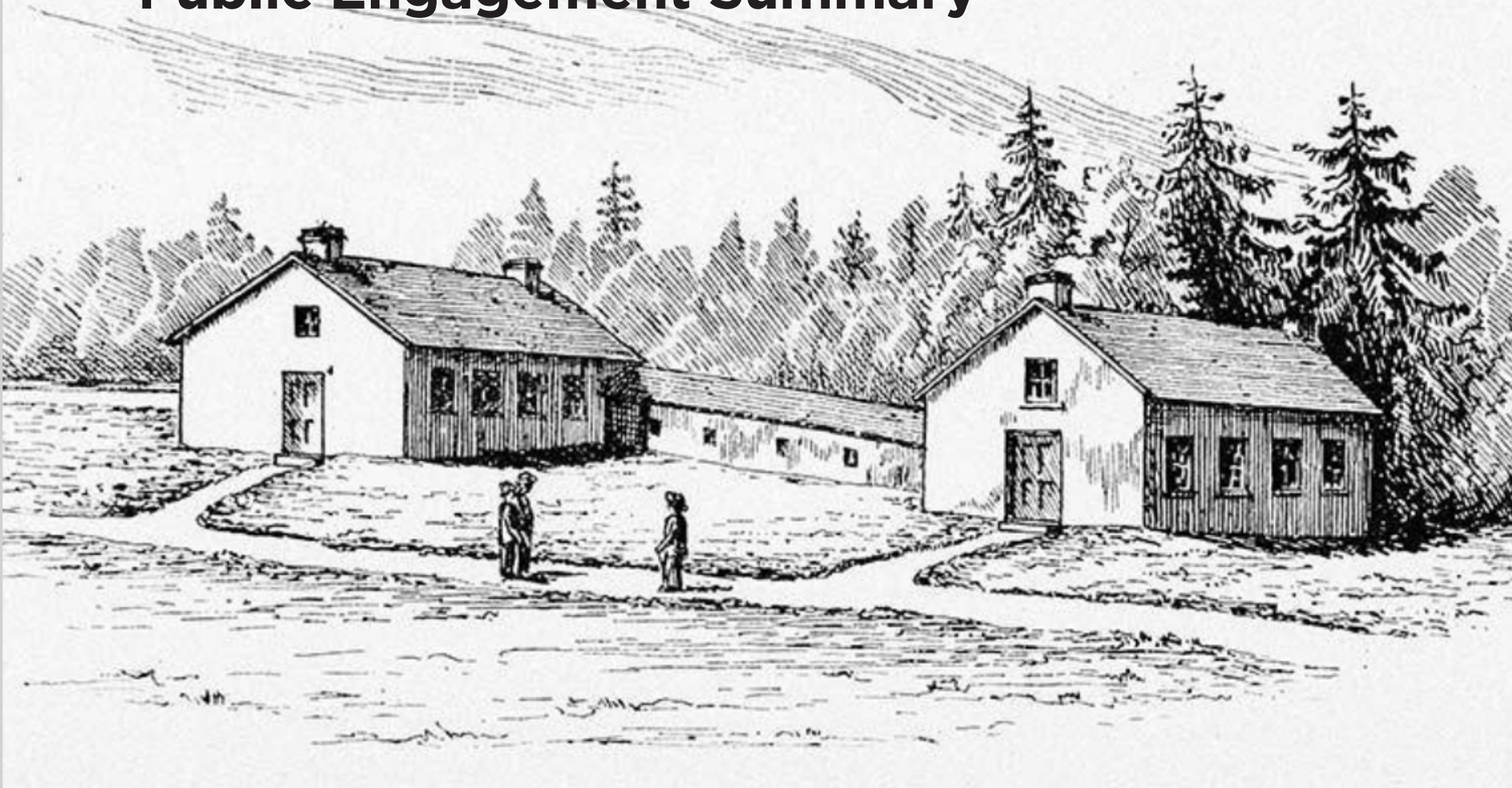


First Parliament Project

Public Engagement Summary



Where we are now



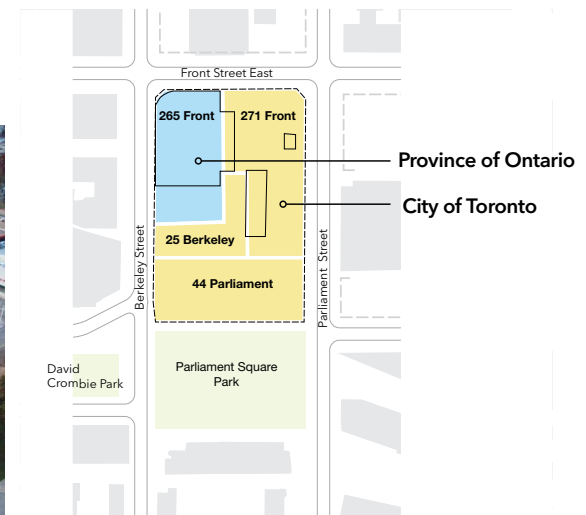
The First Parliament Site today

The site has a rich and multi-layered history. However, the archaeological remains are fragile and limited – revealing them for public display is not considered feasible so other strategies will have to be used

The entire site is in public ownership — the Province of Ontario and the City of Toronto. It is currently occupied by an auto dealership, car wash, and parking lots.

The site is embedded within the historic Town of York, which is now evolving into a rich and dynamic neighbourhood.

The site is adjacent to David Crombie Park, which provides many recreational opportunities for the neighbourhood.



Phase I - Heritage Interpretation Strategy (complete)



