

id8 Downsview Youth Engagement Team Integrated Summary & Final Reports

JUNE 2021




Calling all youths aged 12-29!


We're looking for YOUR thoughts on what should be built on the 520 acres at Downsview.

Complete this survey for a chance to win a \$75 gift card of your choice!!

<https://forms.gle/2xf8qe3ZAXLTbheR9>




CALLING ALL DOWNSVIEW YOUTH!




FILL OUT A SURVEY AND EARN \$10!

id8 Downsview is a multi-year process to reimagine 520 acres of land in Downsview.

Sound off on what you want to see introduced in Downsview by filling out our short [survey!](https://forms.gle/2xf8qe3ZAXLTbheR9)
<https://forms.gle/2xf8qe3ZAXLTbheR9>



Visit id8downsview.ca for more information!



ARE YOU...

- 12 years old +
- High School Students
- York University Students
- Community member of Downsview Area
- Got Ideas on Developing Communities?



We want to hear from **YOU** on what should be built on 520 acres at Downsview Area that your family or people in your neighbourhood would benefit from.

COMPLETE THIS FEEDBACK FORM!

The **FIRST 25** Participants will receive a **\$10 Gift Card** of their choice or compensation. A chance to win a raffle prize of **\$20 Gift Card** of their choice.



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id8 Downsview Youth Engagement Team Integrated Summary

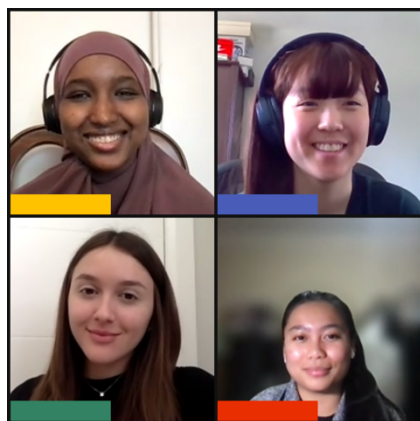
Overview

As part of the Round 3 engagement process for [id8 Downsview](#), Northcrest Developments and Canada Lands Company hired a diverse team of four local youth (between the ages of 16 and 29) to engage their peers about what they would want to see in the future redevelopment of lands in Downsview. This responded to a priority identified by participants in the id8 Downsview process to date – a priority shared by Northcrest and Canada Lands as the landowners.

The feedback collected by the id8 Downsview Youth Engagement Team complemented the broader public consultation process and helped inform the thinking that Northcrest and Canada Lands are doing regarding the future development of the site.

The youth team's key roles and responsibilities included:

1. Seek feedback from other local youth on what they would ideally want to see included in the future redevelopment of these 520 acres of Downsview.
2. Work with an engagement specialist team to develop and implement a work plan they think would best reach youth, particularly from marginalized communities.
3. Strive to engage and seek feedback from a minimum of 40 people over a period of about three weeks, and their participants should be at least 75% youth (below 29 years old).
4. Document, summarize, and present the results of their engagement to the project team.



The selected id8 Downsview Youth Engagement Team members are **Diana Chukarska**, **Ijaabo Mohamed**, **Selina Ang**, and **Maria Verquele Marquez**. The youth were selected following an open, competitive process. Over 30 applications were received, and selection was based on, geographic coverage, diversity, feedback from references, and experience. Given COVID-19 pandemic restrictions, all feedback was received using methods that followed public health guidelines. This youth-led, youth engagement process was designed and administered by Swerhun Inc., the third-party facilitation team retained by Northcrest and Canada Lands to support the id8 Downsview engagement process. Training and support was provided to the youth throughout this paid, skills development opportunity that also generated valuable feedback to inform the id8 Downsview process. **The id8 Downsview Youth Engagement Team received a combined 988 responses on their surveys and virtual meetings.**

Each youth team member implemented their engagement process independently using approaches customized to connect with local youth and other members of their community from different areas near the project site. Their engagement work ran from April to June 2021.

Summary of Key Feedback

Key themes from feedback received from all Youth Engagement Team members are summarized below. Their detailed engagement reports are included in the appendix section.

Key Priorities Identified by Engaged Youth

- 1. Provide more recreational spaces as they're critical to youth socialization, fitness, and overall health.** All youth team members reported that accessible recreational and community spaces and spaces to connect with other youth were important to supporting a healthy lifestyle. Popular suggestions for indoor and outdoor recreational spaces included community centres, gyms, courts, pools, and libraries. They also emphasized that recreational spaces should be affordable for youth and families.
- 2. Provide more publicly accessible greenspaces to allow youth to enjoy nature and to support a healthy lifestyle.** The COVID-19 pandemic has demonstrated the importance of having access to usable greenspaces on mental health and community building. Participants had several suggestions on specific types of green spaces which included physically accessible all-season parks, community gardens (with greenhouses), flower gardens, and green corridors with pedestrian and bike lanes.
- 3. Improve public transportation and network connectivity to support youth commuting around and through Downsview.** There were many complaints about slow TTC services in Downsview. Youth suggested prioritizing improved connectivity to local public transportation through increasing access to subway stations and prioritizing reduced commute times.
- 4. Provide more local amenities to provide opportunities for youth to socialize and have access to different youth-centred employment opportunities.** Across the board, there was support for more amenities such as cafes, patio restaurants, permanent food trucks, markets (i.e. Stackt Market and Shops at Don Mills), grocery stores, unique cafes (e.g. cat cafes). Some participants also noted that these spaces would benefit from having public art and other aesthetically appealing attractions for taking pictures. These amenities and establishments could also create employment opportunities for youth.
- 5. Take actions to improve community safety.** There were several concerns around neighbourhood safety, gun violence, and crime in the local area. Youth provided suggestions that focused on a holistic approach to community wellbeing through investment in social services (mental health and addiction supports) and safety features (brighter streetlamps, emergency phones, neighbourhood watches).
- 6. Provide affordable housing to allow youth to have access to low-cost housing.** There were concerns that the 520 acres of Downsview land would all be condos. Despite this concern, participants said that future developments should include affordable housing.

7. **Provide exciting amenities to attract people to Downsview.** Engaged youth suggested different amenities that would help attract other people to Downsview such as continued development of a world class park, outdoor market, outdoor skating rink and outdoor theatre space, permanent food stands, arcades, amusements parks, zoos, aquariums, and obstacle courses, and other entertainment opportunities. This will not only attract people to Downsview, it would also provide exciting and educational facilities or amenities for children and families.
8. **Develop plans and provide amenities to support senior's health.** Engaged youth supported aging in place through strategic investments in the promotion of a healthy lifestyle for senior populations. Some suggestions included planning functional and peaceful parks for seniors and providing senior homes and other facilities to promote health, fitness, and social connection.
9. **Invest in schools, libraries and other community education opportunities and improving existing facilities.**
10. **Preserve and protect natural ecosystems and wildlife.**

Engagement Process Suggestions

1. **Continue to engage youth.** Prior to the id8 Downsview youth engagement process, many participants were not familiar with the previous rounds of engagement for id8 Downsview. Youth were happy to have an opportunity to share their thoughts through the id8 Youth Engagement Team members. They stressed that youth should always be consulted in development projects. Future consultations should also include consultation of younger age groups, including those in elementary and middle school.
2. **Prioritize Indigenous voices.** Engaged youth said that Indigenous peoples should be consulted when seeking to make changes to the land and through the development process.

What's Next?

Northcrest, Canada Lands and Swerhun Inc. would like to thank the id8 Downsview Youth Engagement Team for their commitment to amplifying the voices of youth stakeholders. The id8 Downsview Youth Engagement Team's work will not only inform the overall project but other future engagement processes.

Attachments

1. Diana Chukarska
2. Ijaabo Mohamed
3. Selina Ang
4. Maria Verquele Marquez

id8 Youth Engagement Report

Diana

id8 Downsview Youth Engagement Team Member

June 2 2021

Overview

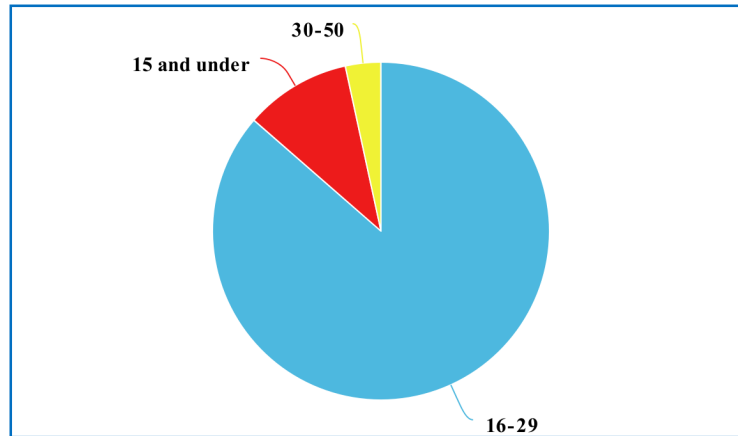
My engagement process consisted of 59 responses. These responses came from my former high school's, William Lyon Mackenzie C.I., current and former student body, as well as the Bulgarian community near the Downsview area, and peers who are students at York University. My engagement process was promoted through social media outlets such as Facebook and Instagram, as well as word of mouth, and a poster which was hung in the Downsview area and a condominium lobby information board. There were no meetings held due to a lack of interest in attendance, however, local peers in the area contacted me for more information so I had one-on-one phone calls and exchanged text messages.

