

Community Advisory Committee Meeting 3 Summary Report

Lawrence Heights Community Recreation Centre and Child Care Centre

Phase 2

September 26, 2024





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Introduction

On Thursday, September 26, 2024, the City of Toronto hosted the third Community Advisory Committee (CAC) meeting. The meeting was part of Phase 2 (of 3) of the community engagement process to help inform the design, features, and programming of a new Community Recreation Centre (CRC) and Child Care Centre for the Lawrence Heights community. Phase 2 of the engagement process was focused on presenting and seeking feedback on the draft preliminary design. CAC meeting 3 was the final engagement activity in Phase 2. The purpose of the meeting was to:

- Share what was heard through Phase 2 engagement and how it has influenced the evolution of the preferred design.
- Collect high-level feedback on the overall preferred design.
- Review what was heard about individual program areas.
- Discuss and decide on preferred elements for each space/set of spaces.
- Share information about the upcoming CRC public art competition process.

Other engagement activities held in Phase 2 included:

- Community Advisory Meeting 2
- Indigenous Communities Sharing Meeting 2
- CRC Staff focus group meeting
- Five community pop-ups, including youth-focused engagements
- Online survey
- Ethennonhawahstihnen' Community Recreation Centre tour for CAC members

For more information about the project and to review summaries from previous community engagement activities, visit the project webpage:

toronto.ca/LawrenceHeights

About this report

This report summarizes feedback shared in Community Advisory Committee Meeting 3, as well as feedback shared by participants via email for a week after the meeting. It includes the following sections:

- Format of the meeting
- Key themes in feedback
- Detailed 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 (CRC). 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.

This summary was shared in draft with participants for review before finalizing.

Format of the Meeting

CAC Meeting 3 was held in-person at the current Lawrence Heights Community Recreation Centre. 14 CAC members attended the meeting.

The meeting began with a light dinner, followed by a welcome, Land Acknowledgement and African Ancestral Acknowledgement from the City of Toronto. Daniel Fusca from the City then shared the objectives and agenda for the meeting.

Queen Kukoyi and Nico Taylor from Oddside Arts shared information answered questions about the upcoming public art competition process for the new Lawrence Heights CRC. Then Daniel Fusca presented the Phase 2 engagement overview, followed by Ryan Giuricich from CS&P Architects who presented the updated draft design of the new CRC.

Following the presentation, CAC members asked questions of clarification to the project team. They were also asked high-level feedback on the overall updated draft design, including what they think of the way the updated draft design has evolved, and if they think the updated draft design reflects the community priorities and feedback.

Following the plenary discussion, CAC members participated in small table discussions to review what was heard about each space/set of spaces in the new CRC and discuss preferred elements for each. A total of six tables were set up, where each table was assigned to discuss a space/set of spaces, including:

1. Gymnasium, Fitness Rooms and Weight Room
2. Lobby and Corridors
3. Playground
4. Outdoor Space
5. Community Kitchen and Multi-Purpose Rooms
6. Aquatics

CAC members were able to select the tables they want to participate in and were asked to change tables two more times. In the end, participants were able to discuss and share feedback on three spaces/set of spaces. Each table had discussion materials and

questions tailored to each space, and discussions were facilitated by City staff or the engagement team.

After the small group discussions, each table shared with all meeting participants key points from their discussion, and participants were able to share additional feedback/advice for the City and the architects.

The meeting concluded with the City sharing next steps and thanking everyone for participating.



What We Heard: Key Themes

Participants were happy with the overall updated draft design of the new CRC. Participants said that the design is reflective of the community feedback to date.

Strong emphasis on creating spaces that are comfortable, accessible, and inclusive for all age groups. Participants would like to see ample seating throughout the CRC, good air quality, accessible equipment, adaptable spaces that can be used for different functions throughout the year, and thoughtful design of spaces to accommodate diverse users and age groups. They would also like to see comfortable and shaded seating areas at the outdoor play areas so parents can supervise their kids comfortably, as well as moveable bleachers in the gym for parents to sit and watch their kids play sports and for community members to watch sports events and performances.

Design the CRC in a way that not only serves practical needs but also creates a lively and engaging atmosphere to enhance the overall community experience. Participants would like to see a vibrant CRC that encourages social gathering, and incorporates elements like greenery, art displays, multifunctional furniture, and sound system throughout the centre. Ensure spaces like the corridors and hallways are designed to be inviting, not boring, and serve both active and quiet uses.

Concerns about the location of the playground and design of the food bank space were raised. Participants shared safety concerns for children due to the location of the playground near the parking lot and linear park. They also shared concerns about the design of the space where the food bank will be and how it connects to the community kitchen.

