

Bloor-Dufferin Community Hub: COMMUNITY MEETING SUMMARY

February 6, 2017, 6pm-8pm
New Horizons Tower, 1140 Bloor Street

Introductions: Ana Bailao, City Councillor (Ward 18)
Cristina Martins, MPP (Davenport)

Presenter and Facilitator: Chris Brillinger, Executive Director,
Social Development, Finance and Administration,
City of Toronto.

Participants: Approximately 100 local residents

Introductory Remarks: The work to establish a community hub at the Bloor-Dufferin TDSB Revitalization site started several years ago and has involved the community, the City, the Province and the School Board. Everyone should be proud of the leadership that's been demonstrated to date to establish a community hub on this important site. Together we can do something very special in the heart of our neighbourhood, in the heart of Toronto.

Multiple Community Engagement Processes and Ways to Be Involved

- Community Hub Visioning Process: Starts February 2017
- Community Meetings re: Redevelopment: Starts April 2017
- Community Meetings about the new Bloor CI: to be announced

Keep Up to Date and Have your Say:

There will be many community consultations going forward and you may send comments to:

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Executive Director, Social Development, Finance & Admin, City of Toronto
chris.brillinger@toronto.ca

Ana Bailao, City Councillor Ward 18: councillor_bailao@toronto.ca
Cristina Martins, MPP Davenport: cmartins.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org
Marit Stiles, TDSB Trustee Ward 9: marit.stiles@tdsb.on.ca

DISCUSSION THEMES

1. What is a "Community Hub?"

There is no single definition of a community hub. Every hub is unique and grounded in its own location. Some key characteristics of community hubs are:

- Multiple community services and programs offered under one roof.
- Affordable or free space available for residents to use.
- Often a population focus (e.g. a hub for seniors or youth or newcomers).
- Community vision, leadership.

2. Bloor-Dufferin Location: A Central Location

This location is unique because it is beside the subway, at a major intersection. No other community hub in Toronto is so-well connected to transit. The future hub will be accessible to local residents and people from across Toronto.

3. Bloor-Dufferin Community Hub Visioning Group: What Will it Do?

The Visioning Group will work from February-April 2017 to prepare a preliminary Vision for the Bloor Dufferin Community Hub. This should include:

- Identifying priority community needs and interests.
- Focus of the hub.
- Programming options.
- Proposed governance model.

The Vision will be based on community feedback collected from prior meetings, new community and stakeholder consultations, and research about hubs in other places. They will be conducting a survey found at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/HubVisioning>

The Vision that will be presented in April 2017 will be preliminary. It may be subject to change over time as the Bloor-Dufferin process unfolds and more information and ideas surface. Change is appropriate and is part of such a complex development. There will be ongoing community discussion and check backs. This is a first step, so that a community perspective on the hub can drive the conversation.

4. How Will Residents be Involved in Visioning for the Hub?

The Visioning Group is a way to put planning for the hub into the hands of community groups from the outset. The Visioning Group is like a tool for gathering the community's ideas about the future hub. The role of the Visioning Group is to ensure that the community can be meaningfully engaged in planning for the community hub.

The Visioning Group will design and implement a community engagement process and distill onto paper what the community expresses as its interest for a hub. The Visioning Group is independent of the City and the Province and has the role of telling the City and the Province what the community is looking for in a hub. The Visioning Group has

the responsibility to reflect a broad community perspective on the hub. The vision will not be limited to the priorities of the Visioning Group organizations or their clients.

5. Why Start a Visioning Group Process Now?

This is a very early point in the redevelopment process. There are more 'unknowns' than 'knowns'. Because there are many 'unknowns', some people feel it is too early to come up with a relevant or meaningful vision for the hub.

"We could wait until we're told what's possible. But we think it is stronger for community to drive the ideas."

Despite many 'unknowns', the City and the Province believe this early stage in the redevelopment is the best time for the community visioning process to start. With a preliminary vision developed, the community's vision can help to drive the process (versus 'respond' to a process that's already in motion).

Some of these 'unknown' issues include:

- What will the development look like; what it will contain?
- What is planned for the new high school?
- Size, location, layout and design of the community hub?
- Cost of the hub and who will pay for it?

6. Who Leads the Visioning Group?

The Visioning Group is being facilitated by independent facilitators SN Management (Sonja Nerad and Radha Nayar). Funding for the independent facilitation has been provided by

the City of Toronto and the Province's Community Hubs Secretariat, so that the community can develop its own vision for the community hub. Updates and information about the Visioning Group's work will be posted at <http://snmanagement.com/>

7. How was the Visioning Group Established?

The Visioning Group was established through a Request for Expressions of Interest (REOI) process. The REOI was circulated December 9, 2016 - January 16, 2017 to more than 1,000 community-based non-profit agencies and cultural organizations in Toronto, using the City of Toronto's databases and the listservs of local elected officials. Both small and large community based agencies were selected to be members of the Visioning Group because they have:

- Deep experience with community issues.
- Deep knowledge of the local area and other areas in the City.
- Extensive and successful experience in community engagement.
- Experience and knowledge about organizational collaboration and governance models ("many services and programs under one roof").
- Capacity to devote time to the Visioning Group process and to consulting stakeholders.