Key Messages

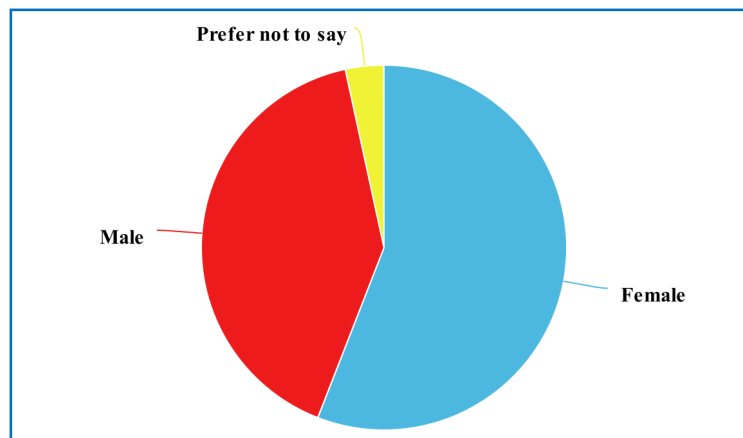
- The most consistent messages that participants share with me are as follows:
 - Restaurants, cafes, and overall better food options. Many participants seemed to really want patios, I saw Shops at Don Mills and Stakt Market referenced in regards to this.
 - More green space, trails, pedestrian walkways, seating areas to enjoy nature, I saw many participants refer to the area as too “bald” and wanted to be able to bike, walk, and enjoy nature in the development area.
 - In relation to the point above, many participants noted that they would like picnic tables, and outdoor seating or “hangout” spaces for groups to be able to gather.
 - Recreational activities both indoor and outdoor, outdoor sport equipment (ex. basketball courts, soccer fields, tennis courts, outdoor pool etc.), and an outdoor workout area.

Detailed Feedback

- Age
 - 86.4% of participants were between the ages of 16-29
 - 10.2% of participants were 15 years old and younger
 - 3.4% of participants were between the ages of 30-50
 - No participants were older than 50 years old

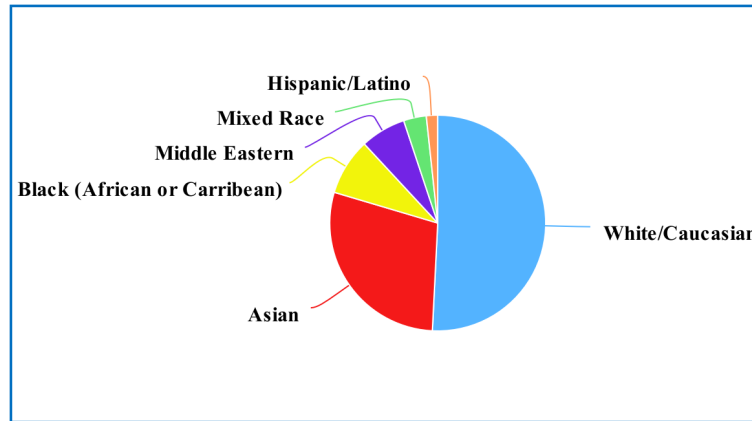


- Gender
 - 55.9% of participants identified as female
 - 40.7% of participants identified as male
 - 3.4% of participants preferred not to say



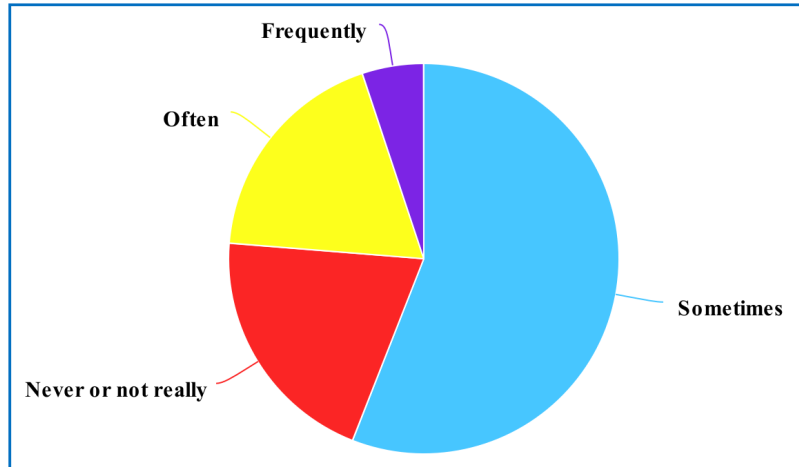
- Race
 - 50.8% of participants were White/Caucasian
 - 28.8% of participants were Asian

- 8.5% of participants were Black (African or Carribbean)
- 6.8% of participants were Middle Eastern
- 3.4% of participants were of mixed race
- 1.7% of participants were Hispanic/Latino

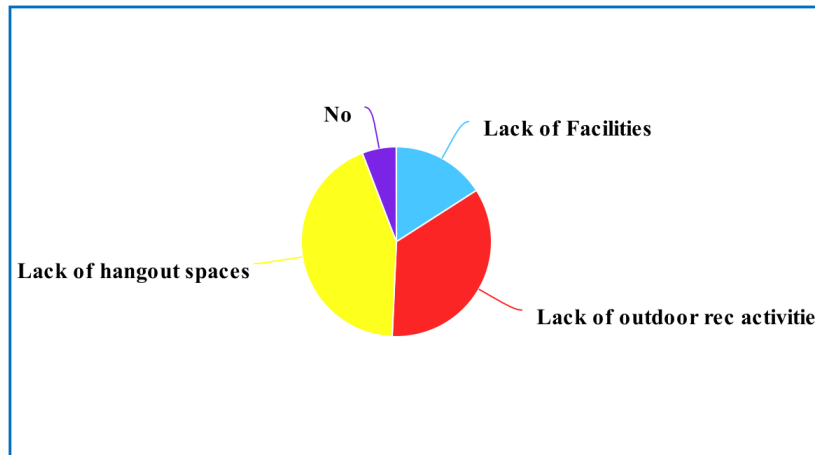


- What amenities do you use when visiting the Downsview area? Participants were asked to select all that apply.
 - 15 participants selected Downsview Merchant Market
 - 10 participants selected K1 Speed
 - 21 participants selected The Hangar
 - 6 participants selected True North Climbing
 - 8 participants selected Toronto Wildlife Centre
 - 12 participants selected Hoop Dome
 - 8 participants selected Fresh City Farms
 - 8 participants selected Volleyball Canada
 - No participants selected Human Moves Sports Day Camp
 - 12 participants selected Scotiabank Pond
 - 1 participant selected The Toronto School of Circus Arts
 - 43 participants selected Downsview Park
 - 3 participants selected Other/None
- How often would you say you visit Downsview Park, or use any of the facilities at Downsview?
 - 55.9% of participants said “Sometimes (a few times a year)”

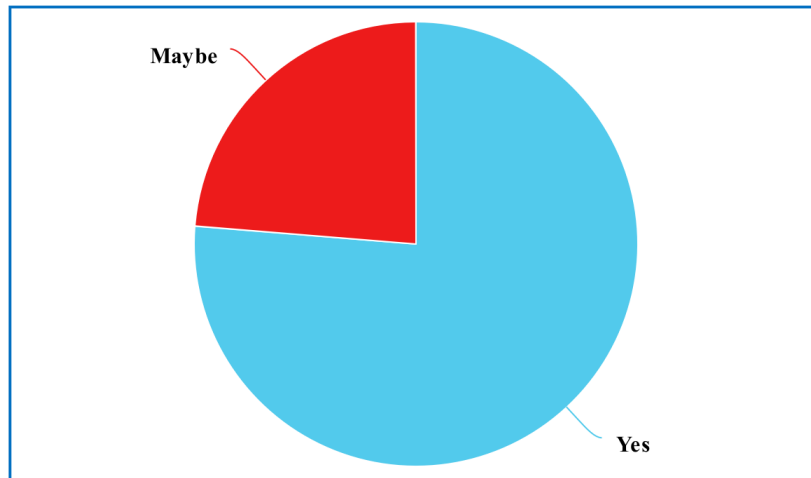
- 20.3% of participants said “Never or not really”
- 18.6% of participants said “Often (once or twice every couple of months)”
- 5.1% of participants said “Frequently (at least once a month or weekly)”



- Is there anything that deters you from wanting to visit Downsview?
 - 18.6% of participants said “Lack of facilities”
 - 40.7% of participants said “Lack of outdoor recreational activities”
 - 50.8% of participants said “Lack of outdoor/indoor hangout spaces”
 - 6.8% of participants said “No”



- Would you say that, should these changes be implemented, you would visit Downsview more often?
 - 76.3% of participants said “Yes”
 - 23.7% of participants said “Maybe”
 - No one answered with “No”



- Upon further analysis, there was no direct correlation between any of the questions in regards to age, gender, and race.
- Some negative feedback was given about the project through the one-on-one phone calls and text messages exchanged. The primary concern was that participant feedback did not matter, and condominiums were going to be built anyways. Participants who expressed this view were very clear that they did not want condominiums to be built on the land.
- Other feedback: some less popular ideas for how to make use of the development land were event/concert/entertainment spaces, an indoor recreational centre, library or study space, and shops or a marketplace of sorts.

