



About the Sidewalk Toronto Public Realm Advisory Working Group:

The Sidewalk Toronto Public Realm Advisory Working Group was established in March 2018 to be a source of external expertise to Waterfront Toronto and Sidewalk Labs. Each meeting was chaired by Jesse Shapins, Director of Public Realm at Sidewalk Labs and Chris Glaisek, Chief Planning and Design Officer at Waterfront Toronto.

Members were selected by Waterfront Toronto and Sidewalk Labs as local leaders and experts on issues related to the Quayside project. The list was developed to ensure a range of diverse opinions that balanced institutional affiliations and perspectives on urban issues. Members were primarily from civil society and academia, with a few from the private sector.

Members were invited to attend 4 meetings. Meetings were held on March 26, May 8, August 8, November 15, 2018, though not all members were able to attend every meeting.

The role of the advisors was to:

- Provide guidance, critiques and suggestions on proposed approaches, concepts and designs;
- Consider and convey the perspectives of relevant constituencies and stakeholders;
- Provide a sense of the broader community's reactions and concerns and explore how these might be addressed; and
- Provide feedback on any other relevant matters that Sidewalk Labs and Waterfront Toronto refers to the Advisory Group for comment.

Group members operated using a consensus-based approach, and any points of disagreement were noted in the minutes.

The following minutes from each meeting may include editor notes for clarity and context, and have omitted any commercially sensitive content. Meetings followed 'Chatham House Rules'—comments were recorded but not attributed to specific individuals.

In the notes, 'project team' refers to staff, variously, of Waterfront Toronto and Sidewalk Labs who were involved in convening and presenting to the advisory group.

We list the members of the Public Realm Advisory Working Group below in order to establish a complete record. We are grateful for their time, expertise, and their work to refine and improve the ideas that will make up the Master Innovation and Development Plan (MIDP) proposed by Sidewalk Labs. It is, however, important to note that their participation in the advisory working group, and their identification here, does not imply endorsement of the MIDP, any component thereof, or this project, generally.

Members of the Public Realm Advisory Working Group:

Name	Organization
Ariana Cancelli	Canadian Urban Institute
Christine Karcza	I Can Do This
Dave Harvey	Park People
Denise Pinto	Courage Co-Lab
John Wilson	Community Representative
Julian Sleath	The Bentway
Michelle Senayah	The Laneway Project
Sabina Ali	Thornccliffe Park Women's Group
Sara Diamond	Ontario College of Art and Design University
Sarah Heynen	Evergreen
Shauna Brail	University of Toronto
Yoonmee Han	Canadian National Institute for the Blind
Zahra Ebrahim	Doblin



**Sidewalk Toronto Public Realm Working Group
Meeting 1: March 26, 2018
Centre for Social Innovation - Regent Park**

On March 26, 2018, a group of stakeholders convened in an advisory capacity for a half-day discussion as part of the Public Realm Working Group of the Sidewalk Toronto project. This group will be providing input on the early stages of the Sidewalk Toronto project and will be considering questions related to Sidewalk Toronto's public realm. Meetings are expected to last until late 2018 as the project team formalizes and details its plans for the development of the Quayside District.

Executive Summary

- Participants expressed a general sense of optimism and excitement around the development of the Quayside District and the partnership between Sidewalk Labs and Waterfront Toronto.
- The working group was perceived as broadly representative, though participants felt that a more concerted effort is needed to include representatives of Toronto's Indigenous community.
- Questions around the place of technology in society and the safeguarding of data were front of mind for many of the participants. Similarly, participants expressed concerns that this project could be perceived as lacking in Canadian leadership and sensitivities.
- Participants engaged in substantive discussions around issues of equity and diversity, wanting to ensure that these would be priorities in this planning process and that planners would work to ensure that this project would be welcoming and inviting to as broad a community as possible. Participants felt that it would be necessary for the broader community to feel a sense of ownership of this project for it to be successful.
- While function and structure are important, participants expressed concerns that not enough emphasis has been placed on the organic evolution of this site and its appropriateness for non-structured uses. Conversely, participants felt that, at times, a focus on flexibility might undermine the need for planning.

