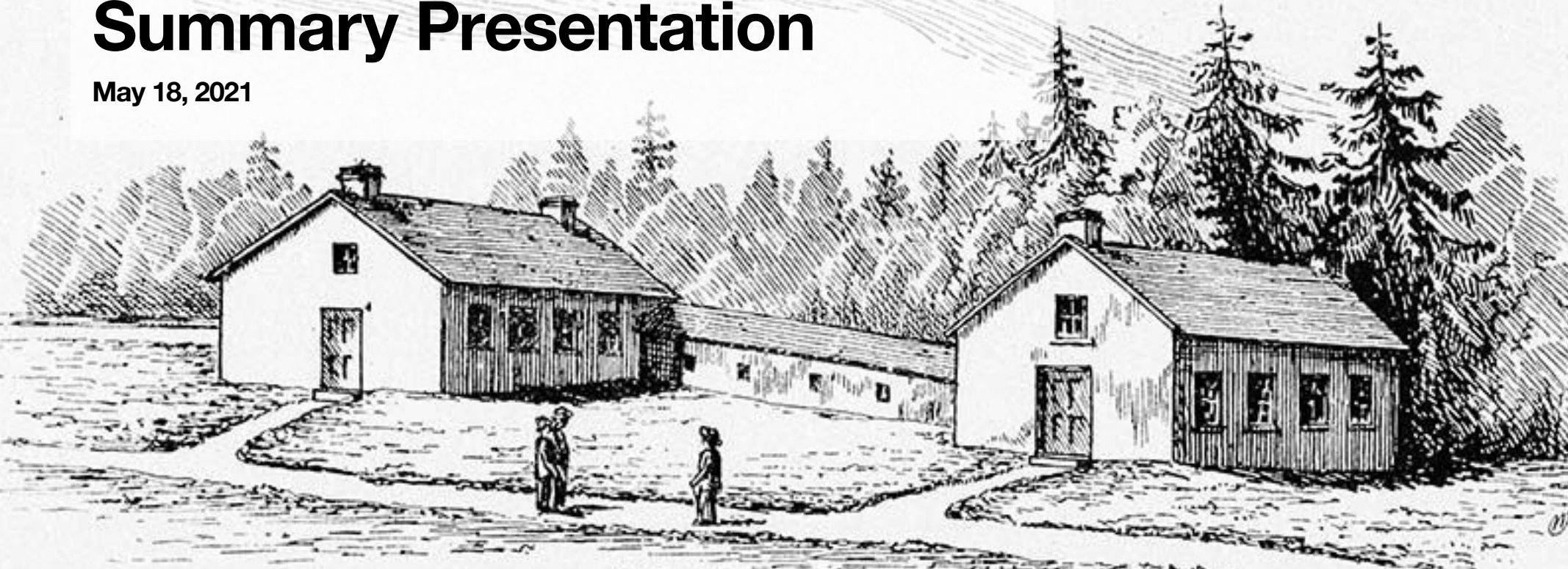


First Parliament Project

Summary Presentation

May 18, 2021

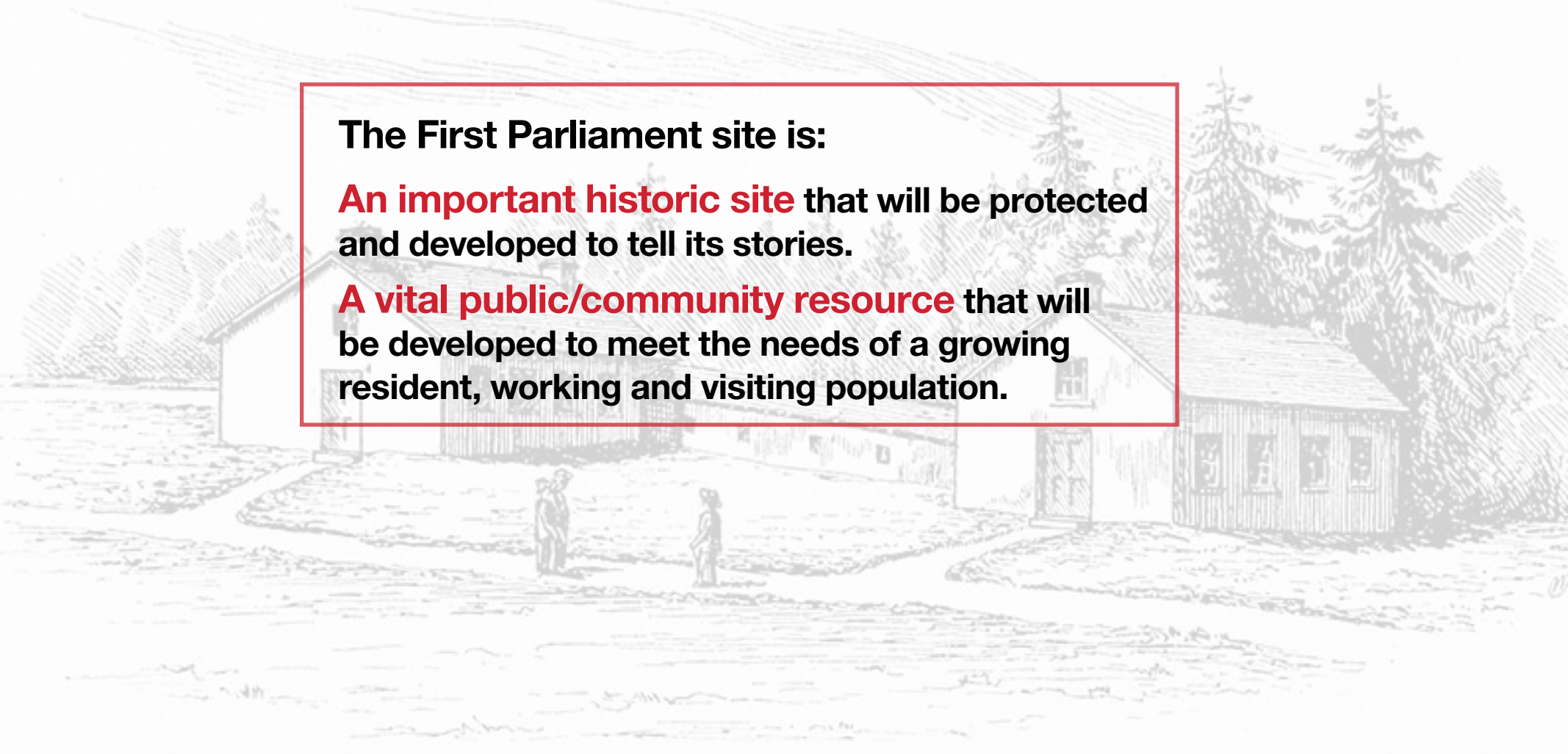


The Vision for First Parliament

The First Parliament site is:

An important historic site that will be protected and developed to tell its stories.

A vital public/community resource that will be developed to meet the needs of a growing resident, working and visiting population.



Tonight's Agenda

1. The importance of the site;
2. Project structure and timeline;
3. Heritage Interpretation Strategy;
4. Principles and Strategies;
5. Demonstration Plan.

Location in the City

4



Local Context

5



Why is First Parliament important?

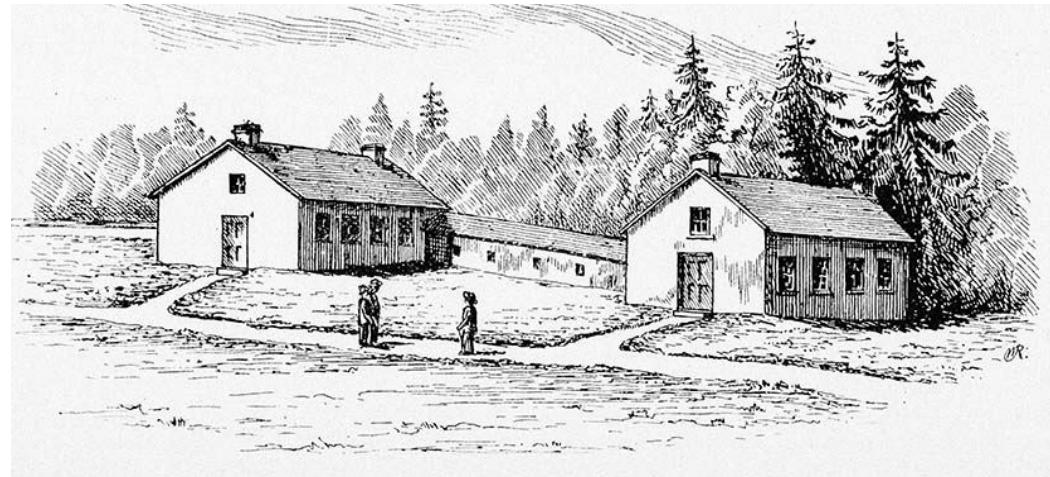
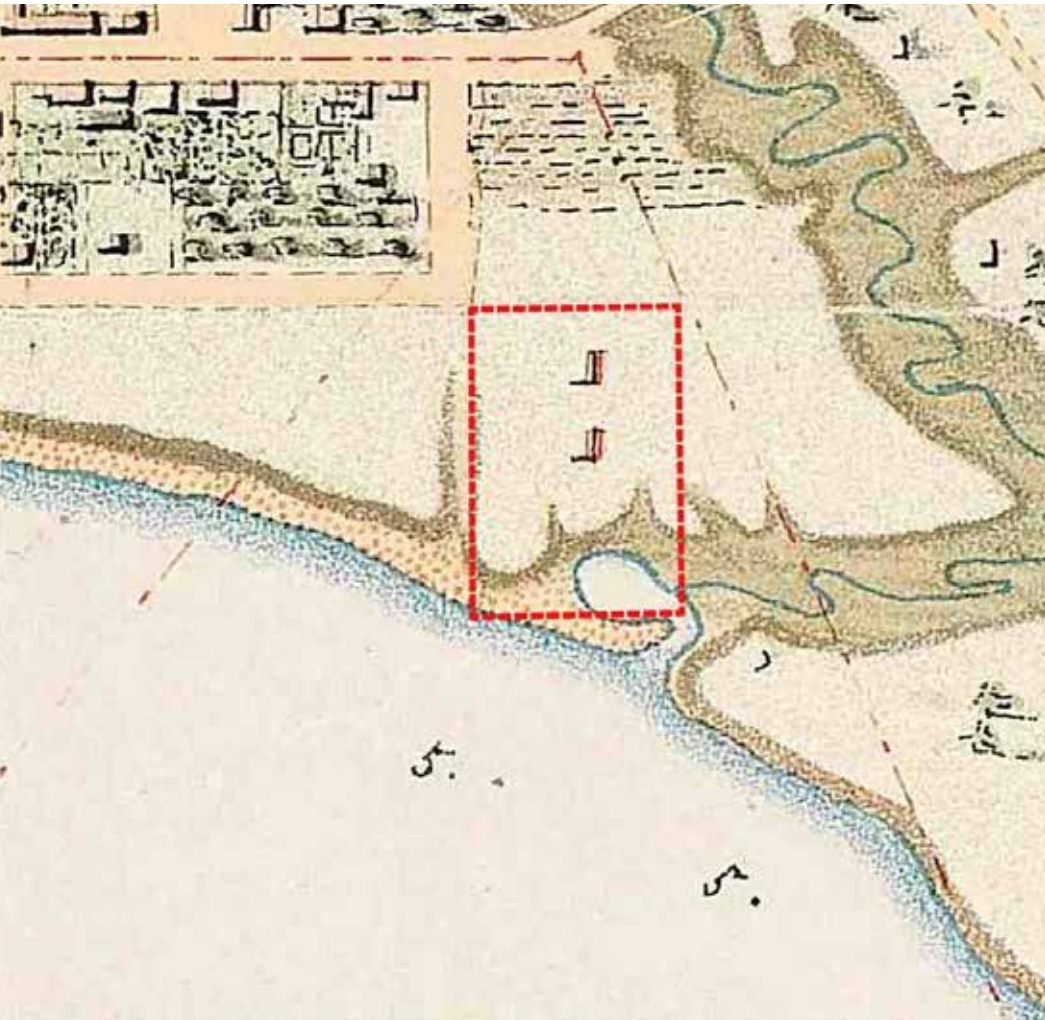
- **A heritage focus - layers of history;**
- **A valuable public/community asset.**

Natural and Indigenous History - 7,000 Years



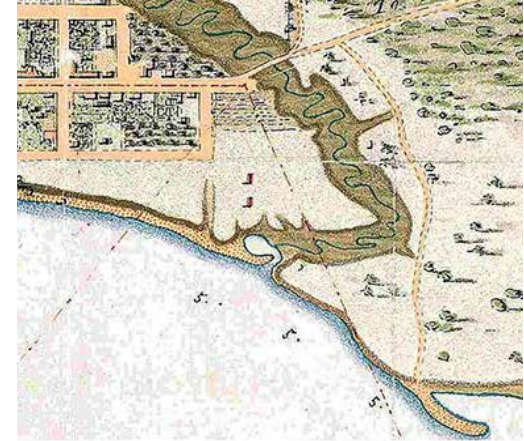
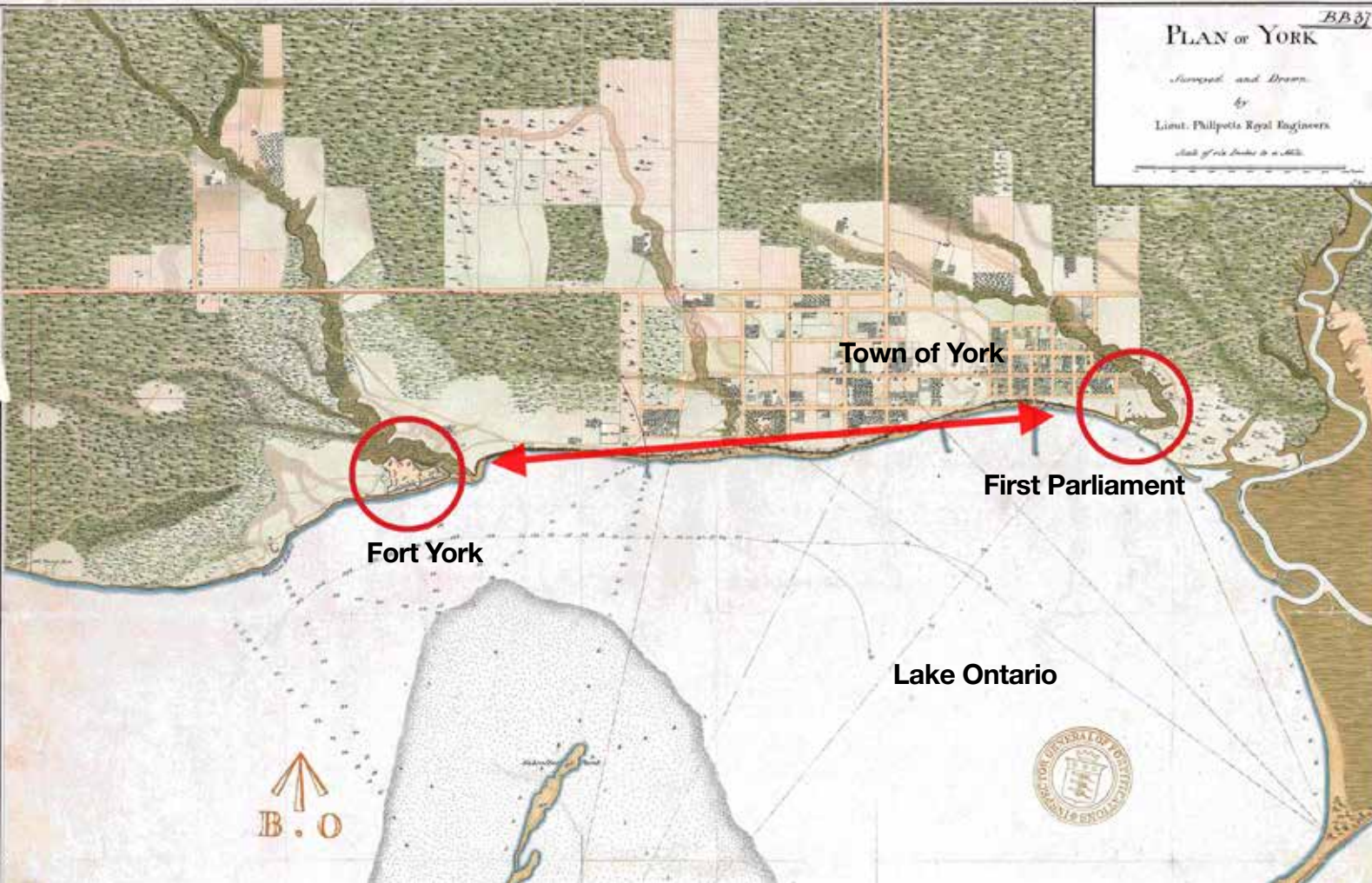
Parliament Buildings - 1794 to 1824

