

Objets Trouvés on the Toronto Waterfront



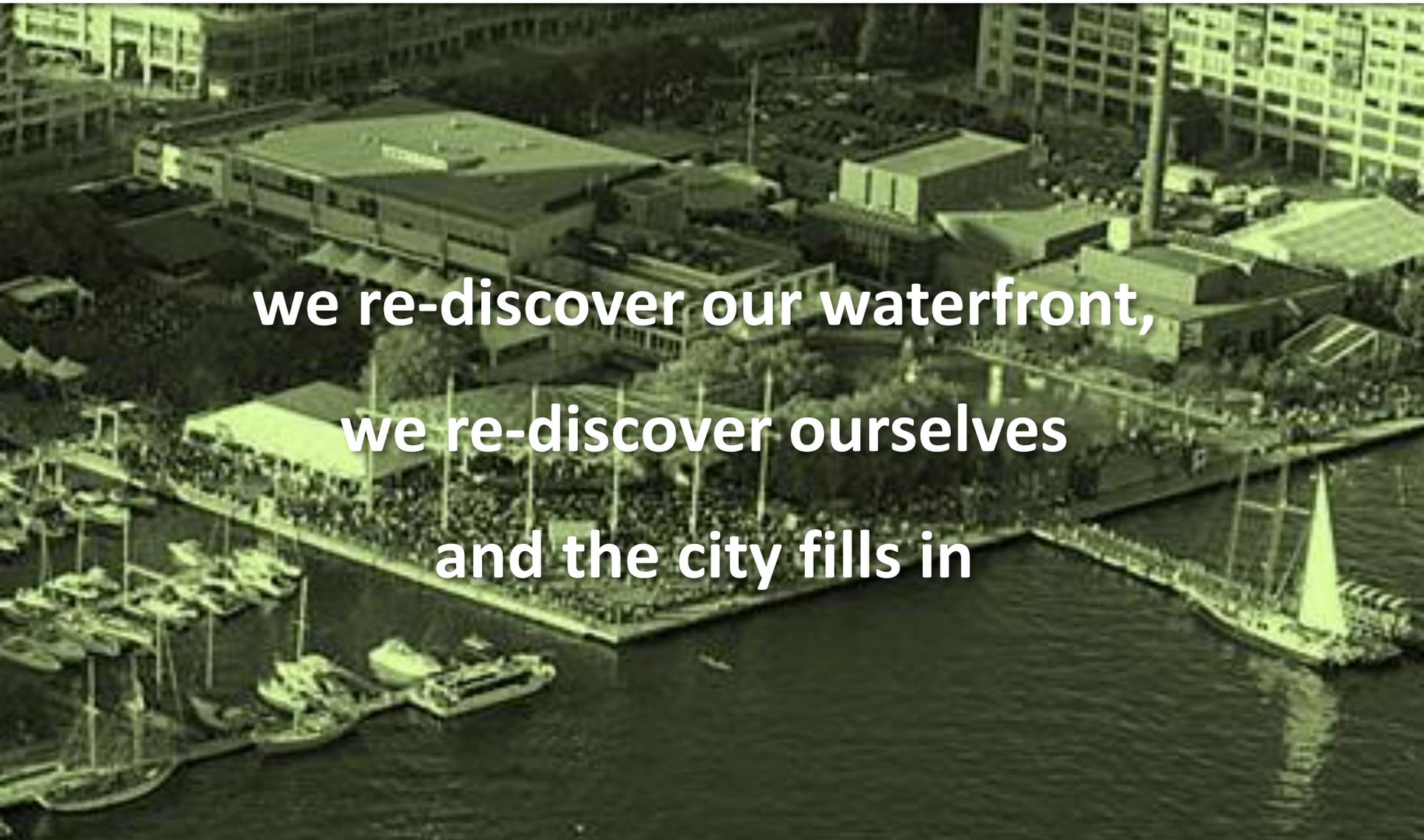
**Cities periodically re-invent themselves on the water, typically their places of origin
In doing so they leave traces, palimpsests and found objects of past lives**



For the past several decades a remarkable reclamation of the Toronto waterfront has been underway from Mimico to the Scarborough Bluffs and beyond building on these traces



The Toronto waterfront story is about the convergence of 3 powerful concurrent transformations and a series of adaptations of that found legacy like Harbourfront Centre as....