- Participants suggested that in keeping with the hopeful and visionary nature of this project we should use this as an opportunity to reconceptualize ideas of public and private space, to look at this as a continuum rather than an absolute.
- Participants argued that we have to keep Lake Ontario itself at the forefront as we engage in this process. We have to ensure that this project looks outward towards the lake as much as it looks inward towards the City.
- Participants felt strongly that this space should include spaces suitable for as broad a range of diverse cultural activities as possible.

Introduction and Background

Participants introduced themselves before reviewing their draft Terms of Reference.

- Participants agreed with the roles, scope of work, and timeline of the work as laid out in the terms of reference.
- Participants expressed some concern over expectations around confidentiality.
 - The project team made clear that while the specific content of these meetings should be seen as confidential, they fully expected and hoped that participants would use the information and discussions generated by this working group to inform their participation in broader discussions around Sidewalk Toronto.
- Participants expressed concern that there was no representative of Toronto's Indigenous community on this working group, and that this should be addressed for subsequent meetings.

Background

- Organizers made presentations on the background of Sidewalk Toronto and the specifics of the Quayside project, particularly the relationship between Waterfront Toronto and Sidewalk Labs.
- Sidewalk Labs staff expressed their excitement at being able to work on this in Toronto, a city they perceived as open to experimentation and innovation, and as interested and involved in discussions around its own future.
- Participants were generally pleased to have been involved at this early stage of the planning, but some expressed some concern about the challenges of being engaged so early that there isn't yet a clear idea of the project's potential scope and structure.

Presentation

Next, the project team presented on the project's core principles, as well as specific principles and vision for the public realm component of the project.

- The core principles of the Sidewalk Toronto project are:
 - No tech for tech's sake;
 - We respect privacy;
 - We believe in open standards;
 - Diversity makes us stronger; and
 - We cannot do this alone.
- This generated a discussion around the structure of Sidewalk Toronto and how it might be perceived by the community.
 - Participants flagged that making the project leadership as diverse as possible is an important way to gain the trust of the public. Participants also noted that the public may be wary of any American company becoming involved in the construction of public infrastructure in Canada.
- Participants next engaged in an extensive discussion around the level of public concern with how technology companies are handling issues of data governance, privacy and government regulation. There was a general consensus on the part of both the project team and participants that addressing these issues in a collaborative and thoughtful manner would be crucial to the success of this project.

Public Realm Principles

- The project team laid out the principles driving the public realm aspects of the project:
 - Play;
 - Resiliency;
 - Flexibility;
 - Design Excellence; and
 - Inclusive Agency.
- Participants appreciated the inclusion of resiliency, because it implies forward thinking when it comes to the environment and sustainability.
- Participants engaged in a significant discussion around what is meant by agency and stewardship.
 - One participant asked how inclusive agency would work in practice.
 - In the course of this discussion participants spoke passionately about ensuring that the community, both resident and non-resident within the Quayside area, felt a sense of ownership of this project. This was flagged as an issue of fundamental importance.
- Participants generally appreciated that playfulness was included as one of the fundamental principles.
- Some participants asked if there was too much of an emphasis on flexibility, and questioned whether some of the principles were too open.
- Participants expressed some concern at the lack of a direct reference to equity.

- Participants were concerned about an emphasis on structure and function, rather than people and more organic and informal uses of space.
 - One participant argued that it will be important to acknowledge the need for access to nature in Quayside, and to think about how other species will be impacted by the project design.
- Participants wanted to ensure that the project team considers what consists of the public realm in a comprehensive way, rather than emphasizing arbitrary boundaries between public and private spaces. They encouraged the project team to see these spaces as a spectrum rather than an either/or idea, and emphasized that there must be an openness to how these spaces evolve.
- A participant mentioned that the project team should think about how to engage and invite in those who aren't in these spaces currently.
- Participants hoped the project team would be aware of those people who might be displaced due to the development, and how these people might be invited back into these spaces.

Discussion Summary

Discussion Part 1: How do we truly create an inclusive public realm?

