

TORONTO COMMUNITY HOUSING CORPORATION
TENANT SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING
MARCH 24, 2021

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WRITTEN DEPUTATIONS

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TCHC Tenant Service Committee Meeting March 24, 21 Item 4D - Employment Opportunities for Tenants

TCHC has four programs currently operating within the employment opportunities for tenants that includes YouthWorx, Active Living, Internship, and Be. Build. Brand. I would like to see the Tenant Services Committee support an initiative I have already suggested to Nadia Gouveia (with prompt positive feedback). I would like the Tenant Services Committee to support a **“TCHC Artist Collective”**.

The components could include:

An artist in residence program. With all these community hubs being constructed across the portfolio that gives TCHC the opportunity to not only provide additional resources to the community but to tap those communities for resources. Giving community artists an opportunity to showcase their talents in their own communities could be a big boost to their future success as an artist.

An art specific grant program. By no means do I expect TCHC to match the grants currently being offered for those attending higher education. But I could imagine, if given half a chance, an art specific grant program could increase the number of community partnerships currently available to TCHC. There may be

unidentified partners out there that would actively support a **TCHC Artist Collective**. These partners may also wish to host art exhibits on their properties allowing for broader exposure for our artists. Thereby bringing some much needed positive media/public attention to our talented tenants for a change.

A series of workshops They could be practical workshops related to monetizing art work, budgeting as an artist, displaying art work, publishing art work, and prepping for a solo/group exhibit. There could also be a series of workshops on artistic techniques like drawing, painting, photography, stencilling, mixed media, audio/visual, ... etc. These workshop will be open to all tenants. They can be repeated in several locations across the portfolio once COVID is no longer a public health issue. Until then it could be started virtually.

An annual show and alumni catalogue TCHC could select which location each year to highlight with an annual exhibit. This could bring some positive attention to communities that are otherwise perceived as problem neighbourhoods. It could also facilitate artistic collaborations across TCHC's portfolio. An annual alumni catalogue (a fee may be charged to cover the cost of printing the catalogue) could give exposure to artists who may not be at the exhibit stage and/or allow for other creative submissions like poetry.

Advocacy On one hand, the very concept of having a **TCHC Artist Collective** implies a certain level of personal/public advocacy that would not be of concern to other artists/collectives. This advocacy would be beyond the regular funding and exhibition issues.

On the other, it could very well lead to partnerships with already established artist councils, collectives, and organizations across the city of Toronto.

Looking ahead, it will be a fine day when the **TCHC Artist Collective** will have its own booth at the annual Toronto Outdoor Art Fair at Nathan Phillips Square.

Finally, the **TCHC Artist Collective** should theoretically be self directed. I would settle for a partnership with TCHC staff where decisions can be made mutually and not to the exclusion of tenant input. I would love to be considered the Tenant Lead for this all-inclusive portfolio-wide creative initiative.

TCHC Tenant Services Committee March 24, 2021
Item 4E – CCTV Cameras & Crime Prevention

Apparently, this document was created at the request of the Tenant Services Committee to outline 'the impact of CCTV cameras in helping to reduce crime in TCHC communities'.

Now the next time such a report is presented this is what I would like to see:

-the total number of CCTV cameras installed across the portfolio per year (over the last couple of years)

-an itemized list of communities that have received additional CCTV cameras in public areas (that INCLUDES hallways)

-a list of communities that have received upgraded CCTV cameras

-the before and after annual stats for crime against person and crimes property on any of the locations that have new or improved CCTV cameras installed

(This would help clarify whether or not the perception of increased security is justified or not once CCTV camera systems are installed or upgraded.)

-a list of TCHC properties that are expected to have CCTV camera system upgrades within the following year

What I don't want to see:

-is any portion of material lifted straight from TCHC's website

-the claim that CCTV cameras are not a 'stand-alone' tool. Well until such a time as TCHC has regular (as in hourly) security foot patrols in our neighbourhoods they are EXACTLY that.