What We Heard: Detailed Feedback

Feedback shared by participants are organized under the following spaces:

1. Gymnasium, Fitness Rooms and Weight Room
2. Lobby and Corridors
3. Playground
4. Outdoor Space
5. Community Kitchen and Multi-Purpose Rooms
6. Aquatics

1. Gymnasium, Fitness Rooms and Weight Room

Three questions were asked at the **Gymnasium, Fitness Rooms and Weight Room** table. Participants' responses to the questions are summarized below.

Overall, participants want the design of the gym, fitness rooms and weight room to create an inclusive and accessible gym environment that caters to a diverse range of ages and fitness levels. Key recommendations included providing varied equipment, designated times for different age groups and fitness levels, and specific activities for different community groups. See detailed feedback below.

Q1: What features should be included in the gym, fitness room and weight room to make them welcoming to older patrons?

- Ensure facilities cater to a wide range of ages and fitness levels, accommodating everyone from beginners to seasoned athletes.
- Provide benches and seating in weight rooms, particularly for older adults who may need rest.
- Implement a schedule of activities for varying intensity levels to cater to all fitness needs.
- Create separate times and activities to ensure inclusivity, especially for the Jewish and Muslim communities.

Q2: What fitness equipment would you like to be included in fitness and weight rooms?

- Provide a variety of fitness equipment, including:
 - Free weights and machines for weight training.
 - A range of cardio machines such as ellipticals, treadmills, bikes, stair masters, rowers, assault bikes, and skier machines.

- Offer fitness classes to enhance the fitness experience.

Q3: What else, if anything, should be considered when finalizing the design of these spaces?

- Incorporate noise-dampening materials in weight rooms to create a more pleasant workout atmosphere.
- Ensure good air quality in all fitness areas for a healthier environment.
- Include built-in stereo systems for music in the weight room, gym, and fitness studios to enhance the workout experience.
- Add changing rooms specific to the weights, fitness, and gym spaces for convenience.
- Prioritize the addition of spectator benches in the gymnasium to facilitate competition and allow parents to support their children during sports events.
- Design the fitness studio with a spring floor and mats suitable for gymnastics, judo, wrestling, and similar activities, and allow for versatile storage of equipment when not in use.
- Consider adding a retractable wall to separate the weights area from the studio and gym, allowing for flexible use of space.

2. Lobby and Corridors

Three questions were asked at the **Lobby and Corridors** table. Participants' responses to the questions are summarized below.

Overall, participants want the design of the lobby and corridors to be a lively, vibrant, inviting environment while balancing different uses, including active spaces and quiet areas. Key suggestions included incorporating multifunctional seating to enhance comfort and social connectivity, displaying art from community members, and accommodating the needs of parents, particularly having safe spaces to parking strollers.

Q1: What features should we be considering to ensure the lobby is inviting and accessible?

- Integrate seating into the design and provide a variety of seating options to avoid monotonous designs and cater to different preferences. Consider converting steps into seating to introduce multifunctional areas that encourage social interaction. Look at Toronto Metropolitan University's Student Centre for example of seating integrated in the design.
- Ensure there is ample seating with cushions and outlets for comfort, promoting social connections.
- Design the facility to accommodate strollers throughout, ensuring easy access for families.

- Avoid designing boring hallways; instead, focus on creating animated spaces that encourage connection among community members. Suggestions include:
 - Include interchangeable art installations to showcase the work of community members, adding a gallery-like feel to the space.
 - Integrate vertical gardens to enhance aesthetics and environmental benefits.
 - Install built-in speakers to support events hosted in the lobby play and to music in the background at certain times, making the space more inviting.
 - Consider a permanent animated display that shows how the green technology planned for the CRC works (e.g., show how the grey water recycling, solar energy, green roofs, geothermal works).
- Create a kids' corner with play areas designed for young children, ensuring safe spaces for them to run and play.
- Include community boards for information sharing and announcements.

Q2: How well do the designs respond to your comments around making spaces for people sit, socialize and study?

- The draft designs shown does not include many seating areas and the current 2D drawings make it difficult to visualize the space accurately. They would like to see 3D renderings of the design to make it easier to visualize the space.
- Participants flagged that there is conflict between different uses, with some want the space to be active, animated spaces, while others want quiet study areas. They would like the next iteration of the designs to show that these different uses could be balanced the lobby and corridors. They also suggested to incorporate sound absorption materials to mitigate echo and control noise levels.

Q3: What else, if anything, should be considered when finalizing the design of these spaces?

- Hallway walls should be opaque to ensure privacy, particularly regarding childcare services.
- Address blind spots in the facility, such as in the east hallway, to improve visibility for staff and enhance safety.

3. Playground

Three questions were asked at the **Playground** table. Participants' responses to the questions are summarized below.

Overall, participants want the design of the playground to emphasizes the importance of creating an accessible and safe space that caters to children of all ages, with clear sightlines for parents to supervise play areas. Key features should include multi-sport courts, diverse playground equipment, and family-friendly amenities like shaded seating and wide pathways. Additionally, thematic designs, such as treehouse and music

themes, are encouraged to enhance the play experience and community members' experience.

