



WATERFRONTToronto

Waterfront Design Review Panel

Minutes of Meeting #156

Wednesday, September 28th, 2022

Hybrid meeting held in-person and virtually

Present

Paul Bedford, Chair
Betsy Williamson, Vice Chair
George Baird
Peter Busby
Gina Ford
Matthew Hickey
David Leinster
Janna Levitt
Nina-Marie Lister
Fadi Masoud
Emily Mueller De Celis
Jeff Ranson
Kevin Stelzer
Eric Turcotte

Regrets

Pat Hanson
Brigitte Shim

Representatives

Chris Glaisek, Waterfront Toronto
Emilia Floro, City of Toronto

Recording Secretary

Leon Lai

WELCOME

The Chair opened the meeting by providing an overview of the agenda, which included reviews of:

1. Legacy Art Project – Detailed Design
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GENERAL BUSINESS

The Chair requested two changes in the July 27th, 2022 meeting minutes and asked the Panel to adopt the document. The minutes were adopted. The Chair asked if there were any conflicts of interest for disclosures. No conflicts of interest were disclosed.

The Chair then asked Christopher Glaisek, Chief Planning and Design Officer with Waterfront Toronto, to give an update on last month's projects.

Design Review Panel Updates:

Mr. Glaisek began by noting the Consensus Comments from July 2022 have been shared with the Quayside Infrastructure + Public Realm team, and the project is expected to return to WDRP in 2023 for Schematic Design review. Mr. Glaisek noted the Consensus Comments for Ontario Place Public Realm Master Plan have been circulated to the proponent team. The project is expected to return for the second review in Q1 2023 after the proponent submits the first formal application of the Public Realm Master Plan to the City.

Waterfront Toronto Updates:

Mr. Glaisek noted the mosaic tile installation around the pond perimeter has been completed and they are covered by a layer of Tyvek for protection while allowing moisture to escape. Mr. Glaisek noted the forming and pouring of the concrete curbs for the rest of the park is in progress, and the park pavilion concrete slab is also in progress.

Leon Lai, Manager of the Waterfront Design Review Panel concluded by noting the upcoming WDRP agenda for October and November 2022.

Chair's remarks:

The Chair noted Peter Busby's last Design Review Panel is today and will be stepping off the Panel after this month. The Panel member congratulated Peter for an amazing career, appreciated his contributions to the Panel often pushing the envelope in his commentary, and wished him a wonderful retirement.

Mr. Busby thanked the Chair and noted he grew up in Toronto and enjoyed his work as a Panel member. He felt it is important for an architect's career to contribute and give back to important work like Waterfront Toronto.

The Chair concluded the General Business segment and motioned to go into the project review sessions.

PROJECT REVIEWS

1.0 Legacy Art Project – Detailed Design

<i>Project ID #:</i>	1127
<i>Project Type:</i>	Public Realm
<i>Review Stage:</i>	Detailed Design
<i>Review Round:</i>	Three
<i>Location:</i>	Central Waterfront
<i>Proponent:</i>	Legacy Art Project Toronto
<i>Architect/ Designer:</i>	Jon Sasaki DTAH Trophic Design Art + Public UnLtd
<i>Presenter(s):</i>	James Roche, Partner, DTAH Terrance Radford, Principal, Trophic Design Jon Sasaki, Artist
<i>Delegation:</i>	Rebecca Carbin, Principal, Art + Public UnLtd Elnaz Sanati, DTAH Lori Ellis, City of Toronto Lara Herald, City of Toronto David O’Hara, City of Toronto Chloe Catan, Waterfront Toronto Shuraine Otto-Olak, Waterfront Toronto Adam Novack, Waterfront Toronto Josh Hilburt, Waterfront Toronto

1.1 Introduction to the Issues

Adam Novack, Design Project Manager with Waterfront Toronto, began by noting that Legacy Art Project is a citizen-funded public space initiative dedicated to the spirit of courage, determination, and action that Terry Fox embodied. The art pieces have been selected through an open call competition and a jury selection process, as such the art piece is not for Panel review. The surrounding landscape was designed in concert with the art piece, and asked the Panel to focus on ensuring the landscape design supports and reinforces the artistic conception of the project. Mr. Novack noted the design team, project timeline, and Waterfront Toronto’s role as the delivery agent.

