



Youth Working Session Summary – Phase 2

Tuesday January 10, 2017
6:30 – 8:00pm
North York Civic Centre
5100 Yonge Street

Overview

On January 10, 2016, the City of Toronto hosted a working session with 20 members of the Parks, Forestry and Recreation Youth Media Advisory Council, which reviews City of Toronto strategies, creates marketing and customer service strategies, and plans events in order to enhance the client experience of the City's Youth Spaces. Council members are a diverse group of youth aged 16 to 18 years from the North York area with strong academic backgrounds, an understanding of business concepts, and an interest in civic engagement.

The purpose of this session was to get a youth perspective on the emerging directions for the Facilities Master Plan. After a presentation on the Facilities Master Plan and its emerging directions, participants split into four groups for an interactive drawing activity on youth-friendly facility improvements, followed by a plenary discussion on partnerships. See Attachment 1 for the drawings and discussion notes from the session.

Summary of Results

With respect to community centre facility design and improvement, suggestions provided by two or more discussion groups were: lots of natural light; open lobby space with comfortable furniture to 'hang out'; and enough gym space that can be used for multiple purposes and ideally includes a walking track above. Two or more groups also suggested indoor turf fields; more kitchens and food services; dance studios; fitness and weight rooms; youth spaces with Wifi, computers, couches and activities; and pools with multiple features such as waterslides, splash pads, saunas, preschool pool, and window walls that open onto green space.

Individual suggestions for youth-friendly community centre facilities included welcoming spaces with more colours, murals, and comfortable furniture; a grand lobby; a skywalk; gender neutral washrooms; modern and eco-friendly design; and that feng shui be considered in facility design. It was also suggested that community centres could include electronics rooms, kid zones, climbing walls, beach volleyball courts, as well as skating with skate rental, basketball courts and outdoor green space.

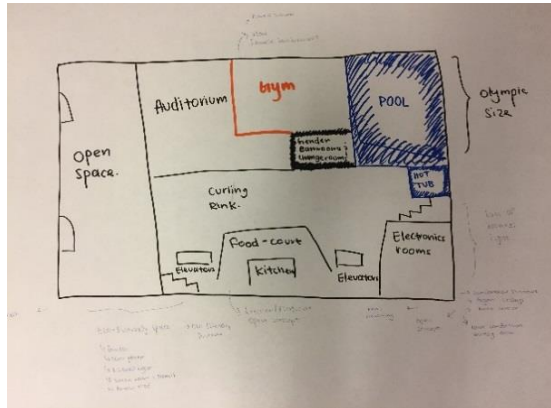
Youth participants identified a variety of potential parks and recreation facility partners. It was suggested that the City could co-locate recreation facilities with schools, and work with schools, sports organizations and teams, and other partners to offer more activities. Additional suggestions were to: collaborate with large food companies to make food more available at facilities; partner with companies and organizations for concerts and special events; work with social media and technology companies such as YouTube to make use of social media; and explore sponsorships with large corporations.

Attachment 1 – Youth Feedback

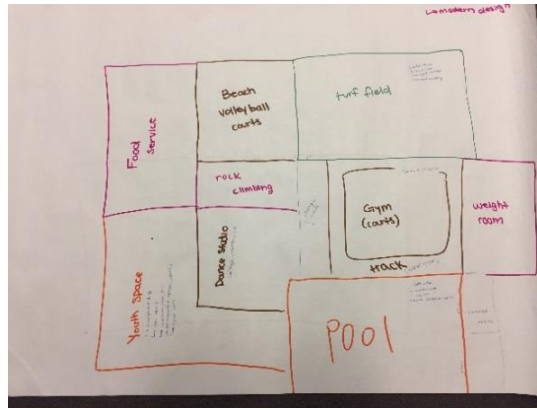
Activity 1 - Renew and upgrade existing facilities

Draw a typical community centre (with pool). Then add in the improvements, renovations and additions that you think are important.

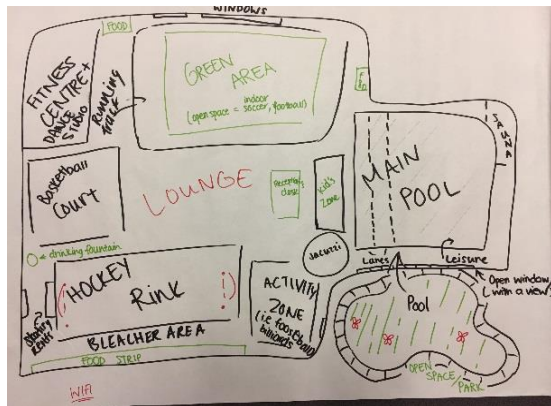
Group 1



Group 2



Group 3



Group 4



Activity 2 - Work with others and explore new opportunities

Identify organizations that the City should partner with to provide facilities, and add one sentence about what you hope to see from those partnerships.

- Work with schools to offer more activities
- Work with partners for more activities
- Co-locate recreation facilities with schools
- Partner with large food companies to make food more available at facilities
- Sponsorships with large corporations
- Partner with sport organizations and teams
- Partners with companies and organizations for concerts and special events
- Partner with social media and technology companies e.g. YouTube to encourage social media, can use geo filters