

Quayside Stakeholder Advisory Committee Members

October 2020

880 Cities, Lanrick Bennett Jr.

880 Cities improves the quality of life for people in cities by bringing citizens together to enhance mobility and public space so that together we can create more vibrant, healthy, and equitable communities. They believe that if everything we do in our public spaces is great for an 8-year-old and an 80-year-old, then it will be great for all people.

Artscape, Assaf Weisz

Artscape is made up of a group of not-for-profit organizations with a mission to make space for creativity and transform communities. Over more than 30 years, Artscape has evolved from a Toronto-based affordable artist studio provider to a global leader in creative placemaking, a practice that leverages arts and culture as a catalyst for community and urban development.

YMCA of Greater Toronto, Alex Versluis, P.Eng., P.E., CEM

Alex is the Senior Vice President of Property Management & Development, Chair of the Accessibility Committee for the Built Environment AODA and Chair Climate Resilience and Environmental Sustainability Committee for the YMCA of Greater Toronto. Alex's work focuses on sustainable design, construction and building operations across residential, commercial, and institutional buildings, including the Cooper Koo Family YMCA, located at Cherry Street and Front.

Canadian National Institute for the Blind (CNIB), Brittany Manu

The Canadian National Institute for the Blind delivers innovative programs and powerful advocacy that empower people impacted by blindness to live their dreams and tear down barriers to inclusion. CNIB is made up of three distinct organizations: Vision Loss Rehabilitation Canada, CNIB Deafblind Community Services and the CNIB Foundation. Each one plays a unique role in serving our community, but all are connected by an unwavering passion to change what it is to be blind today.

East Waterfront Community Association, David Chan

Established in 2020, the East Waterfront Neighbourhood Association represents the interests of community members living in residential buildings from Yonge Street to Cherry Street and from Lakeshore Boulevard in the north to the water's edge in the south.

Gooderham and Worts Neighbourhood Association, Julie Beddoes

The Gooderham and Worts Neighbourhood Association (GWNA) is a unified voice that serves the interests and enhances the quality of life of all residents of the Distillery Historic District. The GWNA has always been a social hub and a place to make friends for newcomers. The group's goal is to foster and advance the interests of the residents of the GWNA neighbourhood and carry out research and investigation into problems connected with ownership and development of property in the community.

Kehilla Residential Programme, Nancy Singer

Kehilla Residential program was established in 1982 as the UJA Federation's community housing agency. Kehilla's mandate is to identify and champion affordable housing initiatives responsive to the needs of the Jewish community in the Greater Toronto Area.

Nancy has been instrumental in creating new affordable housing opportunities for Kehilla's community and has worked on numerous affordable housing projects, organized workshops and events including debates and design competitions on affordable housing issues. She has been a strong voice advocating for non-profits' access to housing.

MaRS Discovery District, Alex Ryan

MaRS is North America's largest urban innovation hub focused on four key sectors: cleantech, health, fintech, and enterprise software. MaRS is expanding its Toronto footprint and will soon be joining many businesses on the waterfront at the Waterfront Innovation Centre. Alex oversees teams that are helping decarbonize electricity grids, design inclusive smart cities, improve community health and well-being, employ thousands of NEET youth (Youth not in employment, education or training), strengthen the impact investing market, and grow Canada's innovation economy.

Miziwe Biik Aboriginal Employment Training, Nancy Martin

Created to meet the unique training and employment needs of Aboriginal peoples, Miziwe Biik provides the Aboriginal community with training initiatives and employment services. The organization is committed to strengthening the community through partnerships that promote equality and self-reliance. Miziwe Biik works with employers to secure employment opportunities; deliver federal and provincial programs; and promote Aboriginal entrepreneurship.

St. Lawrence BIA, Mark Van Elsberg

A non-profit organization whose membership includes every business and commercial property owner within the St. Lawrence Market Neighbourhood. It works to improve the public realm, promote the neighbourhood and events, and support local business. The group's mandate includes developing and implementing streetscape beautification including heritage lighting and signage, and promotional programs with a view to increasing business revenues and tourism in the area.