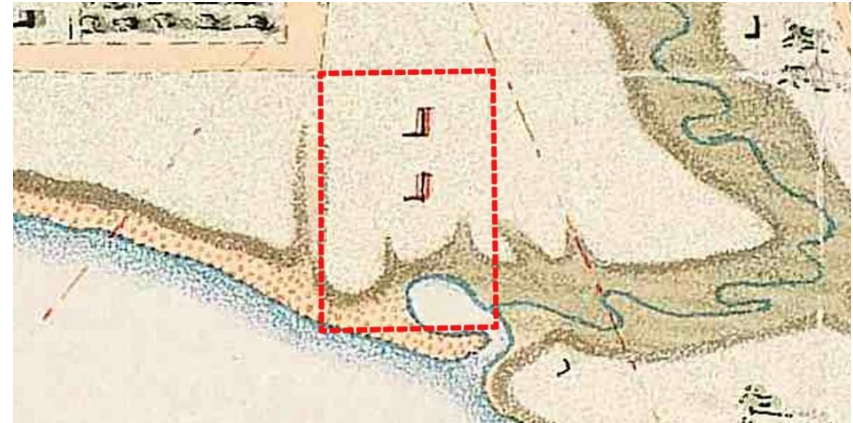
On an afternoon in March 2018, the project team provided an engagement tour for 55 people interested in the First Parliament Project and neighbourhood history. The group learned about the histories connected to the First Parliament site. In this photo, at Front and Berkeley Streets the tour group learned how the Consumers' Gas Company industrialized both the Corktown neighbourhood and more widely, the City of Toronto. The group expressed an interest in the living and working conditions for labourers as well as the environmental impacts of industry in the area.

A Multi-layered history

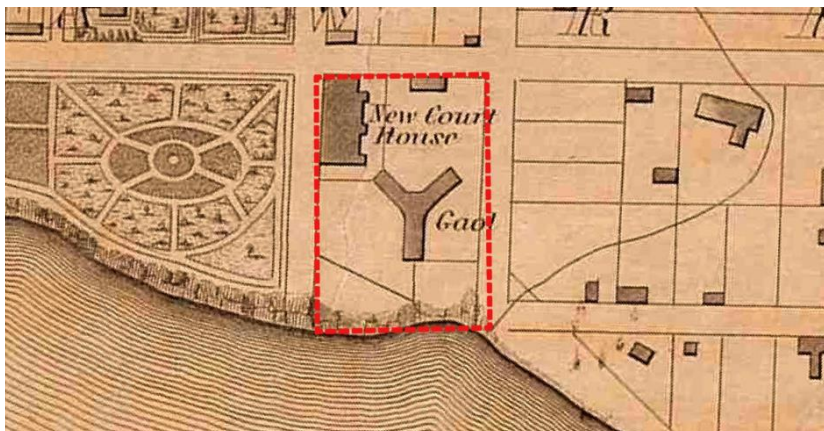
This site and its evolution helped establish Toronto (York) as a founding capital city and directly impacted the formation, development and growth of the Province of Ontario and Canada.



