

Making Space for Culture

Community Consultation Summaries

April 2014



*Cover Photos courtesy (clockwise from top left) Harbourfront Centre, TIFF Bell Lightbox, Artscape, City of Toronto Museum Services
Back Cover: Manifesto Festival; Photo courtesy of Manifesto Documentation Team*

Making Space for Culture: Overview

BACKGROUND

Making Space for Culture is a long-term planning project led by the City of Toronto, Cultural Services on the subject of cultural infrastructure city-wide. Funded by the Province of Ontario, the study builds on the first recommendation made in **Creative Capital Gains: An Action Plan for Toronto**, a report endorsed by City Council in May 2011. The report recommends “that the City ensure a supply of affordable, sustainable cultural space” for use by cultural industries, not-for-profit organizations and community groups in the City of Toronto. While there has been considerable public and private investment in major cultural facilities within the city in the past decade, the provision of accessible, sustainable space for small and mid-size organizations is a key factor in ensuring a vibrant cultural community.

The overall objective of the **Making Space for Culture** project is to help ensure a supply of affordable, sustainable cultural space across the City of Toronto. In addition, the project aims to:

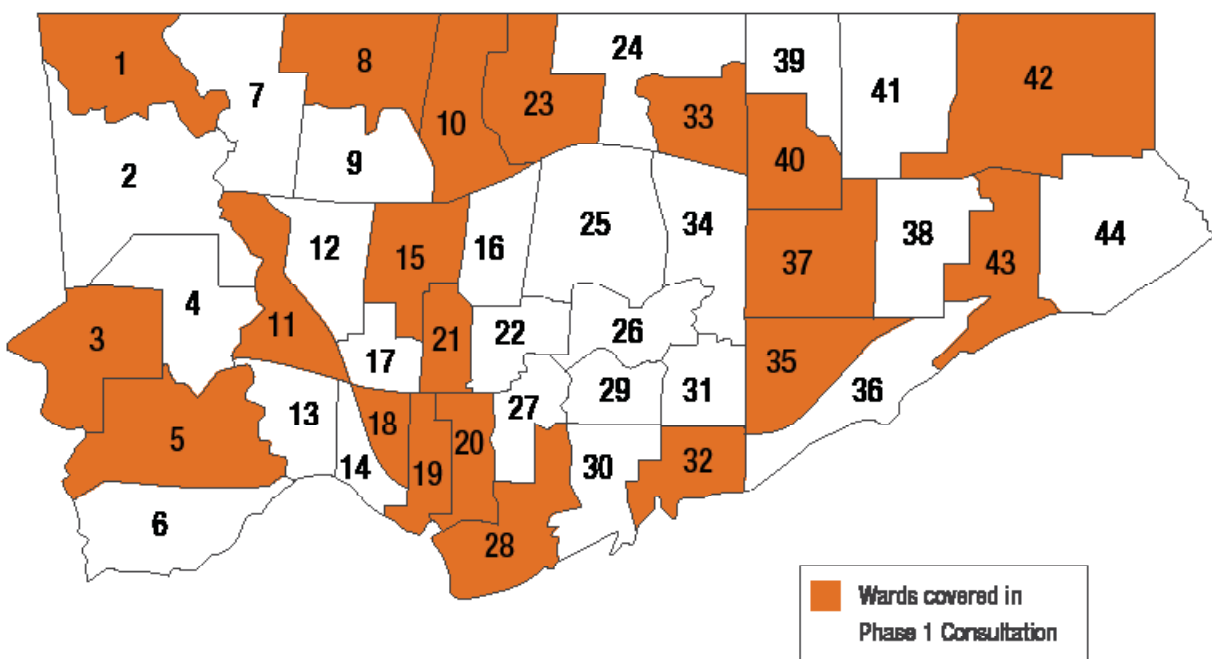
1. **Develop awareness** among citizens, staff, City Councillors and potential partners and funders of the needs of cultural and community arts organizations, either resident or providing programming in their ward, for suitable, accessible facilities, equipment and other capital needs.
2. **Assist with decision-making** regarding infrastructure investment in cultural assets.
3. **Disseminate knowledge regarding Section 37** as it relates to cultural facilities to City Councillors, City staff, cultural organizations, and other interested parties.
4. **Develop greater shared knowledge and strengthen collaboration and partnerships** across City divisions and agencies with real estate portfolios, as a by-product of the consultation process.

A desirable outcome of this process is to maximize the use of City assets and create greater efficiencies using existing real estate stock. By identifying underused spaces, or spaces which can be adapted or repurposed for cultural use, it may be possible to ensure a supply of cultural space at reduced cost.

