Thank you for attending the second Community Consultation Meeting (CCM) for the Bloor West Village Heritage Conservation District (HCD) Study. The Bloor West Village HCD Study was authorized by City Council in March 2015. The City Planning Division initiated the HCD Study in Fall 2017 and retained an external consultant, Stantec, to prepare an HCD Study report. We have compiled your feedback from the first CCM held in February 2018. Today we are here asking for your thoughts on our findings and draft recommendations.



Open House Format

This open house presents an update to the study and summary of what we have found along the way. We also want to hear from you and have provided stations and a comment form for your insight and feedback.



April 3rd, 2019, 6:00-9:00pm

Welcome!

Stations to Explore

Study Background Planning and Policy Context Community Consultation Character Analysis Village Main Street Overview Heritage Evaluation District Integrity Recommendations Cultural Heritage Value - Heritage Attributes Draft Statement of Cultural Heritage Value How to Stay Involved Bloor West Village Avenue Study



Study Background

The HCD Study includes a comprehensive property inventory, historical research, character analysis, evaluation of the area's heritage value, and review of the existing planning framework.

Key Facts

- Study Area is approximately 2.7 kilometres in length
- Extends from Keele Street to the Humber River
- Includes 302 properties that front onto Bloor Street
- Bounded by two significant natural features High Park and the Humber River Valley
- Business Improvement Association (BIA) is the oldest in Canada and has over 400 members
- Includes four TTC Stations (Jane, Runnymede, High Park, Keele)

Historical Development & Archaeology

- Two distinct periods of historical development were identified:
 - Growth of the City of Toronto in the early 20th century (1900-1939)

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- 2) Mid-Century City Expansion, Transportation Improvements, and the BIA (1960-1979)
- There are no registered archaeological sites within the Study Area, although portions retain archaeological potential



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Planning and Policy Context



High Park Apartment Study

The City completed an area based study of the Apartment Neighbourhood north of High Park. The Study assessed the physical character of the area and developed a policy framework to guide future change and compatible infill development. It was adopted in July 2018 and speaks to the existing character of the area and ways to maintain it while responding to change.



Design Standards and Guidelines

- The *Mid-Rise Building Performance Standards* are used to evaluate development applications for mid-rise buildings and to inform preparation or review of studies and policies involving mid-rise buildings
- The Townhouse and Low-Rise Apartment Guidelines require new developments to conserve cultural heritage values if they are on or adjacent to listed properties, and that heritage properties should be used to inform the scale and setting of proposed new developments



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Land Use Designation

- Neighbourhoods" and "Neighbourhoods".
- The Official Plan also designates Bloor West Village as an "Avenue"



Bloor West Village Avenue Study

- same Study Area as the present HCD Study
- servicing, natural heritage, and hydrogeology.



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• Bloor West Village is largely designated as a "Mixed Use Area" by the City of Toronto's Official Plan, with smaller portions of the Study Area designated as "Apartment"

The Bloor West Village Avenue Study is a parallel initiative that focuses on the

The purpose of the study is to establish a specific planning framework to guide change in the neighbourhood, including recommendations for: built form, public realm, parks and open spaces, transportation, community services and facilities,



Community Consultation

Community Consultation Meeting 1

The first community consultation meeting was an open house format held on February 15, 2018. It included a welcome table with sign-in register and comment sheets, display boards with project information and preliminary results, an archival photo station, and large-scale maps available for public input. Information was gathered through one-on-one conversations, comment sheets, and a mapping exercise. The public was asked to identify the following: potential character sub-areas, built heritage resources, landscapes and public realm, significant views, and landmarks.

Your comments focused on:

- Individual buildings and commercial core "high-street" feel
- Landscape features and views focused primarily on High Park Frontage area
- Indigenous land use noted at the Carrying Place Trail
- Two to three storey fine grain buildings were key characteristics identified
- Informal pedestrian walkways and the difference between north and south sides of the commercial core
- Boundaries lots of opinions; all agreed the commercial core was most important
- The BIA had a big influence on the area and continues to be essential to the neighbourhood
- Bloor West Village Toronto Ukrainian Festival and the former Jane's Walk
- Concerns focused on the implications of an HCD on businesses and the intensification pressures in the area inconsistent with the character



















Community Advisory Group Meetings 1, 2, and 3

The Community Advisory Group (CAG) was formed following the CCM and includes members of the community at large, experts, and the BIA. The meetings occurred on May 14 and June 14, 2018 and March 26, 2019. Each meeting included a presentation, guided discussions, and/or mapping exercises. The meetings were held to provide input at key milestones during the project, and provided the Study Team with additional insight into the neighbourhood's interests, challenges and opportunities.