Q1: Themes that are being considered as inspiration for the playground design include 'The Hill' and 'Deep Roots'. What do these themes mean to you? Are there any other landmarks, stories or themes that are important to the community that we should be considering when designing the playground?

- Themes that participants would like to see in the playground include:
 - Treehouse theme
 - Animal statues/themed structures, such as a frog seesaw
 - The hill theme
 - Music theme

Q2: What play equipment should be included in the playground design?

- Water play features.
- Monkey bars.
- Musical structures (like drums or xylophones).
- Slides for both younger and older kids.
- Kinetic spinners.
- Swings, including inclusive options.
- Spider ropes and climbing structures that connect and can be accessed from multiple sides.
- Moving carousels and zipline.
- Fitness equipment that is inviting and usable for kids.

Q3: What else, if anything, do we need to consider when developing designs for the playground?

- Ensure the playground is accessible for all children and age-appropriate.
- Consider safety and sightlines for parents, allowing them to see both the playground and nearby sports courts.
- Add a barrier between the playground and the linear park for safety.
- Consider using rubber flooring for safety.
- More seating areas for families.
- Include shade structures (e.g., sail shades) to protect families from direct sunlight, as trees alone may not suffice.
- Design multi-sport courts to accommodate various activities.
- Include community news board for sports leagues.
- Incorporate wide ramps and lanes for easier movement.
- Include a "dog on leash" sign.

4. Outdoor Space

Four questions were asked at the **Outdoor Space** table. Participants' responses to the questions are summarized below.

Overall, participants want the design of the outdoor space to be a safe, accessible space designed for year-round use, incorporating features like secured furniture and adequate safety measures. Key suggestions were to include diverse seating options and multifunctional spaces, greenery and shades, and permanent structures to enhance the aesthetic and usability of the rooftop.

Q1: What fitness equipment should be included in the outdoor fitness area?

- Stationary outdoor fitness equipment for calisthenics.
- Participants shared concerns about winter usability. They suggested considering storage solutions for equipment during colder months.

Q2: What features should be included in the outdoor fitness area and walking track to make them more welcoming and inclusive to older patrons?

- Add benches along the track for seniors to rest while walking.
- Ensure the flooring is safe for seniors; consider using rubber flooring instead of concrete.
- Ensure safety measures are in place for the rooftop area, including:
 - Clarify the type of walls used (e.g., glass) and ensure they are tall enough to prevent individuals from stepping over.
 - Ensure that furniture is heavy and securely attached to the floor to prevent it from being thrown off the roof.
 - Implement safety measures such as lighting, cameras, or guards to deter hiding in dark areas.
- Placement of BBQs on the roof were discussed, which received mixed opinions:
 - Some suggest removing them due to the hassle of transporting supplies; ground-level BBQs would be more convenient and require less space for sinks and waste disposal.
 - Others favor having BBQs on the roof and request multiple BBQ stations on both levels.

Q3: How do you feel about the integration of outdoor spaces in the design? Are there any additional features or changes you would suggest?

- Some participants said no elements seemed to be missing from the design, while others would like to see useability of the facility in wintertime.
- Other participants suggested that instead of a second smaller running track, consider converting the space into an open-air museum with outdoor exhibits or glass kiosks for displaying art and artifacts.

Q4: What features should be considered in the planting and seating areas to ensure the space is welcoming and well used by the community?

- Incorporate ample plants on the roof and explore vertical gardens to maximize space, with plants providing shading or a tree canopy.
- Increase the number of shaded areas and explore permanent shade options, such as sails or tents.
- Integrate seating as a design element, allowing for diverse usage including:
 - Furniture should be “cool and fun”.
 - Seating should be designed for different uses including sitting, lying down, or playing.
- Avoid wasting space with only tables; include benches and a variety of seating options.

5. Community Kitchen and Multi-Purpose Rooms

Three questions were asked at the **Community Kitchen and Multi-Purpose Rooms** table. Participants’ responses to the questions are summarized below.

Overall, participants want the design of the community kitchen and multi-purpose rooms to be versatile, welcoming, and promotes social interaction through ample seating and multipurpose uses. Safety, accessibility, and maintenance considerations were highlighted to ensure a clean, functional environment that meets the diverse needs of the community, including seniors.

Q1: How do you envision using the community kitchen? What features are important for us to consider including in the kitchen design to accommodate this?

- Design a community kitchen that is versatile enough to accommodate various dietary requirements.
- Ensure the kitchen connects to the outdoor patio and garden, enhancing accessibility to fresh produce and outdoor activities.
- Incorporate a pantry and cold storage to support food preparation and storage.
- Avoid small, cramped spaces in the kitchen; instead, design spacious and open pantries.
- Include easy-to-clean surfaces and clear guidelines for use to maintain hygiene.

- Create gardens and outdoor connections, such as access to an herb and food garden, further support the flexible use of the space throughout the year.

