

Organizing, Advocating and Creating for Racial, Social and Cultural Equity.

The DesignManifestO.
Creative Practice as Protest
Youth Workshop



Cheryl Giraudy
Saskia van Kampen

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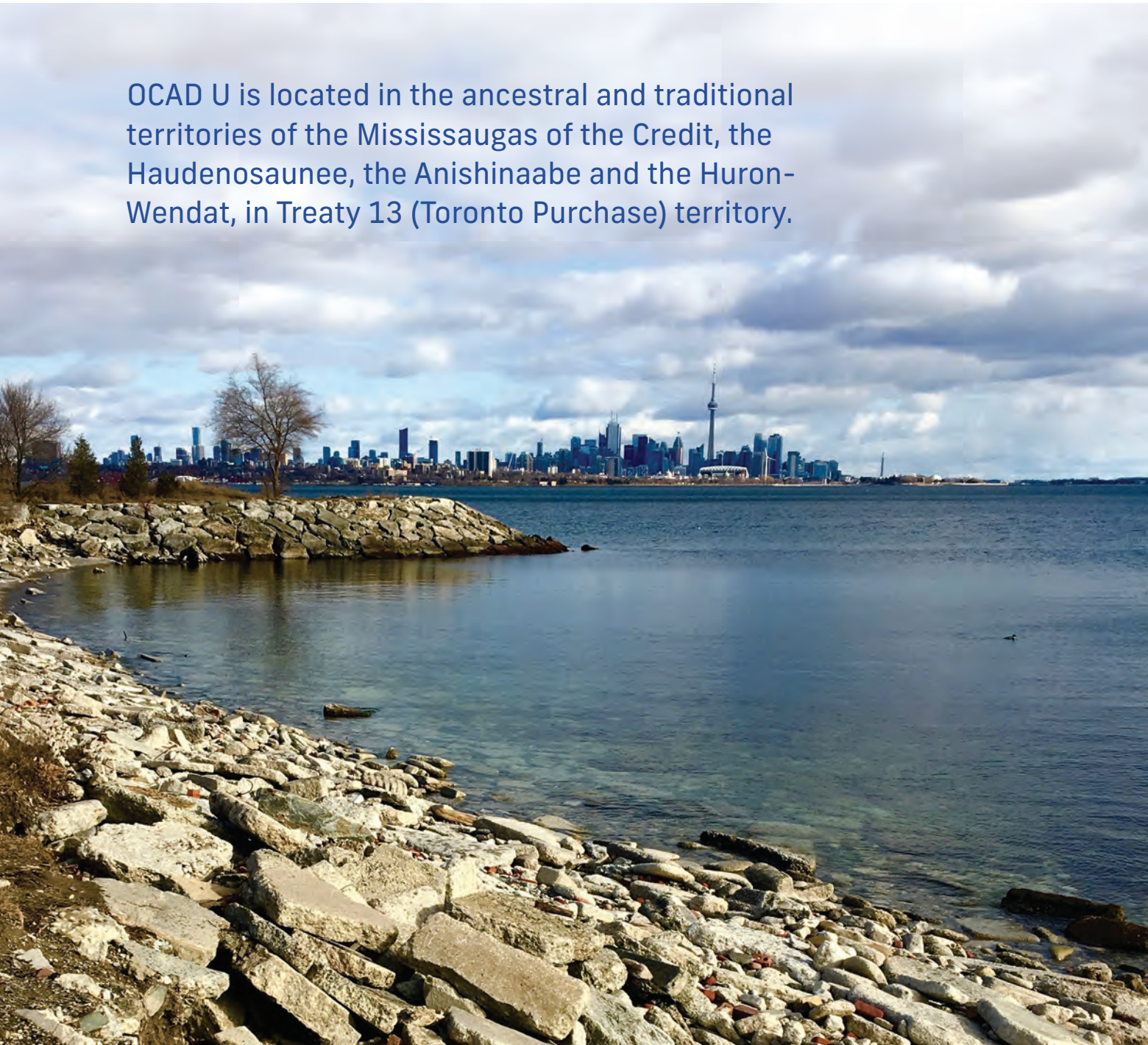
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CHAPTER 1

OVERVIEW

OCAD U is located in the ancestral and traditional territories of the Mississaugas of the Credit, the Haudenosaunee, the Anishinaabe and the Huron-Wendat, in Treaty 13 (Toronto Purchase) territory.



Design ManifestT.O. 2020

“Placemaking inspires people to collectively reimagine and reinvent public spaces as the heart of every community. Strengthening the connection between people and the places they share, placemaking refers to a collaborative process by which we can shape our public realm in order to maximize shared value. ”¹

Placemaking

Placemaking is a collaborative and powerful tool for community building. It can be driven top-down by politicians seeking broad development goals, or bottom-up with grassroots activism in fostering ad hoc solutions and everything in between. At the core of all placemaking undertakings is the value-added concept of employing a community's strengths and aspirations to reflect its unique identity in shaping

the public realm (Stewart, 2018).² The US-based non-profit Project for Public Space (PPS) implements placemaking by animating the public sphere, positing that systemic neglect of places leading to marginalization of neighbourhoods demands systemic change through locally driven transformations.³

Toronto Neighbourhoods

In 1998 East York, York, Scarborough, North York, Toronto City Centre, and Etobicoke amalgamated to become a single municipality of Metropolitan Toronto. Six geographic regions, based on these prior boroughs, remain. Three distinct economic boundaries divided the city in a nuanced way over the last decade, as reported by Hulchanski.⁴ However, it is becoming clearer, that the wealthiest region found in the downtown core, has also resulted in the

poorest, houseless and homeless citizens living among the wealthiest, where gentrification has had the greatest impact. The wealthiest region is found in the downtown core where gentrification has had the greatest impact. The areas furthest from the core surrounding the city; west (Etobicoke), east (Scarborough), and north (North York), supports the fastest growing number of newcomers with 50% of overall city population. Surrounding the downtown

↓ *Press image for the Design ManifestO. Research Project. Photo taken from the fifth floor of OCAD University looking West over Grange Park.*

Design ManifestO 2020

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is York, Mid-Town, and East York. This middle class and upwardly mobile area is splitting economically. As a result, Toronto, while more diverse, has also become more economically divided.⁵ Expensive high-rise developments engulf central and mid-Toronto neighbourhoods, and infrastructure upgrades such as transit is focused on these areas. This increasingly isolates older social housing communities and the aforementioned gentrification, also gentrification of lower-income neighbourhoods pushes them out of the downtown core, away from needed amenities and resources.

The continual shift of economic barriers has led DM2020 to abandon framing their research on these geopolitical and economic boundaries in order to learn about critical economic and social boundaries that actually influence or impede community placemaking at a more micro/local level. What these shifts do tell us is that community identity is becoming ever more important to reinforce a connection to place.⁶

Toronto neighbourhoods are experiencing the negative aspects of large-scale urbanization and BIPOC, Youth, LGBTQIA2S+, Newcomers, and other

strong communities want a greater say in planning their communal and semi-public zones, where developers and planner have rapidly determined the design and use of those spaces. Historically left out of planning discourse and systemically ignored by sectors developing and influencing city building, communities are reeling from the resulting exclusions including: forgotten densities; lack of affordability, transit, access to resources; among other lived realities.⁷ Robust placemaking policies and plans based on community need, immediate and longer-term, will require greater 'resilience' for existing and new challenges, including spatial responses for pandemics, and responses to severe effects of climate change in urban centres.

Furthermore, Toronto is awakening to its role in decolonization and reconciliation with Indigenous communities amid a national call for nation-to-nation dialogue, learning Indigenous principles of placemaking and creative practices. Urban Indigenous Youth are the emerging placemakers engaging ancestral knowledge for 'connection to place'.⁸

Research

DM2020 is a participatory action research project with an inclusive design focus for accessible environments by considering culture, ethnicity, race, ability, and other diverse and intersectional ways of being. Narrative inquiry and co-design practices are methods used for data collection by having participants share stories, generate placemaking ideas together, and responding to and giving feedback on designed research outcomes. The research team, consisting of educators and practitioners, work alongside participants, both listening and collaborating on ideas, in order to learn from lived experiences.

DM2020 was launched as part of the 2019 DesignTO Festival at OCAD U's Open Gallery at 49 McCaul in downtown Toronto. This was followed by several community forums. In January 2020 DM2020 held the Creative Practice as Protest Youth workshop partnering with Design Justice expert Bryan C. Lee Jr. of Colloqate Design. The Covid-19 pandemic slowed down the data collection process but did manage to hold one virtual forum with members of the Rexdale Youth Mentorship Program (RXYM).

The data points to the fact that communities are aware of the colonial design practices that have historically left them out of planning and design discourse. Citizens are aware of and fighting against injustices around access to space and the exclusion of their voices from planning discussions. These discussions must “address the social, political, material, cultural, and aesthetic needs of people including a community's unique identity and its aspirations for the greater good of the urban or rural context it resides in”.⁹

Among other harms, lack of respect for diversity to practices in developing cities, spaces, and places, as created by designers for people and communities,¹⁰ communities have creative strategies (disruptive or otherwise) for placemaking that are shifting the power imbalance. The DM2020 team aims to share these strategies through the publication and distribution of this book and for which the content has been co-designed with participants.

Acknowledgements

The DM2020 project received funding through an OCAD U Research Seed Grant, and a SSHRC Partnership Engage Grant. The research team is comprised of Associate Professor Cheryl Giraudy from OCAD U and Assistant Professor Saskia van Kampen from San Francisco

State University (former OCAD U faculty). Together they have worked with research assistants, Community Mentors, Community Leaders, Creative leaders, and Community members who are tied to placemaking efforts.

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Creative Practice as Protest Youth Workshop

January 2020

“The ability to access and participate in public space has profound implications for well-being and life chances.”¹¹

The Creative Practice as Protest (CPP) Youth Workshop began with the idea of holding a student competition. This idea evolved more critically as we consulted with community leaders. Our original idea was fraught with colonialist ideas; for example competition pits students against one another, inevitably ending with winners and losers and competition involves judging and criteria based

on a preconceived notion of ‘good’ design. The competition evolved into a workshop that invited all Youth, not just students, to an opportunity involving working with community and creative mentors to learn together about just and inclusive placemaking strategies. Instead of highlighting a winner, all of the outcomes were presented at the end of the day in a celebration of ideas. Thus the CPP Youth Workshop allowed Youth from the City of Toronto to engage conceptually with placemaking ideas that accounted for social justice, equity, and inclusion.

Workshop

The purpose of the CPP Youth Workshop was to empower Youth to harness and channel their own lived experiences whether they had been ignored in local planning, or conversely, had engaged

with civic action for their communities. This, along with their creative talents, any prior efforts/experiences in the arena of justice, advocacy, education, and activism was encouraged and

channeled towards finding solutions for the most critical topics of importance to them at that moment in time. Community and Creative mentors were also asked to join and work alongside Youth

throughout the day. The day started with Colloqate's ice breaker exercise, a lively discussion on design justice and the creation of priority areas and then topics of interest.

Colloqate Design

DM2020 partnered with Bryan C. Lee Jr, of Colloqate Design in New Orleans. Well-versed in elevating the discourse for design justice Colloqate's team is fostering urban design solutions through community-, architectural- and urban planning- based charrettes and workshops. Through their pioneering



inclusive and respectful design workshops, Colloqate is attempting to grow the emerging Design Justice field organizing students, academics and communities in a collaboration for

↓ *Morning session discussing Design Justice with Colloqate*



real change. CPP Youth Workshop run by Colloqate raised both individual and collective awareness of true inequities across the spectrum of social and economic sectors in Toronto and provided a platform for strategic idea generation that addressed the needs of communities while meeting the collective goals of placemaking in Toronto.

“Design speaks to the potential for

equitable spaces and attempts to visually and physically represent our collective aspirations for the future”¹²

Colloqate’s expertise in design justice was essential in order to frame how to use the creative arts as a tool for change. After the morning session, Youth engaged in creative ways of tackling the critical issues facing their future as citizens of Toronto.

R.I.S.E. Edutainment

Randall Adjei, founder of R.I.S.E. (Reaching Intelligent Souls Everywhere) Edutainment, author, arts educator, and community Leader uses spoken word to empower and transform BIPOC Youth. RISE Edutainment is a grassroots organization empowering BIPOC Youth in the Greater Toronto Area by providing platforms to perform, learn and develop leadership skills. These platforms encourage self-expression and self reflection, and provide opportunities

for Youth to experience the power of community healing through art and anti-racist education.¹³

Randall Adjei was invited to perform for the Youth over the noon break not only as an inspirational speaker but also as a demonstration of how he uses creative practice to make change and build place. In 2021, Randall Adjei was named Ontario’s first Poet Laureate. www.randelladjei.com/poet-laureate-of-ontario.

→ *Randall Adjei performing Spoken Word for CPP participants over the lunch break. .*

Outcomes

The afternoon session gave Youth time to develop ideas of placemaking through a lens of creative practice. Students chose priority areas that they were interested in and worked together with the community and creative mentors. The outcomes from the Creative Practice as Protest Workshop are being offered here as potential future responses to issues that are apparent in Toronto's

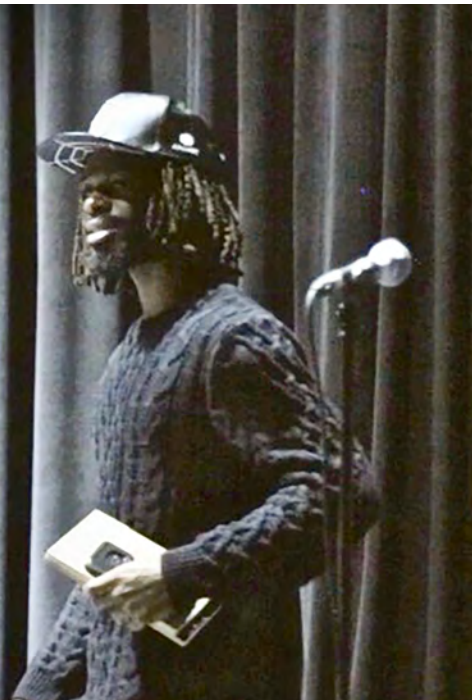
communities. Fresh ideas from Youth, particularly from communities underserved in broader planning decision-making processes, are important. The thematic outcomes of the workshop will identify future aspirations for Toronto from a next-gen perspective. The workshop hoped to both inform and empower these Youth to move forward as vital change makers.

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"I love how we can really design our lives with art... I believe in art with purpose. I believe in art that can manifest potential, that can inspire people, that can allow people to see themselves in a new way"

— Randall Adjei



Colloqate — Design Justice Training

Colloqate Design is a multidisciplinary nonprofit Design Justice practice focused on expanding community access to, and building power through, the design of social, civic, and cultural spaces. Their mission is to intentionally organize, advocate, and design spaces of racial, social, and cultural justice throughout the built environment. Through programming, planning and design projects, Colloqate seeks to dismantle the privilege and power structures that use the design professions to maintain systems of injustice.

The language of the built environment tells a complex story of place that can either speak to our collective values and ideals or reveal persisting inequity and injustice.

Colloqate believes that to design is to have an unyielding faith in the potential for a just society. It is an act of individual and collective hope requiring, not only, an awareness of true inequity, but a compulsion to speak out against it in its many forms. Their work speaks to the potential for equitable spaces and attempts to visually and physically represent collective aspirations for the future.

Colloqate acknowledges that the system of racism manifested in the physical environment decimates neighbourhoods, communities, and regions; blocking communities of color from accessing specific geographies or services, reinforcing legacies of segregationist policy while damaging efforts to create economic inclusion and ecological resilience.



↑ Bryan C. Lee Jr. founder of Colloqate speaking with participants about design justice at the CPP Youth Workshop.

For nearly every injustice there is an architecture built to sustain and perpetuate it.

This ongoing exclusion has widespread negative impacts on individual and community well-being: safety and quality of life, employment and economic prospects, health outcomes and life expectancy, access to high-quality education, nutritious food, and basic services. The struggle for social and civil rights is one that has largely evaded the

design profession and we have framed our work around addressing this void. Equity requires recognizing the role of histories of inequity in shaping our society and actively addressing the ongoing effects of those legacies as well as working to dismantle barriers to opportunity, access, and inclusion moving forward.

<https://colloqate.org>

CPP

Who's Who?

Research Assistant:

Lena Phillips > Community Outreach
Urban Planning

Jun Li > Event Assistant
Digital Futures, OCAD U

Nick Sagar > Photographer
Faculty of Art, OCAD U

Donald Zhu > Graphic Designer
Graphic Design, OCAD U

Design Justice Partner:

Bryan C. Lee Jr. Architect, Founder
and Principal, Colloqate Design

John Ludlam, Architect, Colloqate
Design

Community Leaders:

Benjamin Bongolan

Cheryll Case,

Abba Wie-Addo

Creative Mentors:

Adwua Afful Mapping Black
Futures Now

Marcela Cordero Urban Planning,
George Brown College

Sean Lee Director, Programming
Tangled Arts + Disability

Melanie Printup-Hope Artist,
Associate Dean, Faculty of Design,
OCAD University

Jaicyea Smith Founder,
My Buddah Belly

Jay Wall Founder and Principal,
Rally Rally

Youth Participants:

Iman Abbato

Leen Amarin

Rahul Bagdai

Niko Casuncad

Nye Dafalla

Lucy Gichini

Neela Imani

Mirka Loiselle

Adele Lukusa

Selina McCallum

Tamarinn Murray

Lee Anne Oghide

Saania Rahim

Michelle Jen Ying Tan

Ming Zhao

With 10 participants who
chose to remain anonymous.

Sponsored or Supported by:

Above Ground Art Supplies

OCAD U Print Shop

King Catering

Special Thanks to:

Royal Ontario Museum

Art Gallery of Ontario

Workshop Statistics

- 26 Youth Participants
- 9 Mentors
- 2 Primary Researcher
- 1 (RA) Outreach Coordinator
- 1 (RA) Photographer
- 1 (RA) Event Help



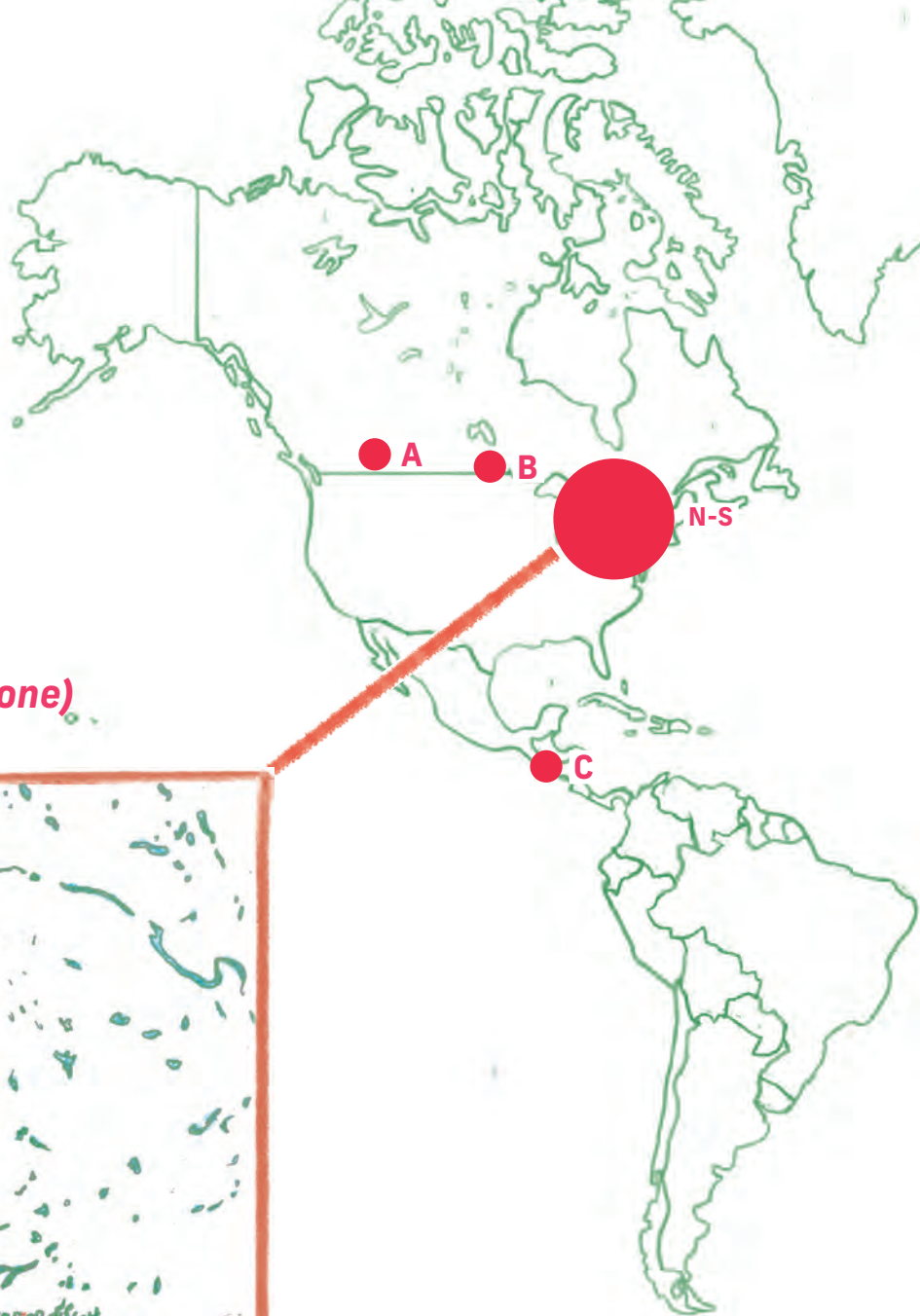
YOUTH REGISTRATION QUESTIONS



Where Do You Live in Toronto? (26 Youth Total)

LOCATION	# OF YOUTH
A North York	2 ●●
B York	1 ●
C East York	2 ●●
D Etobicoke	3 ●●●
E City Center	10 ●●●●●●●●●●
F Scarborough	5 ●●●●●
G Scarborough/Whitby	1 ●
Unidentifie	2 ●●

Where Are You From?
(may choose more than one)





LOCATION	# OF YOUTH		
A Calgary, Alberta	1	K Singapore/Malaysia	1
B Winnipeg, Manitoba	1	L Philippines	1
C El Salvador	1	M Shanghai, China	1
D Ghana	1	N Nipissing*, Ontario	1
E Khartoum, Sudan	2	O Peterborough, Ontario	1
F Jordan/Lebanon	1	P Brampton, Ontario	1
G Somalia	1	Q Scarborough, Ontario	4
H Afghanistan	2	R Toronto Born	6
I Rajkot, India	1	S Lewiston, New York	1
J Tamil Eelam (State) Sri Lanka	1		

*"Grew up in Northern Ontario, a Settler on traditional territory of the Nipissing First Nation, but Toronto is my Home."

Why Are You Interested in Attending the Creative Practice as Protest Youth Workshop? *(may choose more than one)*

To gain strategies for how to use creative practices as a tool for social justice (13)



To expand on ways to encourage others to participate in using their creativity as a tool for social justice (2)



To bolster co-creation strategies that challenge existing oppressive power dynamics (5)



To explore ways of cultivating relationships between art-making and community care (1)



To expand my personal creative practice into a practice of co-design (4)



To develop ways to create change by telling stories of lived experiences (2)



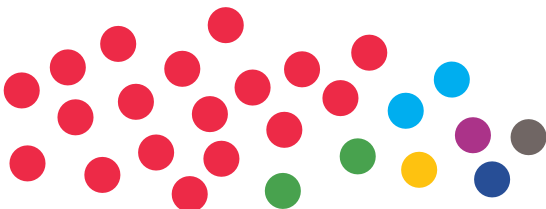
To build on my understanding of how space impacts communities (4)



To meet like-minded individuals (2)

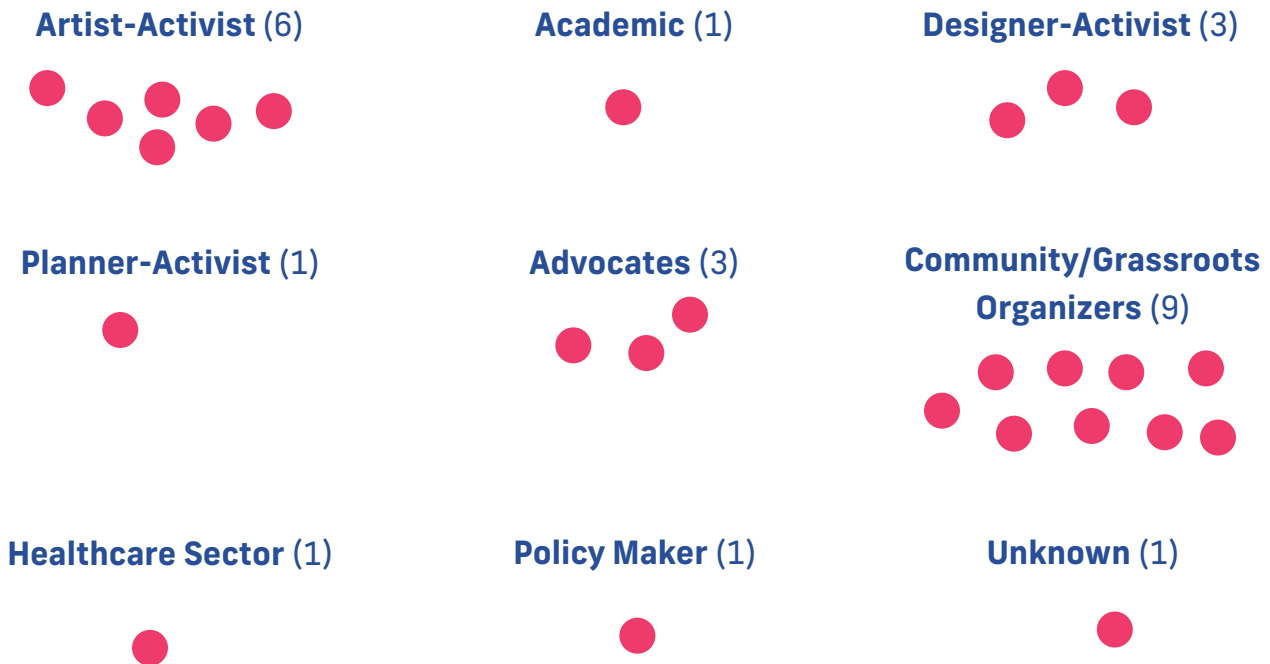


Are You Over 18 Years of Age?



