



## Toronto Island Park Master Plan

# Combined CAC/TAC Workshop Meeting Summary

July 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021, 6:00 – 8:30 PM  
Via Zoom

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### Overview

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On Tuesday, July 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021, the City of Toronto's Parks, Forestry and Recreation Division (PFR) hosted a combined workshop with the Community Advisory Committee (CAC) and Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) for the Toronto Island Park Master Plan. The Combined Workshop was part of the City's iterative engagement approach to developing Big Ideas in Phase II of the Master Plan engagement process.

Over 30 participants attended the combined workshop, including representatives from fourteen on-island and waterfront organizations, city-wide organizations, Indigenous communities, as well as representatives from several City divisions and partner organizations. From the project team, representatives from the City of Toronto's PFR Division attended along with members of their consultant Design Team (DTAH), Business Strategy Team (fsSTRATEGY), and Engagement Team

(Swerhun Inc. and Nbisiing Consulting) – see Appendix A for the full participant list. In addition to the CAC and TAC, the City engaged several other audiences about the Big Ideas in Phase II:

- elders and knowledge keepers from the Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation through a dialogue on July 15;
- the broader public through a Big Ideas online engagement in June and a Public Big Ideas Workshop on July 21; and,
- equity-deserving audiences through Youth Ambassador led engagement in August.

PFR's intent with the combined workshop was to involve CAC and TAC members in a collective analysis effort, asking participants to review and prioritize 130 Big Ideas (see Appendix C), including ideas suggested by the public in the Big Ideas online engagement and preliminary ideas developed by the Design Team. PFR combined the CAC and TAC for this meeting to give both groups the opportunity to listen to each other's perspectives.

Lori Ellis, Senior Project Coordinator with City, opened the meeting with a land acknowledgement. Following the land acknowledgement, Bob Goulais of Nbisiing Consulting shared an Indigenous teaching moment, speaking to the importance of ceremony in Indigenous ways of knowing and culture. The project team then shared an overview presentation covering the Master Plan process, Phase I outcomes, and a summary of ideas from other parks. Participants asked plenary questions of clarification and then joined one of four breakout rooms, where, in about an hour, a technical team member provided an overview of between 20 and 30 Big Ideas (as grouped under the Master Plan's Guiding Principles by PFR engagement staff) and a facilitator helped steward and document discussion using a virtual whiteboard. The discussion focused on participants' thoughts on which Big Ideas to prioritize as short term "must haves," medium term "should haves," or longer term "nice to haves." Participants also offered advice on how to make the Big Ideas a reality and other feedback about the Big Ideas. See Appendix B for the meeting agenda.

This meeting summary is structured by the following sections:

- Key themes
- Detailed summary of feedback
  - Questions of clarification

- Breakout Rooms - Big Ideas Discussions
  - Environment
  - Visitor Experience
  - Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
  - History, Culture, and Storytelling
- Next steps

This summary was written by Swerhun Inc. It is not intended to be a verbatim transcript, rather it summarizes key points shared during the meeting. Participants reviewed a draft of this summary before it was finalized.

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## Key themes

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The summary points below reflect key overall themes that emerged throughout the discussion and are intended to be read along with the more detailed feedback received during the breakout sessions that follows in Section 3 of this report.

- **Overall, the Master Plan is on the right track.** Participants said they liked the way the project team was thinking about Toronto Island Park, particularly the Big Ideas.
- **Protecting the park's natural environment remains a priority.** Participants said the protection of Toronto Island Park is very important, prioritizing Big Ideas around limiting waste, protecting and expanding Environmentally Sensitive areas, and making sure planning of events and access to the park are informed by an understanding of its carrying capacity.
- **Continued support for Indigenous placekeeping.** As with previous CAC and TAC meetings, participants were very supportive of the project team's focus on Indigenous placekeeping. They prioritized Big Ideas around bringing Indigenous place names to Toronto Island Park, establishing an Indigenous Cultural Hub, and identifying spaces for ceremony, gathering, and cultural use.
- **The Master Plan needs to consider equity,** including by recognizing and protecting Hanlan's Point Beach as a significant LGBTQ2S+ space and addressing financial barriers to visiting the Island.

- **Differing opinions on making it easier for more people to visit the Island.**  
Participants shared differing opinions about improving physical connections to the Island, both in terms of whether making it easier for more people to visit should be a goal at all (since more people visiting could lead to additional stress on the Island's delicate eco-system) and if/how physical connections could be improved (with suggestions ranging from using the existing pedestrian tunnel to improving ferry service to building a bridge).
- **Improving what's already there is important.** Participants prioritized Big Ideas that focused on enhancing existing facilities and infrastructure, perfecting what is already working well as well as making it easier to get around with better wayfinding and improved cell service.

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## Detailed summary feedback

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This section summarizes questions, suggestions, and comments participants shared, both after the overview presentation and in the final, concluding plenary. Where provided, responses from the project team follow in *italics*.

### Questions of clarification

**Where did the ten guiding principles come from?** *The Master Plan team said the principles were developed, in part, through previous rounds of engagement. They are not final, and the project team is open to feedback about them.*

**Why doesn't the Master Plan speak to the future of the Island Airport, especially considering the tripartite agreement is set to expire in 2033?** *The City said the team is aware the tripartite agreement is expiring in 2033 and is mindful of the airport's impact on the park. Since the future of the airport and its lands will be determined by City Council and other levels of government, not PFR, the Master Plan is focusing on the lands within PFR's control and jurisdiction. If the airport lands are transferred to parkland in the future, the City will study adding it to the Master Plan framework.*

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## Breakout Rooms - Big Ideas Discussions

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The following section organizes the feedback CAC and TAC members shared about the results from the Big Ideas Online Engagement. Participant feedback is organized

under four themes that were the focus of each breakout session: Environment; Visitor Experience; Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion; and History, Culture, and Storytelling. This report summarizes participants' feedback about the Ideas using each theme to help organize them. Participants were asked to comment on the following:

- which ideas participants suggested prioritizing in the short, medium, and long term (along with suggestions on how to make those ideas become a reality)
- which ideas participants suggested removing
- any additional Ideas participants thought were missing
- other feedback about the Big Ideas