-is a claim that I repeatedly hear that TCHC is trying to balance tenant security with their reasonable expectation of privacy when it comes to installing CCTV cameras in the hallways of all TCHC rent geared to income buildings.

(If TCHC did consult with Toronto Police Services Homicide Division after they arrested my neighbours next door neighbour on the other side for his murder and arson I'm pretty sure they would make it clear that this case would have been solved within hours not MONTHS!

Plus, you can't have it both ways. On our 24 hour notices it now states that "Photos may be taken where

necessary to address unit conditions.” If you can take pictures in our home you can most certainly start recording whats happening in our hallways.

It also ticks me off is that privacy is the reason that TCHC uses to excuse not having CCTV cameras on every floor. Yet, here you are, currently relying on hundreds of audio and visual files I recorded in my unit to evict another tenant TCHC is taking before the Tribunal.

TCHC should have installed CCTV cameras on every floor of the building where I lived a number of years ago. That way you could have built your case without my assistance.

At this moment, I 'stand-alone' in a somewhat precarious position while still submitting supporting documentation - directly to your legal department - between now and when this other tenant is FINALLY evicted.

If TCHC tenant safety and security is your job (which it is) you owe me base pay plus overtime for several years now. Just let me know what job title and the amount I should put on the invoice.)

Item #7

Dear committee members,

I've prepared my deputation on the shipping container idea, first proposed by Councilor Paula Fletcher made at the last TSC meeting on January 25th. The councilor advised we use shipping containers as pop-up structures to house community-based programs. This could benefit the Lawrence Heights Art Centre (LHAC) and many other tenant-led organizations. I agree with the councilor that we lack community public spaces for such programs in many TCHC neighborhoods. This is a proven strategy used by Firgrove community and others. We can use shipping containers for social enterprise. It perfectly fits in the new realm of COVID-19 aiming to animate open-air public spaces. It will also provide the safest environment for people's communication and gatherings.

For the summer of 2021, the Lawrence Heights team has developed and rose funding for a series of outdoor art exhibits. We will showcase the latest work of our artists, young architects and builders. TCHC management has acknowledged they lack space to house the LHAC gallery. Shipping containers can be valuable assets for the community to run this summer exhibit program. They can also offer ongoing opportunities in the near future for vibrant social enterprise.

Our Young Architects program run by the LHAC developed a design concept using the latest technologies to transform regular shipping containers into an open gallery space and art workshop space. This group has prepared several versions of the space organization and structural compositions. The LHAC established a partnership with a fabrication company specializing in container modifications to help complete one of the proposed designs.

On behalf of the artistic community of Lawrence Heights, I would like to recommend to the committee members kindly approve this proposal. We are happy to work with you every step of the way. We ask that you finalize investigation into the opportunity to provide the containers for grassroots programs. We would like you to work with us to identify a location for their installation in Lawrence Heights prior to the summer 2021. This decision would be vital for many participants of the program that counts over 250 residents of Lawrence Heights. The summer program is a win for TCHC, as it will allow for positive community engagement and entrepreneurship activity in our diverse community.