Q2: How do you envision using the multipurpose rooms? What features (technology, seating, etc.) are important for us to consider including to accommodate this use?

- Expand multipurpose rooms to accommodate a variety of functions, serving residents, staff, and community meetings.
- Ensure these rooms are highly flexible to adapt to different needs.
- Install multiple electrical outlets in gathering areas to support events, accommodating equipment such as speakers and projectors.
- Allocate a dedicated space for the food bank, ensuring its operations are well-defined within the design, including client queue management and its integration with multipurpose area activities.
- Include ample seating throughout the facility to encourage social interactions and conversations among community members.
- Include quiet spaces for relaxation, including areas for yoga and comfortable seating for activities like knitting, are integrated into the design.
- Increase space for seniors to ensure that their needs for comfortable socialization are met.
- Provide more meeting rooms and allocate additional space for Parks, Forestry & Recreation (PF&R) staff, programming, and events to accommodate community needs.
- Allow grassroots groups to book spaces for their activities.

Q3: How well do the designs meet the community's need for flexible program space?

- No responses were provided to this question.

Additional feedback:

- Provide detailed information on how the food bank will operate within the facility, including foot traffic management and how it will coexist with multipurpose room activities.

6. Aquatics

Three questions were asked at the **Aquatics** table. Participants' responses to the questions are summarized below.

Overall, participants want the design of the aquatics space to be family-friendly and accessible that prioritizes safety, comfort, and fun for children of all ages. Key suggestions were to include inviting toddler pools, various water slides, ample seating for parents, and strategically positioned playgrounds for easy supervision. Additionally,

the design should address hygiene and security concerns while reconsidering certain high-risk equipment to ensure a safe environment for all users.

Q1: What water play features would you like to be considered for the pool area?

- Incorporate both large and small water slides to enhance excitement for children of all ages, drawing inspiration from facilities like the North Toronto Community Centre.
- Add wave pools for additional fun.
- Include a heated toddler pool with seating for caregivers to comfortably supervise their children.
- Design the toddler pool to be inviting without labeling it specifically as a “toddler pool” to avoid making younger kids feel ashamed for using it.
- Include kinetic play equipment and sensory movement options, like ziplines, to enhance play experiences for children.

Q2: Do the window shades adequately address concerns over privacy?

- Participants would like to see adequate privacy measures, such as window shades, to address concerns effectively.
- Participants would also like to see security gates for changing rooms to enhance safety, including privacy screens and monitored entrances.

Q3: What else, if anything, should be considered when finalizing the design of this space?

- Ensure the facility is accessible for families, including a mechanical lift for individuals needing wheelchair access to the pool.
- Provide ample seating throughout the pool area, including shaded structures for parents to watch their kids.
- Create a central viewing area with benches for parents, allowing them to supervise both the playground and the older kids’ sports courts easily.
- Include deck seating in front of glass areas for better visibility and comfort.
- Encourage the use of showers by integrating them into doorways for easy access, promoting cleanliness.
- Implement safety measures such as barriers to prevent children from running off and ensuring all play equipment is secure and safe.
- Acknowledge the dangers of springboards and Tarzan ropes, which present significant liability issues and should be reconsidered in the design.

Other suggestions

- Consider doing a tour of the CRC once completed to familiarize the community with the new facility.
- Ensure the admin offices include a dedicated break room for staff.

Questions of Clarification

- **Will there be a shallow end for small kids in the pool?** *Response from project team: The lane pool has a ledge for people to stand on. Toddler pool will have different levels of water depth, starting at around 3 feet. It will also include benches for parents to sit in.*
- **Would you consider reducing the height of the shallow end of the lane pool to accommodate younger children who may not want to use the kiddie pool?** *Response from the project team at the meeting: The current plan has a 4 ft shallow end, and could go as low as 3 ft, potentially. The project team will look into lowering the depth based on this feedback.*

Updated response from the project team after the meeting: Based on the feedback received, the shallow end of the lap pool will be reduced to 3 ft 6 inches.

- **Will there be a skating rink?** *Response from the project team at the meeting: Due to size of site, a skating rink was not included in the plans.*
Updated response from project team after the meeting: The project team is reviewing the possibility for an informal skating rink in the community plaza area in the wintertime. They are reviewing the grading in the community plaza as the area where the skating rink could be needs to be flat.
- **How much chlorine at the pool?** *Response from project team: Chlorine level is based on volume of water, and we will follow public health standards.*
- **Will an underwater viewing window for the pool be considered?** *Response from project team: No, there is no public space below the pool so we would be unable to accommodate an underwater viewing window.*
- **Will both the changerooms in the aquatics area be family changerooms?** *Response from project team: Yes, City standard is to have family changerooms.*
- **Would you consider two elevators on either side of the building. Having only one elevator location can become too busy.** *Response from project team: There will be 2 elevators provided in a centrally located area.*
- **Would you consider space for performers, like a portable stage in the gym?** *Response from project team: The gym and multi-purpose rooms are designed to support a variety of activities and can be a flexible space for community gatherings and performances. The outdoor square and dance studio could also accommodate space for performances.*