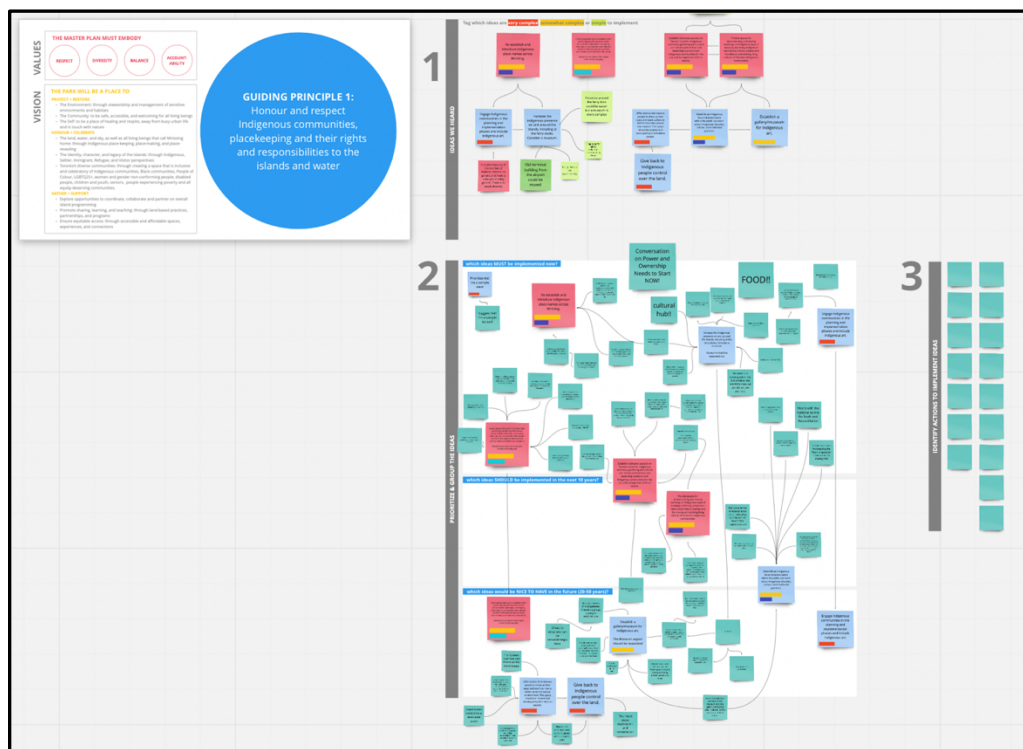


Figure 1: Miro Boards – A tool for documenting feedback

In each of the four breakout sessions, the project team shared virtual whiteboards that included dozens of sticky notes, each describing an idea resulting from the online Ideas Engagement and synthesized for this session by PFR engagement staff). Facilitators in each room used the Ideas sticky notes as a discussion tool – moving them around the whiteboard to reflect participants inputs and suggestions about prioritization of the Big Ideas and providing additional thoughts and suggestions for

the removal and elimination of some). Facilitators also added new sticky notes to identify participants suggestions for new Ideas as well as how to turn their ideas into a reality.

Given the high volume of Big Ideas shared and the number of questions discussed in the breakout rooms (as well as the differing interests of participants), each group's discussion was slightly different from the others. As a result, the sections below differ slightly from room to room to best reflect the substance of their discussion.

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## Environment

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For a complete list of the Big Ideas shared in the Environment Breakout Room, see Appendix C.

### Big Ideas to prioritize in the short term

Big Ideas participants suggested prioritizing in the short term included ideas around:

- **addressing crowding and garbage on the Island.** Many prioritized ideas to add waste disposal, implement regular garbage pickups and community clean-ups, add more signage (including a “respectful use policy”), impose fines for litter infractions, ban single use plastics, and create an “Island Rangers” program to educate, answer questions, and keep the area tidy. They said younger demographics — the people that tend to party on the Island — should be engaged as part of this Master Plan process.
- **realizing opportunities for re-naturalizing, planting, protecting existing Environmentally Significant Areas (ESAs), and finding balance.** Participants prioritized ideas around identifying new areas for planting, conducting additional studies on which areas are most sensitive and should be protected (including identifying additional ESAs), naturalizing areas that are most affected by climate change and could support biodiversity, and planting open grass areas with native species (i.e., the open grass areas by Hanlan's dock).

### Big Ideas to prioritize in the medium or long term

Participants had differing opinions on whether some of the Big Ideas should prioritized be medium or longer term. These included ideas focused on:

- **addressing the impact of party boats and personal watercrafts, especially in the lagoons.** Some prioritized ideas promoting personal watercraft and water-based recreation throughout the Island's lagoon and waterway systems, restricting party and tour boats from lagoons, and adding educational and safety signage for watercrafts. To make these ideas a reality, participants suggested:
  - assessing the water quality of the lagoons and identifying ways to protect them
  - identifying specific landing points and short-term storage for personal watercraft within the internal lagoon network
  - educating boaters about any changes to the use of lagoons well in advance (since behaviour change can take a long time).
- **addressing the impacts of parties and festivals.** Participants liked ideas around addressing the impacts of festivals, entertainment, and parties, saying these attract large numbers of people who often leave behind garbage, create noise, and impact the natural environment.
- **promoting stewardship.** A few said stewardship should be a longer-term idea since culture change is slow. To make Big Ideas around stewardship a reality, consider involving the school board in outdoor education programming.

## Big Ideas to consider adding

Participants suggested the team consider:

- using goats from the farm to help maintain open areas through grazing
- limiting water taxi activity after midnight since late-night water taxis can be a noise issue.

## Big Ideas to consider removing

Participants did not identify specific Big Ideas to remove in the Environment breakout room. A few said that the City should avoid adding off-leash dog areas, saying dogs impact on the environment and off-leash dog areas are mis-aligned with the Vision.

## Other suggestions shared in the Environment breakout room

Participants said the project team should revisit some of the language in the Environment Big Ideas, specifically:

- use the word “re-naturalize” instead of “re-forest” to better indicate that not all naturalization efforts involve forests
- use a word other than “cleaning” when referring to the beaches, since cleaning can contradict the concept of ecological integrity and can negatively impact rare species.
- make sure any re-naturalizing efforts include strategies to identify resources for monitoring, maintenance, and other operating requirements (including, potentially, using revenue from ferry fares to support maintenance).
- support low-impact winter activities like snow showing and cross-country skiing.

