

City of Toronto – Parks, Forestry & Recreation

Lawrence Heights Community Recreation Centre

Community Advisory Committee Meeting 1
Summary

February 2024



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Introduction

The City of Toronto is designing a new Community Recreation Centre and Child Care Centre for the Lawrence Heights Community. The Community Recreation Centre will be one of the City's newest and largest community centres. Meaningful community engagement is an important part of the process, and the City has launched a three-phase engagement process to help inform the design, features, and programming of the new Community Recreation Centre. The first round of this process focused on creating a new community-led vision that will guide the project team as they prepare design options for the Community Recreation Centre.

This summary includes feedback shared in the first Community Advisory Committee (CAC) meeting which was held on Thursday, January 18, 2024 at the current Lawrence Heights Community Recreation Centre, with the opportunity to join online over Zoom made available for those who requested as they were not able to join in person.

The Community Advisory Committee meeting 1 was the final engagement activity for Phase 1 (of 3) of the community engagement for the design of the new Community Recreation Centre. Engagement activities held before CAC meeting 1 included two community meetings, an online survey, two community pop-ups, a youth-focused pop-up, and an Indigenous Sharing Meeting. Feedback received from these activities was used by the City to revise the draft Vision, Design Principles and Big Moves, as well as to understand the community priorities for the programming, activities, and outdoor uses at the new Centre. The purpose of the Community Advisory Committee meeting 1 was to:



- Review the CAC process and draft Terms of Reference;
- Share what we heard from the community to date;
- Share and seek feedback on the revised Vision, Design Principles, and Big Moves; and
- Share and seek feedback on the City's understanding of the programming, features, and activities community members would like prioritized in the new Centre.

For more information about the project and to review summaries of other Phase 1 community engagement sessions, visit the project webpage at toronto.ca/LawrenceHeights.

About this report

This report summarizes feedback shared in the first Community Advisory Committee meeting. It includes the following sections:

- Meeting format
- What we heard
- Feedback on the revised draft Vision, Design Principles, and Big Moves
- Feedback on programming, activities, and outdoor uses

- Other Feedback
- Questions of Clarification
- Next Steps

This summary was written by Third Party Public, an independent facilitation team retained by the City to support the community engagement process for the new Lawrence Heights Community Recreation Centre. The intent of this summary is to capture the range of feedback shared at the meeting, and not to assess the merit or accuracy of the feedback.

Before finalizing, this summary was shared with participants for review, who were provided one week to provide feedback.

Meeting Format

The meeting was hosted in-person at the current Lawrence Heights Community Centre, with the opportunity to join online over Zoom made available for those who requested as they were not able to join in person. The meeting began with a light dinner and welcome by James Cho from the City of Toronto. It was followed by a round of introductions led by Khly Lamparero from Third Party Public, who was the facilitator for the evening. As it was the first CAC meeting, all meeting participants, including the project team and CAC members, introduced themselves. The City offered a land acknowledgment, which was followed by an agenda review and a presentation. See Appendix A for the meeting agenda.

Third Party Public reviewed the CAC process and draft Terms of Reference, and asked CAC members if they had any questions or suggested refinements to the draft Terms of Reference. No questions or suggested refinements were raised by the CAC members.

The City of Toronto, CS&P Architects (design consultants for the new Centre), and Third Party Public then provided an overview presentation. Following the presentation, participants asked questions of clarification, then convened into small groups for two rounds of discussion. The two discussions focused on the following questions:

- Do you support the revised draft Vision, Design Principles, and Big Moves? What, if anything, would you change?
- What, if anything, is missing from the list of priorities we heard from the community for programming, activities, and outdoor uses?
- Do you have any other feedback or advice?

Participants were also provided with table worksheets to support their small group discussions, which included the original and revised draft Vision, Design Principles and Big Moves, as well as what was heard as community priorities for key spaces in the Centre. See Appendix B for the small table worksheets.

What We Heard - Key Themes in Feedback

Overall, participants liked the revised draft Vision, Design Principles, and Big Moves, but suggested further changes to better reflect and address the needs of local communities in the Lawrence Heights neighbourhood. They also highlighted the need for continuous engagement with the African, Caribbean and Black (ACB) communities, Muslim communities (like the Somali community) and youth for their feedback to be reflected in the statements that would guide the project's overall goals.

Highlight feedback and priorities from the African, Caribbean and Black (ACB) communities in the plan for the new Centre. The neighbourhood is home to ACB communities, and it's important to highlight the feedback from these communities to ensure the plans for the new Centre reflect their needs. There is a need to provide programming and safe spaces for ACB communities, as well as youth, as this is part of the City's commitment in the longer-term revitalization of Lawrence Heights.