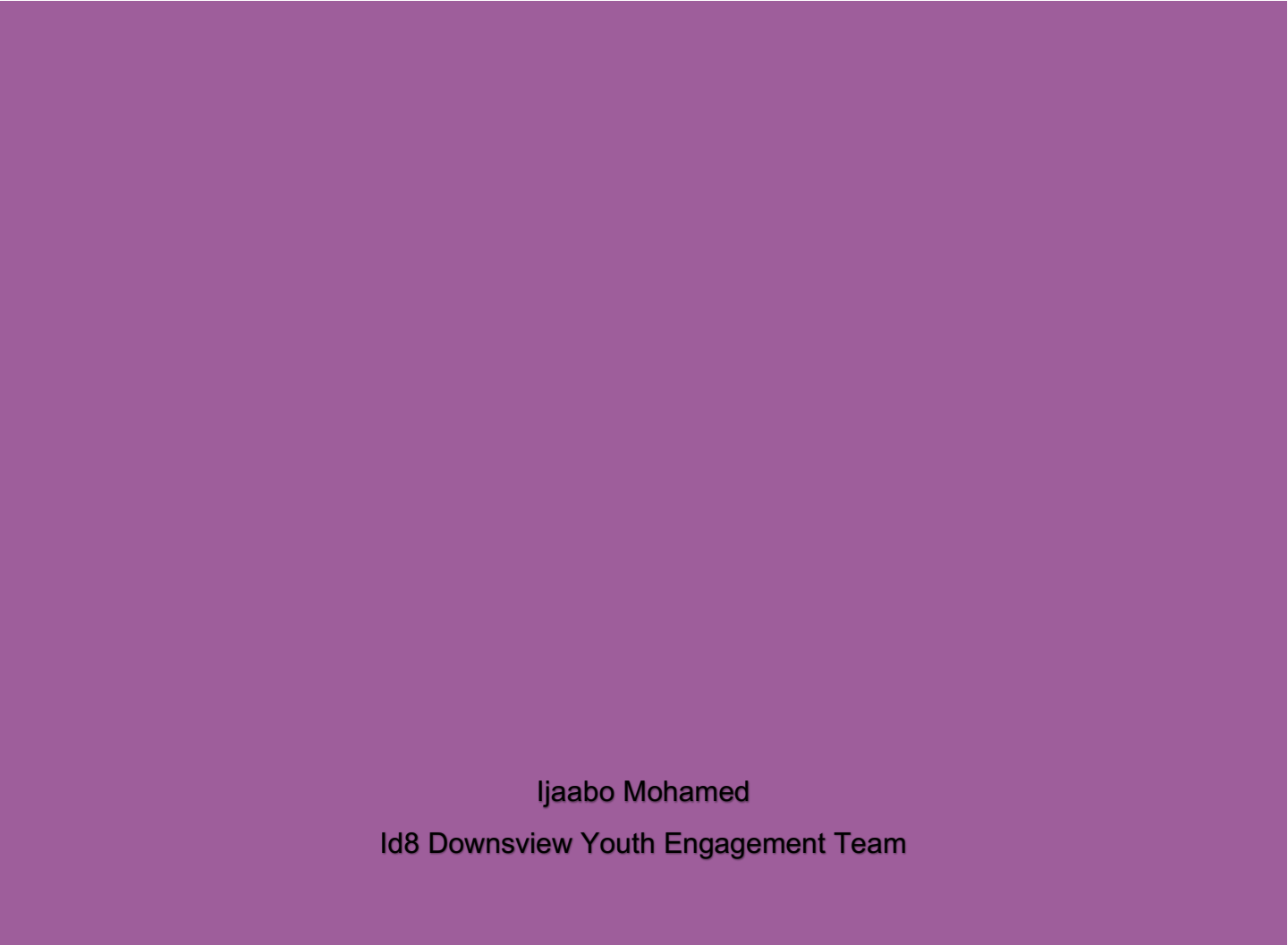
Participant List

Former and current students of William Lyon Mackenzie C.I., students at York University, and the Bulgarian community in the area were engaged through my process.



id8 Downsview Youth Engagement Final Report

June 2, 2021



Ijaabo Mohamed
Id8 Downsview Youth Engagement Team

Engagement Overview

My engagement process consisted of two steps: a short feedback survey and a virtual consultation scheduled for a later date. Participants could indicate their interest in attending the virtual consultation by selecting ‘yes’ as their answer to the final survey question. My engagement material was a poster created on the Canva app, which was bright orange in colour with the words “Fill out a survey and earn \$10!” bolded in the center. There was a QR code provided on the poster for easy access, and I created a compact link to make the survey’s web address easier to transcribe. I printed 20 posters and displayed them at TARIC Mosque, Falstaff Community Centre, at markets and shops in the Jane-Wilson neighbourhood, around Downsview Park, at Amesbury Community Centre, and on several community announcement boards in the Humber River-Black Creek area. I intended to engage primarily Black Muslim youth, although I was pleased to see that youth of all backgrounds had interacted with my survey.

In sum, 31 youth completed the feedback survey. The survey was active for 15 days — it was published on May 5 and closed on May 20. Of the 31 participants, 10 youth expressed interest in participating in the second stage of engagement, a virtual consultation to further expand on the survey feedback. Only one participant (a Black woman in the 20-25 age range) attended the virtual consultation, which occurred on May 18 from 5:00 to 5:45 PM. The conversation was very insightful, and we discussed topics such as what makes a safer neighbourhood, the importance of green spaces, and possible ideas for affordable housing in the area. Though the virtual consultation did not go as planned, I was still able to gain some valuable youth feedback. I followed up with the other 9 youth who were unable to attend the virtual consultation, to see if they would be willing to engage in other ways; however, I received no response.

Key Messages

In general, participants were asked what they would like to see introduced into the redevelopment of the id8 Downsview site. The messages below appeared 5 or more times in survey responses, and are listed in order from most to least common.

Outdoor recreational spaces

Participants expanded on this, saying sports courts (specifically basketball and tennis) and fields (for football and soccer) along with chill spots to relax—with benches, grills and tables—would all be great additions to the area.

Community centre

A mental health resources hub for youth was mentioned. The community centre should have resources, like computer labs, workout space, a cafeteria, printing facilities, and adult support (mentors and instructors).

Better transit lines

A central subway station and improved TTC transportation. There were many complaints about the slow TTC services at Downsview.

Physically accessible parks

Wheelchair-accessible parks and indoor spaces catered towards improving the recreation experience for individuals with disabilities. Forward-thinking designs and modern structures.

Libraries and schools

Considerable investments in youth and overall community education. Improving existing educational facilities and creating new ones.

Bike lanes and pedestrian-friendly areas

The Downsview area should be as accessible as possible to all individuals and communities, and with the large commuter and child/infant population, it would be helpful to engineer spaces to be pedestrian-friendly (large sidewalks, slowed speed on main roads, crosswalks, bike lanes along every street).

Affordable housing

Residential homes were mentioned, and some participants suggested incorporating a gated housing community as well. There were a few concerns about neighbourhood safety for residents of the Downsview area. Some participants suggested introducing condo properties, while others were opposed to this due to the likelihood of displacement. However, all participants agreed that housing should be affordable and low-cost.

Preservation of wildlife and natural resources

Special efforts towards lowering pollution levels and committing to greener energy alternatives. There were concerns surrounding the redevelopment project in terms of natural resources extraction and damage to wildlife in the Downsview area. Preserving community wildlife and natural resources was of great importance to most youth.

Limited youth engagement and lack of community consultation

A handful of participants expressed that this is the first time they had ever been consulted by landowners as youth and community members, and that there is an overall lack of community engagement in the Downsview area. Some youth expressed hopelessness and disbelief that their voices would actually matter with regards to the id8 project. Participants stressed that youth should always be consulted in projects like these.

Lack of prioritization of Indigenous voices

Participants who expressed concern regarding the environmental impact of community redevelopments also argued that Indigenous peoples should be the primary group consulted when seeking to make changes to the land. Specific arguments were made for the incorporation of Indigenous voices into development processes.

Detailed Participant Feedback

In this section, I will list the questions in the order they appeared on the survey, and provide a brief summary of the responses received for each question. I have excluded the first set of questions as they pertain to participant specifics such as name, age and gender which, for the sake of confidentiality, will not be disclosed as they pertain to individuals. A quantitative summary of participant demographics is included in the Participant List section.

Are you familiar with the id8 Downsview redevelopment project or is this your first time hearing of it?

Of the 31 participants, 6 had heard of the id8 project before, and 25 were introduced to it through our engagement.

How would you reimagine the redevelopment of the 520 acres of land? All ideas are welcome!

The most common responses are listed in the Key Messages section above, but other responses included an outdoor garden, grocery stores, tourist attractions (historical landmarks, statues and exhibits), a hiking trail, high-yield crops, stunning architecture, and a shopping mall with retail outlet stores. The top three responses were outdoor recreational spaces, community centres, and improved transit services.

What does the Downsview area need more of?

Respondents made mention of religious centres (mosques, synagogues, temples, churches, etc.), shopping centres, green spaces and parks, recreational spaces, safe spaces for youth to meet and play together, mental health resources for youth, safer neighbourhoods, affordable housing, subway stations, bike lanes and pedestrian-friendly areas, greater opportunities for youth seeking employment, grocery stores, cultural centres, health services, social services, residential homes, indoor swimming

pools with public access, libraries, post-secondary schools, and a small-scale amusement park.

Of these responses, there was a large emphasis on recreational spaces for all individuals, prioritizing youth voices and presence, community safety, and overall social as well as mental health of residents.

To your knowledge, what seems to be working in the Downsview area?

The majority of responses mentioned Downsview Park and other outdoor spaces — other popular responses were the hangar, Scotiabank Pond, local businesses, and volunteer/extracurricular opportunities. One or two participants named the transit system, schools, local nature spots, restaurants and grocery stores, and diverse communities with a strong sense of cooperation. A few respondents were either unsure or did not know how to answer the question.