Mr. Novack noted the site context, the project is here for Stage 3: Detailed Design review, and recapped the consensus comments from Sept. 2021’s Schematic Design review. Mr. Novack noted the areas for Panel consideration from Waterfront Toronto, including the landscape details, interface with site edges, lighting strategy, and planting and grading plans. Mr. Novack noted Parks, Forestry & Recreation’s areas for Panel consideration, including AODA requirements, grading and drainage, sightlines with regards to planting strategy, and durability of materials. Mr. Novack then introduced James Roche, Partner with DTAH, to give the design presentation.

1.2 Project Presentation

Mr. Roche began by recapping City staff comments from June 2022, the existing site context, the Sept. 2021 Schematic Design version of the site plan, and the proposed site plan. Mr. Roche noted several trees in the northeast corner of the site are being removed, the updated path configuration, seating that provides views to the sculptures and the lake, the site grading, and planting strategy with three new trees at the northwest corner of the site. Mr. Roche noted the framed views at the end of the path, and introduced Terrance Radford, Principal with Trophic Design, to present planting details.

Mr. Radford noted the planting design reflects Terry's journey with North Boreal and Southern Carolinian planting, medicinal planting, and meadow masses. Mr. Radford summarized the planting layout and species and the year-round palette, Mr. Roche noted the material palette, bench design, lighting strategy including up-lighting at the sculptures, and light specifications. Mr. Roche noted the sculpture footing details, pavement markings for viewing the full project silhouette, and introduced Jon Sasaki, artist, to present the mock-ups.

Mr. Sasaki noted one-to-one scale cut-out mock-ups have been installed on site to examine the placement of the sculptures and determine optimal viewing positions. Mr. Roche concluded the presentation with updated perspective renderings of the project.

1.3 Panel Questions

The Chair then asked the Panel for questions of clarification.

One Panel member asked if the team plans to share maintenance strategies with the City because the pollinator species might fall outside of the typical plant palette. Mr. Roche noted the team will have a discussion on plant maintenance at the Music Garden with the City.

Another Panel member asked if there is a drainage strategy for the path, especially where the bench sits at the end of the path. Mr. Roche noted the landforms will have perforated pipes to help with drainage.

One Panel member asked for clarification on overall drainage structures. Mr. Roche noted one portion of the path will drain to the east, the grading will pitch the water where it can. There is no drainage structure, the site is small, and the team is interested in dissipating the water on the west side of the path.

Another Panel asked if the planting will be dynamic, or static once it matures, and maintenance will settle down. Terrance Radford, Principal with Trophic Design, noted the planting beds will be more static, transitioning from Carolinian to Boreal, situating it within the plantings of Ontario and act as a constant in the design. Mr. Radford noted the meadow species will self-seed and migrate, the intent is to maintain clearance down centre line of the sculptures. The Panel member asked for the wood type for the benches. Mr. Roche noted the team is looking at Ipe, and Black Locust is also an option.

One Panel member asked the team to speak to the anticipated views in relation to the landforms and plantings. Mr. Roche noted the plantings will frame the sculptures; the bench heights are 450mm tall. The Panel member noted the asphalt seems appropriate for the path material and asked for more information on the edge detailing. Mr. Roche noted the edge detail has not been determined.

Another Panel member asked if there is any maintenance plan for harvesting the medicinal plants. Mr. Radford noted the discussions on maintenance and harvesting are very preliminary. The Panel member asked for more information on the asphalt where it transitions to other paving materials. Mr. Roche noted the asphalt will have either rolled or hard edge. On the west side there is existing concrete with inlay, on the east the Queens Quay granite continues down to the start of the path. The team will explore showing concrete on both ends of the path.

One Panel member asked if the team has consulted with an accessibility consultant on how someone with vision impairment can experience the work, and if there is any accessibility requirements. Mr. Roche noted the team is treating the sculptures like any other vertical elements in a park and there are no special measures required.

Another Panel member noted the lighting is dramatic and appropriate, and asked for the power of the lamps. Mr. Roche noted the team will confirm the power level of the lights and that the lights are dimmable.

One Panel member asked if the 2.1m clearance from the sculpture is a minimum dimension. Mr. Roche confirmed that there will be a 2.1m clearance from sculpture to bench while accounting for the leg space for sitting. The Panel member asked for more information on the landscape treatment on the north side of the path and why it does not extend all the way to Queens Quay. Mr. Roche noted the existing hedges are approximately 0.5m tall, they are a natural barrier that no one crosses so the team decided to retain them since the north side is not meant to provide access. The Panel member asked how the new and existing landscape on the north side is kept separate. Mr. Roche noted there is not meant to be a distinct edge, however there remains a question on maintenance between the two sets of plants.