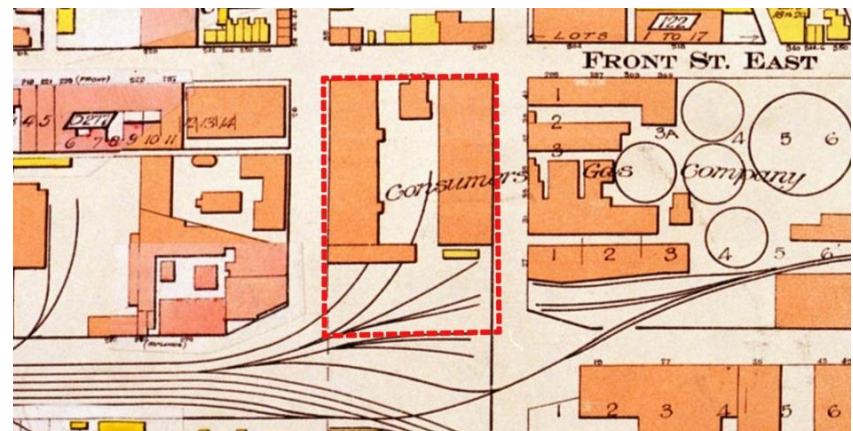
Natural and Indigenous History - 7,000 Years



Parliament Buildings - 1794 to 1824



Home District Gaol - 1840 to 1864



Consumers' Gas - 1879 to 1955

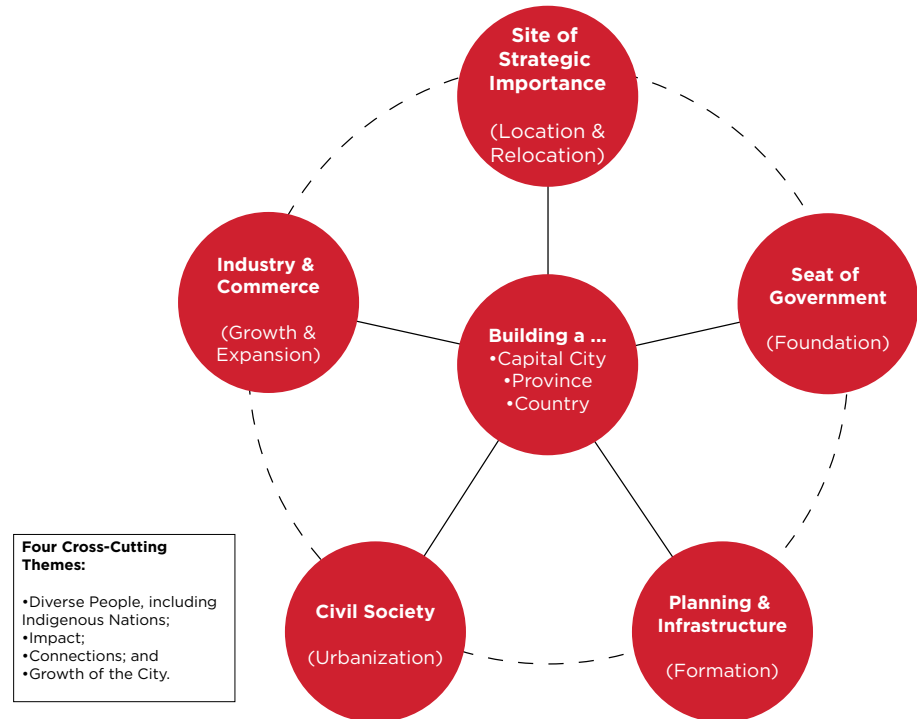
What is a Heritage Interpretation Strategy?

- Uncovers the stories
- Identifies the audiences
- Proposes an interpretation framework
- Suggests the interpretive tools

How is it used?

- It is used to inform decisions and directions documented in the **Master Plan**.
- It is to used guide future **exhibits and interpretive designs**.

