



Process Tackling Civic Challenges with Community Joy

Curtner Urban Leadership Program



As a Toronto Region based organization, we acknowledge the land we are meeting on is the traditional territory of many nations including the Mississaugas of the Credit, the Anishnabeg, the Chippewa, the Haudenosaunee and the Wendat peoples and is now home to many diverse First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples. We also acknowledge that Toronto is covered by Treaty 13 with the Mississaugas of the Credit.

We are all Treaty people. Many of us of have come here as settlers, immigrants, and newcomers in this generation or generations past. We'd like to also acknowledge and honour those who came here involuntarily, particularly those who are descended from those brought here through enslavement.



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What is process to us?





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General Definitions



Jamboard - Top Down





Jamboard - Bottom Up





Jamboard - Hybrid





Hybrid Example

Post-War Tokyo: An Urban Scaffold

"In 1923, the government could focus all recovery effort on the capital but this time [1945] nearly all of the country's major cities lay in ruins. 51% of Tokyo was burnt to the ground...among many others."

To many it might appear regrettable that the majority of reconstruction projects in Tokyo were not realised, but the urbanists Matias Echanove and Rahul Srivastava consider the failure of the comprehensive recovery plans as a blessing that was responsible for the quick recovery of the city.

"...when the war ended, Tokyo's municipal government, bankrupt and in crisis mode, was in no condition to launch a citywide reconstruction effort. So, without ever stating it explicitly, it nevertheless made one thing clear: the citizens would rebuild the city. Government would provide the infrastructure, but beyond that the residents would be free to build what they needed on the footprint of the city that once was, neighbourhood by neighbourhood."

Echanove and Srivastava say that Tokyoites drew on vernacular knowledge of construction, and gradually in the post-war years, "local masons, labourers and in some cases the residents themselves rebuilt entire neighbourhoods, one house at a time" – building up a largely unplanned, organically grown Tokyo that is today counted among the world's most liveable cities." – BBC, 2020



Why Geary?

"Geary Avenue is a vibrant employment area within the established low-rise residential neighbourhood of Davenport. Geary Avenue is prized for its "maker" uses such as small scale manufacturing, food production, artists' studios and production studios. The eclectic mix of these uses with small-scale restaurants, bars and other cultural uses in old low-rise industrial buildings gives the street an authentic, alluring "vibe" that is increasingly making Geary Avenue a commercial and social destination."







Geary Avenue: A Brief History



Preamble: A Discussion on Process



Michelle Berquist

Michelle is the Manager of Area Transportation Planning within City of Toronto's Transportation Services Division. She also teaches a planning studies course at the University of Toronto.

She has been involved in support the City Planning Division on Geary Works and the Parks, Forestry and Recreation Division on the Green Line.



Geary Avenue: What to Expect



Brief Itinerary

- Gather at All Ours Studio, 62 Geary Ave, at 2pm
- 30-45 mins talk and discussion
- 2:45 3pm depart on walking tour, towards the west
- Geary Ave. Parkette
- Dovercourt Road
- Westmoreland Ave. N.
- Bartlett Parkette.
- Blood Brothers
- Dufferin Street
- Geary Lane
- End at Paradise Grapevine 4pm





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