8

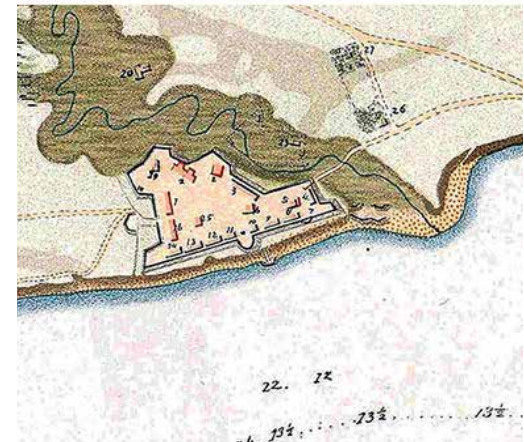


Fort York / First Parliament - 1794 to 1824

9



First Parliament



Fort York

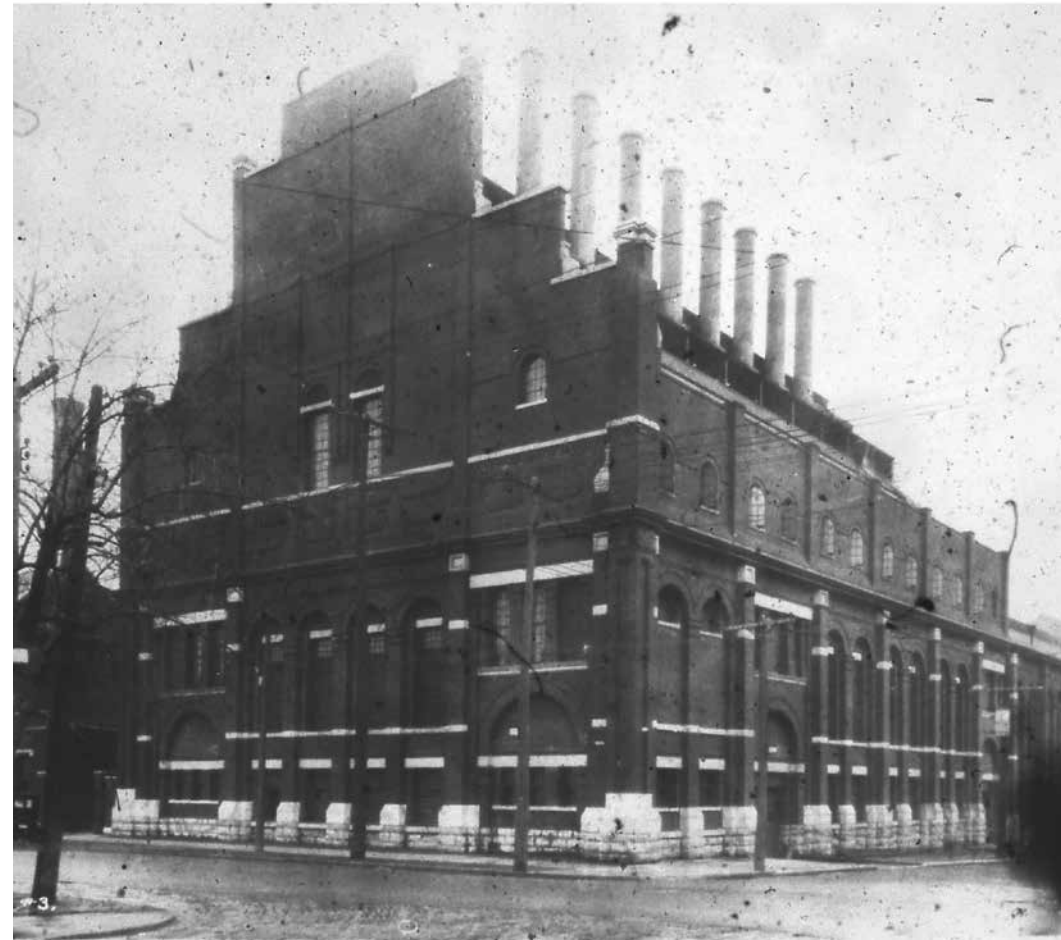
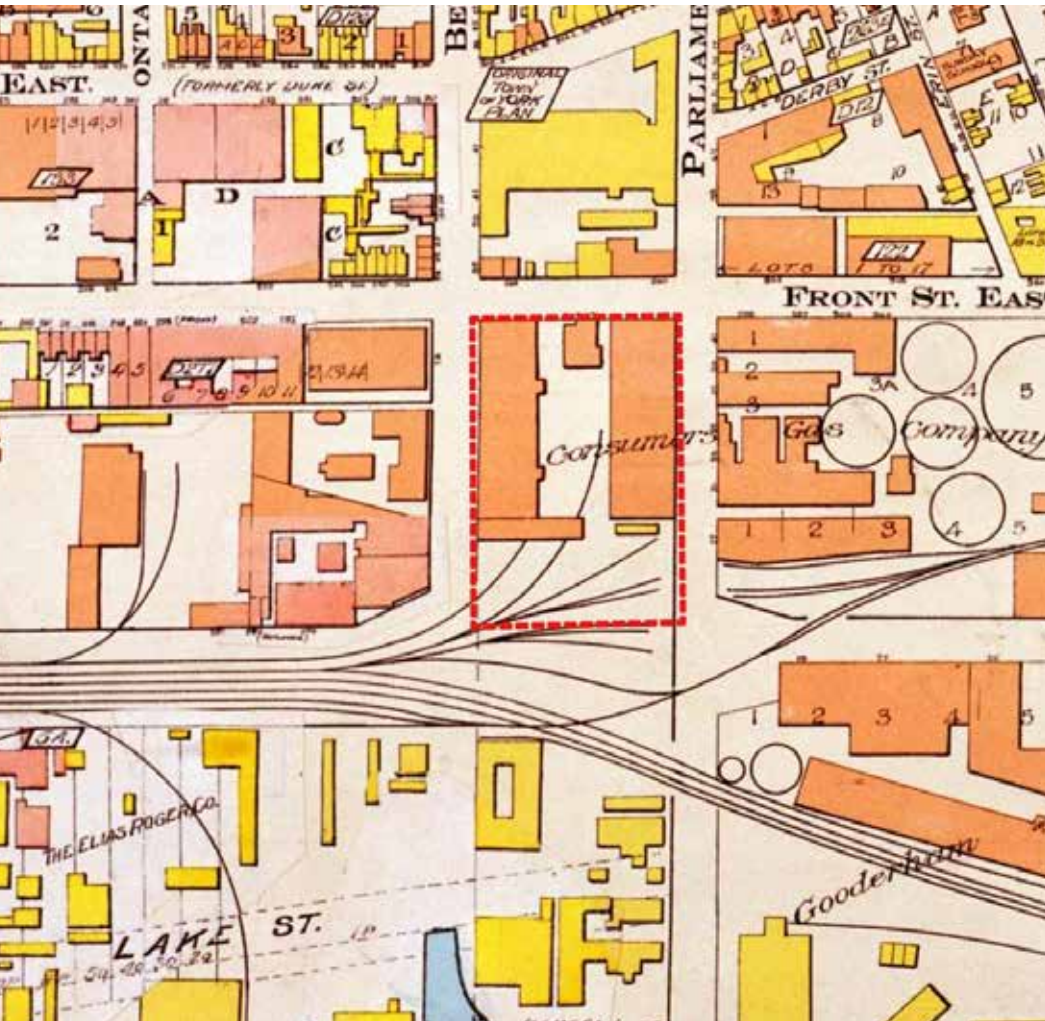
Home District Gaol - 1840 to 1864