METHODOLOGY

Cultural Services worked with Lord Cultural Resources, in association with R.E. Millward + Associates, to undertake the consultation and study process. In the first phase in 2012, 20 of the city’s 44 wards were selected for consultation and assessment.

These 20 wards were selected based on geography, level of development, and level of cultural development. In 2013, the second phase, Cultural Services undertook consultations in the remaining 24 Wards.



Community consultations were held between May and October 2012 and between June and October 2014. Participants were asked about existing cultural space and activities, gaps in service and infrastructure and future community needs and priorities. **An online survey** that posed questions on cultural participation was prepared and widely distributed through community and arts networks, providing an opportunity for those who could not attend to add their input.

Meeting minutes from the community consultations and feedback from the survey informed the **Ward Summary** documents, which provide a snapshot of the cultural infrastructure needs and priorities in their ward. The summaries are intended to guide Councillors in their decision-making around cultural facilities and programs when opportunities for investment arise.

The **Cultural Facilities Database** was updated as a result of community consultations and a verification process, providing a solid basis from which to launch future work. The Database includes a full listing of cultural facilities within each of the 44 wards, and notes the ownership and potential uses of each space. There is potential for this resource to be made available to the cultural community.

Guidelines for the application of Section 37 as it relates to the development of cultural facilities were produced for use by Councillors, cultural organizations and City staff. This document includes recommendations for using Section 37 as a tool to support the creation of and improvements to cultural space.

CONSULTATION PARTICIPATION

The public consultations were publicized through the City of Toronto website, Councillors' offices and a number of networks including those of the Toronto Public Library, the Neighbourhood Arts Network, the Toronto Arts Council and Local Arts Service Organizations, among others.

The majority of participants were artists, cultural practitioners, administrators or members of youth or community groups and small to mid-size cultural organizations. Approximately 400 individuals participated in the ward consultations.

The survey was also publicized using the same networks; 434 surveys were completed. Responses were received from across the city's 44 wards; 62% of all respondents were in the 25-54 years age bracket; and 64% of respondents were female.

CONSULTATION FINDINGS

A number of issues and themes were echoed by participants across the city. While ward-specific feedback and priorities are included in the Ward Summaries, the overarching issues that impact upon the cultural community city-wide are included here.

Potential of Existing Public Infrastructure:

- Elementary and high schools, which are evenly distributed city-wide, possess ideal facilities for a range of cultural uses, from rehearsals, meetings, and workshops to performances and community events. Unfortunately, costly permit fees and deteriorating facilities combine to render these spaces inaccessible to community groups that could most benefit from these spaces.
- It is recognized that school enrolment has been declining, and that some schools have been slated for closure. Finding a way to work with the school boards to gain access to these underused spaces should be seen as a priority from a community benefit and cost-saving perspective.
- Parks and field houses also present an underutilized opportunity to provide a network of support for a range of cultural activities.
- Libraries emerged as playing a key role in supporting community cultural activities City-wide. Most libraries operate at capacity, and are well-known within their communities for being amenable to making space available to a range of community groups and activities.

Refurbishments and Specialization:

- Minor refurbishments to existing spaces can make a facility suitable to both the general public and specialized users – for example, sprung floors make library community rooms suitable for dancers, and soundproofing makes it usable by musicians.
- The artistic communities of many wards are reaching a point of maturity, and require more specialized facilities to meet their needs. Spaces that are geared to a more sophisticated production of music and performance (Ward 8), or that support entrepreneurs or small businesses (Ward 10) are needed.
- Supporting the maturation of a ward's artistic community in this way can result in the creation of a “centre of excellence”, in which a ward can excel in a particular cultural expression.

Maximizing Privately-owned Space:

- Cultural organizations require consistent access to performance/presentation space, as well as administrative and meeting space. Partnerships with the private sector could open up spaces within office buildings or other spaces that community groups could rent outside of business hours and on weekends.
- Business Improvement Associations (BIAs) are uniquely poised to broker these partnerships between the cultural and private sector in their neighbourhood, highlighting mutual benefit to both the host and the renting group.
- BIAs are also in the position to animate vacant spaces such as empty storefronts, unused lots and lobbies, by inviting cultural organizations access to these spaces for performances and programs.