Yes	24 (1)
23 (2)	22 (1)
19 (2)	21 (1)
25 (1)	

What is Your Background in Terms of Education and Creative Practice? *(may choose more than one)*



Keywords (culled from Youth Participants' answers to the above question):

- ARTIST;
- DESIGNER;
- ADVOCATE;
- ACTIVIST;
- ORGANIZER;
- PLANNER;
- CREATIVE;
- CONTRIBUTOR;
- LEADER;
- INSTIGATOR;
- SHARER;
- STORYTELLER;
- BUILDER

CHAPTER 2

PLANNING THE EVENT



SECURING FUNDS

The CPP Youth Workshop would be impossible to run without funding and sponsorship. The DM2020 research team applied for and received a Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) Partnership Engage Grant (PEG). The PEG requires research activities that are in partnership with non-academic organizations. These grants help support the immediate needs and/or opportunities of these organizations. These partnerships are based on reciprocity in that each side benefits from the expertise of the other which is particularly relevant in terms of the DM2020 co-design objective. The DM2020 research team partnered with design justice specialist Bryan C. Lee Jr. From Colloqate Design as a way to underpin the DM2020 placemaking focus with social justice theory in order to inclusively activate both the creative protest and creative placemaking aspects sought for the CPP Youth Workshop.

SSHRC awarded the DM2020 project \$24,995. These funds were spent on:

- Four research assistants (community outreach, photography, event support)
- 2 OCAD U students (to design collateral for/about the event)
- Security
- Food/catering
- Supplies
- Stipends/honorariums (community mentors, creative mentors, and Youth Participants)
- Transit fare for Youth Participants
- Printing of the outcomes
- Technical support
- Randall Adjei, R.I.S.E Edutainment
- Flight and accommodations for Bryan C. Lee Jr. and his associate John Ludlam of Colloqate Design (from New Orleans)

The CPP Youth Workshop also had support from Toronto-based art supply store Aboveground who donated gift bags containing art supplies for Youth Participants. The high cost of quality art supplies tend to be prohibitive for many Youth to purchase items that could support their creative practice.

The DM2020 team also secured tickets to the Royal Ontario Museum and the Art Gallery of Ontario to give access to Youth Participants.

GATHERING PARTICIPANTS

In order for an event like CPP to be inclusive and non-biased it needed to be open to a broad and diverse range of individuals. As with typical academic research, targeting or 'cherry-picking' participants to represent preferred groups or communities, would not support the principles of the research project. Communities that are often overlooked or simply unknown to researchers had to be reached in a respectful manner. In order to be able to make this happen, Lena Phillips, a recent graduate in Urban Planning working at the intersection of philanthropy and equity with a particular focus on outreach to Black and Indigenous Youth, was welcomed onto the project team as a Research Assistant. Lena was able to capture Youth interest by running social media announcements and calls for participation through her network of Toronto-based community Youth organizations. This was a key factor in the success of the event as trust is imperative for participation. Had this invite come from an outsider there might not have been as great an interest in the CPP event.

The participants registered on a first-come first-served basis by emailing the Research Team. After the 30 available spots were filled a waitlist was started.

Interested Youth were sent a research ethics consent form. This typical academic research tool was used to inform Youth about their rights before, during, and after the event. They were also given the opportunity to choose whether they wanted to be credited or remain anonymous in any publication of the day's events and outcomes. The usual consent form needed to be revised so that the language was accessible to Youth. These forms tend to intimidate rather than welcome, so we needed to frame the form as inviting, inclusive, accessible, and ensuring of their own protection, not the sole protection of the research team.

Through previous events and advice from other individuals who had experience running these types of events we were advised to send several follow up emails with reminders, schedules, and further info. With each correspondence participants were asked to inform us if

they were unable to participate due to changes in their plans. This was done because we had been warned that when an event is free there is a fairly high risk of no-shows due to busy lives, unexpected changes in plans, and work or family responsibilities. The reminders help to keep track of participants and ensure that if someone is no longer able to come the next individual on the wait-list could be invited. In the end there were only three no-shows on the day of the event. One individual on the wait list asked to be informed no matter how last minute the opportunity was to participate and they were able to fill one of the three empty spots.

Early in the DM2020 Project we learned that incentives such as food, gifts, and/or entertainment also help to ensure that participants show up. For the CPP Youth Workshop we provided all three. Youth were given breakfast, lunch, and dinner, with snacks and refreshments provided throughout the day. They were given gift bags and a small

honorarium and Randall Adjei provided a performance/demonstration of creative practice as protest before lunch.

After the event participants received an email survey inviting them to offer feedback on their experience. This was not successful. Only four participants responded which limited the data on what was successful and what needed improvement. In the future it may be more beneficial to have paper versions filled out before participants leave the event. However, this may also be problematic as the day is long and the participants may be too tired to be thoughtful and reflective about their comments.

COLLABORATING ACROSS INSTITUTIONAL NORMS

Research Ethics is a primary and foundational value and practice for all academic researchers. Without a commitment to its principles — namely “do no harm” to participants, be they human, animal or other species — research outcomes cannot be acceptable nor validated in anyway. Having said and understood this, the nuances of the approvals processes can be challenging in themselves to participants and communities wanting or agreeing to participate in research, including co-design, and other participant driven projects.

At issue is the idea of ‘taking stories from people’ where gathering, interpreting, using, and otherwise applying participant data and information related to their lived experiences and personal journeys must be applied in the work. Researchers can meet the regulations of respect for participant privacy, support for any physical, psychological, and or emotional triggers that participants may inadvertently face in joining a research project, but the ethical issue remains

that our personal stories are ours to do with as we wish, and not to share for the benefit of others, whether the research project is well-meaning, socially and politically viable, or not. On the other hand, while meeting the Research Ethics Board (REB) application for the DM2020 project, including all aspects of community engagement, and participants activities, participants also wanted to share their stories but under certain conditions. Therefore the stopgaps, the measures of security, the levels of approvals, all implemented under the well-meaning framework of “do no harm” resulted in lengthy reviews, re-written applications, queries and more to ensure the administrative intent and language would meet all expectations of a review board. This becomes a challenge for participants not familiar with REB processes when they are caught in the lengthy back-and-forth of approval processes.

The process is also aimed to ensure the large institution as well as the academic researchers are not ultimately at

“Research involving humans can greatly benefit human society, but it must be done in a way that protects and respects the research participants”.¹⁴

fault in the event that the research project does not go as intended. Fair enough. Often participants saw these measures as left over from colonial or past institutional frameworks, designed for and by academics and government agencies that have resulted in their lack of opportunities to be seen and heard — or worse, to be seen as having to be managed or controlled. Communities, often want and are entitled to be fairly compensated for their time and knowledge when participating in research projects. Usually participants are paid in accordance with how the project is funded. Often, participant situations in the case of research looking at urban

centres and communities at the margins dictated that they had little time to spare for social research that took them away from employment pursuits. When the research team posited that the participants should receive a high level of compensation, at one point, the response from the ethics board, was that the amount was too much or perhaps out of scale with other participatory projects. When participants are at the margins of living, their time might just be more valuable than others who can afford to give researchers some of their day and effort without much consequence. This concept of taking stories from participants but assuming certain

valuations for various types of stories can be problematic. For example: wealthier participants have higher valuation as their professional time is of value. Versus the homeless, who have time on their hands and thus their time is less valuable. This may still be a trope in research and harkens back to days of discriminatory research.

Research councils are learning — learning from participants as more community outreach, co-designed research and inclusive practices by more socially and politically aware

researchers is underway. The challenge remains for researchers, as they aim to meet all academic ethical research approvals as part of funding their work. While also highlighting where the approval processes, often cumbersome by design, might address how communities want and need to be engaged in research. Socially driven research for advancing urban life, and addressing critical urban issues needs participant stories. Knowing, learning about, listening to lived experiences is valuable, and can be valued for compensation.

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SCHEDULE

Creative Practice as Protest



▶ YOUTH WORKSHOP

Date: Saturday, January 11, 2020, 8:45 am-6:30 pm
Location: OCAD U Campus 49 McCaul Street.
Public transit: TTC fare provided to Workshop
Three meals provided and snacks throughout day.

▶ SCHEDULE

- 8:30 - 9:00 Registration and Breakfast
- 9:00 - 9:15 Introductions
- 9:15 - 12:00 Colloqate Design Justice Session
- 12:00 - 1:00 Lunch + Spoken word by Randall Adjei R.I.S.E. Edutainment
- 1:00 - 4:30 Design Workshop/Charette
- 5:00 - 7:00 Dinner and 5 minute Petcha Kucha (preentations)
- 6:45 - 7:00 Wrap Up



OUTCOMES

The outcomes of the CPP Youth Workshop are to sensitize, awaken, share and include people in discourse around:

1. What is social justice placemaking in the urban context?
Why is this important to all of us? Specifically, what is it in the context of the city of Toronto, and it's six boroughs
2. What do you want to do about it? Specifically, what are the creative ad hoc ideas (interventions, disruptions) for solving challenges to achieving equitable, inclusive placemaking?
3. How can Youth move the city forward with social justice and equity design tools?

ORGANIZE ADVOCATE CREATE
FOR RACIAL SOCIAL
& CULTURAL EQUITY

CHAPTER 3

TOPICS AND OUTCOMES

Stakeholders: Localized, migrant communities in the urban margin + suburbs
Power structures: Transport, Mobility, Housing, Funding sources
Current issues: Climate Justice - pollution

Areas of Expertise/ Interests

Urban Sustainability
Community engagement
Qualitative research
Urban design principles

community
care in
social
movements

Digital
design /
accessibility

Communi-
cation
Design
Sociology

Climate
Justice

Environment
Conservation

Visual
Design

Communities

Environ-
mentalists
groups

Parkdale
community

Second gen. Filipino Graduate
Program cohort
non-Indigenous settler

Tech
community

Chinese
diaspora

Surrounding
the Downtown
Toronto Area

LGBTQ
community

International
Student

Black
Youth

Liberation Tools

Visual communication
Hand-drawn & low use
(zany & low use)
Briefing note
Mapping

Workshops in the industry
→ about salaries, budgets,
grants, funding and awards

Protests/
direct
action

access/
accessibility

Representation
in
culture

Online
community
building

Gender
Equality

Inspiration

Ephemeral

Interim

Perm.

Public book
library
for story

Tactical
Urbanism

Grant-
writing
workshops
4 artists

Disruption/
Dissemination
of Unpaid labor



INTRODUCTION

By creating an environment for sharing lived experiences and experiential knowledge along with expert knowledge we can begin to explore new ways of approaching problems. The CPP Youth Workshop hoped to create a safe space where innovative placemaking ideas could be generated.

“...to recombine existing resources and capabilities to create new functions and new meanings. In so doing, ...introduce ways of thinking and problem-solving strategies that represent discontinuities with what is locally mainstream”.¹⁵

The Youth Participants, Community Mentors, and Creative Mentors created their own ‘discourse ecology’ for the day. Topics of interest raised in the morning session were gleaned from working together in group activities, brainstorm the key issues, injustices, and inequities.

← General Priorities
brainstorming

Following are the nine topics of interest that Youth generated in the morning session:

- Public Access
- Recreation and Play
- Education and Youth
- Shelter
- Healthcare
- Accessibility and Disability Justice
- Placemaking and Urban Planning
- Safety and Human Rights, and
- Entertainment.

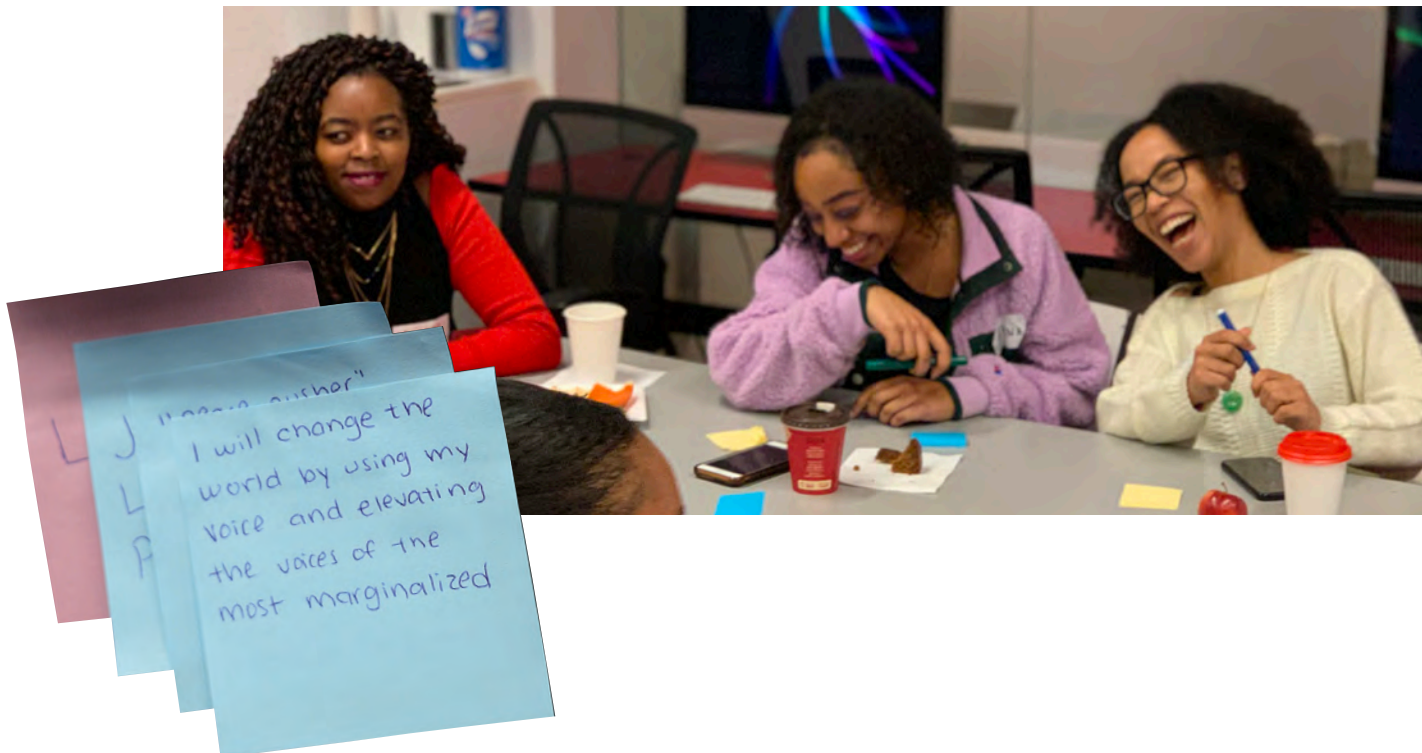
This section demonstrates the thematic outcomes that developed out of both the morning and afternoon discussions, include brainstorming, examples, observations, and the final outcome that the Youth Participants generated and presented at the end of the day.

The qualitative aspect of the data collected meant that the analysis required a heightened acknowledgment of bias and assumptions. Denzin & Lincoln describe qualitative research as being a “situated activity that locates the observer in the world... qualitative researchers study things in their natural settings, attempting to make sense of, or interpret, phenomena in terms of the meanings people bring to them”.¹⁶ The research team attempted to limit the

amount of interpretation of data by choosing to paraphrase, clarify, add to, or provide examples, to help illustrate points made by participants. In other words: This is a record and interpretation of the discourse and insights from Youth Participants that have been distilled by the Research Team.

Grounded theory methods were used to find patterns, trends, keywords, and themes within the data. After which, The DM2020 team took on a co-design approach to their research in that they sent the analysis back to the source for confirmation, editing, and clarification.

“Building, or rebuilding, places is important from various points of view. The first is that of the people who live there. For them, recognizing the value of places goes hand in hand with the emergence of a new idea of well-being: a sustainable well-being. In this development, a major role is played by the recognition of how far contexts (lively social fabrics, healthy environments, beautiful landscapes) contribute to quality of life: that is, how far places contribute to quality of life”.¹⁷



Manzini states that an important task of the Expert Designer is to — develop and promote widespread capabilities of others and to create “conditions in which different social actors can take part in the co-design process...”¹⁸

Precisely because the DM2020 Primary Researchers are faculty in design programs it was felt that their expertise lay in harnessing the potentialities of Youth and thus decided on the CPP Youth Workshop as an appropriate vehicle and forum for open, safe discourse, and creative problem-solving.

REFERENCES

15. Manzini, Enzo. *Design, When Everybody Designs: An Introduction to Design for Social Innovation*. Cambridge, Mass. MIT Press, 2015.
16. Denzin, Norman K., and Yvonna S. Lincoln. *The SAGE Handbook of Qualitative Research*. 4th edition. Thousand Oaks: Sage, 2011, 2
17. Manzini, Enzo. *Design, When Everybody Designs: An Introduction to Design for Social Innovation*. Cambridge, Mass. MIT Press, 2015, 190
18. Ibid., 154

The background of the slide is a green-tinted photograph of a landscape. It features a calm body of water in the middle ground, with a range of mountains or hills in the background under a hazy sky. The overall color palette is various shades of green, from light to dark.

Public access, civic realm and justice

**Discussion
Topic #1**

Keywords (Morning Session, Written):

1. GOVERNANCE AND TRUST
2. POLICIES AND PRIORITIES FOR COMMUNITIES
3. COMMUNITY-CORE VERS SUBURBAN CENTRES
4. DISRUPT INJUSTICES
5. CHALLENGE POWER STRUCTURES
6. PERFORMATIVE EQUITY
7. SOLIDARITY WITH LIVED-EXPERIENCE
8. EMPOWER LOCAL COMMUNITIES, ECONOMIES, ART AND CULTURE

Keywords (Morning Session, Spoken):

1. CIRCLE OF OPPRESSION
2. CHALLENGE POWER STRUCTURES
3. CO-DESIGN¹⁹ / CO-PLAN TO CREATE IMAGINATIVE SPACES
4. DISABILITY-LED SYSTEMS
5. DISMANTLING WESTERN [COLONIAL] WORLDVIEWS
6. FINANCIALIZATION OF [URBAN] SPACE
7. GOVERNANCE AND PRIORITIES
8. PUBLIC MONEY PRIORITIES
9. SATURATION OF RESOURCES
10. URBAN CORE VERSUS SUBURBAN PERIPHERY
11. THE 'LIMINAL SPACES' — WHO ARE INVITED? WHO IS FUNDING?

NOTE:

Co-designing is a process that allows all stakeholders to bring their ideas to the discussion. These ideas may not always be aligned with other voices and could bring tension or generate problems. "All actors involved will be willing and able to listen to each other, to change their minds and converge toward a common view on the outcome to be obtained"

NOTE:

The etymology of the word "liminal" comes from Latin *limin, limen* [meaning] "threshold". First known use of liminal is 1875, in the meaning defined as visual stimuli. Liminal can mean "barely perceptible" and is now often used to mean "transitional" or "intermediate"; relating to, or being in an intermediate state, phase, or condition; situated at a sensory threshold, or barely perceptible.²⁰

REFERENCES

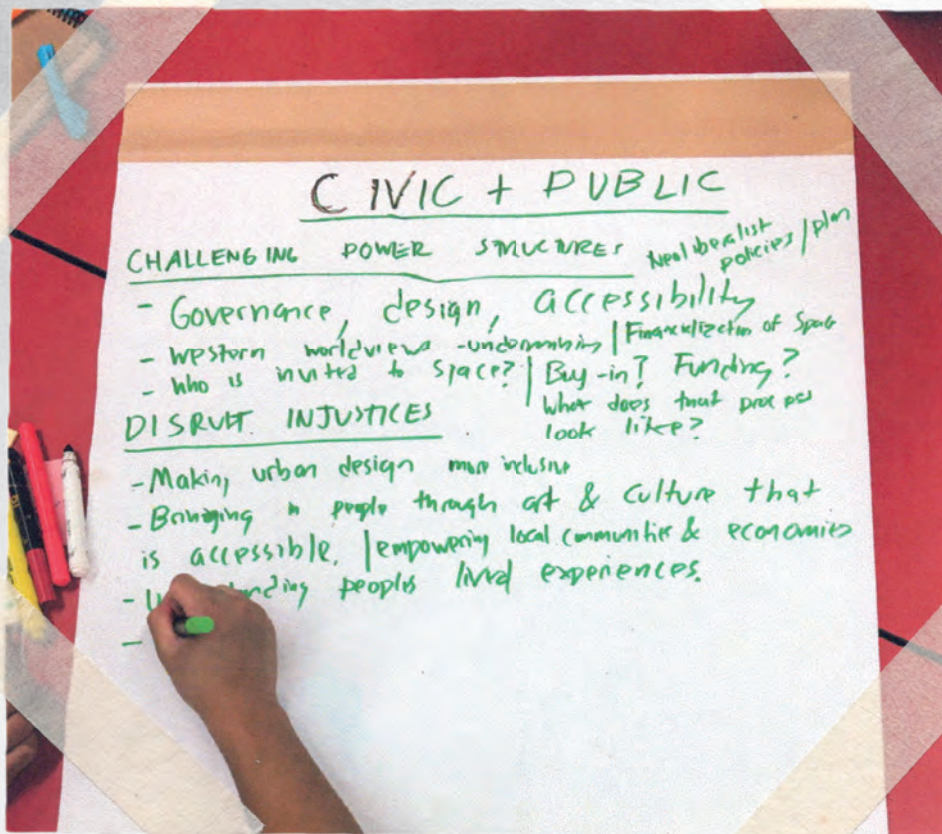
19. Manzini, E. *Design, When Everybody Designs: An Introduction to Design for Social Innovation*. Cambridge, Mass. MIT Press, 2015, 67

20. Merriam-Webster "Liminal Definition & Meaning." Merriam-Webster. Merriam-Webster. Accessed January 16, 2021. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/liminal>.

Keywords (Afternoon Session):

1. PUBLIC SPACES, PRIVATE FUNDING
2. PUBLIC FUNDING THAT UNINTENTIONALLY SEGREGATES COMMUNITY SPACES
3. DECENTRALIZE THEN REDISTRIBUTE POWER
4. NOTHING FOR US WITHOUT US
5. COLLABORATION, SHARING, COLLECTIVE, AND UNITED

↓ Brainstorming notes on Civic and Public Access Priority Area.



THEMES →

1. Disrupt Colonial Worldviews — Start Afresh

There is a need for disruption of Western worldviews (patriarchal, colonial, European) that continue to undermine, other, and hold back disabled, marginalized, racialized, Indigenous, and newcomer communities and to reset civic priorities. These new priorities will go beyond tokenism and performative equity (allied-ships) to new truths,

realities, and lived-experiences of communities and individuals left out of civic engagement and decision-making.

“I love the intentions behind not wanting to replicate the oppressive capitalist systems and being very intentional about that.”

— **Lena Phillips** (Research Assistant)

2. Shift Power Structures for Economic Equity

A shift in economic and cultural planning with public resources is needed in order to share or divert resources from the central core and downtown Toronto to more suburban neighbourhoods and the liminal ‘urban margins’ where there has been less focus in the past. These neighbourhoods support city stakeholders including racialized, newcomer and Indigenous communities. The shift needed is through direct funding, grants, and local priorities to combat the current state of ‘resource saturation’ aimed for the centre of the city. While funds are starting to flow in this manner, a

shift in philosophy is also needed for city-building that asks new questions about Where the funding ultimately goes? Who has buy-in for plans and major placemaking schemes? Whose voice is being heard at the table of resource allocation? What could new funding for underserved communities accomplish that benefits the entire city of Toronto?

“There are a lot of financial and economic barriers. BIPOC artists do not have the opportunity to establish themselves within the [existing] creative sectors.”

— **Anonymous** (Youth Participant)

3. Creative Power and City Making

There is a growing need to create, redirect and redistribute creative power as well as political and economic clout. This includes funds for BIPOC communities — particularly for creative and cultural practices — in ways that operate outside of traditional institutions, networks, and spaces in Toronto. The barriers to access and success within the public sphere can be related to racism and exclusion. To counter this,

strategies might start by decentralizing the cultural discussions from the city core (downtown Toronto) as the only hub of true Toronto culture. This shift towards communities in the inner sub-urban areas like Etobicoke, York, and Scarborough will meet the needs of where the populations are growing and where they have been historically left out of city-making practices.

EXAMPLE 1



As an example of how to counter the exclusion of both creative power and resources, Toronto's annual Fall event, Nuit Blanche,²¹ added locations in 2018 to include the former Borough of Scarborough and was deemed a major success. This resulted in a large number of visitors migrating from downtown Toronto and elsewhere to Scarborough neighbourhoods. In 2019, 20 out of the 90 creative installations for the city event were earmarked for Scarborough and included over 70 local artists. The event, dubbed 'Queens and Kings of Scarborough' set out to specifically address exclusion through creative practice as protest:

"The exhibition confronts systems of social marginalization, self-identity negotiation and racial stereotyping within a modern framework."²²

REFERENCES

21. City of Toronto. "Nuit Blanche." City of Toronto, July 27, 2022. Accessed July 18, 2021. <http://www.toronto.ca/explore-enjoy/festivals-events/nuitblanche/>.