Prioritize local residents' access to the programming and space at the new Centre. Participants shared concerns that local residents' could have reduced access to programs and space as a new and improved Centre may attract and create a lot of competition for space with non-local residents. Suggestions included having early registration access and limiting the free services and programming to the local community.

The new Centre should include a community kitchen, community garden, and a food bank as they can be used to address food security issues in the community. These facilities could be used to provide food and food-related programming to the community. Participants said that food security is a right for all community members, and they see an opportunity for the new Centre to provide dignified food bank services that remove the stigma for families in need.

Overall, participants support the presented community priorities for programming, activities, and outdoor uses. There was excitement and interest for a range of programming, activities, and outdoor uses, particularly those for youth and seniors. Participants said that it's important that these programs and activities are free, inclusive and accessible for the diverse demographics that live in the Lawrence Heights community.

Detailed feedback

Feedback on Vision, Design Principles, and Big Moves

Participants generally liked the revisions to Vision, Design Principles, and Big Moves. They also shared some suggested changes and additions to further reflect the Lawrence Heights community and address the community needs.

The feedback below summarizes participants' suggestions and comments on the revised vision, principle, and big moves.

Feedback on the revised Vision:

Original Draft Vision	Revised Vision
<p>The new Lawrence Heights Community Recreation Centre will be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alive with the energy of the many communities it serves • A space for community to gather, connect, and grow together • A place of play, fitness, food, health, music, art, learning, belonging, connection, strength, and fun • Where diversity is celebrated and our collective aspirations embraced 	<p>The new Lawrence Heights Community Recreation Centre will aspire to be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alive with the energy of the many communities it serves • A welcoming, inclusive and safe space for all community to gather, connect, and grow together • A place of play, fitness, food, sport, health, music, art, learning, belonging, connection, strength, and fun • Where diversity is celebrated and community aspirations are reflected and embraced • Up-to-date with government mandated accessibility standards, environmentally sustainable, and built with quality materials.

Overall, the participants said the revised Vision looked good. Some shared suggestions, including:

- Change the word 'aspire' as it does not show a strong sense of commitment towards the vision statement.
- Ensure older seniors are kept in mind when making the space inclusive.
- Consider including reference to 'quality' and 'durable construction'.
- Consider including intentions to use solar panels, wind energy, and geo-thermal energy.

Feedback on the revised Design Principles:

Original Draft Design Principles

1. Be open to all ages and accessible to diverse abilities.
2. Be flexible to support a range of different activities.
3. Respect the unique needs of different members of our communities, including those of different religions and cultural needs.
4. Be beautiful.
5. Encourage positive social interactions and community bonding.
6. Accommodate the importance of arts, culture, and music.
7. Respect and embrace the importance of food to the local community through cooking, eating, gardening.
8. Accommodate access to technology.
9. Be a safe place for the community to use, and a safe place.
10. Integrate Indigenous design in keeping with the importance of Indigenous Placekeeping in City-spaces. This includes seeking input from the First Nation, Métis and Inuit, and seeking the involvement of an Indigenous designer.

Revised Design Principles

1. Be open to all ages and accessible to diverse abilities.
2. Be flexible to support a range of different activities.
3. Respect the unique needs of different members of our communities, and be a welcoming, safe, and inclusive space that can facilitate programming for people of all ages, races, religions, cultures, genders and identities.
4. Create a modern space that incorporates natural light and materials throughout the building, and includes local and Indigenous art to help beautify the space.
5. Encourage positive social interactions and community bonding throughout the many unique communities that will use the new centre.
6. Accommodate the importance of arts, culture, and music.
7. Respect and embrace the importance of food to the local community through cooking, eating, gardening.
8. Accommodate access to technology
9. Be a safe place for the community to use, and a safe place to gather in emergencies.
10. Integrate Indigenous design in keeping with the importance of Indigenous Placekeeping in City-spaces. This includes seeking input from the First Nation, Métis and Inuit, and seeking the involvement of an Indigenous designer.

Overall, participants said the revisions to the Design Principles were in the right direction. Some shared additional considerations and suggestions which are listed below:

- Design Principle #4: Include considerations for design that is friendly to birds and animals and supports wildlife. This includes having bird houses and having markings on windows to prevent birds from crashing into the glass.
- Design Principle #5: Explain who the “unique communities” are – for example, Caribbean and African descent communities.
- Design Principle #6: Include “innovation” or “science and technology”.
- Design Principle #8: Include mentions to the specific technology that will be present at the new Centre, like desktops, Wi-Fi, virtual reality, and 3D printing.