Multi-purpose Community Gathering Space:

- Easily-accessible spaces in which the community can gather was expressed as a need in many wards. This space should accommodate a variety of cultural activities, from dance and music performances to cooking classes and fundraising events.
- Similarly, outdoor gathering spaces found in parks should remain accessible; obtaining a permit is an administrative challenge to most organizations; the permit process should be streamlined and be better-communicated.
- Upgrades to and expansions of existing cultural facilities, are often all that is required to allow cultural organizations to make the most of the space, whether it is to increase audience capacity, or to make the space easier to rent to other groups.

Access:

- The age and standard of Toronto's built infrastructure varies across the city. A priority across the City is to ensure that existing cultural facilities meet physical accessibility requirements. Facilities in downtown wards in particular require basic refurbishments in order to bring them to standard.
- Accessibility of cultural space should also be considered in terms of transportation. Attendance at some existing cultural facilities could be increased if public transit services were more locally available. Local neighbourhood efforts such as a community bus could provide groups such as senior citizens and youth with a more reliable transportation option. In other cases, efforts to situate cultural spaces along public transit or walkable routes should be a priority.

Marketing, Communication, Resource Sharing:

- Cultural activity takes place across the city, but learning of events happening outside of the downtown wards is difficult. These wards require a vehicle – possibly headed by a Local Arts Service Organization (LASO) or Councillor's office – through which to publicize events, performances, and cultural activities both within the ward and beyond.
- Community groups and arts and culture organizations would benefit from a centralized system of publicizing resources, and teaming up with other organizations across the city. This online portal could become the primary source of information on available rehearsal, practice, meeting and performance space in the city.

A summary for each ward is provided in the following pages. Meeting minutes from each ward consultation will be made available to the Councillor. The Section 37 report is a separate document.

CONTACT

For further information please contact:

Cultural Services

Economic Development & Culture

City of Toronto

Tel: 416-392-4012 Email: culture@toronto.ca

DATABASE DEFINITIONS

Cultural facilities across the city are categorized according to the functions they are able to accommodate. These categories were created in order to better appreciate the existing and potential uses of a range of spaces and facilities. The following definitions provide further detail on each category.

Performance

Spaces in which performing arts (dance, music, theatre, etc.) creation or presentation takes place. Includes but is not limited to:

- Dance studios
- Recording studios
- Theatres
- Music halls / live music spaces
- Restaurants and bars with stages / performance spaces
- Churches
- Band shells / amphitheatres / outdoor spaces that can accommodate performances (eg. Shakespeare in the Park, Manifesto Dance)
- Multipurpose spaces with specific accommodations for performances (eg. lighting, audience seating, etc.)

Exhibition / Visual Arts

Spaces in which visual arts creation or presentation can take place, in addition to pure exhibition space. Includes but is not limited to:

- Art galleries
- Museums
- Visual artist studios
- Photography studios
- Exhibition space in coffee shops

Screen Based

Spaces for the production and presentation of multimedia screen-based arts including digital, photography, and film. Includes but is not limited to:

- Film studios
- Movie theatres
- Technology labs (eg. ProTech Media Centre)

Library

- Toronto Public Library facility with physical space for cultural activity.

Multipurpose

Spaces that are not purpose-built and can house a range of culture activity ranging from creation to performance. Includes but is not limited to:

- Parks
- Community Centres
- Recreation Centres
- Churches

Heritage

- Designated Heritage space

City Owned / City-Operated / Owned by Others

- A city owned facility is a space “owned” by the City of Toronto insofar as it is listed as a capital asset for the City, its Agencies, Boards, Commissions and Corporations.
- A city-operated facility is a space in which the City of Toronto, or its Agencies, Boards, Commissions and Corporations, has a lease (long or short term) for the space.
- An owned by others facility is a space that is not held or operated by the City of Toronto, or its Agencies, Boards, Commissions and Corporations.



Lord
Cultural Resources

 R.E. MILLWARD +
ASSOCIATES LTD

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R. E. Millward & Associates Ltd. for the City of Toronto

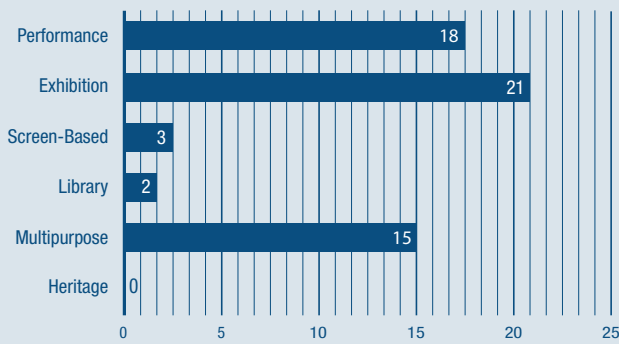
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WARD 14

