

Summary of Discussion

Online via Zoom

Wednesday, July 23, 2025; 10:00 – 11:00am

Participants: Royal Ontario Museum, Victoria University, Trinity College, Royal Conservatory of Music, University of Toronto, Legislative Assembly of Ontario – Precinct Properties Branch, City of Toronto Queen's Park North Team, Wittington Investments

This summary was written by Third Party Public and was distributed for participant review before being finalized. Suggested edits have been incorporated.

The purpose of this meeting was to brief neighbouring institutions on the City of Toronto-led community engagement process that will inform the revitalization of Queen's Park North and to propose and discuss the establishment of a Neighbouring Institutions Working Group as part of the revitalization process. Feedback from participants is summarized below.

1. **Overall, participants supported the sensitivity that the City's Queen's Park North team intends to bring to their thinking about the park.** Nature needs to be an important feature as this is an invaluable greenspace in the dense downtown core, which is a message that the ROM has heard through participants in their programs. There was support for creating and participating in a Neighbouring Institutions Working Group.
2. **Regarding connectivity,** how people move through the space and connect to campuses is very important. The park serves a very important function for students, and particularly Victoria University students and also students at Trinity College. The ambition to have connections to University Park are good to see.
3. **Regarding concurrent processes,** Victoria University is undergoing a campus master planning process and the revitalization of Queen's Park North is an important complement to this work. The University is happy to share feedback from their planning process with the Queen's Park North process.
4. **Regarding safety and security,** Queen's Park North has a significant impact on the Legislative Assembly of Ontario and safety and security is a priority topic. It may be useful to have a separate conversation about this. Safety and security is also important to the students.
5. **Heritage conservation will be an important lens to bring to the Queen's Park North revitalization process.** Some neighbouring institutions would be interested in participating in more focused conversations about cultural heritage.
6. **Programming opportunities are of interest,** including:
 - Considering opportunities for how students can use the park, not just pass through it.
 - U of T is interested in opportunities for programming in the park, including tapping into various academic units such as music and drama for example, and potential small recitals or other activities. Please include us in these discussions.
 - There are 23 organizations that are part of the Bloor Street Cultural Corridor (including the Toronto Public Library) which runs from Yonge to Bathurst. They would need to understand what infrastructure will be in the Park to better discuss and comment on potential programming.

- The City could consider creating a sub-committee of this Working Group to focus specifically on cultural programming opportunities in Queen's Park North.
 - Understanding future programming in Queen's Park North will also be of interest to Victoria University to avoid duplication on our campus.
7. **Appreciate (and minimize) the potential for disruption.** Gentler animation of Queen's Park North (e.g., classical music, theatre, etc.) makes sense. It's important to be aware that larger and/or noisier events would need to be carefully considered, particularly during key times in the school year such as the study and exam periods (where there's a need for 24 hour quiet rules on campuses and close work with Varsity Centre to ensure speakers are turned away from certain areas and modulated in terms of volume). Also be aware that during the time when students move-in to campus there can be traffic disruption and during the orientation period at the beginning of the school year there are thousands of undergrads taking over the general area.
8. **Engagement is important.** It's good to hear the process will get feedback from students. It's also important to connect with residents in the area as well.

The Third Party Public and City team will be in touch with the NIWG to schedule future meetings. Information about the Community Workshop and online feedback survey was shared with all participants for distributing to their networks.