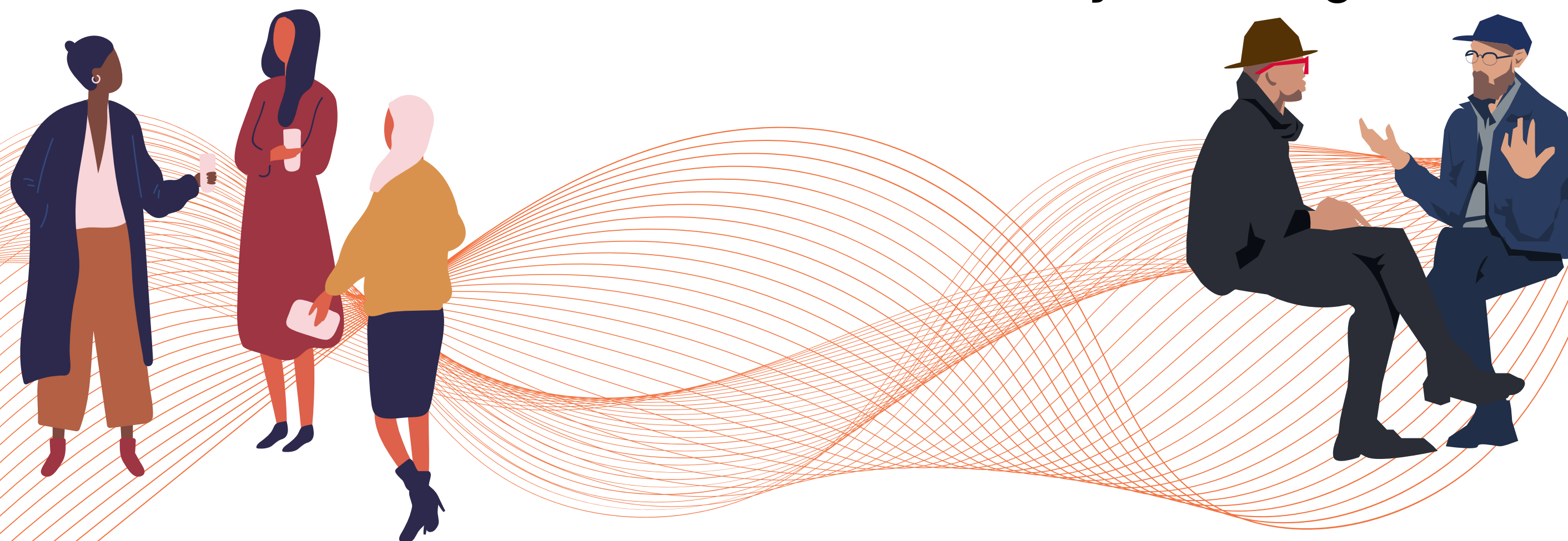


Toronto
Community
Housing



Community Café (Revitalization Update Meeting)

Toronto Community Housing



Wednesday, June 26, 2024 - 6:30PM - 8:00PM

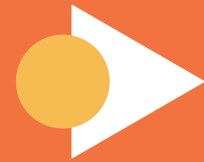
Lawrence Heights Community Centre

Agenda

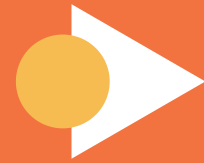
Toronto
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Welcome Introduction



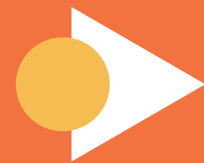
Land Acknowledgement



Lawrence Heights Revitalization Update



Question and Answer Session



Deep Roots: Overview of Tenant Priorities



Group Discussion



Report Back: What we heard from the community



The Next Step

Land Acknowledgement

Toronto
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Housing



We would like to start by honoring the land that we are on, which has been the site of human activity since time immemorial. It is the traditional territories of the Huron-Wendat, Anishinabeg, the Chippewa, the Haudenosaunee Confederacy and most recently, The Mississaugas of the Credit River First Nations.

Ontario is covered by 46 treaties and other agreements, and is home to many Indigenous Nations from across Turtle Island, including the Inuit and the Metis. These treaties and other agreements, including the One Dish with One Spoon Wampum Belt Covenant, are agreements to peaceably share and care for the land and its resources. Other Indigenous Nations, Europeans, and newcomers, were invited into this covenant in the spirit of respect, peace, and friendship. We are mindful of broken covenants and we strive to make this right, with the land and with each other. We are all Treaty people. Many of us, have come here as settlers, immigrants, newcomers in this generation or generations past.