**we re-discover our waterfront,
we re-discover ourselves
and the city fills in**

New lives for Terminal Warehouse, Power Plant, Direct Winters Trucking Terminal

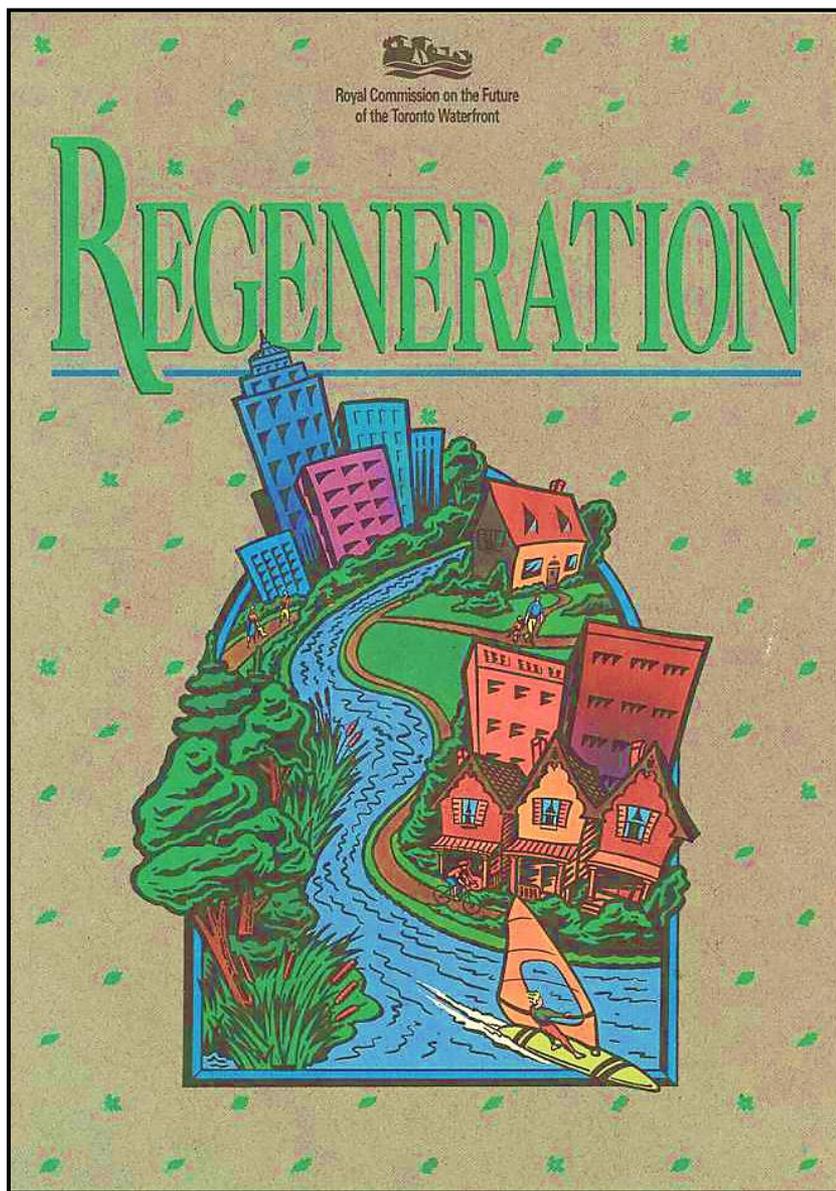
With the 20th century retreat of the industrial glacier - technological, economic change, obsolescence - a new terrain of availability and resources emerges right in the heart of cities, in our case an enormous area



The waterfront goes from being from an isolated fringe in a vacuum to a new 'heart' as its context is radically altered by a new layer of redevelopment