Also listed below are additional suggestions on the Design Principles that do not correspond to any specific Design Principle:

- The design should be “iconic”.
- It should be warm, safe, easy to go inside the new CRC.
- The art should reflect local communities and community values, particularly African, Caribbean, and Jewish communities; and local artists should be a part of the design.
- Different rooms to accommodate boisterous activities and also accommodate quiet, reflective activities like reading.
- Ensure Indigenous design elements and spaces, like the Healing Room and Gathering spaces shown in the presentation are included in the new Centre.
- Ensure quick, easy, and safe access to transit, bus stops, and walking and bike paths.
- Ensure the design is LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Gold or Silver standard.
- All washrooms should be accessible for children, families, and nursing parents.

Participants also said they wanted to see the following included in the design:

- Charging stations for electric vehicles
- Flexible working spaces and rooms with movable partitions
- Co-working spaces
- Underground parking and parking space for public
- Multi-use paths, not just for bikes but for strollers, wheelchairs, accessible safe and well lit
- Proper waste disposal
- Shade (e.g. umbrellas)

Feedback on the revised Big Moves:

Original Draft Big Moves

1. Provide year-round aquatic space including a lane pool and leisure/tot pool.
2. Provide space for fitness and physical activity including a gym, weight room, indoor track, and fitness studios.
3. Provide spaces to support food-centred programming including a community teaching kitchen and space to grow edible plants (Options about whether and how to include space for a food bank are being considered).
4. Provide dedicated youth space where youth will have access to technology and youth-specific programming.
5. Provide gathering spaces for community meetings, events and celebrations, including indoor and outdoor spaces.
6. Provide tech spaces that enable community creativity and growth including a music recording studio, computer lab, public WIFI, and tech-connected meeting spaces.
7. Provide a variety of multi-use spaces that can support a diverse range of community uses including arts and cultural programs, seniors programs, accessible and sensory programming, prayer spaces, community meetings, incubator space, etc.).
8. Encourage local access through active transportation and transit, providing a limited amount of parking as the site allows.
9. Provide lively, all-ages outdoor spaces on the ground floor and rooftop that can accommodate gardens, fitness and activity space, gathering and event space, and play space.
10. Incorporate Indigenous cultural needs, the needs of First Nation, Métis and Inuit families, and ensures the CRC is a unique and welcoming, Indigenous place.

Revised Big Moves

1. Provide year-round aquatic space including a lane pool and leisure/tot pool.
2. Provide space for fitness and physical activity including a gym, weight room, indoor track, and fitness studios.
3. Provide spaces to support food-centred programming including a community teaching kitchen and space to grow edible plants (Options about whether and how to include space for a food bank are being considered).
4. Provide dedicated youth space where youth will have access to technology and youth-specific programming.
5. Provide gathering spaces for community meetings, events and celebrations, including indoor and outdoor spaces.
6. Provide tech spaces that enable community creativity and growth including a music recording studio, computer lab, public WIFI, and tech-connected meeting spaces.
7. Provide a variety of multi-use spaces that can support a diverse range of community uses including arts and cultural programs, seniors programs, accessible and sensory programming, prayer spaces, community meetings, incubator space, etc.).
8. Encourage local access through active transportation and transit, providing a limited amount of parking as the site allows.
9. Provide lively, all-ages outdoor spaces on the ground floor and rooftop that can accommodate gardens, fitness and activity space, gathering and event space, and play space.
10. Incorporate Indigenous cultural needs, the needs of First Nation, Métis and Inuit families, and ensures the CRC is a unique and welcoming, Indigenous place. **This includes creating both indoor and outdoor spaces for Indigenous cultural programming.**
11. **Design an environmentally sustainable building by achieving Toronto Green Standards and Net Zero Emissions.**

Overall, participants appreciated the Big Moves and supported the revisions to them. They provided some suggestions and additions to the Big Moves, detailed below:

- Big Move #3: Participants said the new CRC should help boost food security in the neighbourhood, and provide healthy food options for all those who need it, including low income neighbours and youth. They said:
 - Food security is a right for all community members. Ensure there is space for a food center that respectfully provides food related programming like kitchen/food bank services. There is an opportunity at this CRC to provide dignified food bank services that remove the stigma for families in need.