10



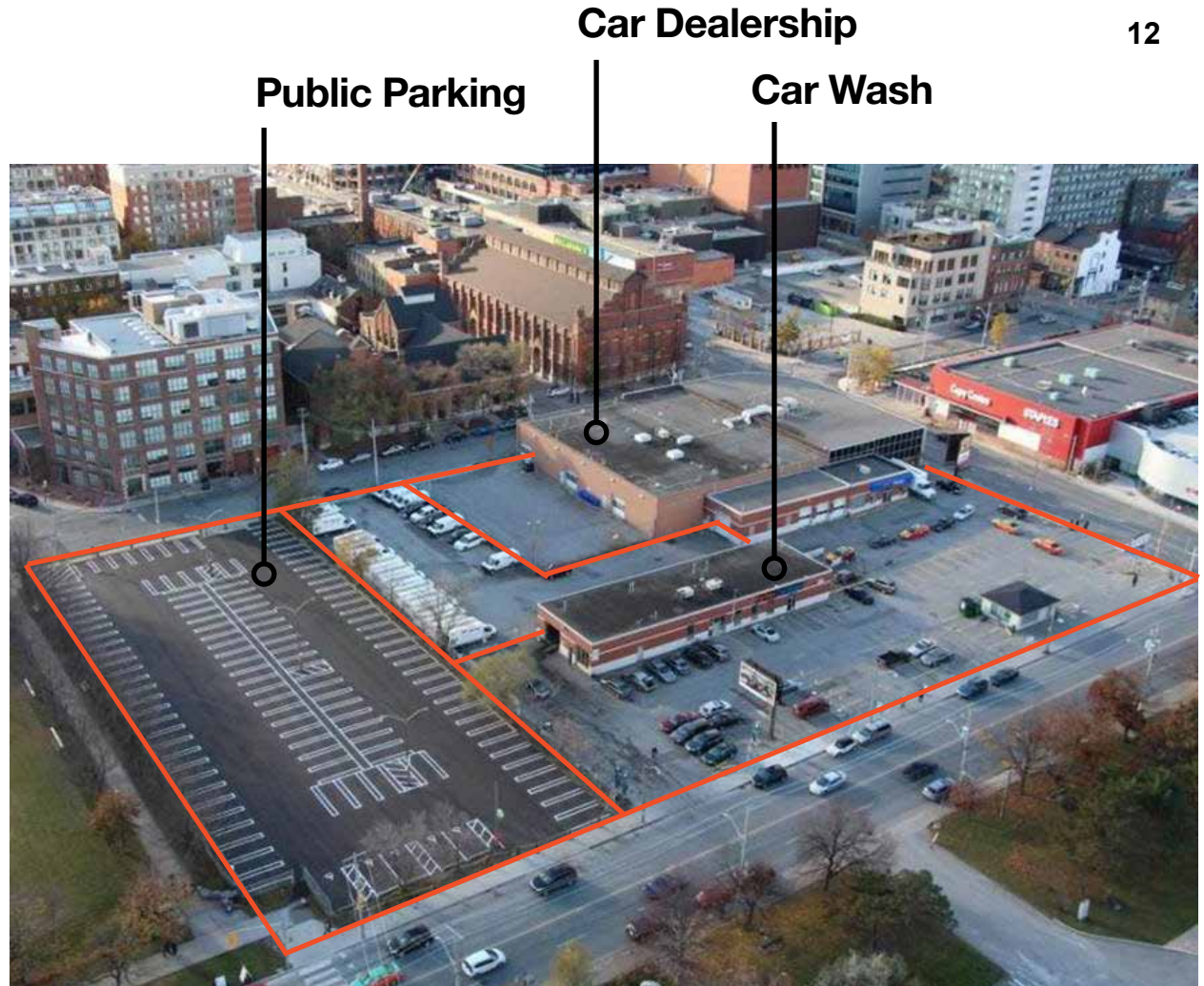
Consumers' Gas - 1879 to 1955

11



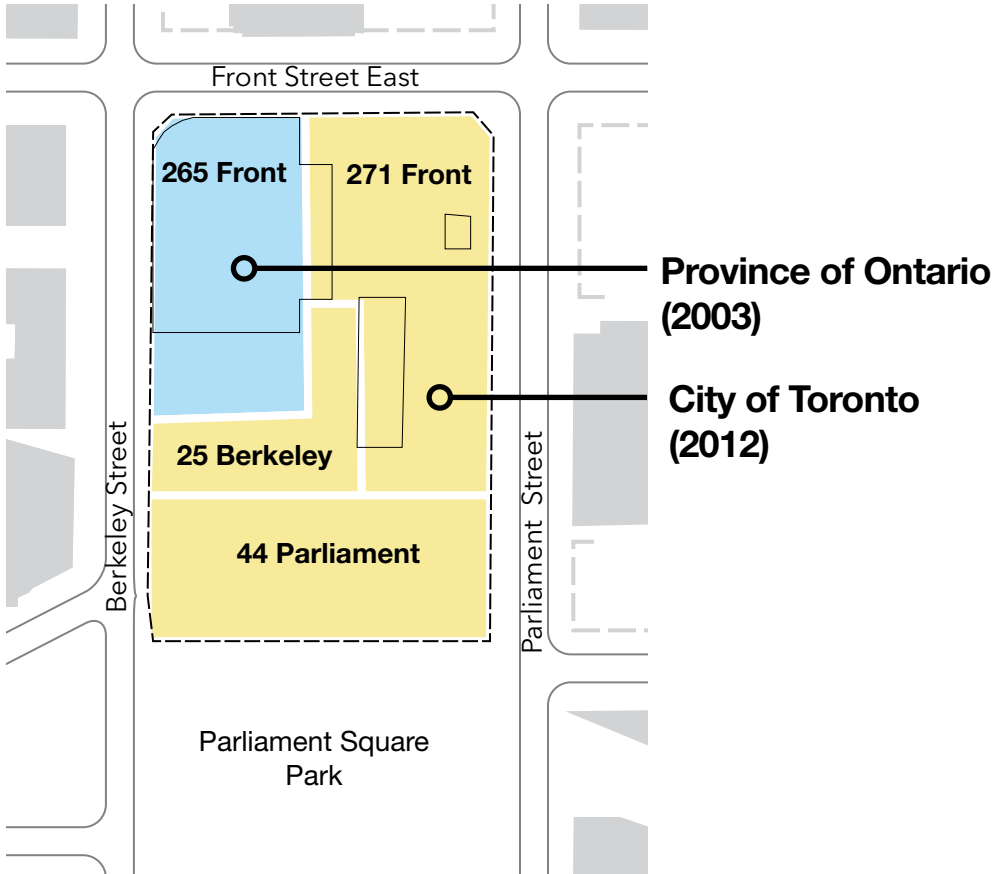
Current Uses

12



Current Ownership

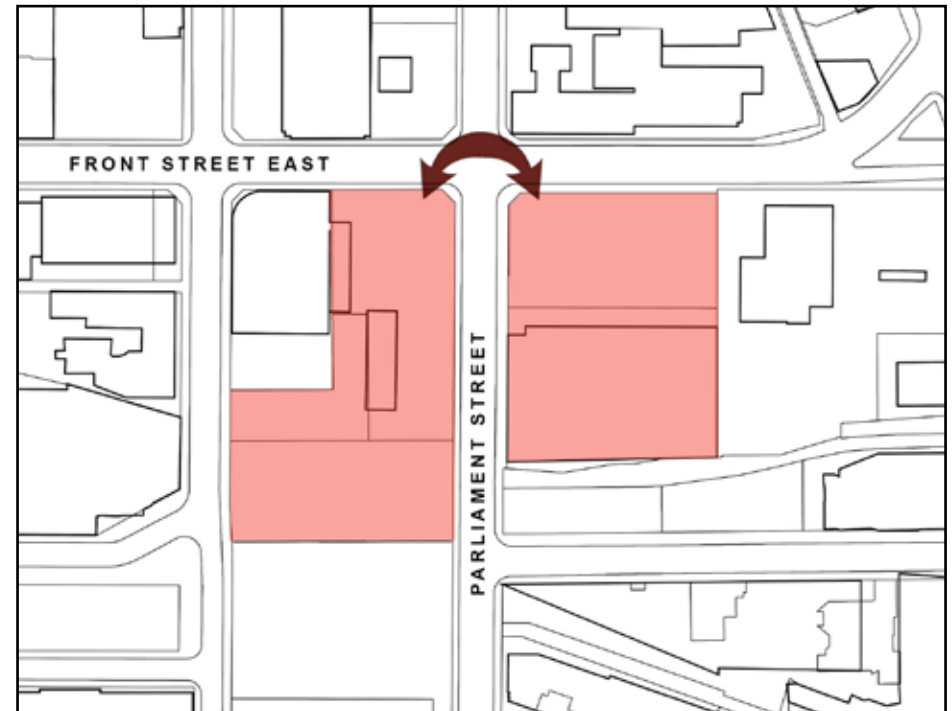
Public ownership = Long-term protection



13

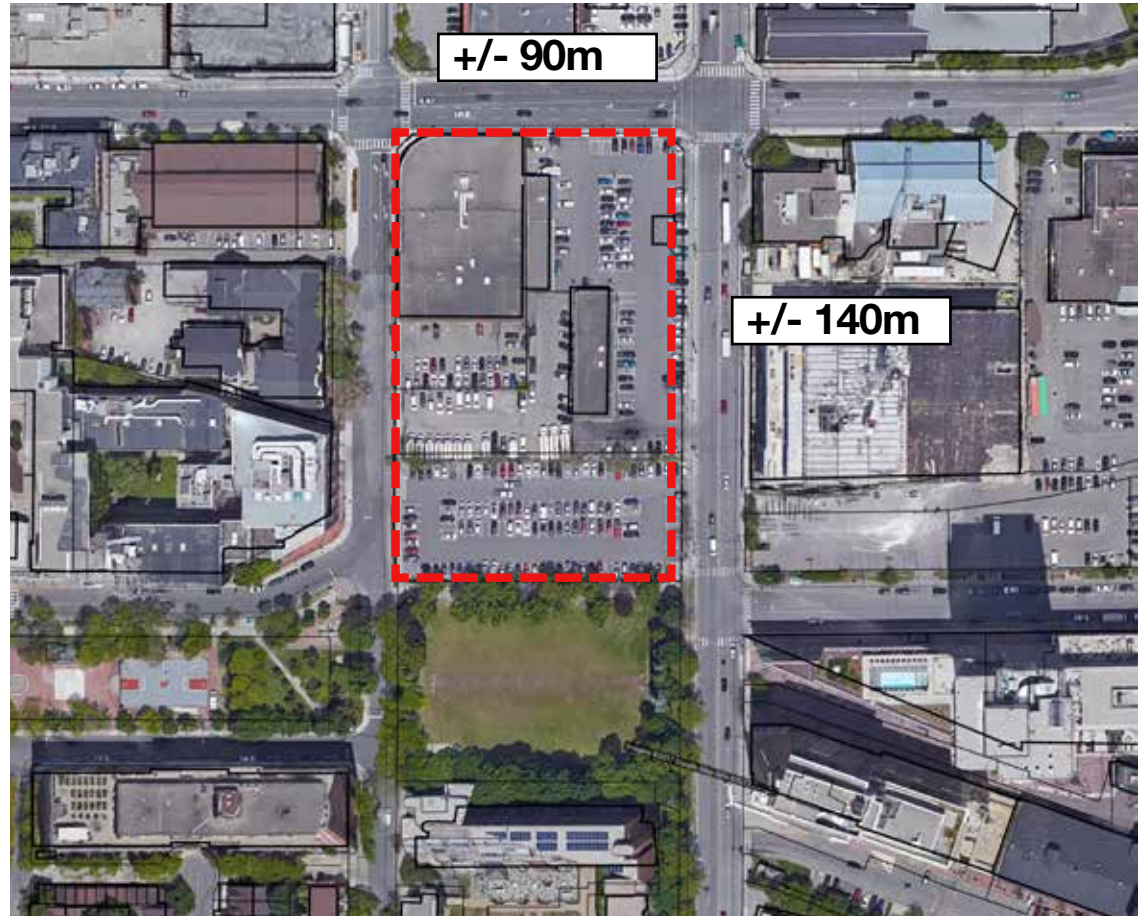
2012 - City Land Exchange

- Proposed Condominium - 57 Storeys
- Sponsored by Councillor Pam McConnell



Size and Scale

14



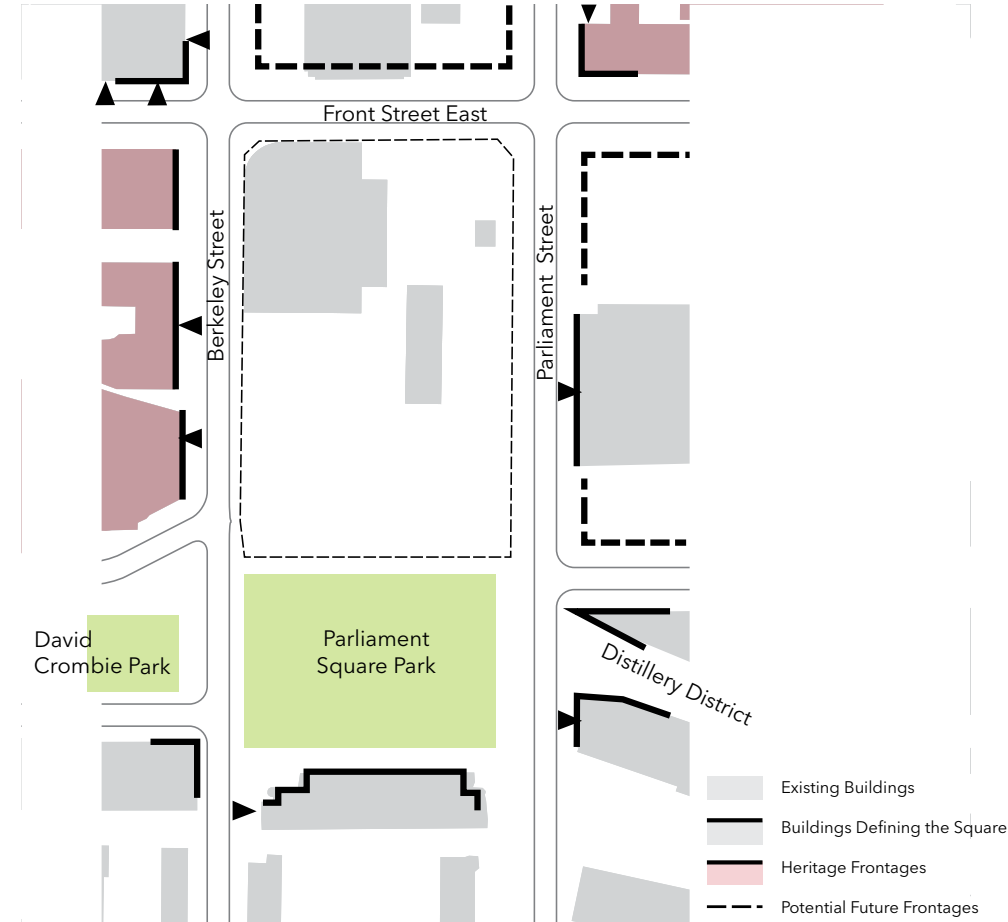
Size and Scale - Nathan Phillips Square

15



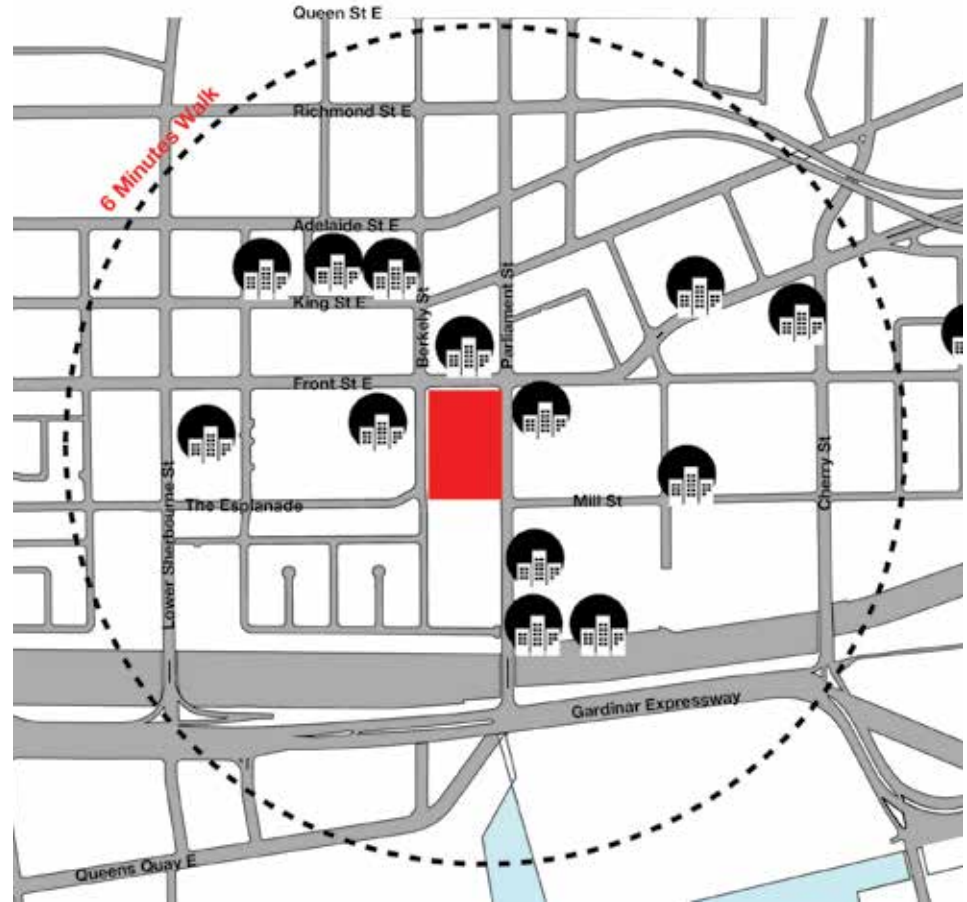
Heritage Context

16



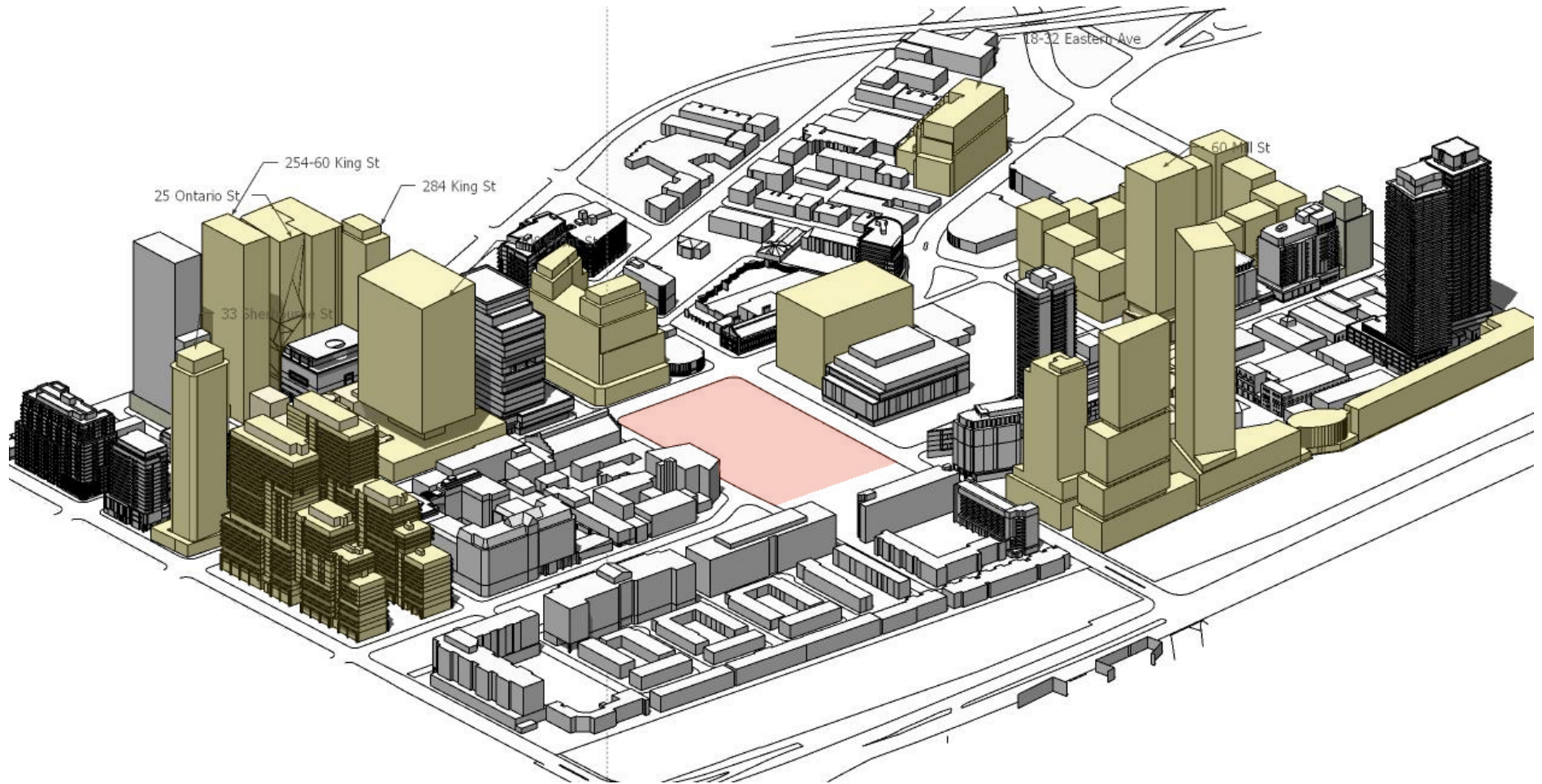
New Development

17



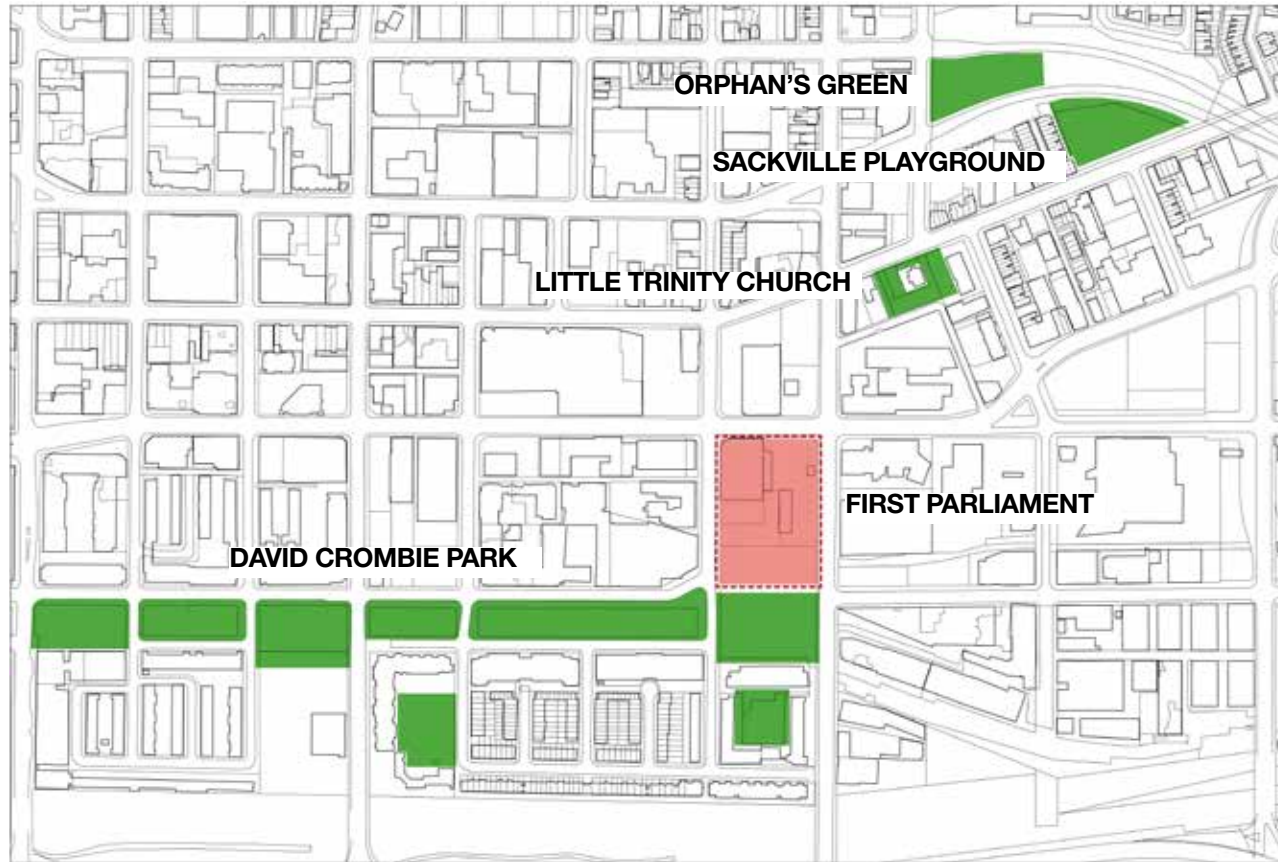
New Development - The Future Context

18



Parks and Open Space

19



David Crombie Park

20



Key Program Elements:

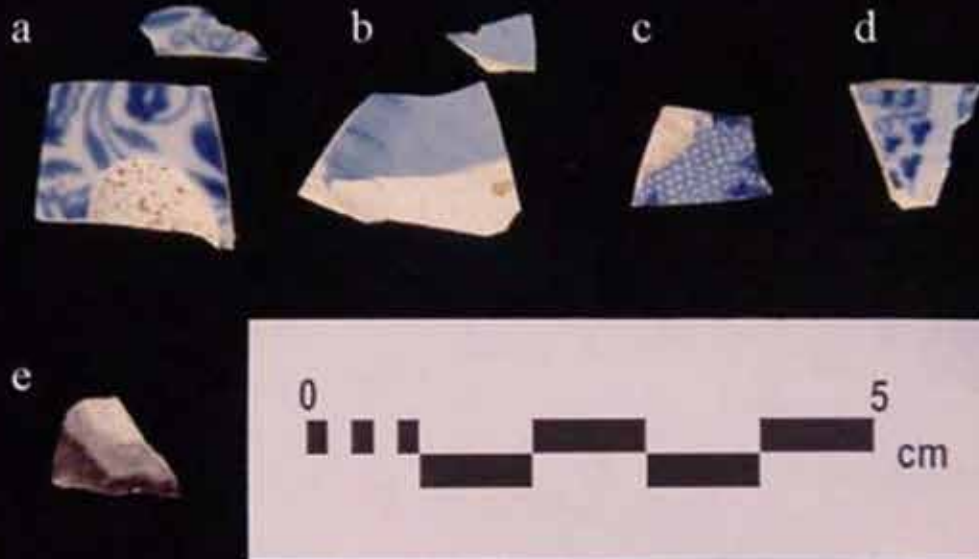
Soccer
Basketball
Fitness Circuit
Children's Play
Splash Pad

Ornamental Fountain
Dog Off-Leash Area
Lawns
Horticultural Display
Performance Area

Archaeology - No visible remains...

21





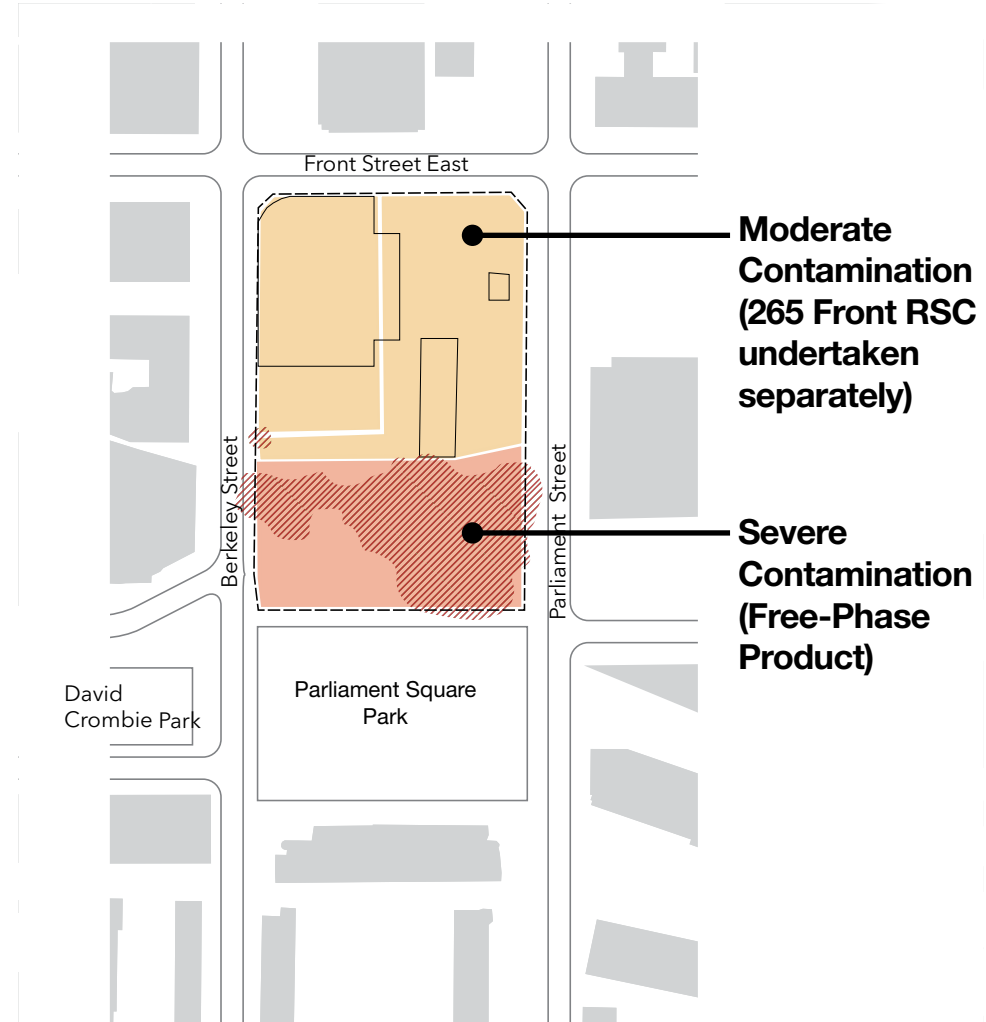
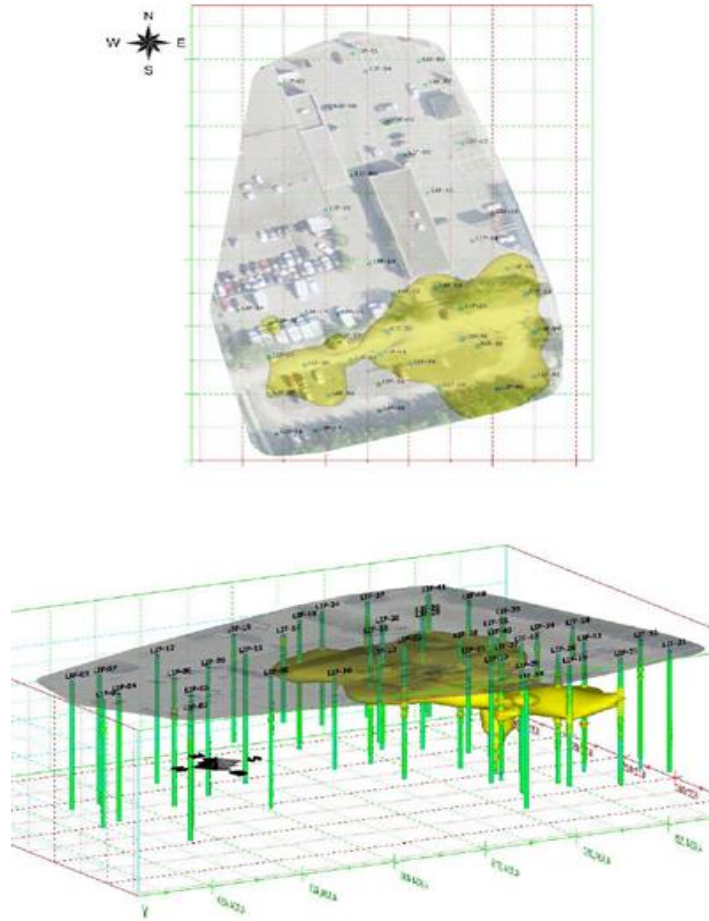
The Zone of Archaeological Potential

23



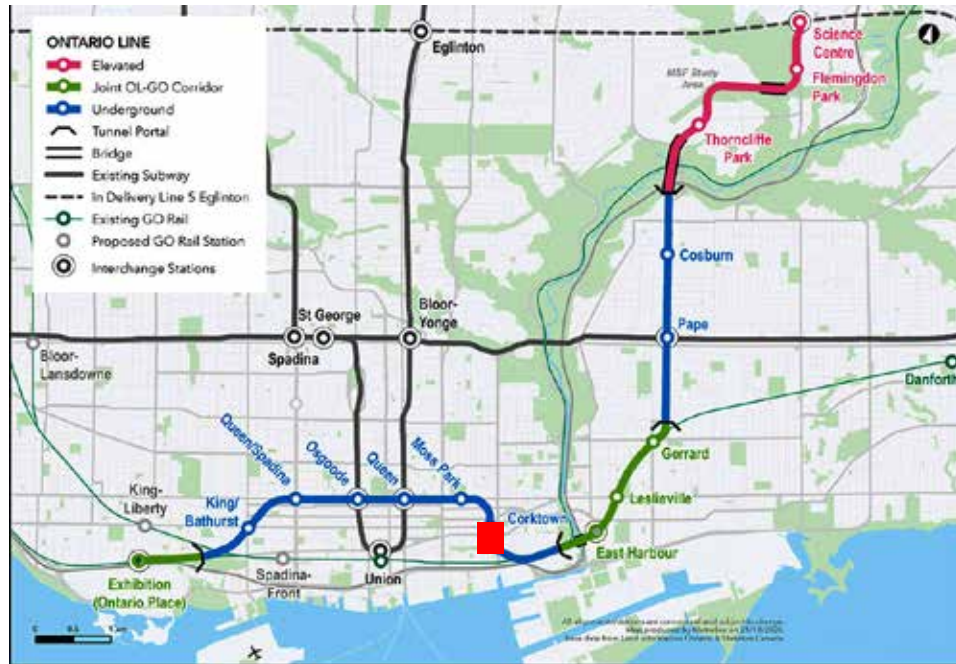
Site Contamination

24



The Ontario Line

25



 **METROLINX**



Another step in a long-standing planning process

26



Planning for Protection - 1990 to the Present

27

1990 - Rollo Myers and the Town of York Historical Society;

1997 - *“A Plan for Renewal”* - Celebrating the area’s history;

1997 - *“King-Parliament Community Improvement Plan”*;

2003 - Province of Ontario acquires 265 Front Street East;

2012 - City of Toronto acquires the rest of the First Parliament site;

2013 - Councillor McConnell - First Parliament Working Group;

2014 - Ontario Heritage Trust - *“Parliament Site (Toronto) - Planning Framework”*;

2015 - Ontario Heritage Trust - Statement of Significance;

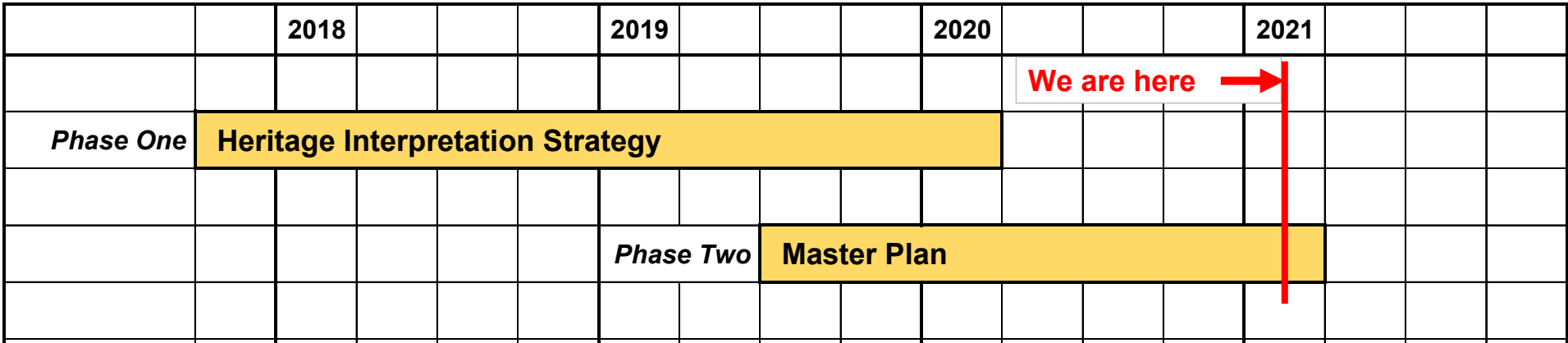
2016 - First Parliament Working Group - Visioning Workshop;



2017 - First Parliament Heritage Interpretation Strategy and Master Plan

This project is one small step in a process that will continue well into the future.