22. A. McKenzie Barnes, Curator, Nuit Blanche, 2018 Accessed July 18 2021. <http://www.mckenzie-barnes.com/portfolio-item/nuit-blanche-toronto/>

“...we are wary of replicating Western and capitalist notions of success [for creative practices]”

— **Niko Casuncad** (Youth Participant)

4. Governance and the Politics of Placemaking

Under concepts of governance and bureaucracies, disruption in those political power structures must happen for access and justice to occur — stopping the ‘circle of oppression’ in decision-making that leaves many Toronto communities without a ‘final say’. Power structures include power over transportation, the arts and culture, the environment, and legal justice systems. By empowering local communities and fostering support for their economies to enable employment, to bring about sense of self-worth and respect, and to grow and thrive (self-determination, training, leadership, entrepreneurship,

political representation, and more), the cycles of poverty, crime, and lack of opportunities can be broken in favour of new models of community and placemaking success.

OBSERVATION ↘

Often, Federal money drives change for marginalized groups because provincial politics focuses on economic opportunism. Views shift politically on supporting minority and urban communities. When more liberal governments are in power. Funds often flow to urban centres, supporting diverse neighbourhoods and interests.

EXAMPLE 1



Little Jamaica along Eglinton Avenue East is being revitalized. Building the Eglinton West transit extension disrupted the entire area for years (obliterating parking, disability access, removing cultural hubs situated in local stores and services) and created turmoil for the extant vibrant and cohesive community. Now, with Federal funding, the city is building back the main street and specifically supporting local businesses to come back and grow again. It has been a major ‘course correction’ for Toronto.



↑ *Discussion on Civic and Public Access Priority Area*

EXAMPLE 2



Black Lives Matter Canada (BLMC) has been supported by the current Liberal Federal government (not as much by the conservative provincial level). BLMC received Federal funding in partnership with the city for their new headquarters in Toronto at 'The Wildseed Centre for Art & Activism'. They explained how this is a critical piece in helping the movement advance to the next stages of maturity and for 'finding freedom' for Black Canadians (in particular, Black urban citizens) to grow and thrive.²³

REFERENCES

- 23 Fox, Chris. "Black Lives Matter to Purchase 10,000 Square Foot Building for Use as New Community Hub." *CP24*, July 8, 2021. <http://www.cp24.com/>

[news/black-lives-matter-to-purchase-10-000-square-foot-building-for-use-as-new-community-hub-1.5501734](#).

5. Communities of Expertise

It is crucial to value community expertise and 'communities of expertise' across diverse disciplines in building and/or revitalizing neighbourhoods. Through good listening priorities might be re-aligned for inclusive placemaking policies and plans of action for upgrading public spaces in marginalized or underserved neighbourhoods. These 'centres of expertise' include community care and healthcare advocates; social movements; local climate justice leagues;

digital and technology access advocates; environment and conservation groups; urban sustainability, planning, and design advocates; researchers and practitioners; access and disability rights groups; right to education and play advocates; justice movements, and more. In addition, invite communities surrounding the downtown core to bring more diverse expertise, and lived-experiences to the forefront of Toronto city-building.

6. Tactical Urbanism and Liberation Tools

Tactical Urbanism can be targeted in the public realm as a means to disrupt/change/work towards more sustainable solutions for public spaces. Liberation Tools (anti-oppression tools) including protests and the creation of direct action plans for greater representation of communities across many city sectors are being established.

Part of achieving liberation and freedom includes a much needed 'mapping exercise' noted by participants. Mapping neighbourhoods from a community social use and need perspective (not a statistical and historical planning perspective) is required to understand the lived-experience data, and how to

apply solutions, responses and resources to address or mitigate the social issues.

Mapping data exercises can capture land, space, function, and activity use. In other words, this type of zoning exercise can identify highest and best use of land based on community needs. Mapping how spaces are used can also lead to discovering land, industry, and commerce opportunities. Through grants, or greater access to city funds the data collected could be used in ways that support the communities to take action and build a plan for land-use. By doing so, they may create their own liberation tools.

NOTE

Tactical Urbanism arose out of citizen-led DIY projects to improve streetscapes, places, and spaces in cities: “Pedestrian Plazas. Parklets. Pop-up Bike Lanes. Whether you live in a community large or small, you’ve likely seen it for yourself. Cities around the world are using flexible and short-term projects to advance long-term goals related to street safety, public space, and more. Tactical Urbanism is all about action... DIY Urbanism, Planning-by-Doing, Urban Acupuncture, Urban Prototyping, this approach refers to a city, organizational, and/or citizen-led approach to neighborhood building using short-term, low-cost, and scalable interventions to catalyze long-term change.”²⁴

REFERENCE

24. “Tactical Urbanism.” Tactical Urbanist’s Guide. 2021. Accessed July 17, 2021. <http://tactical-urbanismguide.com/about/>.

NOTE

Liberation Tools as used by participants and in general discourse for equity and justice refers to community tools that can be leveraged for countering oppressive systems in favour of fostering equity and justice across socio-political, economic, and cultural contexts. Tools may include design, language, arts, political activism, protest, mobilization, creative practices, community outreach, collective plans of action, and more.

EXAMPLE



Political activist Dave Meslin, designer Jay Wall from Rally Rally, Black Lives Matter Toronto, Canadian Urban Institute Urban Planner Jay Pitter, and many other organizations and practitioners operate under the concept of tactical urbanism — aiming to foster equity in city-making by supporting and developing community-led tools for liberation from injustices and exclusions.

“By now, social impact design, inclusive design, participatory design, human-centered design, and co-design are familiar terms. These design approaches are full of good intentions, but good intentions alone aren’t enough to ensure that design serves as a tool for liberation. Beyond an intent to do good, we need an approach that explicitly focuses on how every design process can reproduce and/or challenge specific kinds of power inequities.”²⁵

– Design Justice Network

REFERENCE

- 25 Miller, Meg. “If We Want Design to Be a Tool for Liberation, We’ll Need More than Good Intentions.” *Eye on Design*, July 9, 2020. <https://eyeondesign.aiga.org/for-design-to-truly-be-a-tool-for-liberation-were-going-to-need-more-than-just-good-intentions/>.

7. Dichotomy of Policies and Practices

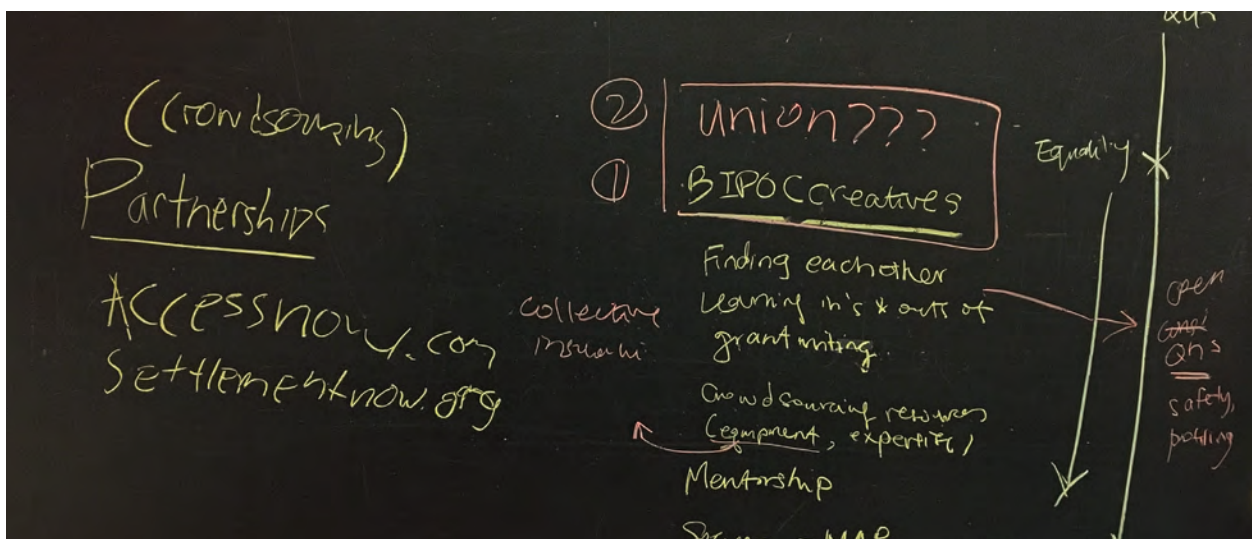
Policies and political decisions for Placemaking go well beyond the local precinct and include broader national policies such as immigration and employment. Political decisions have a direct and enduring implication for the built environment at the local level. These include how Canada historically views immigrants due to colonial practices and stances for 'othering' newcomers. This can result in lack of priority for economic immigrants, or result in ways of seeing immigrants as cheap domestic labour (e.g. live-in caregiver programs), or conversely as wealthy contributors — systematically relegating newcomers to lower resource neighbourhoods if they do not bring wealth to

the country. These cycles of oppression through loss or lack of opportunities perpetuate underserved and marginalized communities predominantly made up of first, second, and third generation Canadians.

OBSERVATION ↘

The goals for maintaining long-standing immigrant neighbourhoods, as poorly served as they may be (e.g. keep their unique qualities, characteristics, inter-generational and multi-generational experiences, etc.) is needed to buffer their vulnerability in the gentrification, renewal/removal process undertaken by city developers and planners, all done in the name of progress, and improvement.

↓ BIPOC Creatives
Brainstorming



DISTILLATION OF IDEAS INTO A CREATIVE OUTCOME →

Youth Participants: Ming Zhao, Niko Casuncad,
Michelle Tan, Anonymous

Community Mentor: Benjamin Bongolan

Creative Mentor: Sean Lee

The Youth participants generated a hypothetical membership-based collective/union called BIPOC Creatives. BIPOC Creatives would be a way to support and protect Black, Indigenous, and people of color who work in creative fields. The Youth Participants see this organization as a way to offer group-benefits and insurance options to its members. They also see how it could be a way to decenter downtown Toronto as the creative axis of the city and be more inclusive to the other neighborhoods.

There would be an online platform for members to share resources, locate mentorship opportunities, seek help with grant writing, and find ways to crowdsource resources.

The Youth Participants recognized the need to continually revisit the mission and values of the organization. Communities are not stagnant and so regularly inquiring to make sure that the needs of everyone involved are being met and members are contributing to the organization will create a more sustainable and relevant organization.

“[This organization would be a way to] create, redirect, and redistribute power for BIPOC creatives outside of traditional institutions, networks, and spaces in Toronto”

— **Niko Casuncad** (Youth Participant)

The Youth Participants hope that this organization could help mobilize BIPOC creatives to better demand structural change of Toronto's mainstream cultural institutions. This organization could also focus on liberation through crowdsourcing funds for co-ops — harnessing political power to create alternative BIPOC-run institutions primarily focusing on the creative industries of Toronto.

“The logo is multi-coloured circles, intersecting through a black circle representing different groups of people united together”

— **Ming Zhao** (Youth Participant)



↓ Morning presentation by the Civic and Public Access Priority Area Youth Participants.

↑ Logo for **BIPOC Creatives** in all capitals to the left is a multi-coloured circles intersecting through a black circle.





RECREATION
AND
PLAY

**Discussion
Topic #2**

Keywords (Morning Session, Written):

1. DISRUPT INJUSTICES
2. PRIORITIZE IMPACTED [COMMUNITIES]
3. [RE]-IMAGINE/MANIFEST NEW SYSTEMS, MODELS, AND SPACES THAT ADDRESS/REPAIR ISSUES WITH CITY DESIGN

Keywords (Morning Session, Spoken):

1. ACTING OUTSIDE INSTITUTIONS AND SYSTEMS
2. ANIMATING DEAD SPACES
3. DESIGN JUSTICE
4. CHALLENGE POWER
5. CO-DESIGN AND CO-PLAN MULTI-USE SPACES
6. FEEDBACK AND REPRESENTATION
7. HEALING; PLAY FOR ALL AGES
8. ANTI-AGEISM
9. INTERGENERATIONAL ACTIVITIES PLAY
10. TRANSPARENCY
11. COUNTERING INDIFFERENCE
12. GIVING A VOICE TO AND GIVING A PLATFORM FOR DIVERSE VOICES

Keywords (Afternoon Session):

1. INTERGENERATIONAL
2. SUSTAIN[ED] SPACES
3. REIMAGINING DEAD ZONES
4. CO-DESIGN
5. INTERACTIVE COMMUNITY POLLING
6. OUTREACH WITH FEEDBACK

THEMES →

1. Intergenerational Wellness through Community Play

The Importance of community spaces for recreation and play can be overlooked and undervalued in placemaking. Recreational spaces should be public spaces in a more democratic approach to wellness and health. Setting out foundational principles for intergenerational activities will also help shift public perception on the importance of play, 'ageless play', and 'anti-ageism' as part of physical wellbeing in community complexes. Recreational activities and spaces have the power to foster a 'no age limit' culture educating communities about inclusion and on the negative

effects of segregating seniors from younger people.

We could ask questions such as: What does space for play look like for people who are not young?

"Imagine a space that is for the whole community. It's an intergenerational space. We [could] poll the whole community and offer them activities that they could do together as a group. Not something that is classified by age."

— **Mirka Loiselle** (Youth Participant)

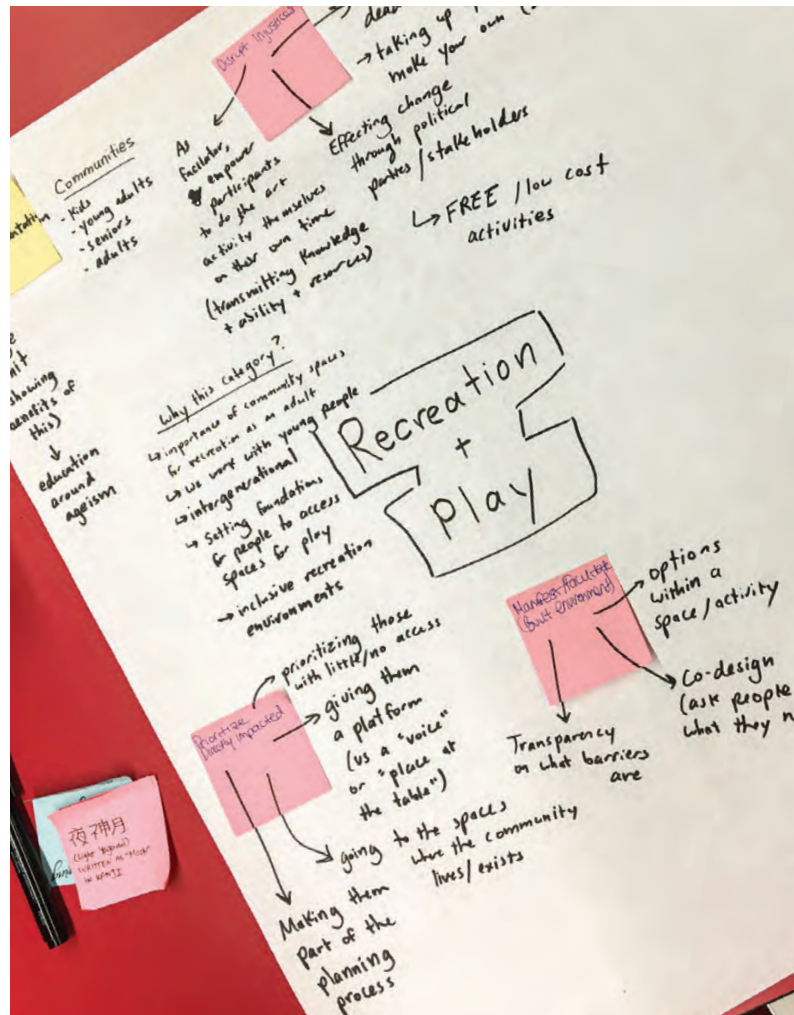
2. Going to the Source to Listen and Learn about Lived Realities

In reimagining new models to address access issues [and the harm done by prior design and planning], patience, time, resources, must be present and utilized and transparency in working with communities is essential. Seek expertise from within the community to ensure more inclusive recreation and play systems. Community facilitators, educators, and others can empower and support residents to create their

own activities, find amenable spaces to house them, and advocate on behalf of access, maintenance, and more.

Spaces for recreation and play can have barriers that discourage participation based on gender identities. Spaces need to be welcoming and comfortable for all community members inclusive of LGBTQIA2S+. Questions need to be asked in terms of what makes individuals feel unsafe in the space: is it the

→ Recreation and Play Brainstorming



architecture, is it the lack of public washrooms, etc?

Those who are part of the establishment need to actually visit communities to fully understand the lived realities [e.g. missing facilities, poor quality of design, lack of maintenance funds, lack of access]. In so doing gaps in services, resources, and needs that must be

addressed will be revealed. The notion of 'going to the source' is of critical importance and this requires engagement with the community 'in situ', and on their terms. Going to community spaces will highlight any barriers and give opportunity for feedback or co-design collaboration. There is power and liberation in asking people what they need.

3. Prioritize Recreational Access for Underserved Neighbourhoods (planning tables, in management of city resources, etc.,)

Prioritize those with little or no access for adequate and intergenerational recreation and play facilities by giving them a platform to share their voice — a place at the table in the planning process. Act to decolonize, renew, regenerate, recognize, respect, and identify communities left out of planning priorities for recreation.

Provide the community opportunities for providing feedback. Recreational spaces should be public spaces. Harness co-design techniques and ask people what they need. Create multi-use spaces

and provide options within existing inventory, spaces and activities.

Recognise that structures, and functions of spaces evolve organically in neighbourhoods which needs to be acknowledged and manifested in the planning of cities. In the same manner as the well established spaces for community gardens, there are other ways to bring communities together in public spaces, specifically around recreation and play. Ask communities how can play heal, support decolonization, counter systemic racism...?

EXAMPLE



In the Rexdale, Toronto area, a Youth advocacy group noted that recreational facilities earmarked for social housing communities were consistently building basketball courts, often with the intention of providing spaces for male Youth to play. However, seniors, females, and others have different and diverse needs, and only by vigorously advocating for spaces for creative play, craft-based activities, and by engaging with city planners could alternative facilities be provided, or even considered. The stigmatization around race and recreation is poignant and harmful for bringing justice and equity to neighbourhoods under this topic.



→ *Community Mentor Jaicyea Smith presenting morning findings from the Recreation and Play Priority Area group.*

EXAMPLE

Toronto Underpass Skatepark is a sheltered skateboarding park with lights. The layout of the park, the surface on the ground, and the ramps were built by the City of Toronto without consulting and/or listening to skateboarders. As pointed out by the The Toronto Skateboarding Committee the park was furnished with plastic ramps that deteriorated in the first year. The surface of the park has inch wide cracks which is dangerous for skateboarding. The park itself is not maintained and the litter and dog excrement is a deterrent for users. Proper skateboarding parks are essential in any city. These parks provide a safe environment away from traffic for skateboarders of all ages to enjoy. By not involving and/or listening to the skateboarding community in the planning and development of the park means that it is a space that does not function for the intended community. It is unsustainable.²⁶

REFERENCE

- 26 Toronto Skateboarding Committee Association. "Help Fund the Underpass Park." Stores, Skate Parks and other related Toronto Skateboard news. Accessed

July 19, 2021. <http://www.torontoskateboarding.com/article/pub:8/Help-fund-the-underpass-park>.

4. Animating Dead Spaces Through Disruption

There are many dead spaces in and around Toronto neighbourhoods that have been abandoned, neglected and/or forgotten. Turning these into vibrant, functional and meaningful spaces by DIY, Youth and neighbourhood interventions or by occupation, when viable,

will raise awareness across the community and to those holding power over community resources, that communities are taking action on their own behalf. Acting outside of institutions and systems sometimes is the best way to get things done.

“People have a voice. It’s just a matter of creating space for that to be heard”

— **Jaicyea Smith** (Community Mentor)

“Why I chose to focus on recreation as my primary concern is that I think that Recreation is a hugely important part of so much of this fight that we’re talking about...giving ourselves the chance to play, rest, and have fun. I think that amazing and beautiful things can be created if we produce them in a playful way”

— **Mirka Loiselle** (Youth Participant)

--- DISTILLATION OF IDEAS INTO --- A CREATIVE OUTCOME →

Youth Participants: Mirka Loiselle, Adele Lukusa, Anonymous

Community Mentor: Jaicyea Smith

The Youth Participants began the afternoon session by beginning to plan an intergenerational recreational space. They soon realized that they were designing 'for' not 'with' the community. They reconsidered their initial idea in order to address the information that they were missing.

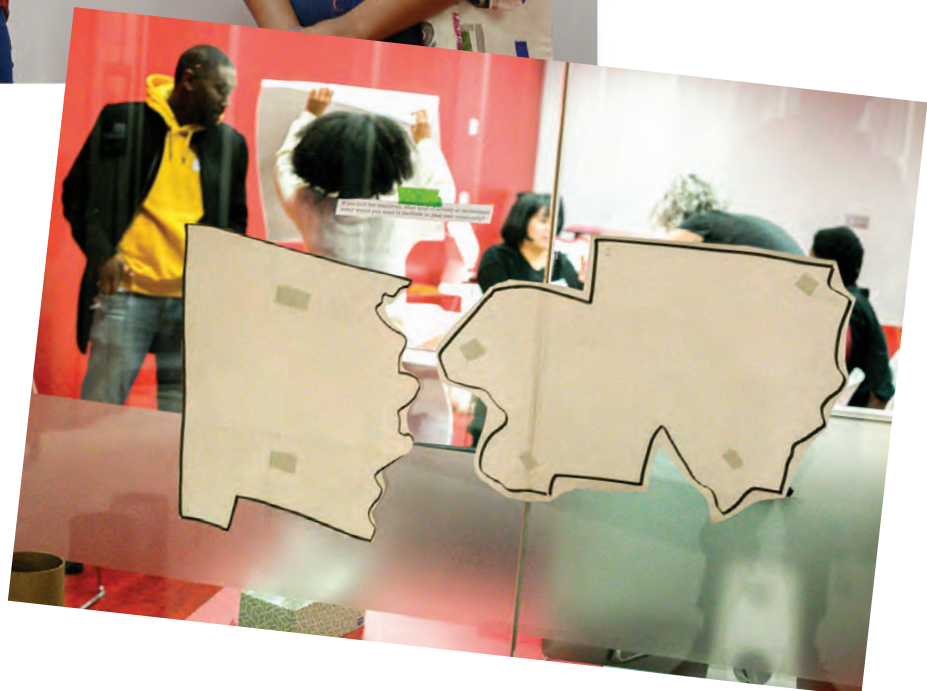
Rather than creating a space they created a theoretical, generative, interactive activity that could help gather community insights about the type of space and activities the community would be interested in. The activity they devised was a prototype that the CPP workshop participants could engage in to test its effectiveness.

"[In order to] offer any kind of activity in a space, the most important thing, or one of the biggest barriers for people to come to that space, is they have no interest in it because it's not actually servicing that community and the desires that they have. We went a level deeper and [asked] how are we going to do outreach to that community and find out what they want?"

— **Mirka Loiselle** (Youth Participant)



- ↑ *Recreation and Play Presentation*
- *Recreation Play outcome production*



The intention for the activity was to print out a big map of Toronto and cut apart all the wards. The individual wards were attached to the walls and had one of the 11 questions attached to each of them. Participants could 'scavenger hunt' the wards they could contribute to and answer the questions attached. Once participants had responded to the questions the map was to be reassembled into a data collection of needs and wants for Toronto and a better idea

of what an intergenerational inclusive space could look like for the various communities.

The outcome of the data collection would itself be a creative work — a collaborative visioning for recreation and play in a future Toronto.

Unfortunately the workshop was completed and so there was not enough time for the Youth Participants to engage in the activity.

The 11 Questions the Youth Participants Posed as Part of the Activity:

1. What day and/or time of the week is most accessible for you to attend community events?
2. What kind of activities would you like to see offered in a community space?
3. Name an event that used to take place in your community that you'd like to see revived (Why did that event stop taking place?).
4. What type of activities do you notice being practiced by members of a younger generation?
5. What types of activities do you do with people of a younger generation?
6. What kind of activities do you do with people of an older generation?
7. What kind of activities would you like to see offered in a community space?
8. What makes a community space accessible to you?
9. What does a safe community space look like to you?
10. What is the biggest barrier in attending recreational events in your community?
11. If you had the resources, what kind of activity or recreational event would you want to facilitate in your own community?

EDUCATION

**Discussion
Topic #3**

Keywords (Morning Session, Written):

1. DISRUPT INJUSTICES
2. YOUTH COMMUNITY
3. PRIORITIZE THE IMPACTED
4. POWER STRUCTURES
5. DECOLONIZE EDUCATION
6. GEOGRAPHICAL RACISM

Keywords (Morning Session, Spoken):

1. YOUTH AND BIPOC COMMUNITY
2. DIASPORA AND RACIALIZED COMMUNITIES
3. POWER STRUCTURES
4. BARRIERS TO EDUCATION
5. GEOGRAPHICAL RACISM
6. GENTRIFICATION
7. FORCED SEGREGATION
8. ACCESS TO FUNDING
9. ACCESS TO AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS
10. DECOLONIZING EDUCATION
11. INTERACTIVE LEARNING
12. DISRUPT INJUSTICE



→ Brainstorming.