Heritage Interpretation Framework



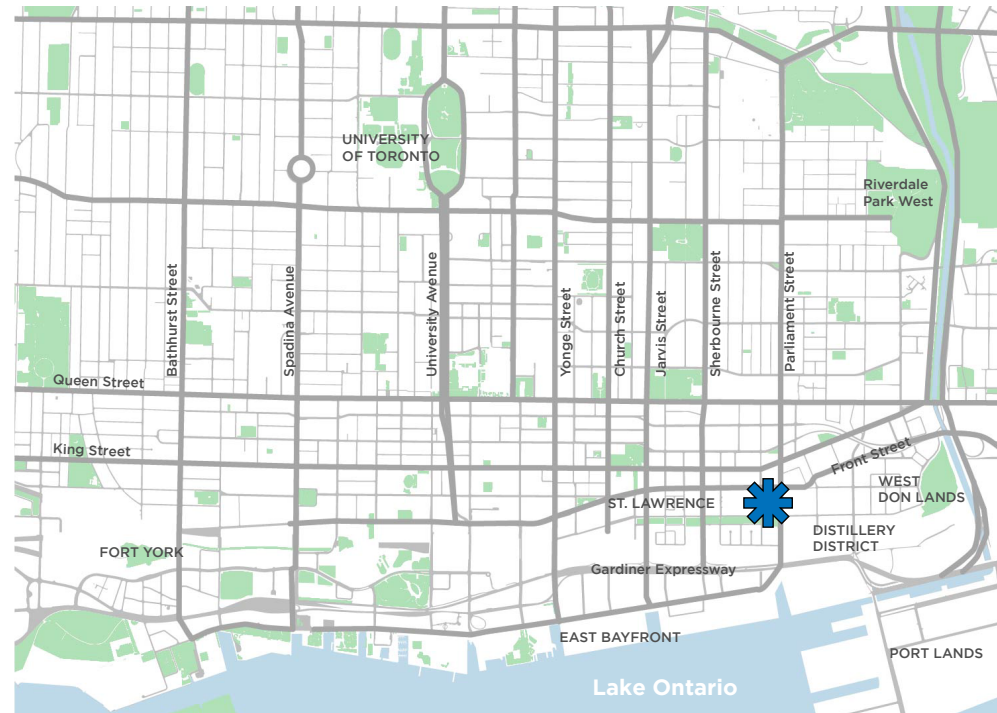
Building a Capital City, Province, Country.

The First Parliament site and its evolution helped establish Toronto (York) as **a founding capital** city and directly impacted the formation, development and growth of the Province of Ontario and Canada.

Phase II — Master Plan (in progress)

What is a Master Plan?

- Creates a vision and guiding principles
- Identifies future uses
- Determines the future site organization
- Describes the site's future character
- Provides guidance for implementation

