

Waterfront for All - November 21, 2018

# SEEING THE FUTURE FROM THE SHORE:

Looking ahead, and advancing the vision for Toronto's waterfront

Part I: Top Ten Global Urban Waterfronts

Part II: Toronto Attributes

Part III: Public Surveys

Part IV: Preliminary Findings

Chris Glaisek, Chief Planning and Design Officer

## Part I: Top Ten Global Urban Waterfronts

# World's Top Waterfront Cities

## Conde Nast Traveler

Quality of life-based \*

1. Auckland, New Zealand
2. Barcelona, Spain
3. Vancouver, Canada
4. Copenhagen, Denmark
5. Singapore
6. Chicago, US
7. Sydney, Australia
8. San Francisco, US
9. Tokyo, Japan
10. New York City, US
11. Dublin, Ireland
12. Hong Kong, China
13. Helsinki, Finland
14. Los Angeles, US
15. Lisbon, Portugal
16. Dubai, U.A.E.
17. Oslo, Norway
18. Perth, Australia
19. Istanbul, Turkey
20. Miami, US

\* Measures: Mercer Quality of Living Index, Numbeo Basket of Goods, Euromonitor Ranking

## Fodors

Popularity-based

1. Venice, Italy
2. Bergen, Norway
3. Amsterdam, Holland
4. Sydney, Australia
5. San Francisco, US
6. Brighton, England
7. Stockholm, Sweden
8. Hong Kong, China
9. Baltimore, US
10. Vancouver, Canada
11. San Sebastian, Spain
12. Lisbon, Portugal
13. Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
14. New Orleans, US
15. Cape Town, South Africa

## Project for Public Spaces

Urban design-based \*\*

1. Stockholm, Sweden
2. Venice, Italy
3. Helsinki, Finland
4. San Sebastian, Spain
5. Sydney, Australia
6. Hamburg, Germany
7. Baltimore, US
8. Chicago, US
9. Montreal, Canada
10. Nice, France

\*\* First 6 ranked, last 7 in alphabetical order









































# Top Ten Global Urban Waterfronts



- 1. Stockholm, SWE
- 2. Amsterdam, NLDD
- 3. Copenhagen, DNK
- 4. Sydney, AUS
- 5. Singapore,,SGP
- 6. San Francisco, USA
- 7. Chicago, USA
- 8. Hamburg, GER
- 9. Rio de Janeiro, BRA
- 10. Hong Kong, CHN



# Benchmarking Attributes

Physical Form	 Scenic Recognizability	 Historic Fabric	 Canals and Rivers	 Bridge Network	 Streetscape Identity	 Iconic Structure	 Design Excellence	 Iconic Boulevard	 Intimate Spaces	
Water Activities	 Cruise Ships	 Recreational Boating	 Harbour Tours	 Museum Ships	 Bathing / Swimming	 Ferry System	 Marinas	 Recreation Piers	 Working Port	 Sport Fishing
Land Activities	 Continuous Promenade	 Destination Park	 Cultural Anchor	 Shopping Destination	 Waterfront Dining	 Cultural Events & Festivals	 Urban Beach			
	 Public Art	 Sports Fields	 Destination Playground	 Recreation Trail	 Food Market	 Seafood Restaurants				
Community	 Vibrant Neighborhoods	 Innovation District	 Demographic Diversity	 Affordable Housing	 Connection to the City					
Environment	 Immersive Nature	 Resilience by Design	 Clean Water							

# Scenic Recognizability





sydney





**i light** marina bay  
4 - 27 MARCH 2016

A stylized, colorful graphic of the Singapore skyline. It features the Marina Bay Sands hotel, the Singapore Flyer, and other buildings in various colors (red, orange, yellow, green, blue, purple) against a dark blue background. The graphic is positioned below the event title.

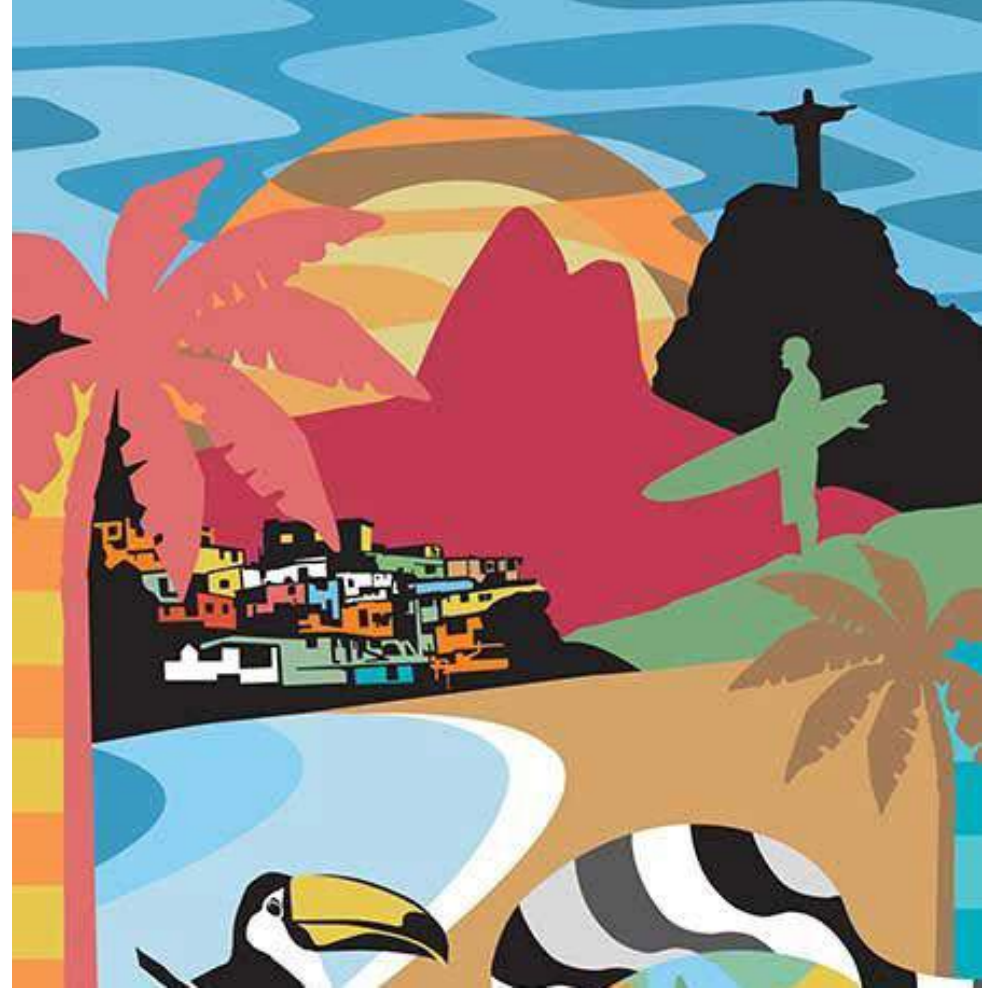
singapore



san francisco

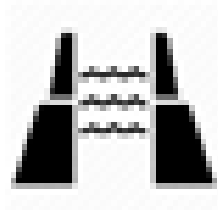


chicago



rio de janeiro





# Canals & Rivers



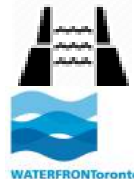
amsterdam



hamburg



stockholm



WATERFRONToronto

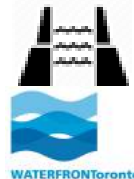




Copenhagen

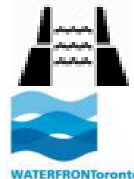


chicago





singapore

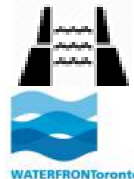


WATERFRONT  
Toronto



7:21

yokohama



WATERFRONT Toronto



# Bridge Network



stockholm





amsterdam



copenhagen





chicago





hamburg



# Streetscape Character



stockholm



amsterdam



rio de janeiro



# Architectural Icons



sydney





singapore



san francisco



# Design Excellence



amsterdam





# copenhagen





singapore



chicago



# Cruise Ships





copenhagen





sydney





*The Disney Wonder visits San Francisco*

san francisco

*© David Yiu photography*





singapore



stockholm



**hamburg**





# rio de janeiro



WATERFRONTToronto



# Large Marina





sydney



san francisco

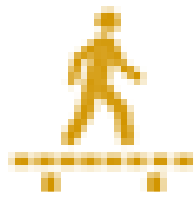




chicago

Jason Lewis [chicagophotoshop.com](http://chicagophotoshop.com)