Keywords (Morning Session, Written):

1. DIALOGIC VERSUS MONOLOGIC EDUCATION
2. BRIDGING GAPS BETWEEN STAKEHOLDERS
3. EDUCATION BEYOND ACADEMIA
4. UNLEARNING
5. CONVERGING COMMUNITY PATHWAYS
6. DIFFERENT WAYS OF LEARNING
7. CONVERSATIONS WITH OPEN DIALOGUE
8. CLASSROOM STRUCTURE AND POWER DYNAMICS
9. RELATABILITY AND CONNECTION
10. GROWING DIVERSITY OF EDUCATORS
11. TRAINING THE TRAINERS
12. COMMUNITY UNDERSTANDING AND EMPATHY

THEMES →

1. Education in the Midst of Change

Education or the 'educational environment' is in an evolutionary process seeking ways and means to decolonize, to unlearn, to re-learn, and to engage inclusive approaches to learning at all levels of the educational systems. These are happening in ways that question both the institution of learning as well as the educator's own history, their own ethical stance, and their role and responsibilities to both the community at large, and to students themselves. Students understand that their educational journey may have been harmed or may be incomplete because institutions and academia have long relied on

Western worldviews (colonialism, oppression, Eurocentric, anti-feminist, male-dominant, and more) that do not reflect the histories and experiences of much of the worlds' populations.

"A lot of unlearning needs to take place for there to be proper teaching: 'If you teach me, I'll teach you' is a clear cut way for us to describe the plight of both the professional and the person who is learning to be a professional."

- **Abba Wie-Addo** (Community Mentor)

2. The Importance of Dialogic versus Monologic Learning

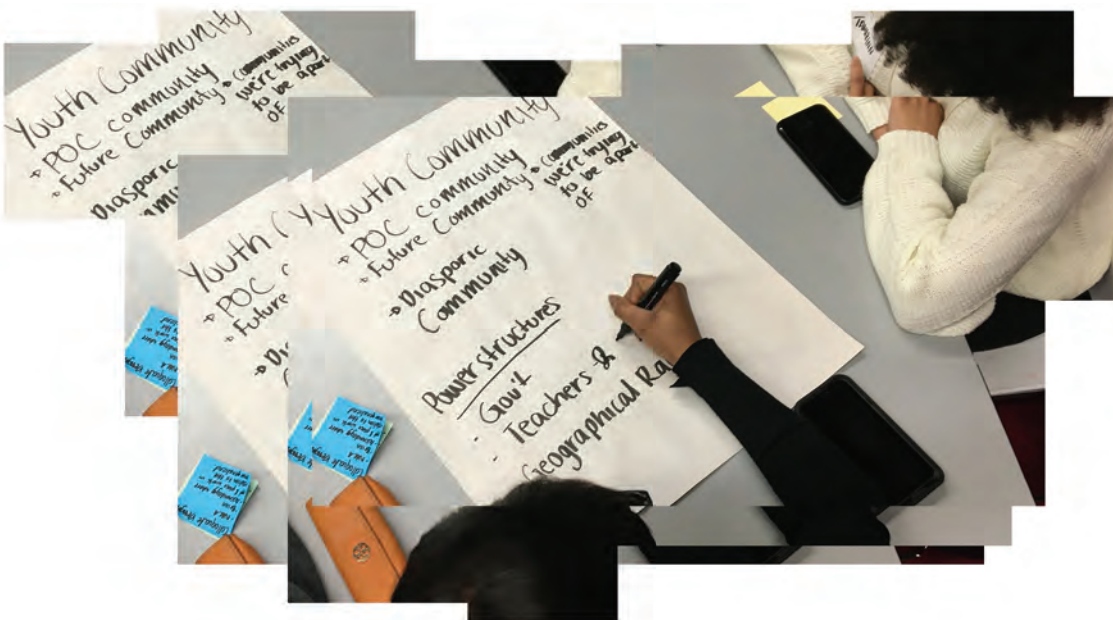
While institutions of learning are shifting to address systemic bias, racism, and hegemonic structures, Youth are also looking to the long term goals of life, work, play, and relationships envisioning these broader lived experiences as more relevant 'education' and support for 'living in the real world'. These life experiences may have much more meaning than the formal education they have or are receiving.

Further, Youth have indicated that the educational process at the younger stages of life has more meaning as a dialogue between educator and the educated — in other words, it is what is learnt in discourse, conversation, and engagement between student and instructor, rather than textbook learning,

particularly as these traditional forms of learning are under scrutiny. Part of this dialogic approach is to ensure teachers bring diverse backgrounds to the classroom and foster empathy and respect for student experiences. In addition, questioning what is being learned, as well as what is desirable and relevant to be learned is part of the shifting discourse about education.

"What's bringing up these relationships between the educators and the learners? Both don't conventionally hold authority or power in educational spaces".

-Lena Phillips (Research Assistant - Community Outreach)



“One thing we focused on was the structure of a classroom. I feel the way a classroom is structured creates a power dynamic that makes the students seem ‘less than’ and that the teacher is the authoritative figure. So, in that, already Youth have an

image in their mind of what power looks like”.

-Abba Wie-Addo (Community Mentor)

3. The Classroom in Need of an Ethical Renovation

The structure of the classroom itself, whether as a physical or metaphysical space, is under question because of historic models of power structures in education. The role of the educator as representative, or messenger for institutional power is under scrutiny. By shifting education to an experiential dialogue about learning, and in-community learning, the classroom model begins to move from a static physical model to a more dynamic, empathetic and open/transparent model of exchange, discovery, engagement, and collaborative listening, learning, and understanding. It is an ontological shift requiring new goals for learning outcomes and new criteria, and measures of student success.

While the pandemic has led to a massive shift to online learning, the

general consensus is that one-to-one learning or small group learning with an empathetic, well versed educator in the matters of community, and diversity of learning is more valuable than remote learning. However, the classroom, be it in digital mode or physical mode, is undergoing a fundamental change, driven by more student-experience centred model of learning.

“We also thought that an important education for an educator is putting [themselves] in the position of the student in order to understand them because we all have different learning styles and that’s important for an effective education”.

-Ashley Beerdatt (Youth Participant)

“The overall message is that through conversation and through understanding, and sympathy, and all that stuff, we are able to develop an educational system in which all of us can come together and educate [one another].”

-Nyea Dafalla (Youth Participant)

4. The Importance of New Educational Models and Discourse for Placemaking and Community-Building

The impact of shifting educational experiences to sharing and lived-experiences as education have an impact for placemaking and city-building. Youth see a gap in formal education for dealing with the realities of their own communities. They are creating their own educational models for city-making and community-building by looking to actually engaging in activism, looking to mentors, elders, peers, their own lived-experiences, as well as advanced technologies, social media, leading activists, global organizations, and social movements as proven resources

and guides on their journey. Lifelong learning is a concept that Youth have already embraced in a world more open to a plethora of information and experiences. Youth not only want a path to success — careers, jobs, income — they are seeking meaningful, useful jobs that improve and advance society. There is an interest in having a moral/ethical approach to a career that has meaning in addressing justice, equity, and social issues or for leading social change as part of disrupting archaic models about education, career paths, and professionalism.

EXAMPLE



Design for Social Innovation towards Sustainability (DESI) Network is a unique educational model that encourages co-design on a global level through an online collaborative, creative community. "The main ideas behind [the activities] were that social innovation could be a powerful driver towards sustainability and that design schools could help in supporting and accelerating the process."²⁷ DESIS is a network of design-oriented schools and universities collaborating with local and global partners working together to support sustainable design.

REFERENCE

- 27 "About." DESIS Network, September 9, 2019. Accessed July 20 2021. <https://www.desisnetwork.org/about/>.

PRIORITIZING THOSE IMPACTED

Asking Students; learners

"I think it's imperative to understand that when we talk about education, we're not just limited to the world of academia...the path of life that we all walk has a lot to do with the education that

we have and the education that we are able to attain [but] really important to understand that education is more of a conversation between the educator and whoever is being educated"

-Nyea Dafalla (Youth Participant)



Education

--- DISTILLATION OF IDEAS INTO --- A CREATIVE OUTCOME →

Youth Participants: Lee-Anne, Nyea Dafalla, Ashley Beerdat

Community Mentor: Abba Wie-Addo

The Participants who worked on the topic of education wanted to bridge the gap between students/Youth community, government, and professors by illustrating the parallel lives which we all lead. The group created a composite image of a Stairway to 'Home'. The image places icons of life goals of teacher and student on an image of a stairway to show similarities — such as backpack and briefcase. These are parallel lives in the desire for a sense of place, home, security, success, family, etc... The top of the image is the school "meaning that the path of life that we all walk has a lot to do with the education that we have and the education that we are able to attain" – **Nyea Dafalla** (Youth Participant).

The image mimics that of Maslow's hierarchy of needs but with a focus on education and how these needs can be obtained. The Youth Participants pointed out in their illustration that obtaining these needs are not easy for either path. The juxtaposition of the path of the professional (teacher) and the path of the individual who wants to become a professional (Youth/student) demonstrate how each person is experiencing different struggles in the various stages of their lives but they are ending up at one place which is the school. Together, through dialogue and empathy both can learn from each other.



Discussion Topic #4

Keywords (Morning Session, Written):

1. PROMOTING NEW MODELS OF OWNERSHIP
2. BEYOND BASIC NEED
3. PAYCHECK TO PAYCHECK
4. NIMBYISM [NOT IN MY BACKYARD]
5. GENTRIFICATION HARM
6. LAWS AND HOUSING
7. INFORMED RIGHTS
8. BARRIERS AND FEELINGS OF NEGLECT
9. HOUSING THAT MARGINALIZES AND DIFFERENTIATES
10. TINY HOUSE OPPORTUNITIES

Keywords (Morning Session, Spoken):

1. AFFORDABLE HOUSING
2. CO-DESIGN
3. COLLECTIVE OWNERSHIP MODEL
4. COMMUNITY LAND TRUSTS
5. DISRUPT INJUSTICES
6. HOME INSECURITY
7. IMMIGRANTS [NEWCOMERS], REFUGEES
8. POWER STRUCTURES;
9. DEVELOPERS, WEALTHY COMMUNITIES, HOME OWNERS,
AND LANDLORDS
10. SINGLE-PARENT HOUSEHOLDS
11. SPACE FOR WORKSHOPS — COMMUNITY HUBS, LIBRARIES,
NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS
12. TAXING EMPTY CONDOS
13. TENANT RIGHTS

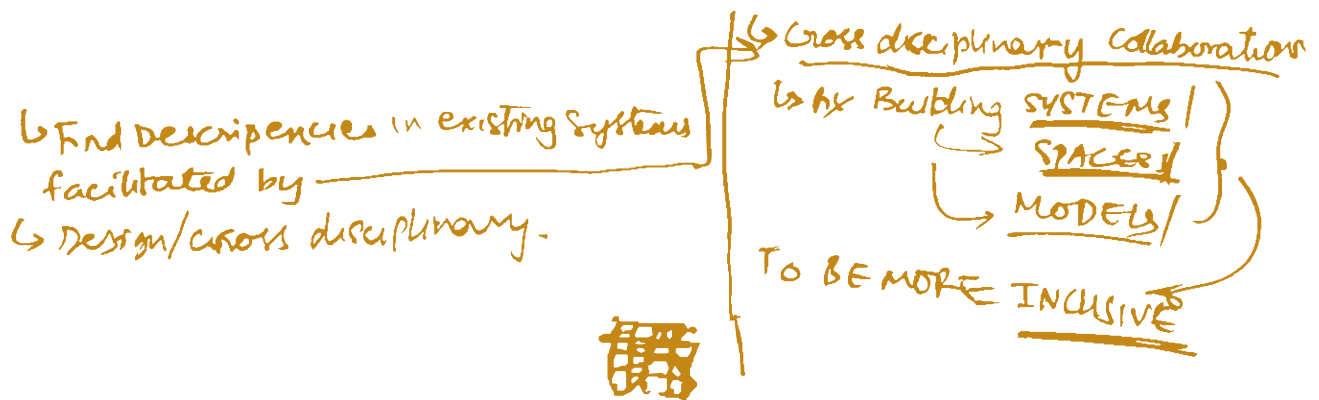
Keywords (Afternoon Session):

1. AWARENESS
2. UNDERUTILIZED RESOURCES
3. WELCOME HOME
4. STIGMA AND STEREOTYPING
5. ACCESS TO RESOURCES
6. PRECARIOUS HOUSING CONDITIONS

SPREAD  AWARENESS

Prioritize most
Directly Disproportionately
Impacted?

* Migrants, Civilian, Homeless, Refugees?



→ Workshops hosted in Public spaces

→ Non profits, tenant right activists
knows themselves, stakeholders *

THEMES →

1. Affordable Housing: Disrupting Power Structures in Provision of Housing in Favour of Advancing Existing Processes with Inclusion, Equity, and Justice

Housing is shelter, and it is beyond basic necessities; it is a human right and it is part of the rights to liberty, security, and to equality under Sections 7 and 15, respectively of the Canadian Charter of Rights. In Toronto, there is a major housing shortage, particularly for low-rise, and low to middle incomes, made particularly acute by the exorbitant rise in housing prices, and rental rates. The shortage of appropriate housing, whether social or private (e.g. accessible, maintainable, geared to income, etc.) can be directly related to the exponential growth in private condominium developments absorbing land, resources, and attention. Further, city power structures and the dynamics present in resource allocation, housing developments and the rental sector continue to exclude those at the margins, stigmatizing people without real estate assets, or an address.

"We started our research thinking of finding out solutions for issues relating to shelter and these kinds of services. But we realized that there are already so many resources that are way under-utilized. We did our research and we thought why not instead of making something new why not actually spread awareness about something that already exists"

-Rahul Bagdai (Youth Participant).

Attitudes of wealthier communities concerned with affordable, social housing or temporary shelters that may be destined for, or intended to be adjacent to their neighbourhoods is an additional challenge to implementing safe, good quality, and affordable accommodation. The city has historically come down on the side of existing homeowners and condo owners, whose tax base is considerable in matters of defending public

Shelter?

Neela, Adwoa, Marcela, Rahul.

→ Basic Necessity

→ Beyond just a basic necessity
↳ has been closer than ever to be a Major Problem!

→ Homeless? Middle Class? Paycheque - Paycheque

→ Toronto/laus can't purchase Houses.

* Problem of today since a long time.

Power

- ↳ Condominium & Developers.
 - ↳ Wealthy communities - "rich"
 - ↳ Yimbyism
 - ↳ Commⁿty Benefit agreements.
 - ↳ Conservative Government
 - ↳ Community trust.
 - ↳ Cooperative Housing
- Gradification

Injustices

- ↳ Promoting new / collective ownership models
- ↳ Tax/penalty on vacant condos
- ↳ Laws to make vacant condos available to migrant people looking for housing directly. etc.
- ↳ Laws that prohibit the passage of aforementioned buildings.

→ Rent control? Bidding?? ~~xx~~

ILLEGAL

→ Citizen - need to be more informed about RIGHTS

→ Tenant Rights!

→ READ AWARENESS

another Barrier?

Students, Immigrants, Refugees, Homeless ppl, Single parents.

↳ References, Credit ^{checks} ~~checks~~
↳ Barriers. } → leads to no housing.
↳ Stigma }
↳ Integrating LIKE A SEIVE

BARRIERS MAKE ~~THE~~ PEOPLE FEEL UNWANTED! THEY'RE SET UP TO MARGINALIZE

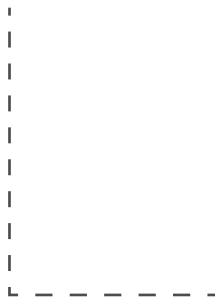
space against homeless encampments, and temporary occupations. This schism has given Toronto a reputation of speaking about equity, but not advancing it in an appreciable way for those at the low end of the economic spectrum. In terms of handling the strategies, the city will most often bring uniformed police with riot gear to dismantle encampments that do not voluntarily leave when ordered to do so. This

adds to existing tensions of an already challenging situation for those seeking equity for the basic necessities of life.



- app of housing resources
- a community space like Daniels Spectrum
- destigmatizing shelters

EXAMPLE



Advancement of Affordable Housing for the Middle Class, and those Aspiring to it:

The City of Toronto moved in on Alexander Park encampment, charging many with trespassing and removing their temporary shelters. Prior to this action, and the installation of the camp by residents, the city had already fenced off many of the public spaces related to the park, including recreational facilities, play structures, and more. Thus the argument that the encampment was 'impeding public access' seems to have been a ruse for the city's actions. Members of the encampment were offered temporary indoor, space which posed major challenges for the community — namely unsafe accommodation. This process of removal of the homeless is part of criminalizing those seeking to exercise their rights.²⁸

REFERENCES

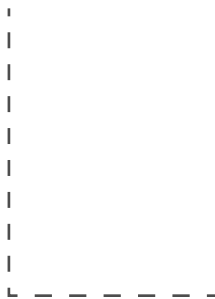
28. City News Staff. *9 arrested as City begins dismantling homeless encampment at Alexandra Park*. City News, July 20, 2021

2. New Models of Housing Tools for Greater Equity in Accommodation

New models of housing that value communities as full citizens of Toronto are urgently required. These models may include tools, strategies and approaches that give agency to people seeking shelter and the dignity of an address. Community land, housing trusts, and cooperative housing models have been established in prior decades, along with community benefit agreements that can work for establishing affordable units, creating rent controls,

or helping to stop bidding wars where there is need to house people rather than seek exorbitant profits. In addition, the mechanism of taxes, housing valuation, 'empty condo' tariffs, and other economic measures could provide the incentive for owners to develop properties into multi-unit housing or promote owners of empty condos to lease to people with lower incomes. This means adjustments to existing condo ownership and subleasing agreements.

EXAMPLE



"On July 16, 2019, City Council adopted [the] motion entitled 'Expanding Housing Options in Toronto - Tackling the Missing Middle and the Yellowbelt'. The motion directed City Planning to report on options and a timeline to increase housing options and planning permissions in areas of Toronto designated as Neighbourhoods in Toronto's Official Plan and to consult with registered community associations. The term 'missing middle' refers to housing types ranging from duplexes to low-rise walk-up apartments, all of which can be found in many parts of Toronto today, but which are also limited in where they can be newly built."²⁹

REFERENCE

29 Lintern, Gregg. *REPORT FOR ACTION: Expanding Housing Options in Neighbourhoods* June 26, 2020. Accessed

July 23, 2021. <https://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2020/ph/bgrd/backgroundfile-148422.pdf>

3. Tenant Rights and a More Inclusive Path to Living in the City

Citizens need information about their rights including tenant rights. Once housed in rental units, which may be social housing, the safety and security of an accommodation can be tenuous and wrought with unforeseen challenges imposed by landlords, including landlords of government funded facilities. The most vulnerable may be single-parent households, immigrants/newcomers, refugees, and the recent homeless. The issues a renter faces include evictions, rent hikes, unexpected cancellation of leases, renovations resulting in higher rents, lack of maintenance and upkeep, and for some, entrenched systemic racism and other exclusions resulting in denial of lease space. Legal challenges in support of tenant rights (and landlord rights) can be a challenge in of itself, particularly for those at the economic margins, or newcomers struggling to be understood, or navigating legal systems. New models of ownership, legal and social advice, and education about housing availability, among other supports are needed to ensure individuals and communities can find homes in the city. The decision

planning process will also need a review, shifting to more than advocacy for the homeless. Communities need to have self-determination for planning their neighbourhoods to meet the needs of all of its residents, in the same manner that wealthier, establishment, and exclusive neighbourhoods have power over who can live in their midst.

“Stratify the process for rentals — [including] references, credit checks, and what may be the barriers to potential renters — that have been stigmatized by systemic exclusion in housing.”

-Anonymous (Youth Participant)

4. Destigmatizing Shame—the Value and Power of Words in the Housing Context

Barriers make people feel unwanted, and they are set up to marginalize and differentiate those that do not have from those that do. This is experienced by the homeless. However, written,

visual, and multi-media resources exist to support communities that seek a break in getting affordable, decent housing within their preferred neighbourhoods.

EXAMPLE



Homes First, Ontario is a long established supportive housing and shelter program with over 35 years of service and support for many diverse communities across the city. They remain one of the largest providers of newly developed or renovated housing for people who have few options in a city where accommodation costs are extraordinarily high.

“There are over 8,000 people in Toronto without a safe stable place to live. Hundreds live ‘rough’ in ravines, stairwells or on the street. Hundreds more suffer with mental health and addictions issues. This forgotten slice of our population, people who have been street-involved for several years and who have nowhere else to go, is where Homes First comes in.”³⁰

REFERENCE

30. Homes First. About Us.
Accessed November 2 2021.

<https://homesfirst.on.ca/about-us/>

5. Utilize and Maximize Current Resources, Rather than Reinventing the Wheel

There is an abundance of information across Toronto to inform residents, homeless communities, developers,

owners, advocates, and activists alike on ways and means to address lack of accommodation in the city. This

resource bank has been in existence and is growing, yet there is a disconnect between the resources and tools available and the solutions and timing of solutions being implemented. Globally, there is much being done to address homeless challenges in ways that are respectful of people's situations, their independence, and need for dignity and they offer Toronto real-time examples to follow. Solutions require more than funding, or wishful thinking, but the political will to enact. This comes around to the governance and political worldviews that may, or may not align with addressing the issues of adequate housing in the city.



EXAMPLE

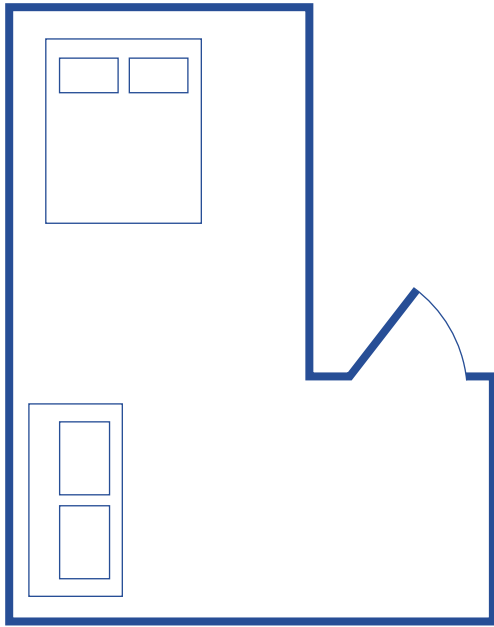
Options for Homes

Options for Homes is one of the leading affordable housing developers in the Toronto region. They help potential buyers with programs of 5% down payment and provide high-quality condos with the lowest possible maintenance fees along with additional loans up to 25% of purchase price.

"Options is Canada's largest developer working exclusively on making home ownership more affordable. They have been operating for 25 years without government funding."³¹

REFERENCE

31. Options for Homes. 2021, Accessed November 2, 2021. <https://www.optionsforhomes.ca>



The Shift is the global movement to secure the human right to housing and is led by Leilani Farha, the former UN Special Rapporteur on the right to housing, in partnership with United Cities Local Government and

the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. The group does more than advocacy — it aims to generate and amplify a global conversation on the right to housing, exposing through research and publications, “how the over commodification of housing erodes the right to housing”.³² The group supports local and national governments with inclusive strategies to end homelessness, and encourages the regulation of the private market in order to recognize how these sectors impact many populations and citizens globally. Their goal is to bring cities in line with the UN, Human Rights movements and principles, and they do so by supporting local and regional initiatives co-designed with communities. The film *The Push* about the organization’s work can be found at:

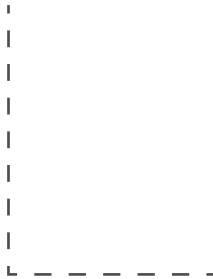
[make-the-shift.org/push/](https://www.make-the-shift.org/push/)

REFERENCES

32. The Shift. #right2housing. #Maketheshift Is a New World-wide Movement to Reclaim and Realize the Fundamental

Human Right to Housing.” 2021. Accessed November 2, 2021. <https://www.make-the-shift.org/>

EXAMPLE



— — — DISTILLATION OF IDEAS INTO — — — — — A CREATIVE OUTCOME →

Youth Participants:	Rahul Bagdai, 3rd year OCAD U; Neela Imani, Design Student Centennial t
Community Mentor:	Adwoa Afful, Planner Researcher;
Creative Mentor:	Marcela Cordero Designer Researcher

The Youth Participants created a hypothetical traveling, interactive and informative art installation called Welcome Home. This small home on wheels is meant to spread awareness and provide resources about existing neighborhood services and facilities for everyone seeking shelter.

Citizens cannot afford to purchase a house in Toronto. The Middle-class are living paycheck-to-paycheck, power is in the hands of Condo Developers, and wealthy communities have NIMBY attitudes that are adverse to any change that would affect their environment such as the development of affordable or mixed income housing. When looking at power structures when it comes to shelter in Toronto several key players

can be identified: developers, wealthy communities, homeowners, and landlords....-paraphrased from Rahul Bagdai (Youth Participant)

The Youth Participants realized that there were many resources across Toronto and the GTA for homeless or home insecure individuals that are under-utilized. They did not want to recreate what already existed but they did feel that a way to promote awareness about these resources might be helpful, especially if they brought the resources to communities. In this way the stigma and shame around homelessness and precarious housing conditions might be reduced.

