

TORONTO COMMUNITY HOUSING CORPORATION

TENANT SERVICES COMMITTEE

JANUARY 25, 2021

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WRITTEN DEPUTATIONS

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Deputation - Cheryl Duggan
Item 2A - Public Meeting Agenda
TSC Pubic Meeting - January 25, 2021

TCHC TSC – January 25, 2021 Item 2A – Agenda

One thing that appears to be missing from this agenda is a COVID19 update. After the mayor posted on Twitter that 1386 TCHC tenants had been tested since June I believe that it is increasingly more important for an update to Tenant Services Committee on COVID19 updates for the tenants. The mayor posted and TCHC reposted.

I did the math.

(Total number of tenants tested)1386 divided by (Total number of tenants) 110 000 equals 0.0126

Now to find the percentage of tenants vaccinated we move the decimal two spaces to the right and that brings us to 1.26% of the total population of TCHC tenants that have been tested.

For the sake of expediency lets round the time frame off to six months. So 1.26% over six months that would translate to 2.52% over one year. Now we divide 100% (full TCHC population) by 2.52% (estimated annual testing rate among TCHC tenants) we arrive at 39.682539692539 for the number of years at the current rate that it would take to test all TCHC tenants. That's approximately 40 years! That is so far from acceptable in my view that I find it reprehensible that a mayor be boasting and Toronto Community Housing be reposting.

(Anyone that knows numbers knows that my calculations are on the generous side of the COVID/TCHC equation.)

In an additional video posted to Facebook the mayor clearly states that these tests were given in Seniors buildings. This justifies my previous concerns about the fact that TCHC and the city have created a two-tiered system that grants the seniors that live in seniors designated buildings with services not even offered to seniors living throughout the rest of the portfolio. This is clearly a case of city sanctioned discrimination based on address/place of residence. Certainly other TCHC communities would take COVID more seriously if we were all offered onsite, mobile, and/or door to door testing. TCHC should be looking to further partner with Toronto Public Health for the entire portfolio not just the seniors designated buildings. Especially, given the fact the COVID isn't killing just seniors but vulnerable people as well. And TCHC is full of vulnerable tenants.

Another partnership that the City of Toronto should have supported from the beginning was between TTC and TCHC. The TTC has had these fabulous stickers that remind people to wear masks on their vehicle. Ask them for their template for these stickers. After all, mask wearing in TCHC is going to be around for a long time given the calculation based on current testing rates that it could take approximately 40 years before all TCHC tenants to be vaccinated (if vaccination rates proceed at the same rate as the testing). That's just the current COVID variant vaccine not necessarily what it will take to vaccinate those that have already had COVID nor the vaccine for whatever COVID variants that follow. If TCHC posted these stickers on the inside of every apartment door (beside above or below the current In Case Of Fire sticker) it would reinforce that concept before they reach the elevator where signage is up but TCHC knows tenants don't pay much attention to. There are also some tenants that don't pay attention to COVID elevator capacity limits.

I'd also like to know at what COVID19 infection percentage does TCHC notify tenants of cases in their own buildings/communities? (A simple notice in a building stating that someone has tested positive may encourage mask wearing among the unaffected uninfected.) Is public health tracking tenants that



have tested positive? Can our Special Constables ticket those persons who are non-compliant with respect to masks? If not should someone not be advocating for the city to give them the authority to do so. (I co-ordinate the food bank in my building and I would very much appreciate the heads up should a known case be in my building. That way I could reinforce the mask wearing message. I don't need to know what floor or what unit. Unless of course they are one of the food bank users and at that point I'd need to deliver their orders to their door.) If there is no bylaw regarding mask wearing as a ticketable offence should TCHC not be advocating for such a device to decrease the potential spread of COVID19 in our communities?

How often are front line staff tested?

Could the Confronting Anti-Black Racism team not somehow take the lead on advocating for COVID testing among all TCHC communities? Especially given the fact that people of colour and the poor are the most impacted by this virus.

On November 9th, 2020 the COVID-19 Immunization Task Force released a statement regarding the preparations for the vaccine roll out. Shouldn't TCHC have a member on this Task Force to advocate for the vaccinations to be made available more directly to our tenants in their own communities? There are too many vulnerable tenants and seniors that have been told to stay home from the very beginning of COVID. I don't think they are going to risk a trip to the Air Canada Center downtown to be vaccinated. Just sayin'

Overall, there are a lot of partnerships that the City should have facilitated for TCHC before I made the suggestions. Now that I have I would hope for the health and safety of all TCHC tenants during this pandemic that someone will begin to make the appropriate overtures. Thank you for your time.

TCHC TSC – January 25, 2021 Item 2D (Appendix A - TCHC's Operational Performance Measures)

Tenant calls to Client Care are up by 4,129 over the same time period last year. May I suggest that part of the issue is being created by TCHC staff that may be new to their positions that are in need of additional resources/guidance that TCHC should be supplying in advance. The following is a notice that every tenant in my building received despite there only being about a ten percent of the tenant population in violation of fire safety measures: -

Toronto Community Housing Corporation
40 GORDONRIDGE PL
TORONTO ON M1K 4H8
Tel: 416-981-5500



Jan 18, 2021

Attention to Tenant(s) at
31 Gilder Drive

It has been brought to our attention that you leave a "MAT" in front of apartment door. The hallways need to be kept clear of all personal belongings. They are a fire and health safety/tripping hazard that must be removed immediately.

Should Tenant(s) failure to do so, tenant(s) will be jeopardizing their lease agreement with Toronto Community Housing. The Toronto Fire Department can Fine & Charge TCH or Tenant(s).

Toronto Community Housing is committed to creating safe and healthy communities.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ramzia Omar".

Ramzia Omar
Tenant Service Coordinator

Now by no means am I trying to shame the individual staff person. What am I trying to do is suggest is a solution. Many of these front line staff are new. Therefore it should come as no surprise that there would be a steep learning curve once on the job. In order to make the staffing transitions successful I

suggest TCHC create appropriately worded form letters that the area staff simply need to sign before sending out directly to those tenants that are violating fire safety or other protocols.

Step One - Brainstorm all the different notices an Operating Unit Office may need to send out to tenants with respect to violations that could impact their tenancy. In this case, the fire safety violations associated with door mats and door decorations.

Step Two – Find additional information that reinforces the need for compliance with rules, and regulations. For instance, is there a clause in the lease agreement that makes it clear that tenants will be violating said agreement if objects (door mats and door decorations) are left in the hallway? If there is quote that clause in the notice. If not maybe there should be some consideration given to including one.