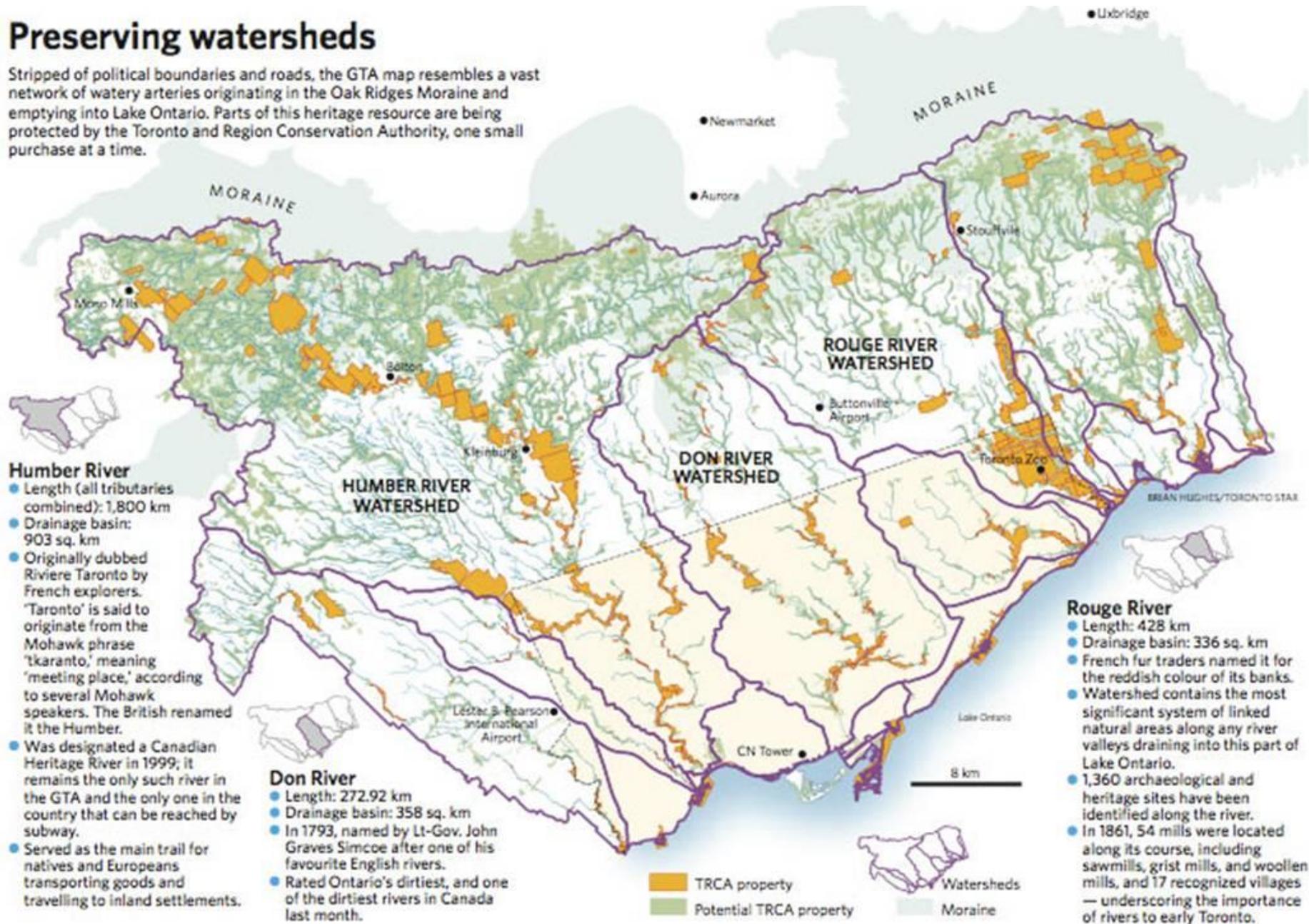
Since the 1980's it has been guided by a set of core values articulated by David Crombie's Waterfront Regeneration Trust - CLEAN, GREEN, ACCESSIBLE TO ALL



One of its major contributions was the concept of co-existence – the Intertwining of the urban and natural and a new attention to the underlying natural heritage

Preserving watersheds

Stripped of political boundaries and roads, the GTA map resembles a vast network of watery arteries originating in the Oak Ridges Moraine and emptying into Lake Ontario. Parts of this heritage resource are being protected by the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority, one small purchase at a time.



Since 2001 leadership has been provided by Waterfront Toronto, a highly resilient organization that has developed great capacity for managing the **MASSIVE CHANGE** with a strong commitment to community engagement and attention to those found resources



Leading with public realm – providing tangible evidence of success along the way with dramatic juxtapositions of old and new like Sugar Beach



Using Design as complex problem solving revealing a suppressed natural heritage

The mouth of the Don River presented a complex web of challenges

Use of design as holistic problem solving to:

- ❖ Re-naturalize the mouth of the River
- ❖ Create a continuous riverfront park system
- ❖ Provide for significant harmonious new development
- ❖ Connect emerging waterfront neighbourhoods
- ❖ Prioritize public transit and trail systems
- ❖ Develop a gateway into the Port Lands
- ❖ Humanize existing infrastructure
- ❖ Expand opportunities for interaction with the water
- ❖ Promote sustainable development



The River mouth reconceived as a park/estuary entering the Harbour through an international design competition by recalling that past life



Construction underway peeling back the layers of fill – a natural feature re-emerges



Re-interpreting Queens Quay as a key linking element - from heavy rail corridor, to active transportation and transit greenway





....reshaping found infrastructure to reflect a new set of priorities



THE BENTWAY

Expanding Common Ground in found space

bentway

SPIN TORONTO

CITE

REFLECTIONS
WARTIME

The Bentway...hidden in plain sight...