Making Space for Culture: Consultation Summaries PARKDALE-HIGH PARK

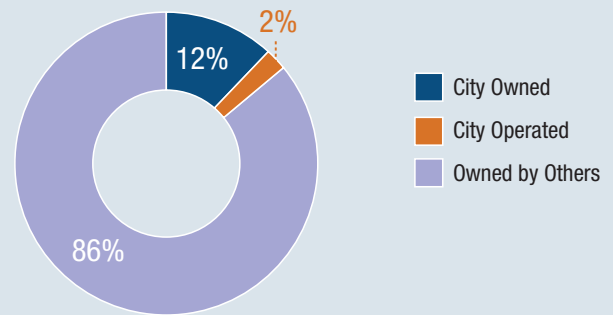


Cultural Facilities by Type



* Cultural facilities may be counted in more than one category.

Cultural Facilities by Ownership



* Total Number of Facilities: 43

Summary of Needs Identified in Public Engagement

- The Ward is rich with cultural activity, both professional and community-based, and has expression in diverse forms and artistic practices. A high population of artists and cultural workers live and work in the Ward. The West Queen West area represents a cultural hub that draws people from across the city for cultural experiences. Affordable working space and affordable housing was identified as key issues for the community, particularly in light of commercial development.
- Lack of space for youth to participate in cultural programs.
- Lack of cultural incubation space for artists and entrepreneurs.
- Lack of cultural space for newcomer communities, such as the Tibetan and Roma, and lack of affordable space for different ethnic groups to mix and share programming.

Potential Cultural Space Projects

- **Short Term:** Making it easier for community groups to access existing public space. Public spaces such as parks, streets, and existing schools and churches, represent opportunities for community cultural space sharing and animation. Work with BIAs and Toronto Community Housing to promote public space initiatives.
- **Long Term:** Development of Metrolinx properties along Dundas West; multipurpose space for youth programs; private development opportunities on Dufferin, south of King St.W.

WARD 14

Making Space for Culture: Existing Cultural Facilities PARKDALE-HIGH PARK



WARD 14

Making Space for Culture: Existing Cultural Facilities PARKDALE-HIGH PARK

FACILITY NAME	Address	Ward	Performance	Exhibition	Screen Based	Library	Multipurpose	Heritage	OWNERSHIP
Parkdale Community Recreation Centre	75 Lansdowne Avenue, M6K 2V7	14					×		City Operated
Masaryk-Cowan Community Centre	220 Cowan Avenue, M6K 2N6	14					×		City Owned
Allan Lamport Stadium	1155 King Street West, M6K 1E9	14	×				×		City Owned
Parkdale Branch (Auditorium) (TPL)	1303 Queen Street West, M6K 1L4	14	×			×			City Owned
Parkdale Arts and Culture Centre (Gallery 1313, Famer's Market)	1313 Queen Street West, M6K 1L8	14		×			×		City Owned
High Park Library (TPL)	228 Roncesvalles Avenue, M6R 2L3	14	×			×			City Owned
Bishop Marrocco/Thomas Merton Catholic Secondary School	1515 Bloor Street West, M6P 1A3	14	×				×		Owned by others
Romero House	1558 Bloor Street West, M6P 1A4	14					×		Owned by others
Lithuanian Community House	1573 Bloor Street West, M6P 1A6	14	×				×		Owned by others
Taras Shevchenko Museum	1614 Bloor Street West, M6P 1A7	14		×					Owned by others
Neubacher Shor Contemporary	5 Brock Avenue, M6K 2K6	14		×					Owned by others
The Japanese Paper Place	77 Brock Avenue, M6K 2L3	14		×					Owned by others
St. John's National Polish Catholic Cathedral	186 Cowan Avenue, M6K 2N6	14					×		Owned by others
Dufferin Liberty Centre	219 Dufferin Street, M6K 1Y9	14		×	×		×		Owned by others
The Baitshop Gallery	358 Dufferin Street, Suite 117, M6K 1Z8	14		×			×		Owned by others
Unit 102 Theatre	376 Dufferin Street, M6K 1E6	14	×						Owned by others
That's Women's Work Arts Network	2035 Dundas Street West, M6R 1W8	14		×					Owned by others
Euphonic Sound Recording Studio	2238 Dundas Street West, Suite B104, M6R 1X3	14	×						Owned by others
Hugh's Room	2261 Dundas Street West, M6R 1X6	14	×						Owned by others
Trebas Institute	2340 Dundas Street West, M6P 4A9	14			×				Owned by others
Lucy McCormick Sr. Public School	2717 Dundas Street West, M6P 1Y1	14					×		Owned by others
Argonaut Rowing Club	1225 Lake Shore Boulevard West, M6K 3C1	14	×				×		Owned by others
Palais Royale	1601 Lake Shore Boulevard West, M6K 3C1	14	×				×		Owned by others
Convenience Gallery	58 Lansdowne Avenue, M6K 2V9	14		×					Owned by others
Olga Korper Gallery	17 Morrow Avenue, M6R 2H9	14		×					Owned by others
Christopher Cutts Gallery	21 Morrow Avenue, M6R 2H9	14		×					Owned by others
Pia Bouman School for Ballet and Creative Movement (Scotiabank Studio)	6 Noble Street, M6K 2C6	14	×						Owned by others
Salvador Darling	1237 Queen Street West, M6K 1L4	14		×					Owned by others
Stone's Place	1255 Queen Street West, M6K 1L5	14	×						Owned by others
Goodfellas Gallery	1266 Queen Street West, M6K 1J4	14		×					Owned by others
The Mascot	1267 Queen Street West, M6K 1L6	14		×					Owned by others

