

Jane-Finch Consultation History

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Introduction

This document summarizes feedback from 15 years of community consultation, public engagement and academic research with and within the Jane-Finch community. Consultation feedback has been organized to align with themes of the Jane-Finch Initiative, an ongoing City-initiated planning Study. The Jane-Finch Initiative is about planning for the future of the area and how best to leverage the investment in light rail transit (LRT) for the benefit of local communities. The goal is to develop an integrated plan for the area that advances social equity and economic inclusion for current and future residents, encourages the appropriate kinds of growth and development in the area, and guides investment in community improvements. Engagement is at the heart of the initiative. The purpose of this document is to provide the project team with a backgrounder on past consultations and the input expressed by local residents.

Growing in Place and Confronting Anti-Black Racism

Consultation within the Jane-Finch community highlights a rise of racial and anti-immigrant issues across low-income areas and particularly within the Jane & Finch community (Nguyen ^{iv}, 2018 18:00 – BC Fed Debate; Jane-Finch TSNS Task Force, 2015). Residents identified racist over-policing (policy brutality, interrogation, treating area residents without dignity, racial profiling, surveillance, policing of spaces that are not policed in other neighbourhoods such as grocery stores) affecting Black residents and other residents of colour (Nguyen ^{iv}, 2018; Nguyen ^{iv}, 2018; Black Creek Food Justice Network, 2016; JFAAP, 2018). It was noted that youth in particular were afflicted by police brutality. Issues such as food insecurity and poverty were also highlighted as issues disproportionality affecting residents of colour within the Jane-Finch area.

Area residents experience racist stigmatization from within the neighbourhood, within the workplace, surrounding areas and institutions (such as York University), the media as well as City, Provincial and area politicians (PressProgress, 2019; Nguyen ^{iv}, 2018; JFAAP, 2012). Academic research and consultation uncovered that Black and other racialized residents experienced discrimination from both racialized and non-racialized area residents (Ahmadi, 2017). Issues such as food insecurity, poverty, temporary work and migrant work visa restrictions, and higher rates of unemployment and underemployment of Black residents with post-secondary education were also noted as racial issues, disproportionately affecting residents of colour within the Jane-Finch area (JFAAP, 2019; Nguyen ^{iv}, 2018; Jane-Finch TSNS Task Force, 2015). A lack of open work permits, abuse of migrant workers, and lack of stability for temporary workers were also cited as key issues (JFAAP, 2019; Nguyen ^{iv}, 2018). Community members have noted the Toronto Community Housing Corporation's (TCHC) Firgrove Revitalization project and its resulting displacement of residents and lack of resident engagement as being emblematic of environmental racism (Potential Films Inc, 2019).

The City's Confronting Anti-Black Racism (CABR) Action Plan, spearheaded by the CABR unit within the City's Social Development, Finance and Administration Division, is aligned with the Jane-Finch Initiative. Part of this approach includes CABR training for the City staff team and the application of a CABR lens on the Initiative's engagement strategy.

Accessible Programs and Services

The community identified a need for increased investment in new and existing community health infrastructure to enhance access to health services for area residents (Nguyen ^(a), 2018; Nguyen ^(a), 2018). Area residents noted a shortage of doctors in the area, long wait times to access care, and language barriers between area doctors and patients as obstacles to healthy living. Access to mental health services is identified as being inadequate and limited in the area. Residents expressed the desire for a rehabilitation facility and a CAMH-like emergency institution to support mental health in the area (Nguyen ^(a), 2018; Jane Finch Community Research Partnership, 2016). Residents also noted racism and discrimination from service providers as well as stigmatization as significant barriers to accessing mental health services both in and outside the area. Language, service providers not understanding cultural dynamics, time and financial constraints and transportation to service providers outside the Jane-Finch area were also noted as barriers to accessing mental health services (CAMH, 2012). High costs and lack of access to affordable childcare services was also a key theme, which residents noted as a barrier to economic and educational opportunities in the area, especially for women and shift and temporary workers (Jane-Finch TSNS Task Force, 2015; Nguyen ^(a), 2014). Inconsistent and insufficient government funding as well as complicated and limited grant funding schemes hamper the availability of grassroots-level community services (Nguyen ^(a), 2018). Residents in group interviews and discussions facilitated by the Jane Finch Toronto Strong Neighbourhood Task Force (an area organization featuring representatives of several area social service providers, community and grassroots groups), called for the establishment of a universal child care program, reduced wait times and removal of user-fees for ambulances (Jane-Finch TSNS Task Force, 2015).