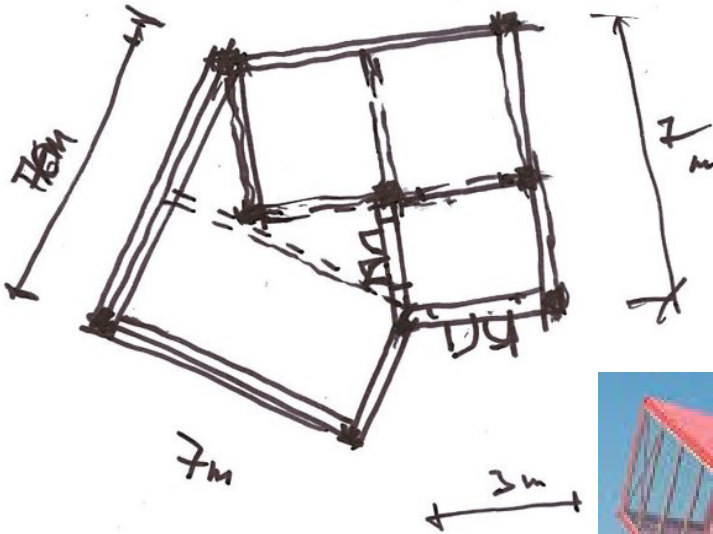
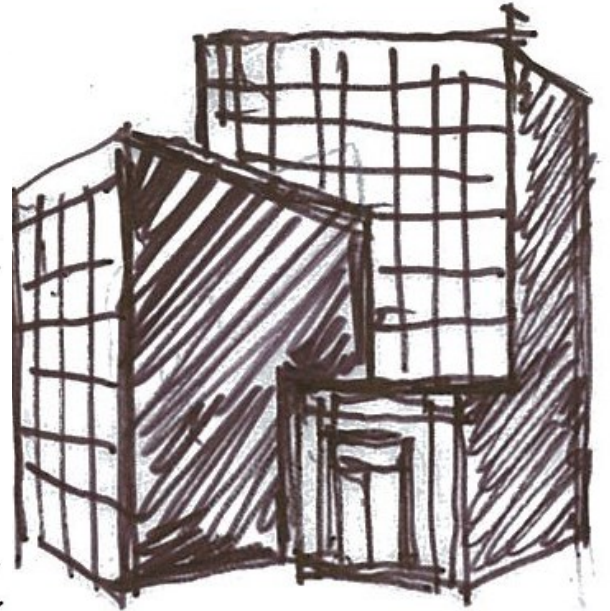
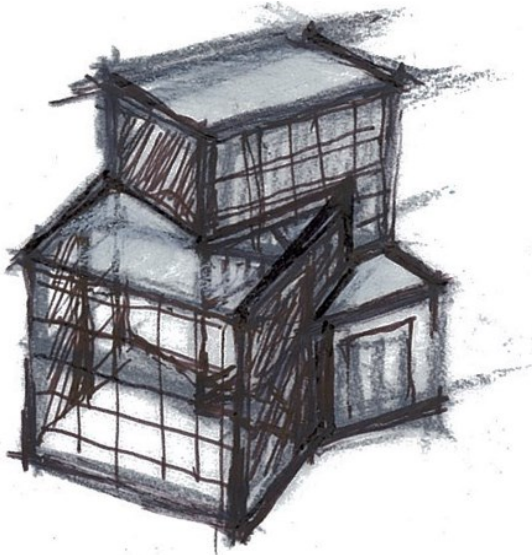
Sincerely,
Elena Korniakova
LH resident and lead of the Lawrence Heights Art Centre (LHAC)

LHAC Pavilion

Youth Architects' iteration using shipping-container technology

2018

Item 7 - Deputation - Elena Korniakova



precedent



Deputation - Kanaka Kulendran & Joy Smith Brown
Item 7 - Lawrence Heights Phases 2 & 3 Tenant Benefit Agreement
TSC Public Meeting - March 24, 2021

Item # 7

March 24th, 2021

Supplementary Deputation: on behalf of Item # 7 proposition of Shipping containers for community activation.

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing this statement on behalf of North York Community House (NYCH). We are located at 255 Ranee Avenue. We are a multi-service agency providing a range of services and programs to residents in Lawrence Heights and throughout North West Toronto. NYCH is located directly in the Lawrence Heights neighbourhood. We work closely with tenants of TCHC and have strong relationships with resident leaders through our programs and community development work. We would like to request the support of approving the use of Shipping Containers as transitional and alternative community spaces during the revitalization phase. We know that having access to safe spaces in the community is key in supporting the goals of resident engagement, community gathering, innovation, and socio-economic spaces.