- Participants argued that we have to promote access to the waterfront. Sidewalk Toronto can't repeat some of the mistakes that have been made in other developments on the city's waterfront.
 - This access must include transportation and also has to include an ease of use component.
- Participants asked the project team how they will ensure these spaces are inviting and safe at all times, in all seasons. This consideration is important in Toronto, where much of the waterfront is only used in specific seasons.
- Participants noted that there are many times when attempts to make places more inclusive can cause the opposite to occur.
 - This is particularly important to consider when it comes to cultural practices. There must be effort to ensure that rules and practices around the space don't exclude people.
 - Participants suggested that the project team must look not only at inclusion but at exclusion as well. There are some people who are poorly served by public spaces. While they may not be intentionally excluded, the project team has to make sure they are intentionally included.
- Participants then talked about how to help people gain access to Lake Ontario who haven't traditionally had access.

- Participants asked whether we can prioritize access for those who don't typically access the waterfront.
- A participant flagged that it's important to think of the inner harbour as a public space.
- Participants were particularly concerned about how to ensure certain people don't feel discouraged from being in Quayside.
 - Questions arose in this part of the conversation, including: Who will decide who these spaces are for? How much do we need to create since so much of this will evolve on its own? Who evaluates how well this will be working? Do we have to be careful about gentrifying values in order to justify gentrification?
- Participants expressed some concerns about the lack of specific information about the Quayside development, and the importance of setting clear boundaries around what is possible within the confines of this project.
- Participants noted the importance of considering possible tensions between the local community and the wider community.
 - A participant argued that those who will be living in this area and those who will be using it for all other purposes can have very different interests.
- Participants explored what a 'waterfront for all' actually means.
 - One participant pointed out that currently Indigenous people in Toronto cannot engage in cultural practices on the waterfront. It was suggested that this be something purposefully included in Sidewalk Toronto's vision as a transformative change.

Discussion Part 2: What innovative uses should we encourage?

- Participants were concerned that a variety of diverse cultural practices be accommodated in conceptualizing the design.
 - Participants felt that these could be accommodated through the construction of actual physical spaces as well as through the creation of funds and organizations that would support these functions.
- Participants want to ensure Sidewalk Toronto's buildings include new ideas of shared public space.
 - One participant suggested the idea of having an elevated public space from which people could have a vantage point over the water.
 - Another participant suggested that access to water would be access to public space, and that this kind of access should be improved and democratized as much as possible. This could include access to a wide range of boats and other publicly available assets.
- One participant felt that members of the community could 'connect with the infinite' through access to water. Another participant suggested a labyrinth with the mouth facing the water.

- Participants felt that Quayside could be a new kind of space in which Indigenous and settler communities could interact with and learn from each other. This would have to be done in a meaningful and non-exploitative way.
- Participants repeatedly brought up the need for supporting community programs that would invite the community into the space. These programs would need to be initiated and led by members of the community, as well as well-funded and well-designed.
- One participant argued that the project team should think about all of the senses in the design of the space, not just sight.
- Participants felt that the proper design of commercial spaces and selection of retailers would help to animate this site.
 - A participant suggested that the project team can encourage more animated spaces by careful selection of retailers, leaning towards smaller and local businesses.
 - It was flagged that it will be important to consider how spaces can be welcoming and inviting throughout winter so that businesses can stay financially feasible.
- Participants warned that this can't just be another neighbourhood serving young professionals. It must be truly diverse; not just culturally, but in terms of age, family, income, etc.
- One participant suggested that the project team embed kindness as a key concept in the development.

Discussion Part 3: How do we promote community stewardship?

- A participant spoke about the importance of partnering with organizations that have credibility and connections to the community.
- Participants argued that this project must create frameworks for engaging people in different ways. For example, through a micro retail program, or environmental stewardship program.
- Participants suggested that allowing people to move things around and use the public space to suit themselves would be an important concept.
 - Community members shouldn't get in trouble for being creative and using these spaces.

Wrap-up and Next Steps

- Participants felt that more details on what the project entails would be useful for future meetings.
 - Participants want to better understand the tensions and constraints for the project, so they can understand what is and isn't possible and give more useful feedback.
 - One participant suggested that a guided walk of the site would help.

The next meeting of the advisory group is set for April 30, from 9:00am - 12:30pm.