First Parliament Heritage Interpretation Strategy and Master Plan - Timeline



Public Engagement - A critical contribution

29

December 6, 2017 - Community Working Group
February 6, 2018 - Public Lecture
February 28, 2018 - Knowledge Experts Workshop
March 8, 2018 - Public Workshop
March 19, 2018 - Online Survey

March 24, 2018 - Community Walk
June 10, 2019 - Community Working Group
October 1, 2019 - Community Groups Workshop
October 15, 2019 - Public Workshop
April 15, 2021 - Online Town Hall Meeting

		2018				2019				2020				2021			
											We are here →						
Phase One	Heritage Interpretation Strategy																
						Phase Two	Master Plan										
Engagement																	

Indigenous Engagement - A work-in-progress

30

Phase 1:

Huron-Wendat Nation

Six Nations of the Grand River

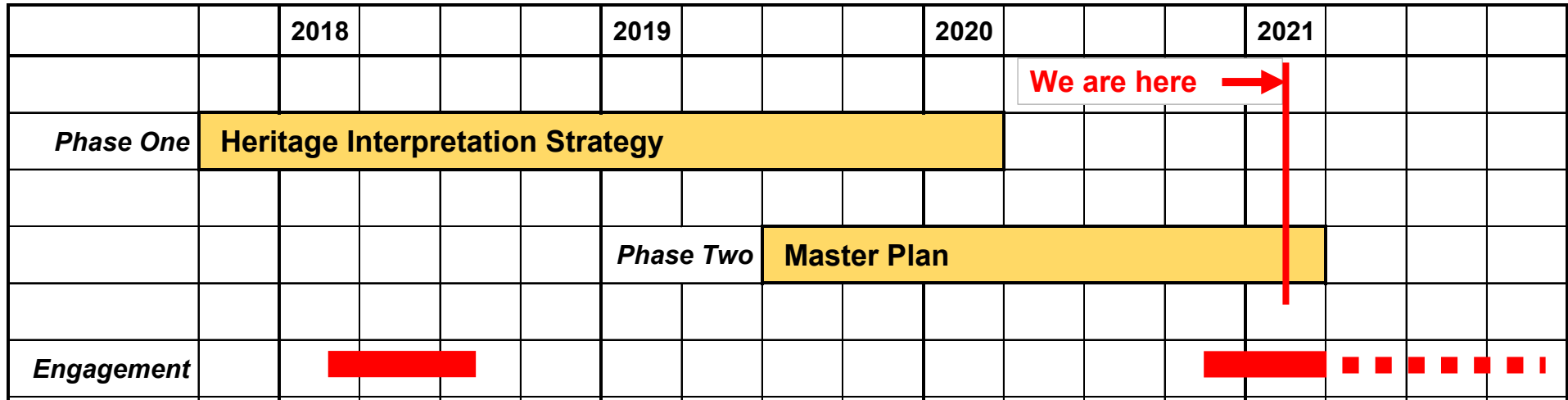
Metis Nation of Ontario

Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation

(Thank you, Darin Wybenga)

Phase 2:

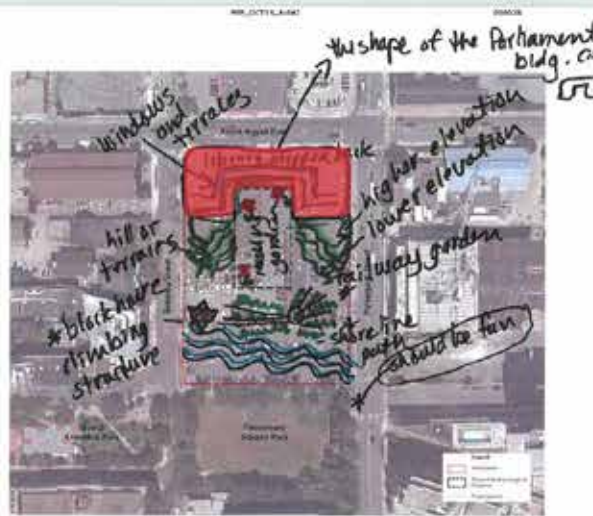
December, 2020 - Continuing



What You Said:

Community Groups & Public Workshop - October 2019

31

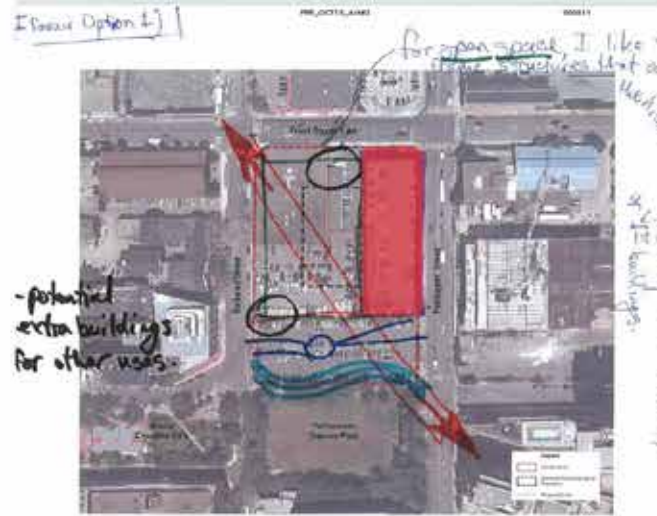


Library contains an interpretive centre meeting point

Please briefly explain your choices:

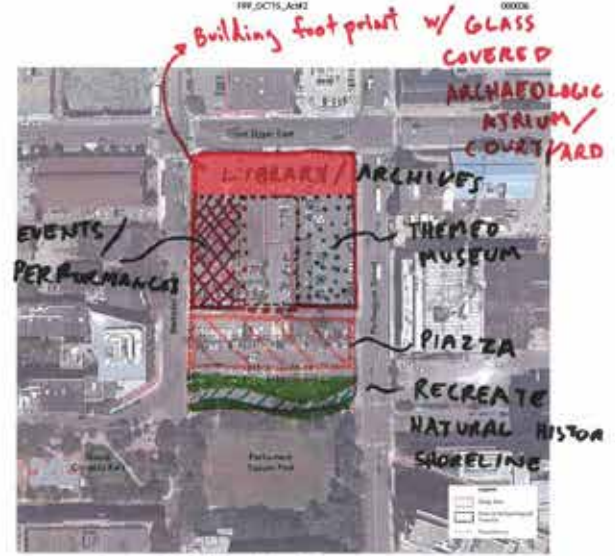
- Shoreline pathway approximately where shoreline was
- Black house climbing structure (big, fun)
- paths reflecting various lines (with planting between)
- library "cops" properly to the north
- plant because the library back towards the north

In north terrace
- add north wall to slope down from the library



Please briefly explain your choices:

- Open space courtyard
- library along Parliament, footprint to mimic Consumers, prominent side on east & north, open/airy on west & south.
- cop/cill to mimic old shoreline, kids
- clear way route from Front to Distillery.



See: LANTERNTALES.DAV.UK

Please briefly explain your choices:

- STRONG PALACE FOR FRONT STREET
- EVENT SPACE CAN SPILL OUT TO ATRIUM
- THEMED MUSEUM CAN OPEN UP TO ARCHAEOLGIC (RECREATE PATHWAY OF STAIRS, THROUGH TIME) REMAINS
- PIAZZA ALLOWS FOR OPEN SPACE + PAT (BELOW GLASS FLOOR)
- NATURAL SHORELINE DRIVES CONTEXT & TIE

Heritage Interpretation Strategy - An important first step

32

First Parliament Heritage Interpretation Strategy and Master Plan Heritage Interpretation Strategy



Prepared for the **City of Toronto**

Prepared by **DTAH** Project Lead, Landscape Architecture and Urban Design

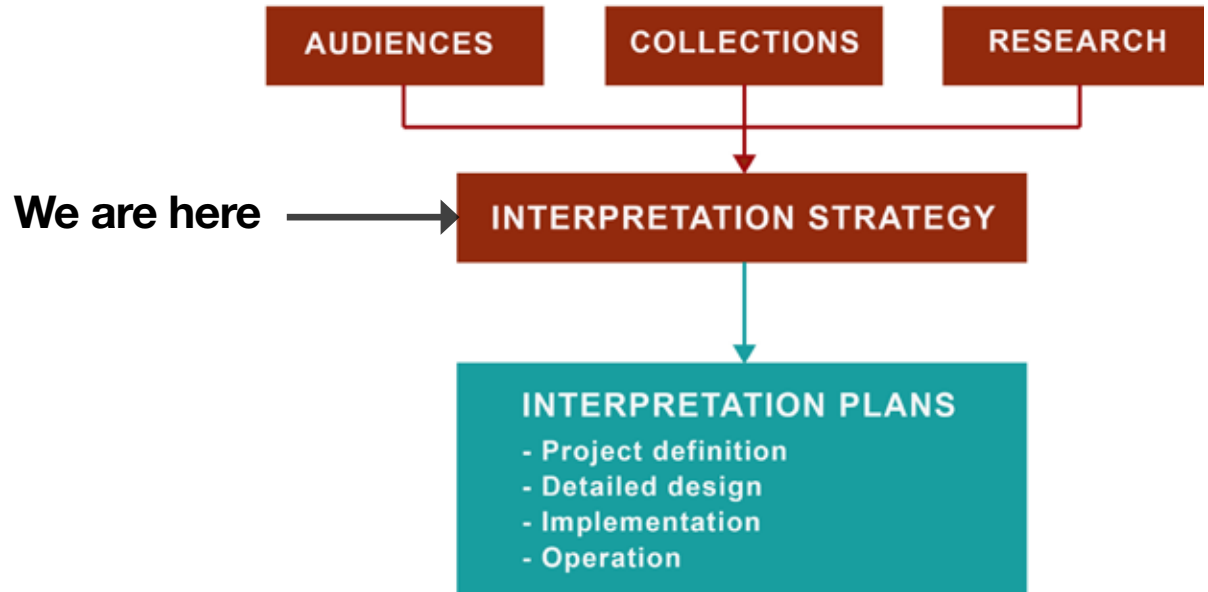
with EVOQ Architecture, Lord Cultural Services, MASS LBP, Gladki Planning Associates,
ASI, A.W. Hooker Associates

January 07, 2020



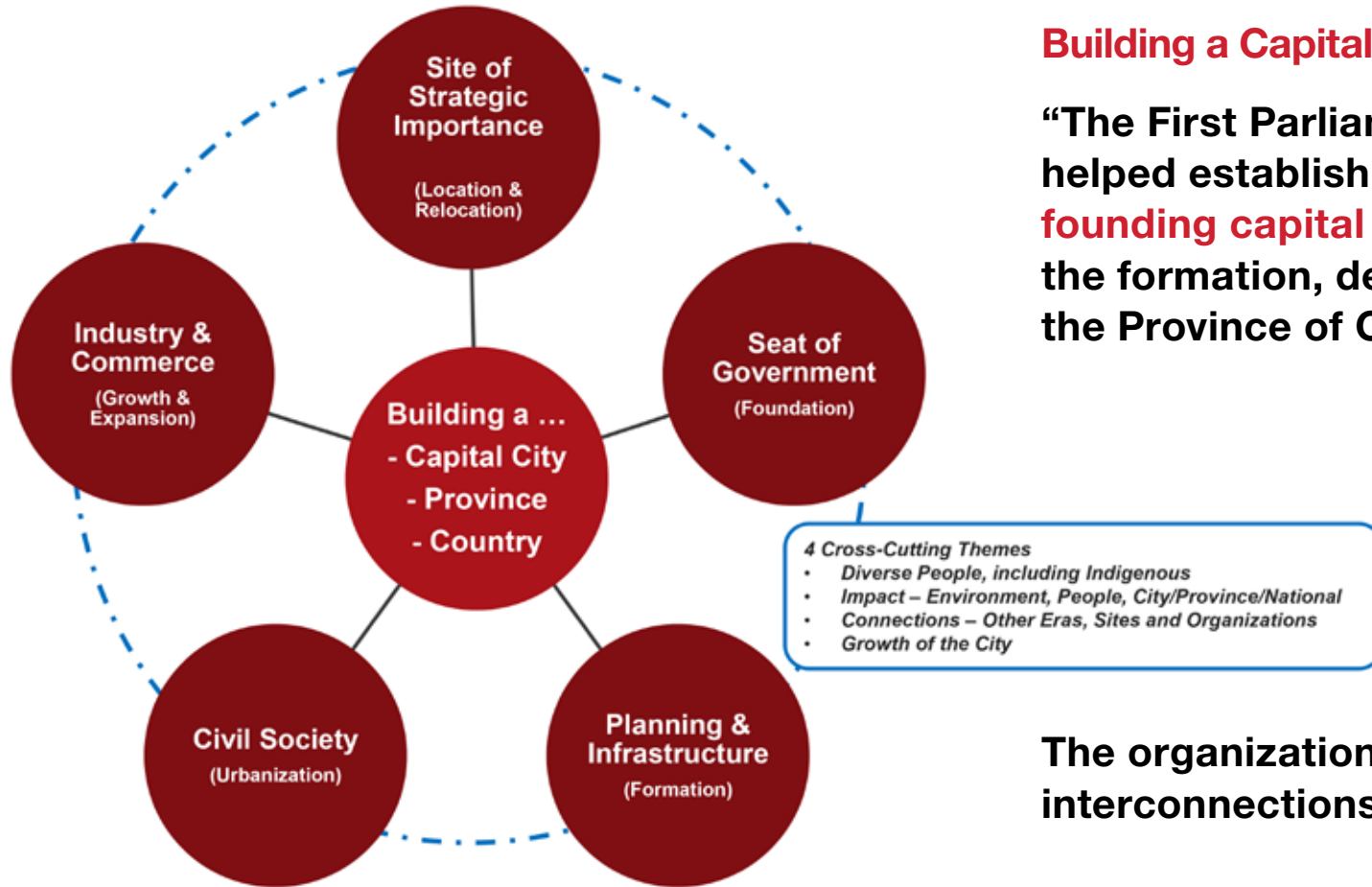
dtah

- Sets out the site's stories
- Identifies the key audiences
- Recommends an interpretation framework
- Confirms public interest and commitment



The Interpretation Framework - Setting the stage

33



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.”

The organization of the stories and their interconnections.

Creating a Master Plan - *Four Questions*

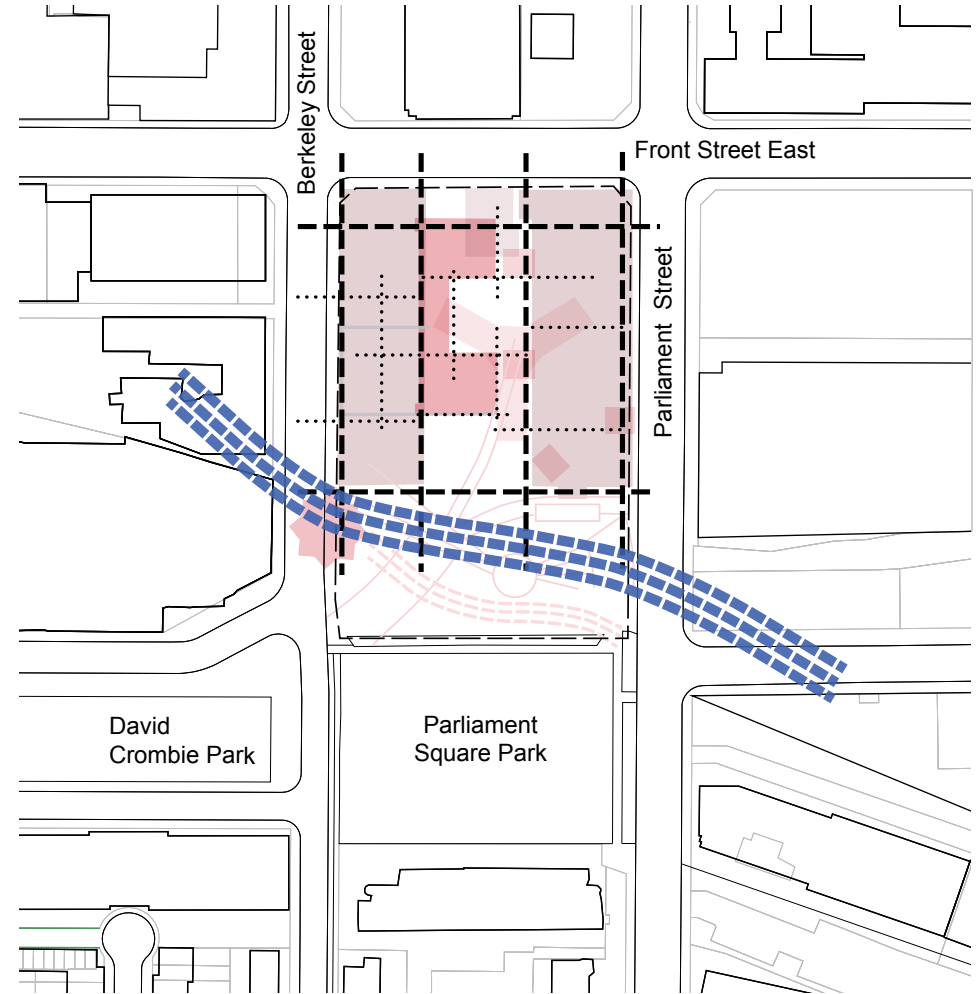
1. How do we interpret the site's heritage?
2. What other uses can the site accommodate?
3. How do we relate to the site's physical/community context?
4. What do we do about the contamination?

A Principle-based Master Plan:

35

1. Principles and Strategies:

- ***Firm direction for future planners and designers;***
- ***Flexibility to respond to evolving circumstances.***



A Principle-based Master Plan:

2. Demonstration Plan:

- *Illustrates how the principles could be realized.*



The Vision for First Parliament

37

The First Parliament site is:

An important historic site that will be protected and developed to tell its stories.

A vital public/community resource that will be developed to meet the needs of a growing resident, working and visiting population.

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



1. First Principles

38

Over-arching guidance for the development of the First Parliament site

- 1. Conserve the site's cultural heritage value and resources.**
- 2. Optimize the value of the site as an important public asset.**
- 3. Reveal the site's history through every planning move.**
- 4. Plan the site as a single entity for the long term.**
- 5. Make the site safe and comfortable for all users.**
- 6. Develop a design character that is sympathetic to the site's heritage, but contemporary and of its time.**
- 7. Collaborate with municipal and provincial stakeholders, and with Indigenous Nations, rights-holders and the general public.**

1. First Principles

39

Over-arching guidance for the development of the First Parliament site

1. **Conserve the Site's cultural heritage value and resources.**

2. Optimize the use of the site as an important public asset.

3. Reveal and celebrate the site's heritage through every planning move.

4. Plan the site to ensure its long-term identity for the long term.

5. Make the site comfortable for all users.

- ***Safeguard***
- ***Protect***
- ***Interpret***
- ***Celebrate***

6. Develop a design character that is sympathetic to the site's heritage, but contemporary and of its time.

7. Collaborate with municipal and provincial stakeholders, and with Indigenous Nations, rights-holders and the general public.

1. First Principles

40

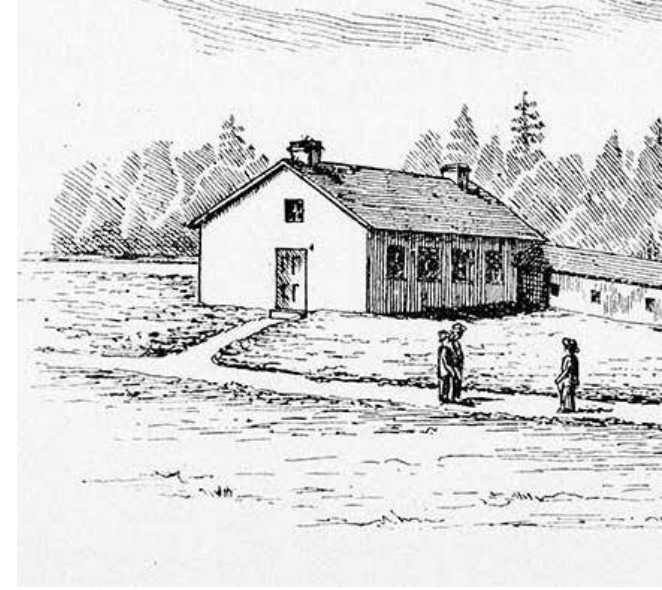
Over-arching guidance for the development of the First Parliament site

1. Conserve the site's cultural heritage value and resources.
- 2. Optimize the value of the site as an important public asset.**
3. Reveal the site's history through every planning move
4. Plan the site to be a vibrant public space, but
5. Make the site a vibrant public space, but
6. Develop the site to be a vibrant public space, but
7. Collaborate with municipal and provincial stakeholders, and with Indigenous Nations, rights-holders and the general public.