8. Who are the Organizations on the Visioning Group?

Many of the organizations operate in the local Bloor-Dufferin area. Some have a wider reach across Toronto. There is a good mix of perspectives:

- Mix of expertise related to arts/culture and social services
- Mix of expertise related to women, children, youth, newcomers
- Mix of expertise related to health care, legal, employment services

9. Friends of Dufferin Grove Park and Clay and Paper Theatre

Small or non-incorporated groups may not have received or responded to the REOI but they should be involved as much as possible because of their experience, knowledge and passion for building this community. In particular, the Visioning Group will reach out to Friends of Dufferin Grove Park and Clay and Paper Theatre to identify ways for these organizations to contribute meaningfully to the community hub visioning process.

10. Participants' Recommendations for Community Engagement about the Hub

- Create opportunities for residents to give more input.
- Create a website for information and updates.
- Residents have already provided feedback at prior public meetings. This feedback should be used inform the visioning process. Don't ignore it!
- Communicating with the Developer early on is needed, to better understand what the environment around the hub may look like.
- There are many factors will constrain what the hub can be. Communicating information about these factors as soon as possible is needed to keep community engagement real and meaningful.
- *Friends of Dufferin Grove Park and Clay and Paper Theatre* should be meaningfully engaged in developing the hub vision.
- Create opportunities for small/volunteer-led organizations to participate effectively.
- This community already has incredible 'community hubness'. Learn from what the community has already done.
- Share examples of various types of successful hubs, to help residents develop a vision of what's possible.
- Consult with young people: they have great ideas and are very innovative.
- Consult with faith organizations, including the Islamic Info and Dawah Centre.
- Consult the Urban Worker Project, which encourages affordable workspace for self-employed people.
- Consult with the diverse cultural groups that make up the neighbourhood's cultural tapestry, including Portuguese, African, Muslim, Jewish, Hindu groups. This is a way to connect the local focus and the city-wide focus. This neighbourhood has been called "The World in 10 Blocks".

"Connect the 3 planning processes to create an inspiring community (the Redevelopment; the New High School; and the Community Hub."

11. Participants' Recommendations for the Bloor Dufferin Community Hub

- Build the space for 20 year flexibility; programming needs will change over time; make sure the space is flexible and not program-specific.

- Build a hub that will provide resources for all of Toronto (versus focusing just on my kids; my neighbours).
- Build more than 30, 000 square feet.
- Maximize the importance of this location on a subway: create a place where people can come from all over to gather and celebrate and share their ideas.
- Include arts and gathering spaces (versus offices).
- Create harmony between arts/culture and social services.
- Support residents' own grassroots, community-led, community-fed initiatives.
- Educational hub, physically and programmatically related to the new high school
- Create connections with the existing 'hub' at the top of Dufferin Grove Park.
- Look at Daniels Spectrum in Regent Park as a model: an exciting arts and community space.
- Create a space that complements the excellent community spaces we already have (e.g. Gladstone Library; Dufferin Grove Park).
- A place for people from all over to come all year round to feel welcomed, inspired.
- A landmark destination.
- This should be as good as Dufferin Grove Park ("the best park in the world").
- Create workspace that is truly affordable for people who are self-employed.
- Create a versatile and flexible environment that allows for different uses of the space at different times ("different programs every week").
- Learn from creative community hubs elsewhere, including hubs that integrate programs and mix different people together (e.g. childcare with seniors centres). Look at examples from Europe.
- Like the Regent Park Aquatic Center – the best part of the Bloor-Dufferin revitalization.
- Create affordable space for community groups.
- Keep seniors involved: we play important roles in so many community activities.
- Provide low cost studio and rehearsal space for artists and musicians.
- Community space such as a community kitchen that can be rented for kids.
- Create a governance model that will keep this ensure this space remains in public hands for a very long time.
- Programming related to business skills/entrepreneurship.
- Programs for vulnerable women and girls.
- Programming for transition-aged youth; help accessing jobs.
- Programming without religious affiliations.
- Programming and space that are inclusive of diverse culture.
- Rape Crisis Centre.

"Let's create a place that reflects us ..."

- **Versatile**
- **Flexible**
- **Inclusive**
- **Creative"**

"The 'Jewel' of the Redevelopment"