What is not working now or in the past that should not be reintroduced in the future redevelopment of 520 acres of land in Downsview?

This question received the most diverse and differing responses, with no one answer being most common. Participants raised many concerns, ranging from infrastructure and lack of recreational spaces, to transportation and limited youth engagement. A few participants made mention of pollution and lack of prioritization of Indigenous voices and environmental consequences with regards to commercial developments. Several youth expressed their disdain in regards to the many condos, factories, and company facilities taking up space in the area, contributing to gentrification, displacement and air pollution.

A handful of youth mentioned that there aren't enough centres available for youth and other community members to receive services, with one participant expressing that there is an overall lack of community consultation. The slow and inaccessible TTC and Metrolinx services were once again referenced, and another response advocated for the removal of Bombardier and availability of the airport lands. Lastly, there were a few respondents who pointed out high crime rates in the area, linking this to the recreational marijuana and alcohol establishments being introduced in the neighbourhood, which they felt should not be reintroduced.

Any final comments?

Being that this question was optional, the majority of respondents either left it blank or thanked the id8 team for seeking their input. One youth took the time to write, "Think

about the people that have been living there for years and listen to what their concerns are.”

With that, the feedback survey concluded, and the final two questions were pertaining to next steps for respondents. 67.7% of respondents consented to having their demographics shared during the final report, and 32.3% dissented. Lastly, 54.8% of youth opted out of the id8 email newsletter, and 45.2% expressed interest in staying connected to the project.

Correlations I found between demographics and responses when analyzing the data:

- All participants who raised environmental concerns identified as female and were in the 20-25 age range.
- Most of the youth who identified as male either advocated for outdoor sports courts or spaces for youth to meet up and hang out.
- There seems to be a correlation between individuals ages 25-30 and raising concerns about community safety. The majority of respondents who made reference to high crime rates and wanted safer neighbourhoods were in their mid-to-late 20s or 30 years old.
- All participants who mentioned that they were familiar with the id8 project identified as women over the age of 25, with the exception of one participant, who was in the 15-19 age range.

Participant List

The majority of participants are connected to TARIC Mosque and/or the Jane-Falstaff neighbourhood in some way, either as regular attendants or residents of this area. My intention was to engage mainly Black Muslim youth through this process, and by tapping into these two diverse but overlapping spheres, I was able to achieve this engagement goal. I also engaged with youth across the city from various ethnic and religious backgrounds, not intentionally but through my outreach to areas surrounding the Downsview community.

The 21 youth who consented to having their demographics shared range in age from under 15 to 30, with no respondents preferring not to disclose. 57% of respondents were in the 20-25 age range; 23.8% were ages 15-19; 9.5% were 25-30, and 9.5% were under 15. 85.7% of respondents identified as female, 14.3% as male, and none of the participants identified as gender non-conforming or preferred not to say. An overwhelming majority of youth who agreed to share their demographics identified as

Black (66.7%); 4.8% as white; 14.3% as East Asian, Southeast Asian or Pacific Islander; 9.5% as South Asian; 0% as First Nations, Inuit or Métis; 4.8% as mixed with one or more of the ethnicities provided, and none preferring not to say. Please see the figures below for a visual breakdown of participant demographics.

Figure 1: Participant age

4. Age

21 responses

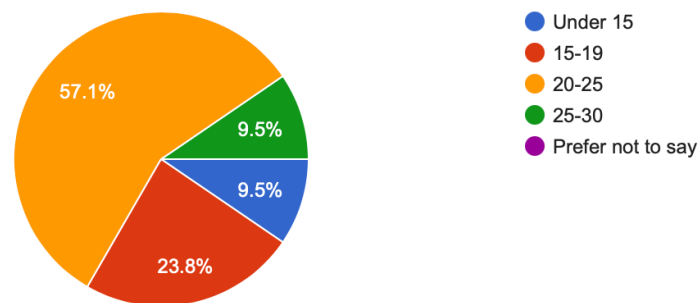


Figure 2: Participant gender identity

5. Gender

21 responses

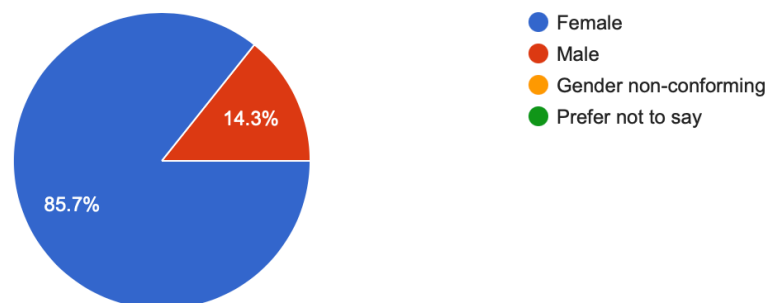


Figure 3: Participant ethnicity

6. Ethnicity

21 responses

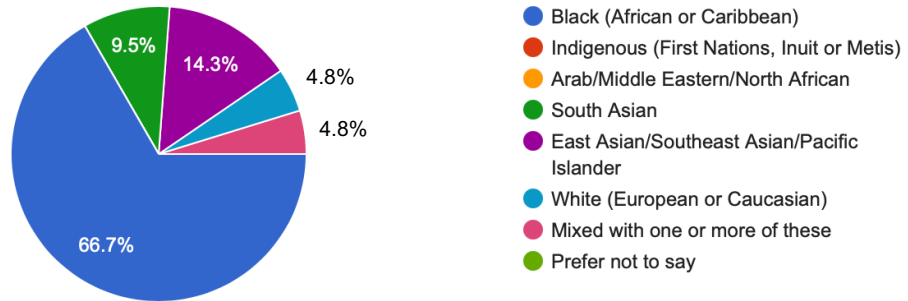
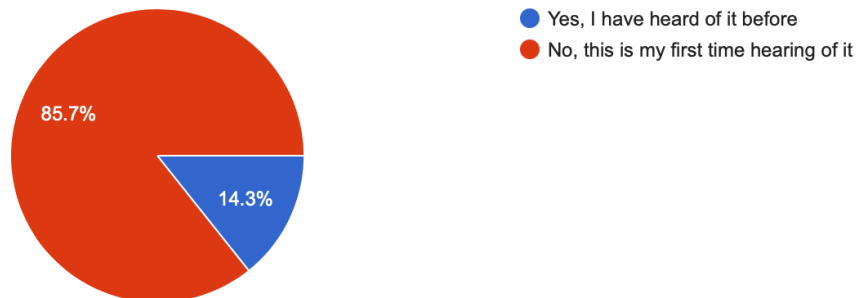


Figure 4: Participant familiarity with id8 Downsview Project

Are you familiar with the id8 Downsview development project or is this your first time hearing of it?

21 responses



Final Report

Selina Ang

Id8 Youth Engagement Team Member

May 26, 2021

Overview

In total, there were 798 participants throughout the entire engagement process. Of those 798 participants, 749 respondents (615 unique respondents) were for the id8 Downsview survey, 27 respondents were for the C.W. Jefferys id8 Downsview survey, 16 responses for the id8 Downsview feedback form, and 6 participants in an online Google Meet meeting. One of the methods used consisted of a survey aimed towards youth from the general public and was posted on Facebook, Instagram, and Reddit. The C.W. Jefferys survey and feedback form were sent out to target high school students and forwarded through one of C.W. Jefferys' guidance counselors. The online meeting was carried out with 6 other high school students from C.W. Jefferys and lasted around 1.5 hours.

Most, if not all of the social media posts, were posted with an online poster, the provided form/survey link, and a QR code.



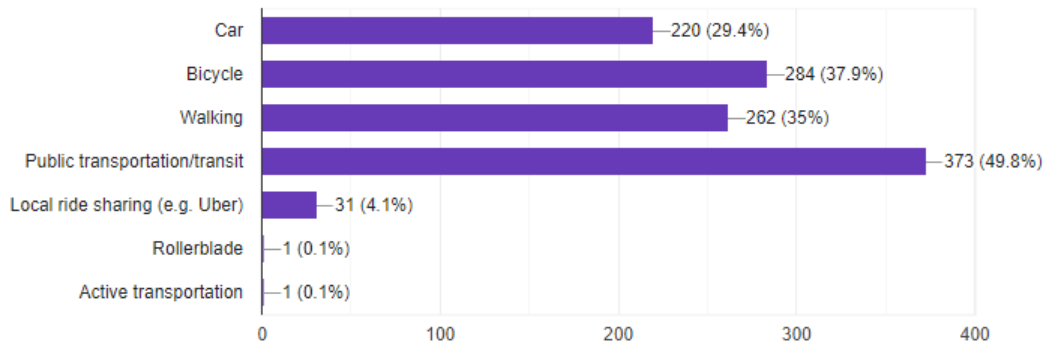
The poster that was used on most, if not all, of the social media posts.

It can be seen that the posting and online poster have as little information/text as possible, with the main intent and incentives being the main points emphasized to viewers. Posting a raffle with three

large prizes (gift cards each worth \$75) definitely garnered attention and gathered more responses. The general survey was sent out on May 6th (after it got approved by the id8 Downsview team) and the C.W. Jefferys survey and feedback form took a little longer to prepare and was sent out on May 10th. The online meeting took place on May 25th and lasted from 4:00 pm till 5:30 pm. The meeting consisted of getting more in-depth answers that the online forms could not deliver, and consisted of some additional topics that were not added to the online forms in concern for length.

Key Messages

- A majority of respondents (49.8%) use public transport to get around the area, with bicycling/walking being the 2nd most used for the general public and cars the 2nd most used for high school students.



