



Presentation to Waterfront For All, November 27, 2019

# The Future of Waterfront Revitalization: Aspirational Projects

Chris Glaisek
Chief Planning and Design Officer
Waterfront Toronto

# Top Ten Big City Waterfronts



#### Top Ten Big City Waterfronts























#### **Defining Attributes**

Buildings & Structures

character

activation

community



































































































#### **Attribute Frequency**





## waterfront promenade











































## bridge crossings







































## destination park | 8





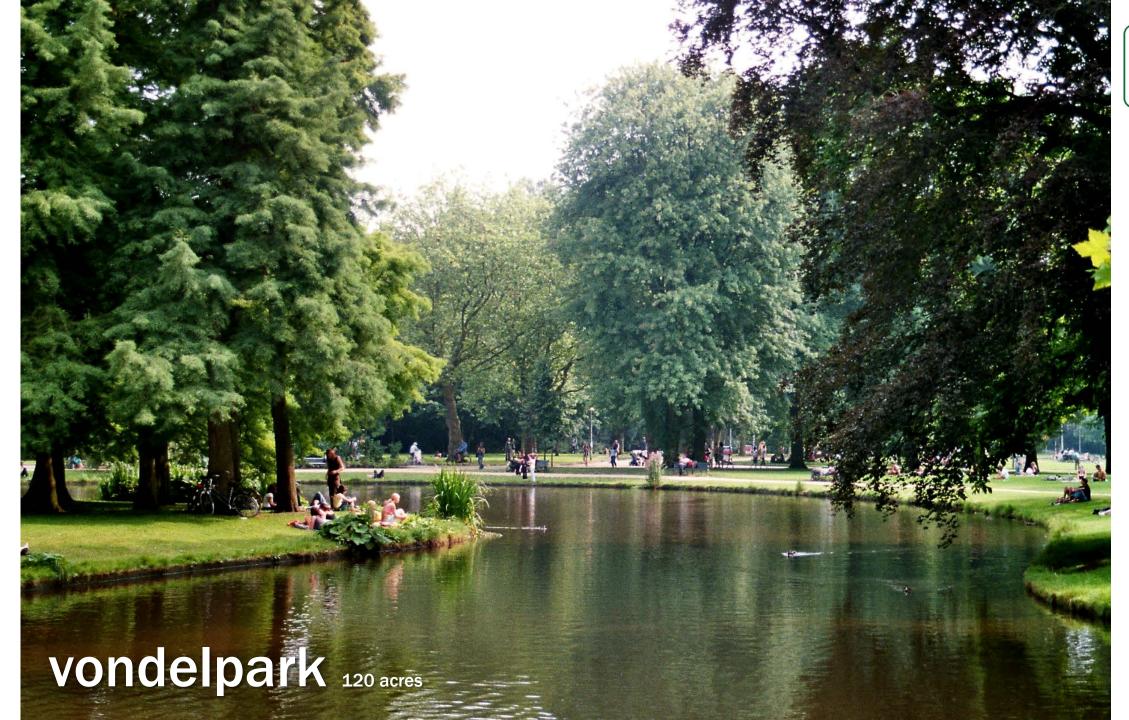
B



























## ferry system



















stockholm

copenhagen

amsterdam

2

hamburg

sydney

singapore

san francisco

6

hong kong







































# san francisco



## cultural anchor

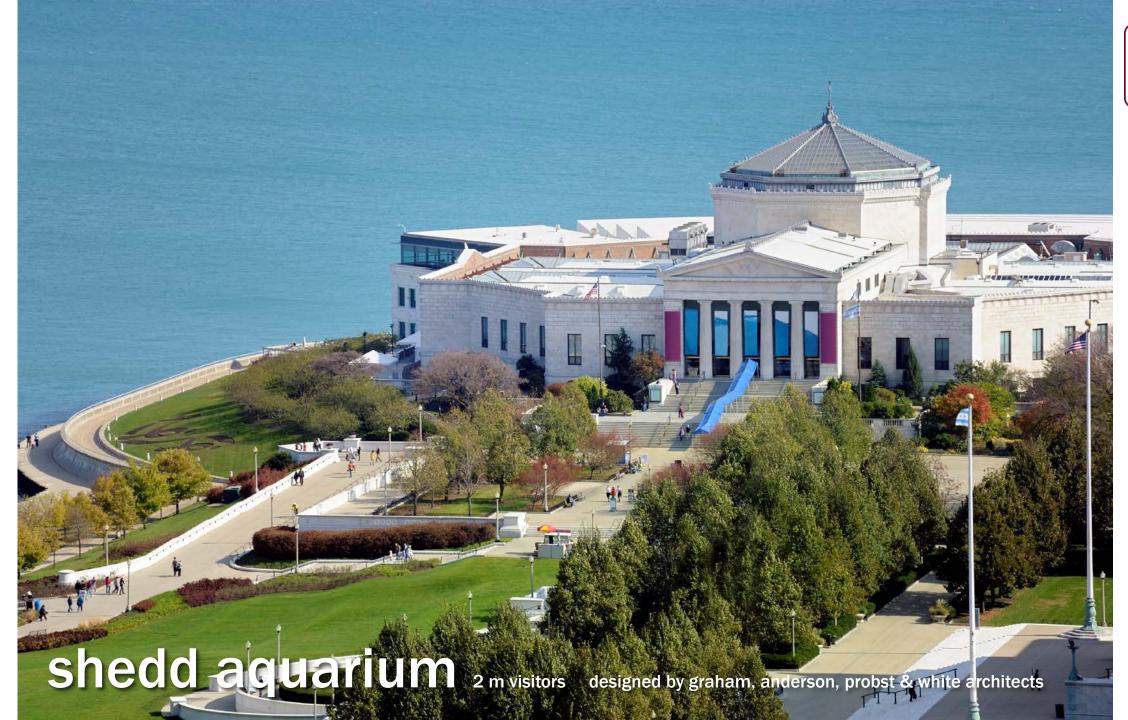


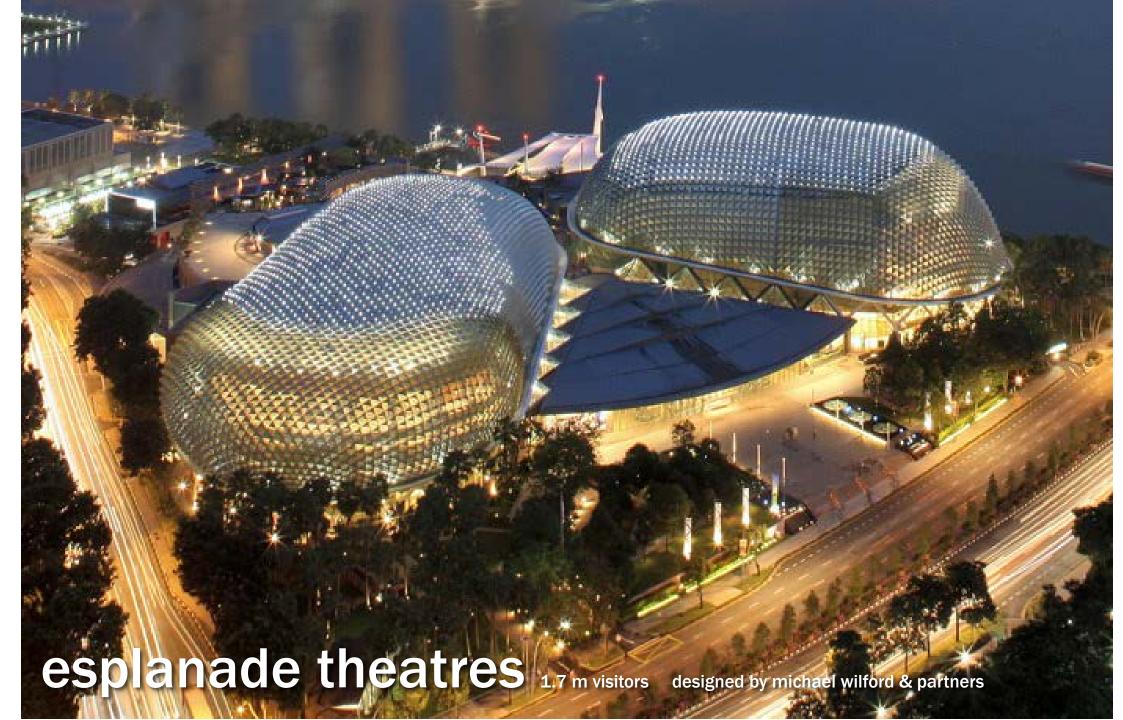




























## **Initial Consultation**

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

What is most important for the future waterfront?