Numerous grassroots groups, resident groups, including organizations like the Lawrence Heights Parents Association, the Lawrence Heights Revitalization Coalition, the Lawrence Heights Art Centre and many others will no longer have access to gathering spaces as the next stage of redevelopment takes place. While plans are underway to engage residents in a community benefits and visioning of the community, we feel it's essential to support residents during this period of gathering. While NYCH is able to offer our own spaces for gathering, the pandemic has placed restrictions on allowing residents to access our spaces safely. The shipping containers provide both a shelter, space to gather, and opportunity to do so, while keeping in line with the strict protocols of Public Health as it pertains to Covid-19 prevention.

The shipping containers would also provide an opportunity for further community animation, including opportunities for social entrepreneurship like pop up markets, community information hub, and pop-up food bank space for agencies like North York Harvest Food Bank. A successful example of this can be seen with Scadding Court's Market 707 and the welcome hut at Evergreen Brickworks. Please see the images below:



With our partnership with LHAC we have supported over 100 youth and residents to translate their dreams and visions for the Lawrence Heights community through the development of architectural designs. Their designs reflect the community's needs of space for resident-led programs, and initiatives. The design and installation of shipping containers in the Lawrence Heights community will provide safer spaces for residents to commune and activate community engagement initiatives. In addition, it would provide our youth hands-on training, mentorship, and build opportunities. We have previously witnessed the impact of our Youth Architects program and how it has broadened perspectives and has invited youth and residents to explore diverse career paths. We are confident that the opportunity will continue to spark the minds of youth and provide access points to STEM fields, which has been identified as a priority in Lawrence Heights Social Development Plan.

The design, use and economic opportunities that the shipping containers provide, will also lend to creative ways to engage residents in coming together to create, innovate and access space as the neighborhood undergoes temporary disruption as a result of the revitalization.

In this light, the installation of shipping containers is considered as an urgent matter and we encourage to move forward the initiative of Councilor Fletcher and possibly realize it by the summer of 2021.

Sincerely,

Kanaka Kulendran & Joy- Smith Brown
North York Community House (NYCH)

Lawrence Heights Revitalization Coalition - Deputation

Good morning and thank you for this opportunity to speak to you all. I speak to you today as a resident of Lawrence Heights community for 21 years and Project Coordinator for Lawrence Heights Revitalization Coalition. Over the past year, residents of Lawrence Heights, with support from North York Community House and Toronto Community Benefit Network has been engaging in a series of discussions on our experiences navigating through revitalization in our community as well as its current and ongoing impact on residents, and the larger community. We explored our everyday experiences with revitalization, with issues of safety, affordable housing, employment, and community ownership as themes that came up among resident leaders. Looking at the current **Tenant Benefit Agreement** in comparison to Alexandria Park for Phase 1, it is not equitable especially since Lawrence Heights is the biggest redevelopment project for TCHC. Less tenants are employed or if so they are employed in low pay jobs . I wonder why? Being a resident of Lawrence Heights I see jobs allocated for residents going elsewhere. I want to say previous consultations on how Tenant has an input in the Tenant **Benefit** Agreement process has been stalled since 2016 and no real conversation about community benefits to this date. Tenant voices have been vacant at these tables and they feel that their voices are being silenced and are only used when they want us to substantiate their initiative. No one is taking into consideration the trauma experience by revitalization. No community space available to unpack trauma has a result. Right now in the height of pandemic community priorities have shifted. A prime example is our local community food bank which has been displaced due to the lack of community space. Communications are not being forthright when it comes to project development. For months we have been hearing about RPF but with no date or timeline. So with that i am asking this committee this morning to include Lawrence Heights Revitalization Coalition as one of the stakeholders in this process. I am also asking that there is community engagement at the beginning of the process to address issues on lack of community space, employment opportunities and communications with residents before the RFP starts. Thank you and have a great day,