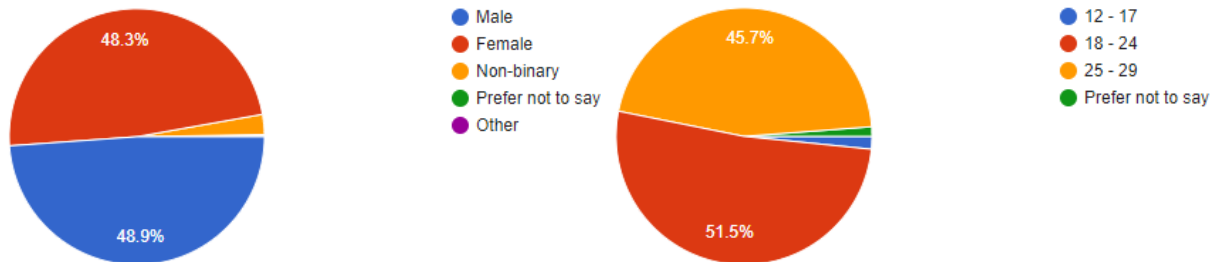
Results from the general public survey.

- An astounding number of respondents wanted to see all-season accessible green spaces, fruit farms, and gardens. Many of the participants in the online meeting and the feedback form had responded with gardens as their number one choice for green spaces.
- A lot of high school students had mentioned how they wanted areas to look “appealing to the eyes” so they could go and take pictures with their friends or simply just enjoy the nice view.
- Many of the responses by high school students had also mentioned how food and an attractive scenery would be able to attract a lot of high school students. As most students love taking pictures and many of them eat out when going out with friends.
- An overwhelming majority of participants listed transportation issues and a lack of outdoor facilities as the biggest challenges that they face and experience in their community.

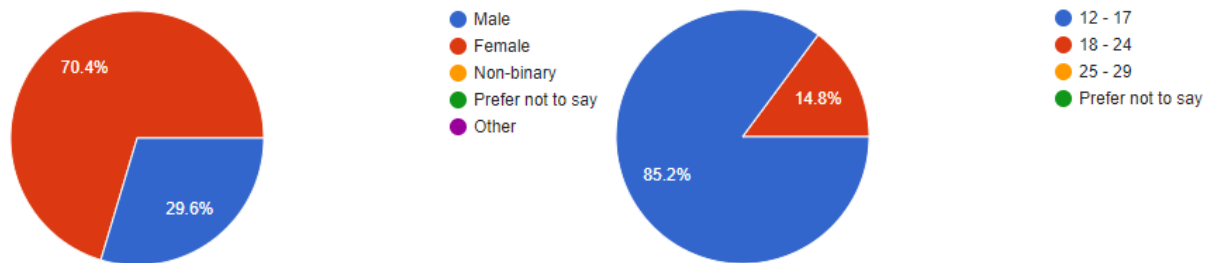
Detailed Feedback

A brief overview of the demographic

For the survey sent out to the general public, a majority of the respondents were Caucasian, followed by Asian, and Black (African or Caribbean). The majority of respondents from the general public survey lived near Downsview (10 minutes away via car/transit), and there was around a 50-50 split when it came to gender (male to female) and age (18-24 and 25-29).



The online forms that targeted high school students had a different demographic. This time, a majority of respondents were Asian followed by Black (African or Caribbean). The majority of the respondents were female (around 70%) and aged 12-17.

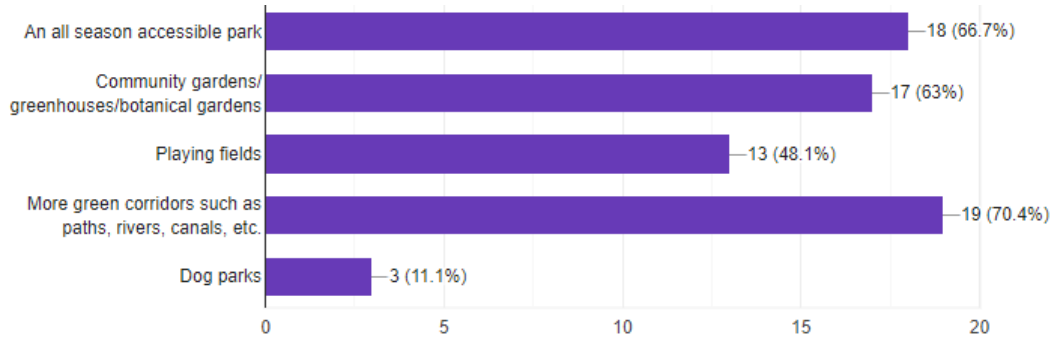


Questions from the online forms and meeting

Question 1: What types of usable green spaces would you like to see at Downsview?

- As mentioned previously, a large majority of participants would like to see community gardens and greenhouses (454 participants from the general public). The least-voted response was dog parks from all online forms, and another rather popular option was an increase in green corridors such as paths, rivers, and canals.

- Besides from the general public participants, a lot of youths from the high school engagement materials preferred all-season accessible parks, community gardens/greenhouses, and an increase in green corridors.

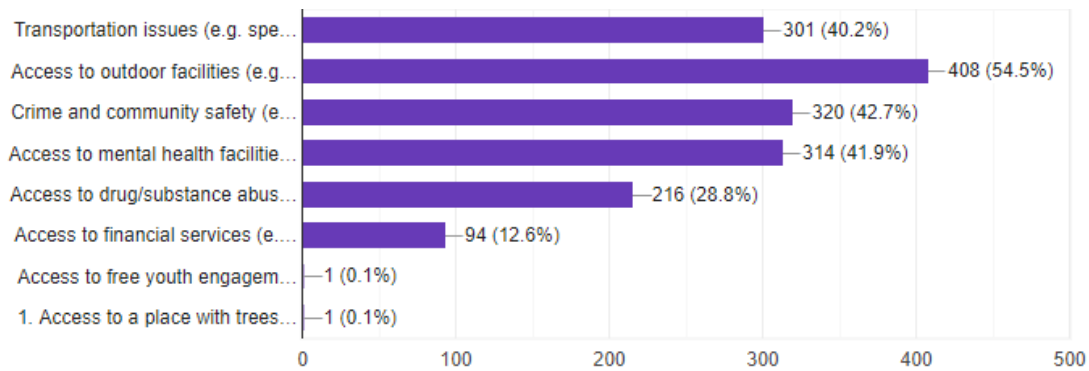


Results from the high school survey show similar results to the public survey.

- During the online meeting, it was surprising to find out that nearly all of the students had mentioned gardens for green spaces. Many of them had also mentioned that they wanted to see more gardens/greenhouses as they are nice places to take good pictures with friends.
- As a decent number of participants bike/walk to get around (both public (37.9%/35%) and high school participants (22.2%/40.7%)), it should be noted that some of the members in the meeting had recommended an increase of biking/hiking trails in parks.
- It can be summarized that an overwhelming majority of participants would like to see community gardens/greenhouses, all-season accessible parks, and an increase in green corridors.

Question 2: What types of challenges do you face/experience in your community?

- An overwhelming majority from both the C.W. Jefferys and the general public survey reveals that many participants (74.1% and 54.5% respectively) experience difficulties in regard to access to outdoor facilities. Another rather popular answer would be crime and community safety and a struggle to access mental health facilities.

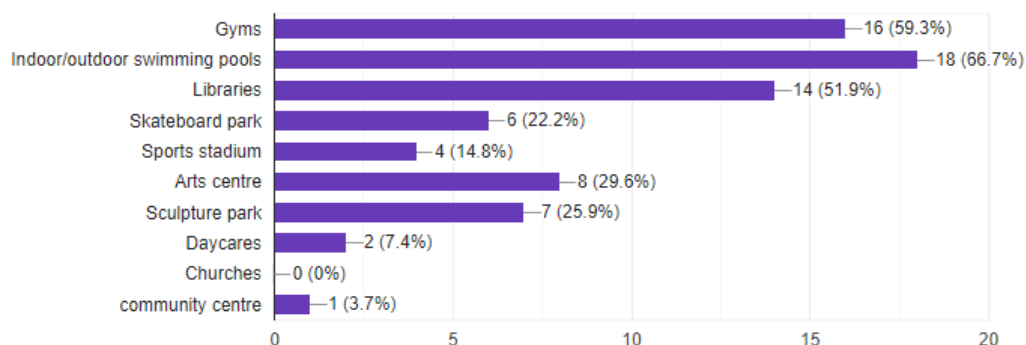


Results from the general public survey.

- More detailed responses from the feedback form entail that many high school students struggle with mental health issues but do not consult their guidance counselors at schools (as students feel that they are not professionally trained) and feel that there is a lack of mental health facilities provided in the area.
- Another issue that students face would be difficulties relating to crime and community safety. Some of the respondents had mentioned a shooting shelter in areas where shootings are common, and another had recommended building a safe space with patrol officers if someone feels that they are in danger and there is nobody nearby.

Question 3: What community facilities would you like to see built at Downsview?

- A large majority of participants from the public online form had responded with indoor/outdoor swimming pools (42.1%), libraries (38.7%), and gyms (27.9%) as their top responses, with daycares and churches with the least number of votes. Overall, many of the facilities that youth wanted to see consisted of places where youth could be more active, such as gyms and outdoor and/or indoor courts.



Results from the C.W. Jefferys forms were similar to the general public form.