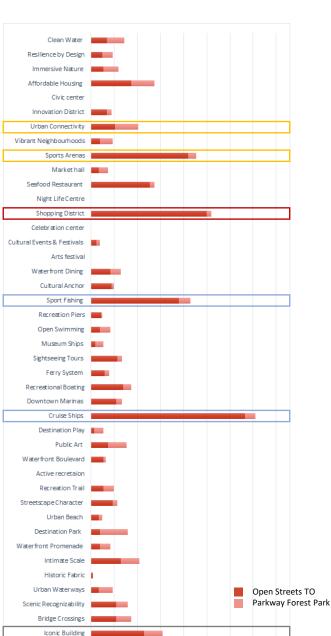
eighbor noods

Land based activities

Water based activities

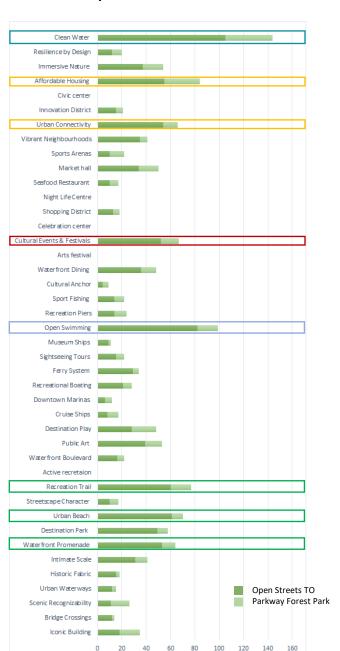
Parks & Public Realm

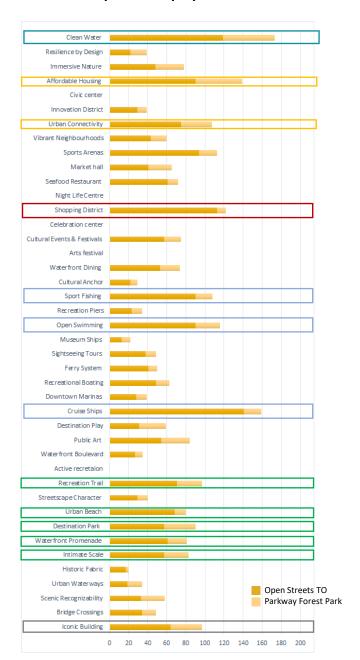
Buildings & Striictiires



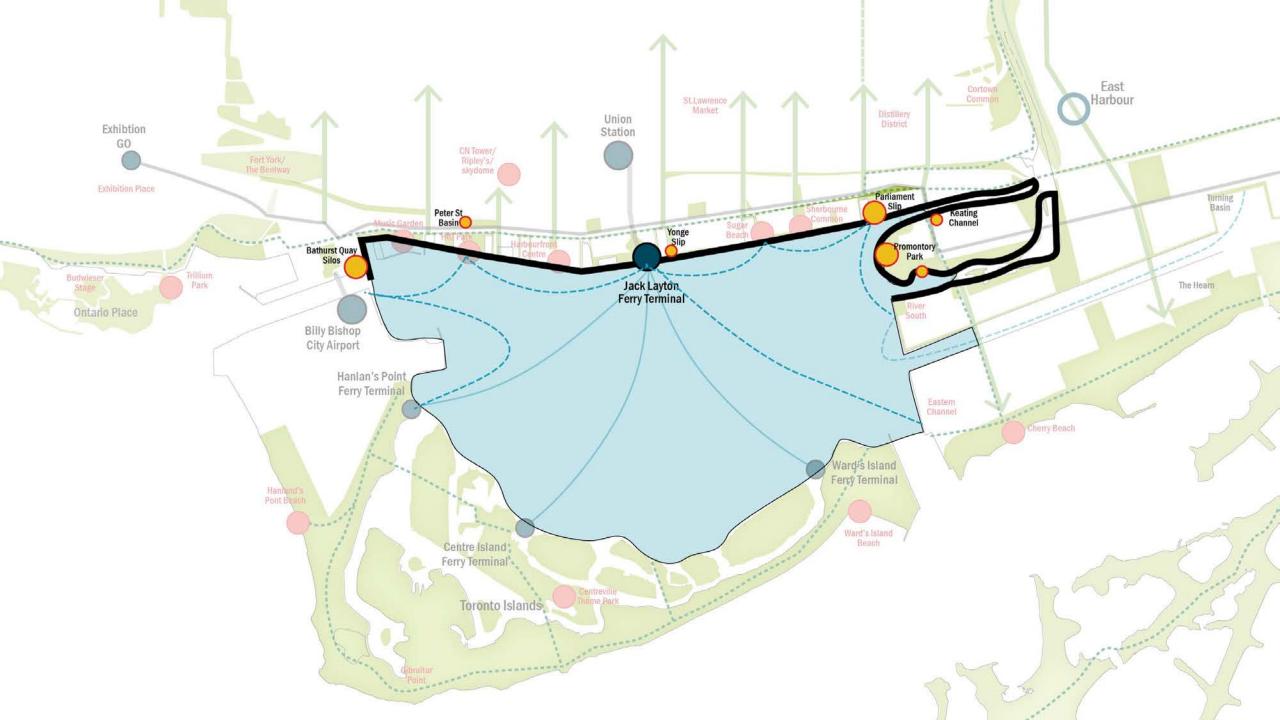
60 80 100

120 140 160





## The "Harbour Necklace"



# Fundraising for Signature Projects

## Fundraising Action Plan

- The strategic objective is to raise \$400 million over ten years to build the Signature Projects.
- Individually and together, the Signature Projects will elevate the quality of experience on Toronto's waterfront to rival great waterfront cities around the world.
- Fundraising to build the Signature Projects will help to make waterfront revitalization financially selfsustaining.

Project (cost to build)	Readiness for Fundraising	Appeal
Destination Playground (\$30m)  2-acre one-of-a kind destination playground located in the Port Lands.	High: Vision Plan will be completed by March 31, 2020. To be delivered in coordination with PFLP, construction should begin in 2022/2023 (if funding can be secured).	Regional draw, free and inclusive, beneficial to children's health and well- being.
Waterfront Walk (\$90m) 4-km complete water's edge walk from Portland Slip to Parliament Slip including timber pedestrian bridges	Medium: Concept design and gaps analysis to be completed Q3 2019/2020.	Connects people and places. Continuous promenade is a top priority of the public and is a feature common to the world's best waterfronts.