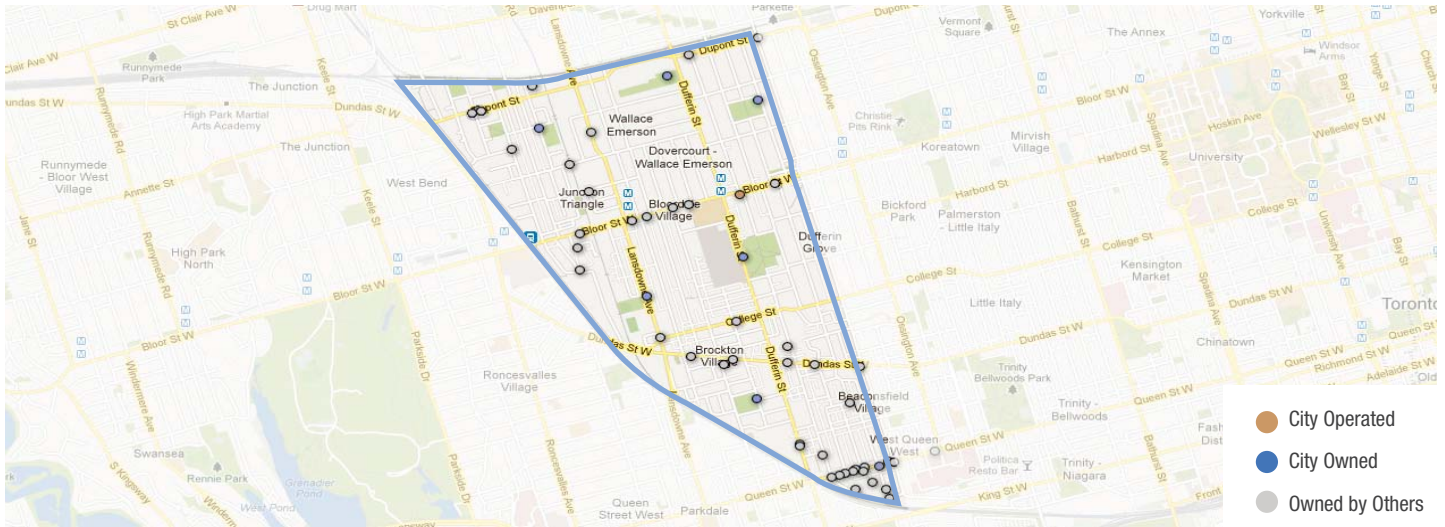
WARD 14

Making Space for Culture: Existing Cultural Facilities PARKDALE-HIGH PARK

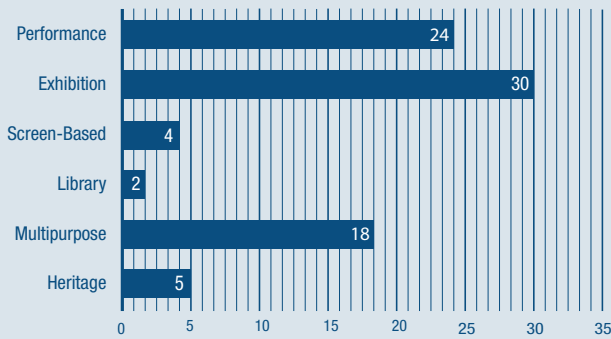
Cadillac Lounge	1296 Queen Street West, M6K 1L4	14	×						Owned by others
Made You Look	1338 Queen Street West, M6K 1L6	14		×					Owned by others
The workroom	1340 Queen Street West, M6K 1L4	14		×					Owned by others
Not My Dog	1510 Queen Street West, M6R1A4	14	×	×					Owned by others
FIXT Point Studio	1550 Queen Street West, M5R 1A6	14	×				×		Owned by others
Another Story Bookshop	315 Roncesvalles Avenue, M6R 2M6	14		×					Owned by others
Alternative Grounds Coffee House	333 Roncesvalles Avenue, M6R 2M8	14		×					Owned by others
The Local (Pub and Restaurant)	396 Roncesvalles Avenue, M6R 2M9	14	×	×					Owned by others
The Revue Cinema	400 Roncesvalles Avenue, M6R 2M9	14				×			Owned by others
Gate 403 Pub and Piano Bar	403 Roncesvalles Avenue, M6R 2N1	14	×						Owned by others
Gallery 345 (Circuit Gallery)	345 Sorauren Avenue, M6R 2G5	14	×	×			×		Owned by others
David Scott Gallery	11 Strickland Avenue, M6K 3E6	14		×					Owned by others