- **Is a piano being considered for the building?** *Response from project team: Musical instruments is part of purchasing decisions, not the building design. Typically, the City purchases smaller instruments for recreation centres, but we will take this feedback for consideration.*
- **Will the second floor also have natural light?** *Response from project team: The second floor is designed to have ample daylight, including a large clerestory in the lobby area. The multi-purpose rooms along the south façade will all have glazing and daylight. The multi-purpose room along the north will have shared light from the aquatics area.*
- **Will there be moveable bleachers for the gym? Parents want to see their children play. It could also foster competitive games with spectators to watch the games.** *Response from project team after the meeting: The project team understands that gym viewing is an important community concern, and the project team is reviewing opportunities for spectator seating in the gym.*

Next Steps

Feedback from the Community Advisory Committee Meeting 3 will be used to inform and refine the final preferred design that will be presented to the broader Lawrence Heights community for feedback at the next and final phase of engagement in the Q4 2024.

The final CAC Meeting 3 summary will be posted on the project website (toronto.ca/LawrenceHeights) after participant review of the draft summary. The next CAC meeting is planned for early December. CAC members will be consulted about their dates and availabilities in the coming weeks.

Attachment 1: Agenda



Lawrence Heights Community Recreation and Child Care Centre Community Advisory Committee Meeting 3

Thursday, September 26, 2024

6:30 – 9:00 pm

Lawrence Heights Community Recreation Centre (5 Replin Rd), Multi-purpose Room

Meeting purpose:

- Share what was heard through Phase 2 engagement and how it has influenced the evolution of the preferred design
- Collect high-level feedback on the overall preferred design
- Review what was heard about individual program areas
- Discuss and decide on preferred elements for each space/set of spaces
- Share information about the upcoming CRC public art competition process

PROPOSED AGENDA

- 6:30 Acknowledgements, Welcome, Agenda Review, Introductions**
Daniel Fusca, City of Toronto
Jill MacLachlan, City of Toronto
Joshua Bowman, City of Toronto
- 6:40 Overview of the Public Art Competition Process**
City and Oddside Arts
- 6:50 Presentation: New Lawrence Heights CRC Update**
James Cho, City of Toronto
Daniel Fusca, City of Toronto
Susan Lewin and Ryan Giurich, CS&P Architects
Brian Porter and Robert Oleksiak, Two Row Architects
Questions of clarification
- 7:05 Plenary Discussion**
- 7:15 Small Table Discussions – Round 1**
- 7:35 Small Table Discussions – Round 2**
- 7:50 Small Table Discussions – Round 3**
- 8:15 Report Back and Plenary Discussion**
- 8:45 Phase 3 Engagement and Quick Meeting Evaluation**
- Do you have any advice for the project team as it plans the final phase of community engagement? Are there locations or upcoming community events the City should consider attending?
- 8:55 Next Steps**
- 9:00 Adjourn**

Tell us how we did!
Take a quick survey to
provide feedback on
today's meeting.



If you have any additional comments / feedback you'd like to share with the project team, please submit them to khly@thirdpartypublic.ca by Thursday, October 3, 2024.

Attachment 2: Presentation



1

Today's Goals

- Share what was heard through Phase 2 engagement and how it has influenced the evolution of the preferred design
- Collect high-level feedback on the overall preferred design
- Review what was heard about individual program areas
- Discuss and decide on preferred elements for each space/set of spaces
- Share information about the upcoming CRC public art competition process

3

Who you are

The Lawrence Heights CRC Community Advisory Committee is comprised of 34 members, including individual community members and representatives from community organizations.

Individuals were selected through a civic lottery to represent the diversity of the community and include ages 19 to 65+, diverse cultural and ethnic backgrounds, TCHC tenants, newcomers, Indigenous-identifying members, and more.

The committee also includes representatives from the following community organizations:

- Coalition of Connected Communities
- Filipino Canadian Community House
- Lawrence Heights Arts Centre
- Lawrence Heights Inter-Organizational Network (LHION)
- Lawrence Heights Revitalization Coalition
- North York Community House
- Tripple'S seniors services

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Acknowledgements

Land Acknowledgment
African Ancestral Acknowledgement

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Meeting Agenda

- 6:30 Acknowledgements, Welcome, Agenda Review, Introductions
- 6:40 Overview of the Public Art Competition Process
Questions of clarification
- 6:45 Presentation: New Lawrence Heights CRC Update
Questions of clarification
- 7:15 Small Table Discussions
- 8:15 Report Back and Plenary Discussion
- 8:45 Phase 3 Engagement and Quick Meeting Evaluation
- 8:55 Next Steps
- 9:00 Adjourn

