

Revitalization of Queen's Park North
Meeting with the Neighbouring Institutional Working Group (NIWG)

Summary of Discussion

Online via Teams

Thursday, October 2, 2025, 3:00 – 4:30 p.m.

Participants: Royal Ontario Museum, Victoria University, Trinity College, University of Toronto, Legislative Assembly of Ontario, University of St. Michael's College, Hart House, Regis College, City of Toronto Queen's Park North Team, Wittington Investments

This summary was written by Third Party Public and was shared in draft for participant review. Suggested edits have been made.

The purpose of this meeting was to update neighbouring institutions on the Queen's Park North Revitalization process, seek feedback on the Draft Terms of Reference for the Working Group, and identify programming and partnership opportunities to consider. Feedback from participants is summarized below.

Discussion and feedback related to data, process, and governance

1. **It would be helpful to have baseline data for how many people currently use the park daily.** Having this data for different times of day and different days of the week will make it possible to set targets of what the City/Donor would like to see in the future in terms of activity, and support comparison against the baseline. *The City said they didn't specifically gather numbers or demographic data through the engagement however, a public life study was completed in 2020 which the team will share.*
2. **It would be helpful to know if there are comparable governance models in the City.** *City staff explained that several collaborative agreements exist in the City, which they are looking at and learning from (e.g., the Bentway, Evergreen, Brickworks, etc.). They also explained that each situation is unique and requires a tailored governance model.*
3. **Comments on Draft Terms of Reference (TOR) for NIWG.** Suggested edits to the draft TOR focused on adding Hart House and Regis College and ensuring full institutional names are used (Victoria University and University of St. Michael's College). *The project team confirmed that these edits will be made. NIWG members were asked to send any additional suggested edits to the Draft Terms of Reference to the project team.*

Discussion and feedback related to programming, partnerships, and design

1. **The timing of the Queen's Park North revitalization aligns well with the current [Hart House building renewal process](#).** There's an opportunity to explore ways that Hart House and Queen's Park North can better serve the campus community as well as the local community at large (e.g. a terrace at Hart House that looks over the park, access to amenities at Hart House for people that use the park).
2. **There's interest in exploring if/how ROM programming could be extended into Queen's Park North** (e.g. school groups and adult groups that visit the ROM may also want to take tours of the park).
3. **Collaboration with the Legislative Protective Service is important to consider potential impacts (particularly security) from programming on the Legislature.** This includes consideration for any events that close Wellesley as well as the 21 gun salute that fires north into the park.
4. **Maintaining access to the Landmark parking garage is important.**

5. **Consider programming and design elements that create a cohesive and continuous experience, connecting the Indigenous Healing Garden at Victoria University with the Ziibing project at the University of Toronto.** The approach should reflect a shared narrative and cultural significance across these spaces.
6. **Explore whether there's an opportunity to connect the Indigenous Healing Garden at Victoria University to the Queen's Park North.**
7. **The southeast corner of the park is a prominent entrance and could be a location to honour relations with Indigenous peoples in a significant and visible way.**
8. **There are opportunities to consider having small scale performances in the park such as individual poets, dance groups, small promotional events for the Toronto Symphony Orchestra, etc.** Acoustics and any amplification of sound will need to be very carefully planned so that spectators can hear while not being disruptive to surrounding uses. Amplification can be done in discrete ways (e.g., small speakers in/around trees or on small structures such as a café building). Sound / decibel testing could be carried out to ensure sound is not negatively impacting surrounding uses. The process for reserving space also needs to be considered to ensure efficient and equitable access.
9. **There are several things to consider regarding performances in the park,** such as whether any part of the park will be reservable for rental, whether people could reserve a date, whether any application would need to go through a committee or mechanism that would adjudicate whether the activity was appropriate, etc. If ticketed activities are considered, that would need to be managed. It may be useful to consider a sub-group of this Working Group to think about this. *The City noted that activities in the park are anticipated to be free.*
10. **There's an interest in seeing space for students in the park to study quietly.** It would also be nice to explore opportunities for students to participate in winter activities, play instruments, display their artwork, and even potentially purchase small fresh grocery items from small vendors in a farmers' market.
11. **Consider ways to create stronger connections to the east side of the park. If the University Park project advances, traffic will be diverted to the east side of the park, which is source of concern due to the potential for pedestrian and cyclist safety concerns, congestion, noise, emissions, property impacts, reduced connection to the park, etc.** That means special attention and planning will be needed to ensure there are safe pedestrian connections to the east from the park – which is especially relevant for Victoria University, University of St. Michael's College, and Regis College. Comfortable and safe connections for students between the park and campus are a priority. The photo on the right was shared as an option to consider to support safe crossings.
12. **There could be opportunities for a festival in the park that invites the 23 cultural associations to showcase their programming in collaboration with Indigenous partners.** Consider a walking tour that weaves through Queen's Park and neighbouring areas, through gardens, statues, landmarks, etc.
13. **There's an opportunity to consider piloting a "block party" style event that brings together the institutions that surround the park.** It has been nice meeting with each other through these meetings and it would be great to see these connections continue.



Next Steps

The project team thanked members of the NIWG for participating in the meeting and committed to sharing a draft summary of the discussion with participants for review before it is finalized. They also said they would be back in touch to schedule the next NIWG meeting prior to the next Community Workshop, currently scheduled for November 4th.