

**INDIGENOUS
PLACE-MAKING
CITY OF TORONTO**

DRAFT

"Reconciliation is only possible when we're on equal footing, the land is a great equalizer."

Chloe Dragon Smith

Chipewyan-European-Métis contributor
to the Canada Parks Council

DRAFT



INDIGENOUS PLACE-MAKING FRAMEWORK GOALS

- Expanding and ensuring presentation and commemoration of Indigenous histories and cultures
- Creating space – physically, and in process and policy – for ceremony, teaching and community.
- Strengthening Indigenous connections with lands and waters, both traditionally and contemporarily used
- Building capacity for land-based indigenous engagement, and for greater cultural competency in City of Toronto staff.



INDIGENOUS DESIGN PRINCIPLES – BROOK MCILROY INDIGENOUS DESIGN STUDIO

DEBWEWIN / TRUTH People of Place

- Engage the communities who have host rights within the territory

NBWAAKAAWIN / WISDOM Respect for the Natural Environment

- Create and restore healthy environments for human and other-than-human inhabitants

MNADENDIMOOWIN / RESPECT Language

- Indigenous language revival is critical to reclamation and identity

DBADENDIZWIN / HUMILITY Inclusive Circle

- Aspire to create welcoming spaces that embody Indigenous world-views, values and histories

AAKIDE'EWIN / COURAGE Design Culture

- Embrace Indigenous led design and place-making opportunities as a means of contemporary expression including interpretations of Indigenous cultures that may reference traditions of place-making as well as explore new contemporary technologies and forms of expression.

WEKWAADIZIWIN / HONESTY Nothing For Us Without Us

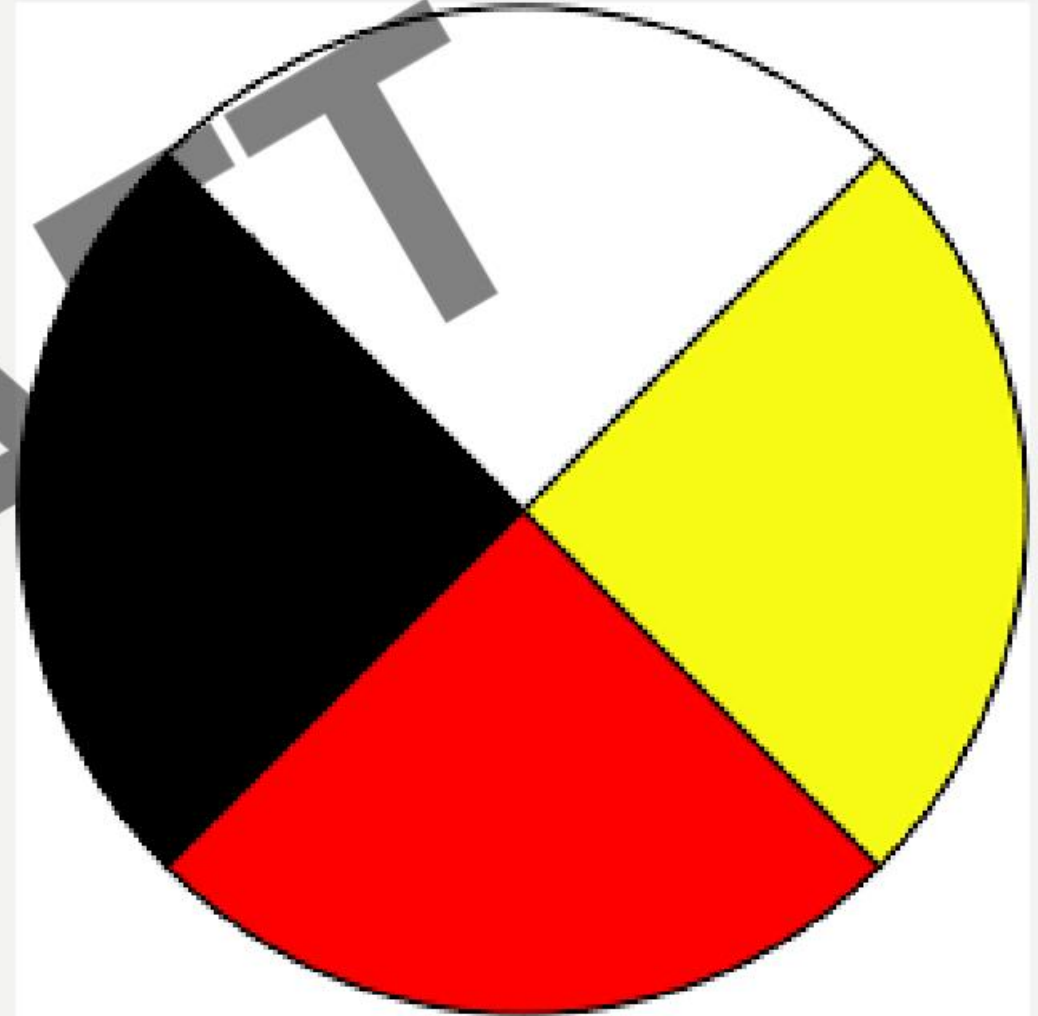
- Prioritize Indigenous authorship in the design process and avoid cultural appropriation