Previous consultations also identified that area residents are not always aware of community programs and services as well as mental health services and programming, indicating a need for providers to better promote these services (Grise, 2006; Skeete, 2017; Tecele, 2016). Employment service agencies were noted as providing insufficient employment supports and minimal connection to gainful, secure employment (JFAAP, 2019). A survey of 50 youths aged 17-24 in the community identified financial restraints as a major barrier to accessing community programs and services, with youths prioritizing finding employment (Skeete 2017). The survey also revealed desires for supports for employment and training, education and health. Area service providers noted that alternate, extended evening work hours would benefit youth clientele.

Housing

Lack of affordable housing has been an ongoing theme of consultations in the Jane-Finch area. Existing affordable housing units are threatened by disrepair and lack of investment in state of good repair, with residents experiencing hazardous conditions, displacement and relocation in TCHC properties in particular (Holness, 2017; CBC, 2017). Residents of privately-owned affordable housing units—including those at 10 San Romanoway and in buildings owned by Greenwin—face increasing pressures related to displacement as owners attempt to transition low-income units into market rent units (Cardoso & Dingman, 2019). There is concern that revitalization through Tower Renewal or other initiatives will exacerbate these issues by raising area market rents, furthering displacement (Ngyuen ⁱⁱⁱ, 2018; Jane-Finch TSNS Task Force, 2015).

10 Yorkwoods Gate, Tobermory Terrace, and 2397 Finch Ave are multi-unit residential buildings purchased by Starlight Investments Limited as part of an acquisition deal with The Blackstone Group, a private equity firm. The United Nations has identified the Blackstone Group as contributing to the housing crisis by aggressively pursuing above-guideline rent increases, fees and evictions of lower and middle-income tenants (Butler, 2020). Starlight has purchased multi-unit apartment buildings in Parkdale and has utilized this strategy, contributing to displacement and gentrification in that community (Whyte, 2020).

In response to housing concerns, residents have advocated for the development of more mixed-income housing, subsidizing housing providers to improve building quality without increasing rental costs, increasing shelter space for women and LGBTQ community members, and increased accountability and availability of housing within Toronto Community Housing (Jane-Finch TSNS Task Force, 2015).

Community Places and Spaces

Residents identified a lack of non-programmed, non-regulated public space within the area, contributing to the over-policing of young, racialized community members in Jane-Finch (Galanakis, 2015). Youths noted they are often targeted by police for being seen in public spaces such as parks while not participating in programming. Racialized youths in public spaces in Jane-Finch are subject to racist stereotyping and victimization. Fear and concerns about danger and violence in parks and the public realm also influence youths' use of public spaces. Existing parks were seen as having little programming for youths over the age of 16. Youths also expressed a desire for the creation of a conclusive list of area programs and services available to them (Nahrain & Kumar, 2013). Consultation in 2006 revealed that public outdoor space was highly valued among young area residents, particularly youths living in apartment type housing, both for recreational use and for the formulation of identity and community pride (Grise, 2006). Spaces in the public realm were noted to have established social order and boundaries that include or

exclude area residents based on a variety of social factors thereby affecting how residents access programming, services and public spaces outside of their immediate community. This affects youths' ability to access community services (Galanakis, 2015; Ollner et al, 2011; Grise, 2006;).

It was noted that women and certain ethnic groups are largely excluded from using open community and recreational spaces in the Tobermory community within Jane-Finch (Grise, 2006). Women largely avoiding using spaces within the community such as the basketball court and the pool due to fear of assault. Research revealed a lack of community spaces viewed as safe for women.