WARD 18

Making Space for Culture: Consultation Summaries DAVENPORT

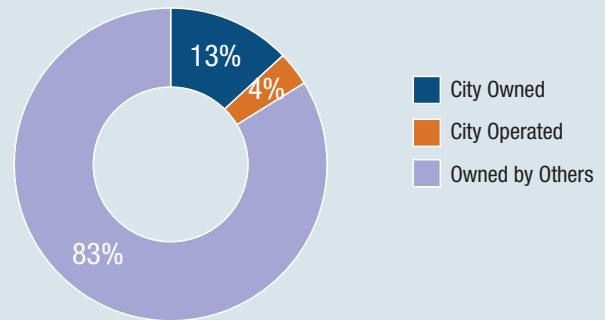


Cultural Facilities by Type



* Cultural facilities may be counted in more than one category.

Cultural Facilities by Ownership



* Total Number of Facilities: 54

Summary of Needs Identified in Public Engagement

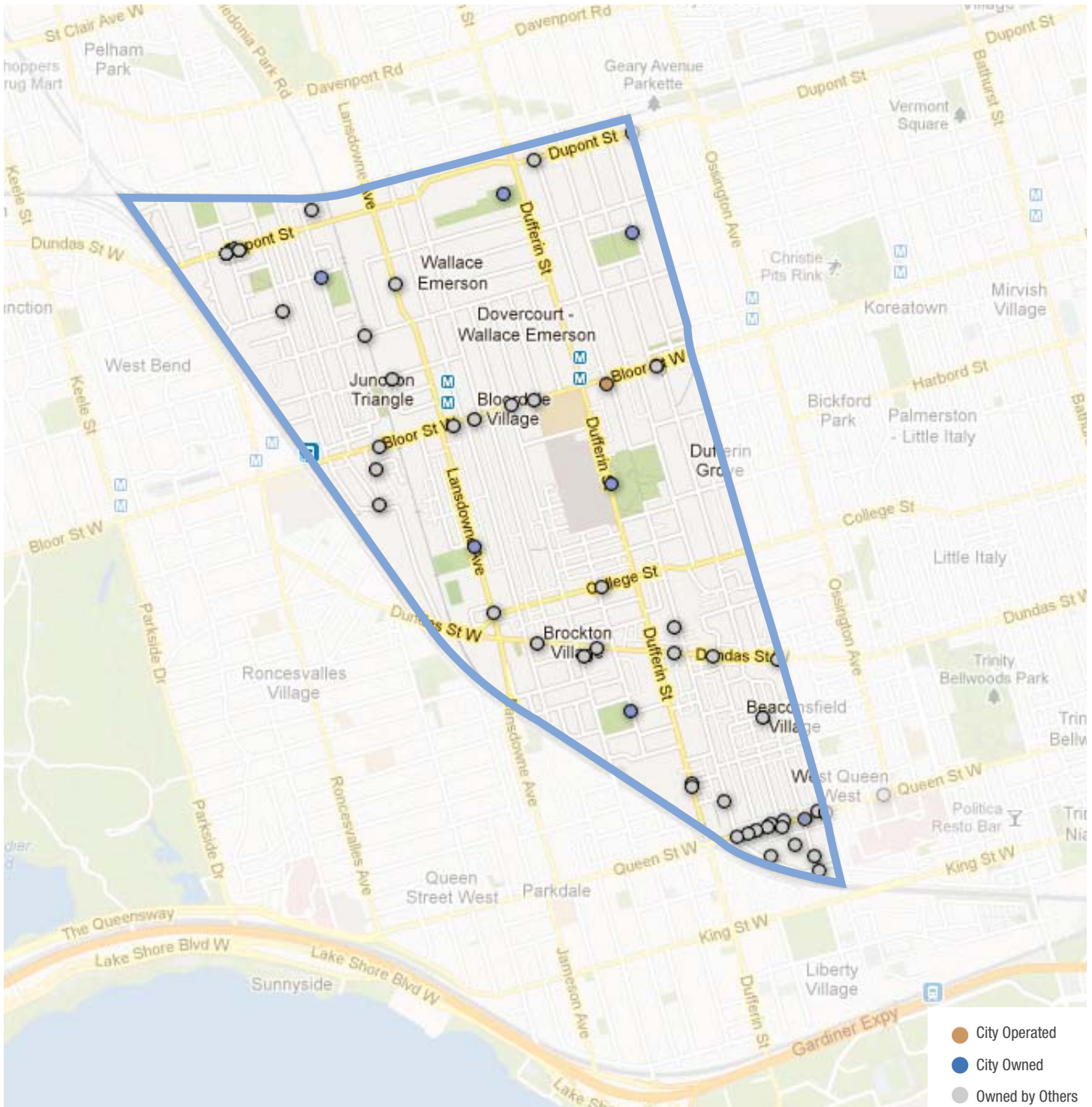
- Artist housing or artist co-ops emerged as a need; artists add value to a community immediately, and keeping artists within the ward will ultimately benefit cultural production in the area.
- Predictable access to community spaces including parks and field houses is needed. Other administrative barriers to these spaces (eg. permit and liability fees) discourage grassroots and community organizations from utilizing these spaces. This would allow for the stabilization of arts organizations and programming in Ward 18.
- Multipurpose and artistic social entrepreneurial spaces are needed to enable independent production and studio space.
- Community arts organizations continue to require free or below market rent space.