- ***A vibrant centre of public celebration and activity***
- ***A neighbourhood meeting place***
- ***A landmark in the City and Province***
- ***Supportable and sustainable***

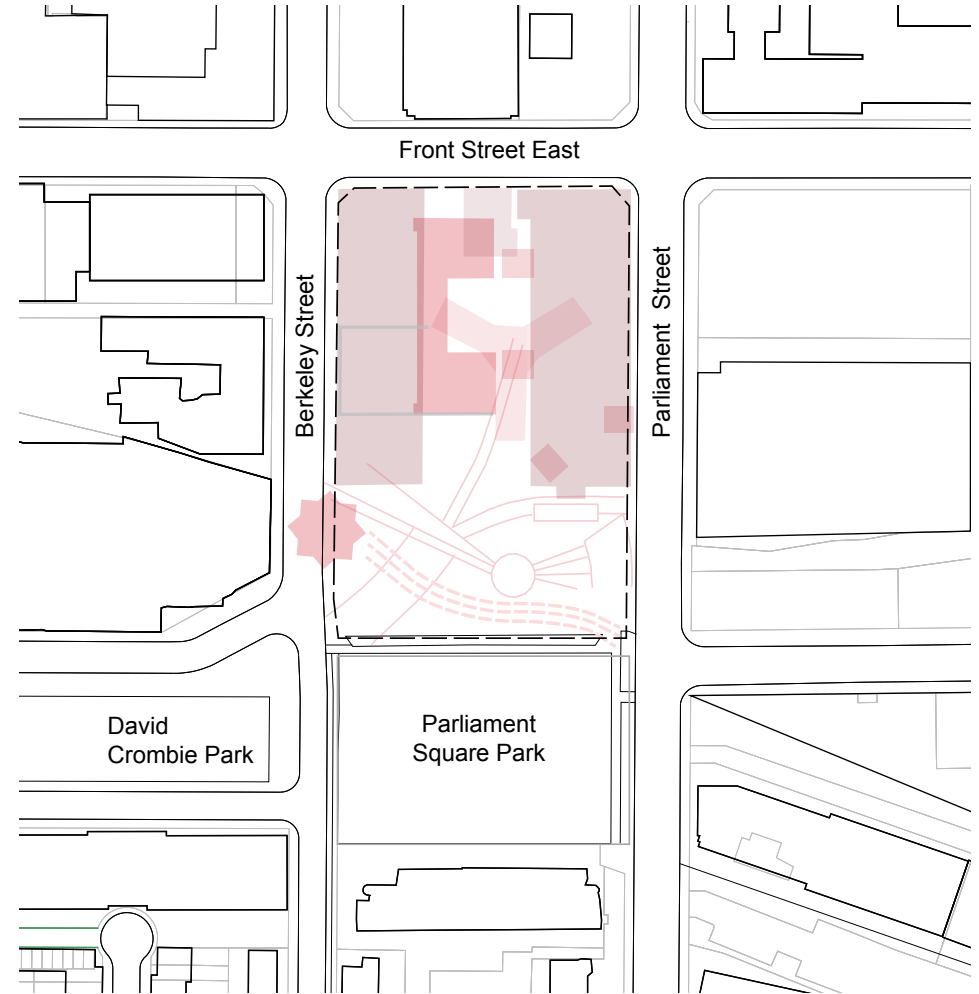
Planning Strategies

*Specific, site-related guidance
for the development of the First
Parliament site*



Strategy 1 - Reveal all layers of history

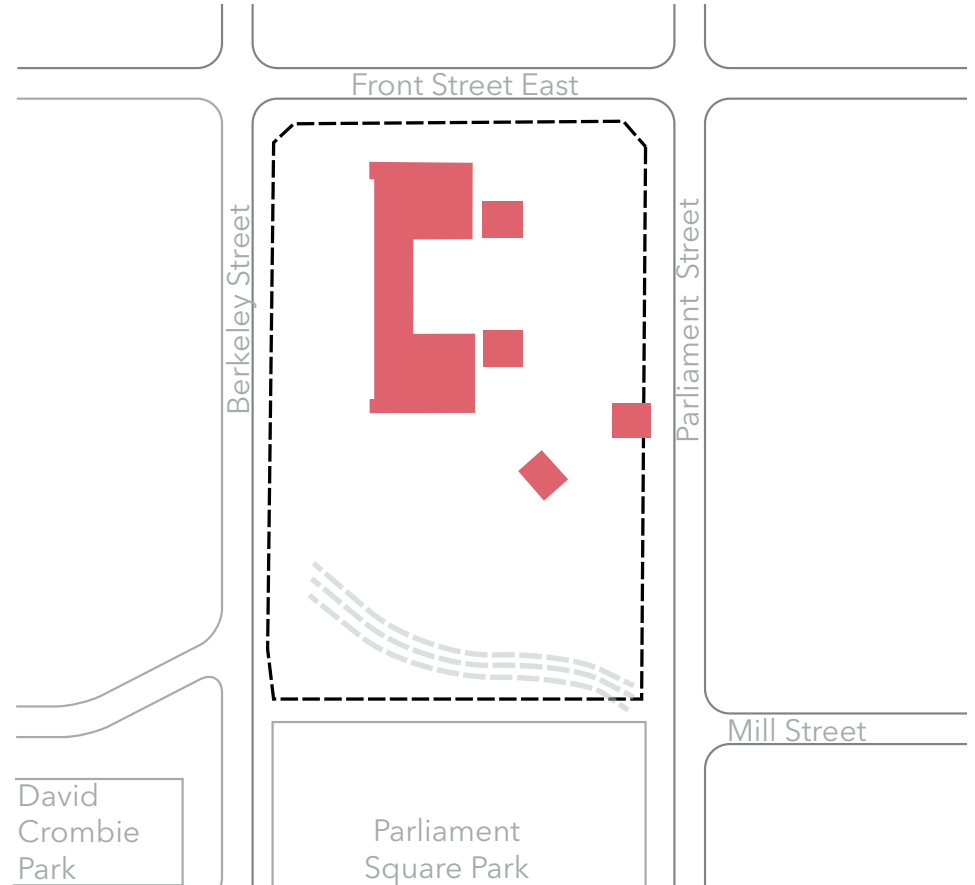
42



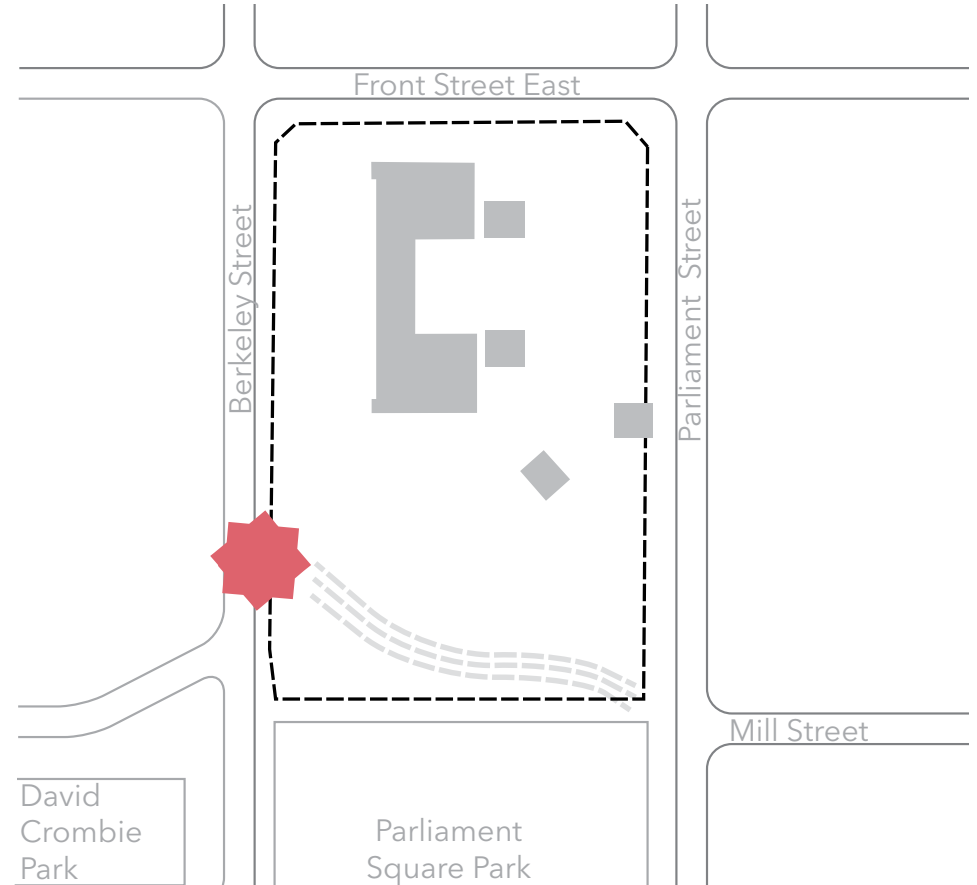
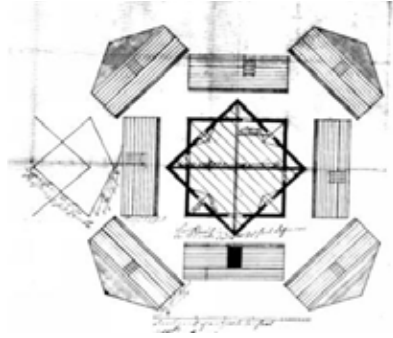
Natural History and Indigenous Presence - the historic shoreline



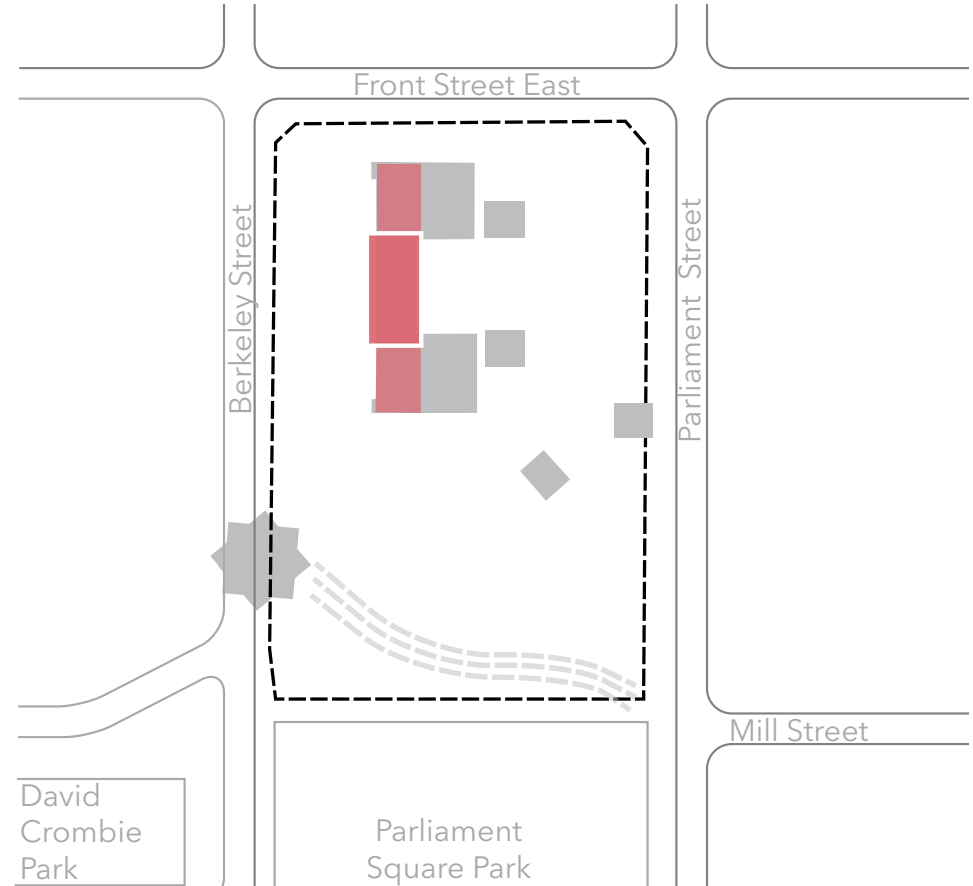
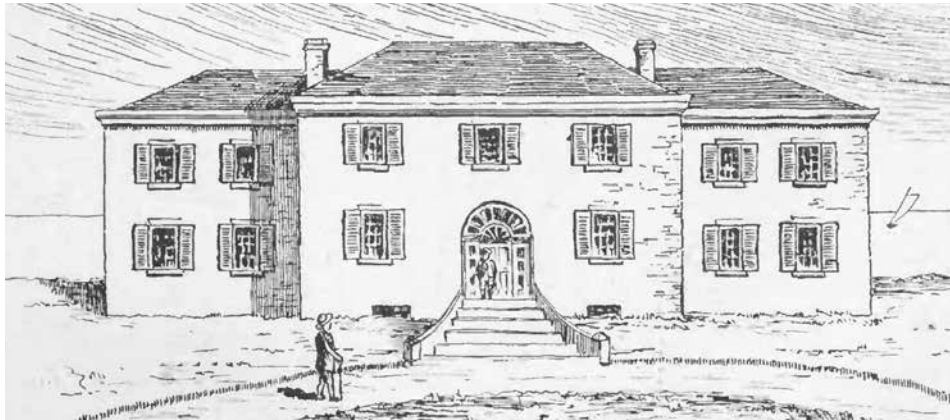
First Parliament (1794 to 1820)



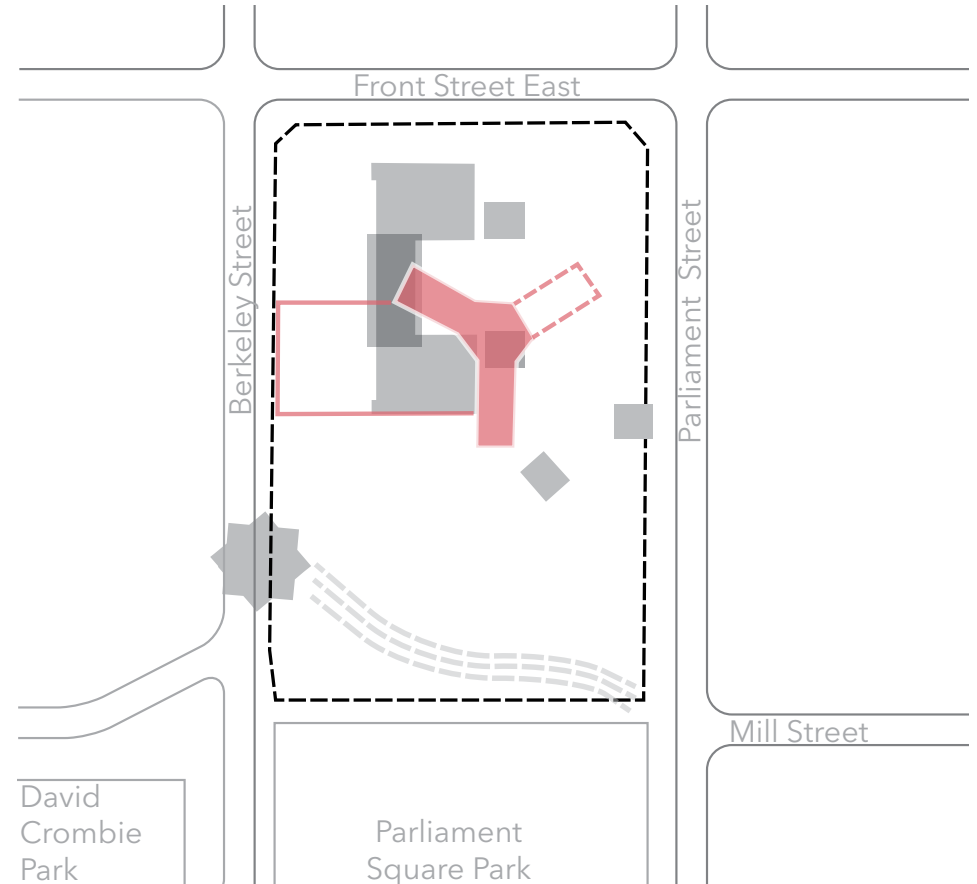
The Town Blockhouse (1798)



Second Parliament (1820-1824)



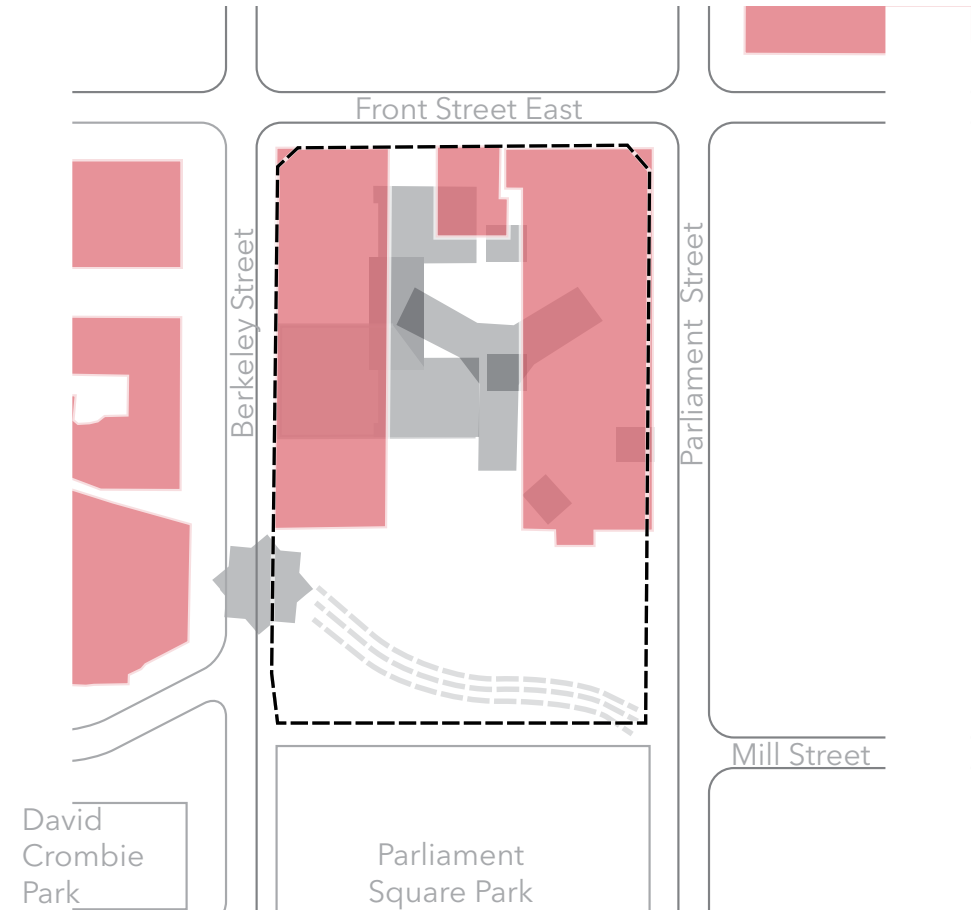
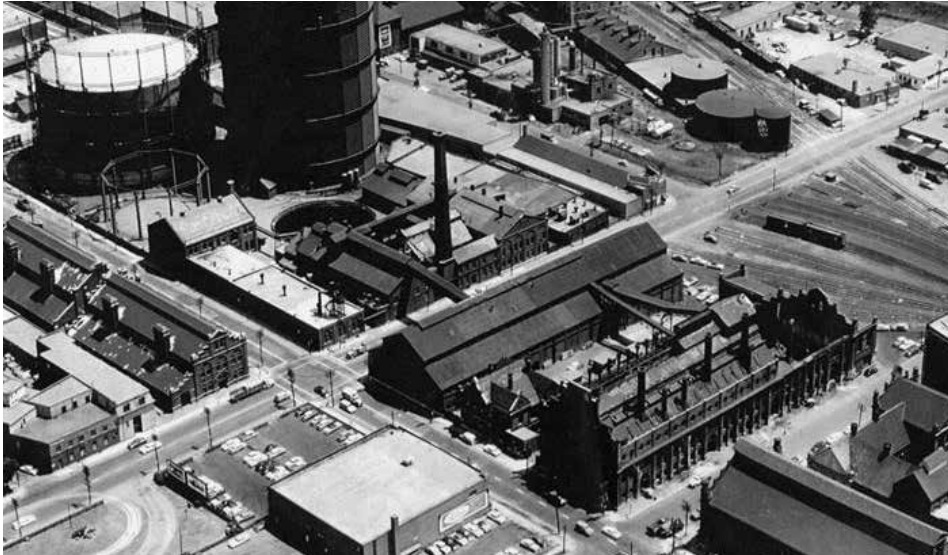
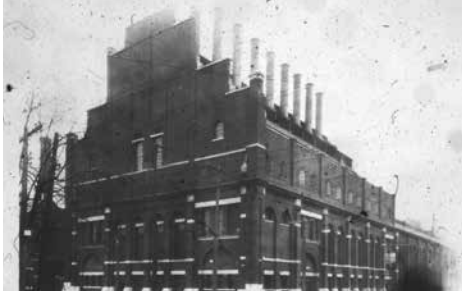
Home District Gaol (1837-1864)