**Sidewalk Toronto Public Realm Advisory Working Group
Meeting 2: May 8, 2018
Waterfront Toronto Office – 20 Bay St.**

The second meeting of the Public Realm Advisory Working Group was held on May 8, 2018. The group is providing ongoing feedback and advice over the next few months as Sidewalk Labs works towards producing a Master Innovation and Development Plan.

Executive Summary

- Participants felt that developing a sustainable governance model for the space in Quayside will be important. Participants suggested different ways of approaching longer-term ownership and maintenance of the project, such as long-term leases to community organizations.
- Participants proposed many unique ideas for programming Quayside. Themes included creating more connection to the natural environment through programmed and unprogrammed spaces; incorporating more playfulness; providing more publicly accessible spaces for gathering, creating, and learning; incorporating social benefits into the retail structure; and designing for differences to ensure people of all ability levels can enjoy the space.
- Participants emphasized Sidewalk Labs needs to be clear and transparent about their vision both for the project at a high level but also for the 307 Lake Shore Blvd East (LSBE) space.
- Participants discussed how to ensure a diverse and inclusive range of people can access 307 LSBE. They proposed building strong community relationships to help do this outreach.
- Participants also suggested that the project team consider the public's motivations for visiting 307 LSBE and what things may prevent them from coming, in order to provide the right supports.

Updates

The project team started the meeting by providing highlights of their work from March and April. Advisory group participants also provided general updates on their work as it relates to Sidewalk Toronto. Some of the highlights included:

- The Urban Land Institute (ULI) recently held a conference that focused on adapting the city for the two fastest growing age demographics: Children ages 0-4 and 9-12.
- The Canadian Film Centre supported the first ever Augmented Reality (AR) Jane's Walk in Parkdale on May 5th and helped participants to better visualize data about gentrification and food security.
- The Ontario College of Art and Design (OCAD) and the University of Toronto (UofT) are exploring the use of mapping and user surveys to inform public art.
- Evergreen launched its Future Cities Canada project. Drawing on the expertise of its founding partners, Future Cities brings together ideas, platforms, and innovations to identify new ways to address the challenges facing cities.
- UofT introduced the School of Cities, a non-degree granting program that will facilitate multidisciplinary research looking to educate policy and affect change at the local, regional, and national level.
- The West Don Lands neighbourhood announced an affordable housing development consisting of 300 rental units targeted towards various income groups.

Presentation - Programming Quayside

The project team gave a presentation about their work to date on programming Quayside and then participants asked questions and provided feedback.

- Many participants had questions about how public space in Quayside would be owned, maintained and governed. The project team noted that they are exploring a combination of self-governed and community-maintained spaces. Sidewalk Labs is interested in testing out new methods of 'sustainable governance' through the use of technology.
- The project team noted it is possible that the levels of programming in the space will require maintenance beyond what the City can provide. The project team is looking into ways to ensure adequate staffing, resources, and organization of space, inspired by precedents like the Bentway Conservancy model.
- Participants discussed the role of data collection in Quayside's public realm and what kinds of data might be useful for improving the community's experience of the space.

- Participants agreed that data collection could help improve the governance and operations of the space, and provide interesting and creative new experiences for community members.

Group Activity:

The working group was divided into five smaller groups to brainstorm programming concepts for Quayside. The five groups were each assigned a theme: Nature & Ecology; Play & Recreation; Arts & Entertainment; Civic & Community; and Production & Commerce.

Nature & Ecology

- Participants liked the idea of a network of 'green corridors' to serve as unprogrammed natural space. These corridors would connect to Toronto's ravine system to integrate the waterfront with the rest of Toronto's natural landscapes.
- Participants suggested creating floating island wetlands.
- Participants suggested restoring the lake ecology by creating more spaces for fish.
- Participants suggested the creation of a "Youth Collaborative Growth Lab," which may include urban farming (solar green houses) and discovery programs. Youth would make use of GPS, AR, and historical data to learn about the environment and nature, and use this knowledge to share in the maintenance and management of the natural space.
- Participants also suggested introducing late night park experiences and opening the parks to cultural activities, which could include a late night market with multicultural foods.
- Participants suggested programming that helps the public participate in growing, cooking, and eating food together.
- Participants suggested providing urban camping facilities, which could include small contained fires, daytime parking, canoeing/kayaking, etc.