Input received focused on:

- History and evolution of Bloor West Village as a "main street"
- The historical significance of the BIA
- The walkable character of the neighbourhood and strong sense of community created by concentrations of fine grain buildings
- The influence and importance of High Park on the neighbourhood
- Streetscapes, T-intersections, and gateways
- Concern for larger chain stores moving into the area and the influence of high commercial property taxes • Questions about how the HCD Plan could address concerns
- Individual properties as contributing and noncontributing to the heritage character of the area
- The HCD boundaries and recommendations
- Current information about the neighbourhood the way people use it, move through it, and experience it









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Architectural Styles

The Study Area includes a variety of architectural styles that date from the early 20th century to present day. The predominant architectural styles in the Study Area are 20th Century Vernacular (25%), Contemporary (24%), Edwardian (19%), and Arts and Crafts (9%). These architectural styles are common in the City of Toronto and can be found in many neighbourhoods throughout the City. While these buildings may not have architectural significance in their own right, together they form coherent streetscapes that have potential heritage value for contextual reasons.





Edwardian









New Traditional

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Mission/Spanish Revival

Mission/Spanish Revival

Mid-Century Modern



Eclectic



Italian Renaissance



Contemporary



Arts and Crafts







Tudor Revival



Colonial Revival



International



Art Moderne



20th Century Vernacular

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Property Grain

We learned a lot about what sort of property grains the Study Area contains. Looking at the total building frontage compared to the total streetwall also drove home the point: there are a lot more fine grain buildings but the coarse grain buildings dominate parts of the Study Area.



Fine Grain: 4-10 metres



Intermediate Grain: 11-35 metres

Total Buildings



Coarse Grain: 35+ metres

Total Streetwall





Coarse 10% Fine 60%

Character Analysis – Sub-Areas – Bloor West Village Study Area



Humber Residential

Built Form:

- Land use is predominantly residential (93%)
- Predominant residential typology is tall buildings (40%) • Predominant residential typology is low rise apartment Majority of buildings constructed post-1980 (60%) buildings (67%)
- Majority of buildings constructed between 1919 and 1939 (67%)
- Predominant building height is three storeys (53%)
- Predominant property grain is intermediate grain historic (60%)
- Represents 8% of total streetwall in the Study Area

Streetscape and Landscape:

• Street trees associated with residential and ravine/river valley context



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West Gap

Built Form:

- Land use is predominantly residential (60%)
- Predominant building height is more than 10 storeys (40%)
- Majority of property grain is coarse grain contemporary (80%)
- Represents 9% of total streetwall in the Study Area **Streetscape and Landscape:**
 - Street trees associated within the commercial context

West Village

Built Form:

- Land use is predominantly commercial (93%)
- Most common commercial typology is two storey storefronts with flat roofs and simple details (47%)
- Mix of building dates that range from 1919 to post-1980 Majority of buildings are two storeys (67%)
- Property grain is mainly fine grain contemporary (29%), intermediate grain contemporary (29%), and intermediate grain historic (29%)
- Represents 9% of total streetwall in the Study Area

Streetscape and Landscape:

- Street trees associated within the commercial context • One public fountain and gathering place at the northwest corner of Jane Street and Bloor Street West



Character Analysis – Sub-Areas – Bloor West Village Study Area



Village Main Street

Built Form:

- Land use is predominantly commercial (64%) and mixed use (32%)
- Most common commercial typology is two storey storefronts with flat roofs and simple details (62%)
- Majority of buildings constructed between 1900-1939 (73%)
- Majority of buildings are two storeys (74%)
- Property grain is predominantly fine grain historic (78%)
- Represents 41% of total streetwall in the Study Area

Streetscape and Landscape:

- Street trees associated within the commercial context and the residential context on Bloor Street West and on connecting side streets
- Neil McLellan Park and George Chater Park located immediate north of the Study Area



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East Village

Built Form:

- Varied land use, including residential (42%), mixed-use (21%), commercial (16%), vacant/parking área (16%), and institutional (5%)
- Most common residential typologies are low-rise apartments (21%) and detached houses (16%)
- Majority of buildings constructed between 1900-1939 (47%)
- Property grain is mixed and equally spilt between coarse grain contemporary (26%), intermediate grain contemporary (26%), and fine grain historic (26%)
- Represents 16% of total streetwall in the Study Area

Streetscape and Landscape:

- Street trees associated within the commercial context and the residential context on Bloor Street West and on connecting side streets
- Kennedy-Margdon Parkette located on the north side of the Study Area

- (58%)
- Property grain is mainly intermediate grain historic
- Represents 18% of total streetwall in the Study Area **Streetscape and Landscape:**

- Significant relationship between High Park and the residential neighbourhood on the north side of Bloor Street West
- Bloor Street West, major intersections, and on connecting side streets
- Street trees associated within the residential context on
- Trees associated with High Park natural system • Public access to High Park on south side of Bloor Street West

High Park Frontage **Built Form:**

• Predominantly residential land use (72%)

Most common residential typologies are low-rise

apartments (33%) and detached houses (25%)



Approaches

There are two primary approaches to and from the Study Area. These are emphasized by motorist access and include driving from the west side (eastbound) into the Study Area and driving from the east (westbound) into the Study Area. There are also numerous side streets that serve as secondary approaches to and from the Study Area.

Views and Vistas

The section of the Study Area between Kennedy Avenue and Jane Streets retains the visual quality and character/feel of the early 20th century historical neighbourhood and is supported by detectable gateways originating from High Park and various smaller residential intersections where the original architecture remains intact and commercial signage is sympathetic.























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Gateways

Gateways are ways to enter a place that have a special character. The two main gateways into the Study Area for motorists do not provide a tangible transition into an area of unique character. This is because of modern buildings not typical of the scale or architectural style and materials of historic place.

Key visual and physical gateways are:

- The pedestrian/cycle access and vehicles travelling north on Colborne Lodge Drive and West Drive through High Park into the Study Area.
- Facing west, at the intersection of Mountainview Avenue and Bloor Street West
- Facing east, south side of Bloor Street West at Jane Street but north side of Bloor at Armadale Ave.
- Intersections along Bloor Street West of the north-south residential streets consist of "older buildings" without the detrimental commercial signage at four-way or T-intersections.





Parks and Open Spaces

There are a number of public parks and open spaces that are adjacent to the Bloor West Village HCD Study Area. None of the parks or open spaces are included in the Study Area, but they serve as natural boundaries and frame views within the Study Area.





Commemorative Features

There are several commemorative features present within the Bloor West Village HCD Study Area. Generally, these features are describing a historical theme, such as the Runnymede Theatre or the Runnymede Library. There are also descriptive features of Bloor West Village, that depict the current cultural theme of the "village".

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Street Trees

The presence of street trees, trees located within the right-of-way or just abutting the right-of-way (therefore part of the viewscape), in terms of density, size, health and vigor are, for the most part, dependent on the built urban form and land uses in which they are located.

Community and Social Life

The public realm in the Study Area consists primarily of the public right-ofway, including streets, sidewalks and, where present, grassed boulevards. The public realm includes all furnishings associated with the streetscapes, such as road signs, street signs, traffic signals, benches, trash receptacles, light fixtures, street trees, planting beds, paved streets and sidewalks.











After we analyzed the character areas, one area stood out - the Village Main Street. The potential for heritage value was seen its collection of early 20th century architecture, dominant fine grain historic property grain, landmark buildings, T-intersections, and contributing and corridor views.







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Village Main Street Overview

Heritage Potential







Landmark Buildings

With your help, we identified a series of landmark buildings throughout the Study Area. Landmark buildings are notable from an architectural or historical perspective and contribute to an understanding of the area in unique ways. Within the proposed Bloor West Village HCD boundaries we identified six landmark buildings.



