

Community-led planning is where residents identify neighbourhood needs, build consensus around local priorities, and directs resources toward local resident-prioritized solutions. The local expertise is clear: sustained funding is needed for community-led planning to scale solutions to displacement and ensure inclusive economic development at the neighbourhood level.



COMMUNITY-LED PLANNING ENABLES GOVERNMENT TO WORK EFFECTIVELY

Most residents and social service agencies feel that government is serving the interests of large corporations over the people who call Toronto home. Large corporations have the resources to consistently engage City staff, elected representatives, and public processes that shape municipal services and daily life. Most residents do not. Without sustained funding for community-led planning, residents will continue to be left behind. Funding community-led planning enables residents to hold it's government accountable to organize, build consensus, and work with community to design services and investments that respect human dignity, respond to local priorities, and help all residents thrive.

ALIGNING MUNICIPAL LEADERSHIP WITH COMMUNITY EXPERTISE



- Community led planning includes:**
- Land use planning and policy consensus building
 - Urban farming and native flora planting
 - Affordable housing protection and development
 - Tenant organizing
 - Child care and mutual aid
 - Cultural events, public space and park activation
 - Community building and recreation activities

CHAMPION PLEDGE COMMITMENTS

- 1 Direct City staff to meaningfully collaborate with community members
- 2 Fund community-led planning in 15 neighbourhoods in the 2027 budget
- 3 Scale investment to all 158 neighbourhoods by 2030
- 4 Ensure community-led funds governed through participatory budgeting and neighbourhood-level resident leadership
- 5 Co-design the program model with community through an Advisory Table

THE CALL IS ALREADY ON THE TABLE

- NOV 2025** The City's Confronting Anti-Black Racism Advisory Committee formally recommended to Mayor Olivia Chow: fund community-led planning at up to \$500,000 per neighbourhood per year.
- APR 2026** Councillor Alejandra Bravo, Chair of the Economic & Community Development Committee, directed City staff to consider the recommendation as part of the 2027 budget process. **Your leadership is needed to commit the City to allocate funding.**



**Coalition for
Responsible
Community
Development**

CRCD is a coalition of residents, tenant leaders, community organizations, and planning experts working to advance community-led planning - proven solution for equitable development, and neighbourhood-level accountability. The Community-led Planning Champion Pledge is a public commitment process that invites candidates to align with community expertise on resident-led decision-making.

ITS TIME TO PUT COMMUNITY FIRST

Funding community-led planning must be designed to prevent capture by a small group and ensure broad participation across each neighbourhood.

CRCD is calling for a model grounded in:

- participatory budgeting;
- neighbourhood-level consensus-building;
- transparent eligibility rules;
- outreach to renters, youth, seniors, newcomers, low-income residents, Black and racialized communities, disabled residents, small businesses, and other groups often excluded from planning decisions.

Local leaders and organizations would apply for funding through Neighbourhood Planning Coalitions or similar resident-led structures. These structures should bring together a broad range of community voices so that priorities are shaped by those most affected by local planning and investment decisions. Accountability must be built into the model from the beginning.



City staff should meaningfully collaborate with communities, not simply consult them after decisions have already been made.



Funding community-led planning supports coordination across key City divisions, including social development, land use planning and development review, housing, economic development, culture, transportation, parks, and other services.

COMMUNITY EXPERTISE

FUND COMMUNITY-LED PLANNING

PUBLIC CANDIDATE TRACKER

CRCD.TO includes a public tracker so residents can see which candidates have been sent and fully signed on to the pledge.

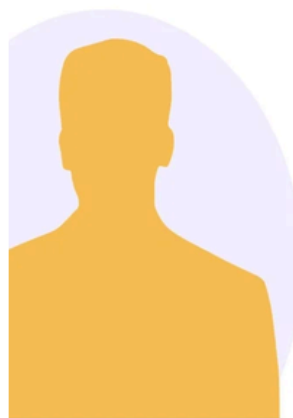
- ✓ Shows candidate sign-on status
- ✓ Makes public accountability visible
- ✓ Helps residents compare commitments across campaigns

YOUR VOICE WILL HELP MOVE THE CITY

Endorse the call for a Community-led Planning Fund and help show City Council that residents, tenant leaders, community organizations, and planning experts are aligned.



ALIGNED WITH COMMUNITY EXPERTISE



The City should **FUND COMMUNITY-LED PLANNING**

15 neighbourhoods in 2027.
All 158 by 2030.

YOU

Wonderous and essential
Resident Ward #88 - Ward Name



Anti-displacement
Inclusive economic
development
community building



up to
\$500k per
for high needs
neighbourhoods



Funds governed
by local resident
consensus



SPREAD THE WORD

- Share this post
- Visit CRCD.TO to see if your local candidates have signed on as champions for community-led planning



OUR COMMUNITIES. OUR VOICES. OUR CITY.