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Project Team

City of Toronto	Parks Forestry and Recreation Division Mario Pecchia - Program Manager, Capital Projects Design & Delivery James Cho - Project Manager, Capital Projects Design & Delivery Michael Ellison - Manager, Community Recreation Eric To - Manager, Aquatics, Community Recreation Kim Hussey - Manager, Facilities Operations Dennis Dametto - Manager, Parks Daniel Forca - Manager, Public Consultation, Capital Projects Design & Delivery Jill MacLachlan - Supervisor Outreach & Special Projects, Capital Projects Design & Delivery	Children's Services Division Suzanne Cooke-Woodland - Project Manager
Architecture and Design Consultants	CS&P Architects Susan Lewin Ryan Giuricich	Two Row Architect Brian Porter Robert Oleksiak
Engagement Consultants	Third Party Public Khly Lamparero Ian Malczewski	

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Your role

As CAC members, you are here tonight to work together on behalf of all residents of the Lawrence Heights community.

Consider what serves the needs of the broader community, not just your own needs or the needs of your family.

To do this, we have to put ourselves in each other's shoes.



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Codes of conduct

As a meeting participant, you agree to:

- Be an active listener and keep an open mind by valuing a diversity of views and opinions.
- Treat all participants with kindness and respect.
- Critique ideas, not individuals.
- Avoid cursing as well as language or behaviours that could otherwise be considered rude or offensive.
- Abide by the City's Human Rights and Anti-Discrimination policy by refraining from making racist, xenophobic, misogynist, homophobic, transphobic, anti-Indigenous, ableist, ageist, or other forms of discriminatory, prejudicial, exclusionary or hateful comments and questions. These will not be tolerated and may result in expulsion from the meeting and/or process.

As City staff & process stewards, we commit to:

- Providing fair and equal access to the public engagement process to all who are interested in participating.
- Maintaining an atmosphere that is respectful of all participants and other staff members.
- Ensuring that project outcomes and/or staff recommendations are informed by participants' concerns, interests, and desires.
- Being advocates for the integrity of the public process and ensuring it reflects as much as possible directions contained in relevant Council-approved strategies, including but not limited to the Reconciliation Action Plan, the Confronting Anti-Black Racism Action Plan, the Seniors Strategy, Child-friendlyTO, and the Newcomer Strategy.
- Undertaking and encouraging actions by other City staff that build trust and credibility for the process among all participants.
- Providing the information participants need to meaningfully participate.



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OVERVIEW

Oddsie Arts has been hired by the City of Toronto to conduct Public Art consultations for the new Lawrence Heights Recreation & Child Care Centre. As Afro-diasporic creatives, we are taking a by and for community approach, which encourages a Public Art Process that is informed by diverse experiences, perspectives, and knowledge(s).

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APPROACH

Our commitment to being guided by community informed:

(a) The creation of City survey questions

(b) The hiring of Community Consultants

(c) The acquisition of a visual artist

(d) In-person engagement efforts

(e) The creation of workshops

Through these processes, we sought to meaningfully engage with the people of Lawrence Heights.

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BRANDING

- Our team was dedicated to formulating a branding strategy that amplified Lawrence Heights heritage(s), culture(s), and community dynamics.
- We wanted a visual artist who is/was a Lawrence Heights resident and a person with knowledge of the community.



MEET GERDA BOATENG

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DESIGNS

The designs by Gerda are used as branding for our website, social media posts, presentations, and giveaway prizes.

The design was informed by discussions with Community Consultants.

VERSION 1

VERSION 2

13

STRATEGY

To enrich community input, Oddside Arts conducted both **formal and informal consultations** as advised by our Community Consultants.

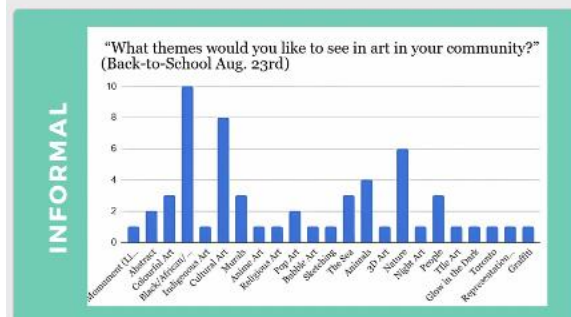
Informal

- Coordinated community visits including community events (Back-to-School on Aug. 23rd and the People's Choice Awards on Aug. 28th).

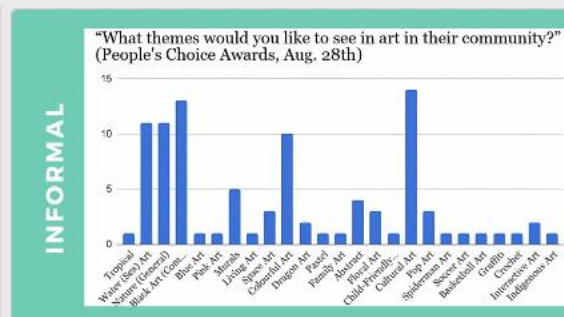
Formal

- The City of Toronto survey and Oddside Art's 3 art-based workshops

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While the collection of survey data is not complete, Oddside Arts has begun in-person consultations with 3 art-based workshops.