- Include a café or social enterprise to provide healthy food options to the community, instead of junk food and vending machines.
- The kitchen can be used to provide job opportunities – for example, employing someone to cook food for the youth.
- It is important to have a community garden. Include vertical gardens, hydroponic gardens, and an option to grow culturally-appropriate food, local flora and native plants.
- Add a community fridge.
- Big Move #6: Add the term ‘secure’ to the public Wi-Fi.
- Big Move #7: Include public health initiatives.
- Big Move #8: Consider including small eco-systems in the garden spaces, including turtles, birds, insects, and pollinators.
- Big Move #9: Include mention of community gardens and pollinator gardens.

Also listed below are additional suggestions on the Big Moves that do not correspond to any specific Big Move:

- Train and hire local community members to work at the new CRC.
- Get rid of old technology and consider removing the computer lab, since all school-going kids will be provided laptops from TDSB by 2028.
- Include blinds and frosting on swimming pool windows and changing areas to accommodate privacy.
- Ensure its warm, safe, and easy to go inside.
- Include programming for both kids and adults with disabilities.
- Include dedicated space for TTC wheelchair pick-ups.
- Include support services for students who’ve recently graduated high school.
- Diversify the space for youth – include elements such as fish tanks.
- People had a range of opinions on the outside pool, some were happy for it to not be included while others said it was important to them.
- Consider using salt water instead of chlorine, consider many people are allergic to chlorine.
- Include a dedicated industrial kitchen.
- Include a gallery and art display space where works from local artists can be showcased.
- Ensure there are men-only swimming times to accommodate those who can only attend men’s only programming due to religious reasons.

Feedback on Programming, Activities, and Outdoor Uses

Participants were asked if anything is missing from the list of priorities the City has heard from the community for programming, activities, and outdoor uses. The community priorities were organized by key space in the new Centre. Detailed feedback from participants is organized by each space below.

Aquatics

Participants' advice about aquatics included suggestions to include:

- Swimming equipment for rent
- Men's only programming and times
- Water slides
- Seniors only activities and time
- Wheelchair accessible pool
- Life-guard training

Multi-purpose Rooms

Participants' advice about the multi-purpose rooms included suggestions to include:

- Programming for toddlers, like EarlyON programming
- Options for digital and in-person sign up for use of the multi-purpose room
- Community programming to share resources like hand me downs and toys
- Public health initiatives and diverse health programs
- Voting centers
- A theatre stage in the auditorium
- Dedicated space for storage
- Hybrid programming (in-person and online)
- Sewing and knitting spaces
- Arts and crafts spaces
- Spaces for physical activities for kids, which can be supervised by adults
- More opportunities for dance and learning dance, like Zumba, Socacize, African dances, and Latin dances
- Co-working spaces
- Study spaces, including homework rooms
- Dedicated prayer/cultural room, which are separate from study/quiet spaces

Gymnasium

Participants' advice about the gymnasium included suggestions to include:

- A double gym that is dividable
- Indoor track around the gymnasium / fitness area
- Circuit (premade route) for beginners – like Fit Fix at Goodlife, in addition to regular workouts
- Include bleachers for parents and spectators

Weight and Conditioning Room

Participants' advice about the weight and conditioning room included suggestions to include:

- Reserved time for men and youth
- Programming for youth
- Water filtering stations
- Window openings

Community Kitchen

Participants' advice about the community kitchen included suggestions to include:

- More clarity on point #4: "Include areas that accommodate different food preferences and requirements"
- The kitchen should lead outdoors to the garden where food can be grown, and close to a herb garden / patio
- Industrial kitchen which comes with proper equipment
- Pass through window
- Job opportunities for local community members
- A cafeteria during peak youth programming
- Local and healthy food options
- Social enterprises
- Options for food separation for religious or allergies-related reasons
- More vending machines

Enhanced Youth Space

Participants' advice about the enhanced youth space included suggestions to include:

- Space for teenage boys
- Trauma-informed spaces for youth of all genders
- STEM programming
- Public health programming, including nurses, drop-in hours, after school programs, social workers and youth workers
- Summer Programs for youth
- Clarity on which age groups can use the space
- A theatre stage
- Access to musical instruments like piano and guitar for local musicians
- Waterfall installations to animate the space

Outdoor Space: Ground Floor

Participants' advice about the ground floor space included suggestions to include:

- A public park
- Underground parking
- Artificial turf for outdoor sports or to hang out
- Emergency equipment, including those to extinguish fires

Outdoor Space: Rooftop

Participants' advice about the rooftop space included suggestions to include:

- A community-led food garden
- Small ecosystem for youth and children to experience nature, such as fish, turtle, etc.
- Waterfall features

Anything missing?