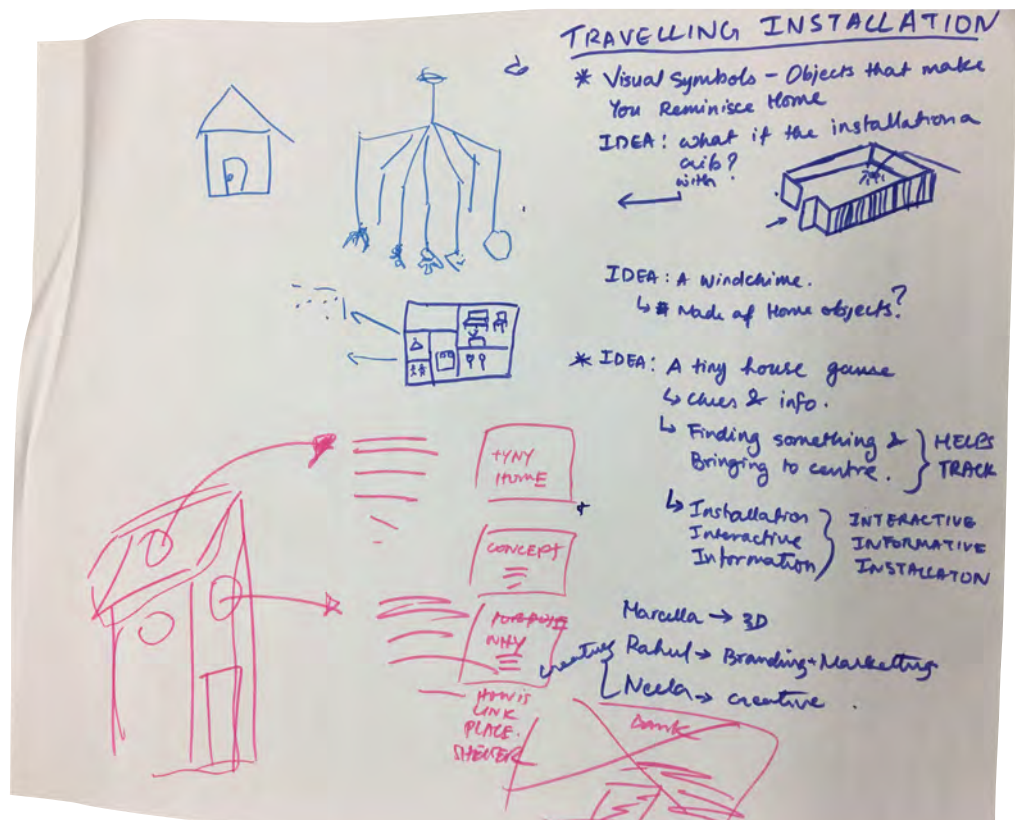
The concept for the design installation was to create a small, cozy home

that engaged visitors through interacting with the interior. Upon entering the home visitors can begin to explore cupboards and containers to find information on resources available to them. The resources would be tied to the location within the home. For example, a cupboard in the washroom 'a super-important space' might have information on sanitary health services and where a woman might access free feminine hygiene products. The kitchen pantry may contain food storage with information on soup kitchens (even specific soup kitchens such as ones

who serve Halal). It could also direct visitors to student pantries, and where to access free fresh produce. The living room would contain information on non-profits, co-ops, and free cultural resources and services in Toronto—places like XSpace, a gallery that provides spaces for people in marginalized communities.

The bedroom space would include information to mental health services such as social workers, psychiatrists, and information on homeless shelters, Youth shelters, women's shelters....

Brainstorming →
Design Justice and
placemaking ideas
for the Shelter
priority area



“As soon as you go in you will find clues and these clues will lead you to different parts of the exhibition, and these parts of the exhibition will have all the information you need about whatever services you seek”

-Rahul Bagdai (Youth Participant).

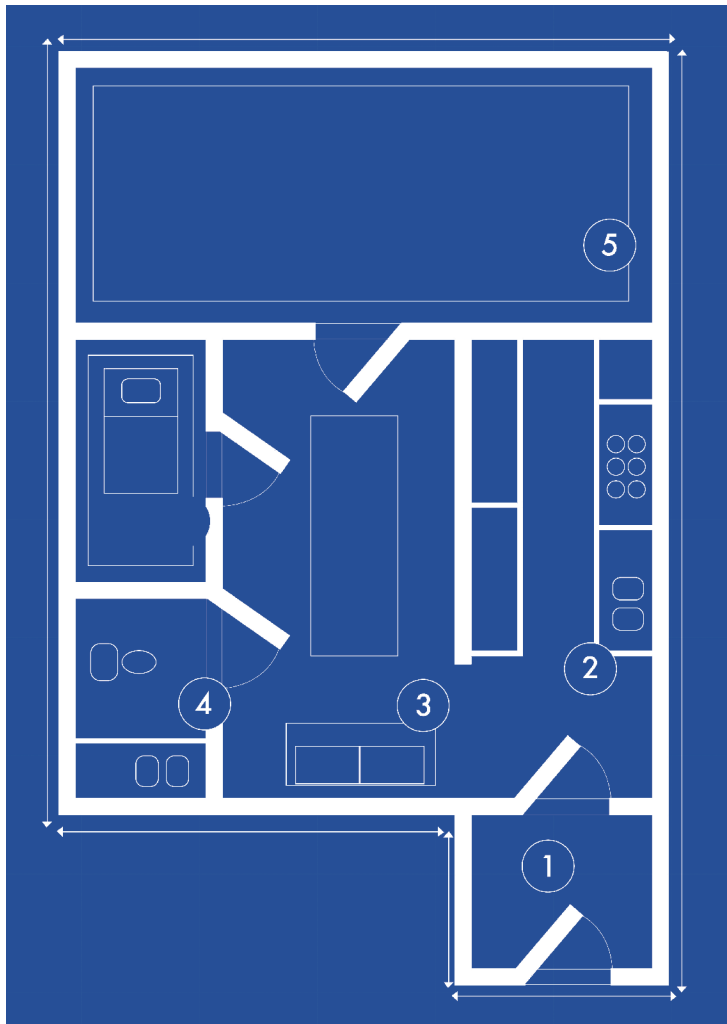
Welcome Home is open to everyone. The coziness of the small home provides those who may not be experiencing housing precariousness a chance to reflect on the idea of home and the very

significance of it. It may prompt those visitors to contribute to some of the programs that the home is providing information about.

The mobility of the Welcome Home installation allows for collaboration with specific neighbourhoods and cultural hubs. Members of these specific areas can speak about services that are local and more relevant to the needs of that particular community — tailoring the information according to location is a key aspect of the installation being mobile.

↓ *Visual Explanation of the traveling interactive exhibit.*





➤ *Diagram of the Welcome Home exhibit's footprint with room experience descriptions.*

- 1 **The Entrance:** Pamphlets which list and introduce available community spaces throughout Toronto. This includes shelters, cultural hubs, non-profit legal aid. The aim is to highlight underutilized but readily available spaces.

- 2 **The Kitchen:** Media which advertises where people can access various food support services such as soup kitchens and food pantries. This also includes specific information like kitchens that provide Halal options.

- 3 **The Living Room:** A space which lists non-profit, co-op, and free cultural resources and services in Toronto.

- 4 **The Washroom:** A space which includes information to sanitary and health services. For example, hospitals, non-profit dental offices, medical professionals who are LGBTQIA2S+ allies/advocates, access to pads and tampons.

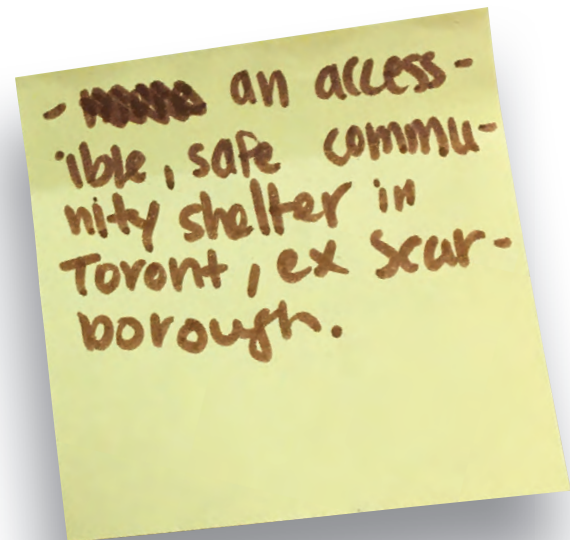
- 5 **The Bedroom:** A space which includes information to mental health services, for example: social workers and psychiatrists. Moreover, this space will include links to homeless shelters, Youth shelters, women's shelters, subsidized housing, etc..

“Official Plan policies prevent detached houses from being converted into semis, towns, duplexes, or any other housing type with increased capacity to house families. As a result, the total area restricting

housing to low-capacity detached houses extends well beyond [a] 200-square kilometre [area]. Through these policies, the tradition of adding housing capacity to detached houses is being erased.”³³

REFERENCES

33. Bozikovic, Alex, Cheryll Case, John Lorinc, and Annabel Vaughan. *House Divided: How the Missing Middle Can Solve Toronto's Affordability Crisis*. Toronto: Coach House Books, 2019. 108.



“This model could also be used for refugees and asylum seekers in general.”

-Jaicyea Smith (Community Mentor).

The background of the slide is white, featuring several large, overlapping, organic shapes in shades of red and pink. These shapes are irregular and fluid, creating a modern, artistic feel. The word 'HEALTHCARE' is written in white, bold, uppercase letters, oriented vertically and centered within one of the larger red shapes.

HEALTHCARE

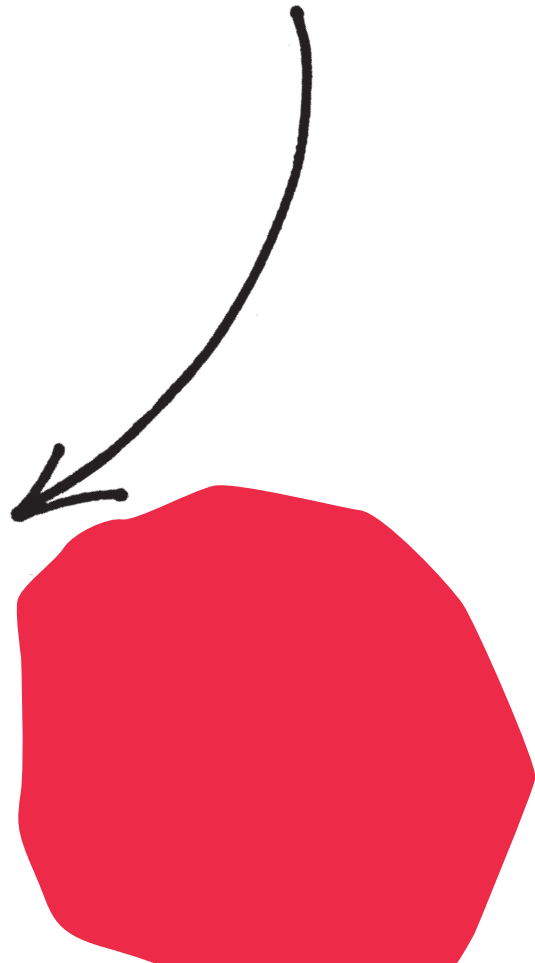
Discussion Topic #5

Keywords (Morning Session, Written):

1. LIFE PLANNING
2. HEALTH EDUCATION
3. ACTIVE LIFESTYLE, RESOURCES FOR WELLBEING
4. WELLNESS PROMOTION AND DISEASE PREVENTION
5. MENTAL HEALTH
6. COGNITIVE AND NON-VISIBLE DISABILITIES
7. HEALTHCARE AND COMMUNITY CONSULTATION
8. PROVIDE HEALTHCARE AT HIGHER LEVELS TO THE UNDERSERVED
9. SYSTEMIC EXCLUSION IN THE HEALTHCARE CONTEXT
10. TARIFFS AND PENALTIES FOR LACK OF ACCESS (BUILT ENVIRONMENT)

Keywords (Spoken):

1. ACCESS AND ACCESSIBLE BUILDINGS
2. ASSUMPTIONS / BIAS
3. BLACK WOMEN
4. BRINGING HEALTH CARE TO COMMUNITY
5. BUREAUCRACY
6. COMPASSION
7. CARE
8. DECENTRALIZE
9. GEOGRAPHICAL RACISM
10. HEAR
11. INCENTIVIZE CARE GIVING
12. IMMIGRANT
13. LEARN
14. MARGINALIZED
15. MENTAL HEALTH
16. REPRESENTATION
17. WOMEN AND HEALTH



Keywords (Afternoon Session):

1. ACCESS
2. EXCLUSION
3. BARRIERS
4. REPRESENTATION
5. PART OF A COMMUNITY
6. PERSISTENCE
7. KNOWLEDGE
8. ACCEPTANCE
9. ACTION
10. FAMILIARITY
11. UNITY AND COMMON SPIRIT
12. HEALTH COLLECTIVE

THEMES →

1. Representation and Resources in the Healthcare Context

Life strategies and tools for health and wellness including the states of physical, mental, and emotional wellness must include: greater representation of those left out of critical social, political discourse; better health education and promotion of active lifestyles; attention and action on harm and disease prevention; greater mental health monitoring; fostering of community outreach and collaboration, along with broader economic stability, and ongoing activism to ensure long-term success in this critical

area of concern. However, lack of resources, or more precisely, resources that are not conducive to community needs and their self-determination of health needs are often impediments for success. Across the healthcare spectrum many communities, particularly communities of colour, Indigenous communities, and newcomers are not well represented in the upper echelons of health administration, and where the political power is located to make critical decisions for communities.

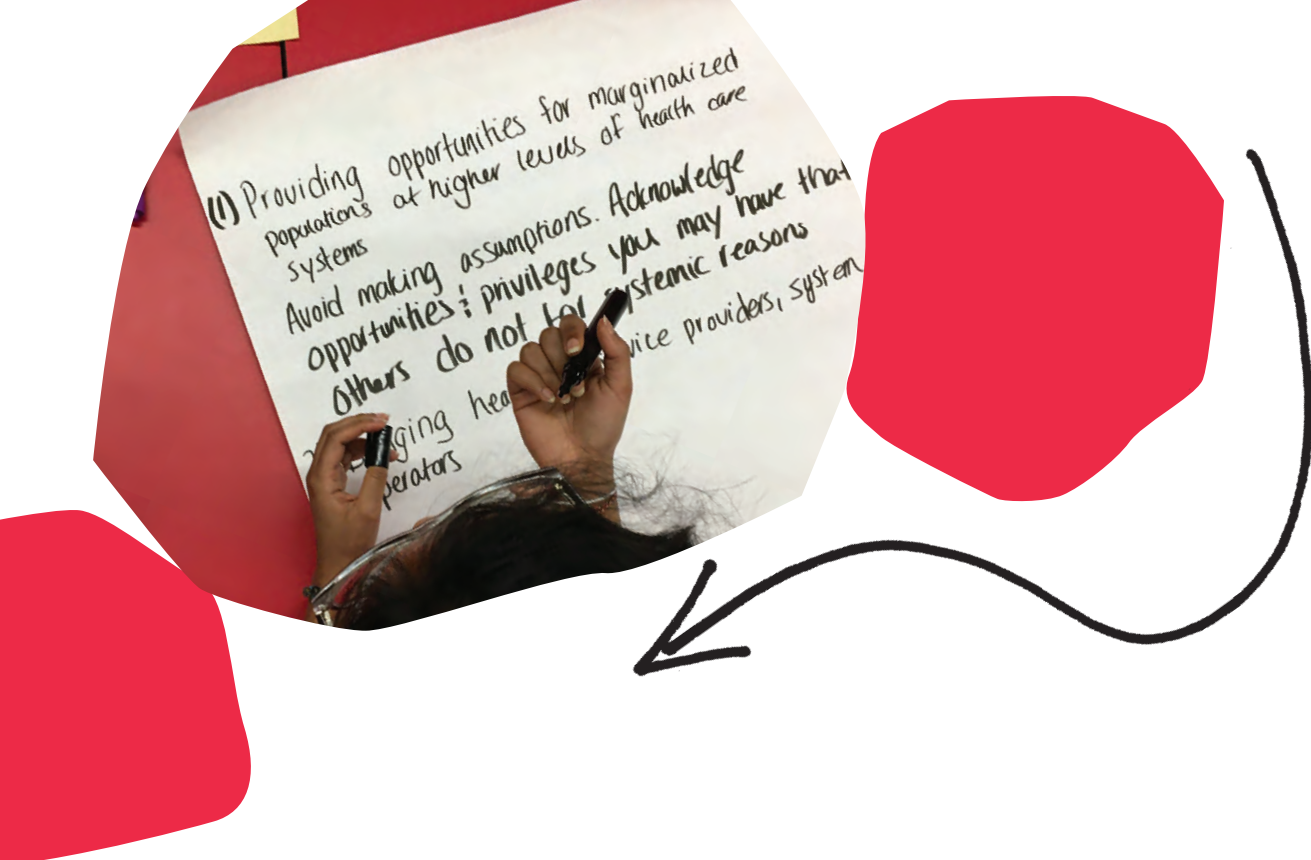
2. Bringing a Continuum of Values-Based and Inclusive Healthcare to Communities at the Margins

The term 'geographical racism' was used on a number of occasions during the CPP workshop. In respect of healthcare and health justice, it was used to identify the schism between urban peripheries and the downtown core. In order to meet the needs of people that have either been historically excluded from adequate or advanced healthcare, or disenfranchised by their geography (distanced from central core of power, wealth, and priority) there needs to be consideration for decentralizing funds and other resources.

Themes of discussion centred on better equipping hospitals in these urban peripheries (e.g. Etobicoke, Rexdale, Jane-Finch, North York) with compassionate care and respect along with better remuneration and benefits for caregivers — often the backbone of

the healthcare sector everywhere. Caregivers and communities of colour along with newcomer communities need attention for having either fallen behind or from being ignored as funds have been funneled to more central areas of the city. Bringing opportunities for healthcare to marginalized populations also requires system transformation that avoids stereotyping or making assumptions on behalf of people and by acknowledging the lived-experience of people as valuable data to combat systemic exclusions in the city.

Bringing health care service providers, system operators & community members together
Consultation w/ community members regarding health care buildings



↑ Morning brainstorming about Healthcare.

A report, released by the Commonwealth Fund, ranked 11 high-income countries on key health-system measures, including equity, access to care, affordability, health-care outcomes, and administrative

efficiency. Canada's health system was ranked second last, ahead of the United States, among high-income countries. The surveys were conducted prior to the COVID-19 pandemic.³⁴

REFERENCES

34. Schneider, Eric C., Arnav Shah, Michelle M. Doty, Roosa Tikkanen, Katharine Fields, Reginald D. Williams II. "Mirror, Mirror 2021: Reflecting Poorly." Commonwealth Fund, August 4, 2021. <https://www.commonwealth-fund.org/publications/fund-reports/2021/aug/mirror-mirror-2021-reflecting-poorly>.

NOTE:

Canada continues to struggle with income equity and equality — foundational principles for not only healthcare and wellbeing but also justice, housing, and other critical social factors that enable people to thrive and achieve their potential as citizens of one of the wealthiest, diverse and important urban centres globally.

Bringing greater representation to the healthcare sector, brings greater inclusion, accuracy of information, and lived experience as lessons learned. It also brings opportunities that may not have arisen previously — opportunities that benefit much more than the communities represented. As an example: Women’s College Hospital Foundation Toronto appointed its first woman of colour, Jennifer Bernard CFRE, as president and CEO in 2018 with the goal of ensuring a pathway for funding healthcare services and research to meet the needs of communities where they live. This is particularly significant for communities of colour, for women of colour, and for LGBTQIA2S+ communities. Her own cultural background of fundraising and volunteer work with Caribbean communities brings ground-up advocacy to the forefront of fundraising along with a deep understanding of how exclusion affects people’s well-being. Her approach is to ensure sustainable funding for areas of research that have been neglecting data from marginalized communities over decades. Her understanding is that health matters, and without it, other aspects of life fall short, and there is a need to inform practice and innovation with lived-experience, and inclusive data that benefits all.³⁵

EXAMPLE

REFERENCES

35. Women’s College Hospital (WCH) Foundation News and Events: *Q&A: Up Close and Personal with Jennifer Bernard*,

CFRE. (August, 08, 2018). Retrieved from womenscollegehospitalfoundation.com

DISTILLATION OF IDEAS INTO A CREATIVE OUTCOME →

Youth Participants: Lucy Gichini, Saania Rahim, and
two Anonymous Participants

Community Mentor: Cheryll Case

By thinking about why health and lack of access to health resources is a problem for many Toronto residents, the Youth Participants working on this topic discovered that these problems are preventable. They realized that the problems were products of exclusion, lack of access to a lifestyle that provides you with health, age, mental and physical disabilities, architectural barriers, lack of infrastructure, lack of familiarity, lack of information, and lack of representation.

When the Youth Participants looked at barriers and issues they thought of physical symbolic barriers such as fences and other objects that stop

forward momentum such as rocks. The rock became their symbol for barriers to healthcare.

"If you are a person with disabilities. It's easier for you to be involved if you see that people with disabilities are involved in that work. If you are a minority, seeing minorities in that space makes it more comfortable as well. Many spaces don't have those bridges for us to engage in so we don't engage in them"

- **Anonymous** (Youth Participant).

Decentralize & better equip hospitals in the peripheries. Compassion care. Government benefits for care-givers.

When they thought about the opposite of barriers — what's really good at accessing spaces? — they came up with water. Water will flow into the smallest of cracks and will erode rock over time.

These symbols of rock and water reminded the Youth Participants of a quote: “A river cuts through a rock, not because of its power, but because of its persistence” by James N. Watkins. They likened the water to community(ies) coming together for a common goal.

Building on this idea the Youth Participants wrote a poem:

↓ *Presentation of morning discussion about Healthcare.*



↓ Group presentation
of final outcome for
Healthcare priority
area.



*"Like people, the water is not
stronger. The water simply
doesn't take no for an answer."*

- paraphrased from
Anonymous (Youth Participant)

A river, we are the river,
the people we serve and are connected to.

A river cuts through a rock,
not because of its power but its persistence.

Things are hard,
difficult comes our way but we must be persistent.

Health is wealth.
We must be good to each other and ourselves.

Intuitively, yes, we know this
— persist to know your people.

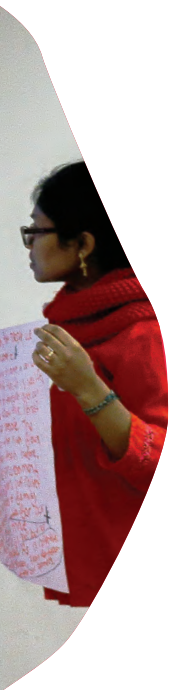
We can shape the environment slowly,
but it does happen.

We collect the resources
— our friends, and family, persisting together for our common
spirit to thrive.

The rock will break us as the river flows.

The rock tells us 'no!' but we go anyway.

Stronger and healthier than before
— as a collective we are stronger than our barriers



“...even though we are coming through the different streams, facing different barriers... these things will be difficult, we just have to keep flowing and know that there’s people ahead of you in the water. There’s water in front of you. There’s water behind you. There’s water beside you. So, to have that mentality in your work also is very uplifting and encouraging”

- **Anonymous** (Youth Participant)

To represent this poem the group created a diagram that showed many different rivers coming together flowing towards ‘common spirit’ and ‘health’. Each river is a branch of the necessary aspects required to make change happen: Knowledge, Acceptance, Action, Persistence, Familiarity, and Unity. Each river is blocked by rocks. The rock will be broken away eventually as the river persists.

When asked how the poem and the river would manifest in the world, the Youth Participants explained that it is a visualization of a mission statement for grassroots organizations. It embodies the importance of the work that they do and how they come together to do it. Their organization is a place of belonging and each individual in that organization is part of something bigger — they are not alone. It also demonstrates the importance of breaking down certain barriers and how that can have beneficial effects for a lot of people.



river
cuts through a rock
not because of its power
its persistence
resistance

the water in
flushing out
toxins
replenishing

to thrive, but we
tells us no collector,
ways. As a collector,
e stranger, than the farmer.
the farmer, the barner.

Common Spirit

unity

Germania

Persistence

action

acceptance

Knowledge

Y new ledger

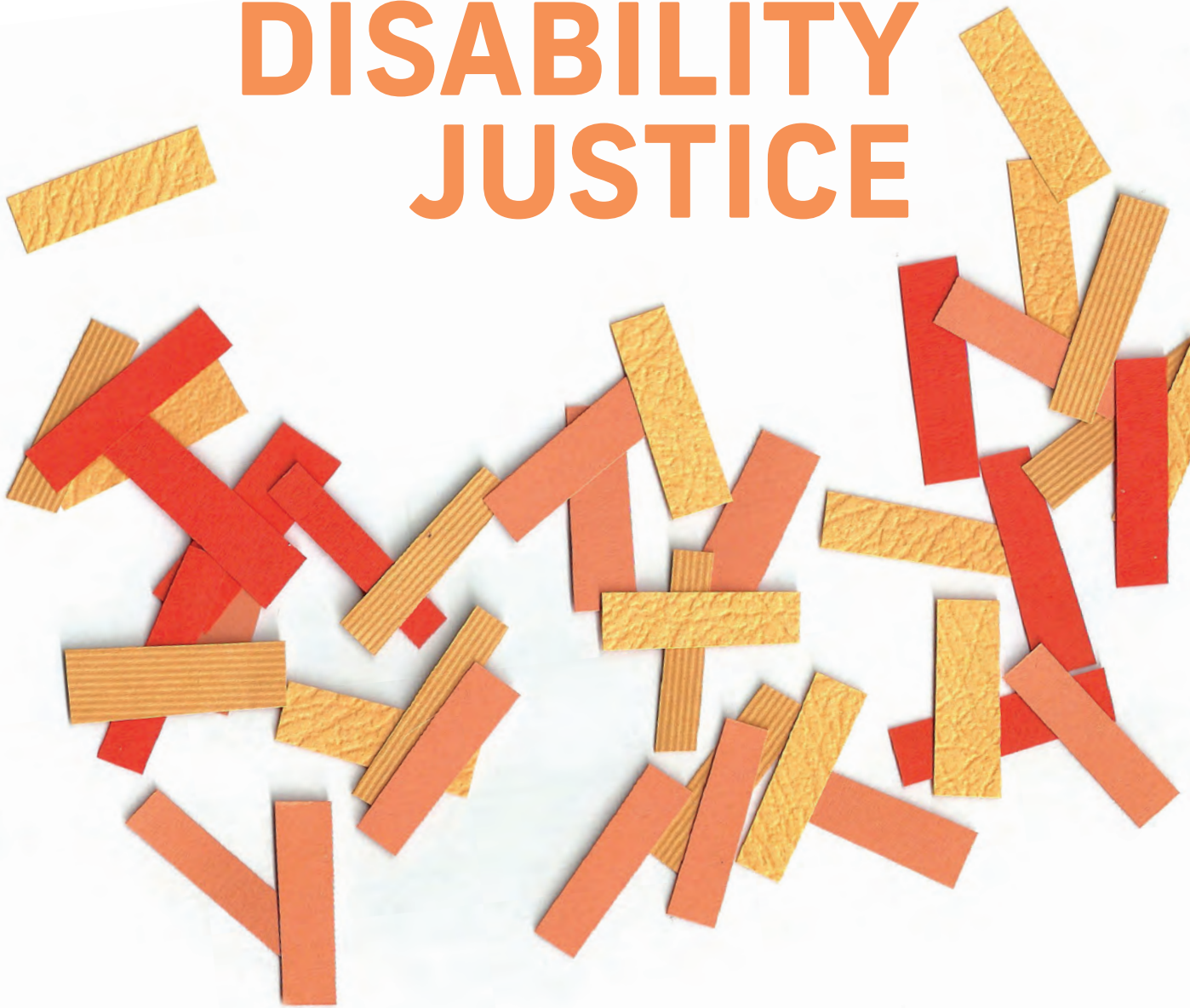
A black and white photograph of a travel mug with a lid, featuring a red circular logo on the side. The mug is positioned diagonally, and the lid is slightly ajar. The background is a light-colored surface with some faint, curved lines.