2219 Bloor Street West 2333 and 2357 Bloor Street West Bloor West Village

2305 Bloor Street West





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Village Main Street Overview







The Influence of the BIA We heard loud and clear that Bloor West Village wouldn't be what it is today if it were not for the efforts of the BIA. Not only was it the first BIA in the world, the establishment of the BIA in 1970 resulted in significant streetscape improvements. By 1972, overhead wires and signs were removed, street furniture was installed, including concrete planter boxes, benches, and garbage receptacles, and trees were planted. The BIA has effectively conserved the early 20th century character of the area by offering continued support to local businesses and advocating for the area.







Heritage Evaluation – Village Main Street

Design Value or

Criteria

Has a rare, unique, representative, or early collection material or construction method

Has a rare, unique, or representative layout, plan, land Displays a consistently high degree of overall craftsma

Historical Value or A

Criteria

Has direct associations with a theme, event, person, that is significant to a community

Yields, or has the potential to yield, information that co the history of a community or area

Demonstrates or reflects the work or ideas of a planne artist, builder, designer, or theorist who is significant to

Contextual

Criteria

Possesses a character that defines, maintains or supp of time and place

Contains resources that are interrelated by design, his Is defined by, planned around, or is a landmark





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Physical Value		Social Value or Community Value	•
	/No	Criteria	Yes/No
n of a style, type, expression, Ye	es	Yields information that contributes to the	
ndscape, or spatial organization Ye	es	understanding of, supports, or maintains a	Yes
nanship or artistic merit	0	community, culture or identify within the district	100
Associative Value		Is historically and/or functionally linked to a	
	s/No	cultural group, an organized movement or	
, activity, organization or institution	'es	ideology that is significant to a community, plays a historic or ongoing role in the	
contributes to an understanding of Y	′es	practice or recognition of religious, spiritual, or sacred beliefs of a defined	Yes
ner, architect, landscape architect, to a community	No	group of people that is significant to a community	
Value		Natural Value or Scientific Value	
Yes	s/No	Criteria	Yes/No
pports the area's history and sense Y	'es	Has a rare, unique, or representative collection of significant natural resources	No
nistory, use and/or setting Y	'es	Represents, or is a result of, a significant	No
Ν	No	technical or scientific achievement	



District Integrity – Village Main Street



Criterion

Visual, functional, or historical coherence Reflected in the consistency of resources related to the cultural heritage values and character of the district. It can be determined by analyzing resources in a district to understand if there are common thematic, architectural or associative characteristics that unify, relate to, and communicate the cultural heritage values of the district.

Authenticity

A district should retain most of its original or appropriate materials, layout and structures related to its identified values. Where alterations and infills exist they are generally sensitive, compatible and reinforce the cultural heritage values of the district.



Response

Significance

Yes	The area has a high consistency of resource values and early 20 th century character of the concentration of fine grain historic properties Street. Additionally, the layout and organizate intact and has not been dramatically altered The high number and notable presence of print in the area gives it an identifiable character to residents, shopkeepers, and visitors to the a The majority of the structures in the area date range from one to three storeys and reflect of architectural styles present in Ontario during buildings, with five that date within the period
Yes	The area retains a high level of its original be property grain. The layout and organization of altered since the early 20 th century. This auth Kennedy Avenue and Jane Street.

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es that are related to the cultural heritage e area. This is evident in the high s between Kennedy Avenue and Jane ion of land use within these areas is largely since the early 20th century.

roperties dating to the key historical period that is authentic and recognizable to area.

te to between 1900-1939. These buildings commercial typologies and early 20th century that era. The area contains six landmark d of significance.

uilt form, architectural styles, and historical of land use has not been dramatically hentic character is highly intact between



The Heritage Register

Fieldwork and analysis carried identified a number of individual properties along Bloor Street West between Keele Street and the Humber River that are recommended for inclusion on the Heritage Register or designation under Part IV of the **Ontario Heritage Act.** These will be provided to the City as part of the HCD Study Report and are

located throughout the Study Area.

High Park Cultural Heritage Landscape Study

We're recommending that the City complete a **Cultural Heritage Evaluation Report for High Park**. This evaluation should be contained within a study that will determine if High Park represents a Cultural Heritage Landscape.

