

Neighbouring Institutions Working Group Meeting 4 Summary

Queen's Park North Revitalization

Community Engagement Phase 3: Setting the Direction

March 4, 2026



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Introduction

On March 4, 2026, the City hosted the fourth Neighbouring Institutions Working Group (NIWG) online via Teams. The meeting was part of Phase 3 (of 3) of the community engagement process to help inform the Queen's Park North Revitalization.

The purpose of the meeting was to provide updates on the revitalization planning process, including the proposed approach to governance, and share and seek feedback on the draft park design. Feedback from participants is summarized below.

Attendance

Participating organizations: Hart House, Legislative Assembly of Ontario, Royal Ontario Museum, The Royal Conservatory of Music, Trinity College, University of St. Michael's College, University of Toronto, Victoria University.

Queen's Park North Revitalization Project team: City of Toronto, Janet Rosenberg & Studio, ERA Architects, Trophic Design, Weston Foundations, Third Party Public.

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

toronto.ca/QueensParkNorth

Meeting Summary

This summary was written by Third Party Public and was shared with participants in draft before being finalized.

Feedback on the draft design

1. **Many expressed appreciation for a thoughtful draft design that evidently incorporated the feedback received to date.** The draft design has interesting elements and has the potential for a significant positive impact on students and the surrounding neighbourhood.

Feedback related to programming and collaboration

1. **There are incredible programming opportunities in this park.** When there is more clarity around programming, governance, access, and facilities it will be easier to envision what neighbouring institutions can offer to do with, in, and for the park – in collaboration with the QPN project team. For example, will there be a permanent, discreet, weather-proof sound system that's simple to operate and easy to access for events such as poetry readings, workshops, and concerns? Who controls and has access to the calendar to book the space? *The City noted that these are decisions that are still to come, and they will stay in touch as the design moves forward to this level of detail.*
2. **There is a desire for coordinated programming across institutions to strengthen shared audiences and avoid competition.** Multiple partners, including Hart House, ROM, University of Toronto, and Trinity College, expressed interest in collaborating around programming exploring shared initiatives (e.g., maker spaces), and sharing audiences. For example, the ROM already knows that it has Indigenous learning and programming on certain dates, like National Indigenous History month and the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. There could be an opportunity to connect the same school groups on a journey from the Legislative Assembly, through the park, and to the ROM. The ROM is also potentially creating a sacred fire and other Indigenous initiatives. The Indigenous Learning and Programs team at ROM shared that discussing the potential for co-promotion would be of interest. *The City of Toronto project team said they want to develop an interpretation program with educational components collaboratively, inviting input from all partners to ensure alignment and avoid duplicated efforts.*

Feedback related to design elements

1. **The design of the “heart” looks very inviting.** Will this major element become a more defined focal space or remain more organic? *The design team explained that the landscape will feel like it is pushing into the heart more, shifting away from the current formal, strictly defined edges. They noted an intention to loosen and blur the relationship between the plaza and the softscape, with planting starting to define the edges rather than structured seating, sometimes integrating seating under trees or on various base materials, while still creating robust places that support the proposed activities.*
2. **Note that rocks and stones can attract skateboarders.** Suggestion to use rougher finishes to discourage skating and wax buildup.
3. **Keep in mind that moveable, non-permanent seating requires repeated setup, takedown, and exposure to weather.**

Feedback related to transportation

1. **Hope that the City is thinking ahead to how the revitalization of the park today can anticipate and propose interventions that limit potential impacts on people crossing University Avenue from east to west if/when University Park moves forward.** There is concern about how the possible roadway shift associated with University Park will impact those on the northeast side of the park, including Victoria University. There was a request that interventions be considered, recognizing these may not be implemented until the University Park Project is confirmed. There’s a need to remain cognizant of potential excessive traffic so close to the park and adjacent institutions. *The City has been, and will continue to, connect with Transportation Services about this project. This includes possible interventions to address this concern.*
2. **Concern about vehicle mitigation.** Ensure there are strategies to prevent vehicles from entering or accessing the park. This includes identifying routes for emergency vehicles and potential servicing of amenities (e.g., café).

Follow-up from NIWG members

1. **Request for a separate meeting with LPS/OA, TPS, and the City to clarify enforcement responsibilities in the park and design considerations related to security.**
2. **Members will circulate the draft design within their communities and gather feedback to share back with the QPN project team.**

Next Steps

The City 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 encouraged them to attend the public meeting on March 5. With many meetings planned for the next few weeks, the project team will follow up with the group in early April to schedule the next NIWG meeting.