Play & Recreation

- Participants suggested that the project inject playfulness into day to day life and into objects that are not ordinarily for play (e.g. the xylophone bench in Liberty Village).
 - They could do this by creating interactive spaces that encourage playfulness in people of all ages, spaces where users are inspired to

participate in the experience (e.g. lock bridges), and gallery spaces that encourage 'restful recreation.'

- Participants suggested that the project could use 'distributed spaces of play' to tell stories.
- Participants suggested that the weather and changes in seasons are often moments that bring people together in a collective experience. They could create weather-reactive public realm elements (for example, a poem that is only revealed under certain weather conditions like rain or changes in temperature).
- Participants felt the project should design complete sensory experiences (sight and touch, but also sound and smell), perhaps by limiting distractions from other sources of sensory stimulation.
- Participants suggested that the environment should be democratized by including 'bookable nooks' like BBQ pits, garden plots, participatory art boxes, as well as free libraries, and other facilities that invites collaboration and shared use.

Arts & Entertainment

- Participants felt the project should have physical infrastructure and spaces that can be used by diverse populations (ages, demographics, heights, disability). For example, this could include hanging art at different heights so that it can be experienced by everyone. This program could also encourage people to see things from a new perspective.
- Participants proposed participatory and interactive art that encourages participation on individual terms. For example, they could provide a blank canvas and have participants use things they have on them to interact with the canvas. This invites multiple forms of participation - whether through direct participation or just appreciation of what others have done.

Civic & Community

- Participants proposed a lakefront education centre that reconnects Toronto with the natural ecosystem and the area's maritime history. The centre could promote a hands-on learning approach that brings users to the water's edge, and could use barges to house different activities.
- Participants suggested creating a 'DIY' recording studio in order to leverage the vibrant local recording and music industry. They suggested this could be a good resource for youth, and it could encourage cross-cultural learning and sharing. The space should be publicly bookable, fully stocked, community managed, and visible.

Production & Commerce

This group discussed creating a framework that would guide a retail plan:

- Participants felt that setting preconditions around social entrepreneurship and community benefits is important.
- Participants wanted to see infrastructure and support for entrepreneurs and small businesses in order to help support the long-term growth of the community.
- Participants suggested the project team explore the creation of commercial places at different levels of a building (not just the ground floor).

Participants ended by noting that significant attention needs to be focused on the provision of spaces and designing for different abilities. Considerations around designing for diversity in Quayside should consider diversity of abilities as well.

Presentation - 307 LSBE

After the group discussion ended, the project team gave another short presentation about the plans for programming the soon-to-be-opened Sidewalk Labs Pavilion at 307 Lakeshore Blvd E (LSBE).

Participants then discussed Sidewalk Labs' vision for the space, as well as how they can ensure an inclusive and transparent relationship with the broader community.

- Participants felt that Sidewalk Labs should be more clear about their vision for the neighbourhood and the constraints they foresee, because this has implications for design.
 - The team responded that their vision focuses on co-creation, agency, and the city as a platform.
- Participants asked for more information on Sidewalk Labs' vision for the 307 LSBE space. Sidewalk Labs clarified that the purpose of the space is to help the public better understand and shape the entire project.
- One participant suggested presenting Sidewalk Labs' vision for 307 LSBE as a living laboratory and community that will prototype new models of democratic engagement, environmental sustainability, and other important innovations.
- One participant suggested that Sidewalk Labs creates a document that clarifies why they are creating 307 LSBE and lists the purpose of each big idea or activity to send to the working group for feedback.

- Participants asked how people will be able to participate in activities at 307 LSBE and tangibly give feedback. Sidewalk Labs responded that there will be public hours and facilitation provided.

Participants also had comments on the project team's consultation process and community relationships. Participants were broadly supportive of having a space like 307 LSBE where the public can interact with the project. However, participants wanted to ensure inclusivity (including people from outside the core) and broader community engagement.