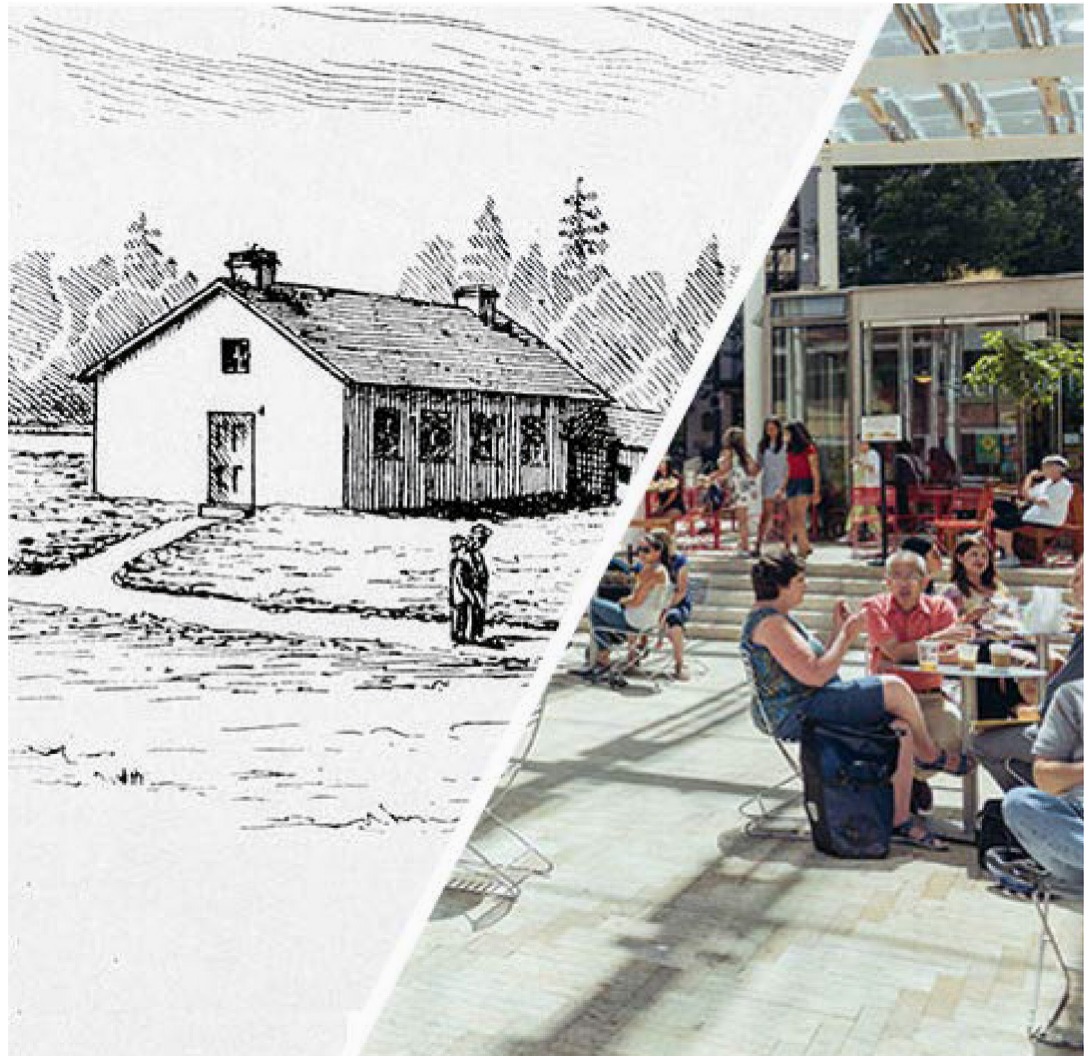


A Vision for First Parliament

The First Parliament site is **an important historic site**. It will be protected and developed to tell its stories.

The First Parliament site will also become **a vital public/community resource**. The site will be developed to meet the needs of a growing resident, working and visiting population.

- Authentic
- Exciting
- Unique
- Bold
- Visible
- Inclusive



First Principles

Provide the bases for decisions and the means of evaluation:

Prioritize heritage preservation and interpretation.

Respond to the site and its context.

Recognize the site as a valuable public asset.

Celebrate the library as the first key piece.

Develop a vision that can be implemented over time.

Key Plan Drivers

The key factors that will drive master planning decisions:

- **Heritage Interpretation**
The interpretation of the site's multi-layered history will be central to all levels of the master plan.
- **Site Programming**
The site can accommodate many community uses in addition to a new public library branch.
- **Environmental Conditions**
A strategy for dealing with the existing soil contamination will be an important component of the master plan.

What we heard so far



The project team presented a concise historical review of the site and its uses based on the team's research and work to date. This spanned the following periods or eras: pre-colonization, early York, First and Second Parliament Buildings, Home District Gaol, Consumers' Gas, and current neighbourhood redevelopment.

Community Groups Workshop

Date: October 1, 2019 **Time:** 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. **Registered:** 29 **Attendance:** 20 **Regrets:** 9

Goals of the Workshop:

- Better understand the role the site should play in the community;
- Better understand what community representatives would want to see on the site;
- Better understand how community representatives would organize the site with heritage interpretation and the library as the primary program components.

Summary of What We Heard:

- The majority of the participants were excited about the development of the site and brought a series of positive contributions to what would make the site a great public place.
- While considering the space not occupied by the future library, participants expressed a preference for open space solutions rather than buildings to house community uses and services.

- Most participants placed a high priority on heritage interpretation while recognizing that the site could/should accommodate a range of public/community uses. A formal or permanent interpretation centre was not strongly suggested.
- Many participant comments reflected an interest in the site being a place to 'convene' or 'bring people together'.
- Another common theme across participants' conversations was the involvement of Indigenous perspectives and themes in the organization and design of the site.
- There was discussion about the the schedule and approach for removal of the car dealership and car wash.

Public Workshop

Date: October 15, 2019 **Time:** 6:20 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Registered: 115

Attendance: 78

Goals of the Workshop:

- Better understand the role the site should play in the community;
- Better understand what community members would want to see on the site;
- Better understand how community members would organize the site with the library building as a central focus.

Summary of What We Heard:

General Considerations:

- Many participants suggested green space or natural landscaping as important to the design and ultimate feel of the site.
- Many participants noted that the site must represent Indigenous pre- and post-colonial stories of the area in some way.
- Most participants placed a high priority on heritage interpretation while recognizing that the site could/should accommodate a range of public/community uses.