St. Lawrence Neighbourhood Association, Suzanne Kavanagh

The St. Lawrence Neighbourhood Association (SLNA) is a non-profit resident association advocating for responsible development, promoting public and pedestrian safety, organizing events and celebrations, and championing the neighbourhood's interests with all levels of government. This neighbourhood is a mixed-income, ethnically diverse residential and commercial community adjoining the Central Business District. It extends from Queen Street East south to the rail corridor and from Yonge Street east to Parliament Street.

Toronto Centre for Active Transportation, Nancy Smith-Lea and Yvonne Verlinden

The Centre for Active Transportation (TCAT) has a vision of vibrant cities with clean air, a healthy population, and a transportation system that prioritizes walking and cycling. Formed in 2006 as a grassroots coalition to give a unified voice to the many groups working for a better cycling and pedestrian environment in Toronto, TCAT's mission is to advance knowledge and evidence to build support for safe and inclusive streets for walking and cycling.

Waterfront BIA, Tim Kocur

Representing businesses along the Queens Quay corridor between Bathurst and Yonge, the Waterfront Business Improvement Area (BIA) supports the continued growth of the waterfront as a premier destination that is well-connected to the rest of the City and is beautiful, clean and vibrant year-round. The BIA engages in advocacy on behalf of the business community, supports targeted streetscape and on-street improvements, promotes the waterfront and its businesses through social media, and creates opportunities for activation in public parks and spaces.

Waterfront for All, Ed Hore

Waterfront for All is a citizens group made up of more than 30 organizations dedicated to preserving and enhancing the entire Toronto waterfront as a unique natural and cultural resource for all to enjoy. From Etobicoke to Scarborough, Waterfront for All invites citizens and groups from across Toronto to work together to keep the revitalization and beautification of the waterfront moving forward. It strives to represent citizens and groups from across Toronto.

West Don Lands Committee, Cindy Wilkey and John Wilson

The West Don Lands Committee (WDLC) is a coalition of community-based resident, business, service, environmental and heritage organizations, founded in 1997 and committed to positive, sustainable, inclusive development of the West Don Lands and Toronto's central waterfront. Our member organizations represent more than 40,000 residents and hundreds of businesses in the east downtown core of Toronto. The WDLC have been active contributors to the West Don Lands, East Bayfront and Keating Precinct Plans, the Lower Don Environmental Assessments, the Port Lands Acceleration Initiative, and many other community-building consultations in our area.

WoodGreen, Anne Babcock

WoodGreen is one of the largest social service agencies in Toronto, serving 37,000 people each year from 36 locations. They help people find safe, affordable housing, seniors live independently, internationally-trained professionals enter the job market, parents access childcare, children and youth access after-school programs, newcomers settle into Canadian life, homeless and marginalized people get off the streets, youth find meaningful employment and training and provide a wide range of mental health supports.

YMCA, Jane Pyper

Jane Pyper is the Chief Strategy Officer for the YMCA of Greater Toronto, an organization dedicated to making our communities home to the healthiest children, teens and young adults. The YMCA delivers a wide variety of programs including childcare, employment, newcomer settlement, emergency and transitional housing, camps, health and fitness, and youth programming. Jane is a Board member of the Wellesley Institute and on the Advisory Board of Kiinago Biinoogi Muskiiki/Our Children's Medicine, a charity dedicated to improving Indigenous representation in the Canadian workforce.

Youth Representative, Keisha St. Louis-McBurnie

Keisha St. Louis-McBurnie is a graduate student in the Department of Geography and Planning at the University of Toronto and a Graduate Research Fellow at the University's Institute of Management & Innovation. Keisha's research has focused on processes of neighbourhood change, public and private infrastructure disparities, and community economic development in local neighbourhoods. Keisha was also a Sidewalk Toronto Fellow and a member of the Toronto Youth Cabinet.