- Some suggested a partner strategy to intentionally populate the space with people from the outer reaches of the GTA. Participants felt that 'who is doing the inviting' is important to consider.
- Participants said Sidewalk Labs should provide a stronger incentive to get people out to the space and that they need to consider why people would come in the first place. Participants also suggested SWL should think about how to transport people to the building.
- Participants agreed that SWL needed to be more transparent in its partner selection process - how do partners get involved in the space?
- Participants suggested that to create more community ownership, SWL could use participatory methods such as hack-a-thons, think tanks, and grants for community initiatives and research projects.
- Participants also encouraged SWL not to repeat work and to ensure local talent is fully utilized.
- Participants said that SWL needs to demonstrate commitment to the ideas in the vision by outlining policies it will uphold and programs it will implement.
- Sidewalk Labs ended by clarifying their vision of 307 LSBE as a way for the project team to situate the possibilities of Quayside and make the vision real, while creating a physical space for people to learn about and influence the project.

Next Steps

The next meeting of the advisory group is set for July 16, 9:00am - 12:30pm.



**Sidewalk Toronto Public Realm Advisory Working Group
Meeting 3: August 8, 2018
Sidewalk Labs - 307 Lake Shore Blvd E**

The Public Realm Advisory Working Group met on August 8th to discuss updates on the project to date and provide feedback to the pillar leads, Jesse Shapins and Pina Mallozzi.

Executive Summary

- The project team provided participants with updates on the Plan Development Agreement release and public response to the opening of the 307 space. (Ed note: See [here](#) for full text of agreement).
- Sidewalk Labs presented on their user research and shared high level learnings: 1) Design a Living Room, Not a Formal Room; 2) Foster Small Human Interactions; 3) Build in Variety for All of the Senses; and 4) Encourage Use of The Everyday Waterfront. Participants provided some feedback on different ways Sidewalk Labs could act on these learnings.
- Participants suggested that Sidewalk Labs could better communicate how the development process and plans for Quayside are situated within pre-existing plans for the area, and how they build off previously conducted public consultation and engagement.
- Participants provided feedback to Sidewalk Labs on how to provide additional clarity and in their presentation on the user research and public realm vision at the public roundtable to be held the following week.

Project Updates

The Working Group began with an overview of Sidewalk Toronto's recent progress, and highlighted upcoming milestones. Participants were offered opportunity to ask questions, make suggestions, and express any concerns.

- **PDA Release**

The Working Group discussed the release of the Plan Development Agreement (PDA) on July 31st, which publicly formalized the partnership between Waterfront Toronto and Sidewalk Labs. Participants felt that the PDA had so far been well received and had helped to clarify the relationship between Sidewalk Labs and Waterfront Toronto and helped show willingness to address feedback. Some participants felt that a public information session or more approachable document might help the public better understand the PDA.

- **307 Space**

Sidewalk Labs reported that the public feedback to the 307 space has been positive. While the space does not display formal plans for the neighbourhood, it does provide a showcase for potential innovations, and demonstrates the tradeoffs involved in urban development decision making.

Participants discussed the composition of the groups visiting the 307 space, noting the need for a more targeted outreach to communities beyond the downtown core, perhaps by tapping into other projects happening in the Don Lands area. Working towards the creation of an inclusive community with more deliberate outreach would also help to gather more information about what needs are currently unmet by city's waterfront. To help generate a diversity of voices, participants agreed to help Sidewalk Labs connect to organizations that have not yet been reached by public facing events.

- **Visit to the Toronto Rehabilitation Institute (TRI)**

Staff from Sidewalk Labs and Waterfront Toronto visited the TRI for a tour, consultation, and discussion about opportunities to help shape the Master Innovation and Development Plan so that Quayside is welcoming to persons of all abilities. The project team expressed appreciation and thanks to TRI for the opportunity to meet.

User Research

Sidewalk Labs then presented findings from recent user research. Sidewalk Labs leveraged local experts and networks to better understand the public realm's contribution to an individual's sense of community and belonging. Using research diaries, research walks, and in-depth interviews, Sidewalk Labs was able to target individuals that are active in public space and in their communities, but are underrepresented in traditional engagement sessions.