New and improved public spaces are being created in the area. The recreation area at the TCH property located at 2585 Jane St was refurbished with a half basketball court, field, seating area and new equipment in 2016. The recreation area at 4401 Jane St saw similar improvements. A basketball court at Shoreham Drive was refurbished in 2019. Additionally, a public space pilot ("Corner Commons") run by Green Change was set to return to the parking lot of Jane Finch Mall, with plans to operate from June to October 2020. The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in a pivot towards an online version, in which an interactive 3D model of the Corner Commons would be hosted on the existing Green Change website. Though still in development, the components of the model would link to a corresponding social media platform (e.g. the stage might link to performances on YouTube or Instagram Live).

In 2015, a research team including 4 area youths was assembled by PEACH (Promoting Education and Community Health), a community organization servicing youth. The research team completed an asset-mapping project to record youth needs, use and perspectives with regards to community spaces and resources. The team created and mapped data from over 140 completed surveys questioning area residents aged 16-29. Data was mapped using GIS and Google Maps to mark locations in the Jane-Finch area where survey respondents frequented and where they felt safe (Teclé et al, 2016). The team proposed creating a Jane and Finch mobile application to present research findings and engage in further deep mapping, a process wherein the marked locations would be complimented with historical knowledge. The team noted that limited financial resources and grant funding present barriers to developing an app.

Community Facilities

It has been noted that while not adequately supported by spatial infrastructure (community facilities, physical connectivity, supportive institutional arrangements), the existing network of community services contributes significantly to feelings of community amongst area residents, particularly among newcomers to Canada (Ahmadi, 2017; Kok, 2015).

Engagement & research identified the York Woods Library/Theatre as a significant local

cultural facility, highly valued by area residents. The facility is the site of several public engagement events as well as an extensive and diverse variety of art, cultural and heritage events. In addition to a 260 seat theatre, the library is home to an Arts Hub featuring rehearsal and production space, shared office and storage space and specialty lighting and mirrors to accommodate dance and theatre (City of Toronto, 2010). The West Side Arts Hub was opened in 2010 and was created using a collaborative, community-based, grassroots approach to ensure facilities met community needs. A need for further support for Community-Led Arts Spaces was identified in engagement (CAPG, 2019). The York Woods Library has taken over the operation of the space. The library also features a very popular Youth Hub, providing children and teens with snacks, activities, workshops and homework help.

Engagement revealed physical and financial accessibility of York Woods and other, both City and non-City owned/operated, cultural facilities serve as major issues for groups needing cultural spaces (City of Toronto, 2014). Residents commented that outdoor spaces such as the green space between York Woods Library and Derrydowns Park could be made more inviting by being developed into a cultural space, featuring a shelter, small performance area and public art. A need for walkable pathways between York Woods Library and Derrydowns Park was also identified. Many area residents also indicated the York Woods Library theatre can be difficult to access and book and is often used by groups based outside the neighbourhood (CAPG, 2019). Opening hours also served as a barrier to accessing cultural spaces with engagement participants remarking cultural facilities should have expanded evening hours to better accommodate work and school commitments. A lack of space for community groups was also highlighted. Area community spaces were recognized as being limited, lacking capacity and often being overbooked. There was also a desire for area cultural spaces to provide for professional quality production of music, art and performance. Residents also recommended expansion of existing cultural spaces as demand for cultural programs (particularly youth cultural programs) exceeds current capacity (City of Toronto, 2014). In February 2020, a fire destroyed the popular Firgrove Learning and Innovation Community Centre (FLICC), a well-used not-for-profit run community centre contained within TCHC facilities, resulting in its permanent closure. A new community space that would have helped support the community in the absence of FLICC was slated to open within the high-rise tower at 5 Needle Firway in June 2020. The status of this space is unknown due to the ongoing public health situation.

A need for improved access to existing community facilities was also highlighted throughout various engagement activities. Residents identified indoor swimming pools, commercial-grade community kitchens (with the capacity to support small business and social enterprise), gyms and fitness studios as needed community facilities that were limited in availability, accessibility and capacity (CAPG, 2019).

A community hub may be introduced into the area, facilitated by the community benefits agreement with Metrolinx. As part of the Finch West LRT project implementation a 32-metre setback in front of the Metrolinx Maintenance and Storage,

Facility along Finch Avenue West, has will be maintained for community use.