FORMAL

From our first workshop on **September 14th**, the most prominent themes highlighted by participants were:

- An emphasis togetherness, connections and diversity.
- An acknowledgement of hardship and resilience.
- A need to emphasize the cultures that compose community using an intergenerational lens.

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UPCOMING

- We have **2 more** upcoming workshops in the Lawrence Heights and Neptune Area:
 - September 28th at 155 Neptune Drive from 12:00 - 3:00 PM**
 - October 12th at 5 Replin Road from 12:00 - 3:00 PM**
- The City survey will close on **October 1st at 11:59 PM**. All participants who complete the survey will be entered for a chance to win giveaway prizes.

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Phase 2 Engagement Overview

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Design Review Panel (DRP)

- The Design Review Panel was held on May 15, 2024.
- The design was well-received by the panelists
- One panelist said it was an **excellent start** and was a **great project**. One panelist even said he loved it! They thought the **Tablelands/Treehouse** concept was a strong idea and felt the infusing of the Indigenous concepts into the design was well done.

"Panelists recommended these sustainability efforts, but some pointed out the **greenhouse effect** and feeling that the south-east entrance is maybe a bit too understated."

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Community Engagement Process

1470+
people engaged so far

Pre-Engagement:
• 2 rounds
• 22 meetings with key stakeholders

Phase 1: Visioning
Q4 2023 & Q1 2024

Goal: Confirm proposed program, develop Vision, Guiding Principles and Big Moves.

Phase 1 engagement included:
• Two community meetings
• An online survey
• Community pop-ups, including youth focused pop-up
• Indigenous Sharing Meeting
• Community Advisory Meeting 1

Phase 2: Exploring Options
Q2 / Q3 2024

Goal: Present and gather feedback on a draft design

Phase 2 engagement included:
• Community Advisory Meeting 2
• Indigenous Sharing Meeting 2
• CRC Staff focus group meeting
• Community pop-up, including youth-focused pop-up
• Online survey
• CRC Tour for CAC members
• Community Advisory Meeting 3

Phase 3: Setting the direction
Q4 2024 / Q1 2025

Goal: Present and gather feedback on a preferred design.

*Process and timeline subject to change

Detailed Design & Hire Construction Team
2024-2025
Construction
2026-2028

We are here

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What We Heard – Key Advice from CAC Meeting 2



Many appreciate the draft preliminary design and said it adequately reflected the vision, guiding principles and big moves, and provided a range of suggestions, including:

- Address needs of the local community and show the City's commitment to the current residents of Lawrence Heights
- Showcase the community's uniqueness, history, evolution, and different cultures in the public art.
- Parking is critical to ensure the new CRC can be easily accessed by the community year-round.
- Ensure there's a lot of natural light and good ventilation.
- Design the pool area with privacy features.
- Mixed opinions on having a dedicated tech space.
- Ensure the new CRC is accessible, especially for seniors, and those with mobility challenges/visual impairments.
- Prioritize local access when signing up for programs and booking spaces.
- Involve youth in the development of the new CRC.
- Interest in establishing a group that could manage and maintain a community garden at the new CRC.

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What We Heard – Key Advice from Indigenous Sharing Meeting 2

Overall, participants said the draft design reflects the vision, and provided a range of suggestions:

- Incorporate natural materials and traditional colours and design.
- Ensure accessibility and inclusivity in all design aspects is important.
- Emphasize youth empowerment and elder comfort in the design and programming.
- Explore options for increasing parking for community members.
- Include directional signs and structural art to guide and welcome people.
- Include outdoor elements like living walls or murals reflecting diverse faces and local artists.
- Make the multi-purpose room a welcoming space for different activities (pow-wow, jigging, etc.).
- Concerns about the impact and disruption that the relocation will have on TCHC residents' lives

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What We Heard – Key Advice from Community Pop-ups

5 Pop-ups

Pathways to Education
26+ youth

Lawrence Heights CRC
130 youth & 15 community members

Columbus Centre
60+ community members, including many seniors

Lawrence West TTC Station
90+ community members

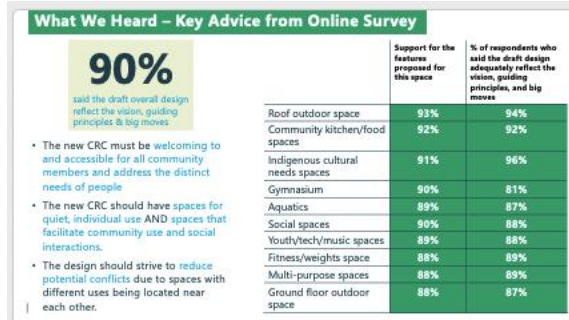
Lawrence Heights & Neptune Annual Summer Festival
40+ community members



