

# The Hangar District Summer Engagement Report

SUMMER 2022





# Pride Toronto's North York Event

June 11th, 2022, Downsview Park.



On June 11th, 2022 the Northcrest project team attended a Pride Toronto event in North York, for an opportunity to interact with members of the community. The Northcrest project team was excited to celebrate Pride with the local community and raise awareness about the project. Approximately 100 people attended this event.

Ian Hanecak from the Northcrest project team provided a short briefing about the Northcrest 1st District and the broader Downsview development.

The XOXO Downsview 'Fabric of Community' art installation was also present at the event. 'Fabric of Community' is a crowdsourced art installation which was inaugurated at the Downsview Park mound in October, 2022.

## Key Highlights on what we heard:

- General interest in knowing more about the project.
- Community members showed interest in knowing about the plans for Northcrest 1st District and for the broader Downsview Development.
- Questions about the project timeline. The most frequently asked question was about planned timelines for the development.
- Interest in engaging with the XOXO art installation.
- Some children and families participated in the XOXO
- Downsview 'Fabric of Community' installation and wrote down their wishes for Downsview on ribbons
- that are now tied to fences around the Downsview lands.



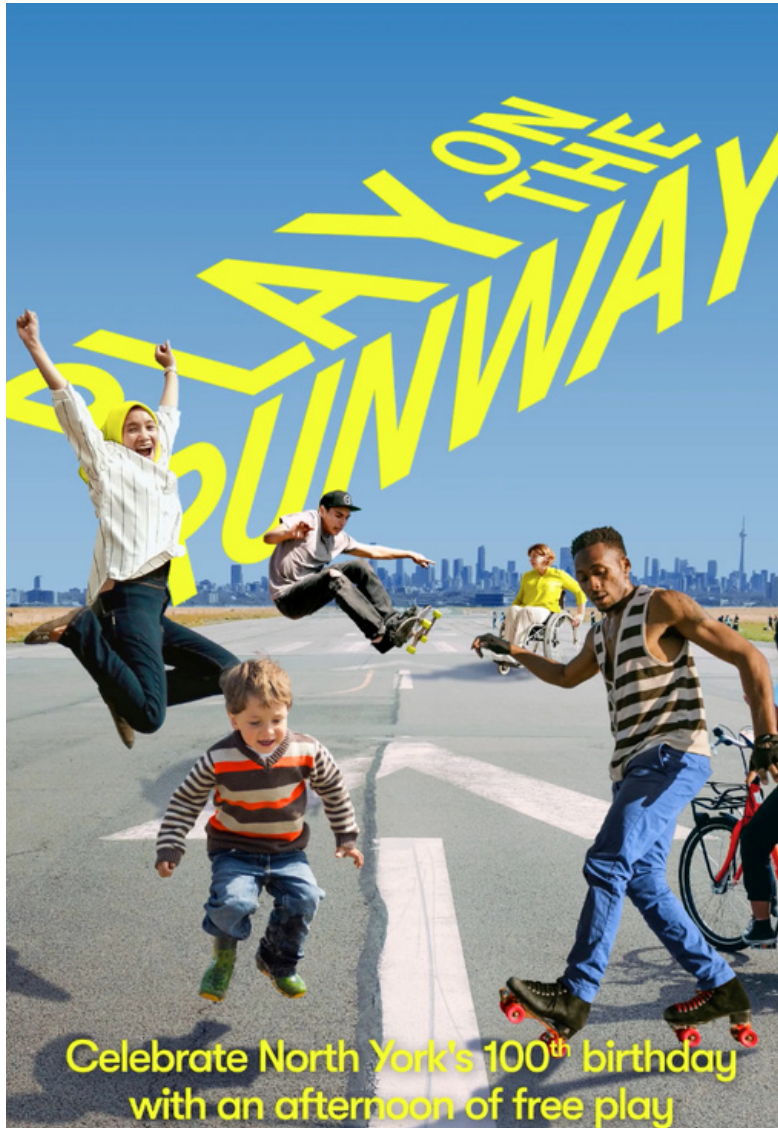


# Play On the Runway

June 26th, 2022, Downsview Airport Runway.

## 250+

interactions with community members



To celebrate North York's 100th birthday, Northcrest, together with CLC, Bombardier and Councillor James Pasternak, opened the Downsview runway for an afternoon of free play. The runway was opened to the general public for the first time in almost 100 years. Members of the local communities and people across Toronto came to bike and rollerblade along the runway, have ice cream, and learn about the new neighbourhoods that will be coming here in the decades ahead. The team interacted with over 250 participants of all ages at the event: walking them through the project boards, answering questions and handing the id8 Community Update Brochure; and engaging them in the "paper plane" activity, where participants answered themed questions about sustainability, mobility, parks and open spaces, employment, and housing on sheets of paper; and constructed paper planes with the sheets and raced them against others in small groups.

### Key Highlights on what we heard:

- Generally, the attendees were appreciative of the opportunity to experience the scale of the runway and were supportive of the vision and the outcomes proposed for the Downsview lands. Many said they particularly liked increased connectivity and the idea of the pedestrian and cycling bridge over the GO rail tracks to connect to Downsview Park, proposing a variety of new parks and green spaces that will complement the existing Downsview Park, creating new jobs, particularly in the creative industry, and thoughtfully designing the place to integrate sustainability, innovation, and its Indigenous heritage.
- Support for increased connectivity and the 15-minute city. Many participants discussed challenges in getting around the site today, particularly from surrounding residential areas to local subway stations. Many said they were excited to learn that a proposed pedestrian and cycling bridge would provide a much-needed connection over the GO rail track to and from Downsview Park.
- Many also said they liked the idea of a nature-oriented pedestrian/cycling experience on the bridge.
- Interest in diverse commuting options. Many participants said cars were currently the most common means of getting to and around Downsview, and a few youth suggested that they would like to see more opportunities to bike or scooter around the neighbourhood, similar to the experience at the Play on the Runway event – including safe and fun opportunities to bike.