- Many participants saw the library building as an opportunity to provide space or support for the heritage interpretation of the site. In addition, many participants viewed heritage as a common theme or lens, which could inform the shape, placement, and design of many of the elements on the site.
- Most participants indicated that community services or amenities should be important elements of the site. Some indicated the need to include small commercial spaces such as pop-up shops, food services, or food truck parking.

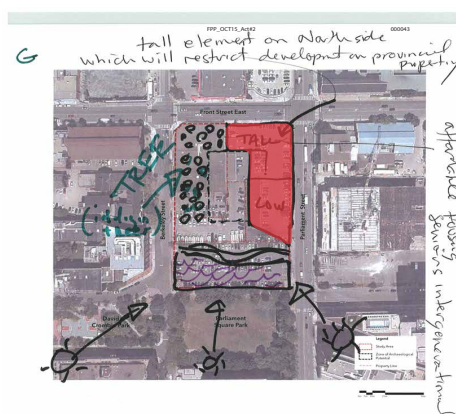
Programming and Organization of the Site:

- Most participants emphasized the need for flexible indoor/outdoor spaces where community members could gather.
- Most participants viewed the library as a planning element that could insulate the site from the noise and activities of the surrounding neighbourhood and streets.



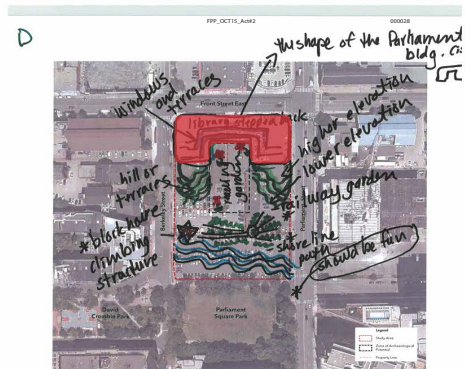
Please briefly explain your choices:

- STRONG FACADE FOR FRONT STREET
- EVENT SPACE CAN SPILL OUT TO ATRIUM
- THEMED MUSEUM CAN OPEN OUT TO ARCHAEOLOGICAL (RECREATE PICTURE OF STAGES THROUGHOUT TIME) REMAINS
- PIAZZA ALLOWS FOR OPEN SPACE + PLAY (BELOW GLASS FLOOR)
- NATURAL SHORELINE DRIVES CONTEXT & TIES



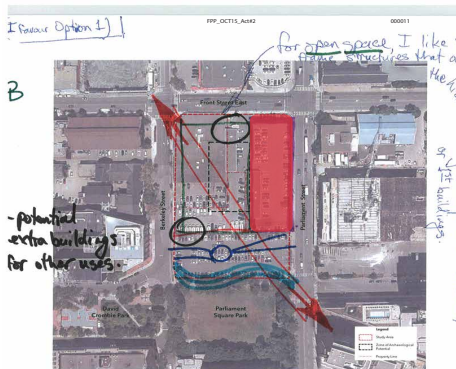
Please briefly explain your choices:

- south water feature reflecting pool to indicate old shoreline
- use provincial land to plant indigenous forest of thick trees. up to heritage space
- Frame parliament in burnt timbers as reading garden frame.