Jack Layton Ferry Terminal (\$80m)  Expansion of existing terminal to accommodate growing operational demand and an improved user experience	Medium: Competition complete in 2014. Optimization and Funding and Implementation Strategy to be completed in Q3 2020/2021.	Improve experience for visitors to the Toronto Islands and create more opportunities for marine transportation within and beyond Toronto Harbour.
Landmark Institution (\$200m)  An architecturally significant landmark institution anchoring local and economic cultural activities while communicating a unique urban and national identity to the world	Low: Early phases of conceptual thinking.	Widely recognized addition to waterfront skyline. Provides a gathering place, activates the surrounding public realm and catalyzes new economic clusters. Objective is to attract up to 1 million visitors/year.



#### Waterfront Walk

- Waterfront Toronto has already dramatically expanded the number of places where people can move along the water's edge:
  - On playful structures like the WaveDecks at Queens Quay
  - On the 500 metres of new waterfront promenade we've built east of the Redpath factory
  - On the nearly six kilometres we've added to the Martin Goodman Trail
- The Waterfront Walk will be a 4-km water's edge walk from Portland Slip to Parliament Slip complete with 7 iconic timber pedestrian bridges

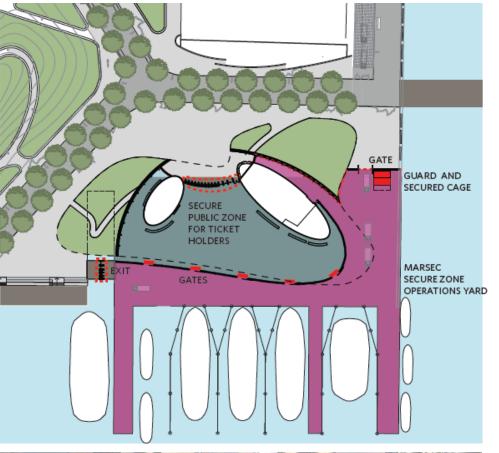


## Status of the Waterfront Walk

- West 8 has been retained to advance the design of the Waterfront Walk
- Kick-off meeting with the design team was held on August 26<sup>th</sup>
- Concept Design and costing are underway and will be complete by the end of 2019