There were four high level learnings:

(1) Design a Living Room, Not a Formal Room

People are motivated to make use of the public realm when there is evidence of previous use. Need to design spaces to invite user creativity and feedback, and that communicate to the community their agency in identifying and creating appropriate uses.

(2) Foster Small Human Interactions

People are motivated by the promise of small scale and time-bound interaction in public realm - this includes in-doors spaces (libraries, museums, shops, etc). Participants noted that triangulating on certain design features can spark of interest and interaction.

People are worried that as technology seeks efficiency, it also promotes social isolation in the public sphere (ie. parents in the park with their children). Design should focus on creating spaces for interaction, not maximizing efficiency.

(3) Build in Variety for All of the Senses

People are drawn to public spaces for a variety of reasons, and to be inclusive the public realm needs to incorporate all sensitivities: sound, smell, taste, etc. Design considerations should look to highlight the proximity to the water, while reducing the impact of traffic.

(4) The Everyday Waterfront

People are currently drawn to “special events” on the waterfront, but do not spend time at the waterfront on a regular basis. Design should look to connect Quayside to the rest of the City, becoming an extension to “the City of Neighbourhoods,” while leveraging its proximity to the water.

Participants noted that much of the public doesn’t use the waterfront on a regular basis, unlike many other parks and public spaces in Toronto. In light of this, participants provided suggestions and approaches to highlight and leverage waterfront access, and to change the ways the public uses and interprets the waterfront:

- Participants suggested that the inclusion of floating structures (ie. barges) on the water’s edge could open up further uses such as swimming, wetlands and wildlife.
- Participants noted the unique vantage point the site has over surrounding revitalization efforts (West Don Lands), and noted that many citizens are interested in the changes taking place have little exposure to the transformations. Participants agreed that development on the site should capitalize on this proximity.
- Participants agreed that people are interested in spectacle, and provided examples like Mr Trashwheel and the Giant Rubber Duck, suggesting that these could be used to initiate important discussions.

A participant asked whether the research done on behavioural patterns could be elaborated on and reported out to the public at the roundtable. Sidewalk Labs felt that it required more explanation than there was time for, but suggested other ways of discussing the topic, such as in smaller groups.

Participants also suggested providing a 'cheat sheet' to the public to help explain where the project is in the planning process, as well as how the project intersects with pre-existing precinct plans and city planning frameworks. They suggested being more explicit about what constraints the project faces and what ways Sidewalk Labs is seeking permission to 'push and pull' and potentially augment what has been previously planned for the area.

Quayside Public Realm Design Explorations

The project team gave participants a preview of the deck for the roundtable to be held the following week of August 14th and 15th at 307. The Public Realm team was to deliver a presentation on their user research as well as the vision for the site's public realm. Participants provided feedback to the pillar leads:

- Use simplified descriptions, personal and relatable anecdotes about public space, and provide a visual of the entire waterfront to help provide context;
- Demonstrate how current plans are building off previous work in order to demonstrate that Sidewalk Labs' plans are an adaptation rather than a transformation of previous frameworks;
- **Use clear and approachable language and imagery** to build trust and demonstrate that Sidewalk Labs is seeking the public's permission;
- **Provide a visual tool or handout** to help empower people to understand how Quayside fits into the standard development approval process (e.g. a PDA cheat sheet, or a "how developing on the waterfront works" cheat sheet). Including other well known Toronto examples on the process diagram might help demystify the process so far;
- Adjust colours and some of the wording in the deck to add clarity.

Wrap Up

The next meeting of the Public Realm working Group will be rescheduled from September to November, and participants will be notified via email of the new date.



**Sidewalk Toronto
Public Realm Advisory Working Group – Meeting 4: November 15th, 2018
Sidewalk Labs - 307 Lake Shore Blvd E**

The Public Realm Advisory Group met on November 15th to discuss updates on the project to date and provide feedback to the pillar leads, Jesse Shapins and Pina Mallozzi.

Project Updates

The Working Group began with the project team providing an overview of the project's status. Participants shared general updates on their work.

Participants were offered opportunity to ask questions, make suggestions, and express any concerns.