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## Visitor Experience

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For a complete list of the Big Ideas shared in the Visitor Experience Breakout Room, see Appendix C.

## Big Ideas to prioritize in the short term

Big Ideas participants suggested prioritizing in the short term included ideas around:

- **enhancing and improving existing infrastructure and amenities (rather than building new or additional ones).** Where participants suggested building new amenities, they suggested adding more of amenities that are already on the Island, such as BBQ or fire pit areas, water refill stations, and washrooms. There was also a suggestion that the City rebuild the grandstand as a multi-functional amenity — it was damaged in recent flooding and is part of a 135-year tradition of regattas in Toronto. Participants also supported ideas to provide access to natural areas while protecting sensitive areas from trampling.
- **improving wayfinding and cell service on the Island.** Many supported ideas like creating a connected trail system, digital or audio tours, digital maps and



accompanying QR codes, themed entrances as gateways, a scavenger hunt that could adapt to different themes, seasons, and landmarks, and augmented reality experiences. Some said making free Wi-Fi available across on the Island was very important to improving wayfinding, while others were less enthusiastic about improved wireless connectivity, saying the Island should be a place to unplug.

- **improving winter experience and offerings.** Participants supported the idea of providing additional year-round washroom across the island, winterized facilities, expanded winter programming such as winter-themed walks, sports, warming stations, and rain shelters; some said several of these ideas could be implemented relatively easily. Some felt that giving the Island landscape “time to rest” in the Winter months could benefit the park, saying perhaps it would be ok if the volume of people was limited in the off-season.
- **centralizing information about the Island and making it broadly accessible.** Participants said wayfinding should start on the mainland and/or on the ferry (before you get to the park). To make this idea a reality, they suggested the team consider developing an app or well-designed website that could include all the information necessary for visitors (including history, wayfinding, rentals, and programming) in different languages and accessible to people with differing abilities.

## Big Ideas to prioritize in the medium or longer term

Big Ideas participants suggested prioritizing in the medium or longer term included ideas around:

- **making the Island a “global art destination.”** Many supported ideas around making art a focal point of Toronto Island Park. To make these ideas a reality, the said art programming should be driven by local artists, be fluid and rotating (not necessarily permanent), speak to the uniqueness of Toronto, and be community-based and grassroots.
- **“right-sizing” events on the Island.** Many felt large events are not compatible with the Island, preferring smaller and medium-sized events. Participants suggested providing electrical services (in a few specific locations) to support event operations and balancing vendor/visitor needs with the environment.

- **diversifying food options**, including ideas to host a food truck festival (and/or other seasonal food events) and to provide food options that match people's varying needs and preferences. A few suggested that food was not an important focus for the Island and that providing it contributes to garbage

## Big Ideas to consider adding

Participants suggested additional ideas to consider, including:

- improving or adding more water fountains and water bottle refill stations and banning the sale of water bottles on the Island.
- introducing scuba lessons to teach people new skills and about water and nature.
- expanding the hedge maze.

## Big Ideas to consider removing

Some CAC and TAC members suggested the project team remove some of the Big Ideas from further consideration, including ideas around: creating a beach resort, sauna, or spa; hosting bike races; adding a botanical garden since these ideas are not in keeping with the Principles and Vision for the Master Plan. The idea of opening the water treatment plant to the public was discussed and not fully supported, although there was some support for providing public education about infrastructure on the Island that supports the city's water supply and cooling of the downtown core).

## Other themes in the Visitor Experience breakout room

Other themes in participants' feedback in the Visitor Experience room included:

- **General support for Big Ideas.** While participants did not prioritize all the Visitor Experience Big Ideas, they did support several of them, including ideas to: make the Island accessible to people with disabilities; protect/preserve view sheds and viewing areas on the Island; enhancements to the disc golf course, and considering outdoor fitness and gymnastics equipment (like in Miami, Bogota, and Los Angeles).
- **Cautious support for camping.** While participants supported ideas around creating camping opportunities at Toronto Island Park, they said it would be important to be cautious as camping could bring impacts from garbage,

waste, and fires. To address concerns around the idea of camping, participants suggested making provisions for camping in designated areas only (which has happened on Snake Island before) and modelling any camping approaches after provincial campgrounds, which requires staffing and oversight and regular maintenance.

- **Different opinions about accommodating dogs.** Some said the City should provide a dog off-leash area with proper signage, disposal area, and fencing, saying it would be important to accommodate dogs on Toronto Island Park. Others disagreed, saying dogs could have an environmental impact.

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## Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion

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For a complete list of the Big Ideas shared in the Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Breakout Room, see Appendix C.

### Big Ideas to prioritize in the short term

Big Ideas participants suggested prioritizing in the short term included ideas around:

- **creating a clear accessible network of trails and paths with walking times and distances.** Many said identifying and designating pathways for improved accessibility was very important. To make these ideas a reality, participants said the team explore road markings, speed limits, traffic calming for cyclists, and signage that indicates walking times and distance.
- **creating accessible transportation to ferry landings and destinations across the Island.**
- **creating targeted programs for equity deserving communities.** Many prioritized ideas like developing affordable or pay-what-you-can programs for equity deserving communities and making water sports (like sailing) more accessible for Torontonians of all incomes. To make these ideas a reality, some suggested businesses operating on the Island could offer discount days on services and rentals (similar to some museums and galleries).
- **celebrating and protecting significant places for the LGBTQ2S+ community on the Island,** especially Hanlan's Point Beach. Participants said ideas around LGBTQ2S+ placemaking are urgent to maintain the safety and security of the

beach. Suggested ways to make these Big Ideas a reality included: flying the pride flag at the docks, addressing the increasingly loud sound systems from boats, adding a rainbow arch sculpture, creating audio stories that capture LGBTQ2S+ history, creating a nudist only section of Hanlan's beach (a strategy some said could be medium- or longer-term since some thought it might require Council approval).