Common Spirit

5/11



ACCESSIBILITY DISABILITY JUSTICE



Discussion Topic #6

Keywords (Written):

1. EQUITY
2. ACCESS BEYOND MOBILITY
3. POLITICAL WILL
4. AODA (ACCESSIBILITY FOR ONTARIANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT) ONTARIO
5. HEALTH, WELLNESS, AND ACCESSIBILITY

Keywords (Spoken):

1. LEADERSHIP
2. COLLABORATION WITH COMMUNITIES
3. BUILT ENVIRONMENT ACCESS
4. FINES AND PENALTIES FOR FAILURE TO IMPLEMENT

This topic was defined during the morning brainstorming session but it was taken up by the group working on healthcare.

THEMES →

1. A Broader Concept of Inclusion of Diverse Experiences:

Accessibility and inclusion in the built environment requires political will, long-term strategies and clearly define responsibilities for implementation and success. 'Passing the buck' along from federal to provincial to local levels and private business for implementation of accessibility, despite 20 years of AODA (Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act) leadership in the province of Ontario, is one way of describing the state of access and inclusion for many. Underserved communities do not perceive that accessibility has fully come to their parts of the city. Accessibility is clearly more than mobility access for those using buildings, it is a broader concept of inclusion of diverse experiences, and access to services, to opportunities for growth, work, leadership, and more.

A key theme was bringing healthcare service providers, system operators, technical expertise, and community members together to consult with

communities about their health and accessibility needs. A strong component of bringing access to neighbourhoods is the political will to implement penalties for those not meeting access guidelines, regardless of geographic location, economic status, or cultural and racial make up.

EXAMPLE



Stop Gap Foundation is a Canadian charity that started in Toronto in 2011 with a one-off project. It has since grown into a global movement. “Physical barriers in our ‘built environment’ prevent many of us from enjoying some of the amazing buildings and spaces that our cities and communities have to offer. With material donations from community hardware stores and volunteer labour from inspired community members, businesses with single stepped storefronts are invited to participate and have a custom ramp made at little to no cost. The brightly coloured ramps do not present a perfect solution to the problem however they do get people talking about the much bigger issue of inclusivity and accessibility for all.”³⁶

noun: stop gap

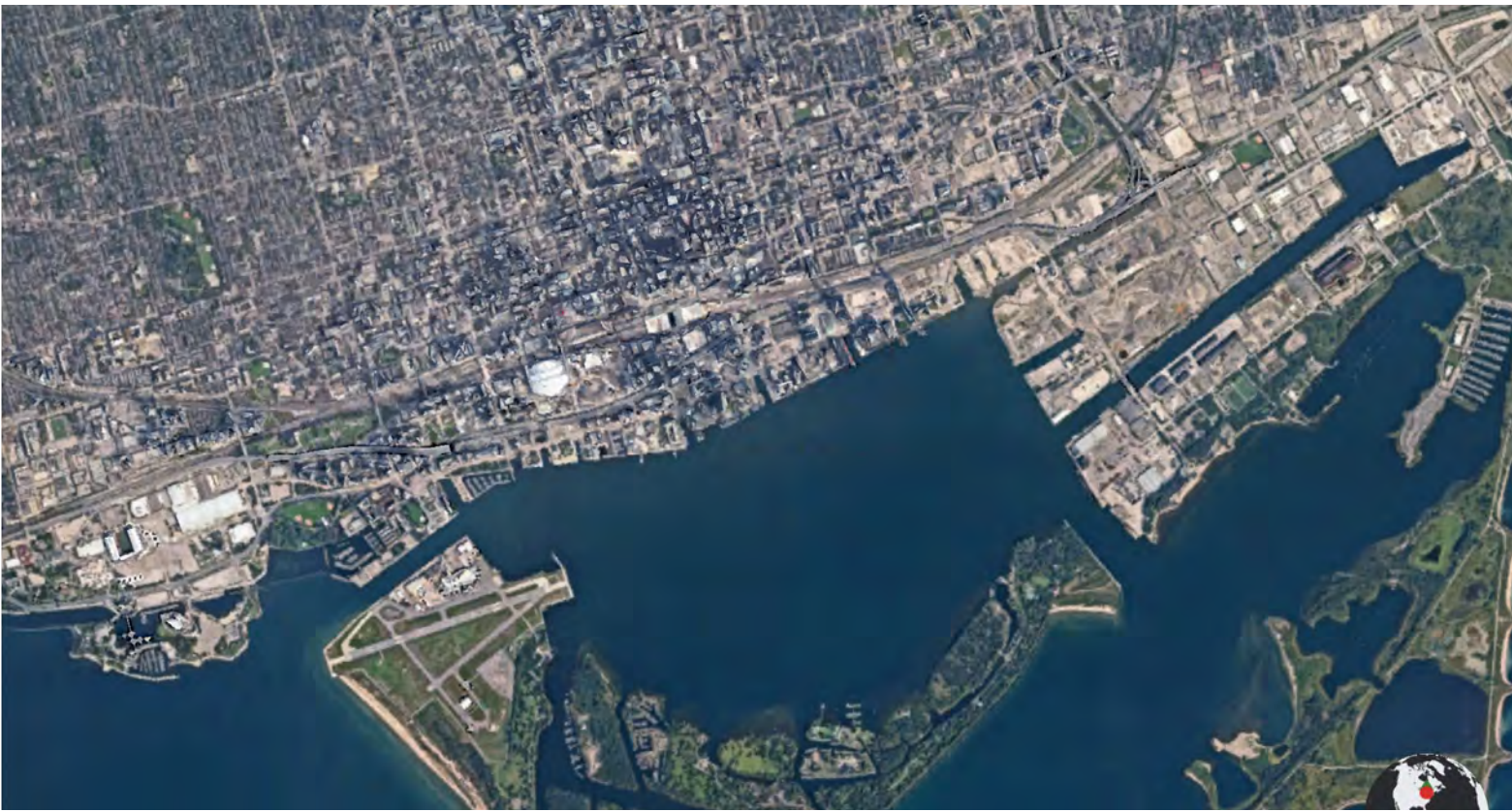
definition a temporary way of dealing with a problem or satisfying a need.

REFERENCES

36. Anderson, Luke. Stop Gap Foundation. Who We Are, 2021. Accessed November 2, 2021 from <https://stopgap.ca/who-we-are/>



PLACEMAKING URBAN PLANNING



Discussion Topic #7

Keywords (Written):

1. SILENCE BREEDS OPPRESSION AND HARM
2. CO-OPTING SOCIAL JUSTICE DISCOURSES BY DEVELOPERS
3. DISPLACEMENT
4. GENTRIFICATION
5. EQUITY
6. BEWARE THE PROPHETS [PROFITS]

This topic was defined during the morning brainstorming session but it was not pursued by Youth Participants beyond the written portion of the morning activities.

“Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly are ravening wolves”³⁷

REFERENCE

37. Mathew 7:15, King James Version c1611. KJV bible online. Accessed November 16 2021. <https://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Matthew-7-15/>

NOTE

The quote from the bible of St. Mathew noted above, showed up in a discussion under this topic during the workshop. While a participant mentioned communities should ‘beware of false prophets’, the full quote bears reminding us that we can all be duped or misguided into thinking that those holding power have our best interest at heart. A play on the biblical warning maybe ‘Beware of false profits’. This reflects a broader concern for participants in that the values of inclusion, equity in placemaking and the current discourses for social justice and language for equity is being co-opted by developers, among others holding power, wealth and

authority, to push projects in existing and diverse and often marginalized communities under the guise of improvement, renewal and gentrification.

--- THEMES →

"The phrase [affordable housing] is a favourite for municipal and federal governments alike, but its meaning has become deceptively confusing over the years: The term has been used to describe rental rates for middle-class households, to

gesture widely to a 'crisis' plaguing Toronto and to refer to housing supposedly made for the city's most vulnerable communities. But who is affordable housing really for?"³⁸

REFERENCES

38. Mastrionni, Julia. There's No Such Thing as Affordable Housing in Toronto. *Now Magazine*, Nov 5, 2020. Accessed November 16 2021. <https://nowtoronto.com/news/affordable-housing-crisis-toronto-homelessness>

Developers, large corporations, be they non-profits or private interests, have not advanced the social and design justice agenda for many communities, particularly communities of colour seeking equity and parity in housing opportunities.

Existing models for planning and design of cities, where design experts, authorities, along with developers, builders among others holding privilege continue to lead the implementation of built form and placemaking solutions with only the minimal input and virtually no influence by communities in the

"Facilitate pro bono work by designers [to work with communities in need of empathic design], and give incentives to do so"

-Anonymous (Youth Participant)

"[Even] big non-profits are not the solution"

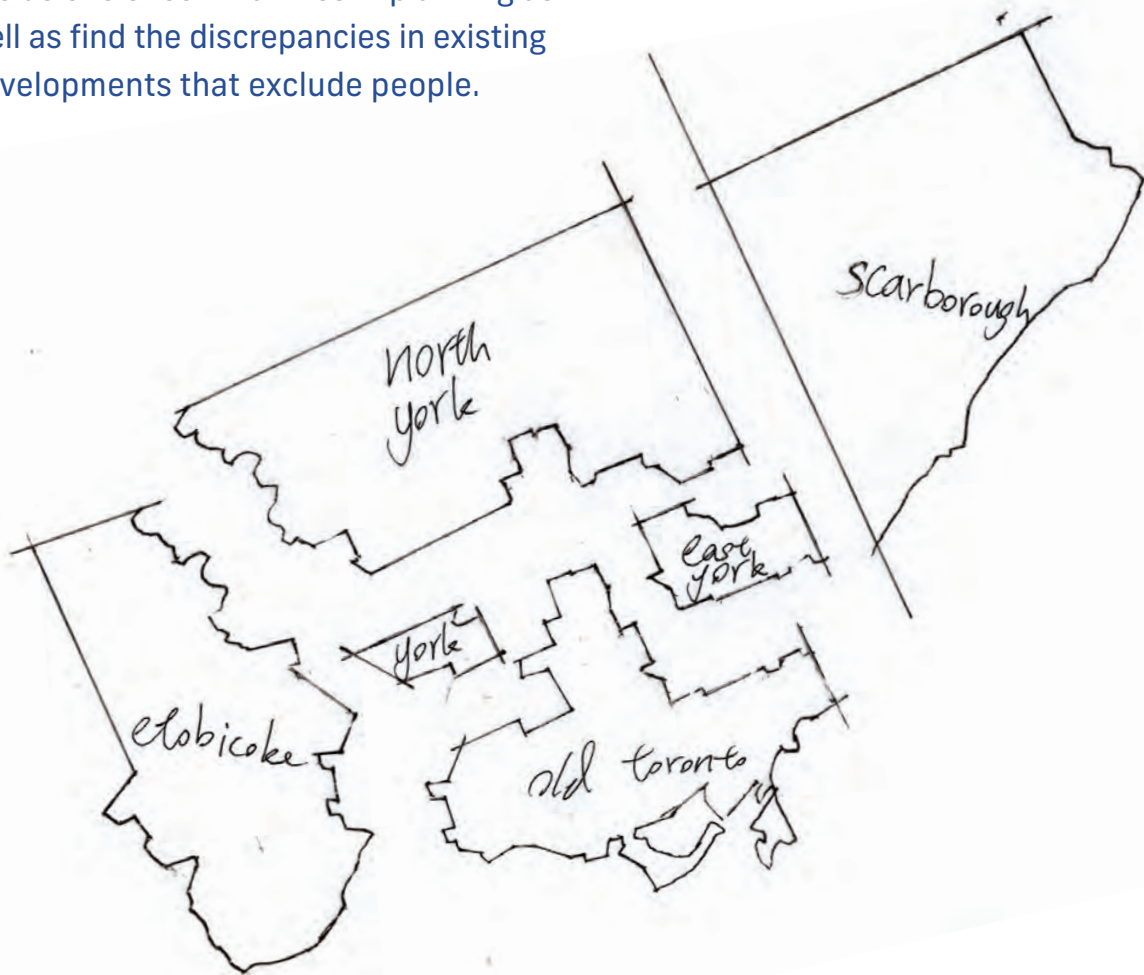
-Anonymous (Youth Participant)

development decisions that affect their wellbeing, and long-time status, and reflect their lived-experiences.

This concept is not new, however, participants want to see designers start to lead in eliminating or repairing existing models for city making and aim to design through ethical design practices, that both unlearn colonial and systemic exclusions of communities in planning as well as find the discrepancies in existing developments that exclude people.

"[Ensure] greater cross-disciplinary collaborations for building [new systems, spaces, models, services] to be more inclusive [of community voices and solutions]"

-Anonymous (Youth Participant)



The background of the entire page is decorated with several large, hand-cut paper circles in shades of pink, magenta, and orange. These circles are scattered across the page, some overlapping each other and the text.

SAFETY AND HUMAN RIGHTS

**Discussion
Topic #8**

Keywords (Written):

1. HARM REDUCTION
2. TRAUMA INFORMED DESIGN
3. REMOVE BARRIERS THAT LEAD TO UNSAFE SPACES
4. POWER STRUCTURES
5. DISRUPT INJUSTICES
6. CIRCULAR MENTORSHIP
7. TRAINING AND MENTORSHIP
8. COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE

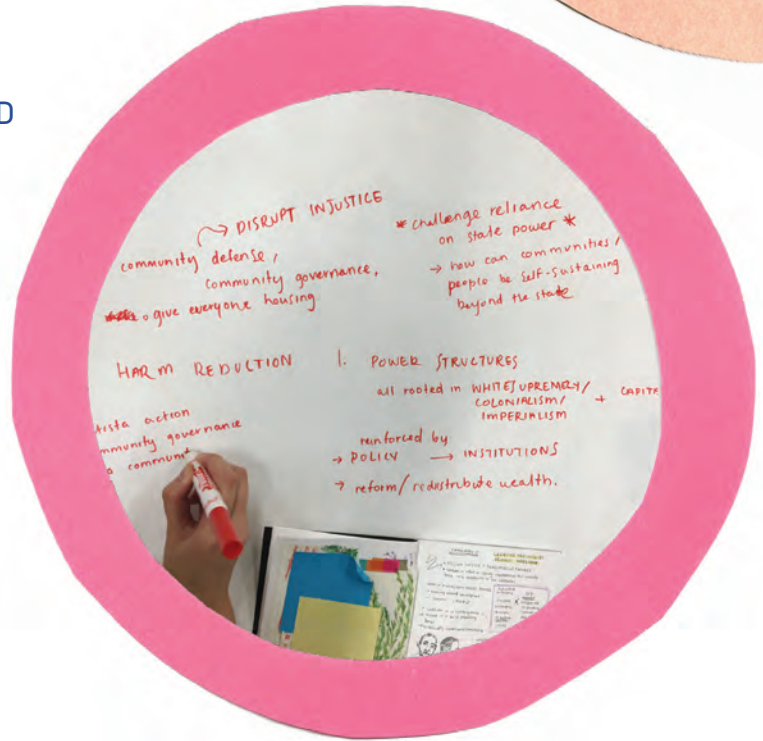
Keywords (Spoken):

1. AFFIRMING EXISTENCE
2. PRECEDENCE
3. COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE
4. PROVIDE SAFETY
5. MARGINALIZED
6. SAFETY FROM THE STATE
7. DISRUPT INJUSTICE WITH COMMUNITY DEFENSE
8. COMMUNITY EDUCATION AND TRAINING AND CIRCULAR LEADERSHIP
9. HARM REDUCTION
10. COMMUNITY RESOURCES
11. REMOVE RELIANCE ON POLICE
12. TRAUMA INFORMED ARCHITECTURE
13. NORTH YORK WOMENS SHELTER;
14. COMMUNITY GARDENS
15. HIERARCHICAL POWER DYNAMICS
16. LGBTQIA2S+, INDIGENOUS, BLACK, ASIAN
17. TRANSFORMATIVE JUSTICE

Keywords (Afternoon Session):

1. GOVERNANCE
2. TRAUMA INFORMED WORLD
3. RESPONSIVENESS
4. PHYSICAL, PSYCHOLOGICAL, AND EMOTIONAL SAFETY
5. EMPOWERMENT

Brainstorming →
notes from the
afternoon session.



NOTE:

"Transformative justice is a political framework and approach for responding to violence, harm and abuse. At its most basic, it seeks to respond to violence without creating more violence and/or engaging in harm reduction to lessen the violence. Transformative justice can be thought of as a way of 'making things right', getting in 'right relation', or creating justice together. Transformative justice responses and interventions do not rely on the state (e.g. police, prisons, the criminal legal system, foster care system) do not reinforce or perpetuate violence such as oppressive norms or vigilantism; and actively cultivate the things we know prevent violence such as healing, accountability, resilience, and safety for all involved.

State responses to violence reproduce violence and often traumatize those who are exposed to them, especially oppressed communities who are already targeted by

the state. It is important to remember that while many people choose not to call the police, many communities can't call the police because of reasons such as fear of deportation, harassment, state sanctioned violence, sexual violence, previous convictions or inaccessibility. Transformative justice was created by and for many of these communities (e.g. Indigenous communities, BIPOC communities, immigrant communities of color, poor and low-income communities, people with disabilities, sex workers, queer and trans communities)."³⁹

REFERENCE

39. Mingus, Mia. Transformative Justice: A Brief Description. March 1, 2021. *Transform Harm*. Accessed July 20 2021. <https://transformharm.org/transformative-justice-a-brief-description/>.

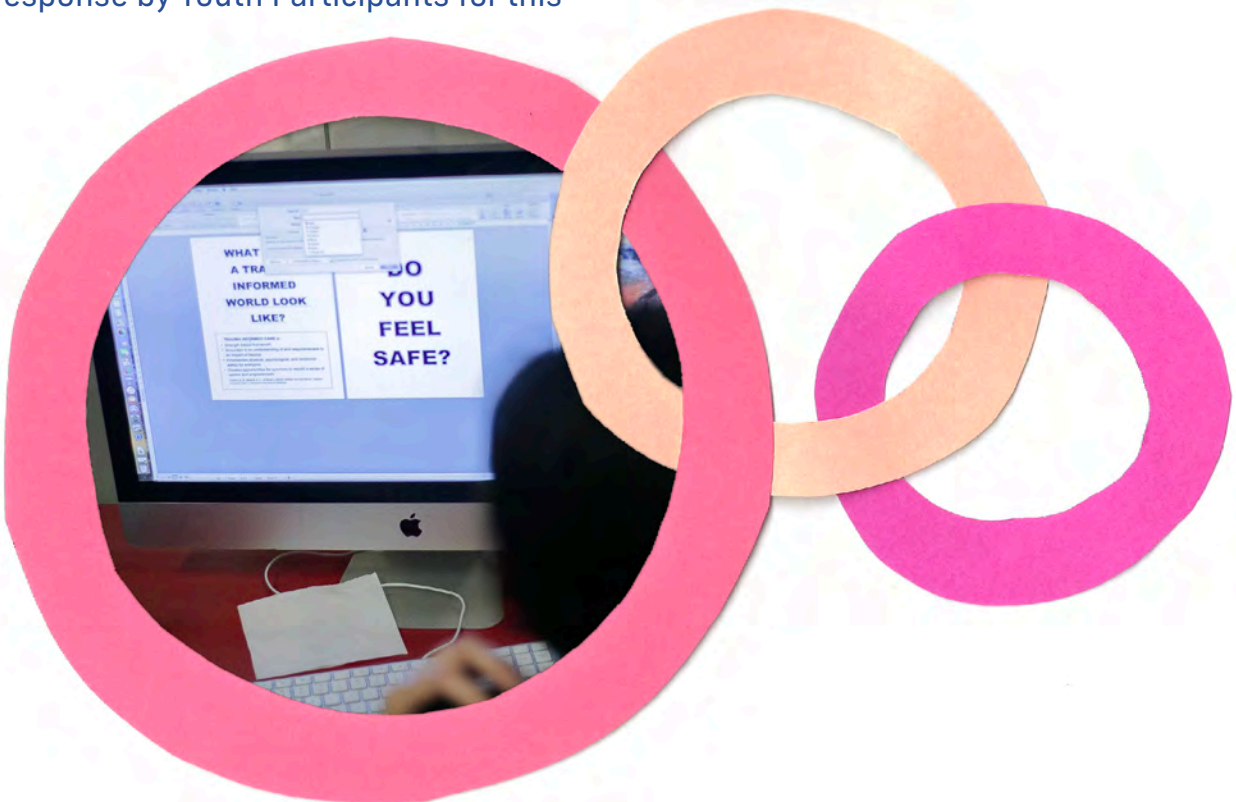
--- THEMES →

Safety in communities and neighbourhoods starts with identity, recognition of existence, and defining the underlying principles and values for it to happen. Youth Participants brainstormed a range of definitions that aligned with the lived-experiences of many communities and then posited that self-governance, greater autonomy and voice in managing communities, as well as affirmation of and respect for BIPOC existence in the urban context was an essential criteria and a 'first step' in building safe communities. The response by Youth Participants for this

topic was strong and direct — seeking to combat injustice with greater community defense strategies, informed by lived-experience, and knowledge, and grounded in an existential perspective for social wellbeing, including safety of individuals, communities, neighbourhoods, and streets.

"It's like the gun laws and [anti] violence laws are usually created and tightened after a protest happens"

-Anonymous (Youth Participant)





"Affirmation of our existence as a critical start, and [we are looking] to the inspirations for affirming our existence. We thought about the Black Panthers, the Zapatista, the Bear Clan Patrol, The Community that Created Palestine, The Sunshine House, among others. We're essentially thinking about ways of community governance... to provide safety for those that feel the most marginalized, but also safety from the state itself who is making us feel unsafe and not wanting us to exist essentially."

-Anonymous (Youth Participant)

Safety of communities requires both external and internal solutions starting with understanding core principles for trauma-informed approaches and harm reduction solutions led by communities. Critically calling out power structures rooted in white supremacy, colonization, capitalism and imperialism, and further reinforced by systemic policies and institutions over decades of time has to be addressed to be able to move forward on the topic of safety of and in communities. Youth Participants engaged in a deeper discussion on who the historical and significant community leaders have been or might be to give impetus for educating neighbourhoods and individuals on effective ways to ensure safe communities. The discussion rounded out with the concept that communities need to establish and disseminate harm reduction solutions that are 'home-grown' — not solutions imposed by policing, city authorities, and outsiders without critical knowledge of community lives, situations, and histories. Community leadership on the subject would ensure accurate, and effective articulation of the issues

DISTILLATION OF IDEAS INTO A CREATIVE OUTCOME →

The Youth Participants in this group looked to established activist groups and organizations as inspiration for their outcome which was an example of and for community governance.

inspired by their slogans such as 'Respect Existence or Expect Resistance', and the language used in the Black Pathers' code of conduct, and The Bear Clan Patrol's code of ethics. They were also inspired by how posters can disrupt public spaces and referenced activist poster designs done by Act Up AIDS and the AIDS activist artist collective Gran Fury.

The Bear Clan Patrol was created in response to a need for security within Winnipeg's inner city Indigenous neighbourhoods. Bear Clan Patrol harnessed the Indigenous traditional responsibility of keeping peace and assisting community members. They "provide personal security in the inner city in a non-threatening, non-violent, and supportive way". The Bear Clan Patrol is a "community based solution to crime prevention, providing a sense of safety, solidarity, and belonging to both its members and to the communities they serve".⁴⁰

40. Bear Clan Patrol "Community People Working with the Community to Provide Personal

Security". Bear Clan Patrol Inc., 2020. Accessed July 20 2021. <https://bearclanpatrol.org/>.



RESPECT EXISTENCE

THAT MEANS...