A group of community organizations, including the Community Action Planning Group (CAPG) and the Jane/Finch Community and Family Centre (Jane Finch Centre), hope to provide a new Community Hub and Centre for the Arts within the 32-metre setback. CAPG, a resident-led area planning table, collaborated with the Jane Finch Centre on a rigorous community engagement process to determine local priorities for the Hub. Through this process, residents agreed the future facility must:

- Be community run and operated;
- Foster growth, collaboration, and entrepreneurship;
- Be accessible and inclusive;
- Encourage diversity and unity; and,
- Offer a diverse array of programs and service reflective of the community (CAPG, 2019).

A theatre, dance and recording studios, indoor pool, community kitchen, mental health services, business incubator hub, youth lounge and computer lab were among the many programs and services that residents envisioned the future hub offering. It was noted that further engagement, particularly of youth, is needed to further refine and determine future program-offerings and priorities.

Residents expressed displeasure with the City's decision to not renew the lease with the Marcus Garvey Centre for Leadership & Education (Ngyuen ^(a), 2018). The Marcus Garvey Centre was created to serve the aspirations of black and racialized youth in the area by providing leadership and business development, computer technology, tutoring, skills training, employment preparation and other community services. The Centre was closed due to past-due lease obligations and for hosting events that were not permitted in the facility's lease. Residents were also discontented with the closure of the Youth N' Charge Recording Studio and Palisades Media Arts Academy. The space, funded by the Ontario Trillium Foundation, operated for two years providing a venue for youth to create art. It was closed abruptly amidst employee efforts to unionize (CAPG, 2019).

Racism and systemic discrimination of Black students was a major concern of area residents. Residents noted that area secondary school dropout rates for a significant portion of Black students in the Jane-Finch area were disproportionately high (Ngyuen ^(a), 2018). A common theme in engagement was a lack of information and community programming to support adults pursuing and returning to education. Residents were significantly concerned with large class sizes and the quality of education delivered at area schools (Jane-Finch TSNS Task Force, 2015). Residents called for more teachers, more resources in schools for parents and students, lowered dropout rates, maximized local enrolments, more special education classes and smaller class sizes. It was also noted that students with mental health conditions and developmental disabilities in the area must attend schools outside of the neighbourhood to access needed academic supports. Area residents criticized the Provincial funding formula for schools (based on number of pupils rather than need) for contributing significantly to education issues.

Recognizing Community Knowledge, Work & Experience

Residents discussed a desire to be recognized by government bodies for their rich community knowledge and histories, residence and their community's work in mobilizing to address area priorities such as racism, education and policing in area schools. Residents also expressed a need for a community-driven approach to policymaking (Ngyuen ⁿⁱ, 2018).

Local Economic Development

Area residents expressed dissatisfaction and concern related to working conditions in the existing cluster of Temporary Employment Agencies located along Finch Avenue between Keele and Islington and in the neighbouring Black Creek area. Residents discussed exploitative working conditions, including insufficient on-the-job training, no paid/medical benefits or access to WSIB, understaffing, as well as workplace injury and death (JFAAP, 2019; Nguyen ⁿⁱ, 2018). Resident outreach and engagement revealed significant barriers to, as well as inadequacies with the process of reporting workplace violations, causing incidences to often be left unreported (Holness, et al. 2018). Area residents found jobs offered by these agencies to be low-waged and highly sporadic, with jobs being available for only a day at a time. This contributes to precarious financial situations (Jane-Finch TSNS Task Force, 2015). Research indicated there are more than 100 temporary employment agencies in the Jane-Finch area (JFAAP, 2019). The need for the regulation of Temporary Employment Agencies and the provision of other sources of employment was also raised (Jane-Finch TSNS Task Force, 2015).

The former Provincial government under Liberal Premier Kathleen Wynne introduced regulations to hold temporary employers liable for workplace injury or death and allow temporary employees to access WSIB benefits, but these have not been implemented by the current Provincial government. The current government also repealed various measures created to improve temporary employment conditions such as Equal Pay for Equal Work, which would have required employees to be paid equally for performing the same work, regardless of sex, employment and assigned employment status.

Residents also expressed that local area businesses are not in a position to offer new employment opportunities. Community consultations revealed a desire by area residents to be strongly considered for employment and job training opportunities resulting from area infrastructure projects (Jane-Finch TSNS Task Force, 2015).