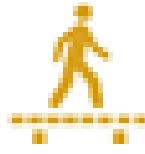




# Continuous Promenade



amsterdam





copenhagen



sydney





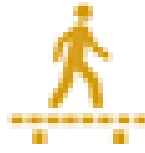
singapore





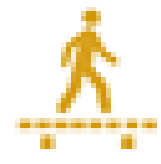


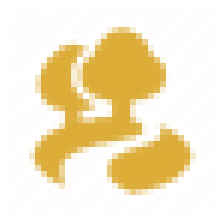
chicago





rio de janeiro





# Destination Park



sydney



chicago



san francisco



yokohama



singapore





# Cultural Anchor



amsterdam





# copenhagen





sydney



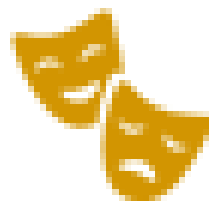


chicago





hamburg



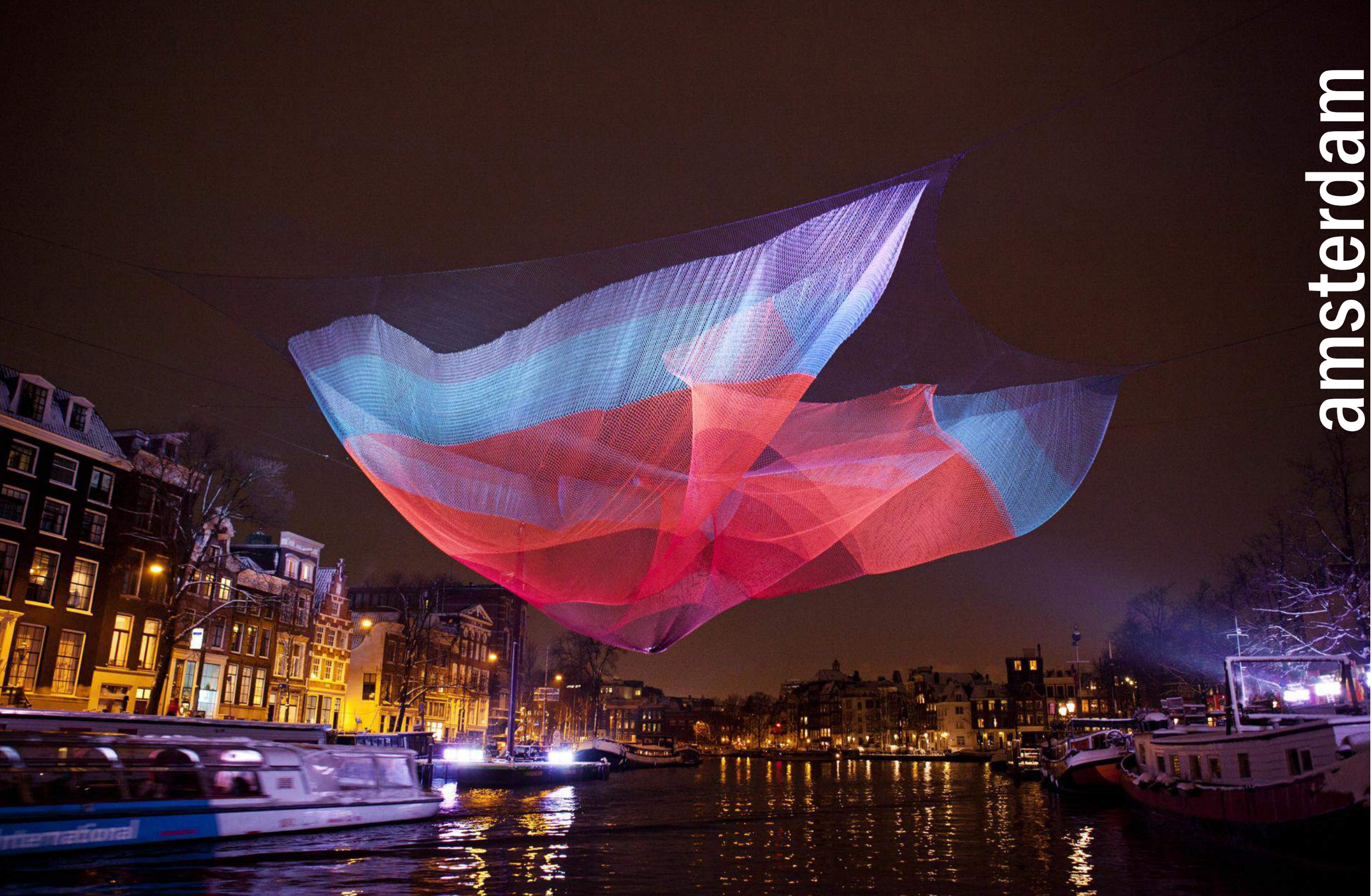
# Cultural Programming



stockholm







amsterdam





sydney





chicago





# Innovation District



stockholm



singapore

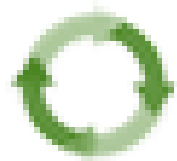


sydney



hamburg





# Resilience by Design



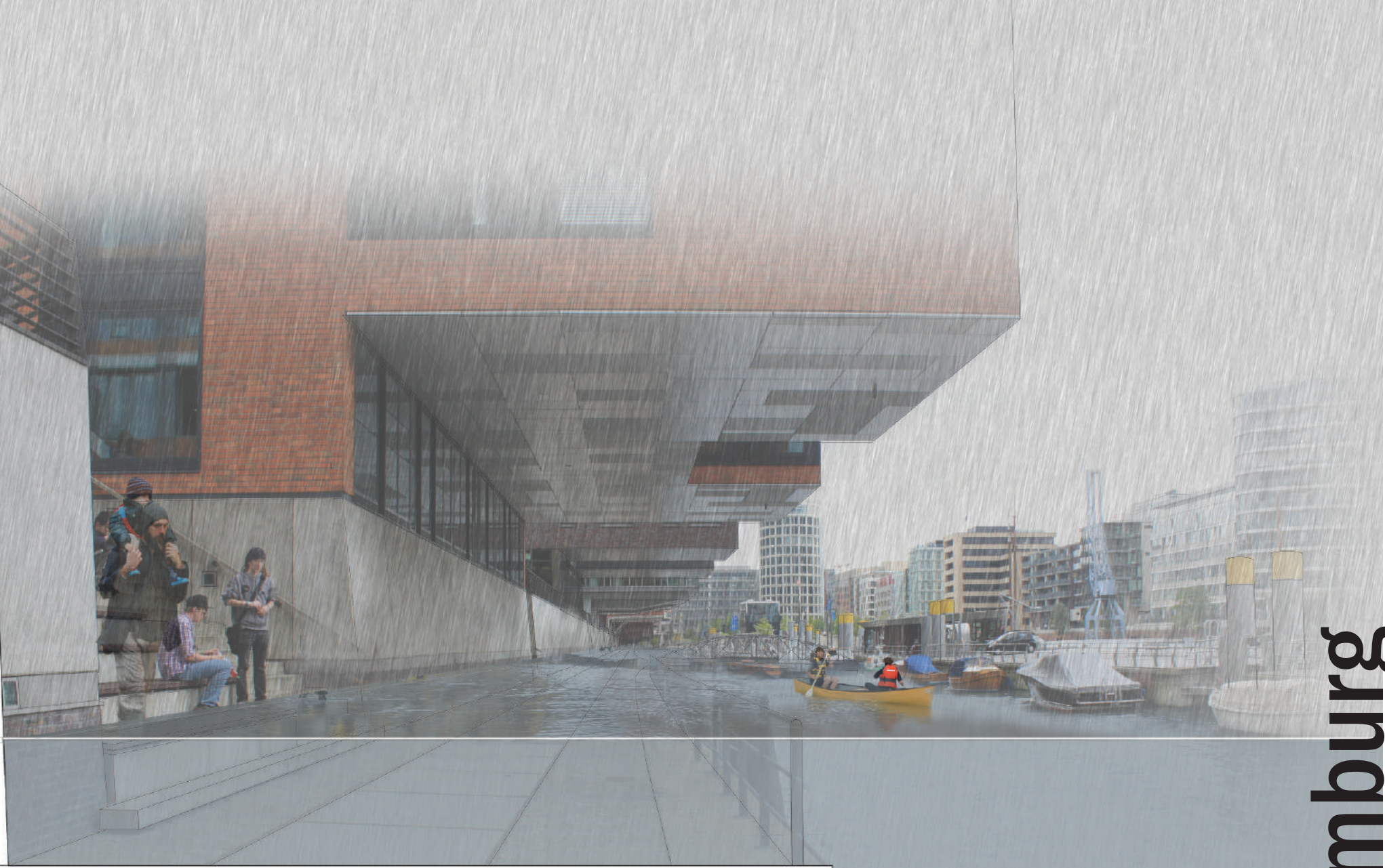
▼ +8.3 m MSI

▼ +5.5 m MSI Flood

▼ +4.5 m MSI Promenade

▼ +2.1 m MSI Mean High Tide

6m  
Floodable Pedestrian Promenade



# hamburg



stockholm





4b



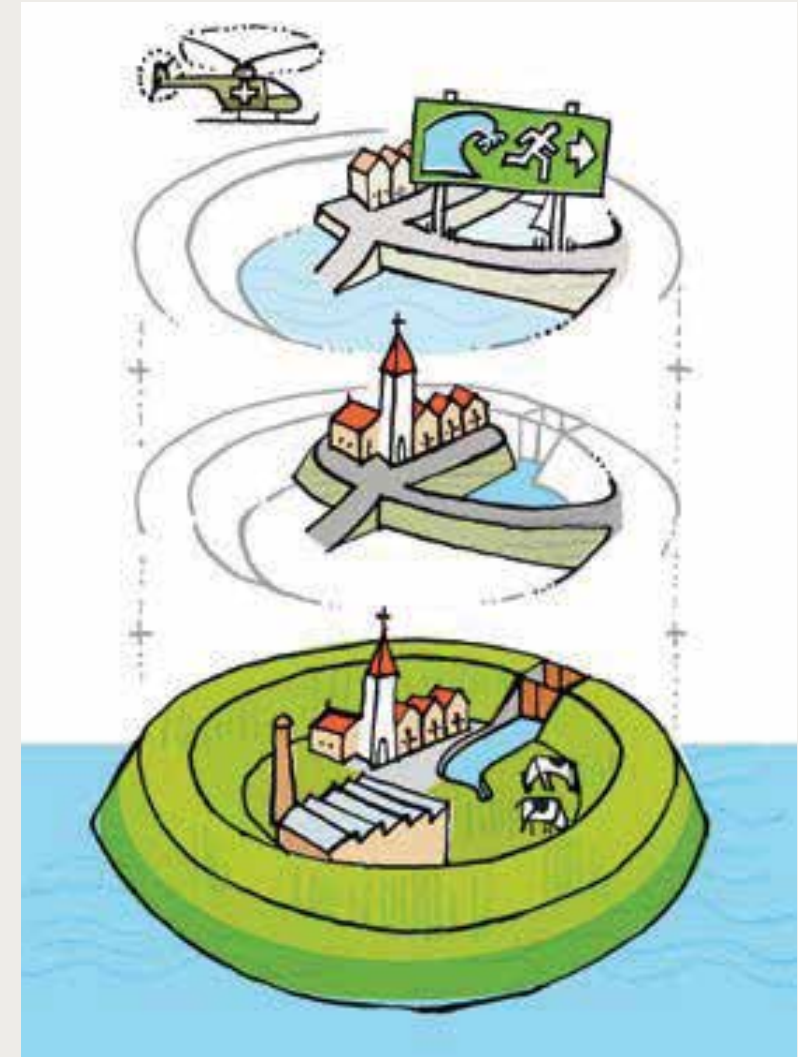
4c



4d



4e



6

**6** The multi-layer safety approach: layer 1: prevention; layer 2: sustainable spatial layout; layer 3: crisis management.

Source: National Water Plan



amsterdam










**4a-e** The dikes that used to protect the city continue to function as water defences. They meander through the city and are barely recognisable as dikes, such as Zeedijk (literally the 'Sea Dike') (b), Jodenbreestraat (c) and Hoogte Kadijk (d). Locks provide a passageway through the water defences, and if there is a flood threat they must be closed to protect the city centre, such as the Westerkeersluis locks near Westerdok (e).











Sources: DRO (a), Ellen Monchen (b, c, d), Waternet (e)



copenhagen






















# Benchmarking: Attribute Matrix

		Top 10 benchmarking cities									
Defining Attribute		Stocklm	Amstrdm	Copen	Sydney	Singapore	San Fran	Chicago	Hamburg	Rlo	HK
<b>Physical Form</b>	 Scenic Recognizability		●		●	●	●	●		●	●
	 Historic Fabric	●	●	●		●	●	●	●		
	 Canals and Rivers	●	●	●		●	●	●	●		
	 Bridge Network	●	●	●				●	●		
	 Streetscape Character	●	●	●					●	●	
	 Iconic Structure				●	●	●				
	 Design Excellence		●	●		●		●	●		
	 Waterfront Boulevard	●						●	●	●	
	 Intimate Spaces	●	●								

<b>Water Activities</b>	 Cruise Ships	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	 Recreational Boating	●	●	●	●		●	●	●	●	●
	 Harbour Tours	●			●	●	●	●	●		●
	 Museum Ships	●	●	●	●		●		●		
	 Bathing/Swimming	●		●	●			●	●	●	
	 Ferry System	●	●		●	●	●				●
	 Marinas				●		●	●			●
	 Recreation Piers						●	●	●		
	 Working Port								●		
	 Sport Fishing	●						●			

# Benchmarking: Attribute Matrix

Top 10 benchmarking cities

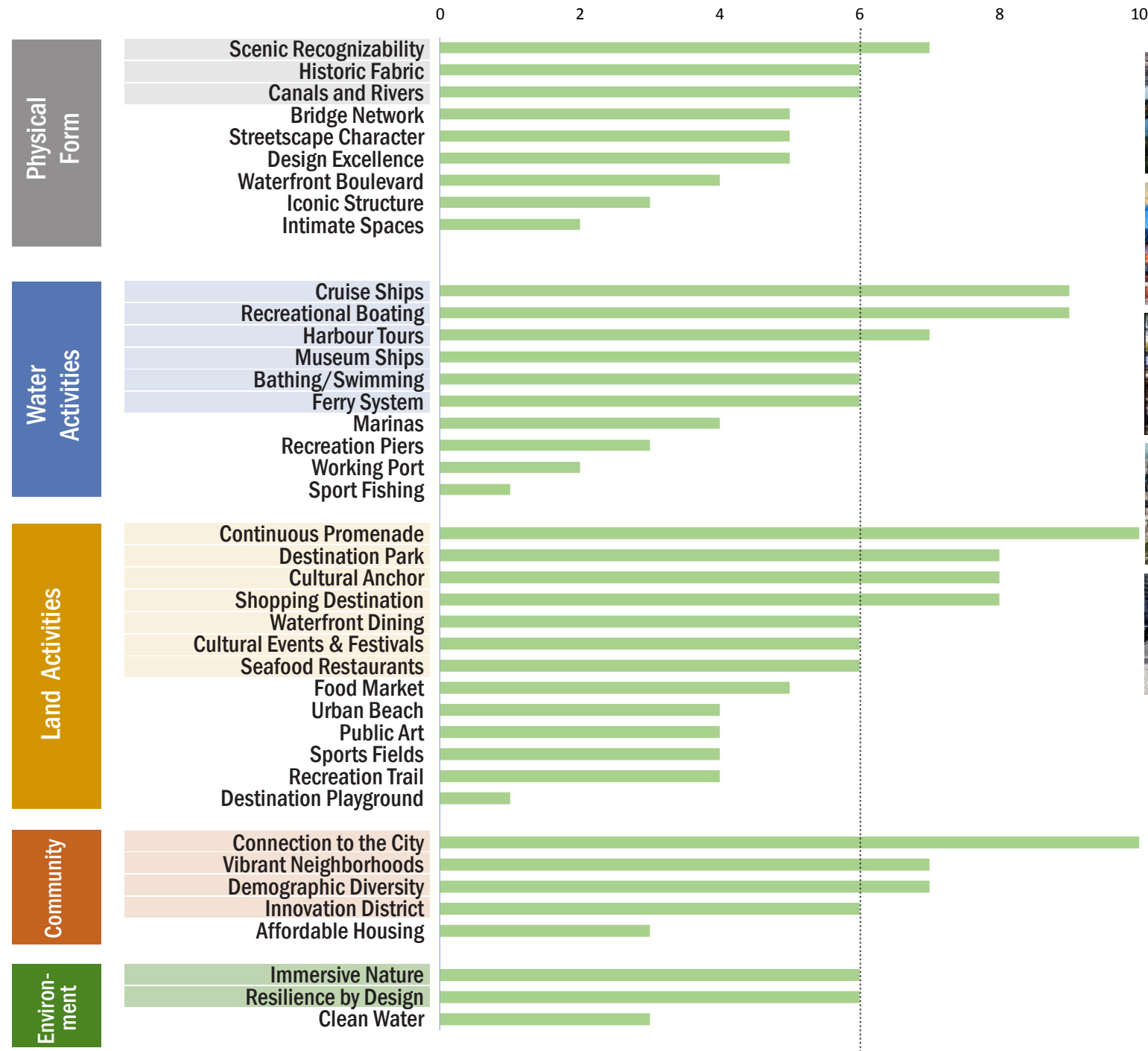
		Stocklm	Amstrdm	Copen	Sydney	Singapore	San Fran	Chicago	Hamburg	Rio	HK
<b>Land Activities</b>	 Continuous Promenade	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	 Destination Park	●	●		●	●	●	●	●		●
	 Cultural Anchor	●	●	●	●	●		●	●		●
	 Shopping Destination	●				●		●	●	●	●
	 Waterfront Dining	●	●	●	●	●		●	●	●	
	 Cultural Events & Festivals	●	●		●			●		●	●
	 Urban Beach				●		●	●		●	
	 Public Art			●				●		●	●
	 Sports Fields			●	●		●			●	
	 Destination Playground							●			
	 Recreation Trail			●	●		●	●			
	 Food Market	●	●	●	●		●				
 Seafood Restaurants			●	●	●	●		●		●	
<b>Community</b>	 Vibrant Neighborhoods	●	●	●	●	●		●		●	
	 Innovation District	●	●	●	●	●			●		
	 Demographic Diversity		●		●	●	●	●		●	●
	 Affordable Housing		●	●		●					
	 Connection to the City	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
<b>Environment</b>	 Immersive Nature	●	●	●			●			●	●
	 Resilience by Design	●	●	●		●	●		●		
	 Clean Water	●		●	●						