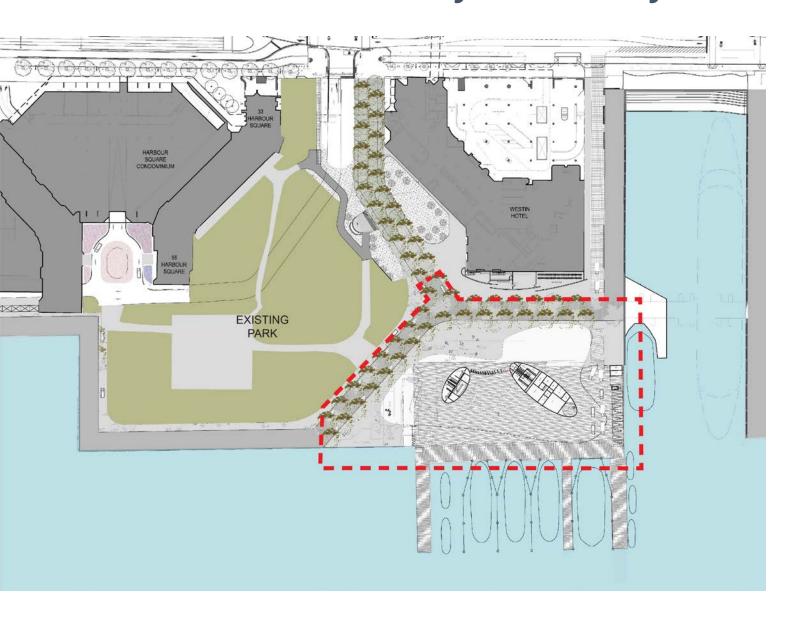


## Jack Layton Ferry Terminal



- The Jack Layton Ferry Terminal moves 1.5 million people per year between the city and the Toronto Islands; it is the gateway to an amazing city-wide asset.
- The current facility is increasingly stressed by the growing demand of trips to the Islands.
- In 2014, Waterfront Toronto, in collaboration with the City of Toronto, undertook a design competition to create an inspiring vision for the long-term transformation of the terminal facility that would resolve operational and user experience challenges.

## Status of the Jack Layton Ferry Terminal



 KPMB will be retained to optimize the design of the Jack Layton Ferry Terminal pavilion and docks and plaza

## Destination Playground

- Growing list of cities around the world have created immersive play environments for children, emphasizing movement, exploration and healthy risk-taking.
- A Destination Playground would be an innovative addition to the network of public places in the Port Lands – a first-in-Canada free attraction for residents and visitors, featuring leading-edge playground equipment design and nature play opportunities.
- The destination playground, proposed to be located at the western tip of the new Villiers Island, will be nearly two acres big (the size of two football fields) making it the largest playground in Toronto.
- It will include distinct rooms tailored to children at different developmental stages, each with themes that represent the ecological and cultural heritage of Don Valley and Southern Ontario region.



## Port Lands Flood Protection – Park Programming







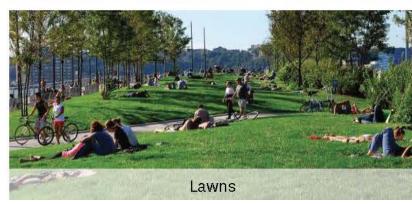












## Design Principles for Destination Playground















# Maggie Daley Park, Chicago IL

- Maggie Daley Park is one of Chicago's newest green spaces in the heart of downtown and connected to Millennium Park via the BP Bridge.
- The 20-acre park opened in late 2014 and became an instant success due its unique "Skating Ribbon" and magical "Play Garden"
- Total project cost: \$54 million
- The park was funded by \$35 million from a parking garage lease, \$10 million in privately raised funds (29 donors), \$5 million from park capital funds, \$5 million from the nonprofit Parkways Foundation
- Playground: 1.9 acres (\$18M)

