

**Jane Finch Initiative:
Generation Chosen & PEACH
Youth Consultation Meeting**

**February 17, 2022
6:00 - 7:30pm**

BACKGROUND

The City of Toronto's [Jane Finch Initiative](#) (JFI) is a resident-informed project to plan for the future of the Jane and Finch area. Together, we are developing a community development plan and a land-use plan so that residents and businesses are supported as the area changes over time with the opening of the Finch West LRT. It is a collaborative community planning exercise in 'Neighbourhood 24 - Black Creek' and 'Neighbourhood 25 - Glenfield-Jane Heights' (see [Neighbourhood Profiles](#)), centred on the intersection of Jane Street and Finch Avenue West.

The initiative involves three integrated streams of work:

- 1) **Comprehensive engagement** (ongoing)
- 2) A **community development plan** including a local economic opportunities plan;
- 3) An update to the **land use planning framework**.

The City is working in collaboration with the Jane Finch Community and Family Centre who will support community engagement and facilitate different community consultations to collect feedback.

MEETING SUMMARY

On February 17, 2022, a youth consultation meeting was held in partnership with [PEACH](#) and [Generation Chosen](#). This consultation is part of the Jane Finch Initiative's comprehensive engagement stream and it was held online over Zoom.

The purpose of the event was to increase civic literacy among youth in the community and to get a sense of what youth prioritize in area.

Following introductions, the session began with a [brief Planning 101 presentation](#) from City staff to explain the planning process to young community members. The presentation was punctuated with short jamboard activities to glean what youth love about the community and their vision for its future.

ATTENDEES:

- 1 JFCF centre staff, Amadeo Ventura;
- 2 City of Toronto Staff, Zahra Joseph-Wilson (City Planning) and Imara Rolston (Social Development, Finance and Administration);
- 3 co-facilitators: Kaidie Williams, Shemar Barnett (Generation Chosen) and Nathan Baya (PEACH);

- 26 youth

HOW WE ENGAGED

This presentation was delivered at the request of PEACH and Generation Chosen whose staff conducted outreach through their existing networks. Additional online outreach was conducted by Jane Finch Community and Family Centre through social media, including twitter.

WHAT WE HEARD

Participants were asked what they valued about the Jane and Finch neighbourhoods now and what they envision for the future of the area. This section summarizes the responses, the Jamboards created during the discussion can be viewed in Appendix 1.

What participants value now:

- Existing parks and open spaces, which are large and provide access to green space and recreation facilities
- Existing community facilities that are important safe social spaces, including
 - Yorkwoods library which has a dance studio and space to do homework
 - Community centres
 - Schools
- Community services and programming such as
 - Drop-in sports and dance programming
 - Financial literacy programs
 - Mental and physical health programming
- Access to small businesses like nail salons, family restaurants and coffee shops
- Bike paths
- Grocery stores
- Student discounts at food outlets
- Local churches
- Wifi access

What participants envision for the future:

Community Space and Social Development

- Access to community health care, including dentists and doctors' offices
- Spaces for running grass-roots initiatives, like fundraising events
- Services for the elderly
- Outdoor events and other opportunities to socialize with community members

Mobility and the Public Realm

- More frequent and consistent bus services
- Better street maintenance, furniture (such as benches and garbage receptacles) and more street lighting
- Streets/sidewalks that are safer for pedestrians and accessible for all people
- Indigenous art
- Gender neutral public washrooms

Economic Opportunities

- More public tutoring and mentorship programs
- Spaces for start-up incubation
- More diverse retail options, including hardware stores and bike shops
- More jobs for youth
- Investment in community members by local institutions like the malls, including through local retailers occupying mall spaces and ways to partner with community, like Janestreetspeaks
- Community-based grants, scholarships

Recreation

- Recreation facilities like skateboarding parks and outdoor volleyball courts
- After-school programming (including free physical activity programs, multi-cultural dance classes, movie nights, book clubs, classes for skills development like cooking) and resident-led workshops

Built Form, Land Use and Development

- Development application information signs should be legible to the average person, provide access to translated development information and include QR codes
- A Jane and Finch arcade or hub that includes rollerblading in the warm season and ice skating in the winter
- Food options including more restaurants, grocery stores with good quality produce, community gardens and co-ops
- Faster construction timelines
- One participant noted the importance of infill development for providing the appropriately-sized and formed housing for a diverse range of people and families. This participant also highlighted the desire for a 15 minute neighbourhood model to be applied in the forthcoming official plan amendment

Discussion Theme (e.g. Experience as Artists, Barriers etc.)

- Community programming and recreation space
- Access to food and services
- Enhancing youth civic literacy of the land development process

APPENDIX 1: Jamboards

? What do you value about your neighbourhood now?

What spaces do you love and want to see preserved?

The parks

the sports/recreation centres

Staking ranks

parcs/large open spaces

Community centres

sports drop ins

Coffee shops

outdoor/natural spaces, parks, community centres

bike paths

grocery stores

Small businesses like nail shops or family restaurants

Public parks

What services are essential to you?

grocery stores

yorkwoods library - homework and dance studio

School

Community centres

community programs

wifi

recreational programs, access to financial literacy, mental/physical health services

Public transportation

schools, convenient and open public transportation, proper pedestrian walkways (some sidewalks are really narrow or blocked by other things)

Student discounts at fast food places

Churches

Services offered by community members are essential

? How do you imagine the future of Jane and Finch?

What would you like to see?

What do buildings and neighbourhoods look like? How are people moving around?

bridge silos

skateboarding park

15 min neighborhood

more after-school programs with resident led workshops

more spaces for jobs

dentist/doctor offices

hardware stores, bike repair shops

more buses at consistent times

free programs that promote physical activity

clinics

more action taken towards preserving and keeping streets clean

More public tutoring

Services offered by community members are essential

Mall should invest in community members, through creating space for meaningful socio-economic support. I.e. - including members of community businesses in the mall

What do you need to grow in place?

more streetlights

recreational programs, opportunities to interact with other youth members of the community

the mall should look into more ways to partner with community, like JanestreetSpeaks. Partner with members in community aspiring to benefit community

more community benches

Community based grants / funding, scholarships

More garbage bins

elderly services

outdoor events

Institutions like mall partnering with community, sponsorships

I genuinely want to see the mall create a fund, or support sector for the community. To invest in entrepreneurial desires