Participants were asked if they found anything missing from the list of priorities in the programming, activities, and outdoor uses.

Several participants suggested a focus on programming for seniors, including those over 80. The different spaces, programming, features, and activities suggested were:

- Presentations, resources, and speakers on seniors' health, nutrition, and mental health
- More outdoor events for seniors
- Dance studio for seniors
- Games like bridge and chess
- Fitness programs for seniors
- Seniors' groups – like walking groups

Participants also said they wanted the following included or considered:

- Ensure that the programming is free, and the centre is financially accessible for those who need it
- Preserve spaces specific to identified populations or demographics
- Local groups and agencies should be able to run programs in the new CRC
- Culturally appropriate programming
- Free programs for ACB communities and youth and a focus on Black-specific programming: for example, drumming and art
- Black-led public art
- More innovative spaces
- Programming to promote health, including mental health, reducing stress, and building resilience
- Include services, programming and resources for young families – this could be a part of the food bank/Second Harvest space
- Indigenous-specific spaces and programming are important to be included in the new Centre
- Food security related programming, including something that merges fitness and food
- Wi-Fi infrastructure to support advances in tech, with free and secure Wi-Fi, and tech community partnerships
- A wall that reflects photos of the demolition and rebuilding of the new centre as a way to capture history
- Summer Day Camp and ARC (After-School Recreation Care) programs. These need to remain and/or be expanded to include more spaces.
- Programming for children with disabilities and autism at the Childcare Centre
- Underground Parking – this is a must have for families with children
- Electric charging stations for vehicles and wireless charging stations both inside and outside the CRC – including solar powered outdoor stations, like Newmarket has in their 'commons'
- Options for rotating programs like legal aid program, tax filing support, mental health programs, financial awareness programs, settlement workers, school registrations, employment assistance, and nurse practitioner

- Dedicated staff room
- Diverse health and wellness programs, including those with a focus on youth
- Skating Rink – include a skating rink and other Canadian-centric sports at the CRC, and a skating rink which can be converted into a soccer field depending on seasons
- Running groups/clubs
- 20/7 access to the CRC
- Pay what you can marketplaces.
- Food security focus – food centres, food and food banks to address food insecurity and serve the surrounding community
- Farmers markets

Other feedback for the programming, activities, and outdoor uses included:

- Need for transparency on the approach to how washrooms in the CRC will include gender. A participant mentioned that universal washrooms might not be well received.
- Need to future-proof the technology.
- Need to think outside the box and include unique programming. Make it a gathering space, but also a destination pulling visitors in.
- Consider needs of parents, like shaded seating in the park so that parents can supervise kids in comfort.
- Maintain Black History Month events. These have been a consistent feature of the Community Recreation Centre and should not be lost.
- Consider needs of autistic kids in the daycare centre.

Other Suggestions

Participants were asked if they have any additional feedback or advice. They said:

- Ensure that the construction does not impact local pedestrians and internal pathways and walkways used by the current Lawrence heights residents.
- Ensure that parking for TCHC residents is not affected and lost due to construction. There are currently some inconsistencies with TCHC property and parking spaces.

Engagement Process Suggestions

Participants also provided suggestion on the engagement process. They said:

- Engage with the diverse African, Caribbean and Black community members who currently live in Lawrence Heights.
- Seek and include community feedback and input from Muslim community members (like the Somali community).
- Communicate consistently with the residents from 3,5 Leila Lane and Bagot Court, and keep the impacted community members informed about the timeline of the move.
- Engage further with youth and ask what changes they would like to see.
- Public park consultations should be integrated into this engagement process, as the park complements the CRC. The community should be able to inform feedback on the park that will be built south of the CRC.

- Include halal food options at future CAC meetings.

Questions of Clarification

Following are some questions of clarification asked by the CAC members. Answers have been provided below in italics. Please note that some of these answers were not provided at the CAC meeting but have been added to the summary to provide additional information.