Another Panel member asked if the lighting has been designed to limit light pollution and if snow or ice in the winter will impede on the performance of the ground lights. Mr. Roche noted the lights are factory sealed, snow should have no impact, but maintenance will have to clear the snow off the lights.

Another Panel member noted not all park paths are cleared and asked to confirm if this one will be ploughed. Mr. Roche noted the expectation is for the path to be cleared, the discussion remains to be had with PF&R. The Panel member asked for the heights of the mounds, and more information on the color coded plant species diagram. Mr. Radford noted the mounds are approximately 1m tall and described the planting species based on the diagram: light pink are low plants, orange are approximately 0,5m in height that maintains clear sightlines.

One Panel member asked for the number of circular pavement markers on the path. Mr. Roche noted there are four in total, the graphics will be determined in the future.

Another Panel member asked for more information on high albedo black asphalt. Mr. Roche noted the coating is meant to reflect light and reduce heat island effect, it is a readily available product.

One Panel member asked if there is symbolism between the asphalt and the sculptures. Mr. Sasaki noted the asphalt is meant to be the pathway that connects all the sculptures together, and it is also the surface Terry Fox ran on.

The Chair then asked the Panel members for comments.

1.4 Panel Comments

One Panel member appreciated the subtlety of the design and the message about transformation and journey. The Panel member encouraged the team to achieve the highest possibility of the intended vision, noted the plans will require maintenance so it is important to provide a maintenance manual. The Panel member encouraged the City to work with the proponent, as well as to involve the local Indigenous community. The Panel member recommended using a sustainable source of wood for the benches.

Another Panel member commended the evolution of the design, updated locations of the benches, the ability to see and experience the Lake at the project. The Panel member noted maintenance is critical to ensure the nuance of the design is retained when the project is eventually inherited.

One Panel member appreciated the recap of the previous design as part of the presentation and noted that the advancement creates a much stronger project as the design really highlights the role of landscape in a memorial. The Panel member is concerned with some implementation details, such as edges, drainage, and relationship with the landscape. The Panel member felt the project might feel fragmented with many pockets of wear and drainage, noted the asphalt edge requires further development to unify the entirety of the experience, and recommended a continuous French drain to prevent flooding. The Panel member appreciated the rigor in the lighting concept but asked the team to consider alternatives to ground lighting due to long-term night-sky pollution impact and maintenance concerns. The Panel member asked the team to further develop the landscape and improve its ability to shape the space and experience, such as larger landforms that are steeper on the inside and shallow on the outside. During winter months with little to no vegetation, the amplified landforms will help reinforce the vision.

Another Panel member noted the relationship between path and landform can be stronger. It is important to identify plant species that will grow before May, to ensure there is already vegetation to help with the experience during the off seasons. The Panel member noted the project needs an advocate from Parks to ensure successful implementation of the plants. The Panel member discouraged the use of lpe from a sustainability perspective and suggested alternatives such as Black Locust, thermally modified Ash, and Yellow Cedar.

One Panel member encouraged consultation with Indigenous communities and noted the transition between paving materials is very important.

Another panel member appreciated changes in the design which have strengthened the integration of art and landscape, as well as the episodic nature of the experience. The Panel member noted seasonal study is very important for the plant species knowing the summer experience will be amplified by the plants. The Panel member expressed concern with visual accessibility as the sculptures and the path are both black in color, and encouraged the team to further consider the experience for the visually impaired. The Panel member supported the removal of trees from the northeast part of the site, and noted the path edge detail is very critical for the success of this project.

One Panel member recommended the team specify sustainable materials and low embodied carbon concrete. The Panel member is unsure if the path will be read as a reference to a road and asked the team to consider showing road markings on the surface, such as a centre line. The Panel member asked the team to consider the presentation of the sculptures from the entry in addition to the end of the path.

Another Panel member noted that typically up-lighting is discouraged due to night-sky pollution. However, understanding the deliberate relationship being created here between the sculptures and the landscape, the Panel member is compelled by the up-lighting and recommended them to be dimmable, and focus the lens to minimize light splash into the sky. The Panel member asked the team to continue to explore alternatives as there might be other unanticipated lighting effects to improve the reading of the project. It is important to create contrast and not just power.

One Panel member noted the harvesting of the plants should incorporate the local Indigenous community, and felt that the relationship between landform, benches, path, and sculptural objects, do not yet successfully create intimacy when sitting on the bench, consider more design development to clarify and strengthen that relationship.