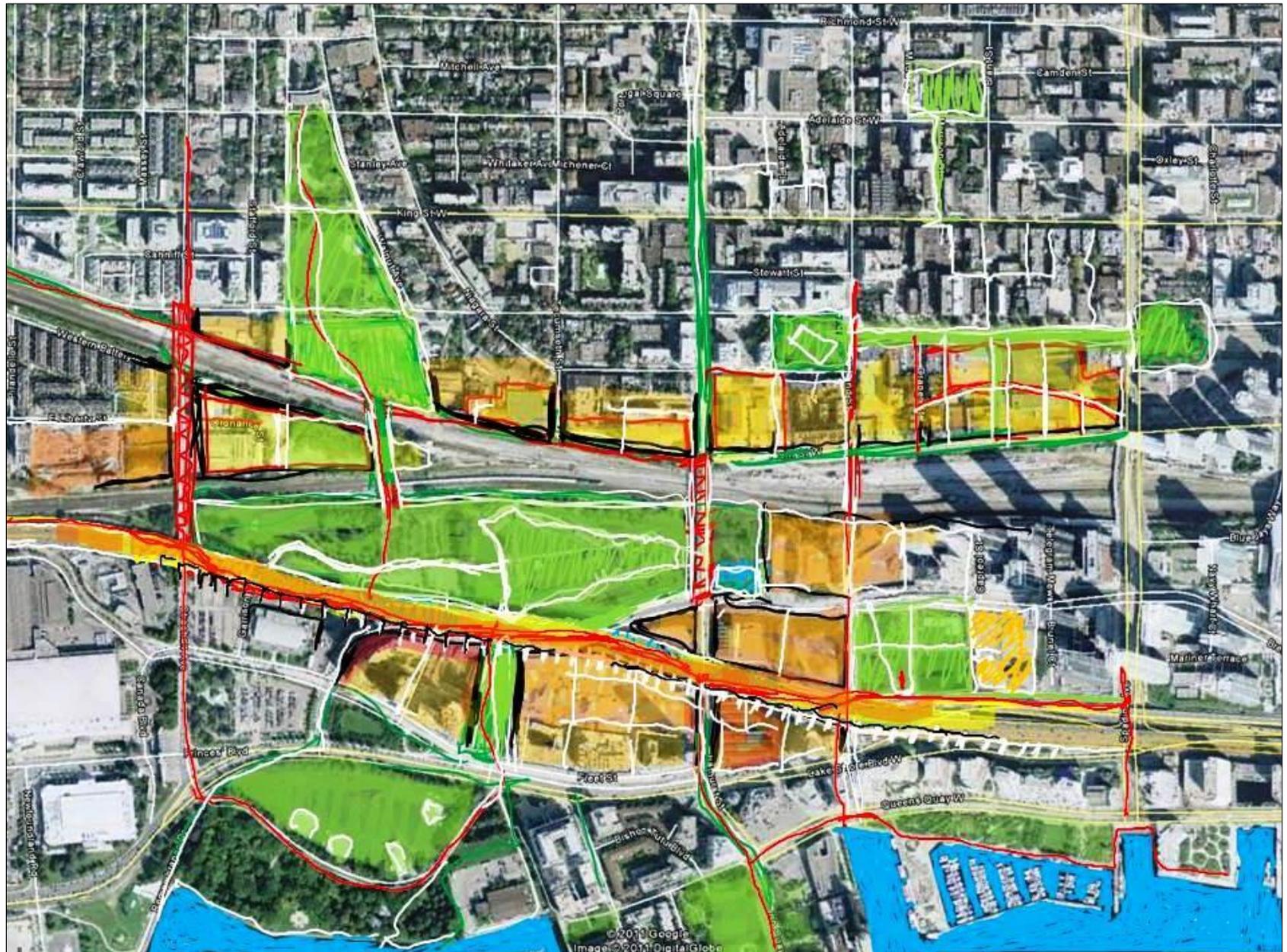
Under the 'deck' a new world...