Potential Cultural Space Projects

- **Short Term:** Equip field houses located in parks within the ward with ample heating, so that they may be used year-round. Investment should be made in specialized equipment to outfit the new Theatre Centre facility. Councillor-supported partnerships between BIAs and arts organizations would be helpful in ensuring the efficient use of existing spaces, for rehearsal and administrative purposes.
- **Long Term:** Consider turning schools slated for closure within Ward 18 into artist live-work space, or rental space for organizations. These facilities are well-suited for rehearsals, studios and administrative space, and salvaging this excellent infrastructure is a priority.

WARD 18

Making Space for Culture: Existing Cultural Facilities DAVENPORT



WARD 18

Making Space for Culture: Existing Cultural Facilities DAVENPORT

FACILITY NAME	Address	Ward	Performance	Exhibition	Screen Based	Library	Multipurpose	Heritage	OWNERSHIP
Bloor/Gladstone Branch (TPL)	1101 Bloor Street West, M6H 1M7	18	×			×	×	×	City Operated
Perth / Dupont Branch (TPL)	1589 Dupont Street, nM6P 3S5	18				×	×		City Operated
Campbell Avenue Park/Playground	225 Campbell Avenue, M6P 3V4	18					×		City Owned
Dufferin Grove Park (Fieldhouse)	875 Dufferin Street, M6H 4J3	18	×				×		City Owned
Wallace Emmerson Community Centre	1260 Dufferin Street, M6H 4C3	18	×				×		City Owned
MacGregor Park/Playground	346 Lansdowne Avenue, M6H 3Y2	18	×				×		City Owned
The Theatre Centre	1115 Queen Street West, M6J 1H8	18	×					×	City Owned
Mary McCormick Recreation Centre	66 Sheridan Avenue, M6K 2G9	18	×				×		City Owned
Dovercourt Boys & Girls Club	180 Westmoreland Avenue, M6H 3A2	18					×		City Owned
Artscape Triangle Gallery	38 Abell Street, M6J 0A2	18		×					Owned by others
The Centre for the Arts	14 Afton Avenue, M6J 1R7	18			×				Owned by others
St. Anthony's Church	1041 Bloor Street West, M6H 1M4	18					×		Owned by others
Dovercourt Baptist Church	1140 Bloor Street West, M6H 3M8	18					×		Owned by others
Gallery 1200	1200 Bloor Street West, M6H 1N1	18		×					Owned by others
Franco Dance Studios	1222 Bloor Street West, Suite A, M6H 1N3	18	×						Owned by others
Holy Oak Cafe	1241 Bloor Street West, M6H 1N6	18	×						Owned by others
Toronto Free Gallery	1277 Bloor Street West, M6H 1N7	18	×	×					Owned by others
Junction Triangle Clubhouse (Dovercourt Boys & Girls Club)	1379 Bloor Street West, M6H 1P3	18					×		Owned by others
Artists 25 Studio	267 Brock Avenue, Studio 104, M6K 2M3	18		×					Owned by others
Swizzle Gallery	1162 College Street, M6H 1B5	18		×					Owned by others
The Theatre Elusive	1078 Dovercourt Road, M6H 1Z5	18	×						Owned by others