In this case, there is the City of Toronto website making it clear that “The fire code prohibits flammables (i.e door mats, door decorations, wreaths, flowers, etc.) in the common area hallways of apartment buildings. These are dangerous not only because they can increase the spread of a fire but also because they could also trip or otherwise impede the fire men/women thereby endangering their safety and the tenants opportunity to be rescued.

List actions that can be taken. In this case, the first offence could mean the removal of the item/s and a nominal tenant charge. Second offence could mean contacting Toronto Fire to levy a significant fine. Don't be afraid to include that the actually fine amount. (I believe it's \$10,000 but you'll need to verify) Third offence, they are clearly unequivocally, and unapologetically in violation of their lease agreement. Therefore, a visit to the Ontario Housing Tribunal may be the only recourse.

Create a separate form letter for each stage.

Step Three – Compile a complete list of notices to tenants in a file to be included in each new hires staff IT account so that they have the available resources. Leave specific detail spaces blank (The TCHC senders address, the date, the offending person address, and the staff signature section.) Each of these spaces can be filled in before distribution.

DON'T mass distribute (or direct on site staff to mass distribute) notices to tenants that are not violating said codes, rules or regulations. I bet you dollars to donuts that my call wasn't the only one that Client Care received when these notices were slid into our mail boxes last week.

Deputation - Kathleen Doobay
Item 4B - Tenant Complains Process Update
TSC Pubic Meeting - January 25, 2021

TSC: Jan. 25, 2021

Item B Tenant Complaints Update

The example provided in learning from complaints poses many potential issues:

[not limited to]

- privacy, security & disclosure
- barriers to access
- inconsistency

Please consider making amendments to mitigate risk

Acknowledging Appendix C: In-Suite Repairs Process

Potentials of discrepancies between steps 4 & 5

Please consider revising steps to allow space/access for either tenant/staff to complete administration/status updates.

Acknowledging step 5 is new

To elaborate this step is so imperative to building/strengthening relationships in tandem with recovering trust.

Empowering our TCHC tenants to participate & know their voice matters.

Looking forward to the checklist coming out in Q1 2021 & continuing to find ways to do things better.

Acknowledging current inconsistency with tenant repair requests Transparency & clear communication (preferences logged & with ALL (CCC, superintendent, tenant, vendor, etc) parties involved (streamlined)), etc

Acknowledging current inconsistency with notice of entry

Accuracy & information included (especially if external vendor/ contractor), etc

Opportunity to ease any potential tension & strengthen relationships.

Recognizing (short & long term) abilities to leverage technology to automate aspects.

Please consider upscaling to allow space/access for either tenant/staff to complete uploads of pictures of work needed or completed, etc

Thank you for holding space for this deputation & your continued work in this space.

Kathleen Doobay (She/Her)



Youth Architects Internship Program (YAIP) in Lawrence Heights

PURPOSE OF DEPUTATION:

- 1) To inform about the program
- 2) To acknowledge the creative capacity of LH youth
- 3) To promote a pilot concept of creating an employment opportunity within the community through a tenant-led organization
- 4) To confirm with the TSC that the program is aligned and compliment the CED strategy at the tenants' level
- 5) If so, to propose a formal partnership with the TCHC

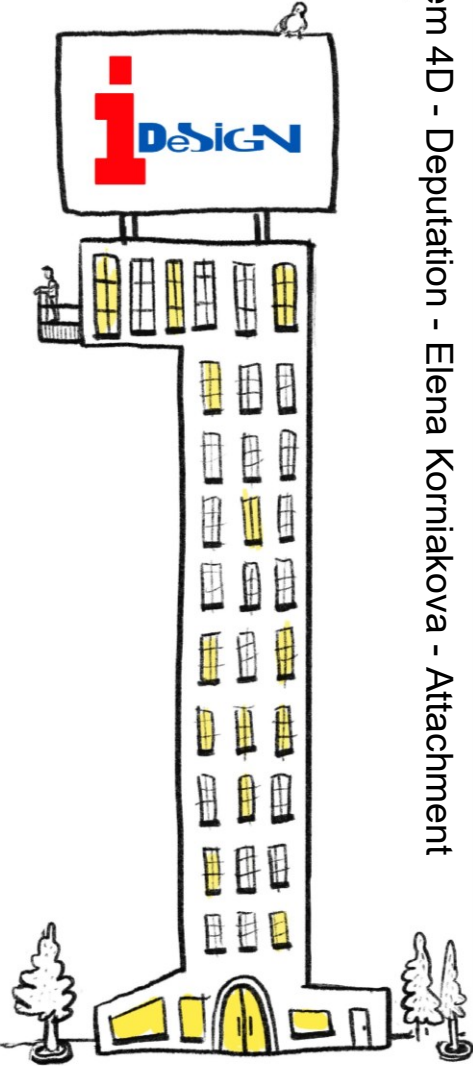
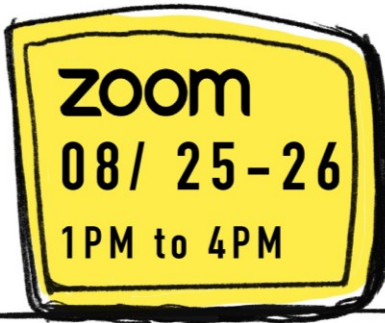
YAIP PROGRAM OBJECTIVES:

- To amplify LH youth capacity and
- To provide LH and neighboring regional TCHC communities with the meaningful employment opportunity aligned with the LH revitalization program as designers of their own future and future of their home communities
- To support the CED strategy: 1)to reduce barriers to employment and quality education, 2) strengthen personal and professional development, 3) additionally to the constriction trades, introduce the creative, Architectural Design component of the revitalization process
- To pave a path to a quality education through partnership with UofT, Ryerson, etc.
- To raise awareness of and promote a meaningful participation in the revitalization through architectural design and contribution into revitalization plan
- To establish connections across TCHC regional communities

BUILDING SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

1st VIRTUAL YOUTH ARCHITECTS CONFERENCE

- + youth architect's pitch
- + roundtable with city planners
- + guest speakers from experts in the architecture field



Item 4D - Deputation - Elena Korniakova - Attachment



North York
Community
House

2020 Youth Architects

■ program developers/facilitators

ELENA KORNIAKOVA

Lawrence Heights Resident/Architect
Director of Lawrence Heights Art Centre

JOY SMITH-BROWN

Youth Worker at North York Community House

■ content

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

4

DESIGN TEAM

New Heights Creative Art Centre

6

DESIGN TEAM

The Crystal Pavilion

10

DESIGN TEAM

The Phoenix Pavilion

14

ROUND TABLE

19

THANK YOU

RESIDENT CO-FACILITATORS

Denise Quammie
Mohamed Hadi
Mariah Lisa Baker
Siman Ibrahim
Salman Mohamoud
Liban Ahmed- Arif
Mariama Bangura
Natachez Feare