- What is the overall budget for this project? *The council approved total budget for this project is \$107 million.*
- What measures are being taken to ensure that the CRC is financially accessible for members of the community? *The new CRC will follow the same measures currently in place at the existing CRC.*
- Do 'bike racks' in the Ground Floor Outdoor Space include racks for e-bikes and scooters? *Bicycle racks can usually accommodate locking up e-bikes and scooters.*
- Will the outdoor pool be included? *Currently there are no plans for an outdoor pool to be included in the design.*
- Will there be an outdoor skating rink? *Currently there are no plans for an outdoor skating rink due to space restraints.*
- Would it be possible to have separate swim times for men? And a hot tub for parents? *A hot tub is currently not a part of the plan, but there is a warm leisure/relaxation pool which can be used by parents. The separate swim times for men have been noted down as a feedback.*
- Which connection does the bridge facilitate? *The master planned pedestrian bridge over the Allen is not part of this project. It is a future phase and is intended to facilitate pedestrian and bicycle connections over the Allen.*

Post Meeting note:

The project team added that due to outdoor space availability constraints, some outdoor uses that were requested for the CRC may be able to be accommodated instead in the future community park being planned for the South of the site.

Next steps

Feedback from CAC meeting 1, along with feedback received from other community engagement activities in Phase 1, will be used to refine and finalize the Vision, Design

Principles and Big Moves, and inform the draft design of the new Centre that will be presented in Phase 2 of the community engagement process.

The final CAC meeting 1 summary will be posted on the project website (toronto.ca/LawrenceHeights). The next CAC meeting is planned for March 2024. CAC members will be notified of the exact date and meeting details in the coming weeks.

Appendix A. Meeting Agenda

Lawrence Heights Community Recreation and Child Care Centre Community Advisory Committee Meeting 1



Thursday, January 18, 2024

6:30 – 9:00 pm

Lawrence Heights Community Recreation Centre (5 Replin Rd)

Meeting purpose:

- To welcome and introduce Community Advisory Committee (CAC) members to each other and to the project team working on the new Lawrence Heights Community Recreation and Child Care Centre
- To review the CAC process and Terms of Reference.
- To share what we heard from community in Engagement Phase 1
- To review and share feedback on the revised Vision, Design Principles, and Big Moves.
- To review and share feedback on the City's understanding of the programming, features, and activities community members would like prioritized in the new Centre.

PROPOSED AGENDA

6:30 pm **Light Dinner, Welcome, and Introductions**

7:00 **Formal Meeting Begins: Land Acknowledgement and Agenda Review**

James Cho, City of Toronto

Khly Lamparero, Third Party Public

7:05 **Community Advisory Committee Process & Draft Terms of Reference**

Khly Lamparero, Third Party Public

1. Do you have any questions or suggested refinements to the Draft Terms of Reference?

7:10 **Overview of the new Community Recreation and Child Care Centre and what we heard to date**

James Cho, City of Toronto

Susan Lewin and Ryan Giuricich, CS&P Architects

Khly Lamparero, Third Party Public

Questions of clarification

7:40 **Discuss revised Vision, Principles, and Big Moves**

1. Do you support the revised Vision, Design Principles, and Big Moves?
What, if anything, would you change?

8:20 **Discuss community priorities for programming, activities, and outdoor uses**

2. What, if anything, is missing from the list of priorities we heard from the community for programming, activities, and outdoor uses?

3. Do you have any other feedback or advice?

8:55
9:00

Next Steps
Adjourn

Appendix B. Small Group Discussion Worksheets

Discussion 1:

Table Worksheet

Original Draft Vision

The new Lawrence Heights Community Recreation Centre will be:

- Alive with the energy of the many communities it serves
- A space for community to gather, connect, and grow together
- A place of play, fitness, food, health, music, art, learning, belonging, connection, strength, and fun
- Where diversity is celebrated and our collective aspirations embraced

Revised Vision (Revisions are highlighted in yellow)

The new Lawrence Heights Community Recreation Centre will **aspire to** be:

- Alive with the energy of the many communities it serves
- **A welcoming, inclusive and safe** space for **all** community to gather, connect, and grow together
- A place of play, fitness, food, **sport**, health, music, art, learning, belonging, connection, strength, and fun
- Where diversity is celebrated and **community** aspirations **are reflected and** embraced
- **Up-to-date with government mandated accessibility standards, environmentally sustainable, and built with quality materials.**

Table Worksheet

Original Draft Design Principles

1. Be open to all ages and accessible to diverse abilities
2. Be flexible to support a range of different activities
3. Respect the unique needs of different members of our communities, including those of different religions and cultural needs
4. Be beautiful
5. Encourage positive social interactions and community bonding
6. Accommodate the importance of arts, culture, and music
7. Respect and embrace the importance of food to the local community through cooking, eating, gardening
8. Accommodate access to technology
9. Be a safe place for the community to use, and a safe place
10. Integrate Indigenous design in keeping with the importance of Indigenous Placekeeping in City-spaces. This includes seeking input from the First Nation, Métis and Inuit, and seeking the involvement of an Indigenous designer.