- WE do not tolerate racism, anti-blackness, colourism, sexism/misogyny, homophobia, transphobia, ableism, body-shaming/fatphobia, slut-shaming, classism, bigotry, or any dismissal and/or invalidation of anyone's identity and experience
- WE take responsibility for our actions and the space
- WE respect the privacy and autonomy of all
- WE welcome all with respect and empathy and expect this treatment in return
- WE operate on circular leadership – all guidelines are created by and for the community
- THIS is a living document

WE TAKE CARE OF EACH OTHER

"The hurt of one is the hurt of all"
- borrowed from the Bear Clan Patrol code of ethics

The Youth Participants envisioned a hypothetical community that had already been established and who needed a way to create a safe environment for those who came into their space. They saw that the community members would need a set of guidelines that would be a living document subject to change as necessary. The Youth Participants explained how the community would engage in circular leadership where there isn't necessarily a board deciding how community governance works. Rather the entire community is involved in the decision-making process including the use of transformative justice if a community member commits an offense.

← *Community agreement that the Youth Participants put together. This would be a living document that community members can discuss and adjust as necessary.*



“We specifically used this sort of language because we wanted to make it very clear to people what we expect of them and what they can expect of us in the space.”

-Anonymous (Youth Participant)

The first poster they presented RESPECT EXISTENCE is an example of a community agreement that can be posted at entrance ways to community spaces. The other two posters were designed to disrupt public spaces. They are designed to be cheap and easy for all to produce and to use. One poster simply questions ‘Do you Feel Safe?’ Feeling safe in spaces is extremely important as explained by one of the Youth Participants:

“...if someone doesn't feel safe it's difficult to participate, and exist, and get stuff done if they feel like there isn't a space for them to be heard or a space where they can experience violence if they do want to be heard”

-Anonymous (Youth Participant)

The other poster asks what a 'Trauma Informed world looks like?' and goes on to explain what trauma informed care is.

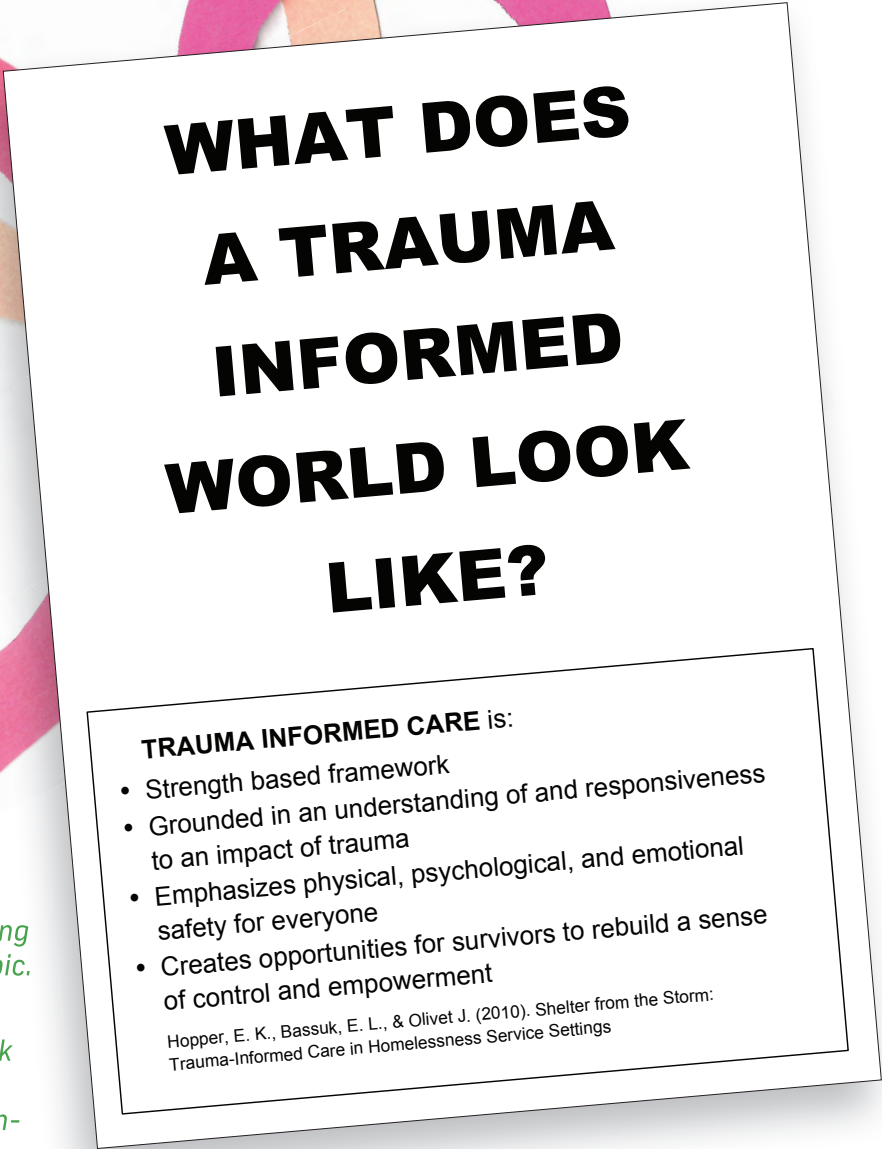
The Youth explain how asking these questions is a very significant part of safety. The posters are a way to "plant the seed ...to start thinking about it because ...when people walk around they notice it and ask what does that mean and they start thinking about it more"

-Anonymous (Youth Participant).

"Removing barriers to accomplishing these goals included greater community consultation on a face-to-face basis for implementing more recreational facilities, better and more housing and greater services and facilities that help neighbourhoods function, and meet the needs of people living in them."

-Anonymous (Youth Participant)





WHAT DOES A TRAUMA INFORMED WORLD LOOK LIKE?

TRAUMA INFORMED CARE is:

- Strength based framework
- Grounded in an understanding of and responsiveness to an impact of trauma
- Emphasizes physical, psychological, and emotional safety for everyone
- Creates opportunities for survivors to rebuild a sense of control and empowerment

Hopper, E. K., Bassuk, E. L., & Olivet J. (2010). Shelter from the Storm: Trauma-Informed Care in Homelessness Service Settings

← Youth Participants discussing and brainstorming their topic.

➤ Poster proposal intended to disrupt spaces. It is black and white so that it can be easily printed with the intention that the posters each be uniquely decorated.

"I really love the way you drew on so many different movements and also just thinking about how when we are doing this work it's work that has been ongoing and so it is really important to acknowledge and give tribute

and bring that work forward, and the work being done by grass-roots movements both now and historically. I just love the way you brought all of that together"

-Lena Phillips (Research Assistant, Community Outreach)

ENTERTAINMENT

**Discussion
Topic #9**

Keywords (Written):

1. NETWORKING
2. SPOKEN WORD
3. ART STARTS
4. NEXT WAVE, AFRO-GLOBAL AND REMIX
5. GRANTS
6. SHOWCASE ARTS
7. SHOWCASE BLACK YOUTH
8. PLATFORMS FOR VOICES

Keywords (Spoken):

1. REPRESENTATION
2. HIERARCHY
3. OWNERSHIP AND FUNDING
4. DISRUPT INJUSTICES, PETITIONS AND CALL TO ACTION
5. TAKING UP SPACE VRS CREATING OUR OWN SPACE
6. PRIORITY HIRING PEOPLE OF COLOUR
7. CO-DESIGN

Keywords (Afternoon Session):

1. MENTORSHIP
2. NETWORKING
3. YOUTH, INDIGENOUS, BIPOC, LGBTQIA2S+, IMMIGRANTS
4. LOW INCOME AND SOURCES OF FUNDING (GETTING POWER)
5. RECOGNITION AND REPRESENTATION

"I think it's really important that we form things that actually are run by us or we are at the top because it's all circulating back into the same communities"

-Anonymous (Youth Participant)

--- THEMES → -----

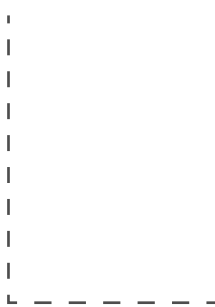
1. BIPOC Youth in Toronto are Feeling the Exclusions of Existing Creative Practice Structures that Support, Foster and Reward NextGen Artists.

Participants believe they are unable to showcase their art practices, including filmmaking, on an international platform. How will BIPOC NextGen communities learn of pathways to success? What programs and promotional efforts are available, including programs for artistic and personal growth and social and professional networking? Spaces to create without the financial burden are needed and while more becomes avail-

able with some social housing developments, and arts funded organizations, there remains a gap in sustainable resources for young and talented BIPOC artists building their careers.

The gaps in services noted in discussions among the Youth Participants included a lack of mentorship from the community and elsewhere, safe and supportive networking opportunities, where Youth can express their ideas

EXAMPLE



SKETCH see Youth as “culture makers, perception changers and collaborators in building creative communities” (sketch.ca/about/who-we-are/). Sketch supports all Youth between the age of 16 and 29 who experience poverty, housing insecurity, and/or who live on the margins from across Canada. The organization believes that art has the power to increase resiliency and agency to live well and lead in creating more inclusive and vibrant communities. Sketch believes that the Youth of Canada have unique perspectives to locate where and how society needs to change in terms of social justice and equity.⁴¹

REFERENCE

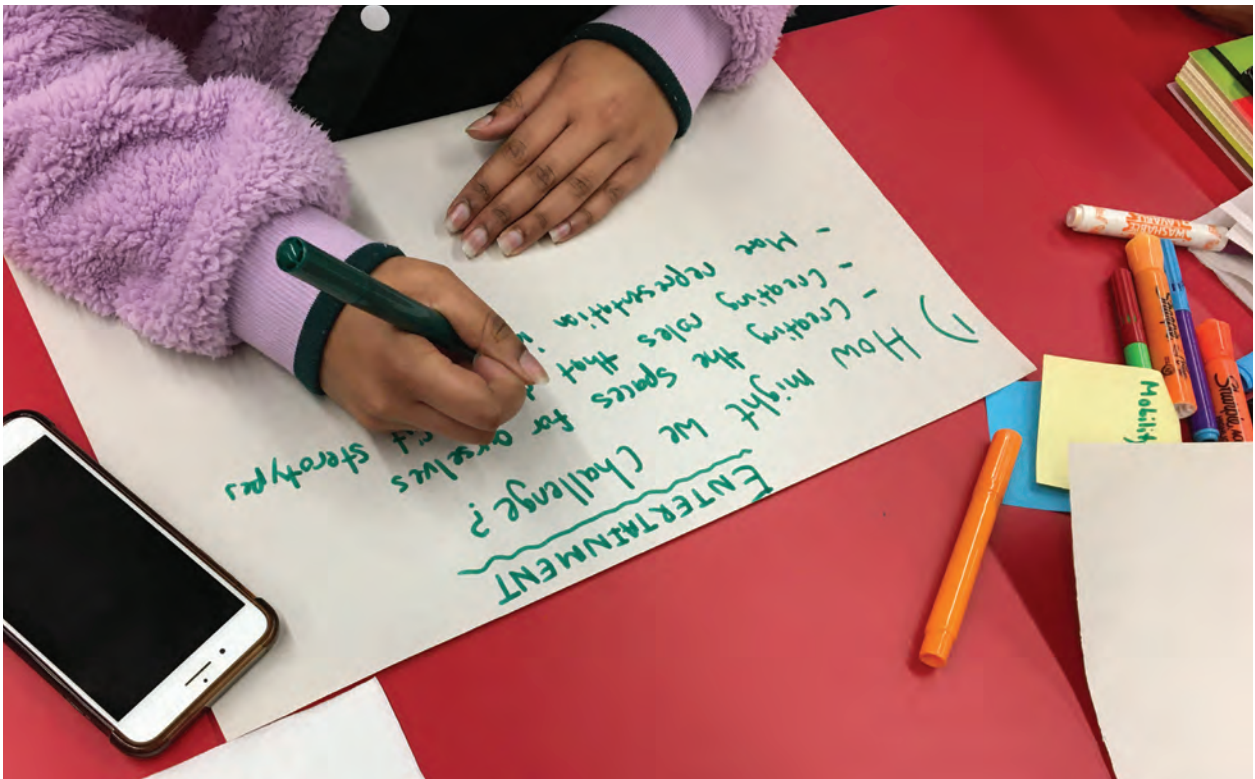
41. SKETCH Working Arts. May 25, 2021. Accessed July 20 2021. <https://www.sketch.ca/about/who-we-are/>.

and share their creative energy— particularly in the established and exclusive entertainment industry including film, media, journalism, theatre, music, and other creative arts practices in the city. A place and space as well as resources for Youth to achieve their creative dreams was a universal theme in this discussion.

Breaking stereotypes around the entertainment industry is another critical first step to decolonizing existing creative practices and professions in the city.

When there is representation in the system and administration by diversity on the Boards of Directors, then the challenge to the people in power who hire artists and creatives can begin. The 'gatekeepers' suffer from an "utter lack of seeing our [BIPOC] faces in any of these important places. They're not very welcoming. The hierarchy ultimately comes down to the people in power. BIPOC Youth feel they are not the ones who own, fund stuff but they can be the ones to disrupt the systemic exclusions". (- Anonymous Youth Participant). The

↓ *Youth Participants brainstorming their topic.*



Youth Participants discussed how to bring about decolonising the industry, including creating petitions, calls to actions, and documenting what happens in privileged spaces. In other words, using creative practices such as investigative journalism and filmmaking to make their point heard and to start the shift towards change for marginalized communities to have a platform for presenting films, music, short films, biographies, documentaries, music videos that reflect the community and their lived-experiences with and in the entertainment industry.

"A big part of what all of this ties into when it comes to the entertainment industry, especially as far as we know here in Toronto, is that everything is very white, to say the least. When it comes to film festivals and event organizations — the Board of Directors are usually white and the funding comes from rich white privileged people in the city... However, if [communities] want to work on a specific creative project and they don't have the funds in that moment to do so, that is what ... is needed."

-Anonymous (Youth Participant)

How might we challenge?

How might we disrupt?

How might we prioritize those impacted?

Parts of the built environment that manifest injustice

How might we make space / eliminate injustice?

"The way we can disrupt [is] by allowing people to be in there, prioritize helping others through Social Media, newsprint, advertising, etc. Create professional opportunities solely for POC by asking them what they like, want to be and where they want to go in the industry. Include them in the broader conversation, and then allow only POC to apply for positions in order to [reach the goals for representation]."

-Anonymous (Youth Participant)

OBSERVATION

The group dynamics and the discourse often lead off with numerous questions as part of creating discussion, and as part of brainstorming solutions. The questions themselves would be a rich resource for the city to hear and have knowledge of. When city officials speak, they often start with questions as they attempt to respond or in some cases obfuscate on answers — asking more and different questions as a way of not directly answering a specific question.

EXAMPLE



The Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF) "is a not-for-profit cultural organization whose mission is to transform the way people see the world through film".⁴² Next Wave is a group of 12 students (aged 15–18) who are aspiring filmmakers, writers, actors, interested in the business of film and festivals, or event planning.⁴³ This initiative begins to offer Youth an opportunity to showcase their work on an international level. However, the exclusiveness of this committee creates a barrier for Youth who have not had the privilege of attending specialized arts institutions or public/private schools with arts programs.

REFERENCES

42. Toronto International Film Festival. About TIFF '21. 2021. Accessed July 20 2021. <https://tiff.net/about-tiff-21>

43. Toronto International Film Festival. TIFF Next Wave. 2021. Accessed July 20 2021. <https://tiff.net/nextwave>.



← Morning presentation of ideas

EXAMPLE

The Remix Project is a registered charity in Toronto and Chicago that aims to provide equitable opportunities for Youth from marginalized and under-served communities. Their programs and services provide Youth seeking entry into creative industries an alternative, creative educational program.

“Many of our young people have been disengaged by the system available to them and often believe that a path along the straight and narrow is not an option for them. It is critical for a project of this nature to get off the ground so that Youth from Toronto and Chicago priority neighbourhoods (and beyond) know that it IS possible to be a master of their own destiny and understand that there is a place for them in our society offering more than a job at a call centre or in a jail cell”.⁴⁴

REFERENCE

44. The Remix Project. (n.d.). Accessed July 20, 2021. <https://theremixproject.com/>.

– – – DISTILLATION OF IDEAS INTO A CREATIVE OUTCOME →

Youth Participants: Selina McCallum, Tamarinn Murray,
and 2 Anonymous Participants

The problem that the Youth Participants focused on was how Youth of marginalized communities in Toronto are unable to showcase their art on an international platform. They understand how power and recognition can come from having global exposure. The Youth Participants recognized the great need for international membership, international mentorship, international networking opportunities, opportunities for feedback on creative work, and grant writing assistance in order to support Youth with the skills they need to gain recognition on an international level. They also saw a need for this to be an initiation organized by their own communities. The existing models that the Youth Participants researched included Sketch, Tiff New Wave, R.I.S.E. Edutainment, NIA Centre, and TheRemix Project. All of

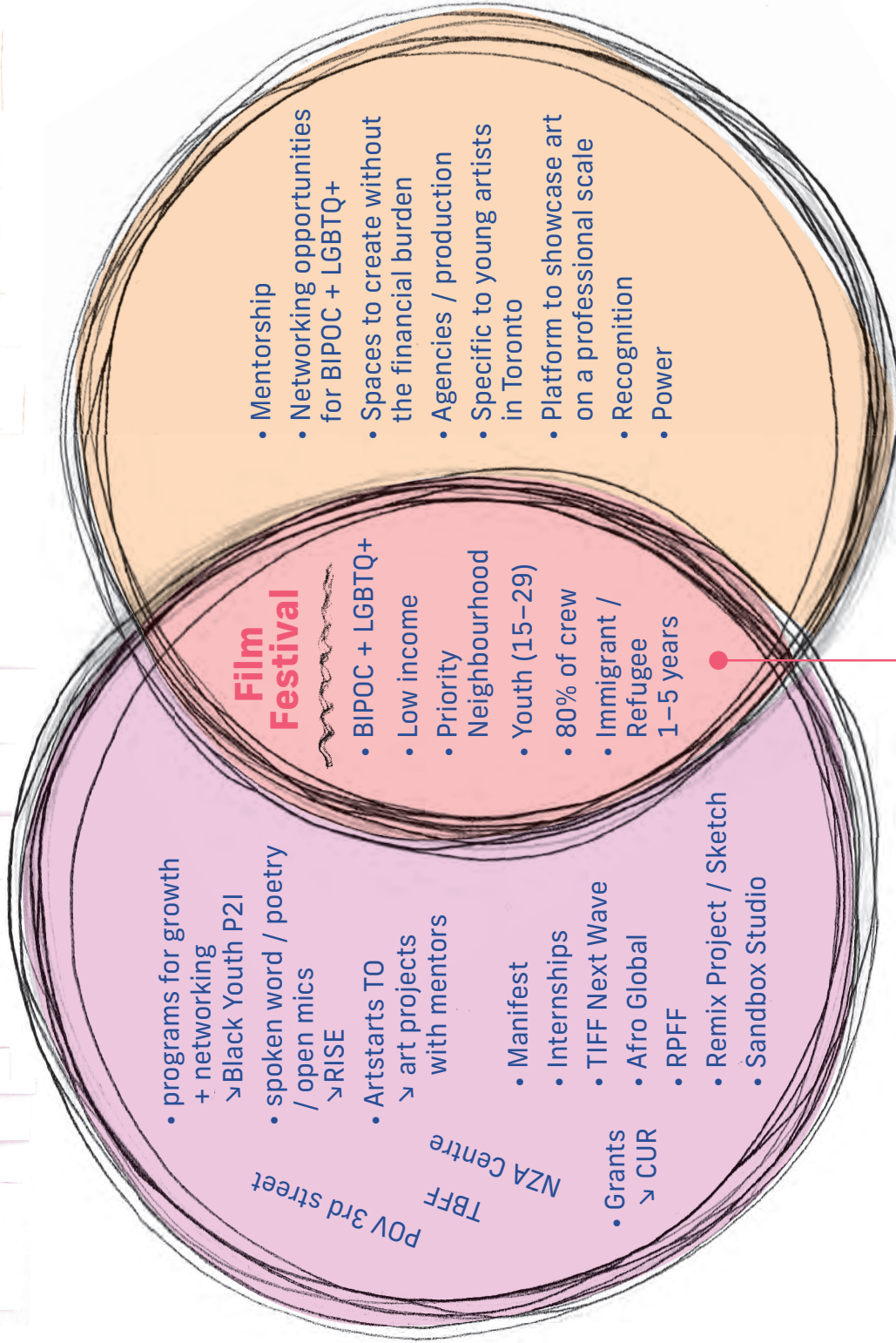
these provide excellent examples of organizations that showcase creative Youth, however, none of these offered international exposure and membership. In order to address this gap the Youth Participants created a hypothetical “About YOUTh Film Festival”. This festival would be a platform to showcase, on an international level, art done by Youth who identify as BIPOC, LGBTQIA2S+, lower income, immigrants and refugees who have arrived in Canada less than five years ago, and Youth who are housing precarious.

For Youth who ... “dream of winning an Oscar or a Golden Globe this is their chance to be recognized on an international platform that would allow them to say hey I was a part of this film festival and that really launched my career”

–**Anonymous** (Youth Participant).

WHAT'S AVAILABLE

WHAT'S NEEDED



Problem: Youth of marginalized communities in Toronto are unable to showcase their art on an international platform. *Power comes globally*

Solution: About YOUTH Film Festival
Showcases art on an international level

← *Diagram by Youth Participants explaining how they arrived at their concept for the About YOUTH Film Festival*

↓ Youth Participants explaining the About YOUth Film Festival



EXAMPLE

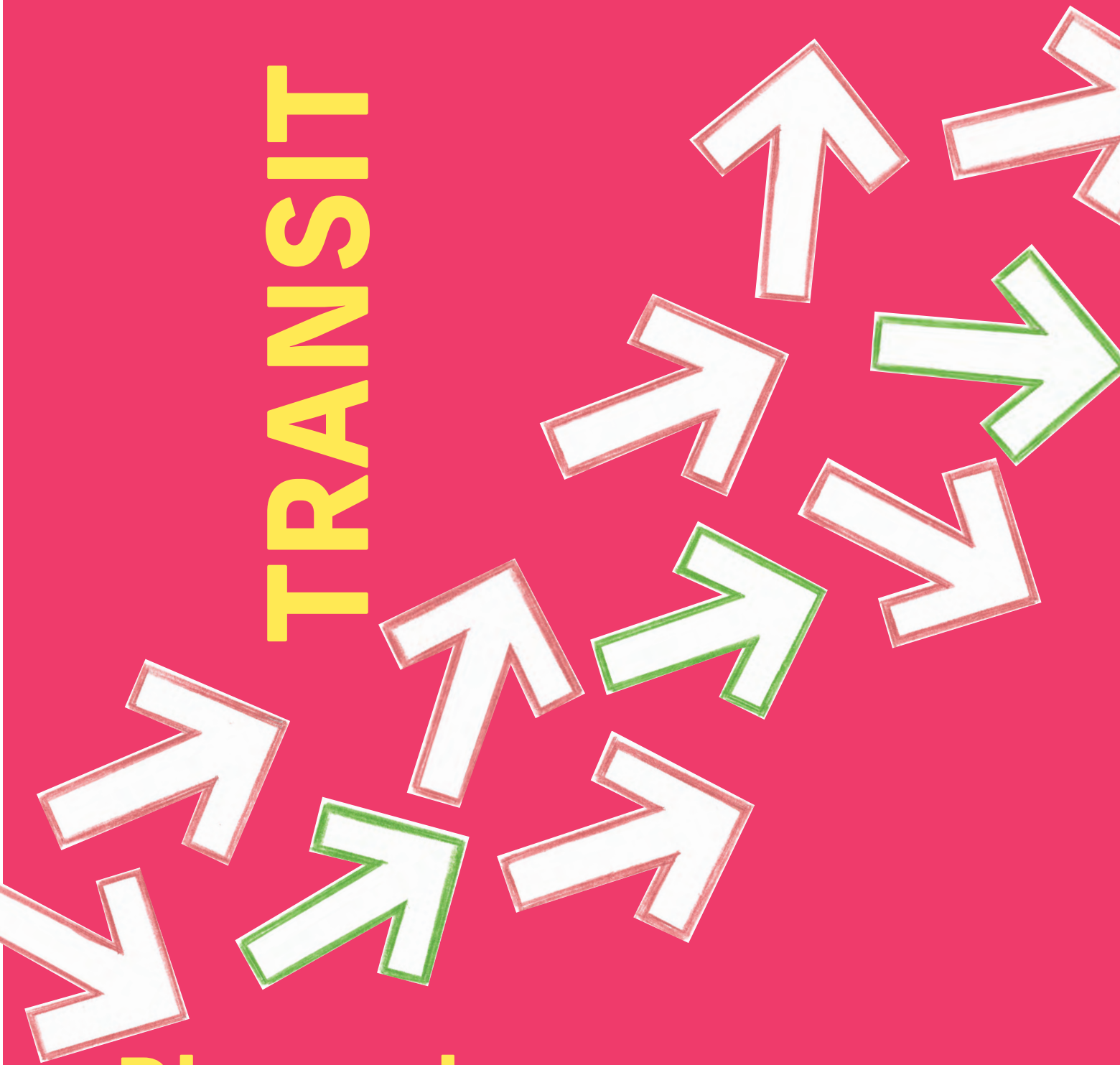
NIA Centre for the Arts is a charitable organization that supports, showcases and promotes creative Black Youth. NIA Centre connects community members to artistic and cultural experiences, mentors, ways of building transferable skills, and employment opportunities. They are aware of the lack of safe spaces for African-Canadian communities and addressed this issue in 2015 when they secured a lease on 524 Oakwood Ave — a location in the heart of a historically Caribbean neighbourhood.

"Nia is a Swahili word that means purpose".⁴⁵

REFERENCE

45. Nia Centre for the Arts. Canada's first Black Arts Centre. May 3, 2021. Accessed July 20 2021. <https://niacentre.org/about-us/>.