PARTNERS

Ryerson University
University of Toronto
Jane Finch Community
and Family Centre
Sustainable

SPEAKERS/MENTORS

Reza Nik
Rick Sole
Derek Brunelle

FUNDERS

City of Toronto
Cultural Hotspot SPARK Project
United Way Greater Toronto

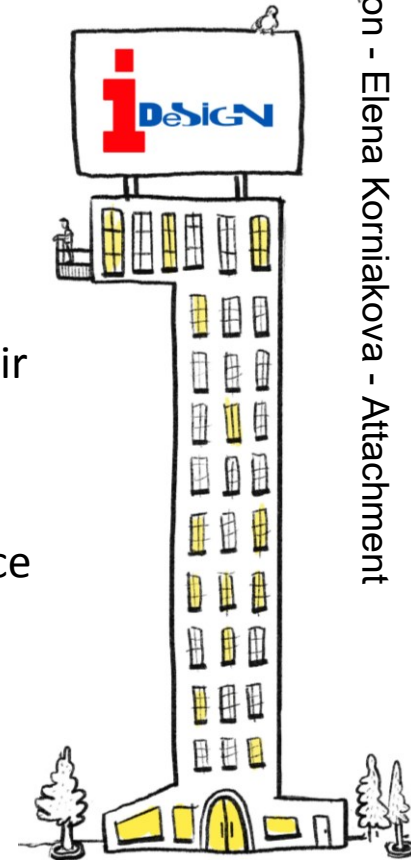
DESIGN

Rosianne Berthelot
IG: @rosianneb

Youth Architects Program

Engaged over 20 youth and resident leaders in a co-design process to:

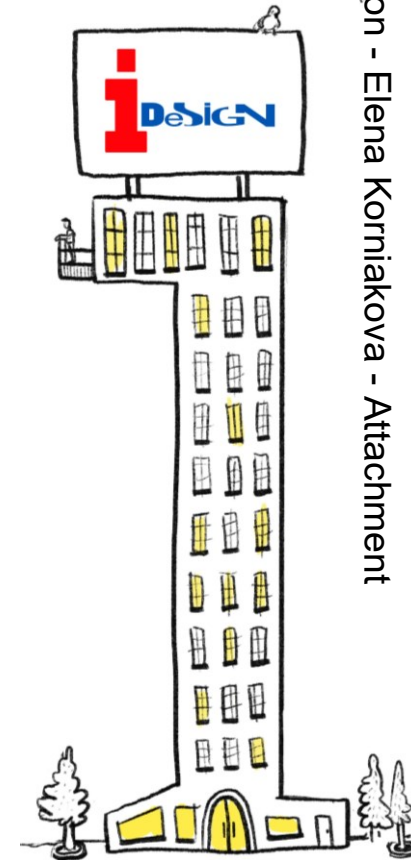
- ❑ Build understanding and empathy around the Lawrence Heights Revitalization
- ❑ Recognize residents as experts of their own lived experiences and their value in the design process
- ❑ Re-imagine the community through an architectural design approach
- ❑ Present design ideas to the community and contribute to the Lawrence Heights revitalization plan



Design Challenge: Park Pavilion /Community Hub

Building Parametres and Program Requirements:

- ❑ Up to 300 sq. m. of enclosed space, 100 sq. m. of outdoor space
- ❑ Building heights: up to 15 m.
- ❑ Vertical levels: up to 3 floors
- ❑ Accomodation for 3 various programs
- ❑ Projected design should not duplicate existing facilities



DESIGN TEAM
NEW HEIGHTS
CREATIVE ART
CENTRE



Item 4D - Deputatation - Elena Korniakova - Attachment

Youth Architects:

Jacob (Lead Designer)

Natachez (Lead Researcher)

Athavan (Designer)

Showbiga (Researcher)

Thalia (Researcher)

Clients-Co-designers/Residents of LH:

Denise (Senior Council rep)

Salman (Parent Council rep)

Siman (Youth Council rep)

Clients' requests:

- gardening amenity
- space for computer programs
- facilities for artistic expression

Design Concept

Context:

Revitalization entails densification, gentrification, and dissolution of communal identity

Challenge:

We want to preserve Lawrence Heights history and connect with growing community

Solution:

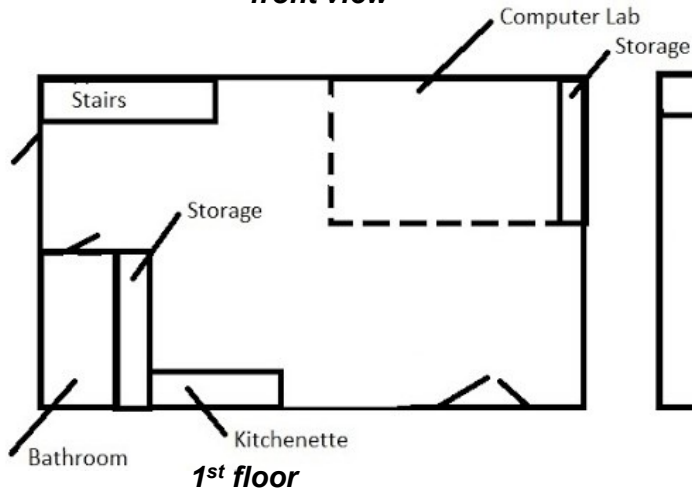
Three supporting colored pillars of our pavilion represent PAST, PRESENT, and FUTURE of Lawrence Heights



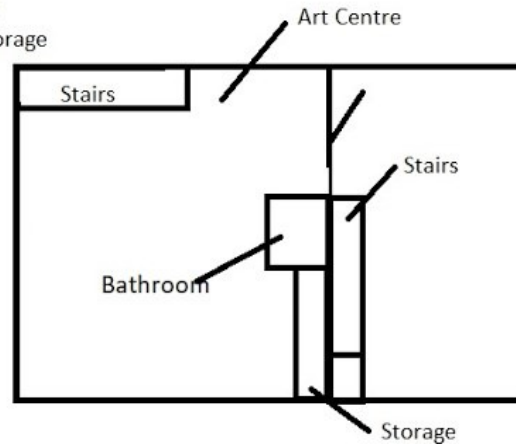
WHAT does the pavilion offer?