- **integrating ferry service with other transit providers.** Schedule changes and fare integrations could happen in the short term, while more complex ideas (such as connecting with the future Ontario Line and establishing a ferry network connecting Toronto Island with other key waterfront green spaces) could be medium or longer term.
- **adding innovative new culinary and food service on the Island.** Participants' suggestions on how to make these ideas a reality included:
  - creating a variety of waterfront restaurants that serve locally grown food and showcase Canadian culinary arts (including BIPOC, women, and LGBTQ2S+ chefs)
  - creating a “world café” or marketplace to showcase diverse food offerings
  - building a “funky bar or restaurant” at or near Hanlan's beach
  - supporting a floating/paddle-up restaurant where paddlers can grab a snack or watch a local artist perform
  - revisiting the City's contract with Beasley Entertainment, which limits small, independent businesses from operating on the Island.
- **adding new bike rental and non-motorized personal watercraft rentals,** like Bike Share, canoes, kayaks, and stand-up paddleboards.

## Big Ideas to prioritize in the medium or longer term

Participants suggested prioritizing ideas to create new multipurpose arts and cultural spaces that can function as parkland in the medium or longer term (including ideas to create space for festivals, buskers, rehearsal, studios, arts retreats, and outdoor screenings). To make these ideas a reality, some suggested adding semi-permanent infrastructure stored at the Island to help minimize transportation costs and traffic.

## Suggested Big Ideas to consider adding

Participants suggested additional Visitor Experience Big Ideas, including:

- set a restoration fee charged on tickets or merchandise sold at events (to support restoring the site used for the event) – a model in use at Fort York
- add a circuit to the Centreville Railroad for families use as a long-distance transport method across the Island (in the long term)
- offer picnic rental kits, including groceries and other items, so that visitors do not have to bring lots of equipment with them to the Island.

## Suggested Big Ideas to consider removing

Participants suggested the team consider removing some Big Ideas, including:

- creating a work-hub centre with work-friendly amenities that would allow people to easily work from Toronto Island Park
- building a beach club with a swimming pool, music, sun beds, imported golden sand, and a bar
- setting aside a small part of the island as a resort or hotel (saying this idea does not align with the Vision or Values of the Master Plan).

## Other feedback about the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Big Ideas

In the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion room, participants shared differing opinions and suggestions on how to increase the number of people able to visit the Island, including:

- adding new ferries and adding additional access points within the next 10 years (likely long term due to complex and cost).
- establishing ferry service between the Islands and the Eastern Gap, connecting to either Cherry Beach or another location.
- building a gondola, potentially using private investment. Some did not support this idea, saying a gondola would be impractical and inconsistent with the Island's character.

- establishing a pedestrian or cyclist bridge. Some supported this idea, saying a bridge would make the Island more accessible to all. Others said they would prefer improving access though using the existing airport tunnel. Whatever the approach, participants suggested the City evaluate the carrying capacity of the Islands when considering any new connections that would result in an increase in the number of park users and potential environmental impacts.

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## History, Culture, and Storytelling

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The discussion in the History, Culture, and Storytelling room focused largely on ideas related to making Toronto Island Park feel like a more Indigenous place. Other Big Ideas related to History, Culture, and Storytelling are included in Appendix C.

### Big Ideas participants liked

Big Ideas participants liked included idea around:

- **exploring Indigenous placenames**, including ideas around creating a catalogue, identifying priorities, and consulting on different place-naming opportunities. While the process could be complex, implementing a place-naming strategy could begin in the short-term.
- **increasing Indigenous visibility on and around the Islands**, including changing the names and look of ferries, adding flags at docks, and establishing a cultural hub. Some supported establishing a museum focusing on vibrant, living culture of Indigenous communities, potentially as a longer-term goal.
- **establishing dedicated spaces for ceremony, gathering, cultural use, and teaching**. Participants liked ideas to create an inventory of available spaces, partner with organizations to identify or confirm spaces, and consult on what types of spaces are needed (such as pow-wow space, like at Fort York). There was a suggestion that Artscape may play a large role in hosting events and providing space. Some suggested focusing on creating teaching spaces in the near term, though others said these could be more of a medium- or long-term idea since they could require discussions with elders about stories, traditions.
- **establishing an Indigenous Cultural Hub**, which would act as both a centre for reconciliation and as a museum. The centre should be an active place for truth sharing and implementing the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's 94

commitments. It would require partnership with federal, provincial, and municipal levels of government. Any museum should go beyond the “typical” museum and focus on past, present, and seven generations into the future. This Cultural Hub could be situated near the ferry docks and should host rotating Indigenous art galleries.

- **promoting Indigenous art, food, and culture.**

## **Suggested additional Big Ideas to consider**

Participants suggested the project team consider additional ideas related to History, Culture, and Storytelling, including:

- **co-managing Toronto Island Park with Indigenous communities** by returning control over portions of the Island to then to support redistributing land, power, and wealth. Participants suggested the City host extensive engagement with diverse Indigenous communities and groups. There was also a comment to be mindful not to create a “Disney-land” of culture.
- **engaging and partnering with Indigenous communities.** Partnerships will be important when implementing these ideas and initiatives.

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## **Next steps**

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The team thanked Community Advisory Committee and Technical Advisory Committee members and committed to sharing the presentation and a draft summary. The team also explained that the CAC and TAC’s input would help the project team refine the Big Ideas — a process that will also include cross referencing with other strategic initiatives, policies, and the Design Team’s expertise. They said the next meeting about the Big Ideas would be a Public Big Ideas Workshop, which was scheduled for the week following the combined workshop.

# Appendix A – List of Organizations and Participants

The City invited the following organizations to participate in the combined Community Advisory Committee and Technical Advisory Committee meeting. Those who attended are bolded below.