# Benchmarking: Attributes Summary Matrix

	Top 10 cities									
Defining Attribute	Stockhm	Amstrdm	Copen	Sydney	Singapore	San Fran	Chicago	Hamburg	Rio	HK
Physcial Form	6	7	5	2	5	3	6	5	3	1
Water Activities	7	4	4	7	3	8	5	7	3	5
Land Activites	7	6	8	10	6	7	10	6	7	7
Community	3	5	4	4	5	2	3	2	3	2
Environment	3	2	3	1	1	2	0	1	1	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>16</b>



# Top Attributes from Top 10 cities Benchmarking










































1. Stockholm, SE
2. Amsterdam, NL
3. Copenhagen, DK
4. Sydney, AUS
5. Singapore
6. San Francisco, USA
7. Chicago, USA
8. Hamburg, Germany
9. Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
10. Hong Kong, China



## Part II: Toronto Attributes

# Toronto Attributes

Physical Form	 <p>Scenic Recognizability</p>	 <p>Historic Fabric</p>	 <p>Inland Waterways</p>	 <p>Bridge Network</p>	 <p>Streetscape Identity</p>	 <p>Architectural Icon</p>	 <p>Design Excellence</p>	 <p>Iconic Boulevard</p>		
Water Activities	 <p>Cruise Ships</p>	 <p>Recreational Boating</p>	 <p>Harbour Tours</p>	 <p>Historic Ships</p>	 <p>Bathing / Swimming</p>	 <p>Ferry System</p>	 <p>Large Marina</p>	 <p>Programmed Piers</p>	 <p>Working Port</p>	 <p>Sport Fishing</p>
Land Activities	 <p>Continuous Promenade</p>	 <p>Destination Park</p>	 <p>Cultural Anchor</p>	 <p>Shopping Destination</p>	 <p>Waterfront Dining</p>	 <p>Cultural Programming</p>	 <p>Urban Beach</p>			
	 <p>Public Art</p>	 <p>Sports Fields</p>	 <p>Destination Playground</p>	 <p>Recreation Trail</p>	 <p>Food Market</p>	 <p>Famous Seafood</p>				
Community	 <p>Vibrant Neighborhoods</p>	 <p>Innovation District</p>	 <p>Demographic Diversity</p>	 <p>Affordable Housing</p>	 <p>Urban Connectivity</p>					
Environment	 <p>Immersive Nature</p>	 <p>Resilience by Design</p>	 <p>Clean Water</p>							



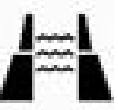
Scenic Recognizability





# Historic Fabric





# Canals & Rivers



**Bridges Network**





?





**Design Excellence**





# Iconic Boulevard





**Cruise Ships**



# Recreational Boating







# Historic Ships





# Bathing / Swimming







# Ferry System





# Large Marina





# Recreation Piers



**Working Port**



# Sport Fishing





# Continuous Promenade





# Destination Park





Cultural Anchor





**Shopping Destination**



**Waterfront Dining**



# Cultural Programming



# Urban Beach







**Sports Fields**



**Destination Playground**



# Recreational Trail









# Vibrant Neighborhoods





# Innovation District



# Demographic Diversity





# Affordable Housing





Urban Connectivity

# T.O., MEET YOUR BACKYARD



They are big, they are beautiful,  
and they are right out your back door.  
Our ravines are something to brag about.

**#LOVETHERAVINES**

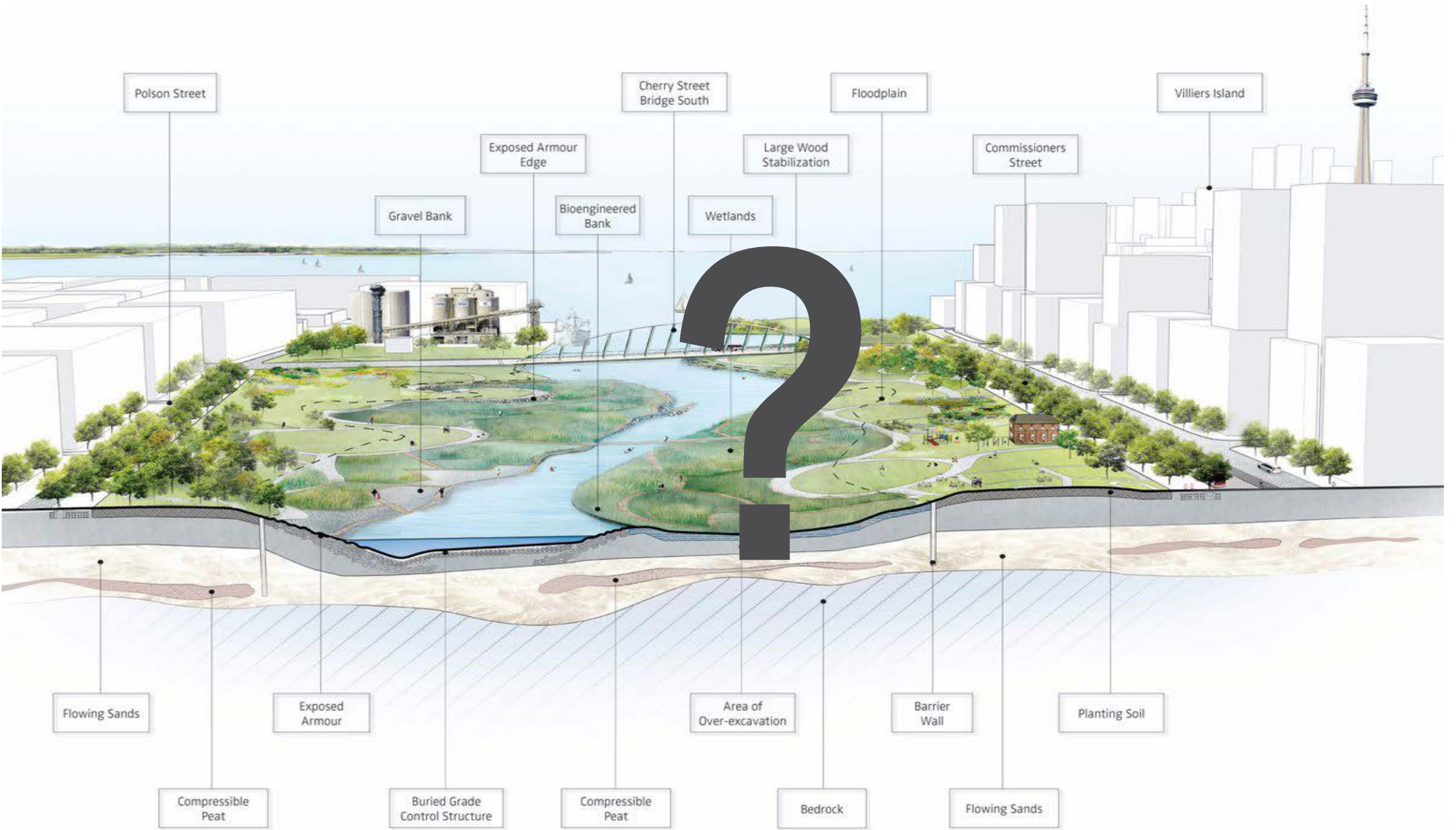


Immersive Nature



WATERFRONTToronto





?



# Toronto

Physical Form



Water Activities



Land Activities





















Community



Environment



# Toronto's Attributes

		Defining Attribute	Stockhm	Amstrdm	Copen	Sydney	Singapore	San Fran	Chicago	Hamburg	Rio	Yokohm	Toronto	
Physical Form		Scenic Recognizability		•		•	•	•	•		•	•	•	
		Historic Fabric	•	•	•		•		•	•		•	?	
		Inland Waterways	•	•	•		•		•	•			?	
		Bridge Network	•	•	•				•	•			?	
		Streetscape Character	•	•	•					•	•		?	
		Architectural Icon				•	•	•					•	?
		Design Excellence		•	•		•		•	•				•
		Iconic Boulevard	•						•	•		•		?
Water Activities		Cruise Ships	•	•	•	•	•	•		•	•	•	?	
		Recreational Boating	•	•	•	•		•	•	•	•	•	•	
		Harbour Tours	•			•	•	•	•	•		•	?	
		Historic Ships	•	•	•	•		•		•		•	?	
		Bathing/Swimming	•		•	•			•	•	•		?	
		Ferry System	•	•		•	•	•					•	?
		Large Marina				•		•	•					?
		Programmed Piers						•	•	•			•	?
		Working Port								•			•	?
	Sport Fishing	•						•					?	

# Toronto's Attributes

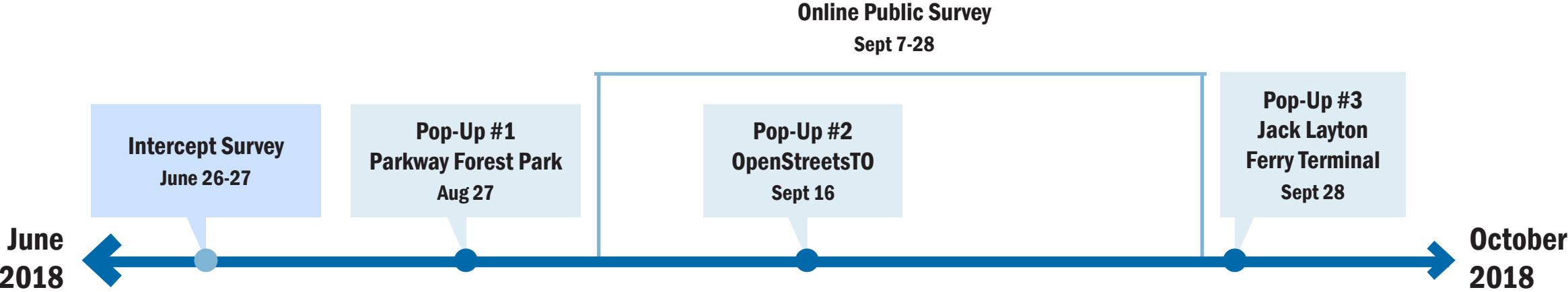
Defining Attribute		Stockhm	Amstrdm	Copen	Sydney	Singapore	San Fran	Chicago	Hamburg	Rio	Yokohm	Toronto
Land Activities	Continuous Promenade	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	?
	Destination Park	•	•		•	•	•	•	•		•	•
	Cultural Anchor	•	•	•	•	•		•	•		•	?
	Shopping Destination	•				•		•	•	•	•	?
	Waterfront Dining	•	•	•	•	•		•	•	•		?
	Cultural Programming	•	•		•			•		•	•	?
	Urban Beach				•		•	•		•		•
	Public Art			•				•		•		?
	Sports Fields			•	•		•			•		?
	Destination Playground							•				?
	Recreation Trail			•	•		•	•				?
	Food Market	•	•	•	•		•					?
	Famous Seafood			•	•	•	•		•			?
Community	Vibrant Neighborhoods	•	•	•	•	•		•		•		?
	Innovation District	•	•	•	•	•			•			?
	Demographic Diversity		•		•	•	•	•		•		?
	Affordable Housing		•	•		•						?
	Urban Connectivity	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	?
Environment	Immersive Nature	•	•	•			•			•		?
	Resilience by Design	•	•	•		•	•		•			?
	Clean Water	•		•	•							?

# Toronto's Attributes Summary Matrix

Defining Attribute	Top 10 cities										Toronto
	Stocklm	Amstrdm	Copen	Sydney	Singapore	San Fran	Chicago	Hamburg	Rio	HK	
Physcial Form	6	7	5	2	5	3	6	5	3	1	2
Water Activities	7	4	4	7	3	8	5	7	3	5	1
Land Activites	7	6	8	10	6	7	10	6	7	7	2
Community	3	5	4	4	5	2	3	2	3	2	0
Environment	3	2	3	1	1	2	0	1	1	1	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>5</b>

## **PART III: Public Surveys**

# Public Survey Overview





# Intercept Survey June 26 - 27, 2018

## Overview

Waterfront Toronto posed three key questions:

- What is your favourite or earliest experience of being on the Waterfront and/or Lake Ontario?
- What does it mean to be a city on a great lake?
- What are three words that come to mind about the Waterfront or Lake Ontario?



## Intercept Survey June 26 - 27, 2018

- There are conflicting ideas and associations about Waterfront and Lake Ontario.
- Negative associations of the Waterfront include crowds, high-rise condominiums, pollution, and noise.
- Respondents expressed a great opportunity and responsibility with being a city around a great lake. Some thought it was definitive of the city, while others felt that it has played a minor role in their everyday life.