Revised Design Principles (Revisions are highlighted in yellow)

1. Be open to all ages and accessible to diverse abilities
2. Be flexible to support a range of different activities
3. Respect the unique needs of different members of our communities, **and be a welcoming, safe, and inclusive space that can facilitate programming for people of all ages, races, religions, cultures, genders and identities**
4. **Create a modern space that incorporates natural light and materials throughout the building, and includes local and Indigenous art to help beautify the space.**
5. **Encourage positive social interactions and community bonding throughout the many unique communities that will use the new centre.**
6. Accommodate the importance of arts, culture, and music
7. Respect and embrace the importance of food to the local community through cooking, eating, gardening
8. Accommodate access to technology
9. Be a safe place for the community to use, and a safe place **to gather in emergencies.**
10. Integrate Indigenous design in keeping with the importance of Indigenous Placekeeping in City-spaces. This includes seeking input from the First Nation, Métis and Inuit, and seeking the involvement of an Indigenous designer.

Table Worksheet

Original Draft Big Moves

1. Provide year-round aquatic space including a lane pool and leisure/tot pool.
2. Provide space for fitness and physical activity including a gym, weight room, indoor track, and fitness studios.
3. Provide spaces to support food-centred programming including a community teaching kitchen and space to grow edible plants (Options about whether and how to include space for a food bank are being considered).
4. Provide dedicated youth space where youth will have access to technology and youth-specific programming.
5. Provide gathering spaces for community meetings, events and celebrations, including indoor and outdoor spaces.
6. Provide tech spaces that enable community creativity and growth including a music recording studio, computer lab, public WIFI, and tech-connected meeting spaces.
7. Provide a variety of multi-use spaces that can support a diverse range of community uses including arts and cultural programs, seniors programs, accessible and sensory programming, prayer spaces, community meetings, incubator space, etc.).
8. Encourage local access through active transportation and transit, providing a limited amount of parking as the site allows.
9. Provide lively, all-ages outdoor spaces on the ground floor and rooftop that can accommodate gardens, fitness and activity space, gathering and event space, and play space.
10. Incorporate Indigenous cultural needs, the needs of First Nation, Métis and Inuit families, and ensures the CRC is a unique and welcoming Indigenous place.

Revised Big Moves (Revisions are highlighted in yellow)

1. Provide year-round aquatic space including a lane pool and leisure/tot pool.
2. Provide space for fitness and physical activity including a gym, weight room, indoor track, and fitness studios.
3. Provide spaces to support food-centred programming including a community teaching kitchen and space to grow edible plants (Options about whether and how to include space for a food bank are being considered).
4. Provide dedicated youth space where youth will have access to technology and youth-specific programming.
5. Provide gathering spaces for community meetings, events and celebrations, including indoor and outdoor spaces.
6. Provide tech spaces that enable community creativity and growth including a music recording studio, computer lab, public WIFI, and tech-connected meeting spaces.
7. Provide a variety of multi-use spaces that can support a diverse range of community uses including arts and cultural programs, seniors programs, accessible and sensory programming, prayer spaces, community meetings, incubator space, etc.).
8. Encourage local access through active transportation and transit, providing a limited amount of parking as the site allows.
9. Provide lively, all-ages outdoor spaces on the ground floor and rooftop that can accommodate gardens, fitness and activity space, gathering and event space, and play space.
10. Incorporate Indigenous cultural needs, the needs of First Nation, Métis and Inuit families, and ensures the CRC is a unique and welcoming Indigenous place. **This includes creating both indoor and outdoor spaces for Indigenous cultural programming.**
11. **Design an environmentally sustainable building by achieving Toronto Green Standards and Net Zero Emissions.**

Write your group's thoughts here

<p>Do you support the revised Vision? What, if anything, would you change?</p>	<p>Do you support the revised Design Principles? What, if anything, would you change?</p>	<p>Do you support the revised Big Moves? What, if anything, would you change?</p>
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Discussion 2:

Table Worksheet

What we heard:
Community Priorities for Aquatics

There was interest in all suggested programming, with the following requested by many:

- **Aquafit**
- **Women’s only swimming**
- **Leisure swimming and age-based leisure swim times** (e.g. Seniors times or tots times)
- **Swimming lessons**
- **Water aerobics**
- **Community permitting** (e.g. birthday, special events)
- **Sports training**

Is anything major missing?