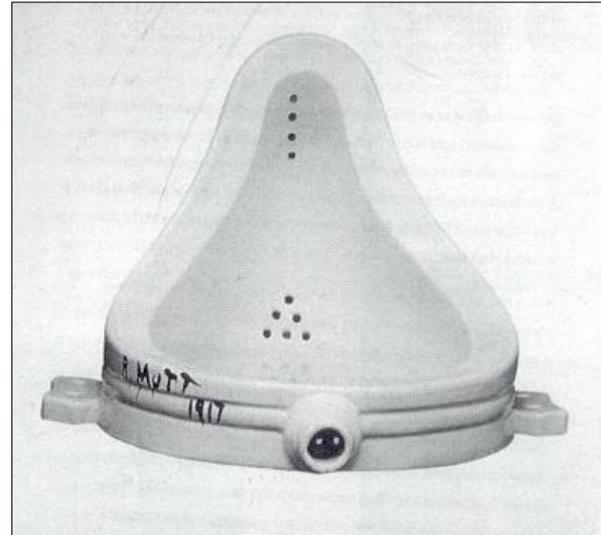
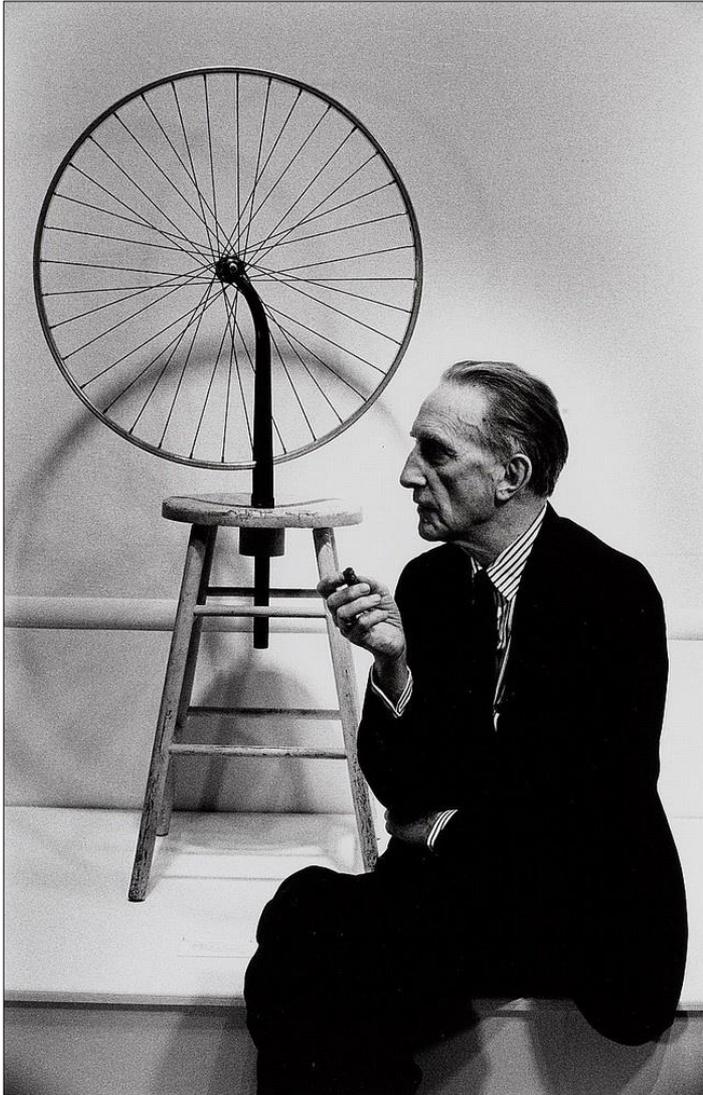
Sous les pavés la plage