# Online Survey : September 7 - 28, 2018

## Respondent Snapshot:

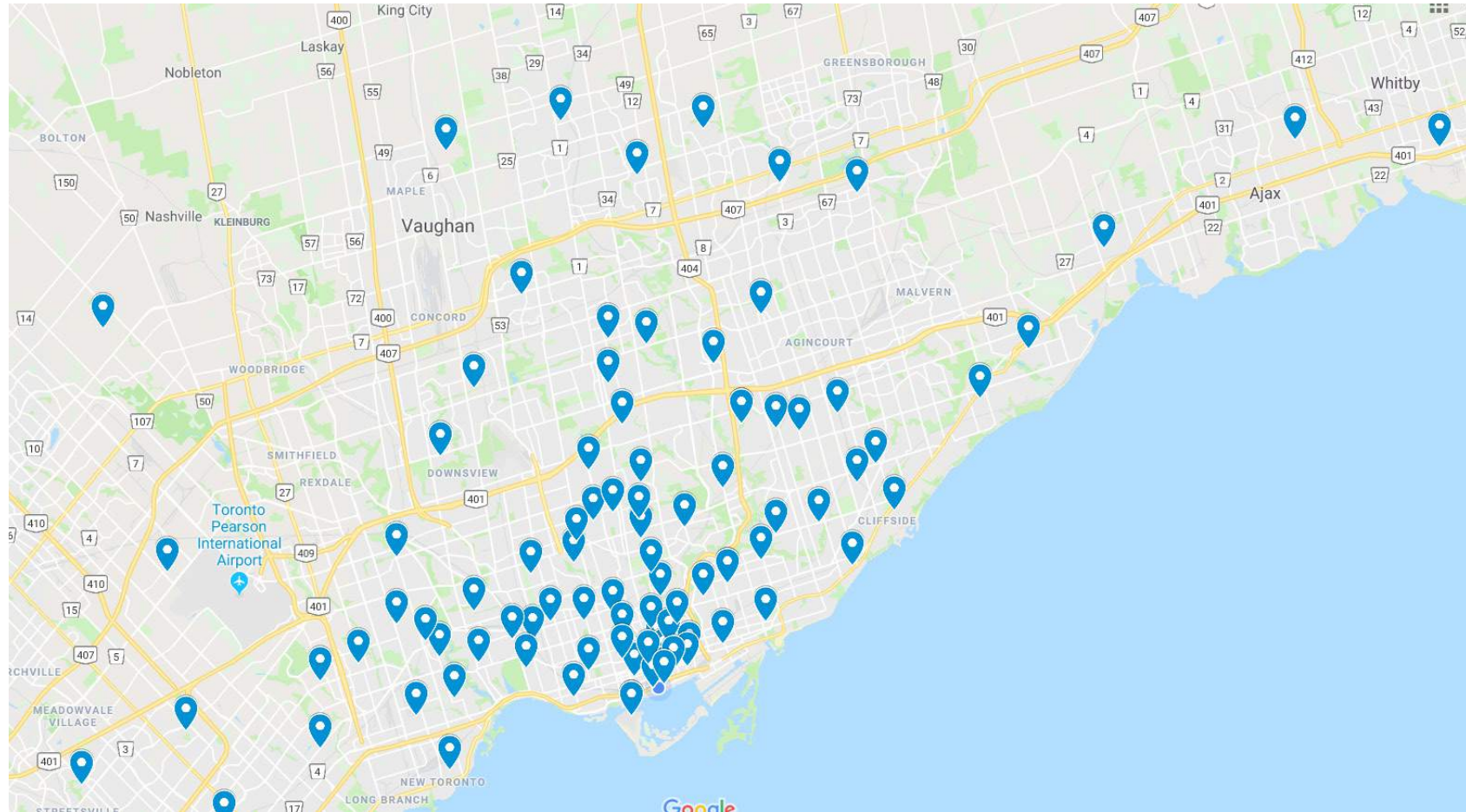
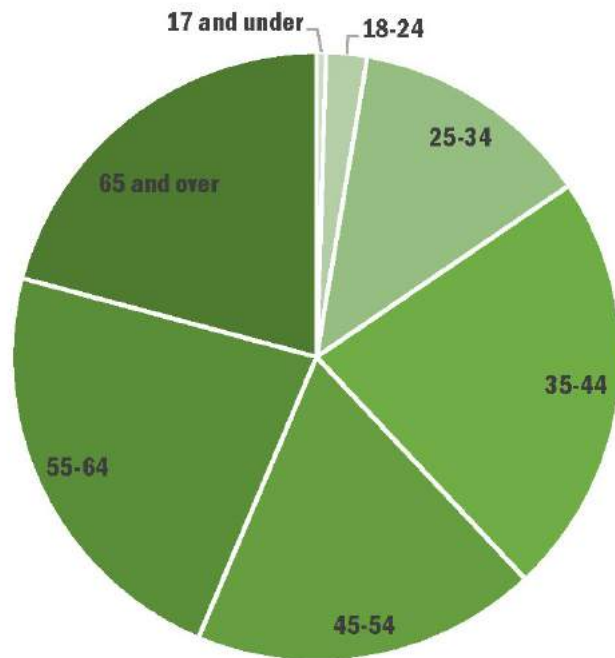
**1,019**

Number of Respondents

**53%**  
Male

**18-65+**

Age Range



Respondent residency

# Online Survey: Key Insights

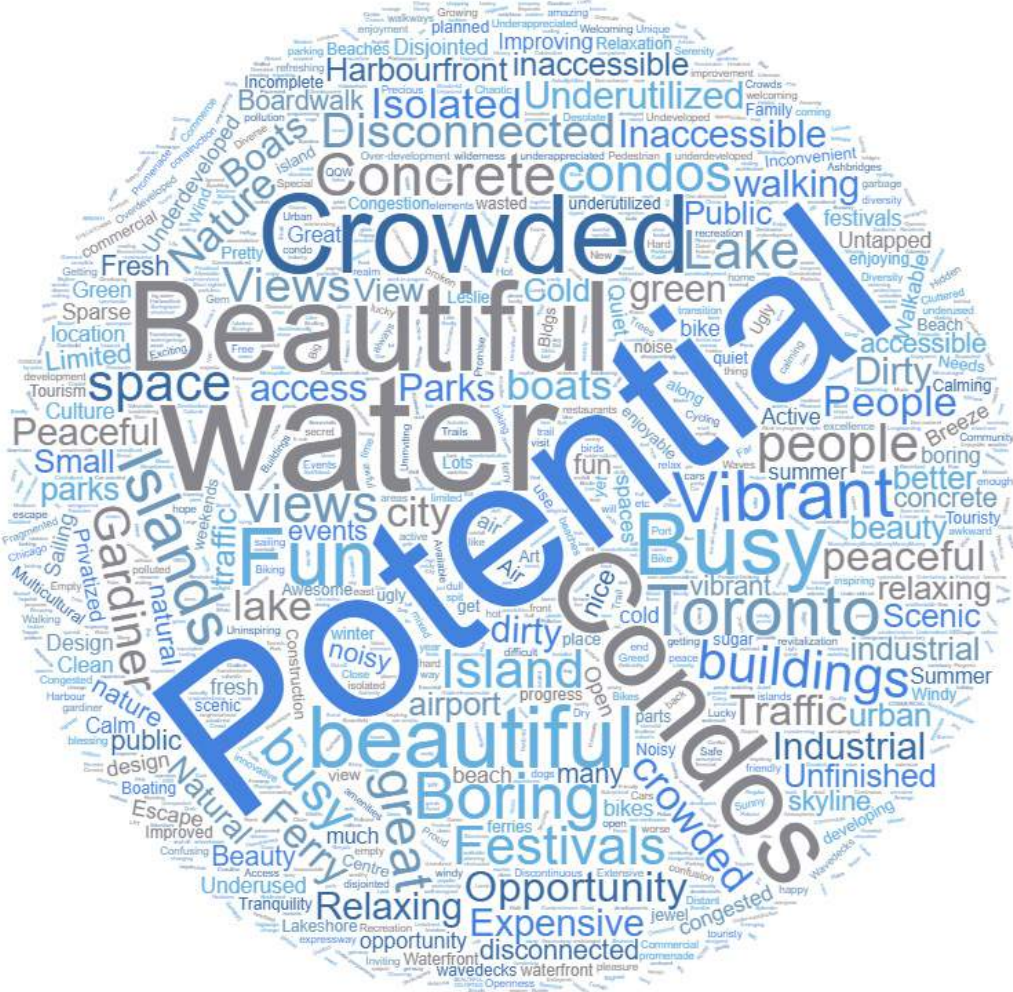
Do you think of Toronto as a “waterfront city”?

74.6%

of respondents answered

**YES**

What comes to mind when you think of Toronto’s waterfront?

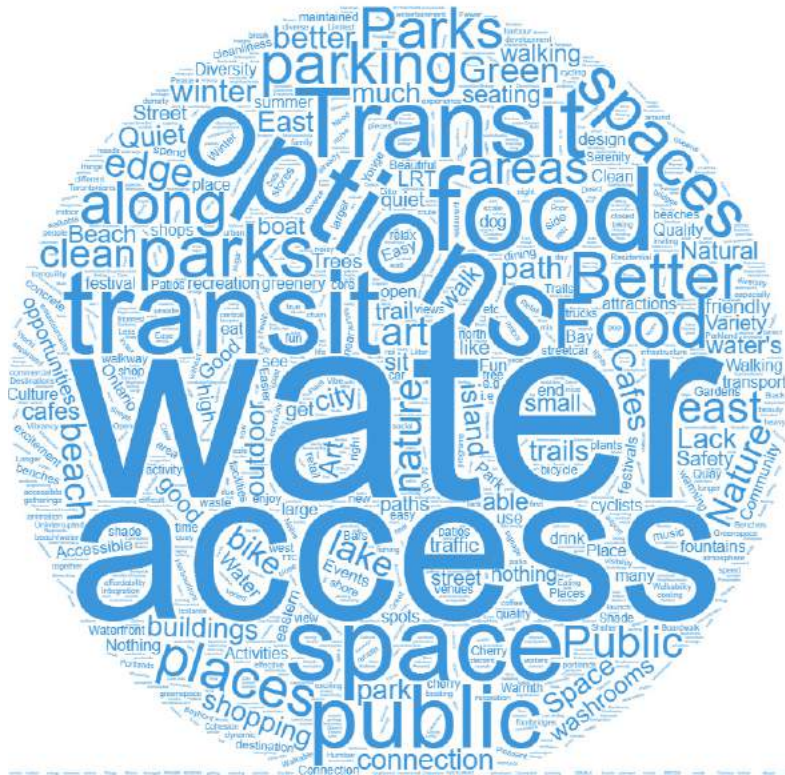




# Online Survey: Key Insights

## What is missing from your current experience of the waterfront?

### Visitors



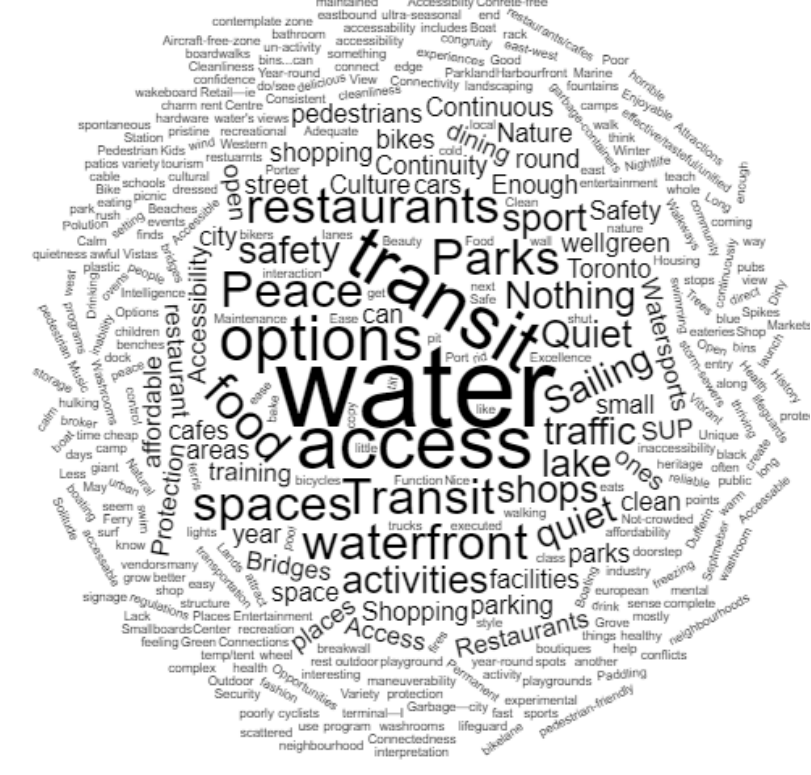
- “Permanent attractions”
- “Places to dine and shop”
- “The feeling of nature along the eastern harbour.”

