# VILLERS ISLAND PRECINCT PLAN

#### Design Review: April 19, 2017









#### Villiers Island From an Industrial Quay...







#### **Villiers Island** ... to a New Island Community on Toronto's Waterfront The meeting point of river, city and lake

Villiers Island will be transformed into a remarkable new community located at the intersection of the re-naturalized mouth of the Don River, the Inner Harbour and the historic Keating Channel.



### **Structuring Moves**



#### A Complete Island



#### **A Destination Island**



#### An Island with History







- Incorporated grading and landscape design for Promontory Park and river edge
- Shifted Catalytic Use and realigned Trinity Boulevard



- Focused activity and amenity along Keating Promenade/Villiers Street as the Island's Living Room
- Framed the Keating Channel as the seam between Villiers Island and Keating Precinct



- Relocated tall buildings relocated in strategic locations north of Centre St
- Introduced generous tall buildings setbacks from both Villiers St and Centre St
- Staggered the tall buildings to avoid "wall " effect



- Centre Street designed as a residential mews, with active uses at selected intersections
- Mid-rise building stepping back to maximize sunlight on street/pedestrian boulevard

# Land Use & Activity

A vibrant mixed-use island in Toronto's Port Lands with a mix of residential uses including affordable and family-oriented options. The Island will also attract retail, employment, recreational and cultural uses to offer a variety of experiences.



## **The Precinct Plan At a Glance**

#### Total Island Area: **33 ha** Total GFA: **525,700m2**

Total Residential GFA: 423,200m2 Total Non-Residential GFA: 102,500 m2



Average Net FSI: 5.0



Total # People: **8,270 - 10,700** Total # Jobs: **2,900** 

#### **Open Space**

Total Open Space: **11.2 ha 34% of the Island Area** 

Promontory Park: 6.4 ha Villiers Park: 1.2 ha River Valley Park: 1.7 ha Keating Promenade: 1.9 ha

#### **Celebrating Heritage**

33 Villiers Street/16 Munition Street – Queen's City Foundry 62 Villiers Street – Toronto Harbour Commission 275 Cherry Street – Dominion Bank
281 Cherry Street – The Toronto Hydro Substation building 309 Cherry Street – William McGill and Company Building and Bank of Montreal building
312 Cherry Street - Century Coal Company building and Silos 39 Commissioners Street – Ashbridges Bay Fire Hall
242 Cherry Street – Marine Terminal 35 and Atlas Crane The historic Keating Channel dockwalls The Western Dock

#### **Community Facilities**

Community Centre Elementary School Daycare Fire Station Playground Multi-Purpose Field

## **The Precinct Plan: Built Form**

November 2015



#### The Precinct Plan: Varied and Articulated March 2017



## **Built Form Principles**

Buildings should generally be developed at **medium scale**, with some lower elements and higher buildings at appropriate locations."

CWSP- Policy 2-22 Opening up the Port Lands to Urban Development

- 01 Create a varied and dynamic built form that contributes to the city and Port Lands skyline
- nc Reinforce distinct character areas and places in the Island
- 03 Contribute to spectacular and comfortable all-season parks, open spaces and destinations
- Design the built form to frame and animate streets, parks and open spaces and respond to water edge conditions
- 05 Maintain and celebrate the built, cultural and natural heritage of the Island and surrounding Port Lands
- **66** Showcase views to the water and industrial landmarks
- **Position taller buildings** in strategic locations to optimize proximity to transit nodes, define gateways and frame major open spaces
- **(NEW) Leverage passive solar gain** and enable daylighting within buildings and open spaces

#### **Built Form** Low & Mid-rise Buildings





#### Quai des Eclusiers

 100





#### **Built Form** Tall Building Considerations

1. Maximize sun access on public realm



2. Leverage solar gain and daylighting



3. Mitigate pedestrian wind impact



4. Provide appropriate transition in scale to heritage buildings



#### **Built Form** Tall Building Considerations

5. Distribute towers across precinct



6. Define gateways and vistas





7. Optimize density in proximity to transit stations



#### Built Form Tall Building Heights Strategy



#### **The Broader Context**



## **Framing an Urban Living Room**





### **Articulation**





# **Keating Promenade & Villiers St**

Same

KEATING CHANNEL



## **Commissioners St & River Valley Park**





# **New Cherry St**



# TOWARDS A CLIMATE POSITIVE ISLAND

# CLIMATE Climate Positive Development Program



#### **Focuses on operational emissions**

- Thermal and electrical energy use (from buildings, infrastructure and water)
- Waste and wastewater
- Transportation (trips that start or end within site)

#### **Credits**

- Create / preserve parks and green spaces (carbon sinks)
- Reduce emissions in the surrounding community (Export clean / renewal energy)

## **Getting to Climate Positive**

How to bring carbon emissions down to zero or near zero?



Source: Villers Island Climate Positive Assessment Report - SSG, 2016

#### **Optimization Model**

Community Energy Planning Framework

# What are the most cost effective ways to achieve carbon positive outcomes?

Minimized Building Loads				Efficient Building Operations		Power Production
Context	Urban Structure	Urban Morphology	Building Typology	Optimized Operations & Appliances	Occupant Behaviour	Renewable Energy
Climate Topography	Configuration Mobility Density	Massing Public space Streetscape	Building type Architecture	HVAC Lighting Hot water Appliances	Lights Room temperature Plug loads Water use	Type Proximity
			Increa	sing Costs		

Source: Villers Island Climate Positive Assessment Report - SSG, 2016

#### **Optimization Model** Energy Results

Annual energy use drops from 430,000 GJ to 300,000 GJ and shifts to clean energy supply



#### **Towards Climate Positive with Building Design** Passive Design

Solar modelling analysis indicates that locating taller elements on north end of Island leverage solar gain, reduces energy demands and will contribute to climate positive development



Tall elements on the south end of the island along Commissioners as per November 2015 Plan Tall elements on the north of the island

# **Optimization Model** Carbon Reduction to Climate +

GHG	i Emissions	tCO2	%
Sources	Building heat and power	10,418	63.0%
	Transportation	5,075	30.7%
	Waste	1,036	6.3%
	Water	58	0.4%
	Natural sequestration	-46	-0.3%
Tota	I Emissions based on MGBR	16,541	100%
Reductions	Passive House standard	-7,747	-46.8%
	Vehicle electrification	-4,162	-25.2%
	Mode shift	-254	-1.5%
	CHP system (supply within precinct)	-2,998	-18.1%
	PV	-333	-2.0%
	CHP system (supply beyond precinct)	-1,100	-6.7%
Tota	I Reductions	-53	-100.3%

## **Areas for Consideration**

- Relationship to surrounding context
- Variety and articulation of built form including tower locations
- Climate positive approach
- Place-making Creating a 'central living room' along Keating Channel

#### November 2015