In interviews held with area entrepreneurs, some community business owners expressed caution about employing local area residents due to negative perceptions of residents derived from the stigmatization and stereotyping associated with the portrayal of the community in media (Ozugul & Kok, 2016). Interviewees noted that support from community organizations (including micro-loans, advice and mentoring

services) was crucial in developing their businesses. Area entrepreneurs advocated for increasing entrepreneurship education and support services available particularly within the Jane-Finch area, improving existing entrepreneurship programs through reduced fragmentation and greater embedding of programs within larger business networks and reduced barriers and improved access and to capital via loans, micro-loans and grants for entrepreneurs from lower socio-economic backgrounds (Ozgul & Kok, 2016)

Food Security

Food justice affects area residents in complex ways. Previous consultation revealed that residents have difficulty in accessing healthy, high-quality, culturally specific foods. High food costs, when combined with high prescription drug costs and transportation costs to access grocery stores, affects food security for area residents (Black Creek Food Justice Network, 2016; Jane-Finch TSNS Task Force, 2015). Residents also expressed displeasure with policing and enhanced security measures in area grocery stores. Residents noted feelings of subjugation and stigmatization while shopping in area grocery stores. Area stores were noted as being uniquely securitized spaces, with some products accessible by employees only (Black Creek Food Justice Network, 2016). The need for additional food banks and community programs (such as community kitchens, community gardens) that improve access to healthy foods was expressed. Community engagement activities around Food Security also revealed a strong desire for transparent decision-making and community ownership of area projects and partnerships. Residents noted a pattern of area projects and partnerships not prioritizing hiring local residents (Baker & Deawuo, 2020).

Community members have responded to food justice issues by informally using public spaces to farm nutritious and culturally significant foods. Community organizations also play a role in addressing food insecurity through fundraising, charitable work, education and advocacy. For example, Black Creek Community Farm is responding to the current COVID-19 pandemic by fundraising for and delivering Emergency Food Boxes to eligible community members.

Mobility

The rising cost of TTC fares was, and continues to be, a major concern of area residents (Jane-Finch TSNS Task Force, 2015). Residents voiced a desire for a reduction of fares, displeasure with the high fines and vigour with which transit fare enforcement is carried out in the area (JFAAP, 2020). Residents have also called for the elimination of user fees for Wheel Trans services for seniors and individuals living with disability (Jane-Finch TSNS Task Force, 2015). There are concerns about harassment and assault by Fare Enforcement Officers in the area. Residents expressed feelings of stigmatization due to

transit fare enforcement activities. Both the enforcement itself and the TTC's new public campaign addressing fare enforcement were seen as contributing to feelings of stigmatization. Residents believe that fare enforcement criminalizes poverty. They also expressed a desire for the TTC to eliminate tickets and fines associated with fare evasion and for all levels of government to increase investment in transit.

Access to employment areas is also a significant concern. Residents experience difficulty accessing significant nodes of employment in the Greater Toronto Area (Brampton and Mississauga in particular) as these areas often have insufficient public transit service. Lack of integrated fare structures results in further financial strain, with some residents calling for the elimination of extra fees for cross GTA travel on public transit (Jane-Finch TSNS Task Force, 2015). This issue affects secondary sector employees especially. Secondary sector employees work in the manufacturing and construction industries, producing consumer and capital goods (goods used to make other goods). Additionally, high insurance prices in the area were noted as contributing to high automobile ownership costs, further impeding access to employment opportunities for area residents. Residents also expressed frustration with the Jane Street TTC Bus Route's lack of efficiency and reliability (Jane-Finch TSNS Task Force, 2015).

The TTC proposed a Bus Rapid Transit Lane for Jane Street in its Five Year Service Plan, released in December 2019.

Built Form

A sprawling urban form characterizes the Jane-Finch area, featuring a mix of ground-related and tower building typologies. While seemingly borderless, community consultation reveals distinct unmapped boundaries that contribute to a sense of heritage, community solidarity, pride and empowerment for area residents (Grise, 2006; Ollner et al, 2011). The physical built form and configuration of housing and contributes significantly to community pride and heritage with many communities within the area named after structural features of housing complexes. Finch Avenue serves as a significant socio-spatial boundary, dividing neighbourhoods, north and south of the street along territorial lines and affecting the accessibility, delivery and promotion of community services.