### Residents



- “Drinks and food options”
- “Wind-protected seating”
- “Transit”

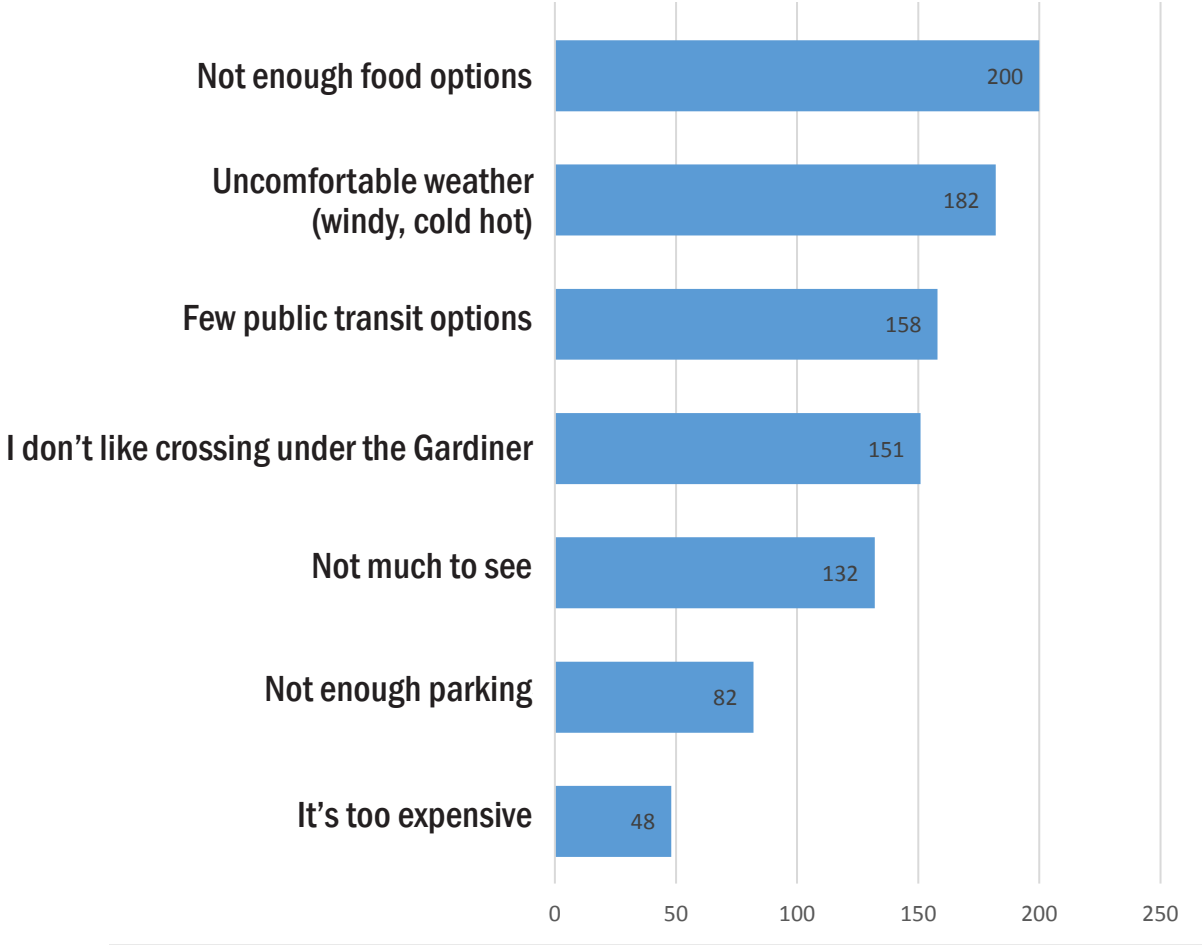
### Workers



- “Transit”
- “Connectedness”
- “Something to do/see other than Harbourfront Centre or waterfront parks”

# Online Survey: Key Insights

What keeps you from visiting the waterfront more often?



## Visitors - Issues

### Other Responses:

“Long sections of the waterfront are ugly - too many parking lots.”

“The waterfront is being too focused on commercial development and mixed use - prime space on the water should feature larger public spaces.”

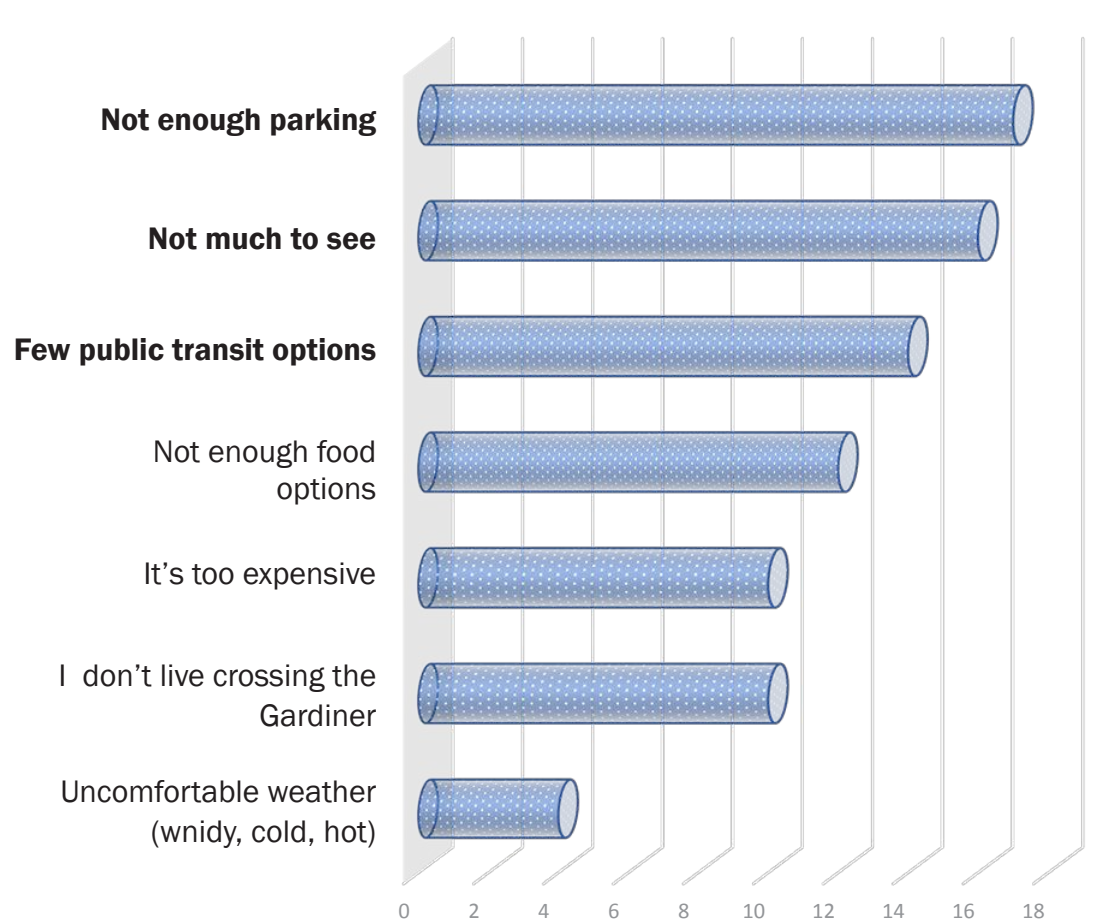
“Too crowded with people; pedestrians all over the Martin Goodman Trail and making it difficult to get from point A to point B”

“Major gaps in parks or quality public realm (Not enough opportunity for long walks)”

“Finding it a bit harder to access now that I can no longer walk too far. Direct access to water requires walking more & more.”

# Online Survey: Key Insights

## Why don't you visit the waterfront?

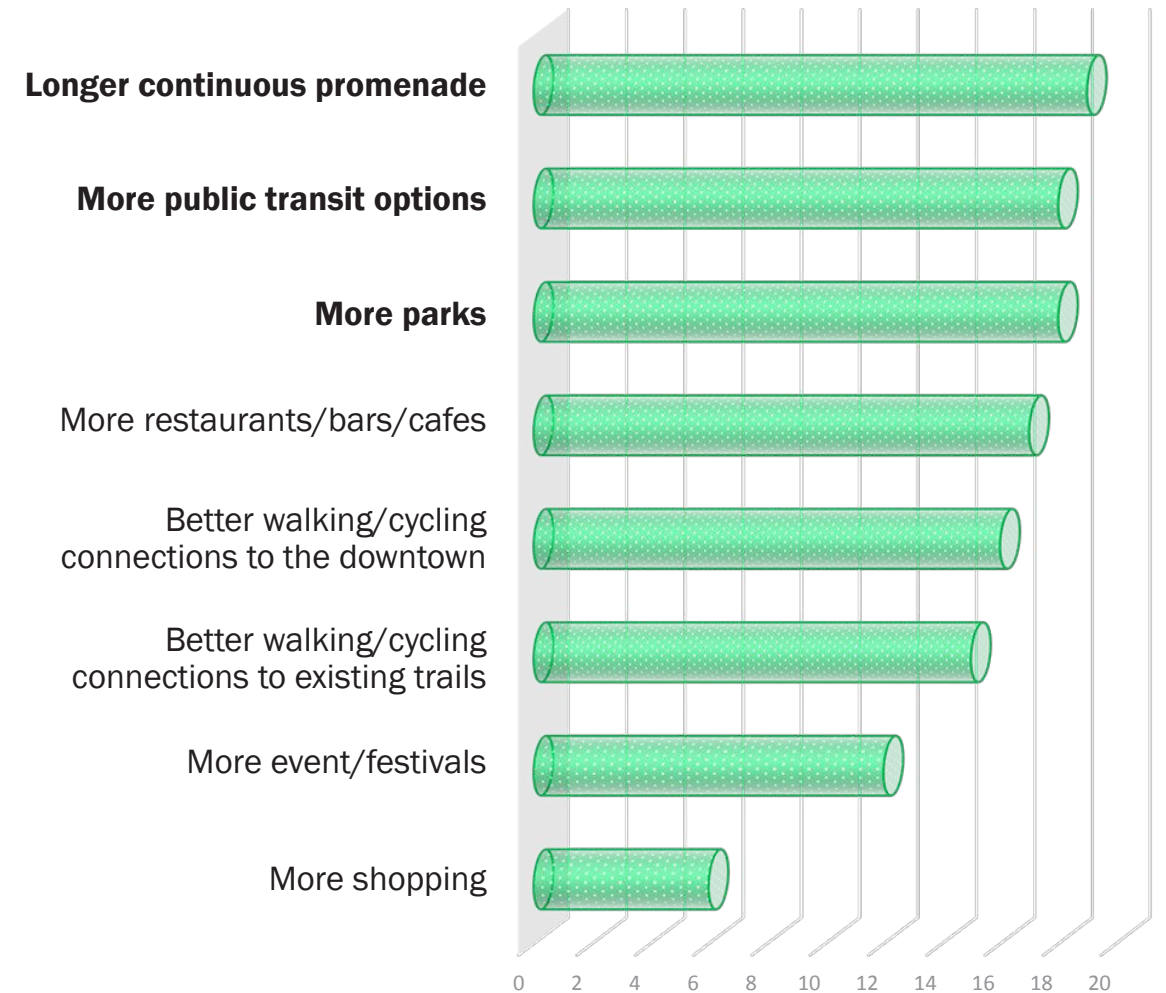


### Other

- "All the condos broke up the beauty of our Waterfront and made it feel quite disjointed."
- "Not enough to do there."

**Non-visitors: "I do not spend time on the waterfront."**

## What would make you want to visit the waterfront more often?



### Other

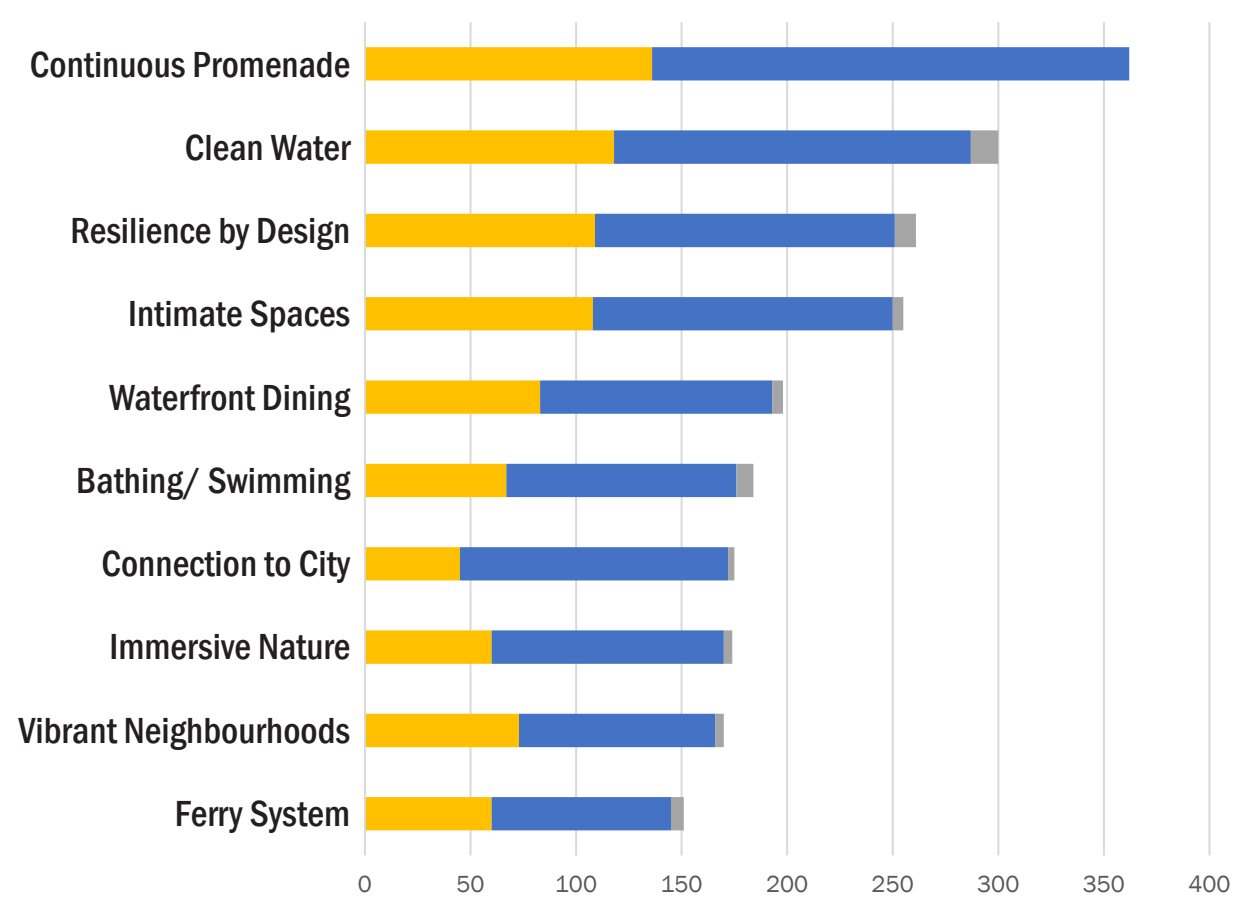
- "More parking to make it easier to transport our bikes down and be able to cycle. We live north part of the city"
- "Small quiet shady spaces, lots of seating options"
- "Nutritious healthy food choices ... tree shaded patios no artificial turf"
- "More indoor boat storage and winter outdoors safety and sustainability"



## Online Survey: Key Insights

What should be the top priorities for Toronto's future waterfront revitalization?

