

# PEOPLE PLACE Richmond Hill

Yonge & Major Mackenzie

## Civic Precinct Concept Planning Charrette

McConaghy Centre

June 20, 2012

Richmond Hill



# Civic Precinct Charrette Agenda

9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

- Welcome and Opening Remarks
- Presentation
  - Background
  - Vision and Key Directions
  - Site Context
- Site Walk
- Session #1 - Design Framework
- Lunch Break (lunch will be provided)
- Session #2 - Site Design: Preliminary
- Session #3 - Site Design: Refined Concepts
- Charrette Wrap-Up and Next Steps

# Background

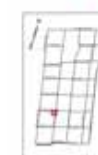
## Civic Precinct:

- An area in Downtown Richmond Hill that has been recognized for its potential to be an important symbolic and functional space.
- Covers the area bounded by Major Mackenzie Drive to the north, Church Street to the east, Hopkins Street to the south, and Arnold Crescent to the west.



## Civic Precinct Project:

- Focuses on creating a vision and plan for the Town-owned lands in the southwest quadrant of Yonge Street and Major Mackenzie Drive (containing the Central Library, the Lois Hancey Aquatic Centre, and Mount Pleasant Park).
- Will also look at how these lands integrate and connect with adjacent properties in the Civic Precinct and other civic uses in the downtown.



### Legend

- ▭ Civic Precinct Boundary
- ▭ Focus of Civic Precinct Project (Town-owned Lands)

# Civic Precinct Project

- Through community engagement in Town Plans, such as the Strategic Plan, Official Plan, Cultural Plan, Economic Development Strategy and Downtown Design and Land Use Strategy, we heard that the Town should use its lands at Yonge/Major Mackenzie (Civic Precinct) to:
  - create a sense of place; and
  - encourage multi-functional uses that could benefit both the area and the wider community.
- Civic Precinct Task Force directed staff to explore, with the community, other civic uses and additional land use and public space opportunities that may be appropriate for the Town-owned site.
- Over the course of two years, will develop a Plan for the Civic Precinct in phases to define the vision, concepts and implementation strategies.



# Vision

- Vision and Purpose
  - People envision the Town's Civic Precinct to be a people place – a place where people want to be, a place where they can connect – with fellow citizens, their community, their local government and with their surroundings.
  - As the civic heart of Richmond Hill, the purpose of the Civic Precinct is to provide a special place for the people of Richmond Hill that will allow those connections to occur.

## What makes a people place?

*People and connections  
– the common overarching  
theme heard throughout the  
visioning consultation.*



# Key Directions

## Have Fun

- Active programming / uses (e.g. ice skating, cycling, ping pong, dancing, bocce, yoga, etc.)
- Leisure activities (e.g. playing chess, gardening, reading, arts and crafts, playground, games, outdoor shows, concerts, etc.)

## Meet and Gather

- Outdoor/open spaces (e.g. squares, piazzas, plazas, village green)
- Landmarks/Focal points (e.g. steps, fountains)
- Indoor spaces (e.g. atrium, multi-purpose hall, gallery/museum, restaurants, conference areas, meeting rooms)



# Key Directions

## Celebrate or Honour

- Festivals/Parades (e.g. seasonal, thematic)
- Fireworks/Light Shows (coinciding with holidays, events)
- Ceremonies (e.g. awards, recognition, commemorative)

## Be Entertained

- Concerts (e.g. professional musicians, dancers)
- Informal or Interactive (e.g. buskers, participation from the public, flash mobs)
- Speakers (e.g. readings, lectures)
- Outdoor Stage / Bandstand (e.g. built-in, temporary, gazebo)
- Amphitheatre (e.g. open air, covered)
- Interactive (e.g. speaker's box/podium, video displays/terminal showcasing Richmond Hill history, interpretive signs)



# Key Directions

## Walk and Connect

- Pedestrian-friendly (e.g. walkways, lanes, courtyards and mews, sidewalks)
- Active transportation (e.g. bicycle lanes, bike rentals, multi-use path, locker facilities)
- Accessible (e.g. public transit, transit shelters, building entrances close to transit stops and connections, ramps, covered linkages, benches, wayfaring signs)

## Think and Reflect

- Walking (e.g. pathways – natural and paved, promenades, boulevards)
- Sitting (e.g. benches, patio chairs, retaining walls)
- Relaxing (e.g. loungers, grassy or shaded areas, village green, adjacent to features such as a garden or fountain)





# Key Directions

## Access Information and Services

- Government (e.g. municipal offices, public meetings, front-line services)
- Institutional/Public services (e.g. library, small business centre, community centre, welcome/visitors centre, aquatic centre, multi-use program rooms)
- Business Offices/Employment (e.g. private business operations, training centres, networking/advertising)

## Shop

- Farmer's market, arts and crafts market (e.g. local produce / near urban agriculture, local artists / artisans, antiques)
- Niche retail / boutiques (e.g. specialty stores, street-oriented shops, personal services)
- Vendors (e.g. temporary booths/tents associated with events)

## Dine

- Restaurants/cafes (e.g. street-oriented, indoor and outdoor components, animated sidewalk)
- Outdoor patios, picnic tables (e.g. informal seating/dining areas located within public spaces)
- Food vendors (e.g. small-scale carts / stands associated with events)



# Key Directions

## Innovative and Inspiring Design

- **Distinctive Architecture** (e.g. buildings, gallerias, atrium - unique, identifiable, fits into local context, human scale, light and airy; containing public and private uses all year round, day and night)
- **Innovative Design Elements/Amenities** (e.g. chess tables, arches/circular designs, labyrinth, clock, pedestrian bridge, multifunctional benches/lighting, etc.)
- **Public Art** (e.g. sculptures, statues, monuments, murals, banners, art as infrastructure, etc.)
- **A Green Oasis**
  - Greenspace (e.g. tree-lined paths, planters, open space/grassy areas, village green)
  - Gardens (e.g. community, rose, perennial, native species, butterfly)
  - Sustainable/Low Impact Design (e.g. bio-swales, green wall, green roof)
- **Water Features**
  - Fountains (e.g. large/medium focal points, small water garden features)
  - Reflection Pool/Ice Skating Rink (e.g. all season, multi-use)
  - Splash Pad/Mist (e.g. children's park, formal looking space)
  - Water-based Design/Patterns (e.g. zig zag pattern, stormwater conveyance)



- <switch to Site Context Presentation from TPP>

# NEXT STEPS

- Concept Planning Open House this evening from 7 to 9 p.m.
- On-line Concepts Planning Questionnaire (June 25 to July 9, 2012)
- Concept Planning Consultation Booth
  - Central Library (June 25, 2012 from 2:30 to 7:30 p.m.)
  - Hillcrest Mall (June 28, 2012 from 2:30 to 7:30 p.m.)
- Vision and Concepts Report to Civic Precinct Task Force on September 13, 2012