

Pop-Ups Engagement Summary for the Kensington Market Heritage Conservation District (HCD) Plan

Overview

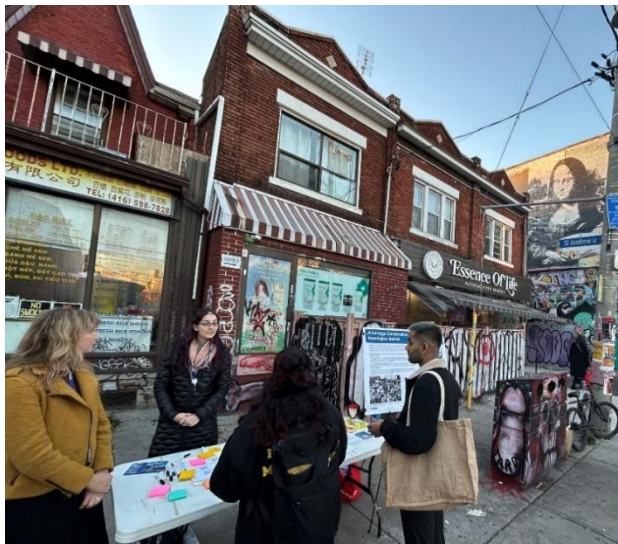
On November 6 and 12, 2024, the City of Toronto hosted two pop-up engagements in Kensington Market. The purpose was to ensure people were aware of the Kensington Market HCD Plan and to promote the upcoming Community Consultation meeting on November 18, 2024. During the engagements, people could learn about the project, understand the proposed HCD boundary, and provide any thoughts or feedback.

Overview of Participant Engagements

One hundred and seventeen (117) people stopped by the pop-ups. The following table summarizes the level of participation at each pop-up engagement.

Pop-up Engagement	Participation
Pop-up #1: November 6, 2024 (4 pm to 6 pm) in front of 45 Kensington Ave.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Approximately 55 participants were engaged.• Approximately 30 businesses were engaged.
Pop-up #2: November 12, 2024 (4 pm to 5 pm) in front of 265 Augusta Ave.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Approximately 32 participants were engaged.

Overall, people who stopped by the pop-up were excited to see the updated Kensington Market HCD Plan and were eager to learn more about it at the Community Consultation Meeting. Many appreciated the Plan and its focus on supporting the conservation of heritage elements of the neighbourhood. They felt the HCD Plan would benefit the neighbourhood.



Key Themes

The following summarizes the key themes from the pop-up discussions.

Buildings and Architecture of Kensington Market

- Some community members appreciate the mix of old and new buildings in Kensington Market.
- Buildings change around Kensington Market quite often.
- Some community members expressed that tall condos should not be allowed in Kensington Market.
- Some community members suggested that low to mid-rise buildings are desirable in Kensington Market.
- Some people were concerned that there are buildings with empty units and tenant renovations happening.

Cultural Expression and Heritage Preservation

- Many community members have been waiting for the Kensington Market HCD Plan to be completed.
- Some community members expressed interest in making Kensington Market a cultural district.
- Community members commented on valuing the art and murals in the market that are constantly changing.
- Some community members emphasized recognizing the Jewish history of Kensington Market in the HCD.
- Some community members emphasized recognizing the history of different immigrants with stores as part of the history of Kensington Market in the HCD Plan.
- Some community members expressed the importance of protecting the buildings in the market.

Boundaries of the Kensington Market

- One community member suggested recognizing Kensington Avenue as a heritage district, but not Augusta Avenue.
- Some community members suggested extending the HCD boundary to include Spadina Avenue.

Pedestrianization

- One community member suggested offering more pedestrian Sundays in Kensington Market.
- A participant commented that sidewalks in Kensington Market are small and often very busy, and that there should be more room for pedestrians.
- Several participants are concerned about the transportation plans and the pedestrianization of Kensington Market.

Kensington Market Community

- There are different perspectives and values associated with Kensington Market among people who live there versus those who visit. Some feel it is a welcoming community, while others feel unsafe at night, particularly near the park.

Next Steps

The City of Toronto and the project team will consider the community feedback from the pop-up engagements and the Community Consultation Meeting on November 18, 2024. The final Kensington Market HCD Plan is anticipated to be presented to the Toronto Preservation Board, Toronto East York Community Council, and City Council for approval in 2025.