### Top 10 priorities:

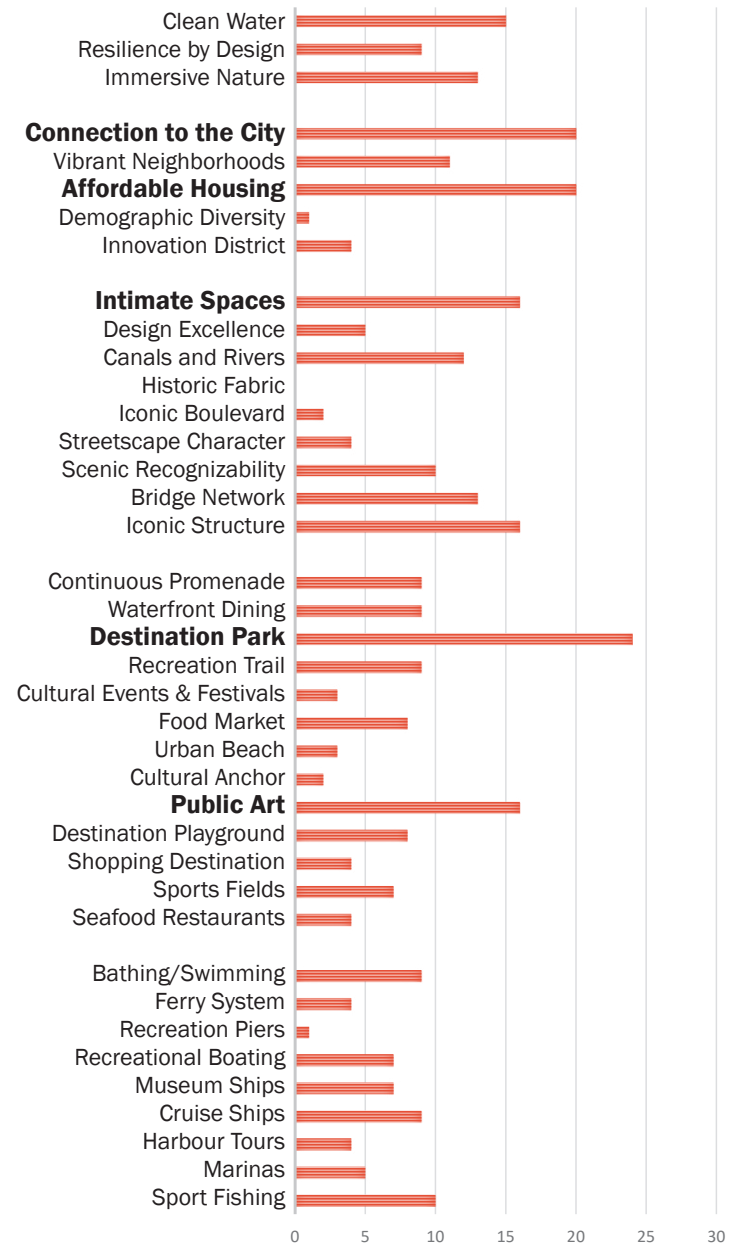


# Pop-Up at Parkway Forest Park, August 27

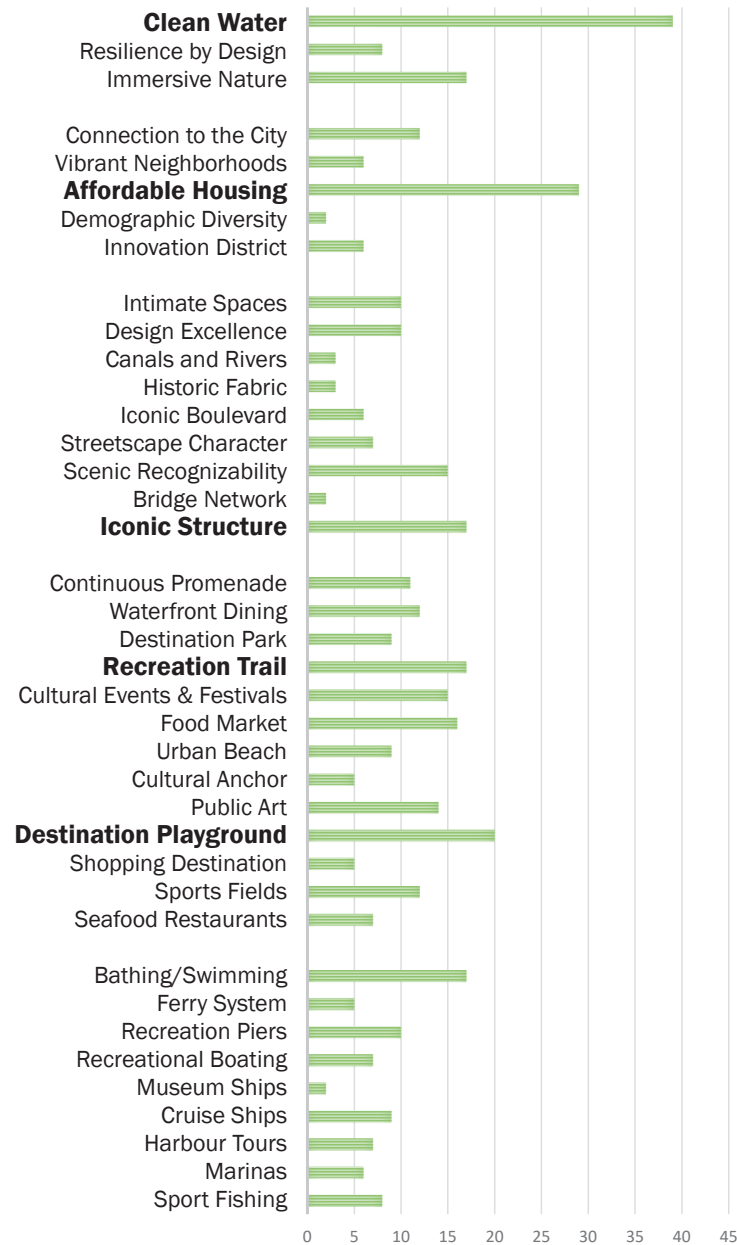


# Key Insights: Pop-Up at Parkway Forest Park, August 27

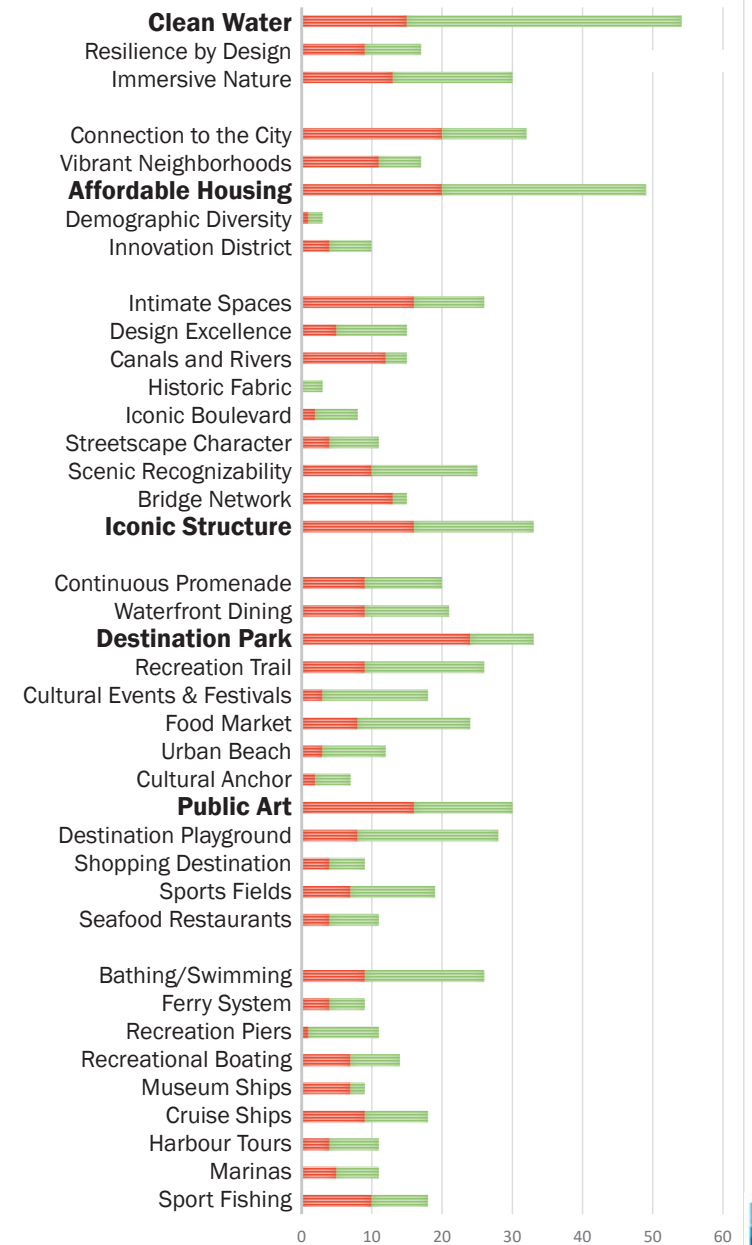
## What is missing from Toronto's Waterfront today?