Another Panel member felt preserving the existing landscape on the north side of the path might lessen the identity of the project, and suggested bringing the new landscape all the way to Queens Quay. The Panel member suggested framing the path with concrete on both sides to improve the definition. The Panel member recommended expanding the experience to the path west of the site, such as providing an opportunity to view the project similar to the bench on the east side. The Panel member asked if there is a way to integrate the signage and project information as part of the design, instead of a separate element, to improve the overall experience.

One Panel member suggested acknowledging the First Nations presence and allowing the Indigenous community to take ownership of the site. Asphalt is often used as a temporary solution for mending broken concrete pathways, the Panel member is concerned that the project might be perceived as a temporary installation. The reference to the Trans-Canada Highway is appreciated and noted that it demonstrates the memory of Terry Fox is both his strength and the image of running next to the

Canadian landscape. The Panel member suggested a graphic clue on the asphalt to suggest the path is a reference to a highway.

Another Panel member felt the project does not need be too didactic for people to appreciate the experience, and suggested that some light markings on the path, as though the path is a sliced-out piece of the highway, might be sufficient, and the circle markings are not needed at all. The Panel member recommended using concrete for the area labelled as “plaza” at west end of the path, to improve the purity of the path itself to not dilute the concept.

One Panel member felt the project is a work of abstraction and felt the literal approaches such as highway markings are not the right direction. The Panel member suggested replacing the asphalt with a dark stone, or any other non-asphalt alternative, and designing the edge intentionally. The Panel member noted the benches outside the path do not share the same language as the inner benches and encouraged the team to be conceptual and abstract with all the elements in the memorial to maintain the narrative.

Another Panel member suggested building the end benches out of granite, to differentiate them from the inside benches while referencing the sculptures, and bookend the experience.

Mr. Glaisek felt the benches are separating the path from the landscape and undermining the experience of Terry running along the landscape. He suggested that instead, the benches should recede more into the landscape and disappear into the planting so the path can have a more direct relationship with the vegetation.

Another Panel member appreciated the location of the first bench on the path, whose position is slightly offset from being directly next to the sculpture, as having a strong relationship with the landscape while allowing views to the meadow and the lake. The Panel member suggested shifting the other benches to create a similar relationship.

1.5 Consensus Comments

General

- Strong support on the updated design and details.
- The design is successful in capturing the memory of Terry Fox.
- Encouraged the team to ensure the project is thoughtfully implemented to convey the strength and impact of Terry Fox’s journey.

Planting

- Supportive of the planting species and cycle, it is encouraged to create a manual for maintaining the plants through transition periods to ensure long-term success of the landscape vision.
- Especially considering the winter months with little to no vegetation, it is important to articulate the landforms, through their scale, symbolism, and relation to the sculptures, to create a unique experiential quality.

- To further ensure a successful year-round landscape experience, consider plant species that can be planted in early season.
- Continue to explore partnership with local and Indigenous communities, to provide opportunities such as learning and harvesting of the medicinal plants.

Details

- The path edge detail is important, carefully consider how the asphalt meets the sculptures, adjacent landscape, and drains water.
- Clarify the relationship between the sculpture, bench, and landscape. Continue to refine the bench design to create a more intimate viewing experience.
- Further consider the experience for the visually impaired.
- The use of asphalt on the west plaza dilutes the reading and symbolism of the path, consider alternate materials, and making the start and end thresholds more distinct to articulate the reading.
- Terry Fox ran along the edge of the highway, consider details that will emphasize this symbolism.

The Chair then asked if the proponent would like to provide a brief response.

Mr. Roche felt the path edge condition and planting comments are very accurate and helpful, and the team is thinking about how to abstract the experience for the visually impaired. Mr. Sasaki appreciated the process of the WDRP and thanked the Panel for the commentary.

1.6 *Vote of Support/Non-Support*

The Panel voted unanimously Full-Support for the project.

CLOSING

There being no further business, the Chair then adjourned the public session of the meeting after a vote to go into a brief in-camera session.

These Meeting Minutes are formally adopted and approved by Panel on October 26th, 2022.

Signed–

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Paul Bedford

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Paul Bedford, Waterfront Design Review Panel Chair

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Emilia Floro

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Emilia Floro, City of Toronto Urban Design Director

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Chris Glaisek, Waterfront Toronto Chief Planning and Design Officer