ZAAGEDOWIN / LOVE Give Back

- Strive to create spaces for the benefit of its occupants – accessible and inclusive places of poetic inspiration that reveal the deep culture of Indigenous civilizations and the existential relationship to the land – places that support good work and create a supportive community culture – places that support success

PLACE-MAKING FRAMEWORK: FOUR FOCUS AREAS

- Public Art
- Places & Naming
- Policy & Capacity
- Engagement



ART

- Art provides a focused opportunity for both short-term and long-term impact.
- Examples of place-making in public art include:
 - Murals
 - Temporary installations
 - Permanent installations that honour the significance of place
- Leveraging existing programs such as Nuit Blanche, StreetART and the City's Year of Public Art to create opportunities for Indigenous artists.
- Work with City Divisions and City Agencies to incorporate Indigenous art and engage with Indigenous artists in their projects (eg. Housing Now, ECC)

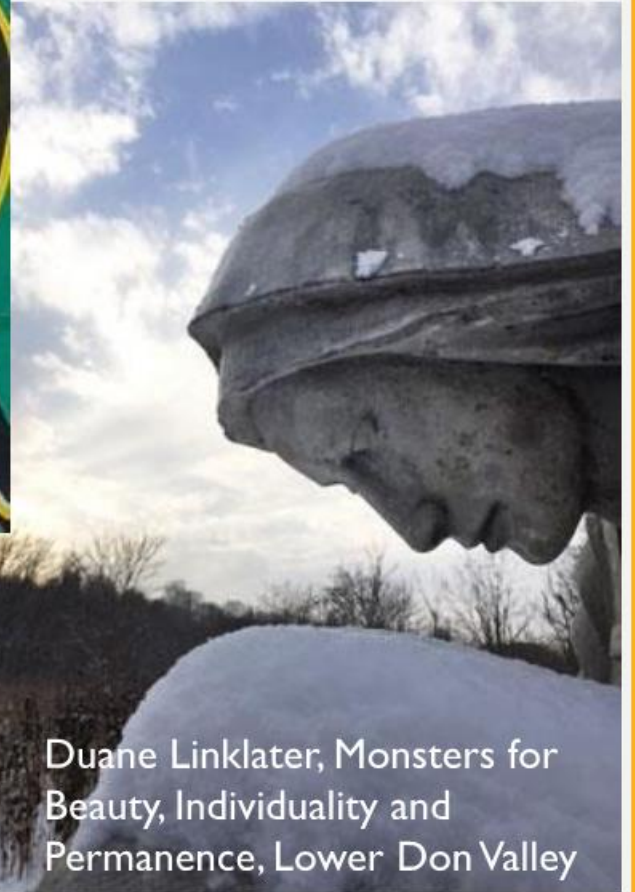




Michael Belmore,
Ethennonhawahstihnen'
Park



Phil Cote, The Original Family



Duane Linklater, Monsters for
Beauty, Individuality and
Permanence, Lower Don Valley



Tannis Nielson, Lower Simcoe Mural #simcoemural #STREETART

PLACES AND NAMING

Places

- Access to lands and water for Indigenous community to gather, conduct ceremony, grow medicines and traditional foods is essential for healing and community well-being.
- Supporting Indigenous community to provide safe access to land-based programming.
- Some examples include the Spirit Garden at Nathan Philip Square (led by Toronto Council Fire); working with the Humber River Collective and exploring opportunities on the land surrounding the Toronto Zoo.