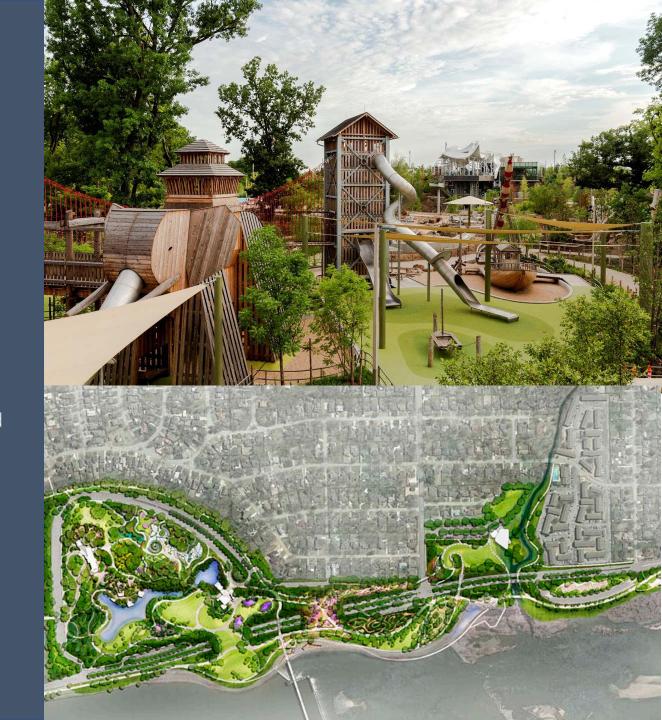




## Gathering Place, Tulsa OK

2011-2018

- Gathering Place is a 66-acre park located along the Arkansas River in Tulsa that opened in September 2018.
- This \$465 million park is one of the largest and most ambitious public parks ever created with private funds
- The project was primarily funded by the George Kaiser Family Foundation with the remaining being funded from corporate and community philanthropists (88 donors total)
- The George Kaiser Family Foundation transferred ownership of the land to the River Parks Authority. In turn, the parks authority agreed to enter into a hundred-year self-perpetuating agreement with a dedicated George Kaiser Family Foundation entity to manage the long-term operations, maintenance, security, and programming of the park
- Playground: 7.6 acres (\$66.8M)





## Status of the Destination Playground

- An RFQ for play design was released in August and 5 proponents were shortlisted, followed by the release of the RFP on September 12<sup>th</sup>
- The first round of evaluations on the play equipment was held in October
- The procurement process is scheduled for completion by mid-December



#### Landmark Institution

- Exceptional waterfronts often feature cultural destinations that become icons of their cities.
- The best of these —the Sydney Opera House is a prime example—come to define their waterfronts, anchoring local economic and cultural activities while communicating a unique urban and national identity to the world.
- Several sites on Toronto's waterfront have the scale and prominence to house a magnetic gathering place, activate the surrounding public realm and catalyze new economic clusters.
- Such a building could be linked to the surrounding waterfront by other iconic structures—such as bridges or other connective elements making important contributions to the dynamism and connectedness of the lands along the lake.





## Status of the Landmark Institution





 Commence market sounding and planning, including further refinement of the cost estimate

# Marine Use Strategy

#### **Recap of Marine Strategy 2006**

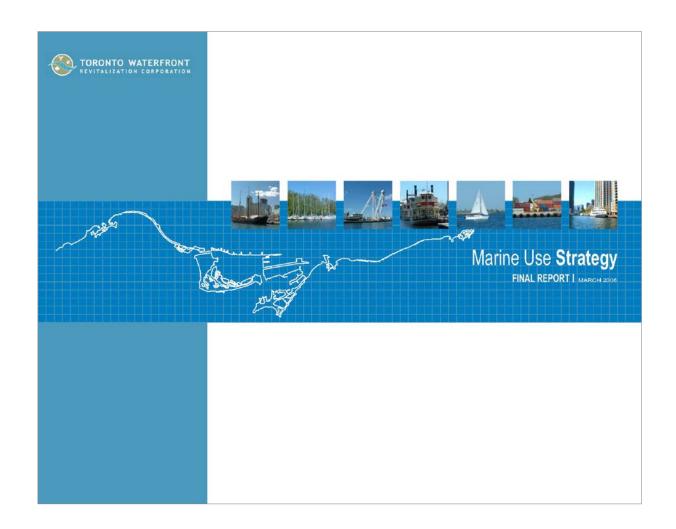
#### What is the Marine Use Strategy 2006?