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## Community Advisory Group

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### **Artscape**

### **Bathurst Quay Neighbourhood Association**

### **Centreville Amusement Park**

Cycle Toronto

Friends of Cherry Beach and Outer Harbour

Harbourfront Community Association

Huron-Wendat Nation

Island Bike Rental

Island Café

Island Public / Natural Science School

Island Yacht Club

Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation

### **Nishnawbe Homes**

### **Pirate Life Theatre**

ProtectNatureTO

### **Queen City Yacht Club**

Shadowland

Sunshine Senior's Centre

The Pirate Taxi by Water Taxi Now

### **Toronto Field Naturalists**

### **Toronto Island / MNCFN Friendship Group**

Toronto Island Canoe Club

### **Toronto Island Community Association**

### **Toronto Island Disc Golf Course**

Toronto Island Marina

Toronto Island SUP

Toronto Islands Residential Community Trust Corp

Toronto Public Space Committee

### **Urban Minds**

### **Waterfront BIA**

### **Waterfront for All**

Waterfront Montessori Children's Centre

West Don Lands Committee

### **William Beasley Enterprises Limited**

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## Technical Advisory Committee

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Accessibility/Community Development

### **Archeology and Heritage**

ArtworksTO

BIA Lead



**Community Planning and Strategic Projects**

Cultural Partnerships

**Economic Development**

Emergency Medical Services

**Indigenous Affairs Office**

**Parks Development and Capital Projects**

**Permits**

Policy and Strategic Planning

**Ports Toronto**

**Recreation**

**Toronto Regional Conservation**

**Authority**

**Urban Forestry**

Waterfront Secretariat

Waterfront Toronto

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## Project Team in attendance

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**City of Toronto, Parks, Forestry & Recreation Division**

Alex Deighan, Policy Development Officer

Daniel Fusca, Manager, Public Consultation

David O'Hara, Project Manager, Strategic Projects, Parks Development and Capital Projects

Lori Ellis, Senior Project Coordinator

Pablo Muñoz , Senior Public Consultation Coordinator

Casey Morris, Senior Project Coordinator

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## Consultant teams

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*Design team*

Victoria Bell, DTAH

Terence Radford, Trophic Design

*Business Strategy team*

Jeff Dover, FS Strategy

*Engagement team*

Bob Goulais, Nbisiing Inc

Ian Malczewski, Swerhun Inc

Athavarn Srikantharajah, Swerhun Inc

# Appendix B – Meeting Agenda

## Combined CAC/TAC Workshop Toronto Island Park Master Plan

Tuesday, July 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021

6:00pm – 8:30pm • Meeting held virtually

### Meeting purpose

To share an update on the Toronto Island Park Master Plan and to workshop the revised Big Ideas.

### DRAFT Proposed agenda

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|---------|---|
| 6:00 PM | Welcome, land acknowledgement, agenda review, introductions<br>City of Toronto & Swerhun Inc.   |
| 6:10    | Indigenous teaching moment  |
| 6:15    | Master Plan update and Big Ideas overview<br>City of Toronto and DTAH<br><i>Questions of clarification (approximately 6:35-6:40)</i>  |
| 6:40    | Discussion: Big Ideas <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Which Big Ideas do you think <u>must</u> be implemented now for the Master Plan to be successful? Which ones do you think <u>should</u> happen, but could wait or take longer? Which ones would be <u>nice to have</u> in the future?</li><li>2. Do you have any suggestions on how to make the Big Ideas a reality?</li><li>3. Do you have any other suggested changes or refinements to the Big Ideas?</li></ol> |
| 8:00    | Report back and plenary discussion  |
| 8:25    | Wrap up and next steps  |
| 8:30    | Adjourn   |

# Appendix C – Complete list of Big Ideas

The following list of ideas are organized under their respective guiding principles that were included in each breakout room.

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## Environment Breakout Room

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### **GUIDING PRINCIPLE 3: Prioritize, protect, and advocate for the ecological integrity of the islands**

Ideas:

- The Master Plan should acknowledge and respect the Island's rich communities of wildlife and include specific policies to protect and celebrate them.
- Protect the beach environments through habitat restoration, education, improved access to facilities and amenities, and restrictions on waste brought to and left on the Island.
- Balance access from land and water to the Island's unique natural spaces. Consider ecologically sensitive improvements to existing infrastructure to ensure the overall health of the Island and the protection of its sensitive environments.
- Harness the energy and knowledge of the Island community of resident stewards to advocate for the well-being of the Island and share their understanding of the Island and its natural environment for the benefit of all living things on the Island.
- Keep the islands as natural as possible so that they remain a great escape from the city.
- Keep it simple. Enhance what is there, get rid of the airport and allow people to enjoy the surroundings without distractions.
- Improve the quality of the sand at the beaches by cleaning it regularly.

- Establish a respectful use policy that is clearly signed at the entry points of the island and on ferries. Humans can be intrusions into the wild spaces.
- Keep the islands clean from litter with more litter bins, more regular garbage pickups, proper signage, announcements on the ferries, and heavy fines (\$1,000) for litter infractions.

#### **GUIDING PRINCIPLE 4: Leverage the dynamic nature of the islands and waterways to support adaptive and flexible uses**

Ideas:

- Design the Island's programs, services and amenities to consider the larger park context and to complement and integrate into the city and waterfront parks and facilities across the Toronto Harbour.
- Better planning and signage for various watercrafts in the inner channels. Powerboats exceed speed limits and make unsafe maneuvers around canoes and kayaks. Some areas should be clearly non-motorized. Signs should be added to make it clear where larger boats can/cannot go.
- Restrict party and tour boats in lagoons by making them off-limits to power and large boats. The lagoons should be peaceful places where waterfowl and fish can survive and people can enjoy the area with their families.
- Create landing points and short-term storage for personal watercraft (canoes, kayaks, paddleboards) within the internal lagoon network and along outer edges to provide access throughout the Island and promote water-based recreation and transportation.
- Create nice long docks for fishing, specially safe ones for kids to try fishing.
- Rebuild the Grandstand after damage to flooding to once again allow regattas to take place on the Allan A. Lamport Regatta Course on Centre Island. Regattas are an Island tradition dating back more than 135 years and the Grandstand is a part of Toronto's history.

## **GUIDING PRINCIPLE 5: Demonstrate resilience, sustainability, and responsible landscape and water management**

Ideas:

- Make the islands a litter and single-use plastic free zone.
- Plant the open grass zones at Hanlans ferry dock with native vegetation and return it to the wilderness. Redo the hard landscaping with natural materials like stone pavers or wood decking (where feasible) to create a friendlier, less harsh arrival atmosphere.
- Create more parks and establish a healthier ecosystem.
- Commit to reforesting sections of Toronto Island with native species to help in the fight against climate change and support biodiversity. Offer free tours with indigenous and environmental experts.
- Cap the number of ferry tickets sold from June - September to improve access without overcrowding.
- Restore the existing infrastructure to new or better than new condition. Modernize it with energy efficient options.
- Create a structure/committee to organize regularly occurring, voluntary, community-based efforts to give back to the land and to connect with others who enjoy the Toronto Islands (i.e. Clean Toronto Together).
- Create an Island Rangers program to direct, answer questions, assist, tidy and control public spaces, welcome newcomers and first time visitors and build a rapport with the public to inform them of the opportunities, expectations, history and ecology of the island.