- Excitement for the new CRC and general support for the draft design.
- Appreciation that the new CRC will be larger and have facilities with increased capacity.
- Top 3 priorities for the design:
 - Accessibility
 - Reflect the community's cultural identity
 - Meet the everyday needs of the local community



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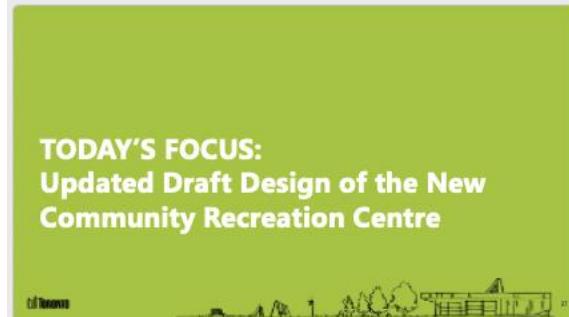


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Feedback and Response Summary

Feedback	Response
Suggestions about building design and programming (e.g. ventilation, natural light and materials, accessibility, privacy in quiet area, gender-specific programming, and spaces for social interactions, quiet, showcase community in public art, and many more)	Proposed design has been updated; on-going public art process will consider feedback related to public art.
Feedback about prioritizing local community (e.g. priority registration, local organizations' free access to space, local hiring, and programming focused on African, Caribbean, and Black (ACB) youth)	Parallel City processes are on-going as these are separate from the building's design.
Feedback about parking	Internal City review is on-going (led by Transportation Services).
Clarity on connection to broader TCH Lawrence Heights Revitalization project	Planning is underway for Phase 2 of the Revitalization project. The new Community Recreation Centre (CRC) is a key project in Phase 2 of the revitalization.

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Ground Floor – Multi-Purpose Rooms



We heard: The multi-purpose rooms should be a flexible space to allow activities that support different ages and community needs. The multi-purpose rooms will be designed to be flexible spaces and have flexible walls to divide the rooms into smaller spaces when needed.



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Ground Floor – Community Kitchen



We heard: This should be an open concept space with an informal 'counter' to support as well as flexible use for community, dining, and food bank. The community kitchen is designed to be opened to the adjacent hall rooms, as well as having access to the outdoor, outdoor storage is provided for the food bank.



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Ground Floor – Social and Public Spaces

We heard: The corridor should be a social space for the community with enough to allow for a variety of spaces to sit and stand. The design of the corridor allow for a variety of social and quiet spaces with different types of seating options for hanging, sitting, and sitting.



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2nd Floor – Activity Rooms



We heard: The activity rooms should provide space for community members to be creative and support activities for youth and senior groups. There will be different activity rooms with specific features for art, music, dance, and youth and seniors.



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2nd Floor – Technology



We heard: Make the tech space more flexible where possible. Consider how the space can be used and furniture can be arranged in different ways. The tech space has been moved to a larger space with change for visible devices. Other in spaces will be provided to allow for flexible seating arrangements.



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3rd Floor – Gymnasium



We heard: The gym should have good views to nature, bright, open, and airy to support a variety of uses. The design provides ample daylight/natural views, seating around the perimeter, and different game lines for a variety of sports.



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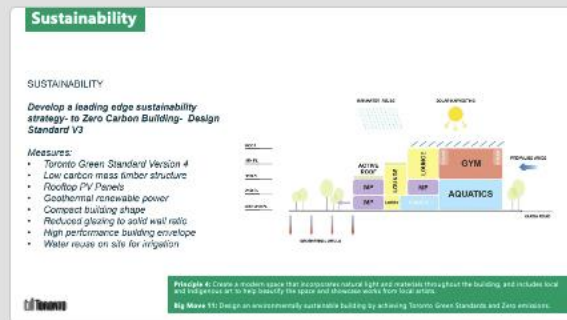
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Discussion

City of Vancouver



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Discussion

1. What do you think of the way that the preferred design has evolved?
2. To what extent do you feel the updated draft design reflects the community priorities and feedback? Why?
3. Do you think this building will effectively meet the needs of the community? Why or why not?

City of Vancouver

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Meeting Evaluation

Tell us how we did!

Take a quick survey to provide feedback on today's event.

cotsurvey.chkmkt.com/LHCACFeedback



City of Vancouver

No personal contact details will be collected through this survey and you will remain anonymous.

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Next Steps

- **Share additional feedback by Oct 3**
- **CAC Meeting 4** (TBD - Q4 2024)
- **Indigenous Sharing Meeting 3** (Q1 2025)
- **Online survey** (Q1 2025)
- **Community Pop Ups** (Q1 2025)

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