

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

Indigenous Engagement Meeting - NCCT

March 7th, 2024



Welcome

The **purpose** of this engagement session is to introduce the Kensington Market and West Queen West Heritage Conservation District Studies and receive feedback on draft guidelines and opportunities for placemaking



Queen Street West, looking southeast near Manning Avenue

Agenda

1. What is a Heritage Conservation District (HCD)?
2. What we've heard to date
3. Draft Objective and Guidelines
4. Discussion - Opportunities for placemaking
5. Next Steps



Augusta Avenue, north of Nassau Street looking northeast

What are Heritage Conservation Districts?

5 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



Questions of clarification about Heritage Conservation Districts?

What we've heard to date

5 MINUTES



Previous Engagement Sessions



4 sessions held on July 20 and September 28, 2023, at Parkdale Queen West Community Health Centre (PQWCHC)



40+ community members participated



Summary of feedback is 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 knowledge** 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**

Draft Objective and Guidelines

40 MINUTES



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: 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: 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 knowledge 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.”



Discussion 1:

- What are your initial reactions to the draft objective and guidelines?
- Do you have any other thoughts or suggestions on what we should consider or include?

Break



Discussion – Opportunities for Placemaking

45 MINUTES



What is Placemaking?



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

“Indigenous placemaking and placekeeping is integral to truth, justice and reconciliation in that it creates and nurtures space, in process and policy, for ceremony, teaching and community; strengthens Indigenous connections with lands and waters; and builds cultural competency and capacity for land-based Indigenous engagement. The outcomes of placemaking and placekeeping initiatives are varied and all are critical for the health and well-being of Indigenous Peoples.”

- *City of Toronto Reconciliation Action Plan 2022-2032*

Placemaking in Toronto – more examples



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



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

Placemaking – Other Cities



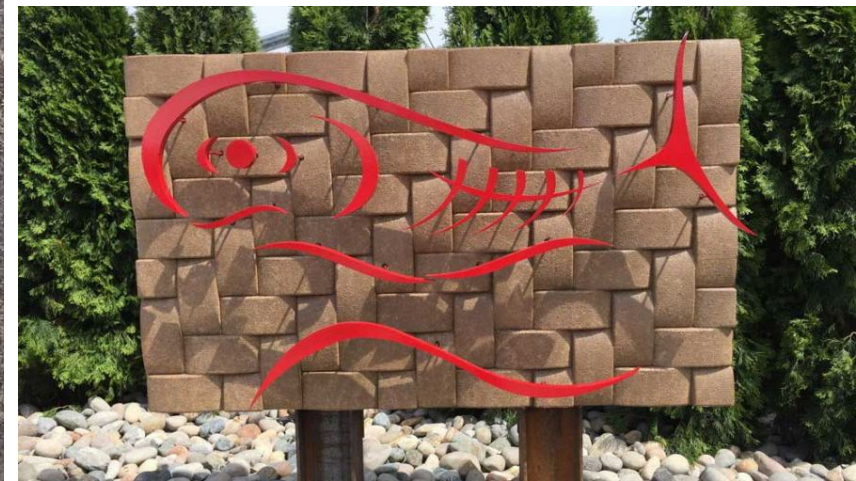
Blue Alley; Baltimore, MD - Neighbourhood project, 2016 (photo: Green Alley Baltimore)



Detail from artwork depicting Ngai Tahu and Pakeha migration and settlement - **Earthquake Recovery Projects,** Christchurch, New Zealand, Matapopere Charitable Trust, 2016 (photo: MuralForm)



Top: **Nimamaa;** Red River, Winnipeg, Manitoba - KC Adams, Val Vint and Jaimie Isaac, 2018 (photo: Leonard Monkman, CBC)



Bottom: **Returning to the River;** Surrey, BC, Drew and Phyllis Atkins, 2016 (photo: City of Surrey)

Former creek – Kensington Market



Denison Estate, 1854 (Toronto Public Library)



Kensington Ave and St Andrew St, 2024

Wàwàtesí – New City Park in Development

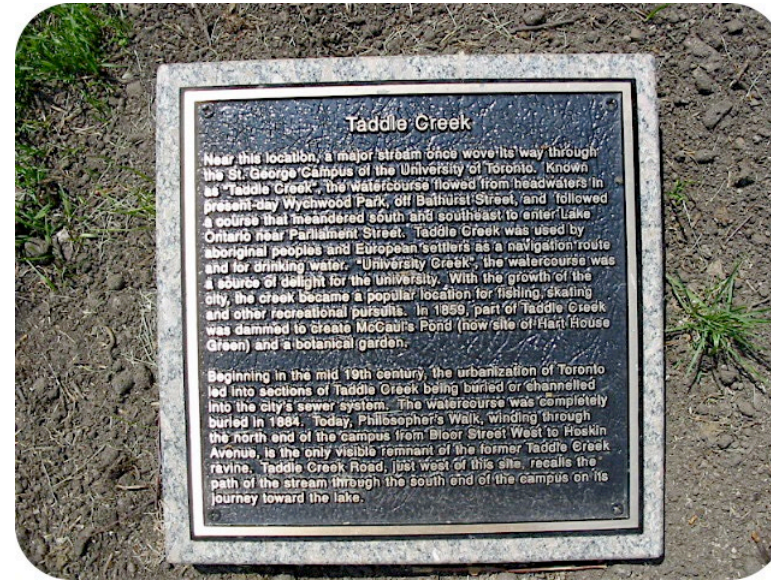
- Park will be located along the same water system, closer to the lake (229 Richmond Street)
- Park design incorporates teaching shared by elder Shelley Charles (Mandawke)
- One aspect of the teaching reminds us of the power of water to shape, even where water is unseen
- A permanent name for the new park, will occur in advance of construction



Similar Examples



Garrison Creek sidewalk markers
(Photos: Sergey Kadinsky, 2016, Hidden Waters Blog)



Taddle Creek plaque
(Photos: Alan L Brown, Toronto Plaques)



Plaque mentioning Castle Frank Brook (Photos: Alan L Brown, Toronto Plaques)



Discussion 2:

- What do you know about this lost creek?
- Do you think it should be commemorated, and if so, how?
- Do you know of other opportunities for placemaking in Kensington Market or West Queen West?

Next Steps

5 MINUTES



Feedback

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

Wendy Jocko

Indigenous Liaison, Innovation 7

E-mail: wjocko@innovation7.ca

Phone: 613-625-1105

Samantha Giguere

Heritage Planner, City of Toronto

E-mail: Samantha.Giguere@toronto.ca

Phone: 416-338-8638

Please provide your feedback by **March 22, 2024.**

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:

Pourya Nazemi

Senior Heritage Planner

Pourya.Nazemi@toronto.ca

416-338-5702

Emma Doedens

Assistant Planner

Emma.Doedens@toronto.ca

416-392-7612

Thank you!