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## **Visitor Experience Breakout Room**

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### **GUIDING PRINCIPLE 6: Prioritize equitable access and inclusion**

*Note: The same list of ideas was also discussed in the Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Breakout Room.*

## Ideas:

- Celebrate the significant places (such as Hanlan's Beach), stories, and culture that the Island embodies for the LGBTQ2S+ community.
- Create a clear network of walking trails and paths including walking times and distances.
- Getting on and off the island shouldn't have to be a matter of line-ups and crowding. Establish additional access points on both the mainland and islands.
- Improve integration of ferry service with other transit providers (TTC, GO) to promote a seamless and less expensive experience, and to improve access to the Island beyond the downtown core.
- Provide accessible transportation to ferry landings and key destinations across the Island.
- Build a pedestrian or Cycling Bridge to the Island
- Install gondolas on the Island to supplement ferry service, make it easier to get around, and provide beautiful views of the harbour and downtown, while maintaining the Island's unique status as a place away.
- Enhance access to all public areas of the park, including those that are hard to reach, feel private, or are physically obstructed, and ensure seamless and continuous connections throughout the Island where possible.
- Create targeted programs for equity deserving communities as a way to make the Island more inclusive
- Make water sports, like sailing, more accessible to Torontonians of all incomes. Partner with private sailing clubs to engage with and facilitate learning of sailing with average park users or the general public.
- Establish speed limits and traffic calming measures for bikes
- Fly the pride flag at the docks and add a fun rainbow arch sculpture to the path just past the ferry docks. Make it clear this is a queer safe space on indigenous land.
- New ferries, preferably clean energy. Ferries should be designed with a dedicated area for bikes to make sure people have space for other riders.

Ferry service should be every 10-15 minutes per route as well as adding routes, see map and they should be inexpensive.

- Establish a frequent, affordable, ferry service for pedestrians and active transport only between Cherry Beach and Wards Island within the Eastern Channel.
- Make the island more accessible for people with disabilities.
- Add another circuit to the Centreville Railroad to allow families to board the train from the Centre Island Ferry to Centreville, Hanlan's Point, and Wards Island to act as an integrated long distance transport method that feels like part of the park experience.
- Reduce the access bottleneck by allowing people to get to the Island via the airport tunnel.
- Create a nudist only section (preferably with barriers blocking the view from everyone else), for the safety and comfort of nudists using Hanlan's.
- Increase the accessibility and usable space on Hanlan's and make it easier for nudists and queer folks to not compete for space by making the whole beach clothing-optional.
- Establish a water shuttle system that would ferry visitors between the Toronto Islands and area greenspaces such as Tommy Thompson Park, Ontario Place, Humber Bay, and Ashbridges Bay.

## **GUIDING PRINCIPLE 7: Enhance visitor experience for all seasons**

*Note: The same list of ideas was also discussed in the Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Breakout Room.*

Ideas:

- Provide multi-lingual information using digital platforms, and diverse tools on- and off-Island (including enhanced maps and signage) to expand outreach and share information about the Island, events, programming, history, and dynamic environment to visitors of all backgrounds and abilities.
- Opportunities to stay overnight on the Island are in demand, but only available through private rentals that limit accessibility to this experience. Consider

expanding permitted, affordable and low-impact opportunities to stay overnight on the Island like camping. Ensure it is accessible for low income and equity deserving communities.

- Cell reception and WI-FI are unreliable or not available on the Island. Improve infrastructure to provide more consistent cell service and consider free public wi-fi in key areas on the Island.
- To improve the experience of the Island, provide year-round washrooms close to points of interest and use a clear wayfinding strategy to help identify these important facilities.
- Provide winterized facilities and expanded winter activities and programs across the Island to make the island a winter destination.
- Protect view-sheds and viewing areas by creating formalized stations to capture views of the city and lake during the daytime, nighttime and in all seasons.
- Build free Water Bottle Refill Stations.
- People come to the Island to have fun engaging in amusements, recreation, arts and culture, music and events of various sizes in an Island park setting. Enhance existing infrastructure, facilities and amenities that support these uses to improve the activities and experiences of the Island and promote all seasons use.
- Improve the City's website or create an app to help people plan their trip
- Build off the Indigenous history of the Islands as a restorative place by building beach saunas where you can take a dip in the lake after to help with circulation. They could be a year round destination for those looking to relax and sweat it out.
- Build a big, architecturally beautiful and memorable facility with year round, outdoor, heated swimming pool / therapy waters with a breathtaking view of the lake.
- Set aside a small part of the island as a resort or hotel for a truly magical experience. It would provide breathtaking views, and would be an international draw. In the Winter there could be hot baths for people to swim in.



- Make better signage for the frisbee golf course.
- Build a provincial park-style campsite structure with amenities like bathrooms and showers and allow camping for a max two nights stay.
- Build a large adult gymnastics/workout facility. Miami, Bogota and Los Angeles have some fantastic examples complete with rings, double bars, trapeze, etc. These spaces create movement culture in cities and help build gymnastics communities.
- Build a big, naturalized play space within an existing green space, without cutting down all the vegetation but respecting and making use of it. Incorporate the values of the overall master plan and prioritize Indigenous voices in its design.
- Establish charcoal bbq areas with charcoal disposals.
- Expand the William Meany Maze to be bigger and better, or build a new one with a higher difficulty. A creative and well designed labyrinth could be a Toronto and community landmark. The Gijs Van Vaerenbergh labyrinth in Genk, Belgium is an inspiring example.
- A lot of dogs accompany families to the islands. Create a DOLA with proper signage, disposal area, and fencing.
- Expand bike Infrastructure on the Island: Equip ferries with special areas for bikes. Bring BikeshareTO to the Island. Make sure bike paths are well maintained, smooth and well lit. Ensure there are sufficient lock posts.
- Introduce scuba diving lessons as a way of increasing awareness of nature and the water and to teach people a new skill.
- Establish a bicycle race on Toronto Island.