TRANSIT



**Discussion
Topic #10**

Keywords (Written):

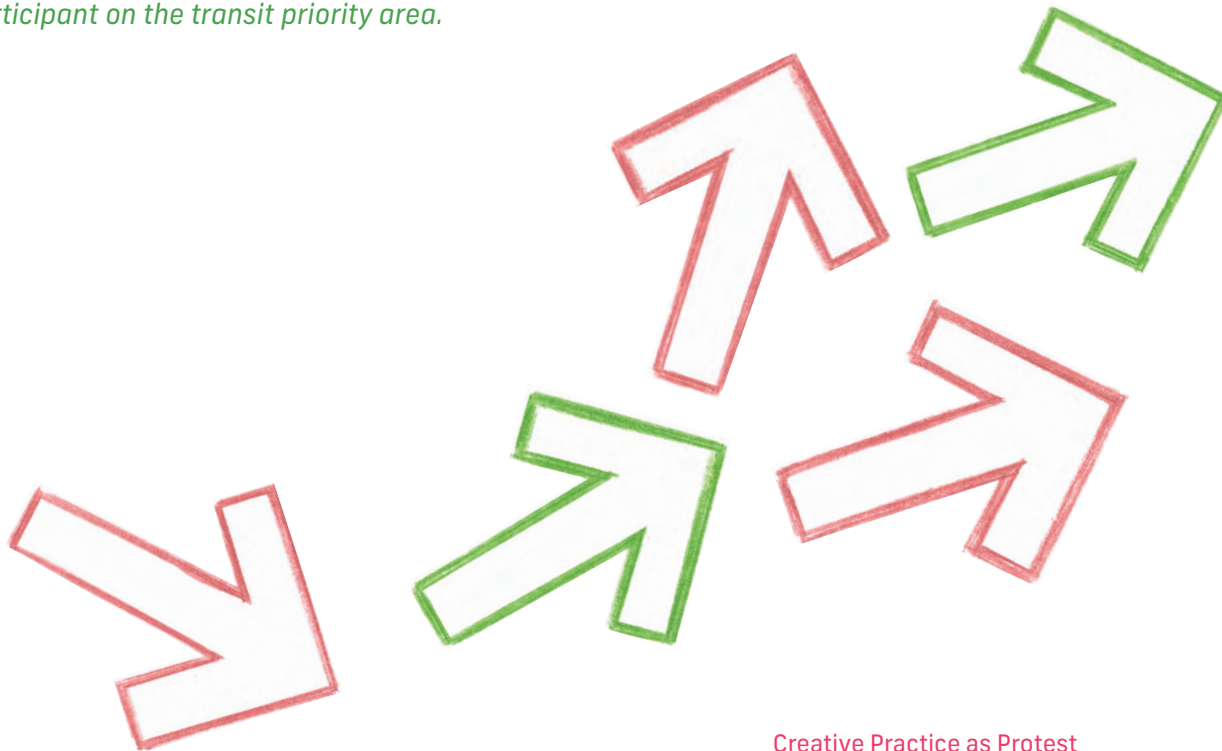
1. OVERLAP OF FOOD AND TRANSPORTATION
2. MASLOW'S HIERARCHY OF NEEDS
3. POWER STRUCTURES
4. COMMUNITY INITIATIVES
5. PRECEDENTS
6. COMMUNITY GARDENS
7. MEALS ON WHEELS
8. POWER, JUSTICE OVERLAP
9. MOBILITY, ACCESS, AND ACCESS TO FOOD
10. IMPACT OF PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT ON ACCESS TO NUTRITIONAL FOOD

Keywords (Afternoon Session):

1. MOBILITY AND ACCESS
2. TRANSPORTATION EQUITY AND MOBILITY EQUITY
3. VISION ZERO
4. ROAD DEATHS
5. SENIORS
6. RACIALIZED
7. ROAD SAFETY
8. KNOW YOUR PRIVILEGE
9. ABLE BODIED PERSON
10. SAFER STREETS
11. ADVOCACY THROUGH COMMUNICATION, SOCIAL MEDIA, POSTERING
12. REAL CHANGE
13. REDESIGN STREETS
14. IMPROVE TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT
15. CLIMATE EMERGENCY
16. PUBLIC TRANSIT;
17. MENTORS
18. FORMS OF VIOLENCE, TRANSIT VIOLENCE
19. INTERCONNECTION OF ISSUES
20. TRANSPORTATION CAPITAL
21. LETTERS TO COUNCILORS TO AFFECT CHANGE



↑ Creative Mentor Jay Wall working with an Anonymous Youth Participant on the transit priority area.



THEMES →

Commuters, be they daily transit users (of buses, trains) cyclists, pedestrians, senior transit-dependents, wheeled movers, or those living with disabilities all have lived-experience to contribute to discourses and designs for transit. Yet, the critical decisions for how, where, when and for whom transit is designed is made by those in power who may not have first-hand knowledge of the range of transit experiences. When guided those whose lives depend on mobility in the city transit solutions can be matched to the areas of greatest need or greatest exclusion. Questions to ask when considering transit plans include:

- Who will be most affected?
- Where is the greatest need?
- What initiatives do communities have for their transit challenges?
- How can other areas of life such as food, shelter, technology, local economies, work, play, education, etc., be integrated with a community responsive transit plan?

Considering the areas of overlap for where power and justice meet. Access must be seen and defined as more than transit systems.

"Themes that came up [during discussion] were around Transportation equity or Mobility equity, Mobility justice, focus[sing] on Vision Zero. For example in the city of Toronto a few years ago the city council committed to Vision Zero- essentially a commitment with an action plan tied to it for zero road deaths. In other words, no one should die while driving or walking the street or biking on the streets. But not a lot has really changed in the last few years. There's been about 50 people dying each year and a lot of those were in Scarborough, and many were seniors. We are talking about racialized, older folks living in the suburbs"

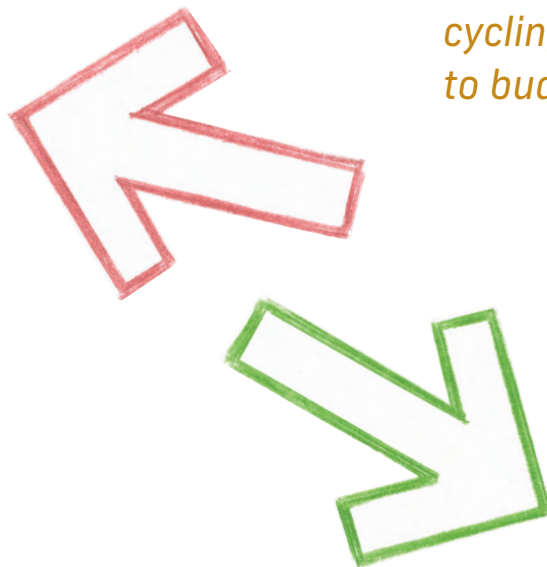
-Jay Wall (Creative Mentor)

The meaning of access can be linked to basic needs (Maslow's Hierarchy) including food (this implies food security, access to high quality food); access to financial and economic wellbeing (may mean work, opportunities); access to the physical environment (may mean safe, comfortable, inclusive experiences in navigating the city) All of these forms of mobility (including upwardly mobile) have meaning for communities health (healthy, nutritious food) and other key basic services and social outcomes.

Toronto budget process may be a mystery to the ordinary citizen, and more transparency in allocations is needed. The perception both real and envisioned is that communities are excluded in the process and they need to better understand the rationale for where, why and who most benefits with funding system currently in place.

The City of Toronto's budget process, has budget allocations for items such as road repairs, particularly throughout many commercial and well-heeled neighbourhoods. These budgets seem to be vastly higher than budgets for say, cycling and pedestrian safety. The implication is that where the concerns are greatest and loudest, there may be more allocations, or where processes have simply gone on for decades without question, the budget allocations remains the same. In the meantime, areas of growing populations (newcomers, and underserved, marginalized and excluded areas) with potential need such as safer pedestrian/cycling/car solutions take longer to budget and implement.

-Jay Wall (Creative Mentor)



--- DISTILLATION OF IDEAS INTO A CREATIVE OUTCOME →

Youth Participants: Anonymous Youth Participant

Creative Mentor: Jay Wall

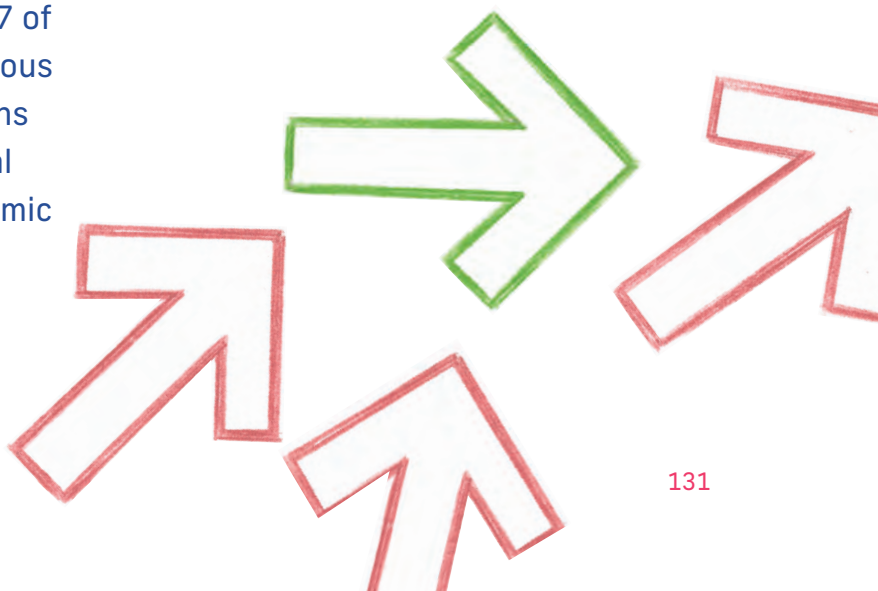
One Youth Participant decided to work on the topic of transit. Working with creative mentor Jay Wall the two looked at the different types of mobility and transportation — mobility equity. Together they decided to critique the City of Toronto's *Vision Zero Plan*.

Vision Zero is a commitment and action plan to eliminate road deaths, "in other words, no one should die while driving, walking, or biking on the street" *paraphrased -Jay Wall* (creative mentor). However, since the Vision Zero program was initiated in 2016 there are still serious injuries and fatalities caused by road accidents. As of July 6, 2021 there have already been 14 deaths (7 of which were pedestrians) and 95 serious injuries (37 of which were pedestrians and 7 cyclists). This all during several months of lock down due to a pandemic which limited road traffic.

*"The Vision Zero Road Safety Plan is a comprehensive action plan focused on reducing traffi -related fatalities and serious injuries on Toronto's streets. Launched in July 2016, the Plan prioritizes the safety of our most vulnerable road users through a range of initiatives"*⁴⁶

REFERENCE

46. City of Toronto. Vision Zero Dashboard. June 21, 2021. Accessed July 25, 2021. <https://www.toronto.ca/services-payments/streets-parking-transportation/road-safety/vision-zero/vision-zero-dashboard/>.



VISION ZERO OR ZERO VISION?

The City of Toronto is spending 44% of our transportation capital work budget on the Gardiner Expressway which is used only 3% of Toronto's population. A mere 3% is being invested in Vision Zero initiatives to make our streets safer.

The Youth Participant and creative mentor imagined a way to advocate for change through a communications campaign that denounced the effectiveness of the Vision Zero Plan. They designed posters that would be on the streets and on social media. These visuals would “put pressure on city council to be more progressive and more ambitious in their thinking”. -Jay Wall (Creative Mentor)

By posing the question ‘Vision Zero or Zero Vision?’ the campaign asks if, in fact, there is NO vision towards making a real change on Toronto roads. Following that question is a statistic or information such as: The city of Toronto is spending 44% of our transportation budget on the Gardiner Expressway which is used by only 3% of the population. A mere 3% of the budget is being invested in Visions Zero initiatives to make our streets safer.

← Zero Vision protest poster by Transportation Priority Group.

These highlights demonstrate that the current strategies are not working. Putting in more traffic lights, stop signs and red light cameras is clearly not enough. Even the cost is prohibitive. A new signal installation costs between \$80,000 and \$160,000 per installation and yearly maintenance costs between \$10,000 – \$15,000 per installation.⁴⁷

REFERENCES

47. City of Toronto. Traffic signal installation. December 6, 2017. Accessed July 21, 2021. <https://www.toronto.ca/services-payments/streets-parking-transportation/traffic-management/traffic-signals-street-signs/traffic-signals-in-toronto/traffic-signal-installation/#:~:text=Installation%20Cost,detection%20devices%20at%20the%20intersection.>

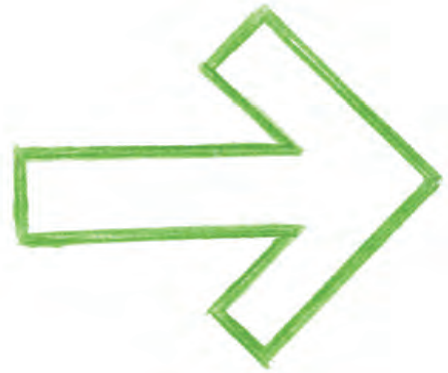
“I know my privilege as an able bodied person who lives not far from downtown and who can bike to work... I'm scared for my life everyday biking to work, and yet I still do it... there's a lot of work to be done to make our streets safer for everyone”.

-Jay Wall (creative mentor).

Instead mobility justice advocates are pointing out that we need to redesign our streets and get more people out of their cars and onto public transit, biking, or walking, which would also help address the issue of climate change.

An interesting comment was made by Jay Wall on the choice of language used on the poster. When working fervently on a project especially one with such extreme time restraints there is little time for critical reflection. Jay Wall wondered if there were potentially offensive overtones to the words 'Zero Vision' as this could come across as disparaging to those with vision impairment. He also mentioned how the Vision Zero is about people dying on the street 'in the sense of cars on people's bodies'. But, he questioned whether a homeless person dying on the street isn't also a form of violence? We must always remember to step back and think about the connections to other issues"
-Jay Wall (Creative Mentor).

Creative mentor Jay Wall →
and Youth Participant
presenting their final ideas



*"Consider someone who is riding the bus because maybe they can't afford a car. That person may be sitting in traffic caused by all these people driving around in single occupancy vehicles. How is that fair? So it's also looking at how we can change the balance to improve the experiences of people who are making economic, environmentally and socially responsible decisions about transportation."*⁴⁸

REFERENCE

48. Campbell, D. What does Transportation Equity Mean? U of T Researcher on Why it's Too Important to Ignore. *University of Toronto News*. November 8, 2019. <https://www.utoronto.ca/news/what-does-transportation-equity-mean-u-t-researcher-why-it-s-too-important-ignore>. Accessed July 25, 2021.



EXAMPLE

At the end of the transit presentation there was an interesting conversation with the entire group about the intersection of McCaul and Queen Street in downtown Toronto. It is an intersection that many OCAD U students use to get from one campus building to the next. It is a very confusing intersection for traffic and the addition of jaywalkers makes it much more dangerous for all.⁴⁹ It took 38 letters from OCAD U staff, students, and faculty members to finally bring attention to this issue and convince the city to put in traffic lights in 2018.⁵⁰ The lights were installed September 15, 2020.

REFERENCES

49. Facebook, OCAD Student Union. July 13, 2018. Accessed July 25, 2021. <https://www.facebook.com/ocadsu/posts/2159448340750480>.
50. O'Neil, L. One of Toronto's Most Awkward Intersections is Getting a Traffic Light. *blogTO*. July 31, 2018. Accessed July 25, 2012. <https://www.blogto.com/city/2018/07/one-torontos-most-awkward-intersections-getting-traffic-signals/>.

CHAPTER 4

Summary and Next Steps



Theories and Other Findings

Theoretical Keywords:

1. POLITICAL WILL;
2. DEMOCRATIC PRINCIPLES;
3. ECONOMIC EQUITY
4. NEGLECTED SPACES AND PLACES;
5. TACTICAL ACTIVISM;
6. STEADY STATES OF LISTENING
7. LIMINAL CITIES
8. URBAN SUBURBAN
9. SPACES AND PLACES
10. HEAVY LIFTING
11. DISLOCATION
12. PERCEPTIONS OF PROGRESS

"A really huge part of place-making is educating people on the space around them, what that space means, and just familiarizing them with that space. That gives the person a lot of power".

-Anonymous (Youth Participant)



Theory 1: Governance, Political Will and Implementation of Placemaking

The Federal, Provincial and Local players have a profound effect on the implementation and success of Placemaking in the Toronto urban context. The people-citizens, residents, advocates and activists are ready, but the City is lagging behind. There is critical need for the City to lead — not only respond — but to listen before acting. There is a crucial step missing in city actions, namely, learning from prior lessons as well as listening to citizens' concerns.

Trust needs to be built between governments and with people. Trust is gained through authentic actions rather than performative solidarity. Trust

comes from being present.⁵¹ Place-based actions must be localized with local participant resources to make it sustainable.

Communities need resources and support in how to navigate planning bureaucracy, how to advocate for themselves and how to lead neighbourhood projects. Governments need to start to use plain language and reduce the complexity of the system for non-native English speakers. In many cases acting outside of institutions and systems is the best way to get things done when too many barriers exist.

Theory 2: Misalignment of Democratic Principles

The United Nations General Assembly and the former Commission on Human Rights declared the following list as essential elements of democracy in 2002:

- Respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms
- Freedom of association
- Freedom of expression and opinion
- Access to power and its exercise in accordance with the rule of law

- The holding of periodic free and fair elections by universal suffrage and by secret ballot as the expression of the will of the people
- A pluralistic system of political parties and organizations
- The separation of powers
- The independence of the judiciary
- Transparency and accountability in public administration
- Free, independent and pluralistic media⁵²

Toronto needs to recognize that it is a racialized city. The “dynamics of spatial exclusion generate stigmatised sites where both people and the place are systematically devalued and denied opportunities to get ahead”.⁵³ The economic divide is pushing lower income, racialized, immigrant populations out of the city core. Amenities, resources, and infrastructure diminish as you move away from the city center.

“Places of social exclusion experience abnormally high rates of food insecurity, disease and premature/avoidable death, unaffordable housing, pedestrian motor vehicle accidents, low income, and more pronounced income inequality and polarization.”⁵⁴ An economic and planning shift needs to happen with public resources in order to share or divert resources from the central core and downtown Toronto to more suburban neighbourhoods where there has been less focus in the past.

There is a significant difference between equity and equality and Toronto needs to focus on equity in order to be the democracy that it espouses to be.

The disconnect between what the City believes and reasons it is doing, is not the same as what communities perceive and realize. Transparency and accountability for the sharing of resources and accessibility is not happening. There are power dynamics in play that are perpetuating inequities.

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51. Boutsalis, K. Transforming a Neglected Park to Bring a Community Together. *Park People*, August 20, 2021. Accessed June 19, 2022. <https://parkpeople.ca/2021/08/20/transforming-a-neglected-park-to-bring-a-community-together/>
52. United Nations. *Global Issues: Democracy*. Accessed June 1, 2022. <https://www.un.org/en/global-issues/democracy>
53. Wilson, Beth, Naomi Lightman, and Luann Good Gingrich. *Executive Summary: Spaces and Places of Exclusion: Mapping Rental Housing Disparities for Toronto's Racialized and Immigrant Communities*. Social Planning Toronto November 2020. Accessed July 21, 2021. https://d3n8a8pro7vhmx.cloudfront.net/socialplanningtoronto/pages/2414/attachments/original/1605551205/Exclusion_report_Exec_Smry.pdf?1605551205
54. Ibid.

Theory 3: Neglected Spaces and Places Foster Resentment, Apathy, Isolation, but also Trigger DIY Tactical Activism

Communities build community. They have the will-power to do so. If too many hurdles are encountered when going through 'proper' legal channels they will do it on their own. There needs to be less bureaucratic barriers for those individuals wanting to make their communities safer, cleaner, and more united. Government bodies such, as Parks and Recreation, need to support these actions rather than throwing up walls to access, stigmatizing Youth, and neglecting spaces.

However, not all empty spaces are disused. "When we talk about 'reclaiming public spaces,' particularly underpasses and other areas that are often occupied by people who have nowhere else to go, are we thinking enough about who's being displaced by these projects,

or what kind of domino effect they might have on the affordability of the neighborhood?"⁵⁵ Policies could be put into place to prevent developers from holding vacant lots and neglected spaces hostage. Government owned spaces such as parks and housing should allow for those living in nearby areas to have a say in what those spaces are used for. These spaces need care and maintenance.

REFERENCES

55. Rogers, SA. "Dome Dining Disaster: When Reclaiming Public Space Goes Wrong." *WebUrbanist*, May 1, 2019. Accessed June 19, 2022 <https://weburbanist.com/2019/05/01/dome-dining-disaster-when-reclaiming-public-space-goes-wrong/>.

Theory 4: Social Change Happens with Steady States of Listening to and Learning from Communities

The city continues to build environments and policies that prevent human interaction and engagement, such as benches that are designed to be uncomfortable to prevent loitering, limiting use of recreation areas... “When we plan and support such projects, we should consider who might be negatively affected and how we can mitigate that harm. That might require confronting our own

discomfort with poverty and inequality, and the ways in which we dehumanize other people without even realizing it. It also requires taking action.”⁵⁶

REFERENCES

56. Rogers, SA. “Dome Dining Disaster: When Reclaiming Public Space Goes Wrong.” *WebUrbanist*, May 1, 2019. Accessed June 19, 2022. <https://weburbanist.com/2019/05/01/dome-dining-disaster-when-reclaiming-public-space-goes-wrong/>.

Theory 5: The Sub/Inter/Extra/Marginal and Liminal Urban City Discourse that Impacts Inclusive and Equitable Placemaking

The etymology and term ‘Suburbia/Suburban’ came about from the 19th and again in the 20th centuries in Europe, North America and elsewhere globally and referenced neighbourhoods beyond the city central. These have been reinforced by a multitude of developer track housing (or government social housing experiments) on lands outside of metropolitan areas. However, the term has also shifted in meaning and implication from wealthier states of residential communities that offered larger lots, such as Frank Lloyd Wright’s Broadacres, to forgotten parts of metropolises where the less economically advantaged, or where newcomers could afford to live.

The dichotomy remains today, but what is significant is that centralized governments holding both power and resources have applied much of those resources unevenly to suburban or marginal urban communities, in favour of propping up and shoring up the central business and historic residential areas of the core—many of which have been gentrified with that funding.

Secondly, there is a divide in self-identity of these communities, where newcomers forging their own communities face some of the similar issues to the urban centres, but are not acknowledged by the adjacent or broader suburban community — this

results in isolation of 'extra-urban' communities like Jane and Finch (North York), Rexdale (Humber North), Scarborough East and beyond (into other outlying municipalities such as Burlington, Oakville, Mississauga, Markham and Vaughan etc.). The result is an 'orphaning' of what is typically communities of colour, indigenous communities, and many newcomer communities that are experiencing similar challenges (colonialism, systemic racism, marginalization, underservice, and more) as their downtown/central counterparts. This has significance for ensuring resources are provided in equitable ways to not only the urban communities that are growing exponentially, but to the diverse micro communities, often higher density areas, within those suburban precincts.

This state starts to shift when there is a critical mass of residents/rise in population in a suburban district (municipality) along with a prior legacy of independence — e.g. Mississauga and Brampton come to mind, and there, self-governance, separate municipal control and independent relationships with the province and/or the federal government directly impact funding to the municipalities to meet their needs. At that point micro-communities may have a larger impact e.g. South Asian communities of Brampton with stronger sense of identity, and access to better services and supports.

This is both a demographic and political shift. Communities such as Jane/Finch, however, within the context of the very large area known as North York, are still "down the chain" of the amalgamated city of Toronto, and hence remain a microcosm within a precinct within a city, and further away from centralized power, direct access to resources, as a result.

"Cities have the capability of providing something for everybody, only because, and only when, they are created by everybody."

Jane Jacobs, *The Death and Life of Great American Cities*

Theory 6: BIPOC and LGBTQIA2S+ are Doing the Heavy Lifting of Social Change

Citizens, namely women and members of all minorities are simply doing the heavy lifting of decolonization for the City of Toronto. They are paying attention, warning of things to come if changes are not met, and they are sharing, educating, agitating, advocating, stepping in and stepping up. Yet there is still a lack of representation in power positions, including on planning committees and municipal councils.

There was a significant repetition of conversations during the CPP Workshop with respect to self-identity and representation. Greater diversity was considered a basic decolonizing reform for political systems and city institutions where mentors could be representatives from local, diverse communities. Ultimately, the participants wanted organizations, businesses, and more, to be run by people and communities like themselves, rather than by those without empathic lived-experiences.

Statements such as 'disrupt power' and 'dismantle power' were repeated by many groups when discussing each of the nine topics. This may have been a result of Bryan C. Lee Jr and Colloqate Design's justice design vocabulary used

in his morning presentation, but also attributed to the deeply-rooted experiences with colonialism and systemic racism, which have Youth feeling vulnerable and overpowered. Going through proper channels to effect change often appears futile. This is witnessed time and time again in the media as Black bodies are continually being criminally profiled and murdered, Indigenous land is continually being contested, refugees and asylum seekers are continually being caged and deported, and at the least, stereotyped and blamed for economic conditions. The participants, many of whom identified as female and were members of BIPOC and LGBTQ2S communities, collectively agreed that their communities are doing the heavy lifting of making their issues be heard and respected. This, all the while they are fighting a good fight against marginalization, ignorance, and more, when it comes to planning decisions.

ORGANIZE ADVOCATE CREATE
FOR **RACIAL SOCIAL**
& **CULTURAL EQUITY**