

West Queen West and Kensington Market Heritage Conservation District (HCD) Plans

Indigenous Engagement Meeting #2

September 28th, 2023



Welcome

The **purpose** of this engagement session is to review proposed policies and guidelines for the Kensington Market and West Queen West Heritage Conservation Districts



Queen Street West, looking southeast near Manning Avenue

Agenda

1. Recap: What is a Heritage Conservation District (HCD)?
2. What We Heard
3. Draft Objective and Guidelines - Discussion
4. Next Steps



Augusta Avenue, north of Nassau Street looking northeast

Recap: What is a Heritage Conservation District?

2 MINUTES



What is a Heritage Conservation District?



An area with a **concentration** of heritage resources that **distinguishes** it from its surroundings



Every property is protected under Part V of the **Ontario Heritage Act (OHA)**



Planning tool that ensures **ongoing change** conserves and maintains **cultural heritage value**



South side of Queen Street West, looking east near Strachan Avenue

Proposed West Queen West and Kensington Market HCDs



20-28 Denison Square



2-6 Kensington Avenue



North side of Queen Street West, east of Ossington Avenue

What We Heard

5 MINUTES



Previous Engagement Sessions



2 sessions held on July 20, 2023,
at Parkdale Queen West
Community Health Centre
(PQWCHC)



34 community members
participated



Summary of feedback will be
posted on the West Queen West
and Kensington Market project
websites

Key Themes:

- The Kensington Market and West Queen West areas are lacking in opportunities to educate on Indigenous histories
- Visible representation of Indigenous people and culture is needed

What We Heard - Examples

Kensington Market and West Queen West are loved for their **sense of community** and the **diversity** they offer

Many **layers of history pre-date** what the areas look like today; they should not be left out because they are seen as less prominent

Desire to **highlight Indigenous artists and businesses** in these areas

Storytelling methods could be used to reintroduce **visual representation** of Indigenous heritage

Any development should further **consider Indigenous knowledges** and the lands, the trees, and existing green spaces that are still here

Commemoration & interpretation for Indigenous history would help **inform residents** of the areas, and those who are **non-Indigenous**



Discussion or comments about the summary:

- Do the two themes we identified resonate with everyone?
- Does the summary capture everything that was mentioned, or did we miss something important?

Discussion: Draft Objective and Guidelines

60 MINUTES





Questions to think about for the following slides:

- Do you agree with the language of the draft objective and guidelines?
- Do the proposed guidelines and objective accurately reflect the feedback?
- Should there be any differences in the objective and guidelines for the two areas, Kensington Market and West Queen West?

What We Heard: Objectives

Despite Indigenous peoples' presence long before the city's establishment, there is **little to no physical representation** of this in the city

Objectives describe the long-term vision for each District and the desired outcomes for the designation of the District.

Draft Objective:

“Acknowledge and honour the historic and ongoing presence of Indigenous peoples in the District, including through visual representation of Indigenous heritage within the public realm.”


What We Heard: Public Art and Cultural Expression

Public art contributes to the heritage character of these areas by expressing the cultural heritage, community identity and sense of place of each area.

Draft Guidelines:

“In consultation with Indigenous communities and nations and Aboriginal Affairs Advisory Committee, maintenance and enhancement of the public realm through the creation of public art or other art installations by Indigenous artists are strongly encouraged.”

“Honour and recognize special events, such as National Indigenous Peoples Day, as part of the gateway treatments.” *(in West Queen West HCD Plan)*



There are **many Indigenous artists** in these areas who create art, but they **don't yet have space or support**; their art should be highlighted and valued

What We Heard: Naming and Place Keeping

Street names, Indigenous naming and place keeping should be considered

Focus **on teaching Indigenous knowledges and languages**, especially to children

The HCD Plans will include recommendations for placemaking and improvements to the public realm.

Draft Guidelines:

“In consultation with Indigenous communities and nations and Aboriginal Affairs Advisory Committee, honour and celebrate Indigenous heritage and languages through the naming of streets, laneways, and public spaces.”

“Honour and celebrate the history of the District(s), including Indigenous heritage and history of social and community activism through placemaking, wayfinding and interpretive features.”

What We Heard: Parks and Green Spaces

There are two parks in Kensington Market: Bellevue Square Park and Sonya's Park. They are both important, serving the community as recreational and gathering spaces.

Draft Guideline:

“In consultation with Indigenous communities and nations and the Aboriginal Affairs Advisory Committee, prioritize the creation of spaces appropriate for Indigenous cultural and ceremonial practices in Bellevue Square Park and Sonya's Park.”



If there are any plans for **landscaping** and or **green space inclusions**, that could be an opportunity to include Indigenous representation, such as medicine gardens and spaces for sacred fires

What We Heard: Objectives



The Original People Leading to the Eighth Fire, Roncesvalles and Garden Ave, Philip Cote and Jim Thierry Bravo, 2018 (photo: Roncesvalles BIA)

Draft Objective:

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What We Heard: Public Art and Cultural Expression

Draft Guidelines:

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“Honour and recognize special events, such as National Indigenous Peoples Day, as part of the gateway treatments.” *(in West Queen West HCD Plan)*



Bala Underpass, Lower Don River Trail, Rolande Souliere, 2015
(photo: MuralForm)

What We Heard: Naming and Place Keeping



Ogimaa Mikana, Dupont Village, Hayden King and Susan Blight, 2016 (photo: Craig Chivers, CBC)

Draft Guidelines:

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What We Heard: Parks and Green Spaces

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Macdonald Block Loop - Indigenous Ceremonial Garden, near Bay and Wellesley streets, Two Row Architect with adesso design inc., expected completion 2024 (image: Two Row Architect)

Next Steps

5 MINUTES



West Queen West and Kensington Market HCD Plans – Next Steps

- **October 24 (Tuesday):** Community Consultation Meeting Open House for Kensington Market HCD Plan (all welcome)

Where: St. Stephen-in-the-Fields Church

Session 1: **4:00pm-5:30pm**

Session 2: **7:00-8:30pm**

- **October 25:** Indigenous Youth Engagement Session, with University of Toronto's First Nations House
- Toronto Preservation Board Meeting for Kensington Market HCD Plan (Date TBD)
- **Spring/Summer 2024:** Community Consultation Meeting for West Queen West HCD Plan (Date TBD)

Feedback

The presentation and meeting summary will be available on the City's HCD website. Feedback can be provided to:

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Please provide your feedback by **October 12, 2023.**

Questions about the West Queen West or Kensington Market HCDs?

Additional information is available on the City's HCD website.

<https://www.toronto.ca/city-government/planning-development/heritage-preservation/heritage-conservation-districts-planning-studies/>

Questions can be directed to:

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Thank you!