Cultural Heritage Resources

Consultations with the Jane-Finch community have revealed that the area's many exterior and interior murals possess significant cultural heritage value to local residents. Murals were noted for reflecting a fostering political discourse. Grassroots movements and collective actions such as petitions have been key in preserving murals despite imagery that may be viewed by some residents as frightening due to their political

nature (Sunshine, 2015). These murals serve to empower residents, and as a way to influence discourse on education, community issues such as gendered violence, political mobilization, community solidarity, and resilience. Murals also serve to empower residents through democratic, community driven implementation processes (Ramsaroop, 2016).

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Appendix

Jane – Finch Consultation History: Events & Studies Referenced

The following lists the events and research referenced throughout the consultation history. Feedback & observations derived from consultation is organized below by event.

Humber River Black Creek Federal Election Debate

<https://jane-finch.com/videos/electiondebate2019.htm>

Paul Nguyen 2018 [1]

- Organizer: Jane Finch TSN (Toronto Strong Neighbourhood) Task Force
- Location: Black Creek Community Health Centre
- Themes: Ongoing Racism in the Jane Finch Community; Crime; Food Insecurity; Anti-Immigration Sentiment; Addressing Child and Family Poverty; Street Racing in the Area; Poor Transit (Jane Bus); Need for Subsidized & Affordable Housing; Police brutality (<https://toronto.ctvnews.ca/mother-horrified-after-seeing-video-of-police-officers-holding-down-teenage-son-1.4559811>)

Humber River Black Creek Ward 7 & 8 Debate

<https://jane-finch.com/videos/ward7election2018.htm>

Paul Nguyen 2018 [2]

- Organizers: Jane Finch TSN Task Force, Private sponsors (Grenada Rose Restaurant, Epiphany Restaurant, Comda Advertising Connections, New Era Communications), Nigerian Canadian Association, Jamaican Canadian Association.
- Location: Yorkwoods Library
- Themes: Affordable Housing; Stigmatization; Very poor relationship between Police & Community; resistance to revitalization efforts; divide between property owners and non-property owners in the area; Closing of Marcus Garvey Centre for Leadership & Education

Humber River Black Creek Provincial Election Townhall

<https://jane-finch.com/videos/provincialtownhall.htm>

Paul Nguyen 2018 [3]

- Organizers: Jane Finch TSN Task Force
- Location: Driftwood Community Centre
- Themes: Affordable Housing; Resources for individuals needing mental health and harm reduction services (including diverse mental health staff); enforcement of AODA; area schools are underfunded; Anti-Racism; Over policing; Recognizing the richness knowledge, experience and community work of community

residents; stigmatization; long history of broken promises from government bodies; inadequacy of food offered by area food banks

JFAAP (Jane Finch Action Against Poverty) Community Meeting (August 2018)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3YJr50E7XN0>

- Organizers: JFAAP
- Location: Black Creek Health Centre
- Themes: Over policing; carding; deeper lack of political representation due to City Council restructure;

Keele Finch Plus: September 28, 2017 Open House & Public Workshop

<https://www.toronto.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/96fd-city-planning-keele-finch-plus-Sept28-2017-consultation-summary.pdf>

- Organizers: City of Toronto
- Location: 1440 Finch Ave W
- Themes: Affordable Housing; community infrastructure; pedestrian safety (perception of mid-block crossing and pathways/laneways as unsafe compared to streets)

2014 Toronto Mayoral Debate

<https://ia802605.us.archive.org/11/items/2014TorontoMayoralDebateInJaneFinch/2014-Toronto-Mayoral-Debate-in-Jane-Finch.mp3>

Paul Nguyen 2018 [4]

- Organizers: Inner City Union
- Location: Yorkwoods Library
- Themes: Civic disengagement; political apathy; over policing; history of broken promises from government bodies; racism; carding; availability of affordable child care space; need for mental health services,

Jane-Finch Strong Neighbourhood Strategy 2020 – Neighbourhood Response

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/331873388_The_Jane_Finch_TSNS_Task_Force_Community_response_to_the_Toronto_Strong_Neighbourhoods_Strategy_2020_What_neighbourhood_improvement_looks_like_from_the_perspective_of_residents_in_Jane_Finch

