

25/06/2025

Subject: Letter in Support of Refusal for Proposed Demolition and New Construction at 445, 447, 449, and 451 Adelaide St. West

Members of the Toronto Preservation Board,

I am writing on behalf of the **Friends of St. Andrew's Playground**, an association comprised of residents and business owners committed to the preservation, maintenance, and enhancement of St. Andrew's Playground and its surrounding urban landscape.

St. Andrew's Playground is one of Toronto's oldest public spaces, dating back to 1837. It has long served as an integral part of our community's daily life, providing valuable recreational and social opportunities to thousands of residents, office workers, and visitors. The recent award-winning redesign and expansion of the park have positioned it as a vibrant community hub, thoughtfully balancing diverse uses, including children's play, a dog off-leash area, and inviting spaces for relaxation beneath mature trees.

The Friends strongly oppose the proposed demolition at 445, 447, 449, and 451 Adelaide Street West. We firmly believe that this proposal conflicts with the core principles articulated in both the King-Spadina Secondary Plan and the King-Spadina Heritage Conservation District Plan, which emphasize the preservation of our neighbourhood's unique heritage character.

Furthermore, St. Andrew's Playground is recognised as an important heritage asset. The proposed demolition of heritage buildings immediately adjacent to the park threatens to irreparably compromise its setting. Heritage buildings surrounding key civic spaces greatly enrich the cultural and historical fabric of the community. The highly successful preservation and restoration of the Waterworks Food Hall and nearby developments to the north serve as a powerful example of how heritage conservation improves urban life and strengthens community vibrancy and identity.

We strongly support Heritage Planning's recommendation to reject this application. Protecting and conserving our historic built environment, especially structures that define and frame key public spaces such as St. Andrew's Playground, is essential to maintaining what remains of Toronto's historic fabric.

Thank you for your careful consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of Fadi Masoud.

Fadi Masoud

On behalf of Friends of St. Andrew's Playground