Janak Khendry Studio	436 Dufferin Street, M6K 2A3	18	×	×					Owned by others
Akin Collective	444 Dufferin Street, M6K 2A3	18		×			×		Owned by others
Loop Gallery	1273 Dundas Street West, M6J 1X8	18		×					Owned by others
The Department	1389 Dundas Street West, M6J 1Y4	18		×					Owned by others
Jessica Bradley Art Projects	1450 Dundas Street West, M6J 3L5	18		×					Owned by others
Lula Lounge	1585 Dundas Street West, M6K 1T9	18	×	×					Owned by others
Naco Gallery Cafe	1691 Dundas Street West, M6K 1V2	18		×					Owned by others
Liaison of Independent Filmmakers of Toronton (LIFT)	1137 Dupont Street, M6H 2A3	18	×	×	×				Owned by others
Dupont Projects	1444 Dupont Street, Unit 31, M6P 4H3	18	×						Owned by others
Louise Lipman Contemporary Art	1581 Dupont Street, M6P 3S5	18		×					Owned by others
Open Door Designs	1597 Dupont Street, M6P 3S8	18	×						Owned by others
Index G Artshops (Chinese Contemporary Xchange, Lee Ka-Sing Gallery)	50 Gladstone Avenue, M6J 3K6	18		×					Owned by others

St. Anne's Anglican Church	270 Gladstone Avenue, M6J 3L6	18					✘	✘	Owned by others
Acacias Rubras Lounge	252 Lansdowne Avenue, M6H 3X9	18	✘						Owned by others
Offthemapgallery	712 Lansdowne Avenue, M6H 3Y8	18		✘					Owned by others
Mercer Union	37 Lisgar Street, M6J 3T3	18		✘			✘		Owned by others
Camera Bar and Media Gallery	1028 Queen Street West, M6J 1G4	18		✘	✘		✘		Owned by others
David Kaye Gallery	1092 Queen Street West, M6J 1H9	18	✘	✘					Owned by others
Thrush Holmes Empire	1093 Queen Street West, M6J 1J1	18		✘					Owned by others
The Social Bar, Twist Gallery	1100 Queen Street West, M6J 1H9	18	✘	✘					Owned by others
The Drake Hotel (Underground, Public Spaces)	1150 Queen Street West, M6J 1J3	18	✘	✘					Owned by others
Woolfitt's Gallery	1153 Queen Street West, M6J 1J4	18		✘					Owned by others
Sixty4Steps	1164 Queen Street West, M6J 1J5	18		✘					Owned by others
Fly Gallery	1172 Queen Street West, M6J 1J5	18		✘					Owned by others
Akau Inc.	1186 Queen Street West, M6J 1J6	18		✘					Owned by others
UNIT	1198 Queen Street West, MJ6 1J6	18	✘						Owned by others
Gladstone Hotel (Art Bar, Ballroom, Melody Bar)	1214 Queen Street West, M6J 1J6	18	✘	✘			✘	✘	Owned by others
St Luigi's Catholic School	2 Ruskin Avenue, M6P 3P8	18					✘	✘	Owned by others
Fashion Art Toronto Venue (Warehouse, 213 Sterling Road)	213 Sterling Road, M6R 2B2	18	✘	✘					Owned by others
Somewhere There	227 Sterling Road, Unit 112, M6P 0A1	18	✘				✘		Owned by others
Studio 99 Gallery	99 Sudbury Street, M6J 3S7	18		✘					Owned by others
Sketch	180 Sudbury Street, M6J 3H2	18		✘					Owned by others
Debbie Wilson Studios	87 Wade Avenue, Unit 101, Toronto, M6H 2Z3	18	✘						Owned by others
Wallace Studios	258 Wallace Avenue, M6H 1V5	18			✘				Owned by others