## What is most important for the future waterfront?



## Composite:

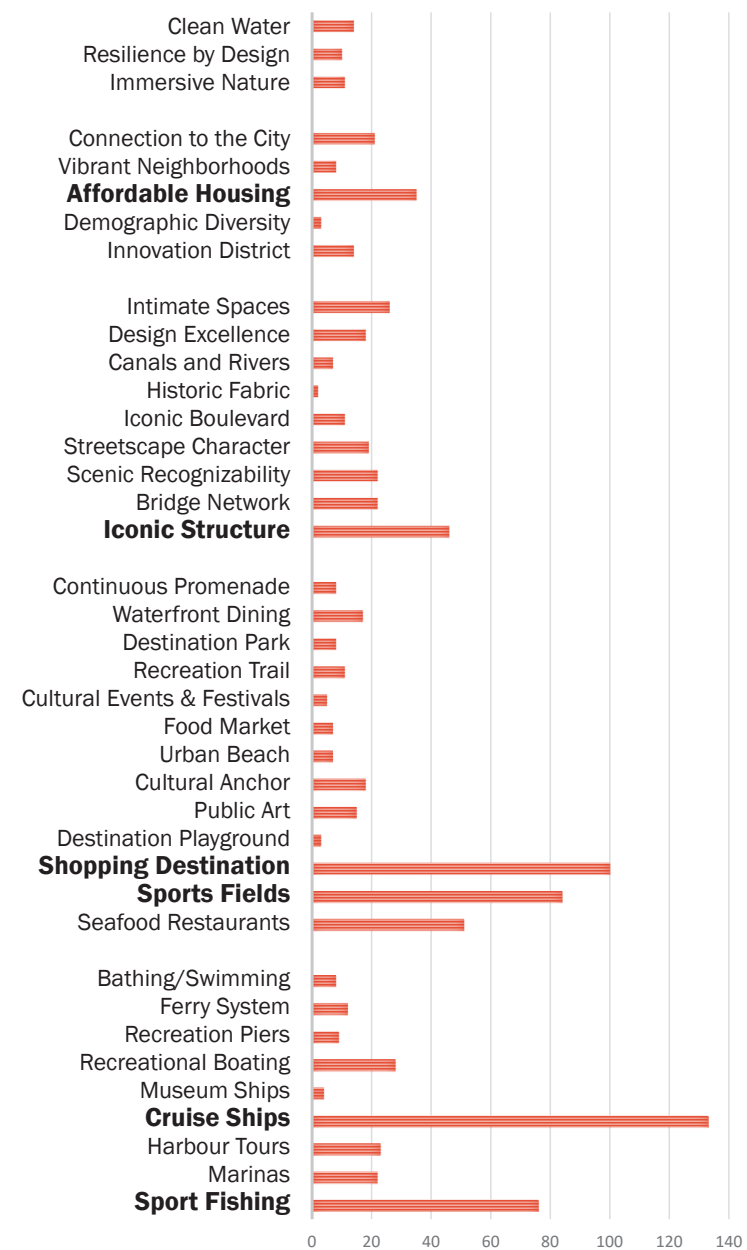


# Pop-Up at Open Streets T0, September 16, 2018

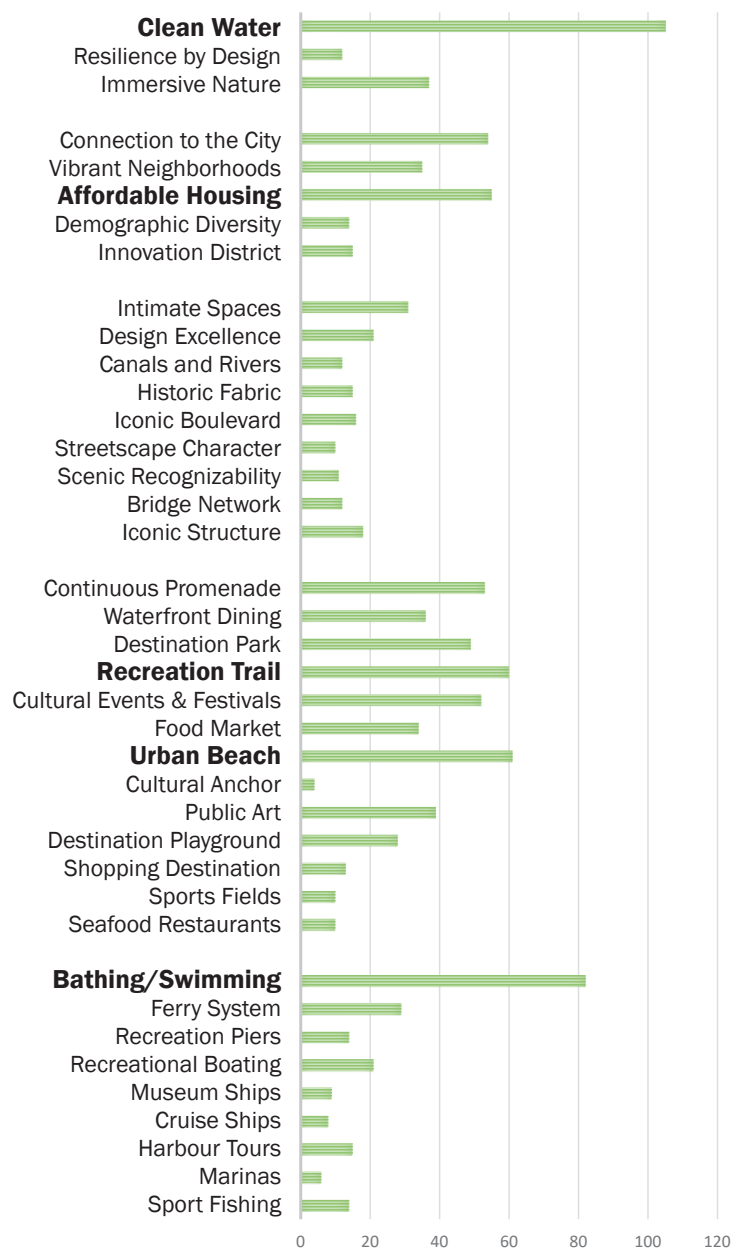


# Key Insights: Pop-Up at Open Streets T0, September 16, 2018

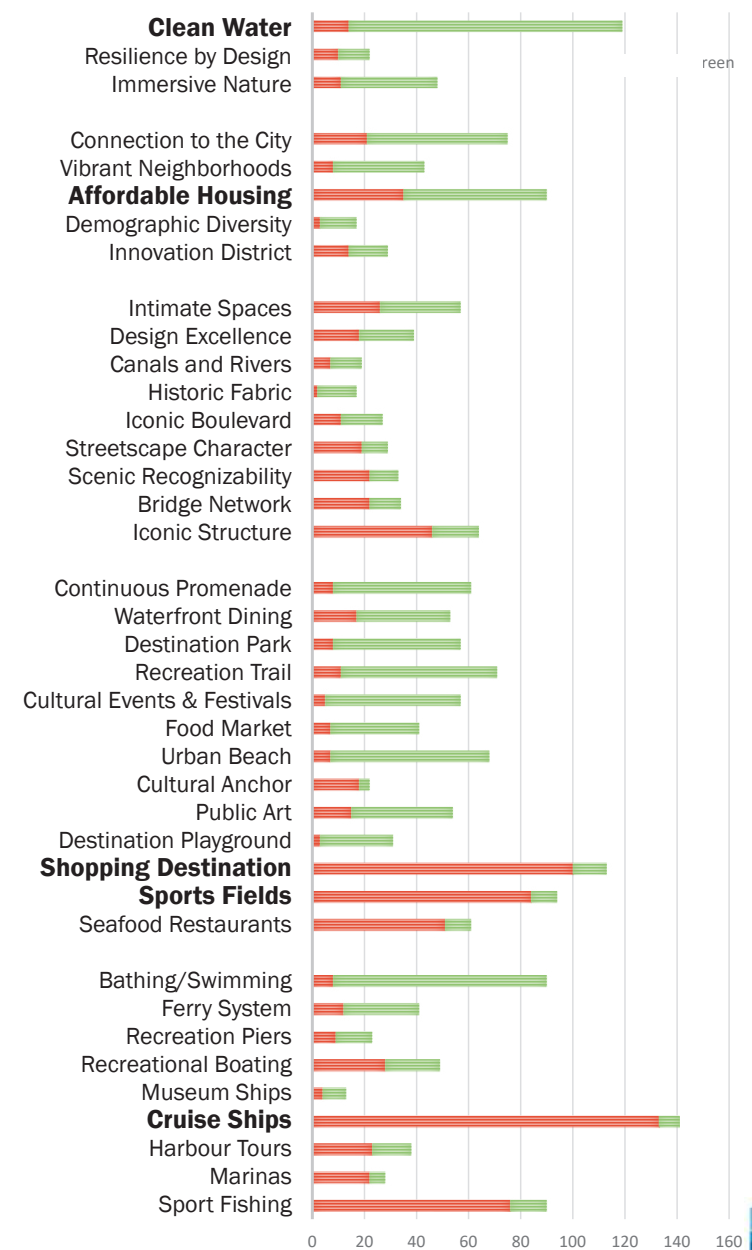
## What is missing from Toronto's Waterfront today?



## What is most important for the future waterfront?

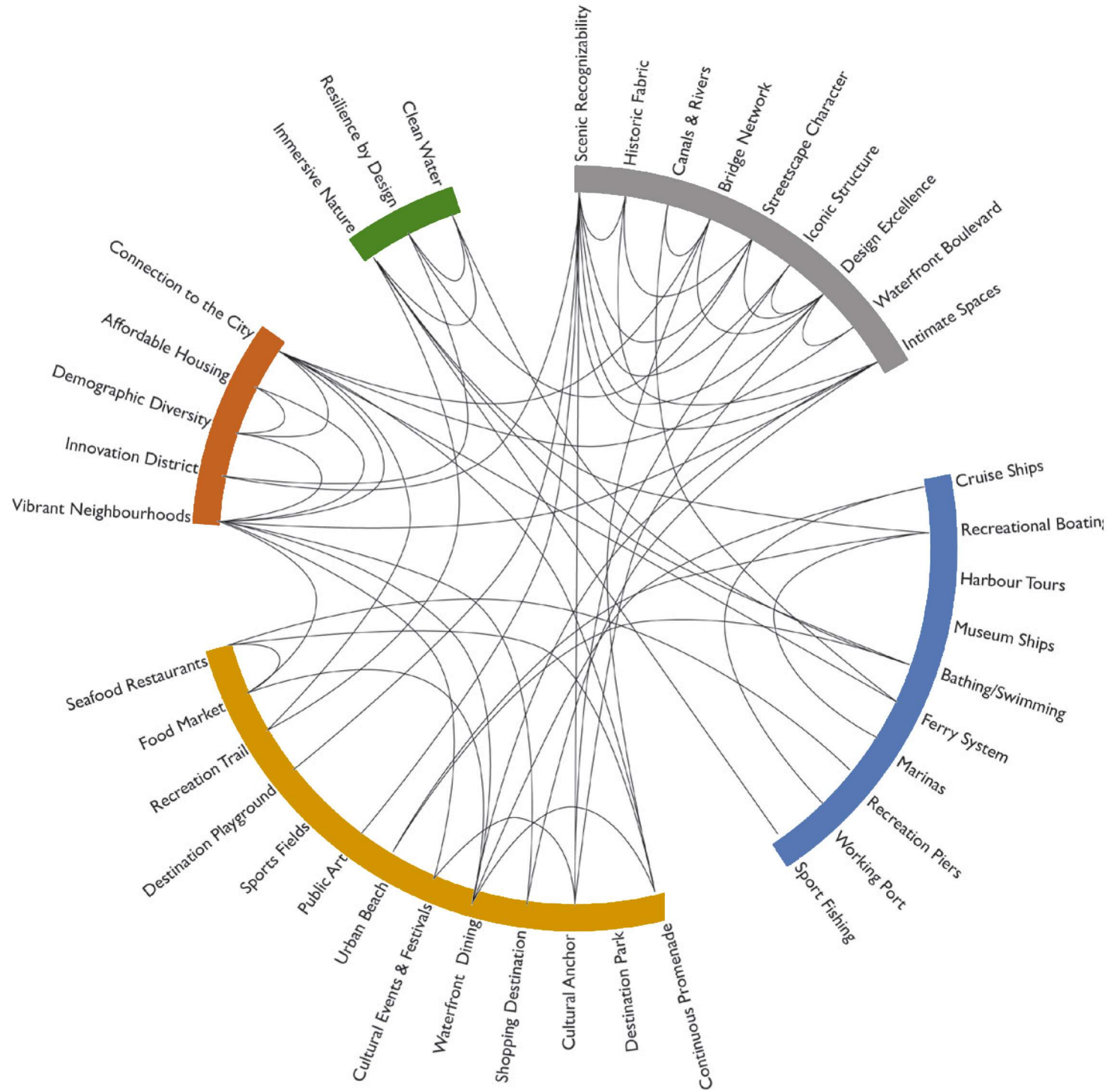
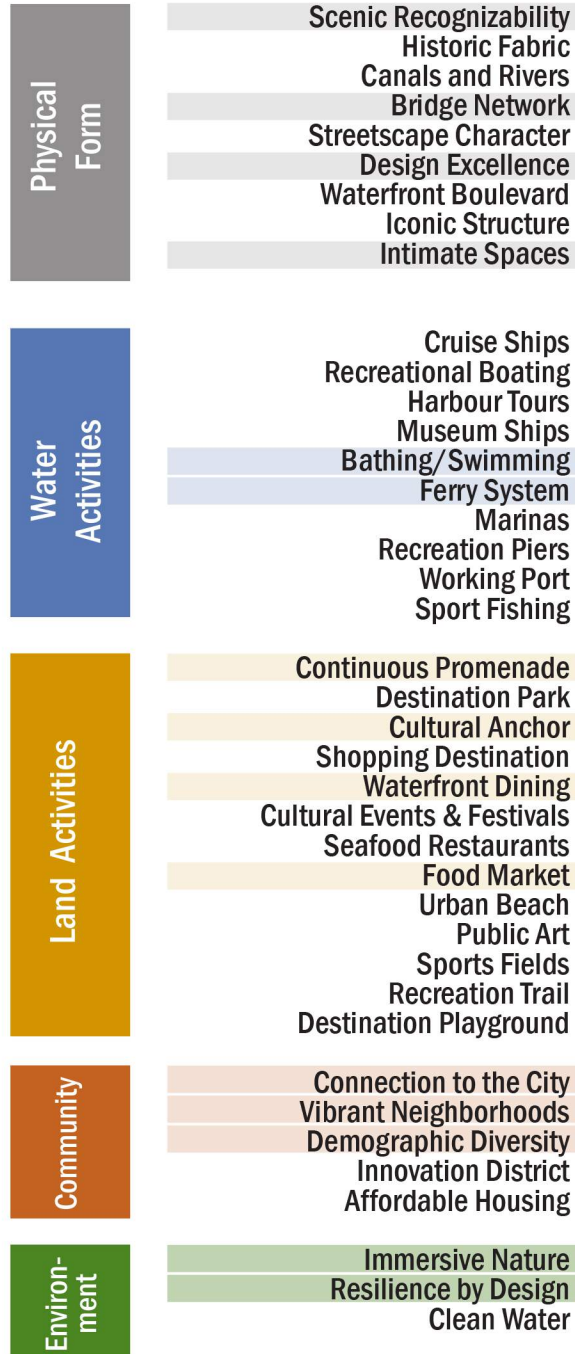


## Composite:



## Part IV: Preliminary Findings

# Attribute Correlations



# Waterfront Toronto Priority Attributes

Physical Form	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Scenic Recognizability</li> <li>Canals and Rivers</li> <li>Bridge Network</li> <li>Streetscape Character</li> <li>Design Excellence</li> <li>Intimate Spaces</li> </ul>
Water Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recreational Boating</li> <li>Bathing/Swimming</li> <li>Ferry System</li> <li>Marinas</li> <li>Recreation Piers</li> </ul>
Land Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continuous Promenade</li> <li>Destination Park</li> <li>Cultural Anchor</li> <li>Shopping Destination</li> <li>Waterfront Dining</li> <li>Cultural Events &amp; Festivals</li> <li>Food Market</li> <li>Urban Beach</li> <li>Public Art</li> <li>Destination Playground</li> </ul>
Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Connection to the City</li> <li>Vibrant Neighborhoods</li> <li>Demographic Diversity</li> <li>Innovation District</li> <li>Affordable Housing</li> </ul>
Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Immersive Nature</li> <li>Resilience by Design</li> <li>Clean Water</li> </ul>