- computer lab space (1st floor)
- meeting space (1st floor)
- kitchen space (1st floor)
- space for art and creativity (2nd floor)
- green space (3rd floor)

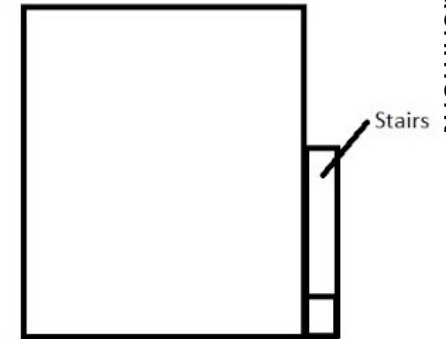
front view



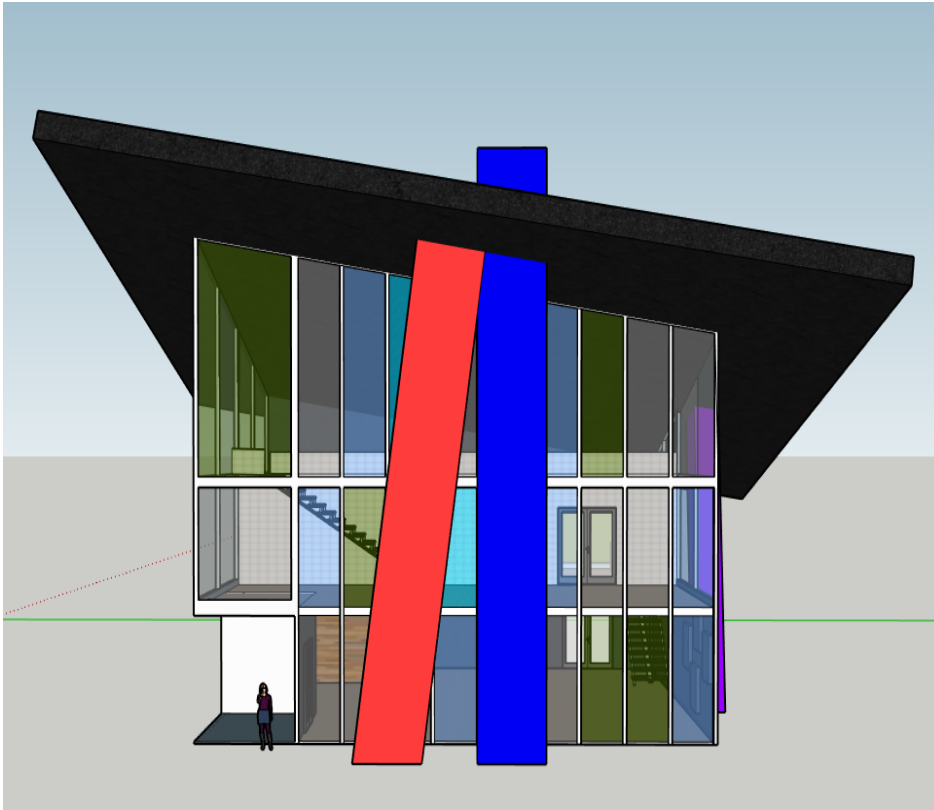
1st floor



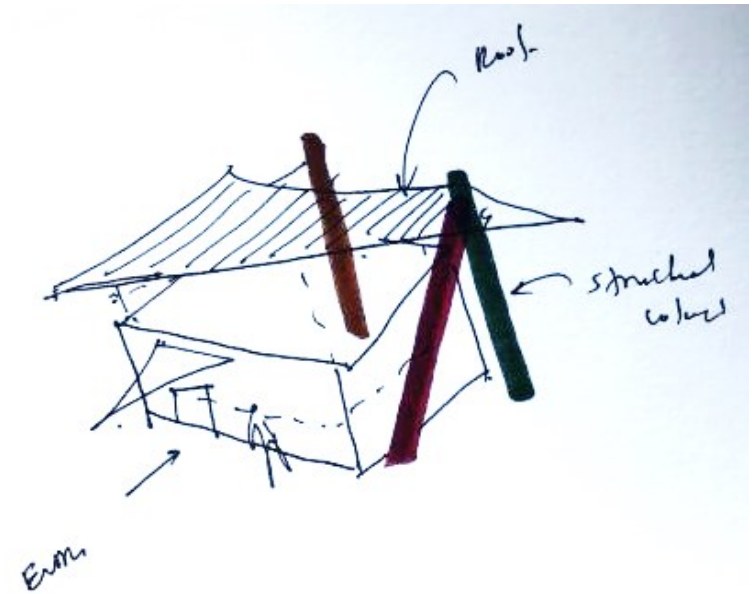
2nd floor



3rd floor



side view



concept drawing

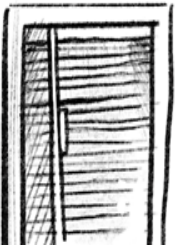
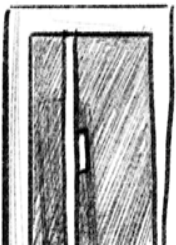
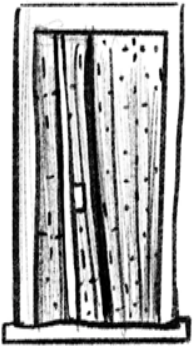


location setting

DESIGN TEAM

THE CRYSTAL

PAVILION



Youth Architects:

Havish (Lead Designer)

Negin (Lead Researcher)

Mohamed (Designer)

Maury (Researcher)

Clients-Co-designers/Residents of LH:

Mohamed (Senior Council rep)

Mariama (Parent Council rep)

Liban (Youth Council rep)

Clients' requests:

- green programs and study space
- safe space for parents and kids
- multi-faith prayer space

Design Concept

Context:

Negative stigma surrounds

Lawrence Heights community due to gun violence in the area

Challenge:

We want to replace negative stereotypes with new positive values

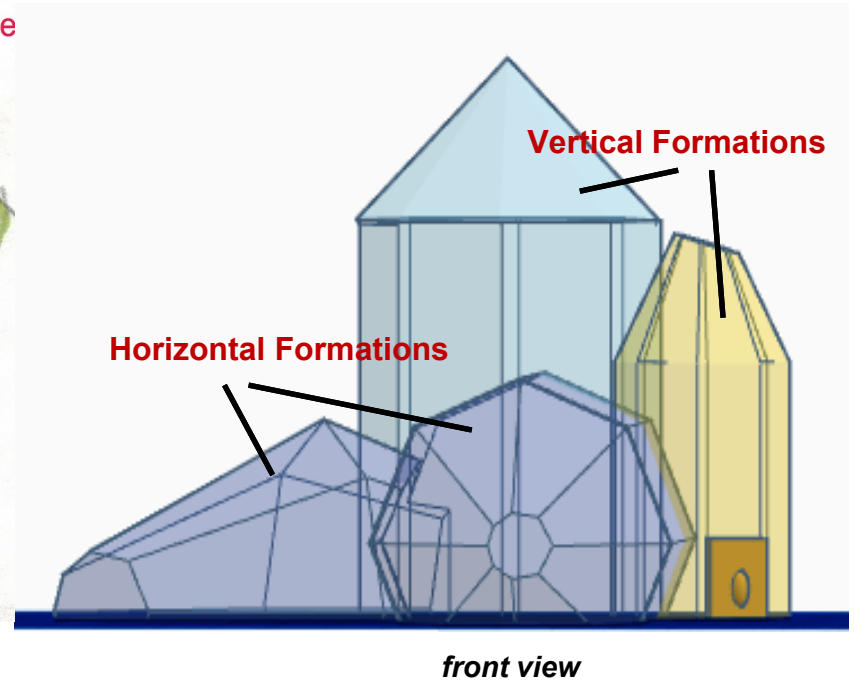
Solution:

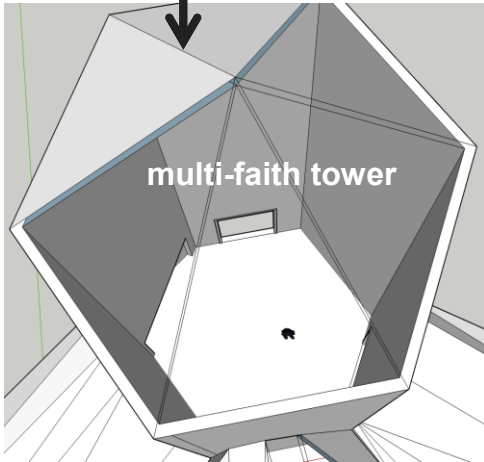
Crystal symbolizes rebirth and purity as well as essence of nature experienced immediately at the lobby area which is designed as a Museum of Nature



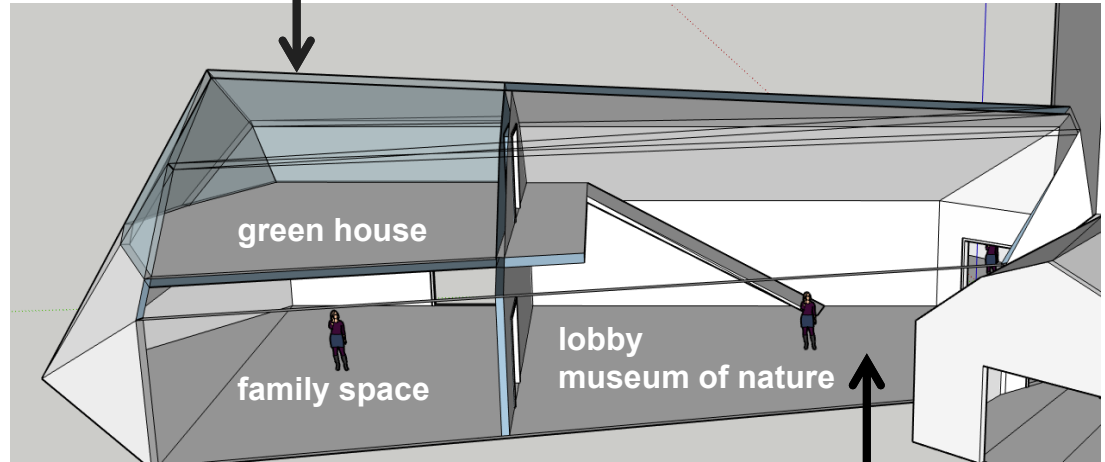
WHAT does the pavilion offer?

- multi-faith/meditation space (1st floor)
- museum of nature (1st floor)
- conference/study room (1st floor)
- family room (1st floor)
- indoor gardening space (2nd floor)

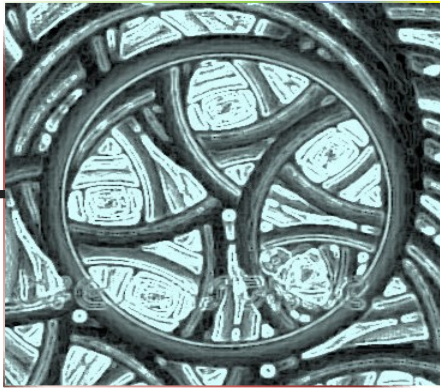




top view of the vertical formation of the pavilion



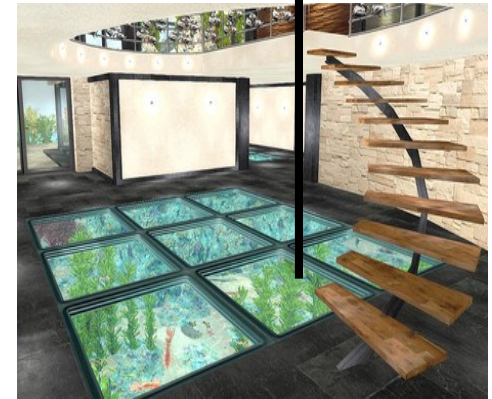
side section of the horizontal formation of the pavilion



Interior Design Concept #1
stain glass installation on the ceiling of the vertical formation of the pavilion



Interior Design Concept #2
roof pattern made out of UV protected glass and solar panels covering horizontal formation of the pavilion



Interior Design Concept #3
floor-integrated aquarium is part of display of the museum of nature

DESIGN TEAM

THE PHOENIX PAVILION



**LAWRENCE
HEIGHTS**
ART CENTRE

Architects:

Elena (Lead Designer)

Ophelia (Youth Artist)

Olha (Designer)

Yuri (Designer)

Clients: local artists/TCHC workers

local artists (LH Art Centre reps)

Ion (TCHC Maintenance rep)

Richard (TCHC Safety rep)

Olga (Saranac art group rep)

Clients' requests:

- green and study space
- art/design workshop space
- art gallery and office spaces
- parking for maintenance/safety unit workers

Design Concept

Context:

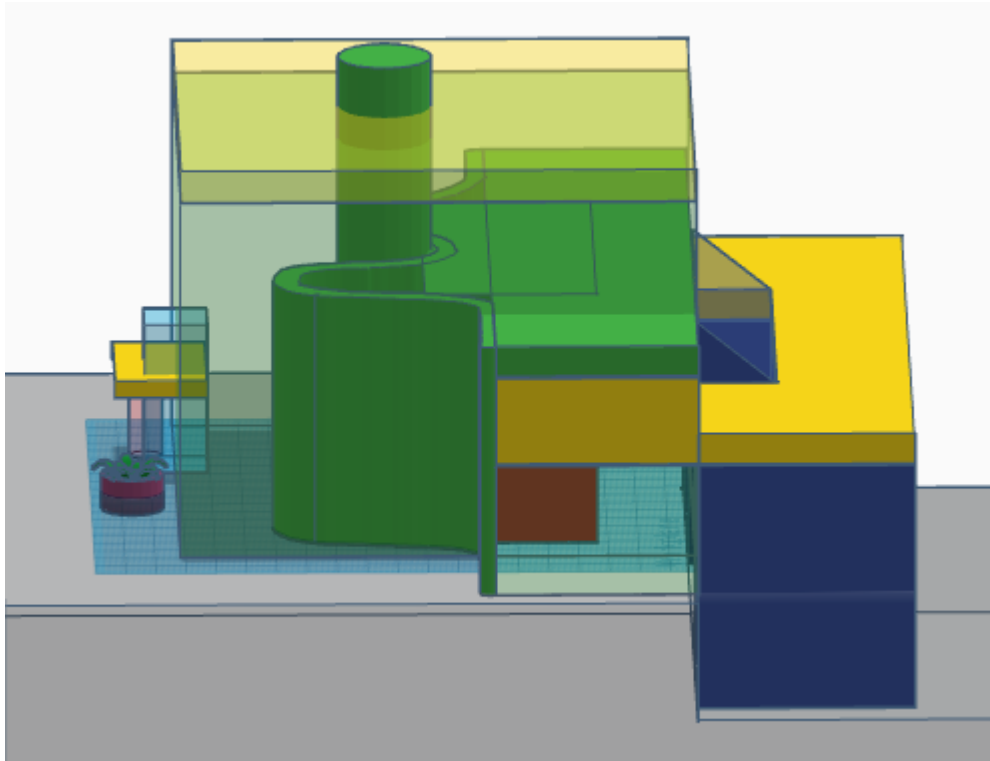
TCHC workers and residents share public spaces that are insufficient in size. These conditions often propel confrontation.

Challenge:

We want to comfort both groups and build spaces that inspire friendly relationships and collaboration

Solution:

The Phoenix Pavilion is a space of inspiration. Like the phoenix rising from the ashes, it symbolizes the revitalization and rise of new horizons for creativity and friendship







side view : diagram indicates programming zones

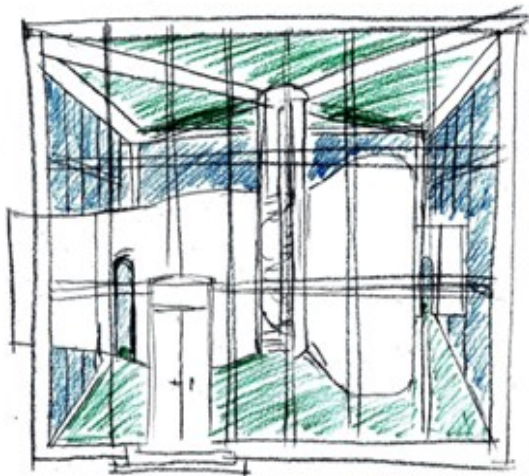
WHAT does the pavilion offer?

- Generous gallery space (1st & 3rd floor)
- Rooftop deck (2nd floor)
- Various studio spaces (1st & 2nd floor)
- Conference rooms and offices (1st-3rd floor)
- Public garage (1st floor- lower level)

DESIGN elements

- Glass curtain shell
- Penetrating meandering wall
- Circular staircase
- Indoor green island connecting TCH offices and community commons

- 
TCH local hub:
Maintenance, Safety, Revite offices, and Public Garage (lower level)
- 
Community Commons for seniors, parents, youth, LHION network, HHH, etc.
- 
Cultural, Art/Design workshops
- 
Art Gallery, Heritage Museum, and space for Public Events



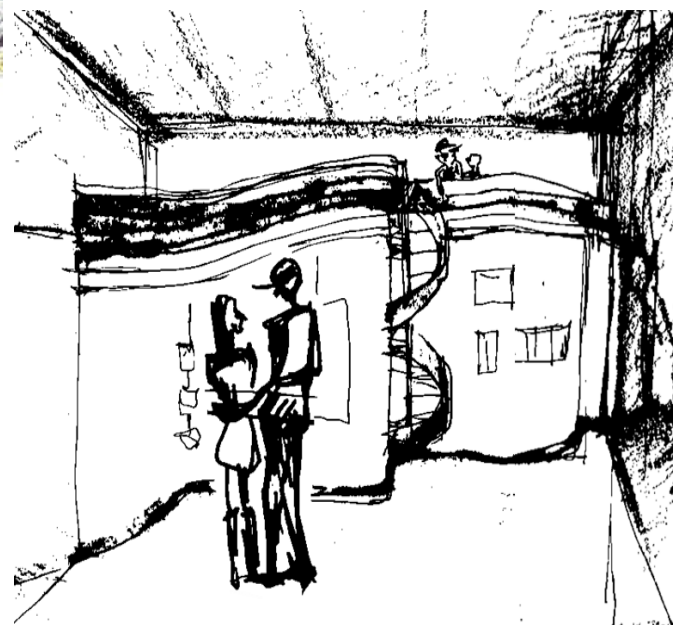
front view



Phoenix
by Ophelia Riley
local emerging artist living with autism



*3D projection of Phoenix on
meandering wall, stair wall and floor*



concept drawing of Art Gallery interior

2020 YOUTH ARCHITECTS

OCTAVIA RILEY

MAURY RATHAKONE

THALIA JANNA BARRETTO

MOHAMED SHEIKHOMAR

JHON MARC DAR

HAVISH VYAS

DAYANA MOKHTARSAADATMAND

SHOWBIGA BUVANENDRAN

JACOB HANEY

ATHAVAN SURENDIRAN

NEGIN ABDOLLAHI

DIANA LIN

ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION

BUILDING SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

LAWRENCE HEIGHTS **REVITALIZATION**

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. What are the steps for building trust between city officials and community groups?
2. What barriers do we need to overcome to achieve meaningful collaboration between city officials and community groups?
3. What new channels do we need to create for sharing decision-making power while building sustainable communities?