# Play On the Runway

June 26th, 2022, Downsview Airport Runway.

## Key Highlights on what we heard (cot'd):

- Support for more green spaces, protecting Downsview Park, and building more play infrastructure. Many participants said it was important to protect Downsview Park and bring more green and open spaces to the new neighbourhoods. Many children and young people suggested having playgrounds, skate parks, swings, and other playscape structures in the parks, along with food and beverage options, and gathering spaces for friends and families.
- Need for initiatives that promote sustainability. Suggestions regarding sustainability focused on minimizing waste, recycling, and re-using/repurposing. Some participants also expressed interest in learning more about the stormwater management strategy and how it can help improve existing ponding and flooding conditions on the site and in surrounding areas.
- Create diverse employment opportunities. Many participants were excited to learn about the employment hub and the film studio campus coming to Northcrest 1st District. Many talked about the importance of building on aviation history and focusing on “clean” and “green” innovation, creative industries, and research and development. Some said they were happy that there will be less noise and light pollution due to the relocation of Bombardier. Some participants also said it would be important to provide a diverse range of jobs in the area, including jobs such as police officers, teachers/educators, parks management, and waste collectors.
- Create more options for recreation and entertainment. Some participants emphasized the unique opportunity to create a real destination in Downsview – with a creative and innovation-focused employment hub, arts and culture, and unique retail reflecting the diversity of Downsview. Suggestions focused on having more food and beverage options, smaller unique retail stores, urban grocers, and public places that would facilitate activities for all ages – including community classes, skating rinks, venues for performances, etc.
- Manage construction impacts and work with the immediate residential community to minimize negative impacts. Many participants noted heavy congestion in the area and said it would be important to design new neighbourhoods with multiple access points. Some also talked about the need to work closely with those who live nearby to minimize construction impacts and design new neighbourhoods in a way that respects existing surrounding communities.

## Questions asked:

- Approximately half of those who engaged with the team at the event had heard of the id8 Downsview process and Northcrest 1st District. Those who learned about the Downsview lands for the first time at the event generally asked questions about Northcrest and Canada Lands, development timelines and phasing, and key elements that were proposed overall and for the first district.





# Canada Day

July 1st, 2022, Downsview Park.



Northcrest and supporting consultants participated in Downsview Park's Canada Day festivities. The team interacted with over 80 people, including 21 children, 12 youth, and 54 adults. Most participants were either current/former local residents or worked in the area. Some community members also participated in an activity to share their thoughts. Most community members had not heard of the project but were excited to learn more and share their thoughts. Notable guests included MP Ya'ara Saks and MP Michael S. Kerzner.

- General interest in the proposed district plan for Northcrest 1st District. Several community members were impressed by the plan and excited to see how the district continues to evolve.
- Interest in understanding environmental impact. A couple of community members emphasized the importance of sustainability and implementing net-zero buildings. There was also interest in knowing if there would be an environmental impact assessment process.
- Protect Green spaces. Parks and green spaces are important to create a sense of community. Several people emphasized the importance of making green spaces open and accessible. Downsview Park is also a young park that will continue to evolve with the surrounding area.
- Prioritize a variety of jobs and opportunities and integration into surrounding areas. Look for ways to connect this development to the broader area.
- Promote opportunities for walking, biking and public transportation. A couple of the community members emphasized the importance of having a walkable, bike-friendly community that also promotes the use of public transportation. It would also be important to include stroller access on different pathways.



## 80+

interactions with community members

# Fun Philippines Street Festival

July 23rd + 24th, 2022, Bathurst St and Wilson Ave.



On July 23rd and July 24th, 2022, Northcrest Development participated as one of several co-sponsors of the annual Fun Philippines Street Festival. The Northcrest project team and consultants spoke with over 130 people including 21 children, 2 youth, 90 adults and 16 seniors. There was a combination of local community members and participants from the broader GTA. Children, youth and adults also participated in the Downsview XOXO Ribbon Weaving Project by sharing their aspirations for the future of Downsview.

## Key Highlights on what we heard:

- Appreciation and desire for more green spaces and parks. Several participants emphasized the importance of green spaces and parks for local communities. There was a desire to see more pedestrian and bike-focused design through more skateboard parks, walking trails and bike lanes.
- General appreciation. Some participants shared that the plans look great.
- Consider including fruiting trees and other edible plants in the planning and design of the area. There was one suggestion to look for examples in the United Kingdom for foraging and collecting wild mushrooms and fruits in parks.
- Interest in affordable housing options. Several participants asked if there would be affordable housing options. Others shared that it has become hard to purchase property due to the increasing unaffordability of ownership.
- Include popular entertainment amenities. Several participants shared that they would like to see places where people can socialize, shop and eat – such as supermarkets, eateries, pubs, and café areas. A participant shared that they don't want to see another mall in the area.



# 130+

interactions with community members



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**Northcrest**