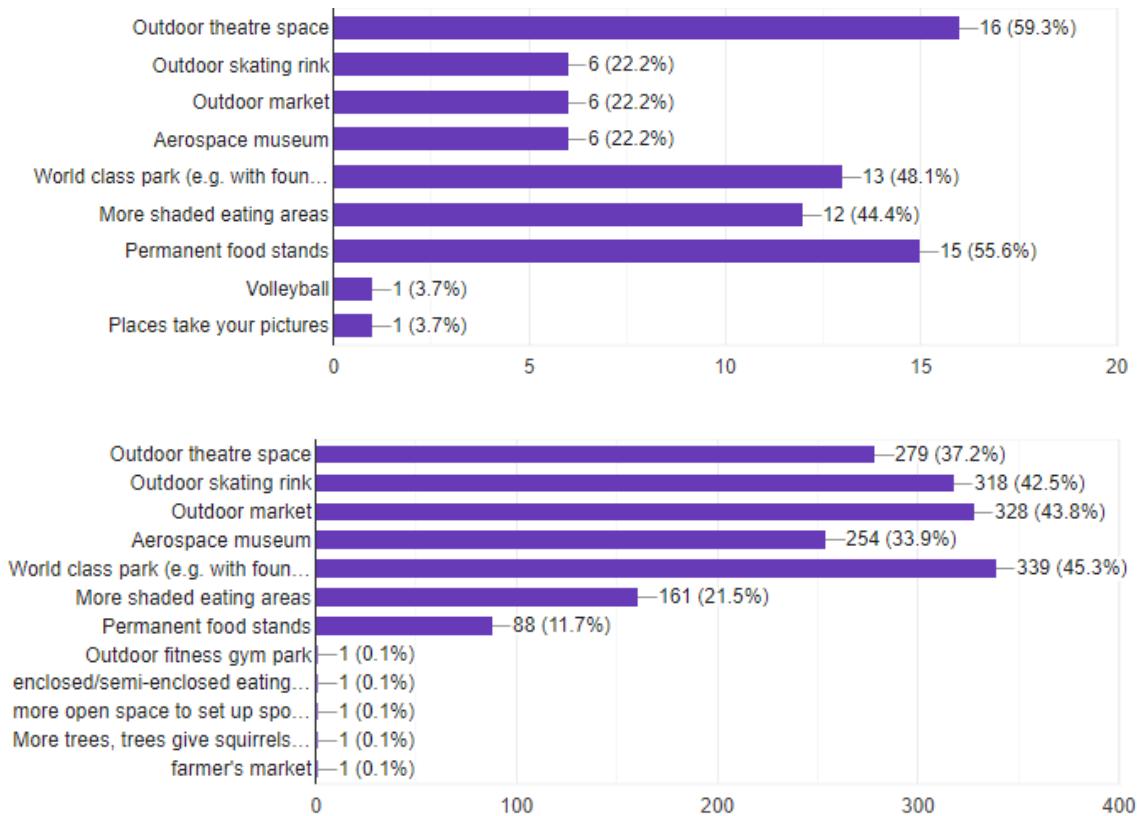
- The feedback form had given a different response, with a majority of students responding with rock climbing gyms, gyms, and indoor courts for basketball, volleyball, and badminton.
- Many students in the meeting had listed libraries as one of their top-voted choices, as libraries can provide equipment and resources that aren't provided in homes such as printers, telescopes, and even 3D printers. Some students mentioned that it can be hard to study and relax at home with a lot of siblings, and how the atmosphere and environment at libraries can lead to more productive studying.

Question 4: What walkable amenities would you like to see built at Downsview?

- A majority of the responses from the general public survey had responded with grocery stores (48.3%), cafes (46.2%), and drug stores (44.9%), with the least amount of votes going towards offices and co-working spaces as well as bars and post offices.
- In comparison, a majority of high school students had agreed with the respondents of the general public survey, with cafes and shops having the highest number of votes (88.9% and 74.1%) and drug stores having the least amount of votes.
- Looking at the feedback form, an overwhelming number of respondents had said that they'd love to see more cafes as it is very difficult to find cafes in their community. With another person responding that cafes could also help provide jobs for teens and students in the area. Besides from cafes, most of the respondents had agreed with more grocery stores and shops in the area.
- Students from the meeting had also agreed with an increase in cafes, mentioning different types of cafes that are not commonly found in Toronto such as cat cafes, cafes for gamers, etc.

Question 5: What attractions do you think would be a good idea to attract more people to Downsview?

- As for attractions, many respondents from the public survey were optimistic about a world-class park (45.3%), an outdoor market (43.8%), an outdoor skating rink (42.5%), and an outdoor theatre space (37.2%). Surprisingly enough, the option with the least amount of votes would be the permanent food stands and more shaded eating areas.
- In comparison, students from the online meeting had preferred permanent food stands (55.6%) and shading eating areas (44.4%) as teens often go out with friends to get food, and having permanent food stands and an eating area would save them the time from looking for somewhere to eat and sit down.



A side-by-side comparison of the high school survey (top) and the general public survey (bottom)

- Students who did the online forms voted the most for the outdoor theatre space (37.2%), and permanent food stands (55.56%) rather than the outdoor skating rink (22.2%) and outdoor markets (22.2%). The feedback form had also included a lot of students hoping for more permanent food stands, outdoor theatres, and outdoor skating rinks.
- Overall, it can be seen that youth and teenagers preferred areas where they can eat, have fun, and enjoy spending time with their friends, whereas older age groups prefer the world-class park and an outdoor market where they can conveniently go out and buy groceries. This could be because many students don't make/cook food for themselves at home whereas many working adults buy groceries and cook for themselves. Hence, the reason as to why the outdoor market was unpopular for teens and popular for older age groups.

Question 6: What types of facilities/outdoor spaces do you think would appeal to your parents or senior populations? What would help support aging in place?

- Many of the respondents from the C.W. Jefferys survey agreed that a functional senior park (48.1%), open spaces for board games (63%), and green spaces that are easily accessible to

seniors (85.2%) would help support aging in place. Whereas, an increase in hospitals and more senior apartments/retirement homes had the least amount of votes.

- After I brought it up during the online meeting, participants in the Google Meet session had explained that aging is scary and how most people at their age would prioritize their health to live longer. This demonstrates that participants want facilities built that encourage the health and fitness and seniors.

I would say more outdoors things like eating areas, playing areas, and walkable gardens. Seniors seem really happy when out side.

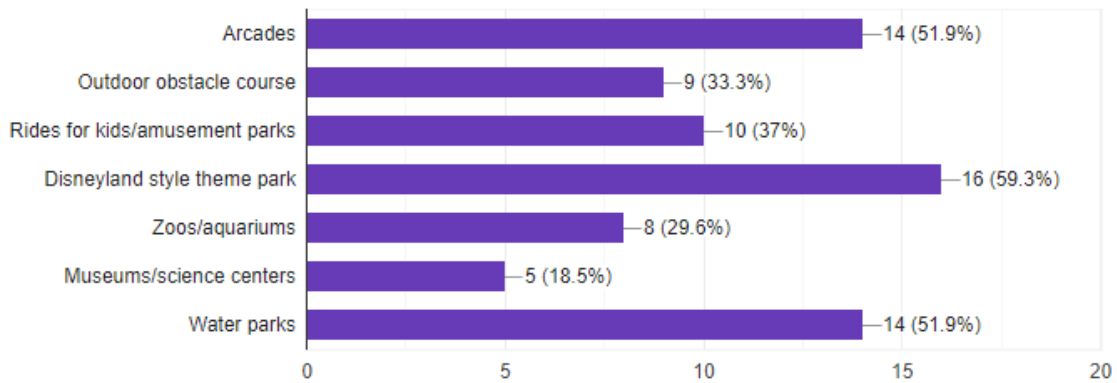
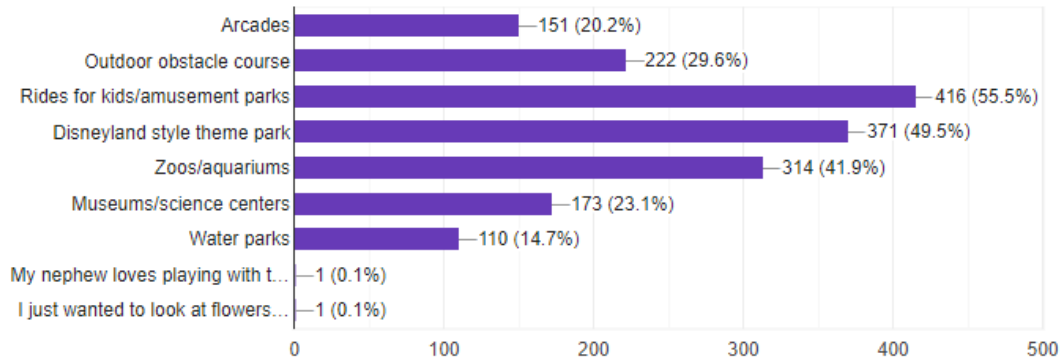
Senior park for seniors to go outside and get fresh air or just hang out where they interact with other seniors or young adults

Some similar responses made by students in the feedback form.

- Many of the participants had discussed how there are gyms for young people, but not really any fitness places for the elderly in our area, explaining that the gyms in our area aren't suitable for the elderly and senior populations. This led to the participants responding that there should be facilities built where the elderly can attend outdoor yoga or zumba classes or a gym that is specifically geared towards the elderly.
- Another participant had responded how their grandmother likes walks, but the green spaces in Downsview are too far to get to, and so she stressed making green spaces more accessible to senior populations.
- Many of the respondents in the feedback forms had also mentioned outdoor shaded eating areas where seniors can eat together with friends/family and have picnics.