...the AHA moment



Seeing with fresh eyes

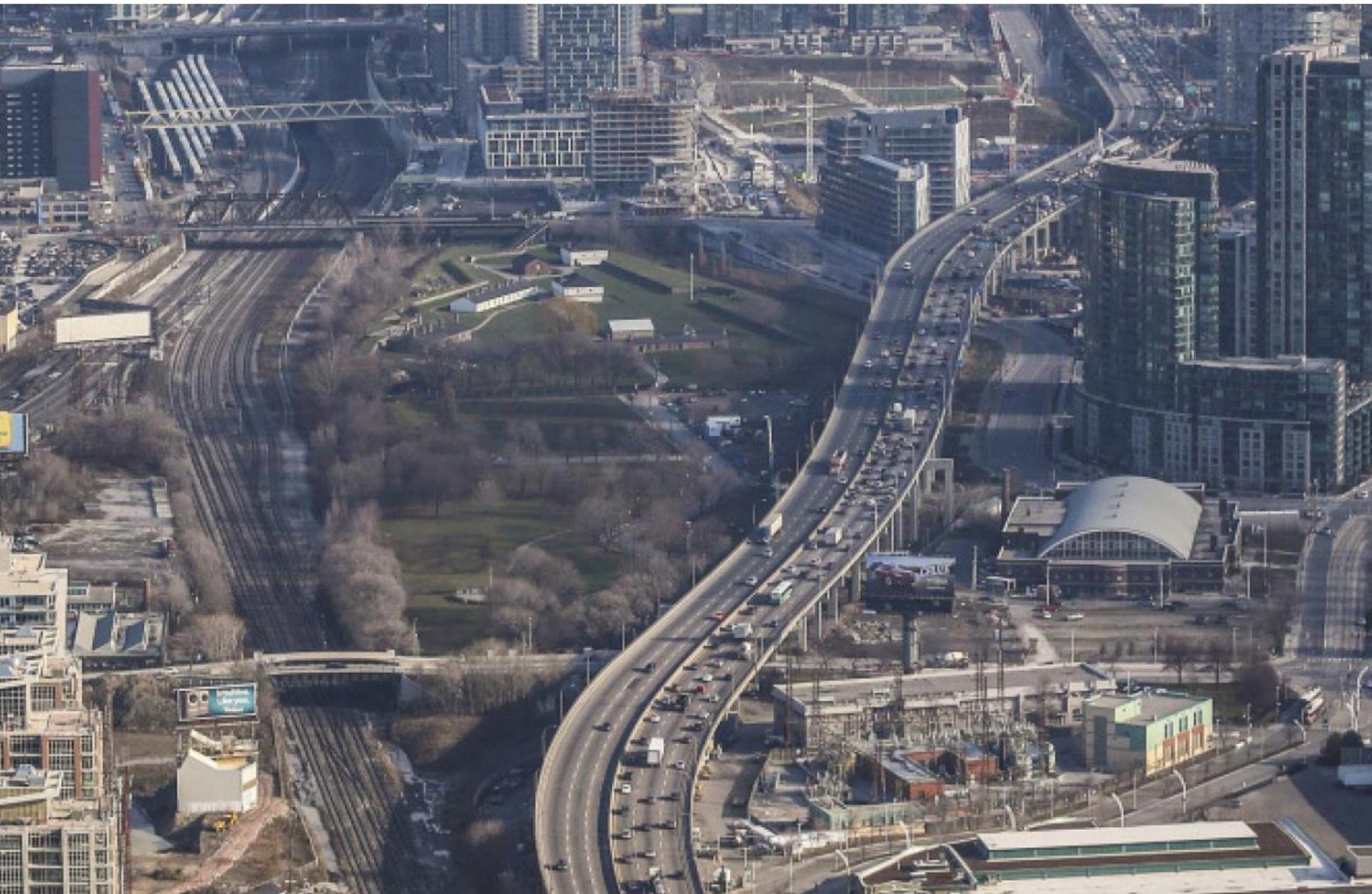


Forgotten Spaces as Re-imagined Places

Gardiner < > Palmyra!