## **GUIDING PRINCIPLE 8: Provide diverse amenities and experiences to encourage exploration, sharing and discovery**

*Note: The same list of ideas was also discussed in the History, Culture and Storytelling Breakout Room.*

Ideas:

- Open the Water Treatment Plant to the public for educational tours. Focus on environmental engineering such as the role Lake Ontario plays in deep lake water cooling and on promoting active and future projects that harness the energy of the lake like Toronto Hydro's pilot of the world's first offshore compressed-air energy storage.
- Establish a learning scavenger hunt, where you collect stamps for learning about the history of the Toronto Islands, including its Indigenous origins.
- Have volunteers from the Island Community provide tours of the various parts of the Island. Homes, schools, gardens, clubs etc
- Create a global art destination with a curation of outstanding global sculptures along the Island's trails.
- Identify select areas where pathways could provide access to the natural environment so that people can explore and learn about it while protecting the most sensitive areas from trampling.
- Provide year-round diverse food options throughout the Island (destination restaurant, food trucks, Indigenous and cultural food providers, food carts, beach stands, picnic baskets, etc.) that are not limited to concession areas alone.
- We are the most multicultural city in the world. Celebrate it by establishing botanical gardens with areas that represent each of the ethnic groups that live in Toronto.
- The Island should be a hub for all cultures in Toronto to find a space in, supported by unique food and cultural pavilions and with better access points. At its core should be a 100% renewable energy source and zero emission footprint!
- Create an augmented reality tour/scavenger hunt that will showcase the history of certain landmarks to users. Using either a phone app or rental tablets, users can venture around the island of their own will and still learn about the historical and cultural significance of the landmarks on the island. This is also a great way to showcase how aboriginal history and culture ties into some of the landmarks on the island.

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## Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Breakout Room

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### **GUIDING PRINCIPLE 6: Prioritize equitable access and inclusion**

*Note: The same list of ideas was also discussed in the Visitor Experience Breakout Room.*

Ideas:

- Celebrate the significant places (such as Hanlan's Beach), stories, and culture that the Island embodies for the LGBTQ2S+ community.
- Create a clear network of walking trails and paths including walking times and distances.
- Getting on and off the island shouldn't have to be a matter of line-ups and crowding. Establish additional access points on both the mainland and islands.
- Improve integration of ferry service with other transit providers (TTC, GO) to promote a seamless and less expensive experience, and to improve access to the Island beyond the downtown core.
- Provide accessible transportation to ferry landings and key destinations across the Island.
- Build a pedestrian or Cycling Bridge to the Island
- Install gondolas on the Island to supplement ferry service, make it easier to get around, and provide beautiful views of the harbour and downtown, while maintaining the Island's unique status as a place away.
- Enhance access to all public areas of the park, including those that are hard to reach, feel private, or are physically obstructed, and ensure seamless and continuous connections throughout the Island where possible.
- Create targeted programs for equity deserving communities as a way to make the Island more inclusive
- Make water sports, like sailing, more accessible to Torontonians of all incomes. Partner with private sailing clubs to engage with and facilitate learning of sailing with average park users or the general public.

- Establish speed limits and traffic calming measures for bikes
- Fly the pride flag at the docks and add a fun rainbow arch sculpture to the path just past the ferry docks. Make it clear this is a queer safe space on indigenous land.
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- Increase the accessibility and usable space on Hanlan's and make it easier for nudists and queer folks to not compete for space by making the whole beach clothing-optional.
- Establish a water shuttle system that would ferry visitors between the Toronto Islands and area greenspaces such as Tommy Thompson Park, Ontario Place, Humber Bay, and Ashbridges Bay.

## **GUIDING PRINCIPLE 7: Enhance visitor experience for all seasons**

*Note: The same list of ideas was also discussed in the Visitor Experience Breakout Room.*

## Ideas:

- Provide multi-lingual information using digital platforms, and diverse tools on- and off-Island (including enhanced maps and signage) to expand outreach and share information about the Island, events, programming, history, and dynamic environment to visitors of all backgrounds and abilities.
- Opportunities to stay overnight on the Island are in demand, but only available through private rentals that limit accessibility to this experience. Consider expanding permitted, affordable and low-impact opportunities to stay overnight on the Island like camping. Ensure it is accessible for low income and equity deserving communities.
- Cell reception and WI-FI are unreliable or not available on the Island. Improve infrastructure to provide more consistent cell service and consider free public wi-fi in key areas on the Island.
- To improve the experience of the Island, provide year-round washrooms close to points of interest and use a clear wayfinding strategy to help identify these important facilities.
- Provide winterized facilities and expanded winter activities and programs across the Island to make the island a winter destination.
- Protect view-sheds and viewing areas by creating formalized stations to capture views of the city and lake during the daytime, nighttime and in all seasons.
- Build free Water Bottle Refill Stations.
- People come to the Island to have fun engaging in amusements, recreation, arts and culture, music and events of various sizes in an Island park setting. Enhance existing infrastructure, facilities and amenities that support these uses to improve the activities and experiences of the Island and promote all seasons use.
- Improve the City's website or create an app to help people plan their trip
- Build off the Indigenous history of the Islands as a restorative place by building beach saunas where you can take a dip in the lake after to help with circulation. They could be a year round destination for those looking to relax and sweat it out.

- Build a big, architecturally beautiful and memorable facility with year round, outdoor, heated swimming pool / therapy waters with a breathtaking view of the lake.
- Set aside a small part of the island as a resort or hotel for a truly magical experience. It would provide breathtaking views, and would be an international draw. In the Winter there could be hot baths for people to swim in.
- Make better signage for the frisbee golf course.
- Build a provincial park-style campsite structure with amenities like bathrooms and showers and allow camping for a max two nights stay.
- Build a large adult gymnastics/workout facility. Miami, Bogota and Los Angeles have some fantastic examples complete with rings, double bars, trapeze, etc. These spaces create movement culture in cities and help build gymnastics communities.
- Build a big, naturalized play space within an existing green space, without cutting down all the vegetation but respecting and making use of it. Incorporate the values of the overall master plan and prioritize Indigenous voices in its design.
- Establish charcoal bbq areas with charcoal disposals.
- Expand the William Meany Maze to be bigger and better, or build a new one with a higher difficulty. A creative and well designed labyrinth could be a Toronto and community landmark. The Gijs Van Vaerenbergh labyrinth in Genk, Belgium is an inspiring example.
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- Expand bike Infrastructure on the Island: Equip ferries with special areas for bikes. Bring BikeshareTO to the Island. Make sure bike paths are well maintained, smooth and well lit. Ensure there are sufficient lock posts.
- Introduce scuba diving lessons as a way of increasing awareness of nature and the water and to teach people a new skill.
- Establish a bicycle race on Toronto Island.

