

629 Adelaide Street West Shelter Site Community Bulletin #1

September 2024

This Community Bulletin shares information from the team working on the new shelter at 629 Adelaide Street West. You are receiving this bulletin because you have indicated a desire to be informed about the project in previous communications. Community Bulletins and other information on the site will be available on the City's community engagement [web page](#) for 629 Adelaide St. W. Please feel free to share this Community Bulletin with anyone interested in updates on 629 Adelaide St. W.

This Community Bulletin includes information on:

- Background on the shelter to open at 629 Adelaide St. W.
- Supports that will be available at the planned shelter
- Laneway updates
- Community engagement updates

Site Overview of 629 Adelaide St. W.

The City of Toronto and St. Felix Centre will open a shelter at 629 Adelaide St. W. to support a maximum of about 50 people experiencing homelessness. The shelter site at 629 Adelaide St. W. is expected to open in Q1 2025.

This site is a relocation of the 24-hour respite program operated by St. Felix Centre at 25 Augusta Ave., which closed in July 2023 to be converted into new affordable housing. This shelter replaces the capacity lost at 25 Augusta Ave (approximately 850 meters away).

While 629 Adelaide St. W. was originally envisioned to serve as a 24-hour respite program, it will now open as a shelter for single adults of all genders. A variety of factors influenced the change to the service model, including community feedback, available budget, and a further assessment of the layout and square footage of the space.

Supports Provided to Shelter Residents

The upcoming shelter will provide wrap-around supports including case management for all clients, with a focus on helping them secure permanent housing. The site will be staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week by St. Felix Centre. Staff will be trained in de-escalation, conflict resolution, crisis prevention, intervention and management, and

harm reduction services and support. The program at 629 Adelaide St. W. will include harm reduction supports for shelter residents but will not include Supervised Consumption Services. Referrals to the shelter program will only be accessed through Central Intake.

St. Felix Centre will also be providing supports such as recreational and social engagement programming, crisis management, referrals for income supports and health care services and housing help workers. The site will include an enclosed outdoor area to provide clients with a private, open-air gathering space. The site will be pet friendly, so pets and owners can stay together.

Timelines for Construction and Opening

The site has received all permits to move forward with construction and the majority of the demolition work is now complete. Here is what you can expect over the next few months:

- Construction projects will take place 5 days a week, 7 am to 6 pm.
- Trenching and rain work has begun and is expected to take approximately 10 days to complete. During this process, an increase in loud noise, particularly jackhammering should be expected.
- The patio layout is scheduled to begin in late August, with a projected completion time of 45 days. During this phase, community members can expect trucks unloading materials and construction activities outside throughout the day.
- The north side of the building is part of the renovations to make room for windows.
- Hoarding will be erected around the perimeter of the exterior construction area in phases and removed upon completion of each phase. A spotter will be utilized to oversee all activities and prevent pedestrian access as needed.
- Please note, that with any construction projects, dates are subject to change.

Neighbours may see a construction dumpster on site, to capture renovation materials. St. Felix Centre has recently contracted a cleaner to maintain and keep clean the front of the building. Once the building is fully renovated, the entire exterior will be cleaned and rejuvenated.

Lane-way Update

The public lane-way surrounding the site, has been cleaned and will be monitored, and kept as clean as possible during renovations. All graffiti around the building has been cleared up, and a monitoring process has been established to respond to any new graffiti.

Community Engagement Strategy Going Forward

St. Felix Centre will be leading community engagement with support from the Community Engagement Facilitation Team, Barnes Management Group (BMG). BMG will support community engagement activities for this site until the Community Liaison Committee (CLC) is formed. BMG can be reached at 629adelaidestw@gmail.com. Responses may not be immediate due to the volume of emails received. Some inquiries may also be addressed in an upcoming Community Bulletin.

Here is how you can keep up-to-date and be a part of the community-building efforts going forward:

- Ask to be added to the mailing list: If you would like to receive any updates on the shelter site, as they become available, you can sign up by sending an email to 629adelaidestw@gmail.com.
- Questions or feedback regarding construction, please send an email to community@stfelixcentre.org.
- Share this Bulletin with your friends, neighbours, resident's association, or others.
- Check out the City's community engagement [web page](#) for 629 Adelaide St. W.

Over the next phase of engagement, two pieces of work will be undertaken related to a Community Liaison Committee (CLC) in the upcoming weeks:

1. Terms of Reference for the CLC will be established. This CLC will be an important conduit between the shelter operator, the City, and the local community. The CLC membership will be formed in consultation with St. Felix Centre, the City, and the local Councillor's Office. The CLC will be a formal committee connected to the shelter at 629 Adelaide St. W. and will be made up of representatives of the community who fall within the catchment area of the shelter (established condo boards, resident associations, business groups and local community organizations), who can help integrate the shelter into the community and assist in a range of activities to ensure the success of the shelter in the community.
2. The CLC will meet regularly to address questions, share information, discuss and collectively problem-solve community concerns, and connect the needs of the 629 Adelaide shelter with community offers of support. The CLC will also provide stakeholders opportunities to meet with the community engagement staff and to actively engage in troubleshooting issues and emergent concerns, as well as ensuring the success of the shelter in the community.