- Organizers: Jane-Finch TSNS Task Force
- Location: Jane – Finch Area
- Themes: Marginalization; stigmatization; Lack of mental health services; Community fatigue with regards to decades of research with little tangible improvements; poor access to quality health services; poor access to healthy foods; temporary employment agencies as a barrier to economic prosperity; lack of warehouse and factory work in Toronto vs Peel/York Region; Lack of high-quality housing in the area; over-policing

Jane Finch Youth Asset Mapping Project

<https://cec.info.yorku.ca/files/2011/04/Final-Report-JFCRP-Gathering-Nov292016.pdf?x67656>

- Organizers: Promoting Education and Community Health (PEACH), Ayo Milap Aigbedion
- Location: Jane – Finch Area
- Themes: Difficulty accessing mental health services; lack of conclusive list of neighbourhood youth oriented services; use of “deep mapping” (combining GIS Data with lived histories)

Connect the Dots Initiative

<https://cec.info.yorku.ca/connect-the-dots/>

- Organizers: Jane Finch Action Against Poverty (JFAAP)
- Location: TD – York University Community Engagement Centre
- Themes: Marginalization; stigmatization; inequitable research partnership between York U and Jane & Finch; need for greater resource sharing; barriers to education

FIGHTING FOR FOOD JUSTICE IN THE BLACK CREEK COMMUNITY

https://tfpc.to/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/FullReport_small.pdf

- Organizers: Black Creek Food Justice Network
- Location: Jane - Finch Area
- Themes: Food Insecurity; Over policing; marginalization; stigmatization; temporary employment agencies as a barrier to economic prosperity; racism

COMMUNITY MEETING: TTC FARE ENFORCEMENT & POLICE SURVEILLANCE

<https://www.instagram.com/p/B9E7AB7A8rq/>

- Organizers: Jane Finch Action Against Poverty
- Location: Black Creek Community Health Centre
- Themes: Fare enforcement as criminalization of poverty; surveillance and over-policing of racialized communities; stigmatization

Public Spaces for Youth? The Case of the Jane-Finch Neighbourhood in Toronto

<https://doi-org.ezproxy.lib.ryerson.ca/10.1177/1206331215595731>

- Organizers: Michail Galanakis, The Spot Youth Centre
- Location; The Spot Youth Centre (Yorkgate Mall)
- Youth perception of Jane and Finch and City public spaces; community violence; inclusivity and safety as crucial features in the “ideal” public space

Youth Space: An examination of the use and perception of space of space in Tobermory, Toronto

<https://search-proquest-com.ezproxy.lib.ryerson.ca/docview/304966561?pg-origsite=summon>

- Organizers: Paul Edmund Grise, Toronto Community Housing
- Location: Tobermory Community (TCHC)
- Themes: Youth perception of public spaces in the Jane and Finch area; informal socio-spatial boundaries; community violence; impact of social order on use of public spaces; lack of inclusiveness in area public spaces (public spaces were underutilized by women)

Jane-Finch Youth Speak Out

<http://www.yorku.ca/act/reports/Jane-FinchYouthSpeakOut.pdf>

- Organizers: Assets Coming Together for Youth (ACT for Youth)
- Location: Jane and Finch Mall, Yorkgate Mall
- Stigmatization, overpolicing; community violence; informal socio-spatial boundaries, food justice,

Environmental Racism as Gentrification 2019

Potential Films Inc, 2019

<https://vimeo.com/311066551>

- Organizers: Shannon Holness (Toronto Community Benefits), Imagine Films Inc.
- Location: Firgrove Community (TCHC)
- Themes: Racism; gentrification; displacement; environmental racism; lack of community engagement

Murals talk back: an understanding of community murals in Jane Finch

https://yorkspace.library.yorku.ca/xmlui/bitstream/handle/10315/33388/Ramsaroop_Talisha_A_2016_masters.pdf?sequence=2&isAllowed=y

- Organizers: Talisha Ramsaroop
- Location: Jane-Community
- Themes: Art & Murals as important cultural heritage resources