

Indigenous Advisory Circle Meeting

70 Croatia Street Park – Phase 3: Setting the Direction

November 2024



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Introduction

In Phase 3 of the community engagement process, the City and the design consultant team will share the preferred design with the community, with the goal to have a refined preferred design at the end of the phase. The community engagement activities in this phase include:

- A Community Advisory Committee (CAC) Meeting
- An Indigenous Advisory Circle (IAC) Meeting
- An Online Survey
- An Open House

The IAC meeting for Phase 3 of the project was held on Tuesday, October 15, 2024, from 6:00 to 8:00 pm, virtually on Webex.

The purpose of the meeting was to receive feedback on the preferred park design and determine if participants felt the design improved and incorporated their feedback on Indigenous Placekeeping feedback from earlier phases.

The document that follows provides a summary of the IAC meeting.

Meeting Summary

This section provides a more detailed summary of the feedback heard.

The meeting agenda and attendance can be found in **Appendices A and B**. The full presentation slides can be found on the [project webpage](#).

Project Presentation

- At the onset of the meeting, William Skura, City of Toronto, provided a land acknowledgment and reviewed the meeting agenda.
- All project team attendees participated in a round of introductions, team members stated their names, their organization, and role for the project.
- Andrey Pravosoudov and William Skura, City of Toronto, provided opening remarks to thank IAC members for their participation in this important process and provided contextual information around the project.
- William Skura, City of Toronto, explained the project timeline along with an overview of engagement activities to come in Phase 3 of community engagement.
- Cassandra MacLellan, StrategyCorp, shared a summary of the Phase 2 engagement activities and the feedback heard from the community and how it supported drafting the preferred park design.
- Yvonne Battista, STUDIO tla, then presented key Phase 2 survey findings, and presented the visuals of the preferred design.
- Yvonne Battista, STUDIO tla, walked through the park elements, and encouraged a discussion among participants.
- William Skura, City of Toronto, and James Miller, Trophic Design, facilitated the discussion and questions for IAC members to share their feedback on the design, including the Indigenous Placekeeping elements.
- William Skura, City of Toronto, shared the next steps for the community engagement and concluded the meeting.

Questions of Clarification

During the presentation, IAC members had an opportunity to ask the project team questions. Below is the list of questions received and the project team's responses.

Q: Where are the materials for the play structure and play surface area being sourced?

A: The main play structures will be provided by a local Ontario supplier who uses wood from FSC certified sources or small local timber suppliers who practice sustainable harvesting and reforestation. The engineered wood fibre play surface will be locally sourced.

Q: Is cork an option for the play area surface material?

A: Cork play surfaces are not common in the Toronto market and would be cost prohibitive and a non-standard maintenance challenge. The park design is moving forward with the engineered wood fibre option.

Q: Has the park's name been decided?

A: No, but we are prioritizing Indigenous names. We have a commemorative naming process, and no name has been chosen. More information about the naming process can be found [here](#).

Q: How are the four sacred medicines being integrated into the design of the park and/or plant plan?

A: We are working with Trophic Design and the City to determine a plant palette which will integrate plant species with Indigenous significance. Soil types and moisture levels will also be considered to ensure the plants will be successful.

Feedback Summary

Feedback for the preferred park design was generally positive. IAC members suggested incorporating design elements, including:

- Indigenous star teachings and storytelling (e.g., Sky Woman, Great Bear) through signage and the shade structure.
- Include four sacred medicines into the park design and planting plan.
- Explanatory signage using Indigenous language to identify park elements and meaning (e.g., honour and share history of the former creek in the park).

Upon conclusion of the agenda items, William Skura, City of Toronto, thanked all members for their participation and time. It was noted that participants are welcome to submit additional questions and feedback via email.

Next Steps

The project team will refine the preferred design using the community feedback received at the Phase 3 CAC and IAC meetings. The next engagement activity will be an online survey in November 2024 for the community to provide further feedback on the next iteration of the preferred design.

To learn more about the project, visit the [project webpage](#).

Appendix A – Agenda

70 Croatia Street Park

IAC Meeting

Date: October 15th, 2024

Time: 6:00PM – 8:00PM

Location: Virtual (Webex)

Time	Agenda Item
6:00pm	Welcome and introductions
6:10pm	Presented an overview of the project process and context
6:20pm	Reviewed Phase 2 engagement activities and community feedback received in Phase 2 of community engagement activities
6:30pm	Discussed preferred design for the park
7:00pm	Answered questions from IAC members
8:00pm	Shared next steps and adjourn

Appendix B – Attendance

Individual IAC Members: 3/7 present

Project Team Attendance:

- City of Toronto – Parks, Forestry and Recreation
 - William Skura – Senior Public Consultation Coordinator (Indigenous)
 - Andrey Pravosoudov – Project Coordinator Landscape Architect
- STUDIO tla
 - Yvonne Battista – Principal, Landscape Architect
- Trophic Design
 - James Miller – Indigenous Project Specialist
- StrategyCorp Inc.
 - Cassandra MacLellan– Engagement Consultant

Acknowledgements

City of Toronto

Parks, Forestry & Recreation

Helen Luu – Senior Public Consultation Coordinator

William Skura – Senior Public Consultation Coordinator (Indigenous)

Andrey Pravosoudov – Project Coordinator Landscape Architect

Consulting Team

Engagement Specialist: StrategyCorp

Cassandra MacLellan – Engagement Consultant

Design Team

Landscape Architect: STUDIO tla

Yvonne Battista – Principal, Landscape Architect

Lok Tim Chan – Project Manager

Indigenous Design Advisor: Trophic Design

Terence Radford – Principal, Landscape Architect

James Miller – Indigenous Project Specialist

Agata Mrozowski – Landscape Designer

Developer: Hazelview Investments

Chloé Valcin-Wright – Associate, Planning & Real Estate Development

Community Members

We appreciate all the community members who engaged with us during the IAC Meeting. Your questions, insights, and feedback have been invaluable in refining our materials and enhancing the overall experience for all participants.