- **Upcoming Roundtable**

The project team thanked the working group for the feedback they provided on the deck for the August roundtable. The project team shared that the topics for upcoming roundtable on December 8th would include a holistic site plan, transportation, social infrastructure and housing affordability, digital governance, and sustainability, and Waterfront Toronto's evaluation framework for the Master Innovation and Development Plan.

- **Waterfront Toronto MIDP Objectives**

Waterfront Toronto representatives gave participants an overview of how the evaluation framework for the Master Innovation and Development Plan and the process by which the framework was developed. Participants provided feedback that clear communication to the public on how Waterfront Toronto planned to apply the framework to the MIDP was essential. Participants also identified the need to clarify the structure of the partnership between Sidewalk Labs and Waterfront Toronto and their respective roles in the Quayside project. Participants also requested that the project team clarify the process for stakeholders to provide input into the plan.

- **Indigenous Design Workshop**

The project team reported that a design workshop was held to explore how indigenous design principles could be represented and incorporated into the plans for Quayside, an issue that had been raised at one of the working group's earlier meetings. The Sidewalk Toronto project team also reported that there are ongoing conversations with the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation.

- **Public Life project in RV Burgess Park**

Participants were briefed on a collaboration between the organizations Park People, the Thorncliffe Park Women's Committee, Gehl Institute and Sidewalk Labs to prototype an open-source digital tool that made it easier to conduct public life studies. Public life studies are a long-established practice of documenting how people use the public realm in order to support planning and management decisions. Sidewalk Labs prototyped a tool that translated traditional paper forms into a mapping application, which helped organize study volunteers and simplified the process of data collection. Park People and the Thorncliffe Park Women's Committee field tested the prototype, by using it collect data and measure the impact of their efforts to activate R.V. Burgess Park.

Participants were interested in learning more about the tool, supporting sharing it more broadly, and learning about how other organizations are using data and technology to measure public life, perhaps as an event at 307.

- **307 Public Realm Toolkit Prototypes**

Sidewalk Labs reported that full-scale prototypes of the modular pavers and the building raincoat are being installed at 307 for testing and evaluation, and invited participants to come and see them once completed.

Work-in-progress Public Realm Planning and Design

The Sidewalk Toronto project team gave participants an overview of current plans for the public realm at Quayside, and the three major moves that have been proposed and are being discussed with the City of Toronto: Parliament Street terminus at Lake Shore Boulevard East, no vehicles in Parliament Gateway, and a Queens Quay designed to evolve for the future. Representatives also provided a high-level overview of the design concepts for Silo Park and the open stoa spaces on the ground floor.

Participants were interested in the proposed design moves, and the potential to shift the current dynamic of the location towards a more pedestrian friendly area. Participants were also concerned that an area without vehicles could affect accessibility and the ability of people with physical limitations to move about and experience the area; however it was also raised that autonomous vehicles could help solve this challenge. Participants also suggested the Sidewalk Toronto project team include in the renderings representations of people using mobility modes such as scooters and wheelchairs.

Participants were also enthusiastic about the proposed activation of the water; however, expressed concerns about whether water quality supported recreational uses. The project team

clarified that the proposed dynamic dock water feature was actually separate from the lake, and participants recommended that this be explicitly communicated.

Discussion

The Sidewalk Toronto project team provided an overview of how Roundtable 4 was expected to be structured. Taking prior public feedback into account, the plan is to open with a unified presentation followed by breakout groups for discussion.

Participants discussed that it would be important to communicate a high-level vision for the project and address data governance concerns up front. They also provided feedback that the Sidewalk Toronto project team should be very clear how stoa would feel different from malls and food courts. Participants also asked questions on business model and governance, and how the Quayside vision for a seamless indoor/outdoor public realm might be funded and operated in the future.

Wrap-Up

The Sidewalk Toronto project team noted that with this meeting, the Advisory Working Group has fulfilled the original terms of reference, and would now formally dissolve. Participants expressed an interest in continuing to meet together to discuss the project as it continues to progress, in particular continuing to inform and influence the draft Master Innovation and Development Plan, as well as to discuss questions of governance and operations. The Sidewalk Toronto project team thanked and acknowledged them for their interest and support, and will discuss internally ideas for next steps.