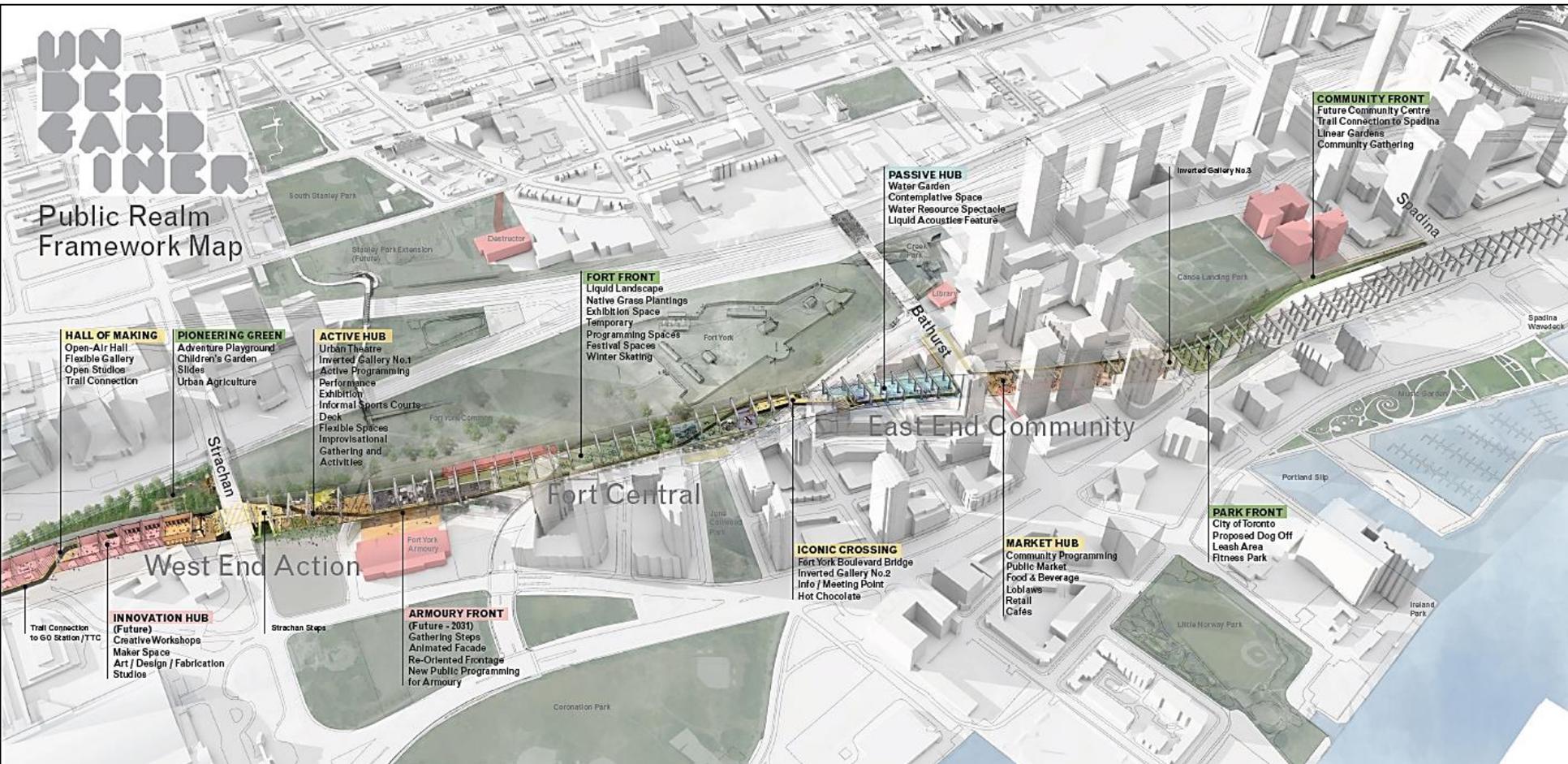
Re-appropriating



With a great act of civic generosity



The Bentway



Reconceiving the undercroft of the highway as new public space

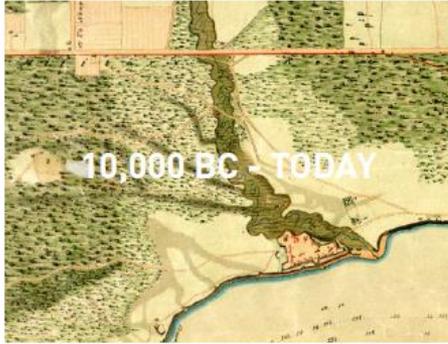
Revealing



...the rich layers of an evolving urban landscape

Embodying

Landscape Origins / Original Shoreline and Garrison Creek



Military History / Defensive Landscape



Rail History / Industrial-Era Development



The Evolving Post-Modern Cityscape



... every period of the city's evolution

Connecting the disconnected



1.1km TRANSFORMATION OF THE PUBLIC REALM

At a position in the city where a constellation of diverse development initiatives and communities intersect, lies one of Toronto's next great civic opportunities.

A highway shelters a great Civic Living Room

1 THE AMPHITHEATRE Make an entrance

A grand, cascading wooden staircase opens the Bentway's main entrance, doubling as a performance space.