Question 7: What type of entertainment facilities or outdoor spaces do you think would appeal to children?

- A majority of the votes in the public survey were in approval towards rides for kids/amusement parks (55.5%), a Disneyland-style theme park (49.5%), and zoos/aquariums (41.9%). Most people voted against water parks and museums/science centers. However, the votes from the high school students contradicted this, as many of the students were in favour of arcades (51.9%) and water parks (51.9%), but were enthusiastic about a Disneyland style theme park.



A side-by-side comparison of the data from the public survey (top) and the student survey (bottom).

- Many of the respondents from the feedback form agreed with the students from the surveys and listed water parks, arcades, and amusement parks as their preferred options. The participants from the online meeting generally agreed with the students from the feedback form, but also added in a petting zoo where kids could go and interact with animals. One of them had also mentioned how, teaching children how to respect and treat animals could have a positive effect on how they treat pets/animals in the future.

Additional questions from the meeting

How can we make facilities/spaces more eco-friendly?

Participants said that green roofs, more accessible garbage cans with specific signs regarding where the garbage cans are and how to separate litter, solar-powered lights and lamps, and water fountains to help refill water bottles. Another respondent had also mentioned planting flowers/sectioning off an area that supports and protects bees.

How can we make facilities/spaces more friendly and supportive of people with disabilities?

Participants mentioned including ramps next to stairs, providing handlebars when people go up ramps, elevators, trying to make places wheelchair accessible, providing beeping cross lights for people with visual impairments, and providing braille on signs near trails and parks for directions and distance travelled.

How can we make facilities/spaces more friendly and supportive of homelessness?

Students from the online meeting had mentioned providing more visible donation areas that go towards homeless shelters, a food donation area, friendly benches for homeless people (as one person mentioned that people don't like sitting next to homeless people), food banks, thrift stores nearby areas with homeless citizens, making washing areas and shower rooms that are specifically accessible to homeless people, as well as providing a facility that helps provide homeless people with jobs (ex. hire homeless people to help clean up parks).

Participant List

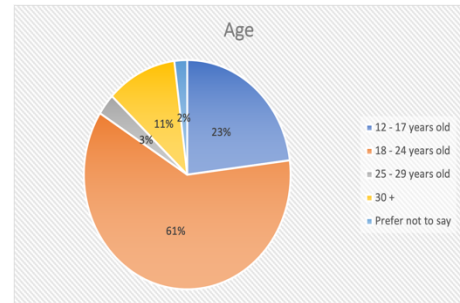
The students from the meeting did not feel very comfortable including their names in the report so it has been omitted from the participant list. However, most of the organizations/communities that were involved in the engagement process consisted of C.W. Jefferys, York University, and a subreddit community on Reddit (r/samplesize).

**Id8Downsview
Youth Engagement Final Report**

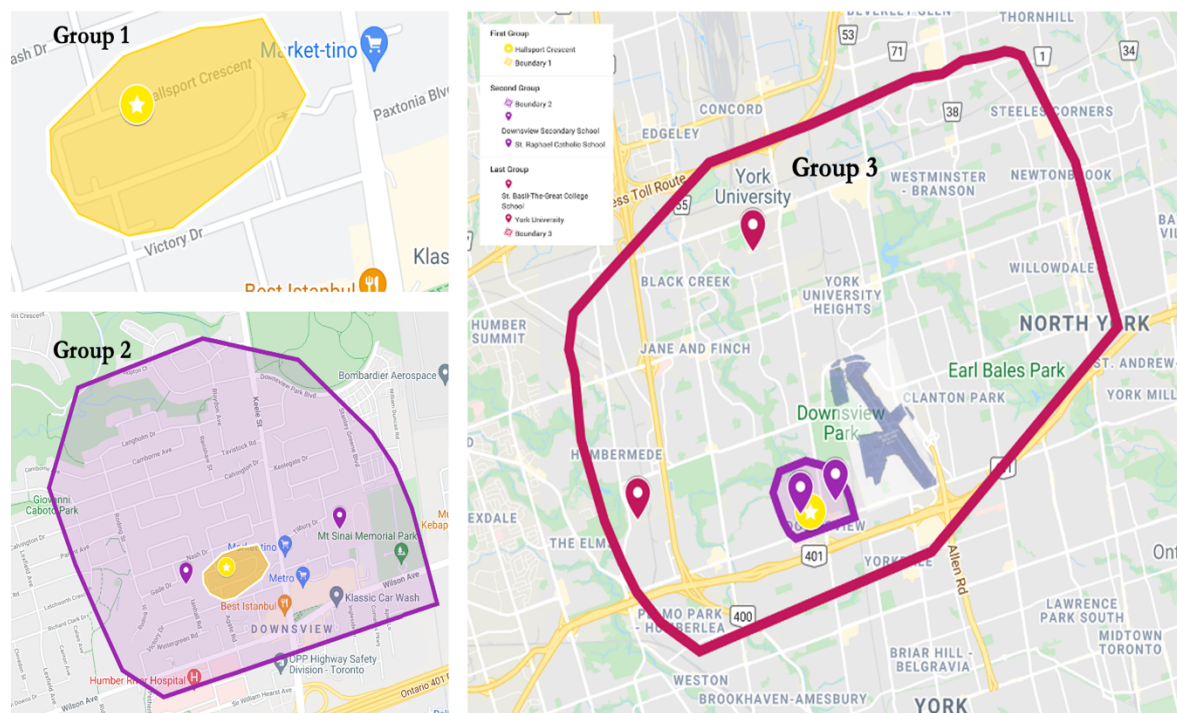
Maria Verquele Marquez

Overview and engagement methodology

As a youth engagement member, before the engagement process, I have decided to use a “Survey” and “Feedback form” which both had the same questions maximum 20, that includes demographic questions and questions asking ideas from local youth and others in the

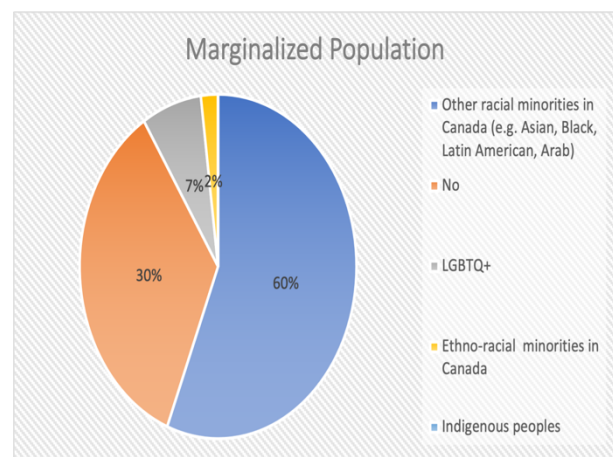
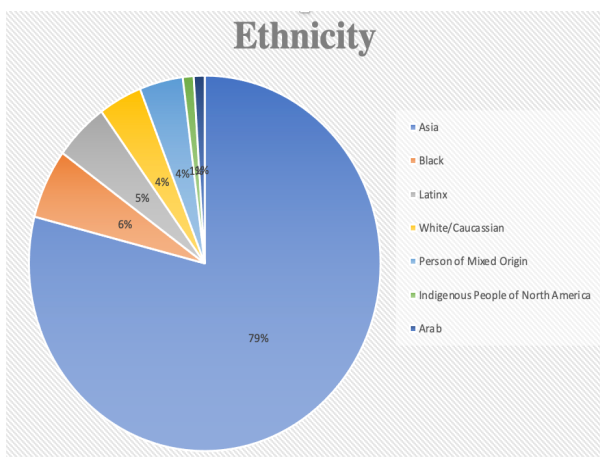
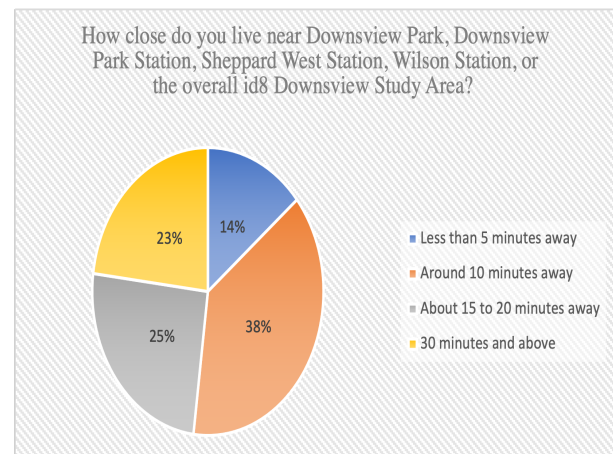
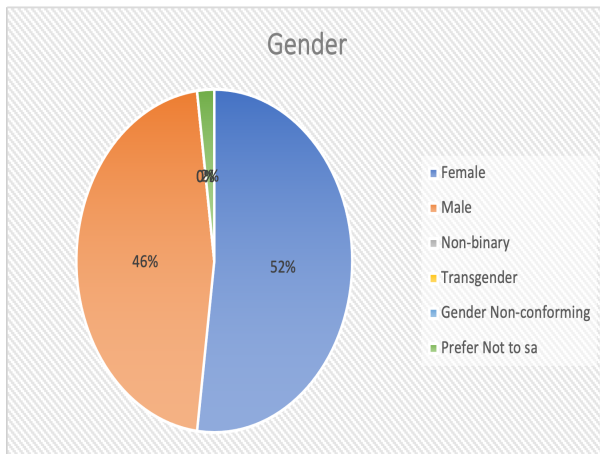


community about what they would like to see in the future redevelopment of the 520 acres of land in Downsview. In this process there were 100 participants, mainly 12 years old – 29 years old, with a handful of 30 + years old participants. Using one on one connection to get people to do the Survey and Feedback and my Instagram as a platform to market and get the youth interested in participating. I decided to break down the engagement process into three different steps. For the first week I made my own boundaries of how I can reach out to different people. The first step was reaching out to people within my local neighbourhood (yellow). Then to the next group of people that are located a bit further that included, two different schools, St. Raphael and Downsview Secondary School as most participants are mainly youth (purple). Lastly, for the last week going even further the includes St. Basil High school and York University students (Red) and finally ending with 100 participants. As shown, the three maps the study are is near and within the boundaries.