PLACES AND NAMING

Naming

- The City of Toronto Property Naming Policy outlines the process for naming and re-naming properties on a property-by-property basis, but does not lend itself to a systemic view and a broader commitment to representation in our naming.
- Dundas Street Re-Naming/Recognition Review
- Indigenous names can work to address erasure of Indigenous People on this territory.
- Naming can be a reactive or proactive (eg. Review of Dundas Street, Six Points Configuration, Wonscotonach Parklands and Ethennonnhawahstihnen' Park)
- Re-naming of Eglinton Park and Bessarion Community Centre



POLICY AND CAPACITY

- Our public realm is shaped not only by the physical space, but also by the policies and people who manage and animate it. We need to build capacity for place-making and create policies that enable Indigenous engagement with the public realm.
- This includes guidelines on matters such as Sacred Fires and ceremony, decolonizing policy and legal instruments, growing and harvesting medicines in parks, and working internally with City colleagues to enhance capacity and understanding of Indigenous worldviews and approaches to working together.



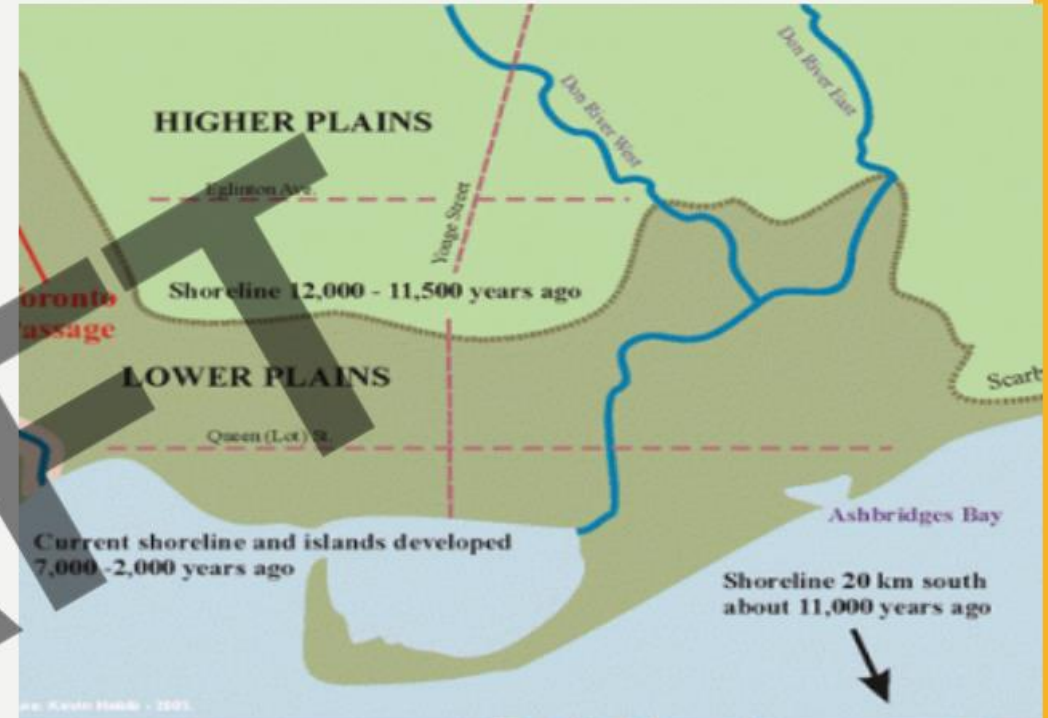
ENGAGEMENT

- The need for a more consistent, authentic and meaningful approach to consultation on place-making projects has become clear in our conversations with Indigenous community.
- Establishment of Indigenous Place-Making Advisory Circle & Elder, Knowledge Keepers and Youth Circle
- Engage with existing tables early on.
- Indigenous representation on Advisory Bodies
- Undertake and promote meaningful Indigenous engagement internally with City colleagues and non-Indigenous community organizations.



WATERFRONT

- Different agencies undertaking projects along and near the waterfront.
- How do we ensure that both urban Indigenous community and treaty partners are fully and consistently engaged?
- Coordination and collaboration across entities to tell a story of the waters and their significance to Indigenous People, historic and contemporary.



FURTHER WORK

- Undertake process to select members of the Indigenous Place-Making Advisory Circle to guide and advise on this work.
- Undertake a digital mapping exercise
- Better coordination between initiatives (leverage partnerships, existing projects); create stories; and better coordination internally within the City.
- Indigenous-led development of a proactive and comprehensive place-making strategy
- Reconciliation Action Plan



**MIIGWETCH,
AIY HIY,
MARSII,
NIA:WEN,
ANUSHEEK,
NAKURMIK!**

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