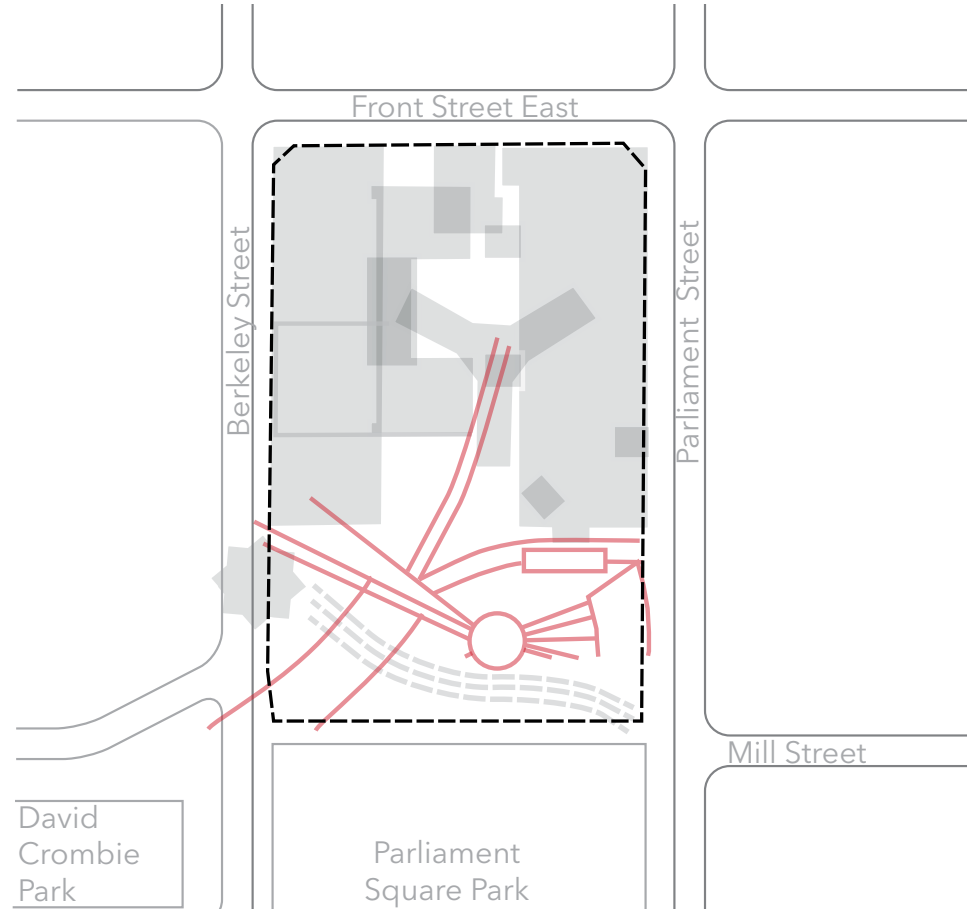
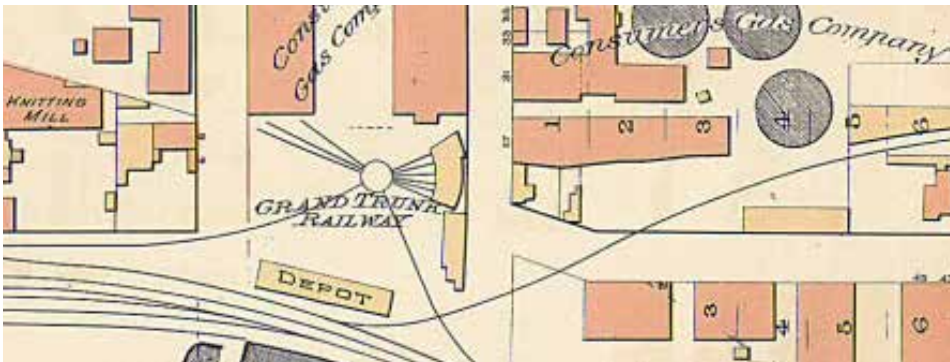
Strategy 1 - Reveal all layers of history

Consumers' Gas Co. (1879 to 1955)

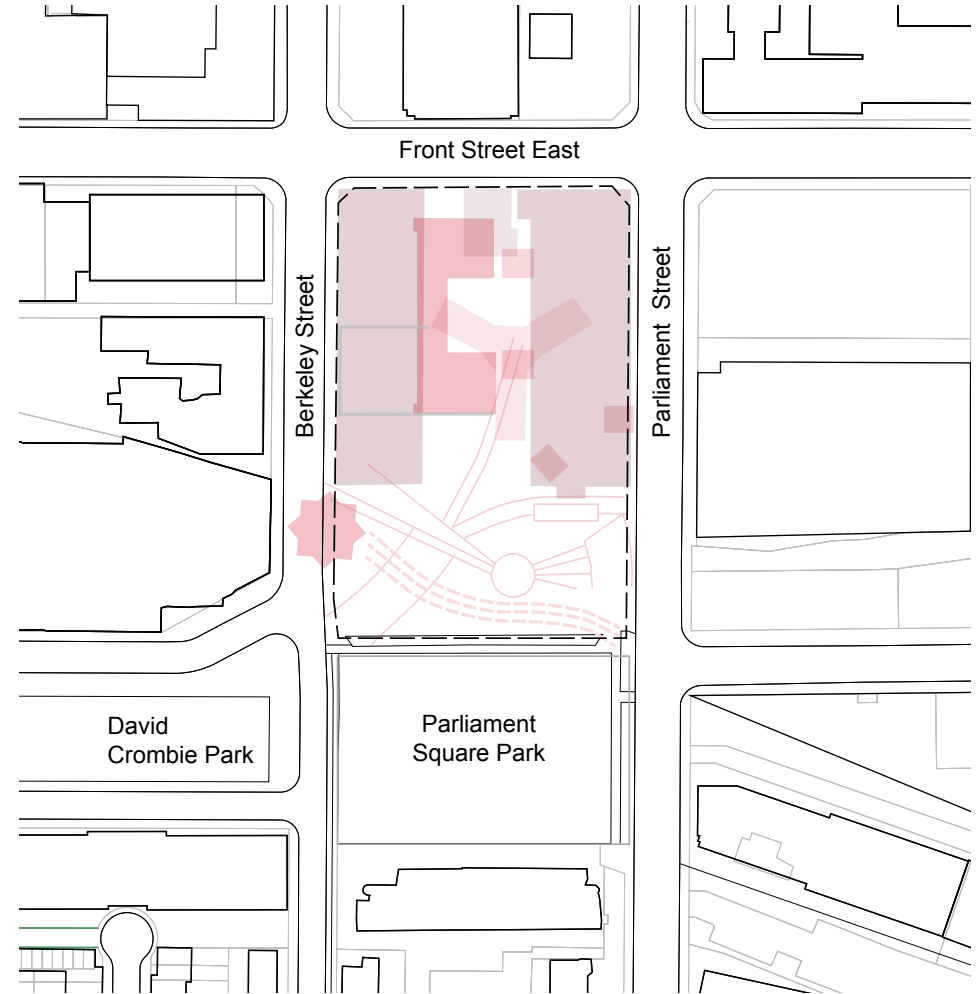
48



Railways (1850s to 1970s)

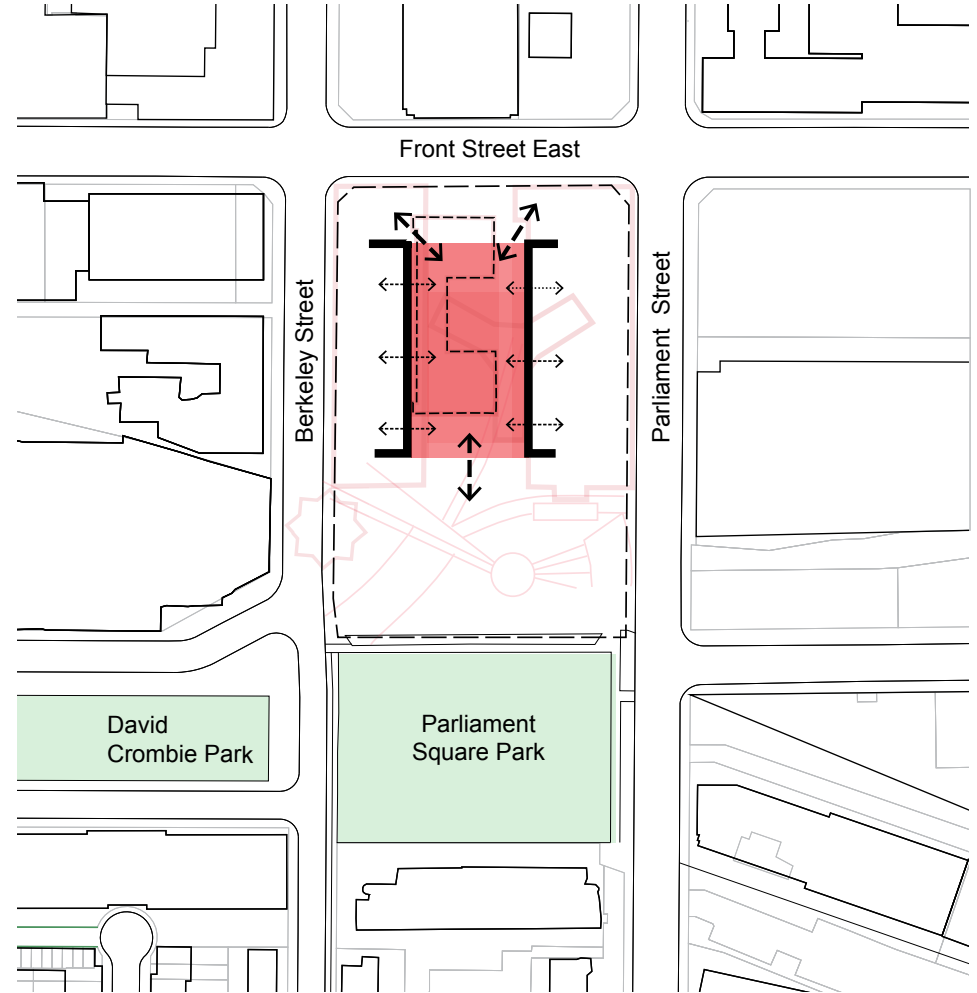


Composite Historical Layering



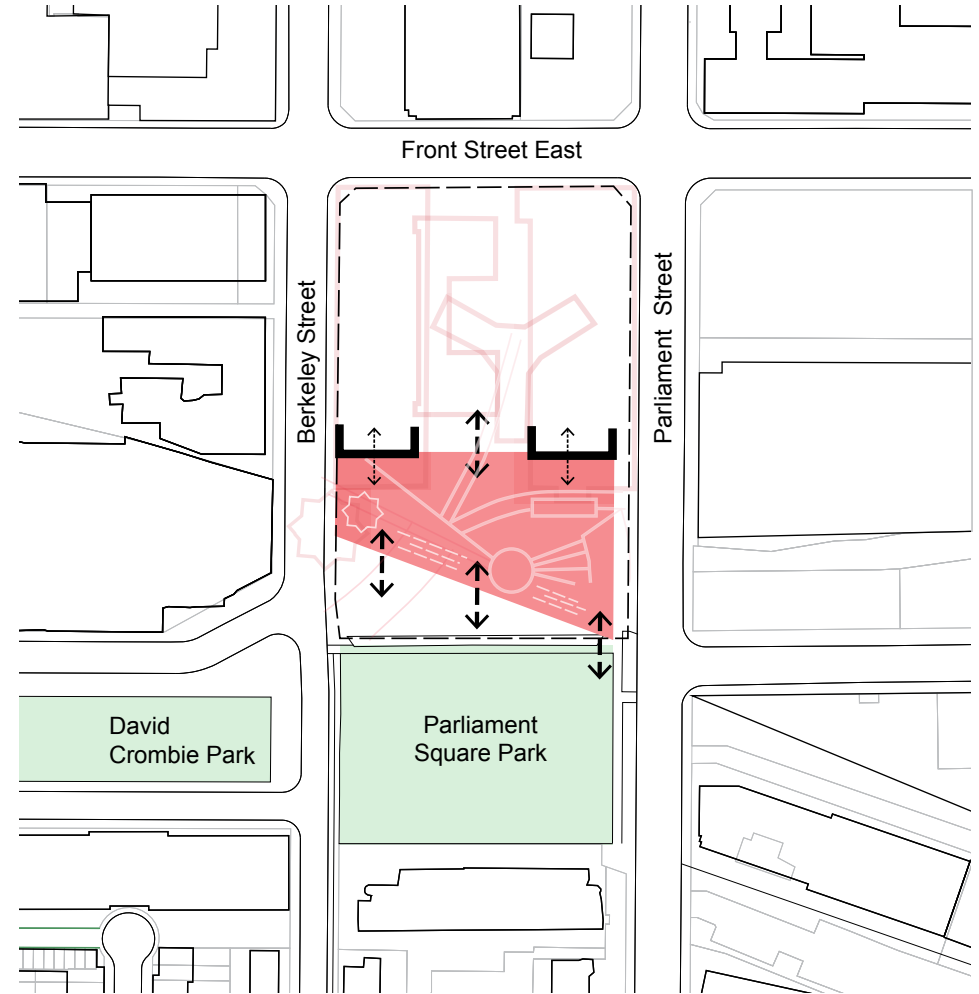
Strategy 2 - Create and protect a Parliament Square

51



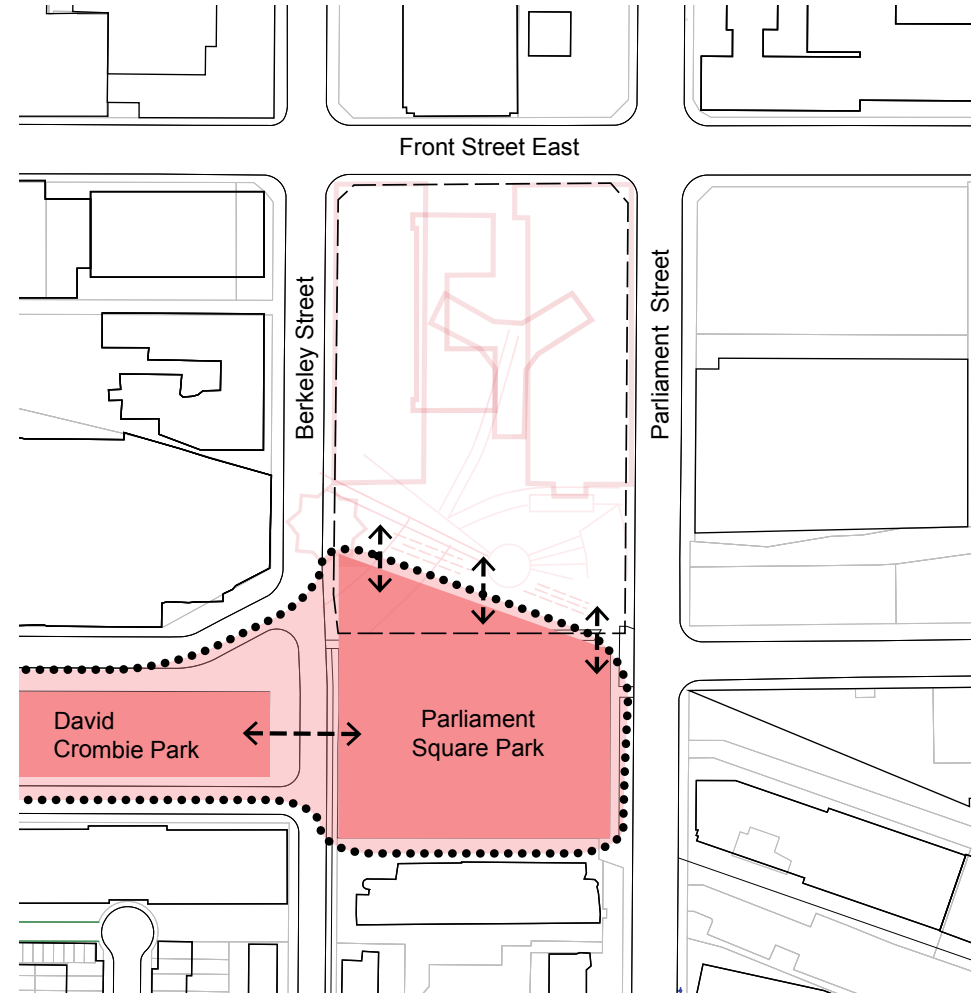
Strategy 3 - Develop a Lakeshore Park

52



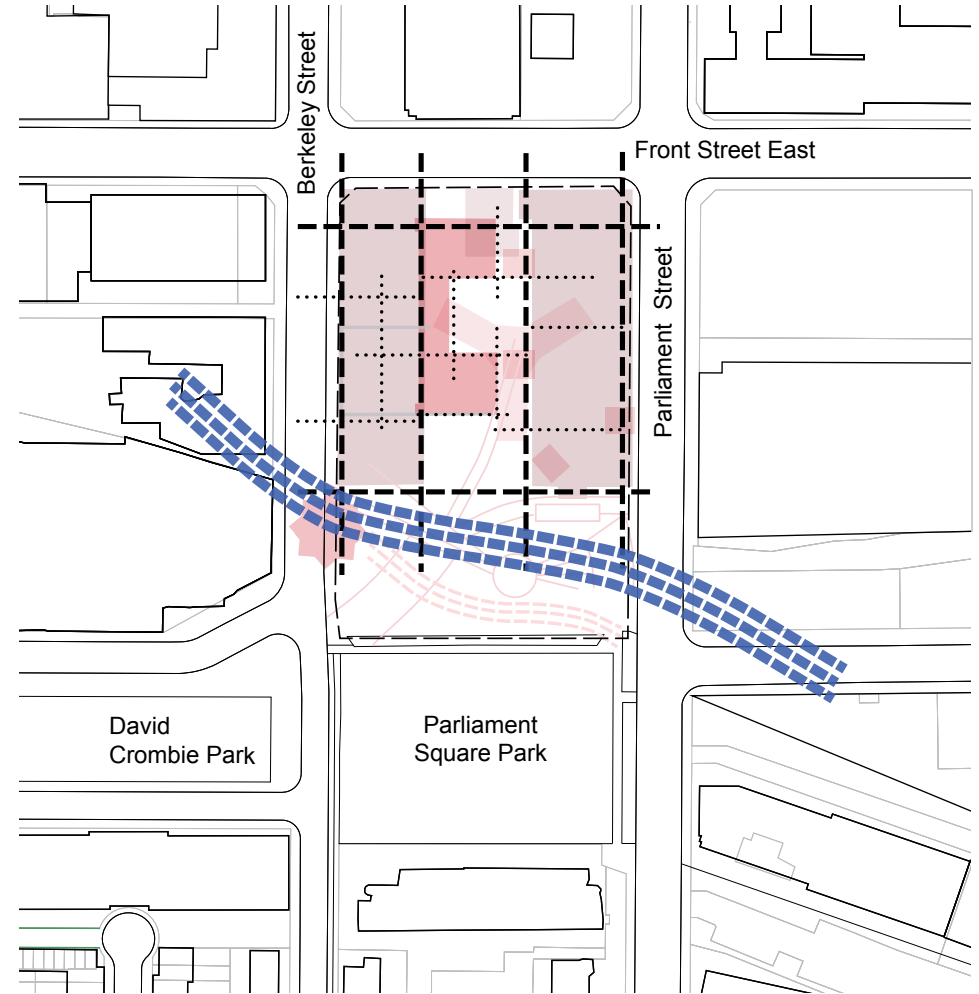
Strategy 4 - Connect to David Crombie Park

53



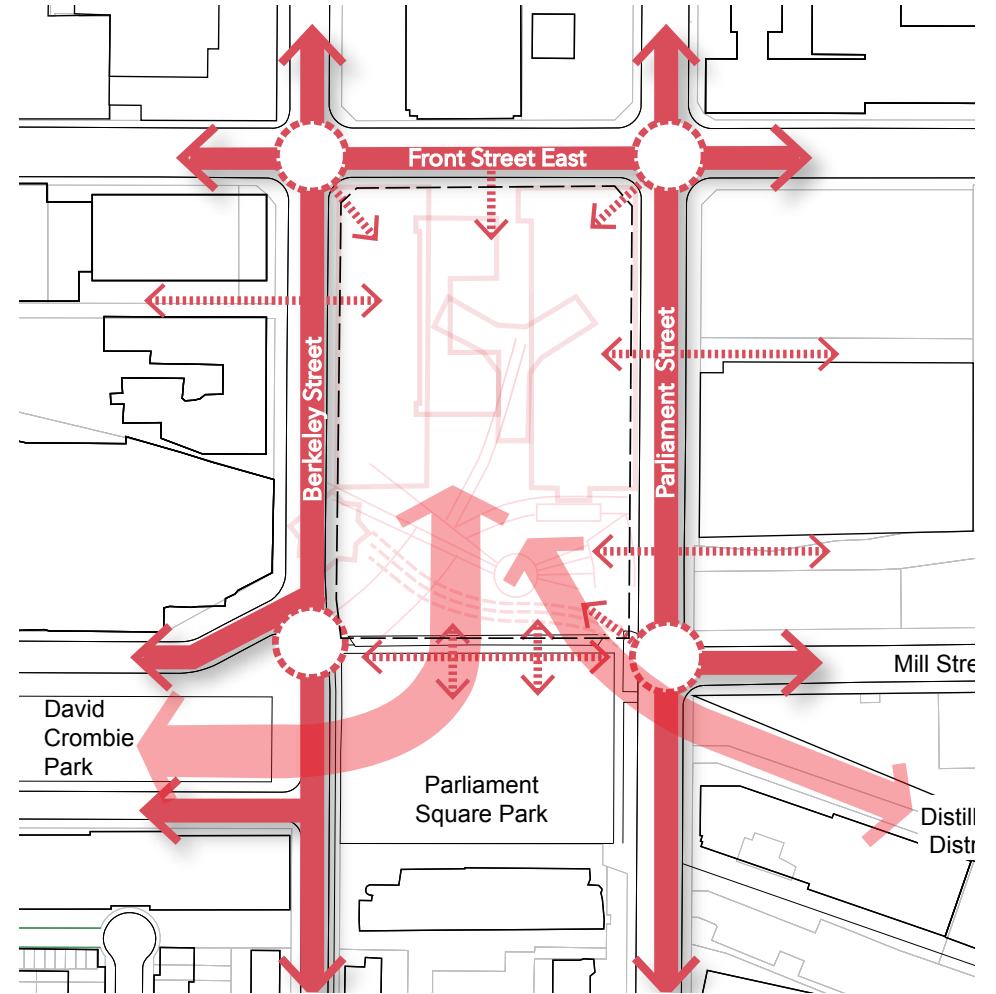
Strategy 5 - Respect the Historic Natural and Built Geometries