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Recommendations



Proposed Bloor West Village Heritage Conservation District

The Bloor West Village HCD comprises the mixed use Main Street frontage along both sides of Bloor Street West from Jane **Street through to Kennedy** Avenue. The district is bookended by three individual properties that directly support its character and a row of fine grain, two-storey buildings. It is representative of 20th century commercial and mixed use construction that reflect early suburban expansion in the City and the linear connection of small communities by public transportation improvements which occurred at this time.





This map shows the properties that directly support the cultural heritage value of the district that we identified during our analysis of the area. Each property was constructed between 1900 and 1939, is of commercial or mixed use typologies, is between two and three storeys in height, and has a fine urban property grain.

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Recommendations



The district is:

- Dominated by traditional Main Street typologies that are almost exclusively commercial at grade
- Fine grain
- Two storeys in height with narrow vertical bays, flat roofs, and traditional mansonry, windows, and simple architectural woodwork details
- Punctuated by six landmark buildings
- Reflective of the establishment of the Bloor West Village BIA



Cultural Heritage Value – Heritage Attributes

Heritage attributes related to the design and physical value include:

- Buildings constructed between 1900-1939 that are defined by the commercial and mixed-use typologies
- Predominant two-to-three storey scale of commercial and mixed-use buildings with a consistent set-back providing a comfortable pedestrian realm
- Common use of the sidewalk for marketing displays and/or café seating contributing to the public realm
- Fine grain historic urban fabric
- Predominant architectural styles that date to the early 20th century including, 20th Century Vernacular, Edwardian, Arts and Crafts, Mission/Spanish Revival, Tudor Revival
- T-intersections along Bloor Street West



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Heritage attributes related to the historical and associative include:

• Key development period of 1900-1939 • Direct historical connection between transportation improvements of Bloor Street West in the 1910s and

subsequent building boom that lasted until 1939

• Variation of building grain on the north and south sides of Bloor Street West reflective of differing historic

development related to annexation time periods

• Role of the Bloor West Village BIA in supporting independent businesses, which has effectively conserved the early 20th century character of the area



Draft Statement of Cultural Heritage Value

Overview

Design/Physical Value

Historical/Associative Value

Contextual Value

Social and Community Value The Bloor West Village HCD contains a representative collection of early 20th century commercial and mixed-use properties that reflect early suburban expansion in the City of Toronto. The building stock in the Bloor West Village HCD dates primarily between 1900 and 1939.

Characterized as a functional neighbohourhood with architecture that is predominantly representative of early 20th century design and is punctuated by landmark buildings. The most common architectural styles are 20th Century Vernacular, Edwardian, Arts and Crafts, and Mission/Spanish Revival.

Relationship to early 20th century municipal expansion and transportation improvements along Bloor Street West (1900-1920), which influenced subsequent residential and commercial developments in the Bloor West Village HCD. The Bloor West Village BIA, established in the 1970s, is also tied to the development of the community and retention of fine grain, early 20th century built form.

The distinct commercial "village" character is defined by the large number of properties between 1900-1939 with consistent built form, land use, fine grain urban fabric, and architectural styles.

Influence of the Bloor West Village BIA on the preservation of the Bloor West Village HCD character, and the "village feel" of the area. Connection to the Ukrainian community in the City of Toronto, who have influenced shops along Bloor Street West and the creation of the Bloor West Village Toronto Ukrainian Festival.

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How to Stay Involved

Give us your feedback!

There are a few ways for you to send us feedback on the Bloor West Village Heritage Conservation District Study:

- 1. Hand in your comment sheet
- 2. Contact:

General Inquiries:

BloorWestVillageHCD@stantec.com

Pourya Nazemi

Heritage Planner, Heritage Preservation Services City Planning, Urban Design, City of Toronto Phone: **416-338-5702**

David Kielstra Environmental Planner, Stantec Phone: 905-381-3247

We are accepting feedback and questions until April 19, 2019.

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Next steps

From here, we take your input and finalize the Bloor West Village HCD Study Report and present it to the Heritage Preservation Board.

Here is a quick list of next steps:

- 1. Finalize HCD Study Report
- Board, June 20th, 2019



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2. Present findings to Heritage Preservation