# Strategies





# Preliminary Priority Project list



## 1. Inner Harbour

- Water's Edge Promenade**
- Bridge Network**
  - Slip Bridges
  - Port Lands bridges
  - Harbour bridges
- Marinas & Recreational Boating**
  - Finger Piers
  - Quayside Parliament Slip
- Ferry Network**
  - Jack Layton Ferry Terminal Scope
  - Marine Strategy
  - Water Circuit/Taxi Stops
- Cultural Anchor/Icon**
  - Iconic Building
- Retail and Food Strategy**
  - Food Market
  - Dining
- Public Art**
  - EB Destination water's edge
  - Annual cultural festival

## 2. Connection to City

- North-South Connection**
  - Green Streets + WT standards
  - Rail Underpasses
- Waterfront Transit**
  - Queens Quay East LRT
- Port Lands Flood Protection**

## 3. Connected Park System

- Destination Park**
  - Promontory + River Parks
  - Lake Ontario Park
- Waterfront Trail**
  - MGT extension to Bluffs
- Clean Water**
  - Habitat restoration
  - Wet weather flow masterplan

# Design Review Panel Feedback



## 1. Continuous Waterfront Walk

## 2. Destination

## 3. Temporary Activation

- Small interventions to help improve existing areas
- Much of the waterfront is under construction - temporary projects/improvements can fill these “gaps”
  - o Continuous promenade pilot with barges at slips
  - o Winter market on the waterfront
  - o Food truck clusters in parking lots strategically located to create continuous activity
  - o Under Gardiner/Rail underpass lighting/projection installations

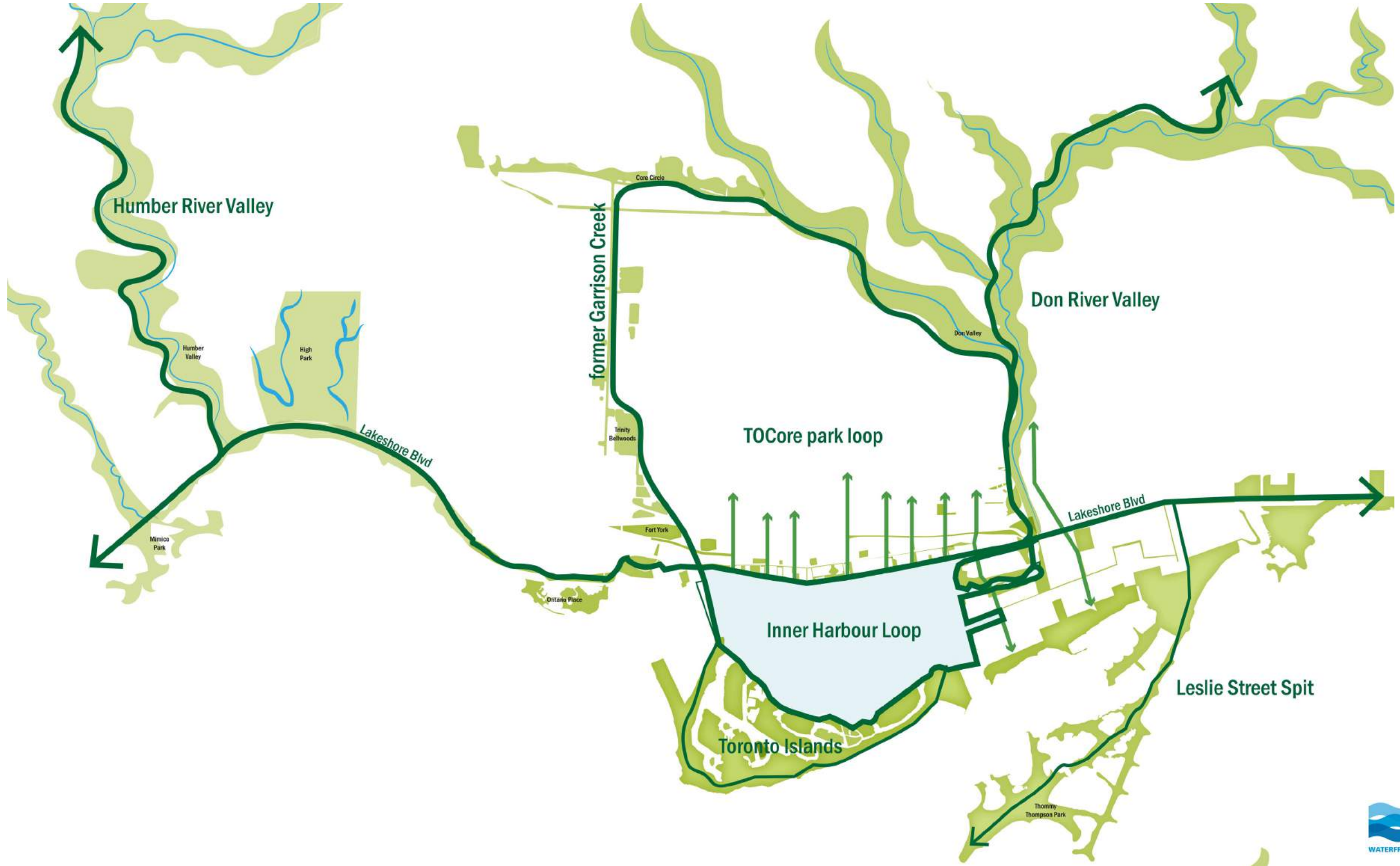
## 4. Connection to City

- Improved Ferry Network that is tied to existing and planned public transit
- Transit extension on Queens Quay East
- North-South connections (public realm improvements, underpass improvements)

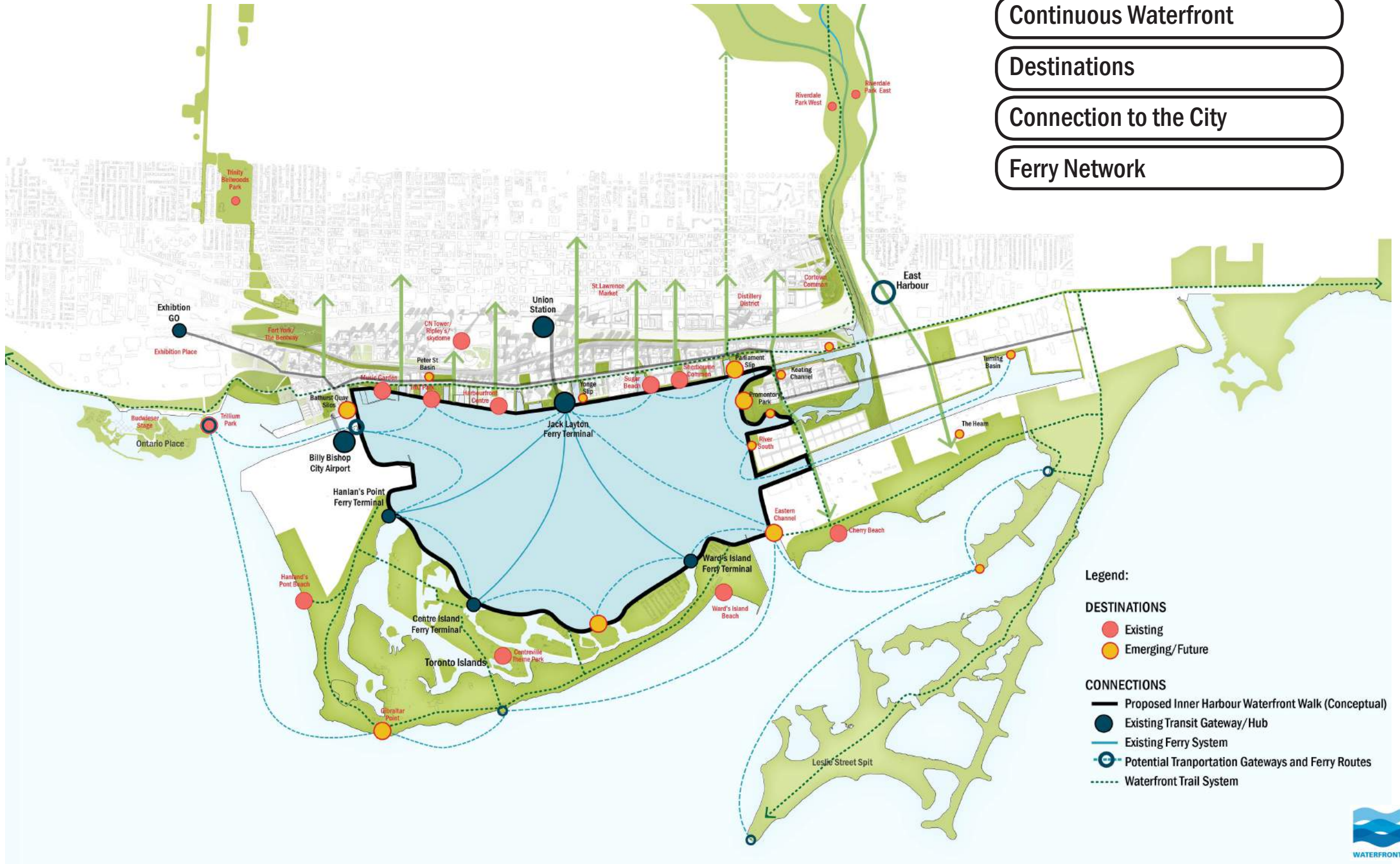
## 5. Branding the waterfront

- Changing people’s perception to help them discover places that are already there
- The waterfront “guide book” showing destinations and activities

# Regional Park Connections



# Conceptual Harbour Ring



- Continuous Waterfront
- Destinations
- Connection to the City
- Ferry Network

**Legend:**

**DESTINATIONS**

- Existing
- Emerging/Future

**CONNECTIONS**

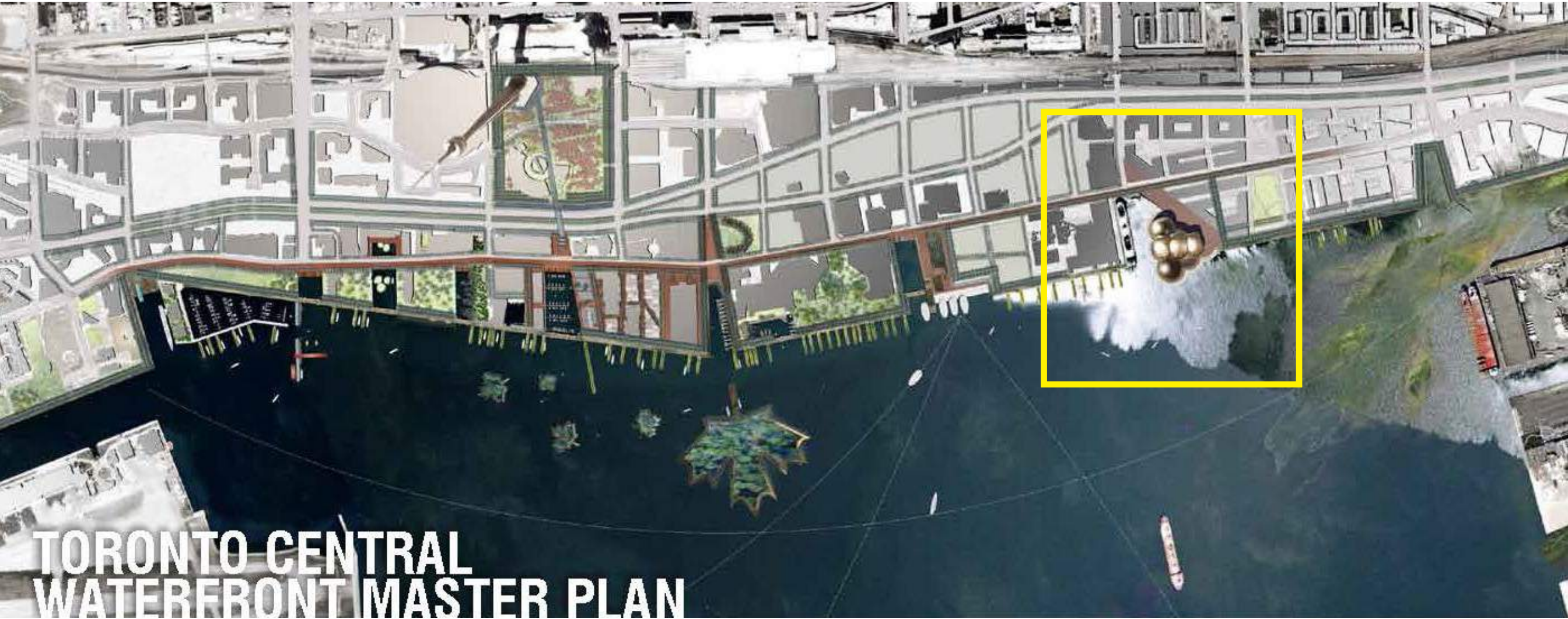
- Proposed Inner Harbour Waterfront Walk (Conceptual)
- Existing Transit Gateway/Hub
- Existing Ferry System
- Potential Transportation Gateways and Ferry Routes
- - - Waterfront Trail System

# Priority 1: Continuous Waterfront Walk



Peter Slip Bridge, view east from the dockwall at HTO Park

# Priority 2: Iconic Cultural Destination



**TORONTO CENTRAL  
WATERFRONT MASTER PLAN**

# Priority 3: Destination Playground

## Promontory Park South - Axonometric View



# Priority 4: Ferry Terminal





# Vision Map - Phase 1 Priorities

- ① Continuous Waterfront Walk
- ② Iconic Cultural Destination
- ③ Destination Playground
- ④ Ferry Terminal