2 THE CANOPY Be surprised

Five stories of height from ground-to-Gardiner creates a striking, overhead gallery for suspended performers, light installations, and hanging artwork.

3 THE PATH Take a journey

Our multiuse path stretches from Strachan Ave to Bathurst St: a corridor for pedestrians and cyclists; your route to experience all the Bentway has to offer.



4 THE GREEN Celebrate and recharge

With room to seat +1,500, this large green amphitheatre welcomes audiences to enjoy onstage performances and relax on a sunny field with friends and family.

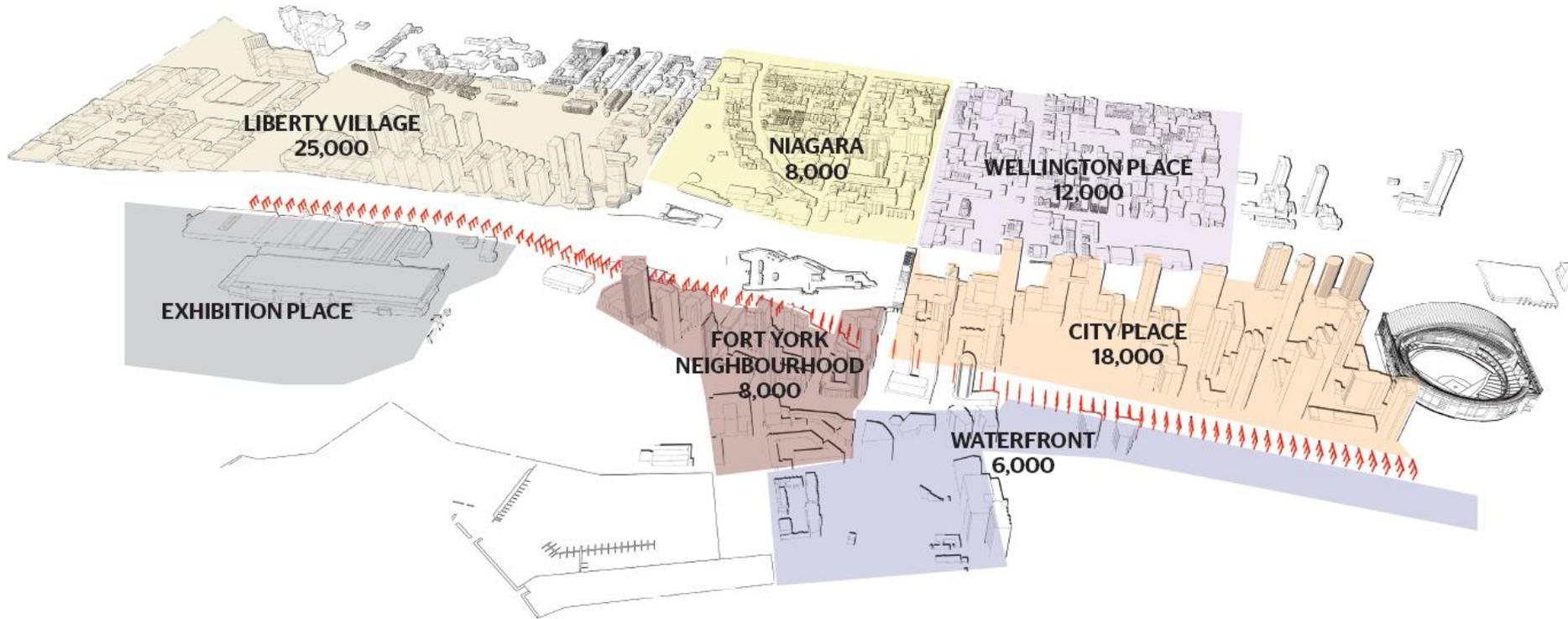
5 THE SKATE TRAIL Lace up and explore

Our 220m, figure-8 trail inspires visitors to reimagine winter in Toronto – don't hibernate; congregat! In warmer months, the Trail hosts art fairs, food markets, roller skating, blanket forts, and more.

6 THE CROSSING BRIDGE Connect to your city

Planned for Phase 2, this elegant timber bridge (suspended from the Gardiner above Fort York Blvd) will offer panoramic views of the city, and create new connections for pedestrians and cyclists.

Serving the underserved



125,000 new residents in 7 emerging neighbourhoods