

Jane Finch Initiative Ideas Booklet: Arts and Culture



This is one of 12 booklets that summarizes the Jane Finch Initiative Ideas Report. Booklet topics:

- Arts & Culture
- Climate action
- Community Service Facilities
- Heritage
- Housing
- Inclusive employment opportunities
- Inclusive entrepreneurship opportunities
- Land use, built form, and urban design
- Mobility: getting around
- Parks & public spaces
- Resources, partnerships and governance
- Social development



The Jane Finch Initiative is a resident-informed project to plan for the future of the area— so that residents, local groups and businesses are supported as the area changes over time with the opening of the Finch West Light Rail Transit.

Arts & Culture

Vision for the future: Jane and Finch is home to a thriving and supportive arts and culture community, with engaging local events and opportunities for local artists. Art and culture are all around and are supported, celebrated and encouraged.

Arts and culture was a key theme during community conversations as they are understood to be critical to the community.

1. Build space for arts and culture to thrive in Jane and Finch

Community members expressed a need for more spaces for arts programming, gallery spaces, recording studios, festival and event spaces and flexible work spaces for organizations.

Ideas

- Implement land use permissions to facilitate the development of the Jane Finch Community Hub and Centre for the Arts at 2050 Finch Avenue West.
- Incorporate the findings and recommendations as appropriate from the Jane Finch Initiative into the detailed design work on the Jane Finch Community Hub and Centre for the Arts and the surrounding public realm.
- Explore options for community groups to gain access to affordable space through the City's Community Space Tenancy program.
- Engage with communities to identify which pieces of public art have cultural heritage value, which sites would be appropriate for future new artworks, and which specific public artworks are valued and should be conserved.
- Explore opportunities for local artists to be engaged in the creation of community murals, and public art as part of the development or redevelopment process.
- Work with the Toronto Public Library and other City divisions to realize plans for a music school on the site of the York Woods library.

2. Increase access to arts and culture funding opportunities

The City will explore opportunities to provide support for local artists and arts organizations to thrive in the community. Funding to support artists and arts projects continues to be largely concentrated in the city's downtown neighbourhoods. The funding disparities between downtown neighbourhoods and inner suburban areas are significant, making it challenging for local organizations to achieve sustainability, let alone grow.

Ideas

- Explore opportunities to make arts and culture grant application processes more accessible, to build trust and relationships over time, and to reduce barriers to applicants.
- Investigate partnering with Toronto Arts Council to create more opportunities for local artists to learn about funding opportunities by working with multi-level arts and culture funders to host local information sessions and to provide enhanced support for local applicants.
- Develop City-led cultural investments that support community building through arts and culture, that may differ from the objectives of peer-adjudicated, arm's length arts councils.
- Work with arts funders to accelerate access to operating and project funds for organizations led by and serving equity-deserving communities, as well as socio-geographically marginalized communities.
- Work to provide local artists from equity-deserving groups paid opportunities to be part of City grants adjudication panels.
- Examine the allocation of arts funding in Toronto through Economic Development and Culture's 2022 Community Cultural Development Review, with a goal to provide more support in inner suburban neighbourhoods.

3. Foster sustainable local arts and culture organizations and programming for community members of all ages.

Artists and arts organizations need stability, support and opportunities to thrive. One of the City's primary vehicles for supporting cultural development outside the city core is the network of Local Arts Service Organizations (Arts Etobicoke, East End Arts, Lakeshore Arts, North York Arts, Scarborough Arts and UrbanArts), which deliver arts programming, cultural events, and economic development opportunities to artists and residents across the city. When Toronto shifted from a 44 ward to a 25 ward system in 2018, the catchment areas of the LASOs changed, with Ward 7 moving from North York to Etobicoke-York. An unintended consequence of this shift has been limited reach by the LASOs into the Jane and Finch area.

Ideas

- Investigate a pilot of a satellite office for an existing Local Arts Service Organization, staffed by local community.
- Explore potential for City programs like Cultural Hotspot or Nuit Blanche (i.e. Nuit Neighbourhood) to happen in Jane and Finch.
- Assess the best mechanisms to advance cultural development in Jane and Finch, working with Local Arts Service Organizations to ensure that programming and opportunities are provided to residents in Ward 7.
- Consider the role of museums, galleries and other spaces to advance cultural development in Jane and Finch.

Jane Finch Initiative

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We want to hear what you think of these ideas – are we on the right track? What's missing? What could be better?



Send us an email us at janefinch@toronto.ca.



Find out more about the Jane Finch Initiative at toronto.ca/janefinch, or scan the QR code below.



Give us a call at 416-338-0775.