The 2006 strategy was created to support the community of marine uses and users on the waterfront and is built around five core themes:

- 1. Recognize and expand an exceptional resource
- 2. Embrace integrated and sustainable planning on the waterfront
- 3. Promote an active, diverse and accessible waterfront
- 4. Plan marine districts through revitalization
- 5. Implement strategy through steady investment

#### Why an Update?

- To align with new planning initiatives, on-going and planned development projects, infrastructure investments and habitat restoration projects
- Growing/expanding user base and interest in waterrelated recreation and transportation



#### **Project Overview - Study Area**





## **Preliminary Inventory Mapping (2019) – Boats and Marinas**



Inner Harbour Inventory Map 2019 (created by WT)

#### Overview of One-on-One Interviews - Stakeholders List

#	Stakeholder Category / Group
1	Business
2	Cruise Line
3	First Nations
4	Industry
5	Residents
6	Sailing / Paddling / Rowing Club
7	Tour Boat Operator
8	Yacht Club / Marina
9	Private Marine Passenger Transport
10	Conservation/Preservation
11	Not for Profit / Social Enterprise
12	Institution

<sup>+</sup> recreational boat users through public intercepts



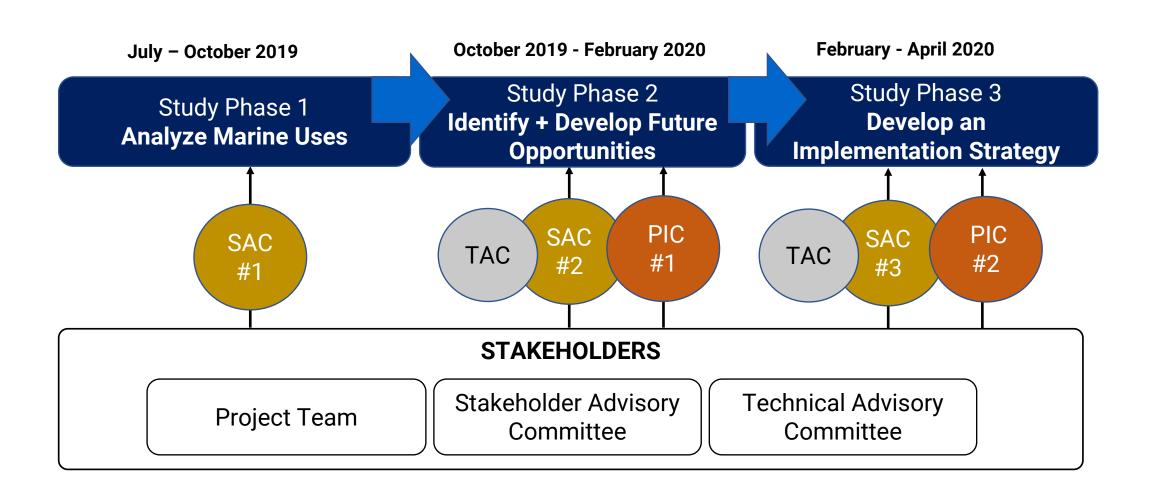
#### Overview of One-on-One Interviews - Common Themes so far

- 1. There is a need for clearer and consolidated management of quay walls and slips with respect to:
  - i. Ownership and leasing,
  - ii. Maintenance and repair,
  - iii. Receipt and review of 3<sup>rd</sup> party proposals,
  - iv. Balancing of uses.
- 2. From a safety and emergency response perspective, there is a need for wayfinding alongside the Waterfront;
- 3. There is a lack of public berthing space/transient docking facilities on the Waterfront, where boats can be moored for a few hours up to a full day;
- 4. There is no universal dock/ramp available for emergency response;
- 5. There is insufficient storage space on the Waterfront for privately owned small vessels (kayaks);
- Accessibility to the Waterfront is not always adequate (e.g. public parking, delivery trucks, disabled people, traffic corridors, personal safety);

#### Overview of One-on-One Interviews – Common Themes so far

- 7. High water levels in Lake Ontario cause a multitude of problems for marine users;
- 8. Improve the Waterfront to keep it attractive year-round;
- 9. There is concern about waterfront accessibility (from the landside) in the Port Lands area;
- 10. There are still sewage water outfalls into the harbour that affect the water quality;
- 11. There are insufficient boat maintenance facilities in (the direct vicinity of) the Toronto Waterfront area;
- 12. There is a need for more public launches and marina space for recreational boat users;
- 13. There is a need to create a 'continuous waterfront,' connecting the various areas (Central Waterfront, East Bayfront, Port Lands);
- 14. Toronto could do more to present itself as a 'waterfront city and destination' (Fresh Water Capital of the World).

#### **Project Overview - Schedule + Process**





# Thank you.

info@waterfrontoronto.ca

Waterfront Toronto
20 Bay Street, Suite 1310
Toronto, ON M5J 2N8
www.waterfrontoronto.ca