54



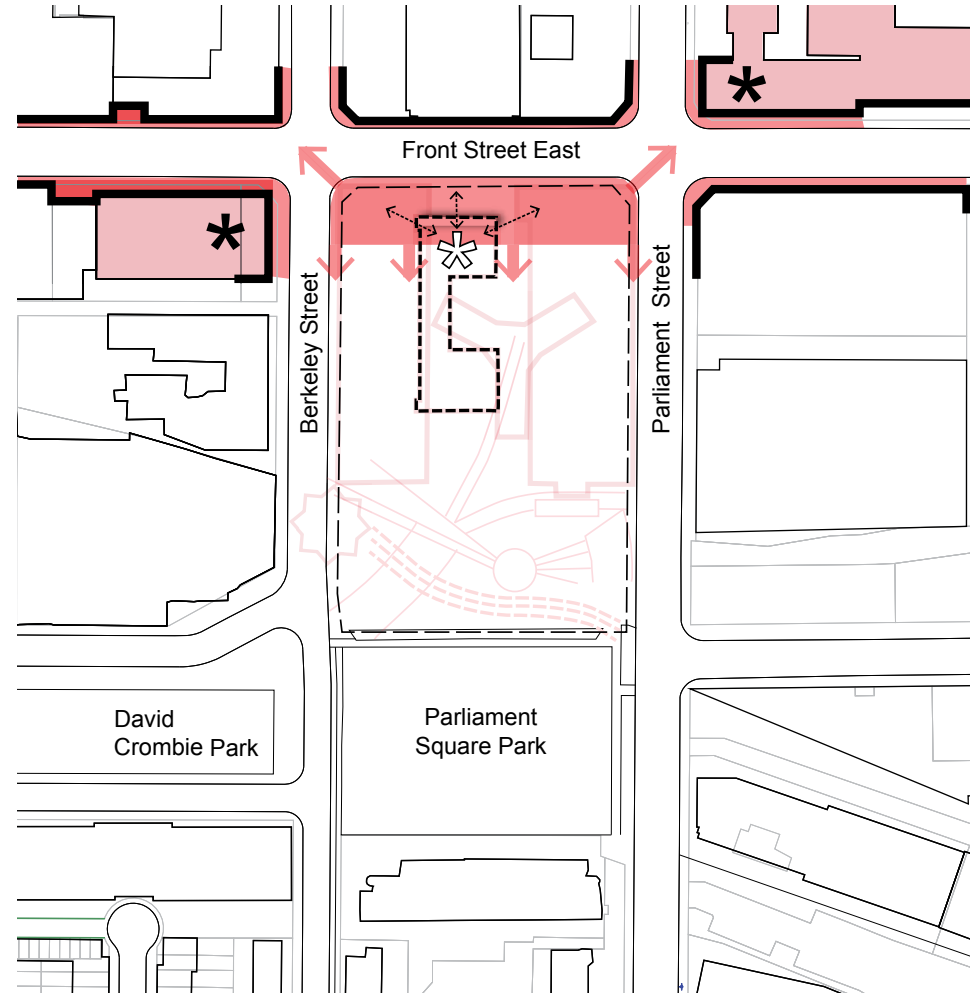
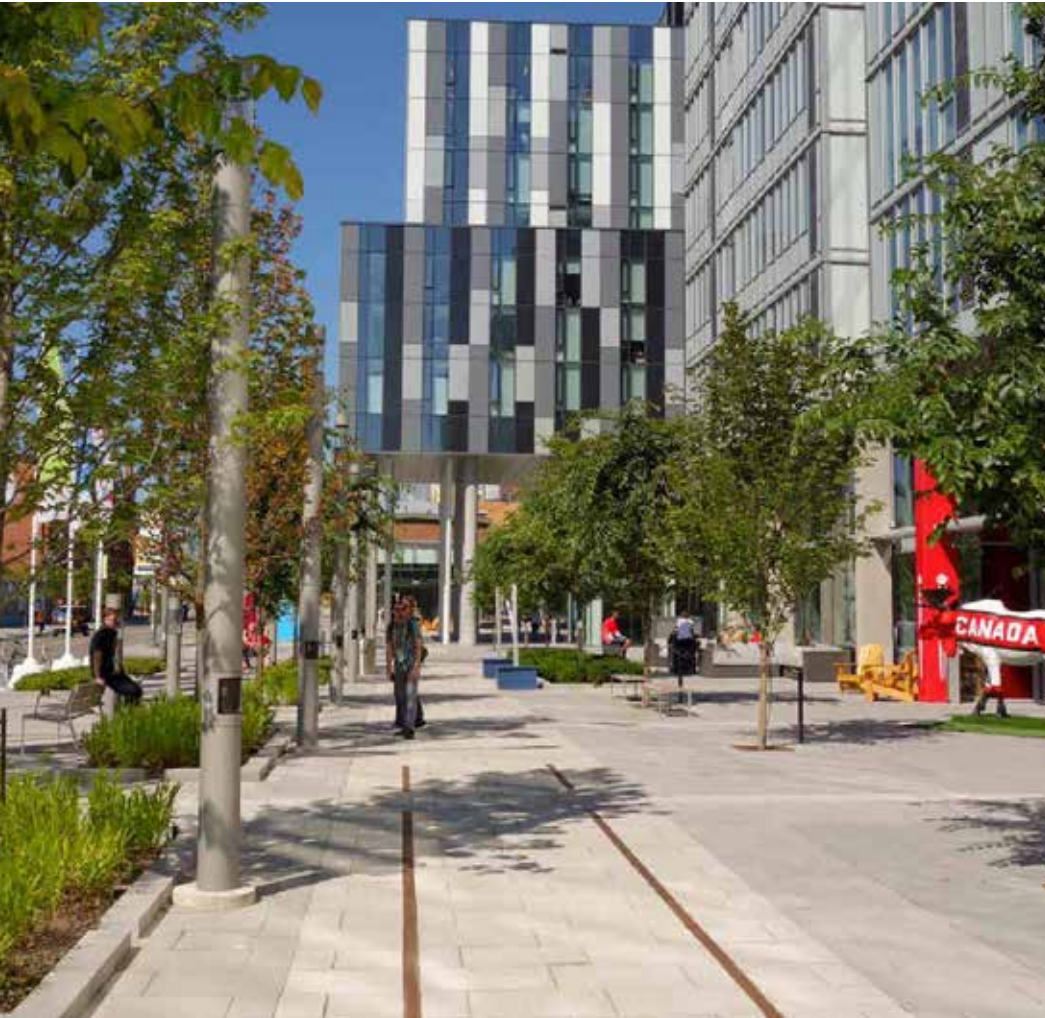
Strategy 6 - Optimize Connectivity

55



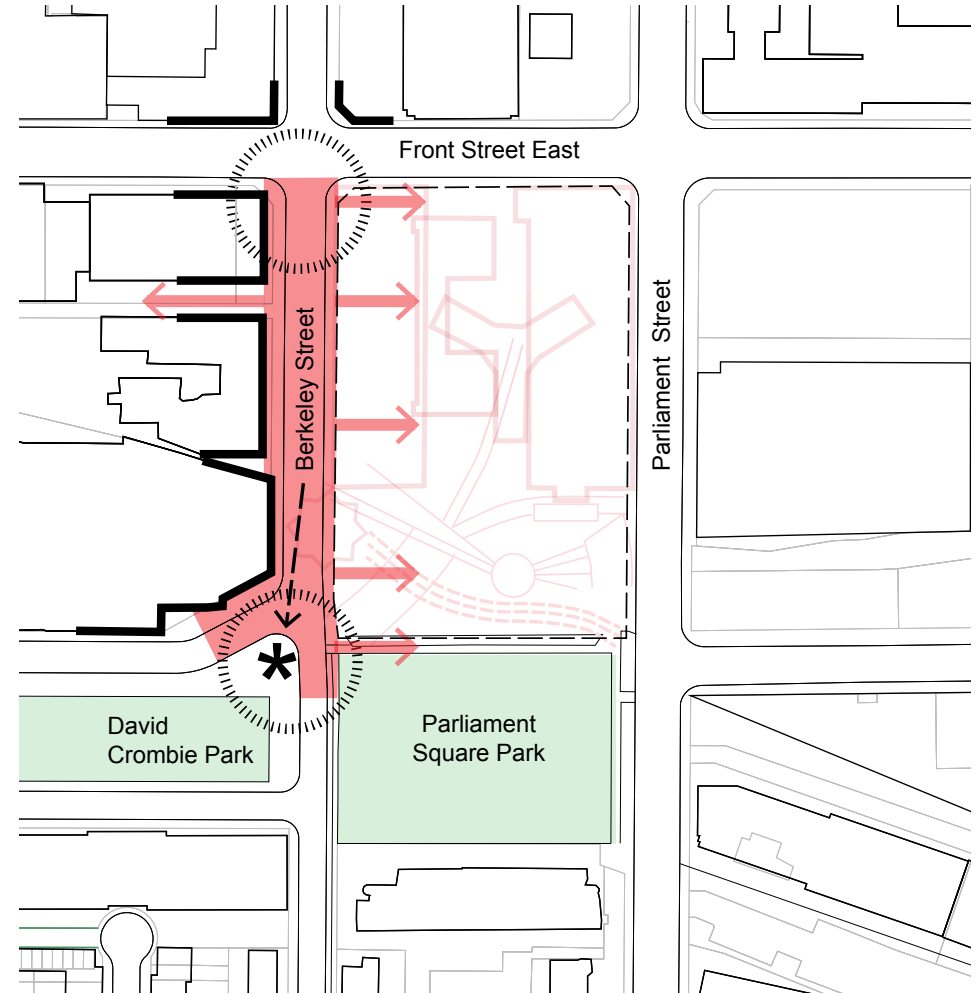
Strategy 7 - Create a strong address on Front Street

56



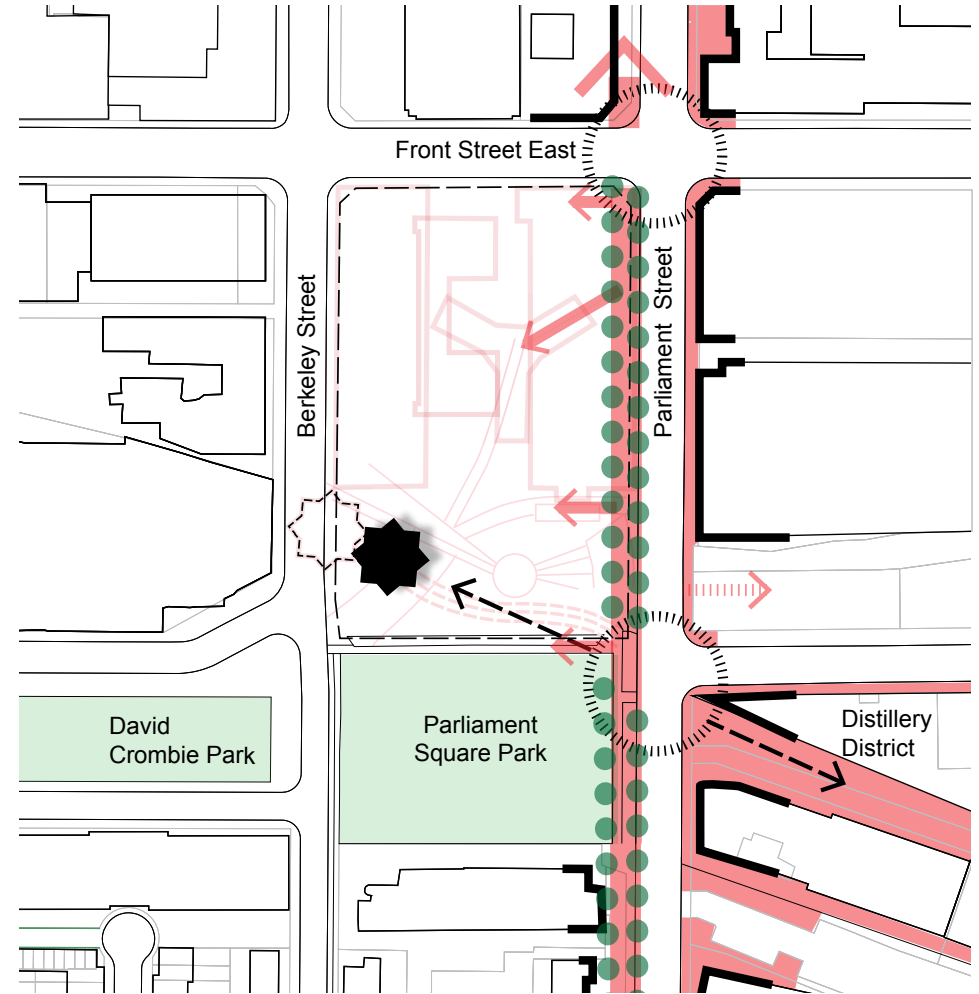
Strategy 8 - Develop a Berkeley Place

57



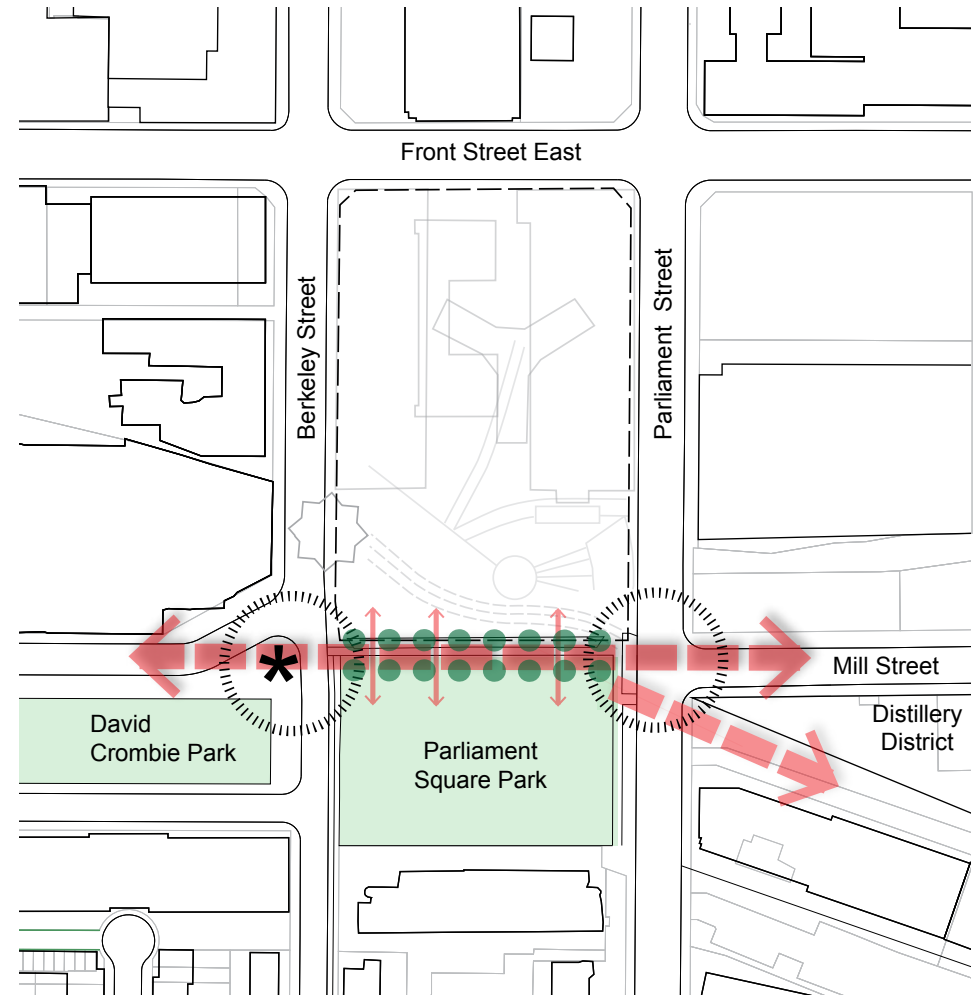
Strategy 9 - Create a Great Parliament Street

58



Strategy 10 - Extend the Pedestrian/Cyclist Esplanade

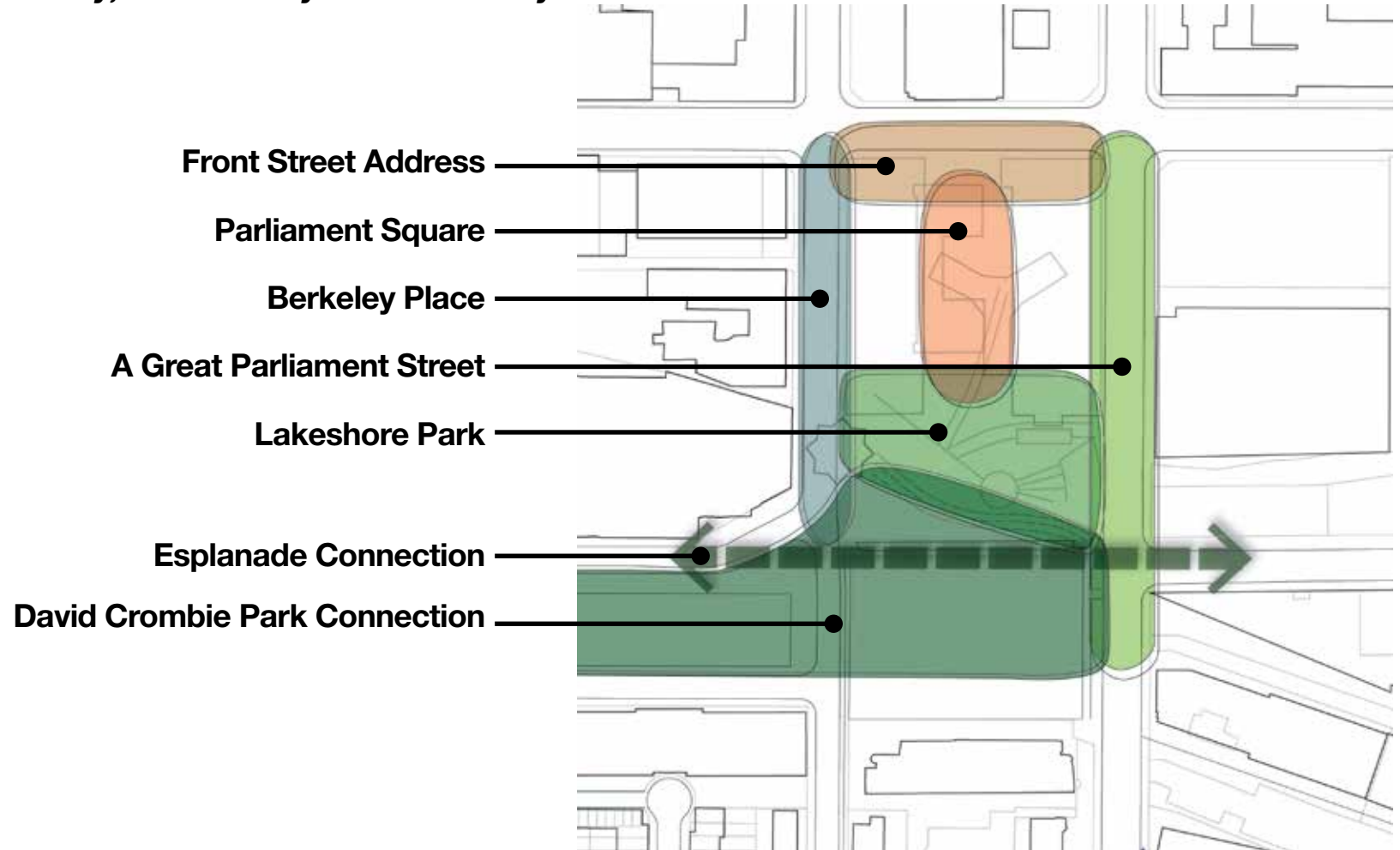
59



Strategy 11 - A Complete Public Realm Framework

60

Owned by the Community; controlled by the Community



Strategy 11 - A Complete Public Realm Framework

61

Demonstration Plan

A public, community place:

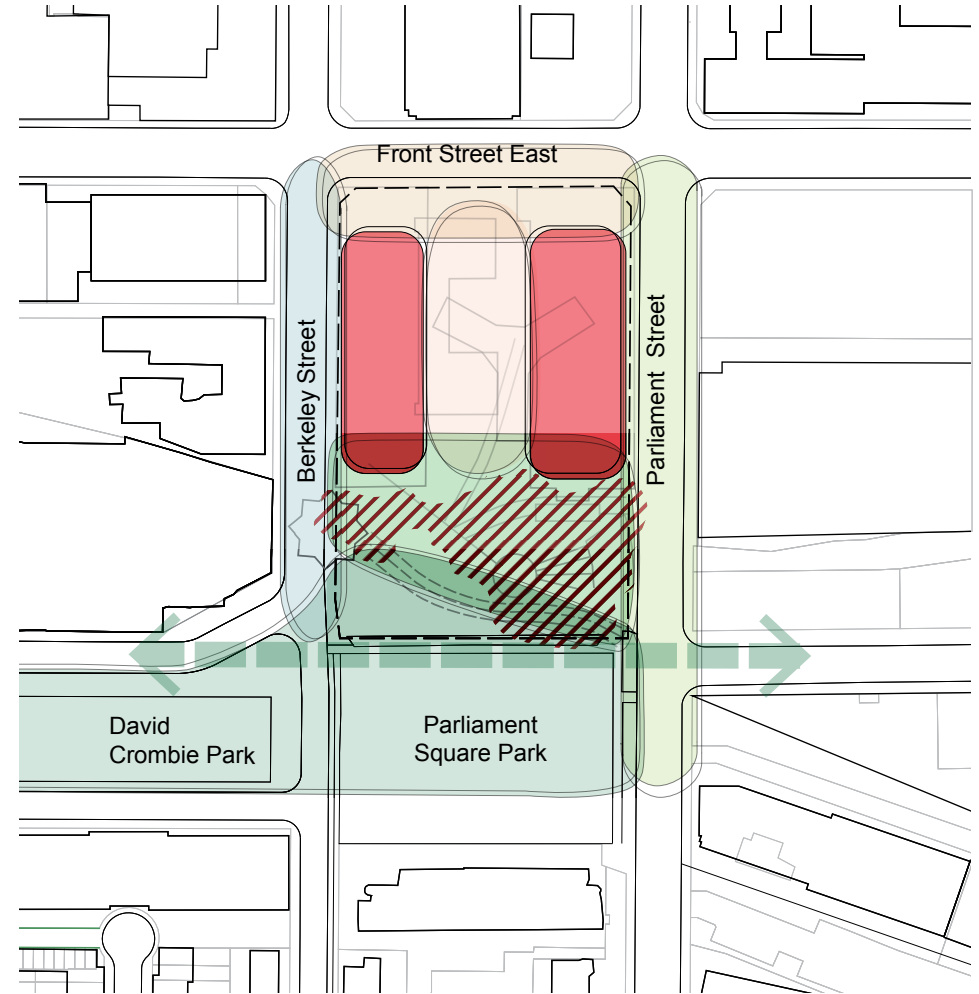
- Heritage interpretation
- Community celebration
- Cultural expression
- Recreation
- Contemplation
- Meeting
- Relaxing
- Living
- Serving



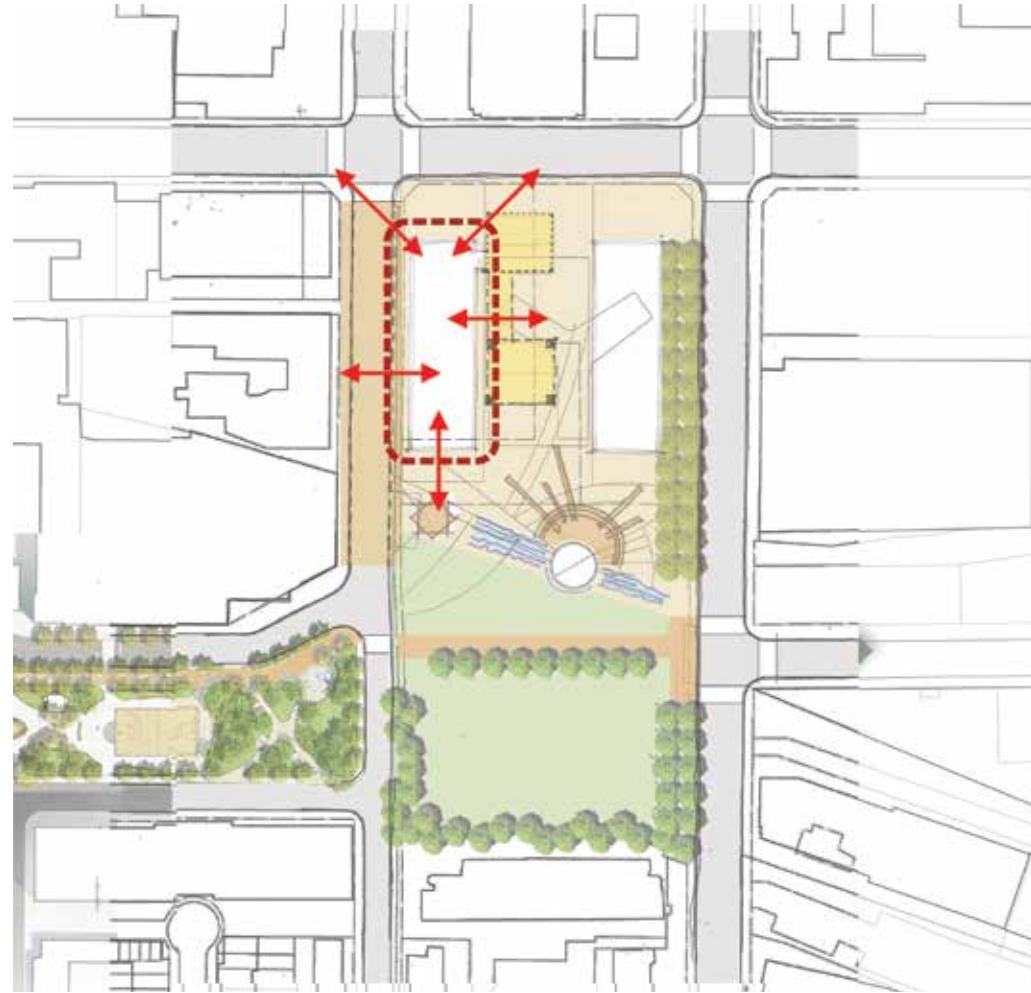
Strategy 12 - Provide community-driven built-form

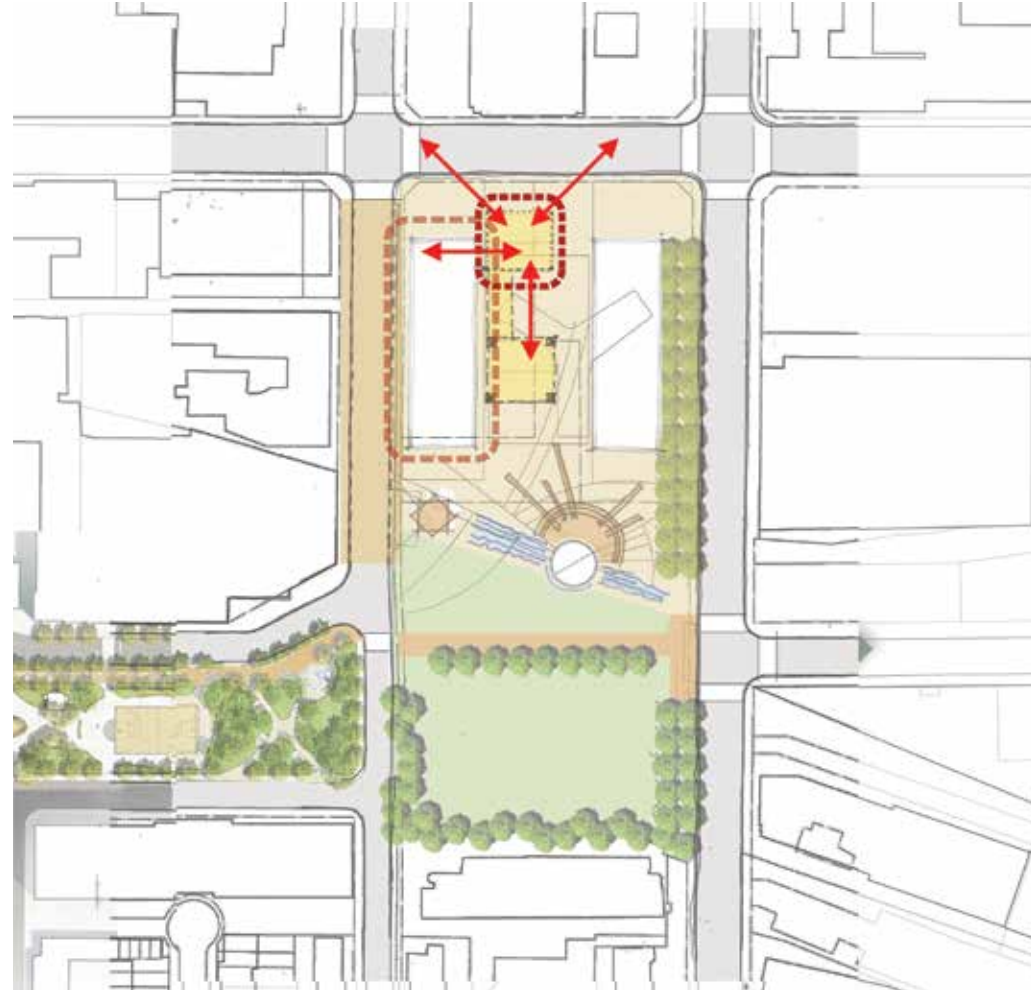
62

Locate built-form and plan it to support the essential public realm.



What built-form uses are appropriate and necessary?





Other Community-oriented Built-form Uses

66



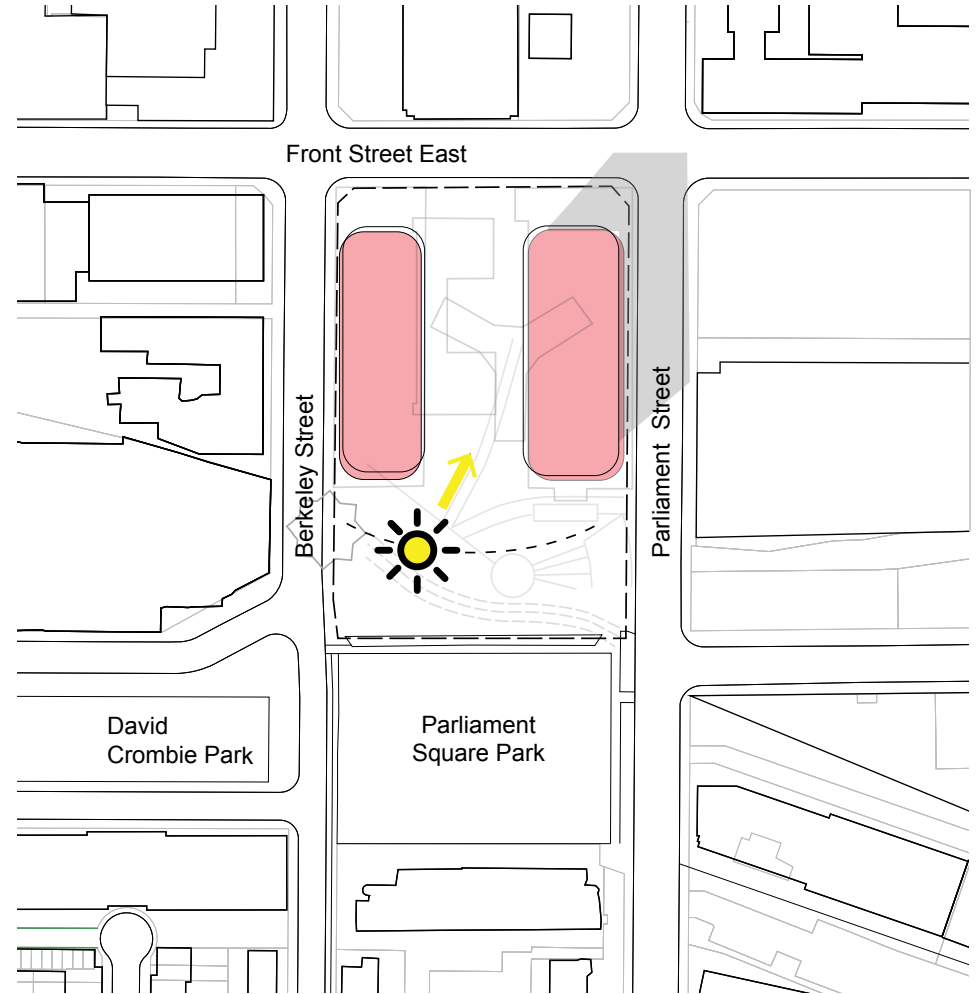
- **Affordable Housing (Confirmed)**

Other possibilities:

- **Community and Social Services**
- **Food Security Options**
- **Indigenous Services**
- **Educational Opportunities**
- **Community Recreation**
- **Other?**

Strategy 13 - Provide appropriately-scaled built form

67



West Built-form - Low-rise Format

68



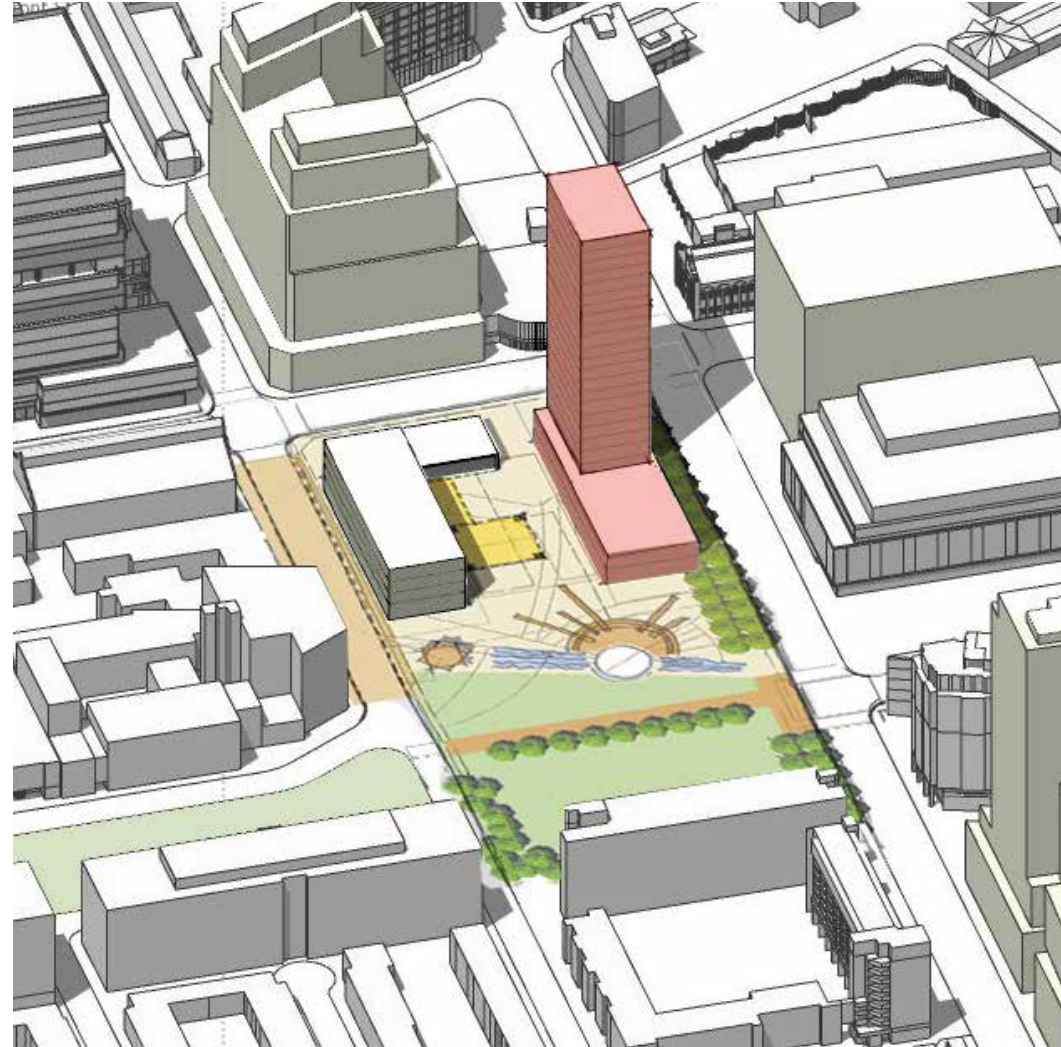
East Built-form - Mid-rise Format

69

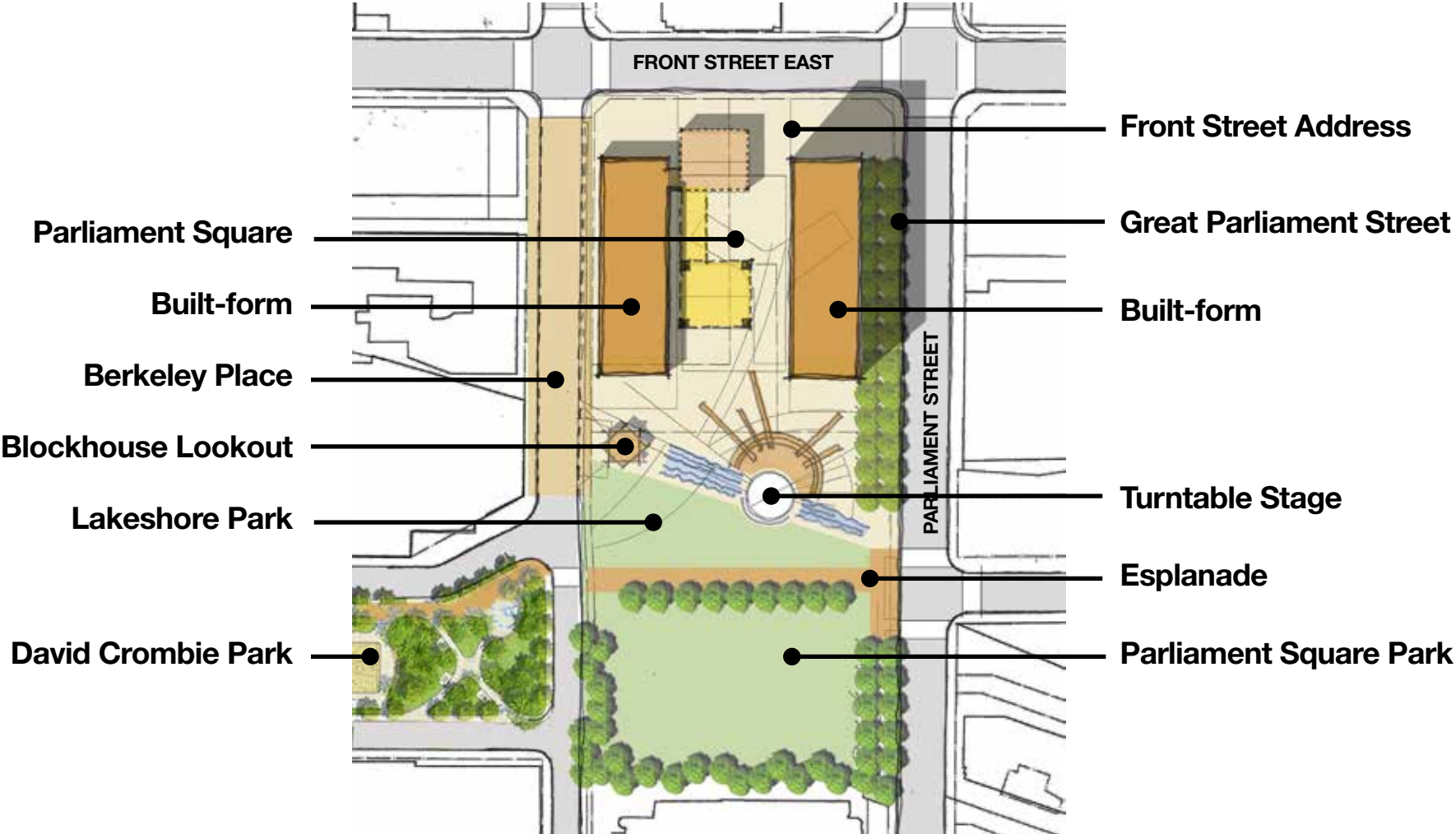


East Built-form - Tower Format

70



Demonstration Plan - Key Elements



How will the Strategy and Plan be used?

72

Heritage Interpretation Strategy:

- Based on a deep understanding of the site's heritage values and attributes, the Strategy will guide the development of a comprehensive heritage interpretation program for the First Parliament site.

The Master Plan:

- With deep community support, the Master Plan will guide the detailed planning and design of the First Parliament site, and will serve as the means of evaluating each step of the process.

This is ***your*** Plan!

Thank you