What we heard:
Community Priorities for Multi-Purpose Rooms

Spaces to accommodate the following:

- **“Quiet” activities** (e.g. reading/studying, praying, Indigenous cultural/healing programs)
- **Programming for different age groups** (e.g. seniors, youth, children with disabilities and their parents)
- **Community meetings and events**, particularly those hosted by grassroots organizations, and for meetings of unexpected situations
- **Art activities** (e.g. pottery, painting, drawing)
- **Indigenous crafting classes**
- **Physical activities** (e.g. dance, aerobic/pilates, yoga/meditation, low impact stretching, martial arts)
- **Music activities** (e.g. music recording, music practice or teaching)
- **Computer lab/tech programs** used by all community members
- **Cooking programs**

Is anything major missing?

Table Worksheet

What we heard:
Community Priorities for Gymnasium

- **Include space for people to congregate and watch big events (e.g. spectator bleachers)** – the current gymnasium is small and lacks proper seating.
- **There was interest in all suggested programming, with the following being the most requested:**
 - Basketball (including competitive)
 - Seniors’ program
 - Fitness classes
 - Volleyball
 - Multi-sports programs
 - Tennis
 - Indigenous sports clubs (so people can work towards participation in the North American Indigenous Games)
 - Soccer
 - Pickleball
 - Badminton
 - Gymnastics

Is anything major missing?

What we heard:
Community Priorities for Weight & Conditioning Room

- **Provide a bigger weight room**
- **Provide more good quality and accessible equipment**
- **Provide instructors and instructional videos** to help people safely navigate the space and use the equipment
- **Reserve time slots** for women, seniors, people with disabilities, and members of the 2SLGBTQIA+ community
- **Provide places to get food and drinks** (e.g. vending machines)
- **Room design to consider the following:**
 - Ability to project instructional videos
 - Open concept set-up
 - Air circulation
 - Acoustics (especially if the weight room is on the second or third floor)
 - Access to power (to charge devices)
 - Machines with similar purpose placed close to each other
 - Fixed stations with mats near weight racks

Is anything major missing?

Table Worksheet

What we heard:
Community Priorities for Ground Floor Outdoor Space

- **Playground**
- **Seating and tables**
- **Splash pad**
- **Gardens/planting area**
- **Canopy/gazebo/shade structure**
- **Gathering spaces for events**
- **BBQ**
- **Space for Indigenous ceremonies and sacred fires**
- **Space for mindfulness and reflection**
- **Basketball court** (full/half court)
- **Walking track/fitness stations**
- **BikeShare station and bike racks**
- **Places for stroller and wagon parking**

Is anything major missing?

What we heard:
Community Priorities for Rooftop

- **Gardens/planting** (e.g. raised planters, space to grow the Three Sisters, area for edible plantings)
- **Seating and tables** (e.g. picnic tables, benches, worktables, chess tables, etc.)
- **Gathering spaces for group activity/events** (e.g. outdoor movie night, yoga, etc.)
- **Outdoor mindfulness space or garden for reflection**
- **Canopy/gazebo/shade**
- **Fitness stations**
- **BBQ**

Is anything major missing?

Table Worksheet

What we heard:
Community Priorities for Community Kitchen

- **Think carefully about the role of the kitchen and how it connects to the rest of the centre** (e.g. connect the kitchen to the hallway/multi-purpose room to provide access during events)
- **Design a large, modern, open-concept kitchen with lots of natural light**
- **Design the space as a teaching kitchen and use for community events and group cooking**
Consider having multiple of the same appliance to facilitate group cooking.
- **Include areas that accommodate different food preferences and requirements**
- **Ensure the space is accessible** (e.g. physically accessible for wheelchair users and appliances are adaptable for people with low vision and vision impairment)

Is anything major missing?

What we heard:
Community Priorities for Enhanced Youth Space

- **The space should be safe, warm, inviting, and accessible year-round**
- **The space should be fun and accommodates both active and quieter activities** (e.g. music, arts, indoor games and sports, lounging, relaxing, reading)
- **Provide activities and programming that helps in developing new skills for the youth** (e.g. employment support, digital learning, financial literacy, gardening, etc.)
- **Provide updated, accessible technology** to support youth creativity and develop skills to tech driven careers
- **Have a range of support staff available to speak with youth** (e.g. guidance councillors, social service workers, mental health experts)
- **Consider having separate spaces for teenage girls.**
- **Consider putting the music recording studio and computer lab in/near the dedicated youth space.**

Is anything major missing?

Write your group's thoughts here

What, if anything, is missing from the list of priorities we heard from the community for programming, activities, and outdoor uses?

Write your group's thoughts here

Do you have any other feedback or advice?