FIFA World Cup 26™.

Since 2010, Pride House International has supported the delivery of more than 27 Pride Houses worldwide, including three in Canada, most recently at the Toronto 2015 Pan Am/Parapan Am Games. Modeled on the successful legacy of PrideHouseTO 2015, Pride House Toronto 2026 will be a grassroots, volunteer-led "hospitality house" providing a safe and inclusive space for match viewing, as well as a hub for 2SLGBTQI+ athletes, fans, and community members. Each Pride House is organized and funded locally, with design support and best practices shared by Pride House International and previous hosts.

Pride House Toronto 2026 will build on its core mandate of being a safe, inclusive game-viewing space and social hub for 2SLGBTQI+ communities and will achieve the broad FWC26 legacy and social benefits listed below:

- **Community Connection:** Toronto has a vibrant 2SLGBTQI+ sport presence, with established leagues such as Downtown Soccer Toronto and Pink Turf, alongside numerous community groups and initiatives. Pride House will serve as a unifying platform to bring together these groups, many of which currently operate in silos.
- **Amplification and Visibility:** Programming will highlight community partners through a "Host of the Day" model, giving groups the opportunity to educate, promote, and engage directly with the public. This structure elevates local voices while showcasing Toronto's diversity.

- Education and Inclusion: Pride House will provide both educational and entertainment programming to promote inclusion and actively combat homophobia and transphobia in sport.
- Global Profile: With 16 Host Cities across North America, Pride House Toronto aims to serve as the flagship Pride House, positioning Toronto as a global leader in diversity, inclusion, and sport, and strengthening the city's reputation as the most welcoming and inclusive city in the world.

Planning for Pride House Toronto 2026 includes securing an accessible venue, establishing financial and operational partnerships, and developing inclusive programming throughout the FIFA World Cup 2026™ tournament period. Pride House Toronto will be free and open to the public from June 10 to July 21, 2026.

## **Arts & Culture**

The Arts & Culture legacy theme is intended to highlight Toronto's diverse and dynamic cultural sector by celebrating the city's artistic creativity through various initiatives and FWC26 events. Leveraging the international platform of the FWC26, the Arts & Culture Program Advisory Body aims to strengthen connections across the arts and culture sectors, create opportunities for cultural exchange, and ensure that Toronto's role as a Host City leaves a meaningful and enduring cultural legacy.

The Arts & Culture PAB are still exploring and evaluating ideas that support creativity and community. Economic Development and Culture, Social Development, and other City Divisions are ready to support these initiatives. More information and recommended arts and culture legacy initiatives will be shared in an upcoming staff report.

## **Tourism and Economic Development**

The Tourism & Economic Development legacy theme focuses on leveraging the global profile of the FWC26 to drive tourism growth, generate economic opportunities across Toronto, and strengthen local businesses and communities. The objective is to attract visitors from across Canada and internationally, stimulate local economies, and create benefits for key sectors such as accommodation, hospitality, retail, and attractions. This work is expected to enhance Toronto's international reputation while contributing to sustainable economic development, particularly in sectors still recovering from the impacts of the pandemic.

The Tourism & Economic Development Program Advisory Body is actively considering initiatives to support and enhance Toronto's tourism and hospitality sector while showcasing the city's many Business Improvement Areas. The Economic Development and Culture Division is actively engaged in this legacy area; further details and recommended initiatives will be outlined in a forthcoming staff report.

A signature initiative under this theme is the Community Celebration Support Fund (CCSF), a grant program that provides funding for vibrant, main street based and community-led cultural projects and events. These celebrations will highlight Toronto's "World in a City" theme and showcase the city's diversity during the tournament. The

Community Celebration Support Fund is made up of \$1.0 million from the Economic Development and Culture Division, which was approved by Council in [June 2025](#), and a further \$200,000 from the Toronto Arts Council to support applications from artists and arts and culture organizations. The CCSF application intake has now closed with over 186 submissions received with events and activities proposed in every ward. The selected community events will play a central role in animating neighbourhoods across the city, making them hubs of activity and celebration throughout the FWC26.

## **CONCLUSION**

As Toronto prepares to host the FIFA World Cup 2026, the City is focused on delivering more than a successful tournament—it is committed to creating a legacy of inclusive economic opportunity, community pride, and cultural celebration. This report provides an update on the first phase of legacy initiatives identified by the Program Advisory Bodies. The combined efforts of the multi-sector Program Advisory Bodies has resulted in legacy initiatives that reflect a city-wide strategy that places equity and local impact at the core of event delivery. Development and review of additional projects is on-going.

## **CONTACT**

---

Sharon Bollenbach, Executive Director, FIFA World Cup 2026 Toronto Secretariat  
Email: [Sharon.Bollenbach@toronto.ca](mailto:Sharon.Bollenbach@toronto.ca); Tel: 416-338-8779

## **SIGNATURE**

---

Sharon Bollenbach  
Executive Director, FIFA World Cup 2026 Toronto Secretariat