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION

MAIN PRINCIPLES FOR COLLABORATION BETWEEN RESIDENTS AND DECISION MAKERS

1. **COMMUNICATION:** *Intense and consistent communication throughout planning-designing-construction-completion-evaluation stages of redevelopment should allow for feedback and input from residents throughout the project for flexibility and prompt adjustments. Two-Way communication needs to be prioritized.*
2. **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT:** *Decision makers (City, TCHC, Developers) need to invest in building relationships with the community and provide meaningful opportunities for residents to get involved in different roles including a revitalization review panel. Decision makers need to be visible, known and accessible to residents.*
3. **SOCIAL MEDIA:** *Effective tool to reach residents and promote opportunities to get involved in the revitalization project*
4. **STIGMA:** *Address and confront stereotypes about residents from lower income, racialized, under-resourced communities to promote meaningful collaboration.*
5. **RESIDENTS VISIONS AND DREAMS:** *Residents bring immense value to the design process. It is discouraging when they are not incorporated into the revitalization plans and it contributes to a breakdown in communication, collaboration, and trust. It is important to be transparent about how their ideas will be implemented along with any barriers or challenges. There is a strong desire to see action when residents propose things to decision makers.*
6. **CLEAR NAVIGATION CHANNELS:** *There is a need for transparent administrative structure for resident-visionaries to know who to consult ABOUT questions and ideas regarding redevelopment of their communities*
7. **COMMUNITY ACTION GROUP:** *with members of each of the stakeholder groups to share decision making power during revitalization program*

NEXT STEPS

1. Revisit City - Community relationship practices
2. Find common ground /mutual incentives in redevelopment process
3. Create framework for new partnership format and efficient two-way communication: social contract between City and communities
4. Find ways for integration of Youth Architects' design concepts into Lawrence Heights revitalization plan

Deputation - Kathleen Doobay
Item 4E - Violence Reduction Plan: Service Delivery Alignment
TSC Pubic Meeting - January 25, 2021

TSC: Jan. 25, 2021

Item 4E Violence Reduction Program: Service Delivery Alignment

Acknowledge updates made since posting Item 2D Appendix D: Violence Reduction Program Update

Acknowledging TCHC's restructuring

What is TCHC doing to ensure the four pillars: Community Safety & Support, Tenancy Management, Cleaning & Maintenance are reflecting such?

Acknowledge TCHC's confronting anti-Black racism work

How is TCHC utilizing an intersectional lens on VRP?

Acknowledging the disproportionate impact on women & children, LGBTQ2s+ & BIPOC.

Community Safety Unit ("CSU") presence, in collaboration with Toronto Police Service ("TPS")

[Pause]

To honour

Lives lost

Deep breathes

For all those who can't

With LOVE

Reflecting on our institutional settings.

Acknowledge the voices demanding community alternatives & the need for reform.

How are we taking violently inherent practises & transforming them into systems of care & accountability? [cited Ravyn Wngz an African, Bermudian, 2Spirit, Mohawk, Queer Transcendent Empowerment Movement Storyteller, Black lives matter Toronto steering committee.]

The University of Western's Centre for Research & Education on Violence against Women & Children (CREVAWC)

Link:

<http://www.vawlearningnetwork.ca/>

Acknowledging this work must be ongoing; above offers free virtual webinars which can be a part of your "work day" as a potential "lunch & learn" as they are typically held between 1-2 pm

Thank you for holding space for this deputation & your continued work in this space.

Kathleen Doobay (She/Her)

Deputation - Nate Medhanie
Item 4E - Violence Reducion Plan: Service Delivery Alignment
TSC Pubic Meeting - January 25, 2021

January 22nd, 2021

To: **TCHC's Tenant Service Committee**

Date: January 25th, 2021

Location: WebEx

Time: 8:50 a.m. – 11:25 a.m.

Deputation RE: **Agenda Item 4. e) Violence Reduction Plan: Service Delivery Alignment**

Hello Board Members,

Thank you for your time and providing this opportunity to share my deputation regarding the Violence Reduction Program (VRP).

My name is Nate and have been living at Empringham Mews just over 17 years that is located in the Malvern Neighbourhood of Scarborough. For those who may not be as familiar, it's a townhouse community with mixed families.

I am currently studying at Ryerson University and enrolled in their Business Technology Management Program. Although my schedule is busy between school, work and personal time, I along with friends I grew up with at Empringham have recently decided to get involved and volunteer our time towards the wellbeing of our community. In turn, we have been working closely with our new Community Services Coordinator involved with TCHC's Youth Violence Reduction Program. I am including below highlights that we've been able to accomplish and areas we are seeking clarity and reassurance on as part of TCHC's Youth Violence Reduction Program/ Youth Services Expansion Program.

Sincerely,

Nate and Empringham's Youth Committee

<p>Empringham Mews (110, 90, 50 Empringham Drive) – Scarborough, ON Below events have been in compliance with COVID/ Toronto Public Health guidelines with the support of tenant leaders, TCHC’s Community Services Coordinator – Violence Reduction Program/ Youth Services Expansion Program and community partners.</p>	
September 2020	
1)	Back to school backpack giveaway and BBQ takeout in collaboration with tenant leaders, Toronto Police Services (TPS) 42 Div. Neighbourhood Officers and Toronto Community Housing (TCHC).
October 2020	
1)	Weekly pre-cooked meals (over 70) on Fridays in collaboration with tenant leaders, 5n2 Kitchen, TPS 42 Div. Neighbourhood Officers and TCHC.
2)	<p>Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) audit in collaboration with tenant leaders, Malvern Family Resource Centre (MFRC), TPS 42 Div. Neighbourhood Officers, City of Toronto’s Community Crisis Response Program (CCRP), METRAC and TCHC.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Concerns re: high fencing in areas where past shooting incidents have occurred have been addressed and resolved with local TCHC site staff ○ Lighting along Empringham Drive (city property) upgraded via TCHC’s request to Councillor McKelvie’s Office and Toronto Hydro
3)	Nike shoe/ clothing giveaway to youth and families in collaboration with MFRC and TCHC.
4)	Outdoor fall fest (pumpkin carving and food takeout) in collaboration tenant leaders, Park People, TPS 42 Div. Neighbourhood Officers and TCHC.
November 2020	
1)	Community clean up in collaboration with tenant leaders, Park People, Councillor McKelvie, TPS 42 Div. Neighbourhood Officers and TCHC.
2)	Meeting held with Centre for Immigrant & Community Services, tenant leaders and TCHC re: weekly food groceries for families living in Empringham via Daily Bread/ Second Harvest.
3)	<p>Access to vacant townhouse space for food related programs at 110 Empringham Drive # 214.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Most if not all townhouses at Empringham are 3-4 bedroom 2-storie units ○ the inside of the townhouse at #214 is all on one floor allowing for practical use of space for programs and activities ○ From what we understand as tenants, there are considerations being made by TCHC management whether this space can become permanent for community activities and switched with the original community space (Hope Centre) right next door that has not been actively used