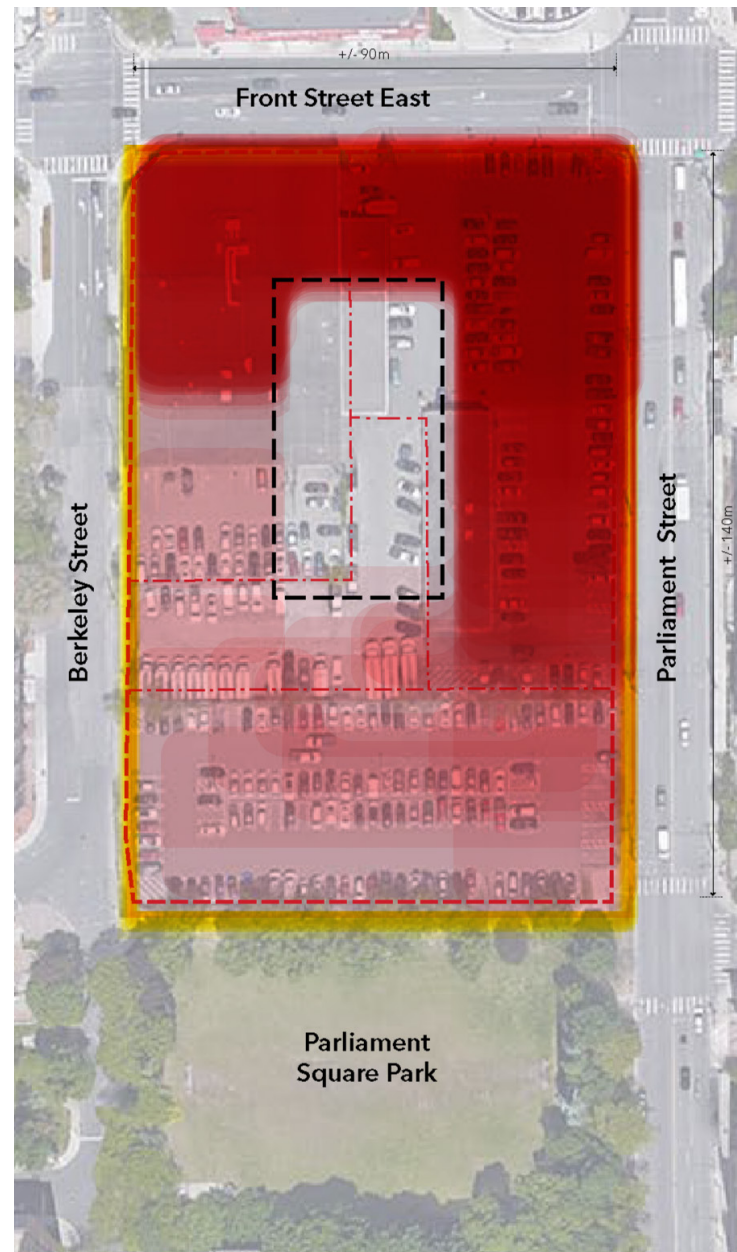
Please briefly explain your choices:

- Strong facade for front street
- Event space can spill out to atrium
- Themed museum can open out to archaeological (recreate picture of stages throughout time) remains
- Piazza allows for open space + play (below glass floor)
- Natural shoreline drives context & ties



Please briefly explain your choices:

- play area, mimic soil history on ground, perhaps?
- Open space courtyard
- library along Parliament, footprint to mimic Consumers, prominent side on east & north, open/airy on west & south.
- cap/fill to mimic old shoreline, kids water feature?
- clear way route from Front to Distillery.



During the Public Workshop, participants were asked to suggest planning ideas for the library and provide their rationale. Many participants created vibrant sketches that not only showed where the library could be placed, but also illustrated other elements such as play areas, water features, courtyards and amphitheatres. Later, the project team digitally combined participants' sketches to create a "heat map" that summed up the suggestions for the library.

Public Workshop (cont.)

- Other elements and ways of organizing the site indicated that participants were interested in a quiet, calm neighbourhood sanctuary, and wished to maintain or maximize the openness of the site
- Protecting the site from traffic noise was a priority for many.
- Participants also emphasized the need for accessibility, robust transportation links, and neighbourhood connectivity, and indicated that the site should allow for the flow of pedestrians and take on the role of a neighbourhood hub or crossroads.
- In their site design ideas, participants tended to avoid placing buildings on the zone of potential archaeological interpretation.
- Participants also commonly acknowledged the natural shorelines at the southern end of the site, interpreting it as a natural threshold or border in the site's organization, and endorsed recognizing it with some kind of physical representation.
- Many participants showed interest in treating Berkeley Street as a pedestrian-priority connection between First Parliament and the entertainment and cultural institutions nearby (e.g., the Canadian Opera Company).

Phase I:

Heritage Interpretation Strategy

Resources and Artifacts

- Public Lecture Summary (PDF)
- Experts Workshop Summary (PDF)
- Public Workshop Summary (PDF)
- Online Survey Summary (PDF)
- Community Walk Summary (PDF)
- Online History Page (Web)
- Project Overview Page (Web)

Phase II:

Master Plan

Resources and Artifacts

- First Parliament Backgrounder (PDF)
- Workshop Presentation (PDF)
- Workshop Information Panels (PDF)
- Public Workshop Summary (PDF)

Visit firstparliament.ca to find project updates and access the above resources and artifacts.