USE YOUR VOICE

CRCD.TO/ENDORSE

Let's secure funding for community-led planning to prevent displacement; protect local spaces; strengthen neighbourhood wellbeing; and invest in residents before communities are pushed into crisis.



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COMMUNITY EXPERTISE

FUND COMMUNITY-LED PLANNING

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER I ENDORSE THE CAMPAIGN BY MAKING A CARD?

People and organizations who endorse the call may receive campaign updates and opportunities to share the message and meet others who support the funding of community-led planning. Endorsements help encourage elected officials to align with community expertise on the need to sustainably fund community-led planning.

We are sending regular updates to Ward constituents: which candidates have fully signed on or declined to.

SEE WHO'S SIGNED ON

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Are other cities funding community-led planning?

Yes. There are great examples in Montreal, New York, Chicago, Philadelphia, and Glasgow.

Why compare this to the police budget increase?

The comparison shows scale. The proposed full citywide Community-led Planning Fund would cost up to \$45 million per year, while the 2026 Toronto Police budget increase alone was \$93.8 million. This comparison helps show that community-led planning is a realistic and affordable public investment.

What does community-led planning mean in everyday life?

Community-led planning means residents have the resources to identify local needs, build consensus with their neighbours, and work with government to advance practical solutions. This can include protecting affordable housing, supporting tenants, strengthening local businesses, creating safer public spaces, improving food security (community gardens!), supporting cultural spaces, and building stronger neighbourhood relationships.

Who can endorse the call?

Residents, tenant associations, neighbourhood groups, community organizations, service providers, faith groups, cultural organizations, local businesses, foundations, civic institutions, and planning professionals can all endorse the call for the City of Toronto to fund Community-led Planning. Endorsement shows that you support sustained public investment in resident-led decision-making and neighbourhood-level solutions.

What can I do besides endorse?

You can share the campaign, ask candidates whether they support funding community-led planning, invite CRCD to brief your organization, connect local leaders to the campaign, host a community conversation, or support resident-led organizing in your neighbourhood.

Isn't the City already supporting neighbourhood initiatives? What makes this different?

Toronto has invested in neighbourhood-level work through small-scale project granting - what is missing is sustained, resident-governed funding, where residents have real decision-making power at the neighbourhood level. E.g the Toronto Strong Neighbourhood Strategy and Toronto Neighbourhood Assessment Framework focus on data collection and training, with minimal funding going to residents to implement solutions. Our pledge prioritizes funding resident leadership directly and ensuring City staff meaningfully collaborate with residents to advance solutions.



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COMMUNITY EXPERTISE

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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How is this different from a regular grant program?

Most grant programs fund short-term projects. Community-led planning funds long-term neighbourhood capacity. The goal is not only to support individual activities, but to give residents the resources, staffing, and decision-making structures needed to shape local priorities, coordinate across sectors, and work with government before problems become crises.

How would CRCD ensure the process is accountable and not captured by a small group of residents?

The Pledge calls for participatory budgeting, resident-led governance, and co-design with community because accountability must be built into the model from the start. This includes clear eligibility rules, transparent decision-making, public reporting, and outreach to renters, youth, seniors, newcomers, low-income residents, Black and racialized communities, disabled residents, small businesses, and other groups often excluded from planning decisions. Local leaders would apply for funding through Neighbourhood Planning Coalitions made up of local leaders and organizations, so priorities are shaped through broad participation and local consensus. Ask for our detailed proposal on what this could look like.

How would the first 15 neighbourhoods be selected?

Neighbourhood selection co-designed with residents, community organizations, City representatives. Priority given to neighbourhoods already doing the work to addressing displacement. The next step is then to scale investment to all 158 Toronto neighbourhoods by 2030, while directing deeper funding to communities facing higher levels of displacement, underinvestment, and unmet social needs.

Why should all neighbourhoods eventually receive funding if some communities have greater need?

Every neighbourhood should have access to sustained funding for community-led planning because every community has local knowledge, public assets, and residents who deserve a meaningful role in decisions that affect their lives. At the same time, deeper funding should be directed to neighbourhoods facing higher levels of displacement risk, underinvestment, housing insecurity, food insecurity, economic exclusion, and barriers to participation. This approach avoids creating a small, temporary pilot while still recognizing that equity requires greater investment where the need is most urgent.

How will success of community-led planning be measured?

Success should be measured by both participation and impact. This includes the number of residents engaged, local partnerships formed, neighbourhood priorities identified, tenant associations strengthened, community-led projects funded, affordable housing and community spaces protected, and formal pathways created for City staff to work with residents. Over time, success should also be measured by improvements in housing stability, food security, local economic opportunity, belonging, safety, and community wellbeing.

A better future is built when many voices move together. Add your voice to show City Council that residents, community organizations, and civic leaders support funding planning led by communities.

CRCD.TO/ENDORSE

Are you interested in volunteering to help out, or are you a policy or philanthropy leader excited to see progress or learn more about the need to fund community led planning? send us an email
Connect@CRCD.To