## **GUIDING PRINCIPLE 9: Support opportunities for diverse and sustainable businesses to thrive**

Ideas:

- Create a spectacular setting for festivals and concerts designed to function as regular parkland when not in use. Whether facing the lake or the harbour.
- Provide locations to rent bikes and non-motorized personal watercraft (canoes, kayaks, paddleboards) at key destinations across the Island, the central waterfront, and the inner harbour.
- Create a work-hub centre with work-friendly amenities that would allow you to easily work from the Toronto Islands. Secure indoor/door space allowing you to work throughout the year. Charge a nominal fee to pay for services like locker spaces, seating, vending, secure workspaces, conference call booths, washrooms, etc.
- Create lots of restaurants located in spectacular waterside locations at a variety of price points. Some should serve locally grown food and beverages and showcase Canadian culinary arts.
- Make it possible for people to rent a picnic kit on the Island for the day instead of having to lug picnic equipment over. There could also be a micro grocery store that sells picnic basics with an emphasis on low waste, environmentally friendly packaging.
- Create more arts a culture amenities like a brewery, floating restaurants, murals, interactive public art, studio spaces and rehearsal spaces, busker spaces, more opportunities for varied arts retreats, and opportunities for festivals like TIFF to do outdoor screenings in select areas in the island.
- Toronto Islands can be a great recreational place for all residents and visitors of the city by building a beach club with a swimming pool, music, sun beds, imported golden sand and a bar is crucial for our city.
- Expand the Centerville Amusement Park to include a one of a kind mini golf course for all ages (Toronto themed, designed to inspire and engage).
- Build need more cafes and restaurant options (not chains) with good diverse food choices unlike the choices on the island now.

- The islands should do more to implement diverse culinary experiences and avant-garde arts events showcasing Toronto's open-mindedness and pluralism. These can showcase women, BIPOC, and LGBT chefs.
- Build a funky bar/resto on the beach at Hanlan's
- Establish a paddle-up restaurant where paddlers can grab a snack or a drink, or attach themselves to a floating anchor to enjoy local artists performing, all without having to leave their human-powered watercraft to establish Toronto as a world-class water community. Make it a zero-waste experience by asking paddlers to bring-their-own utensils.

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## History, Culture and Storytelling Breakout Room

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### **GUIDING PRINCIPLE 1: Honour and respect Indigenous communities, placekeeping and their rights and responsibilities to the islands and water**

Ideas:

- Provide spaces for demonstrating and sharing teachings on Indigenous ways of knowing and being, Indigenous nationhood, history, treaties and the diverse and evolving living cultures of Toronto's Indigenous communities.
- Re-establish and introduce Indigenous place names across Mnisiiing.
- Create programming and activations that can be aligned with city-wide events (Toronto Bird Celebration, community clean-ups, etc.) to promote and educate visitors on the dynamic and sensitive environments and wildlife on the Island.
- Establish dedicated space(s) on Toronto Island for Indigenous ceremony, gathering and cultural use. Create partnerships and leadership positions with Indigenous communities for the use and management of these spaces.
- Engage Indigenous communities in the planning and implementation phases and include Indigenous art.
- Increase the indigenous presence on and around the Islands, including at the ferry docks. Consider a museum.



- Offer land to First Nations people to show us their ways and teach us how to better serve the natural environment. This space should be created and developed by First Nations people.
- Establish an Indigenous Reconciliation Centre where the public can learn about Indigenous lifestyles, culture, and traditional practices.
- Establish a gallery/museum for Indigenous art.
- Give back to Indigenous people control over the land.

## **GUIDING PRINCIPLE 2: Celebrate and protect the unique cultural identity and spirit of the islands**

Ideas:

- Create a dark sky viewing stations and run regular star-gazing events.
- Toronto has sacrificed the waterfront East of Front street to the developers. Please don't let that happen to the Islands. Make improvements, but don't turn a silk purse into a pig's ear!
- Expand partnerships with artists, creatives, and arts organizations to explore new opportunities for temporary and permanent art, residencies and programming throughout the Island.
- Leverage the strength of these on-Island advocates through partnerships to take a leading role in exploring future program offerings, activations and events that celebrate the unique opportunities of the Island.
- Expand interpretation of the Island's rich history through diverse and complimentary programs, activities and elements such as temporary installations, public art, discovery walks, plaques and on-line tools.
- Create inviting and comfortable spaces at the ferry terminal, share information to excite visitors about the experience ahead, and welcome visitors back to the mainland with information about future activities and events to encourage their return.
- Relocate vehicular access across the Island to be more discrete, operate in off-peak hours, and ensure pathways for all Island visitors are safe with minimal conflicts between vehicles, pedestrians, and cyclists.

- Make the south part of the Islands a NO fly zone for recreational pilots to reduce noise pollution.
- Add an adult focused Ferris wheel to Centre Island that is big enough to see the city. Properly maintain Centerville.
- Restore the old Toronto City Center Airport terminal into an Aviation museum.
- Create a structure/committee to organize regularly occurring, voluntary, community-based efforts to give back to the land and to connect with others who enjoy the Toronto Islands (i.e. Clean Toronto Together).
- Build an observation tower so people can see the beauty of the Islands from above as well as view the Toronto skyline.

## **GUIDING PRINCIPLE 8: Provide diverse amenities and experiences to encourage exploration, sharing and discovery**

*Note: The same list of ideas was also discussed in the Visitor Experience Breakout Room.*

Ideas:

- Open the Water Treatment Plant to the public for educational tours. Focus on environmental engineering such as the role Lake Ontario plays in deep lake water cooling and on promoting active and future projects that harness the energy of the lake like Toronto Hydro's pilot of the world's first offshore compressed-air energy storage.
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- Have volunteers from the Island Community provide tours of the various parts of the Island. Homes, schools, gardens, clubs etc
- Create a global art destination with a curation of outstanding global sculptures along the Island's trails.
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