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ We are also aware there are 3 support letters that has been submitted to TCHC management in favour of this from the local Councillor's office, Taibu Community Health Centre and Malvern Family Resource Centre. ○ We are hoping we can receive a decision and update from TCHC management soon
4)	Food distribution, Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and 50 \$50.00 grocery gift cards in collaboration with tenant leaders, Global Medic and TCHC.
5)	Meeting with staff in Facilities Management (FM) with TCHC re: proposed landscaping upgrades. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Tenant participation has led to inform upcoming basketball court renovations, garden spaces and outdoor workout area.
6)	Weekly breakfast program launch in collaboration with tenant leaders, 5n2 Kitchen, Legacy Dreams 2 Reality, Taibu Community Health Centre and TCHC. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Wednesday and Fridays from 7:30am – 8:45am ○ Organized and Led by young adult leaders ○ Pick up of food supplies done by tenants
7)	Donations of books, backpacks, HP desktops via Parents Engaged in Education
December 2020	
1)	50 \$100.00 best buy gift cards for youth via Taibu Community Health Centre.
2)	50 \$50.00 Grocery gift cards via Malven Family Resource Centre for families.
3)	50 new winter jackets via DeRo Foundation, Legacy Dreams 2 Reality, tenant leaders and TCHC.
4)	50 new winter jackets via DeRo Foundation, Legacy Dreams 2 Reality, tenant leaders and TCHC.
5)	Over 150 pre-cooked meals via Share A Meal initiative in collaboration with tenant leaders, Humanity Charity, TPS 42 Div. Neighbourhood Officers and TCHC.
6)	Holiday toy distribution in collaboration with tenant leaders, Malvern Family Resource Centre and 6ixBuzz.
January 2021	
1)	Breakfast takeout program continues to grow with information sharing between tenants, staff and local elementary school Alexander Stirling Public School <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ This has led to securing \$5,000.00 from Taibu Community Health Centre in support of this program

2)	Approval of 7 outdoor bulletin boards to be installed throughout 110, 90 and 50 Empringham Drive in Spring 2021 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o This will increase outreach and awareness between tenants, staff and community partners
3)	Introduction and tenant participation in network meetings including but not limited to Malvern Family Resource Centre, Taibu Community Health Centre, Toronto Employment and Social Services (TESS).
4)	Increased information and awareness of resources from staff to tenants via flyers door to door, email, text messages and WhatsApp groups. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Direct supports and referrals with youth to leadership, employment and training opportunities (including youth justice programs)
5)	Virtual meetings held to discuss COVID resources and supports to families with Malvern Family Resource Centre and Taibu Community Health Centre.
Next Steps/ Follow Up	
1)	Decision from TCHC around the townhouse space at 110 Empringham Drive # 214 and whether this can become dedicated community space for programs and activities.
2)	Following the increase of youth gang/ gun violence throughout Toronto and locally in our community, we would like a clear understanding and messaging from TCHC on the resources that are available via the Violence Reduction Program/ Youth Services Expansion Program and the pathways to access it. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o In the previous VRP board report in November 2020, there's been mention of \$70,000.00 from TCHC to the City of Toronto for post-incident community support that includes # of tenant-initiated activities, # of CCRF grant applications and reduction in retaliation-related crimes o There's allocated funds from TCHC to pilot projects in the West and Central region but no mention of the East region o We would like to see resources of support staff to include local tenants that have the knowledge, experience and relationships to support the key Violence Reduction Program deliverables o We are highly interested in animating the community space for future use of the kitchen, adding a computer lab, fitness equipment, youth drop in, study space, recording studio, etc. o We would like to see local opportunities for teens and young adults that aims to promote positive and practical alternatives to violence in order to reduce retaliation and criminal involvement. o Ensuring a public health and trauma-informed approach to violence reduction addressing areas of poor education, lack of job opportunities, injury and criminal recidivism, substance misuse, complex post-traumatic stress disorder, and lack of positive role models

January 10, 2021

We are the residents of North Acres, seniors' area of Lawrence Heights, **Fred Gordon, Herbert Blain, Yuri Malaev, and George Okurapa** and we are members of the Lawrence Heights Art Centre (LHAC). We would like to express our deep concern and worries about the future of LHAC. The LHAC existence and the projects that we realized together made our life meaningful and exciting for the past five years. The centre enabled us to have an incentive and motivation to do art. Here we met, talked about our art and helped each other to improve our skills.

Fred: I was depressed before I joined the art group. My self-esteem and my energy level rose up when I started doing art. This gave me a reason to live and accomplish something which I never had before. I became excited again as I was sometime when I was young. Also the centre encouraged me to get better and better in my art, and I did. Without this support I could not have done it. I created the artwork that makes people happy. I gave a lot of paintings to my sister, her grandchildren and my niece and it reminded them of my work when I was young and this helped my self esteem and I'm proud that I can accomplish this.

Herbie: Lawrence Heights is like a village within the city, where LHAC is a focal point of LH creative people, who just realized that they are creative. When we are creating and seeing each other's work at the LHAC gallery, we realize that we fell under the spell of the art and experience the joy of art. LHAC is a meeting place and meaningful place for artists, where we help each other and get new ideas for each other's work like the Group of Seven, Canadian renowned art group. This gives us a sense of importance and we feel connected to our cultural roots. Before LHAC was established, the Housing and most of the residents did not realize all the talents within our little village. The tenants did not recognize that they are talented until they came to the art centre and realized they have the talent they never knew about before. And now when the residents put and see their work on display they learn about their own and their neighbors' accomplishments. Our collective inspiring moment was when we built together the Sunset Bench for North Acres. This bench adds to the landscape and is the best place to enjoy the sunset. We are dedicated to the bench, take care of it as the community gem.

Yuri: My friends, artists from LHAC, helped me to finish and install my driftwood sculptures at the Sunset Bench set. The sculptures attract the attention of many people. When the people see my sculptures they often ask: who made it? They inquire if they can have it in their own seating areas.

George: My window is facing the Sunset Bench and I enjoy looking at it every day. I am happy to be part of LHAC. I helped build the Bench and made my first drawings of the landscape around my building. My drawings are on display at LHAC and Unison, and I am very proud of that. Artists of Lawrence Heights are wonderful people and real friends. I can't imagine that our group will lose the space to meet, make and display our art.

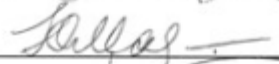
Sincerely,
Fred Gordom



Herbert Blain



Yuri Malaev



George Okurapa