Demographics

The pie charts shown below provides information about the participants who took part in the survey and feedback. As you can see, there are more females who participated in the survey compared to males. As for ethnicity, I didn't specifically focus on one ethnicity, but there are many Asians that participated in the process rather than the other ethnicities. For the marginalized population, there are numerous people who are part of the racial minorities in Canada and there are some people who aren't part of the marginalized population. There are fewer people in the LGBTQ+ community, Indigenous peoples and Ethno-racial minorities in Canada. For the distance people live near Downsview Park, more people live around 10 minutes away, some people live about 15 to 20 minutes away, some live 30 or more minutes away, and not that many people live less than 5 minutes away.

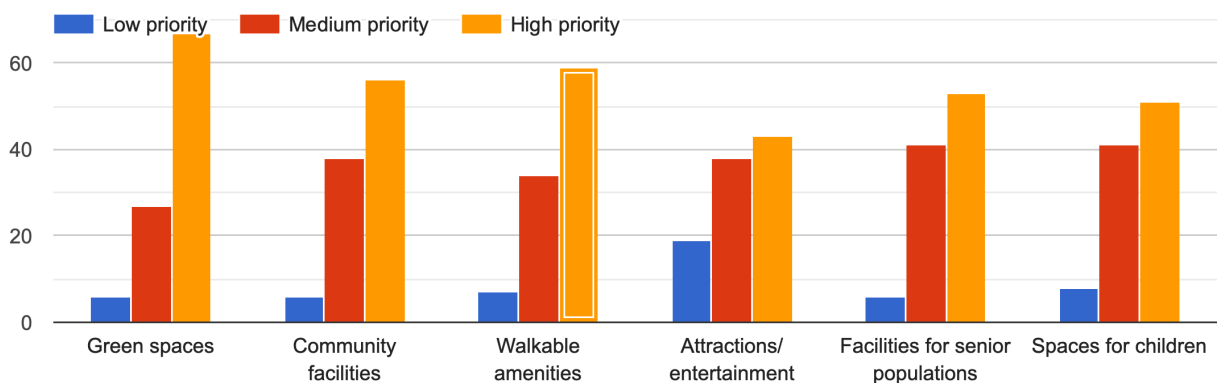


Key feedback

There were key themes that many participants had in mind of what they would like to see in the 520 acres. Key feedback shared by participants include these that were in the high priority:

- **Need for more green space.** The most consistent would be a **green space area**, which includes many suggestions of a community garden and fruit/vegetable farm. A lot of participants strongly suggest showcasing the want of a healthy living lifestyle and advocating for mental health as it would help the community.
- Need **accessible facilities**, focused on active living, as the participants stated ideas to include in the area are gyms, obstacle course, indoor/outdoor pool, courts, etc. However, accessible doesn't only mean, the community being to easily access the facilities, the cost is also a conversation and should be consider.
- Would like **walkable amenities**. The ideas given by the participants suggest that cafés for instant are needed to have more jobs for youths.
- Given the answers from all the participants it shows how **each wants a certain community feeling of comfortable, safe, and healthy living**. Apart from these three ideas, there were other options that was as much of a priority as shown in the graph below.

Considering all of the previous questions, what would you prioritize building for the community?



Detailed summary of feedback

Participants were asked ten questions in the survey. The questions and summary of their feedback are listed below. Selected quotes are provided by participants who gave detailed explanations to common comments.

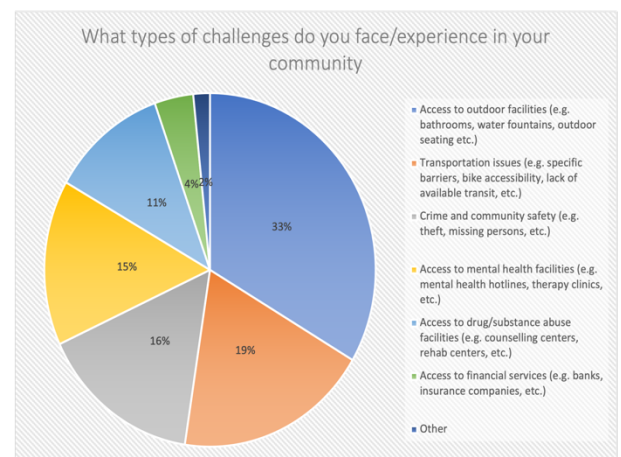
“What types of usable green spaces?”

An all-season accessible park with different ideas such as:

- **A large park:** “Somewhat like Central Park.” Stated a participant. Most believe this would allow the community to get exercise while enjoying nice scenery and allow a spot that people want to visit with friends or family.
- **Flower garden, picnic park:** A garden is mood boosting which is important to people who have mental problems especially during this pandemic, and time outside benefits our physical health as well.
- **Fruit and vegetable farms and greenhouses:** A community garden of some sort would benefit all kinds of people, both young and elderly. It would be a great chance for the community to come together.

“What types of challenges do you face/experience in your community?”

- **Access to outdoor facilities:** lack of outdoor facilities there are for the youth. It would be great to have a facility of some sort that benefits the youth so that they’re not always cooped up in their homes. As mentioned before cost is a constant question, that having facilities, may not be accessible to others are they are costly. If the facilities are low cost or free access can be considered.
- **Crime and Community Safety:** Challenges faced in the community are crime and substance use. Participants provided a range of suggestions on how these substance use and crime issues could be addressed, including:



- There should be an unpopulated area where people can legally use their substances. “There are people smoking weed in our neighborhood, and people who sneak into other people’s backyards.” A participant stated. Facilities/resources that can help are an area for where people can smoke weed in.
- Having a neighborhood watcher for the night or having a few police officers patrolling in the neighbourhood at dusk until dawn could decrease crime rates in this area.
- **Transportation:** “First and foremost before establishing any modern changes, we need to renovate the roads, sidewalks and add additional stop lights so it’s easier for families to be walking on Keele safely.” From a participant that really explained about the transportation challenges. Buses should have a limit, even without the Covid restrictions.

“What community facilities would you like to see built?”

- **Areas to be active in: A sports stadium or community centre built with a nice big basketball court and other types of courts.** “There is a hoop dome in the area but that costs money and not everyone has money to be able to play basketball.” Stated by a participant.
- **Libraries and indoor and outdoor pools built.** This will benefit the community because the library will give us more access to books. Both pools will be helpful in cold and hot seasons. The pools already accessed won’t be crowded.
- **Washroom, hand washing station** as it is important to stay clean.

“What walkable amenities would you like to see built?”

- **Café:** There are barely any cafes in the area, it would benefit the community by providing more access to fresh food and drinks. It would also help the very few cafes that are packed with people and have a big lineup. There will also be more jobs accessible to the youths and an area to stop by after a walk and or a study area.
- **Grocery stores:** During this pandemic the line-up really takes a toll on people and having more would help the long line up.

“What attractions do you think would be a good idea to attract more people?”

- **Permanent Food stands:** Permanent food stands as it can become something that people can look forward to when they are coming to the area. “Food stalls and a picnic garden. I think that would attract people. It will serve as their bonding to strengthen their relationship.” A participant stated.
- **More shade and eating areas:** This is beneficial for youths to come out more often.
- **Entertainment:** Artwork display, arcade, and obstacle course would be beneficial for a beautiful display to look at, an obstacle can be used for exercise and an arcade will be used for people to get out more and release stress.

“What types of facilities/outdoor spaces do you think would appeal to your parents or senior populations? What would help support aging in place?”

- **Green space for the seniors:** The greenspace will not be accessible to any youth who may be smoking in the area made for the seniors to relax.
- **Areas where it’s peaceful and safe:** This will be great for mental health. Little outdoor eating areas are something that will draw attention to parents /seniors' eyes. Supporting anything that will be made for the seniors, as they are getting old and they deserve to have fun and to feel that sunshine.
- **Entertainment area:** A senior home would be appealing because seniors are being given a place to stay with people taking care of them. They can have events held there like bingo night and have interactions at the casino with other seniors. Events like bingo with prizes would be nice for adults.

“What type of entertainment facilities or outdoor spaces do you think would appeal to children?”

- **Themed park, (Disney, cartoons) Only accessible to kids:** Kids can play without parents worrying about their children's safety. There won't be any dangerous substances that adults use for the children to discover.
- **Water parks, obstacle courses and arcades:** These appeal to children. Water parks and obstacle courses benefit the community because children are being exposed to more exercise. Arcades help keep children entertained.

Overall, it was amazing to see the youth contributing ideas that will benefit mental and physical health. Children as young as 12 years old were able to express their opinions and expose how aware they are about the problems in the community. This age group provided realistic suggestions such as hand washing stations, public washrooms and water bottle stations to keep good hygiene. Youth ages between 12 to 17 have also provided realistic suggestions such as greenspaces, walkable amenities and accessible facilities.

Participant List

- York University Students
- Downsview Secondary School
- St. Basil – The Great College School
- St. Raphael Students