We would like to also acknowledge those of us who came here forcibly, particularly as a result of the Trans-Atlantic Slave trade. Therefore, we honor and pay tribute to the ancestors of African Origin and Descent.



Lawrence Heights Revitalization Update



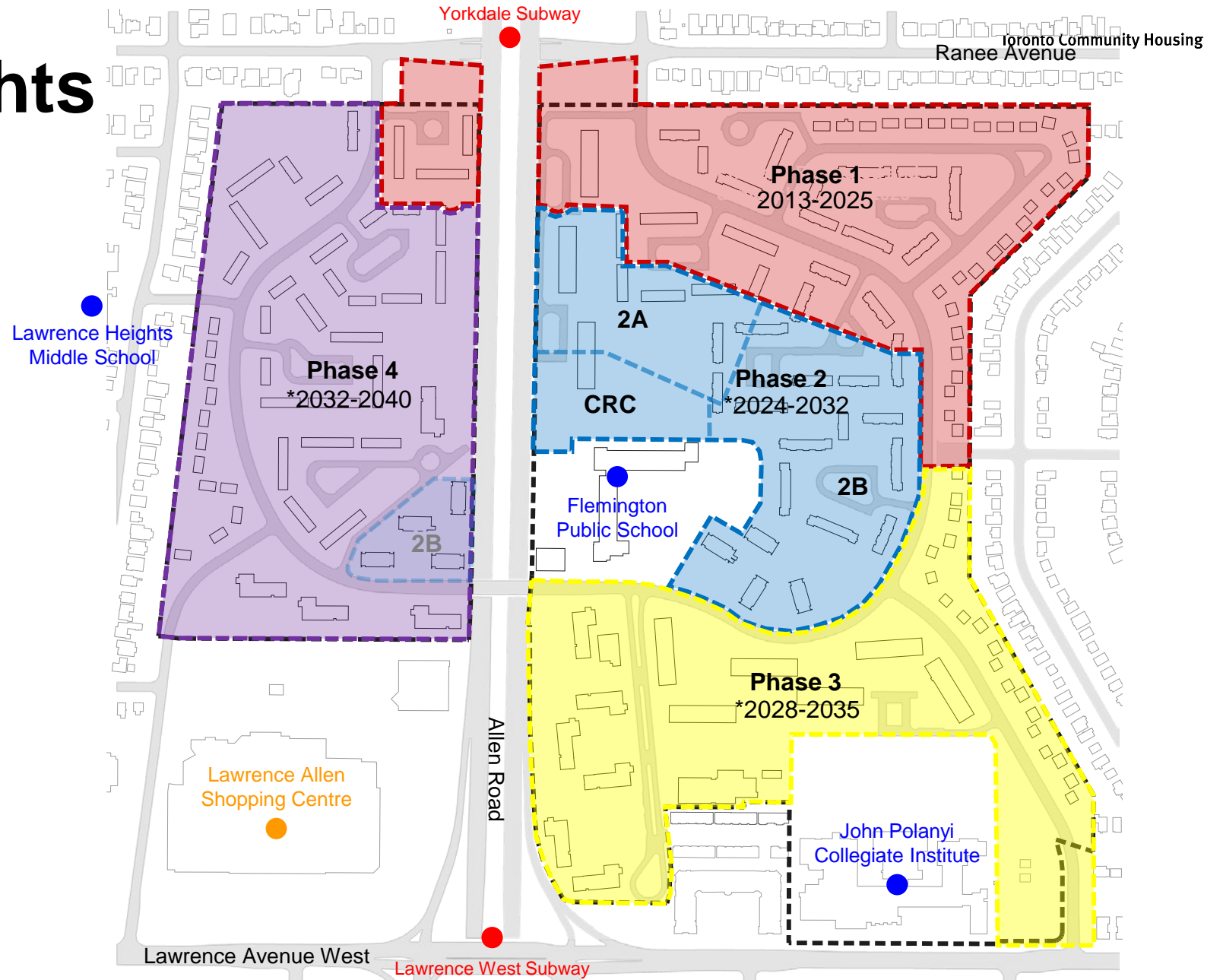


Phase 1 Updates

- 155 new units built & occupied in 2018 and 2021
- 71 low rise units will be occupied in summer and fall 2024
- 29 low rise units will be occupied in late 2025
- 255 units in total will be constructed in Phase 1
- 7 New municipal roads:
 - Zachary Court
 - New Heights Court
 - Turtle Island Rd
 - Hooyo Terrace
 - Green Gardens Blvd
 - Deep Roots Terrace
 - Lawrence Heights Way
- New 1.1 hectare City-owned triangular park to open in 2026



Lawrence Heights Phasing Plan

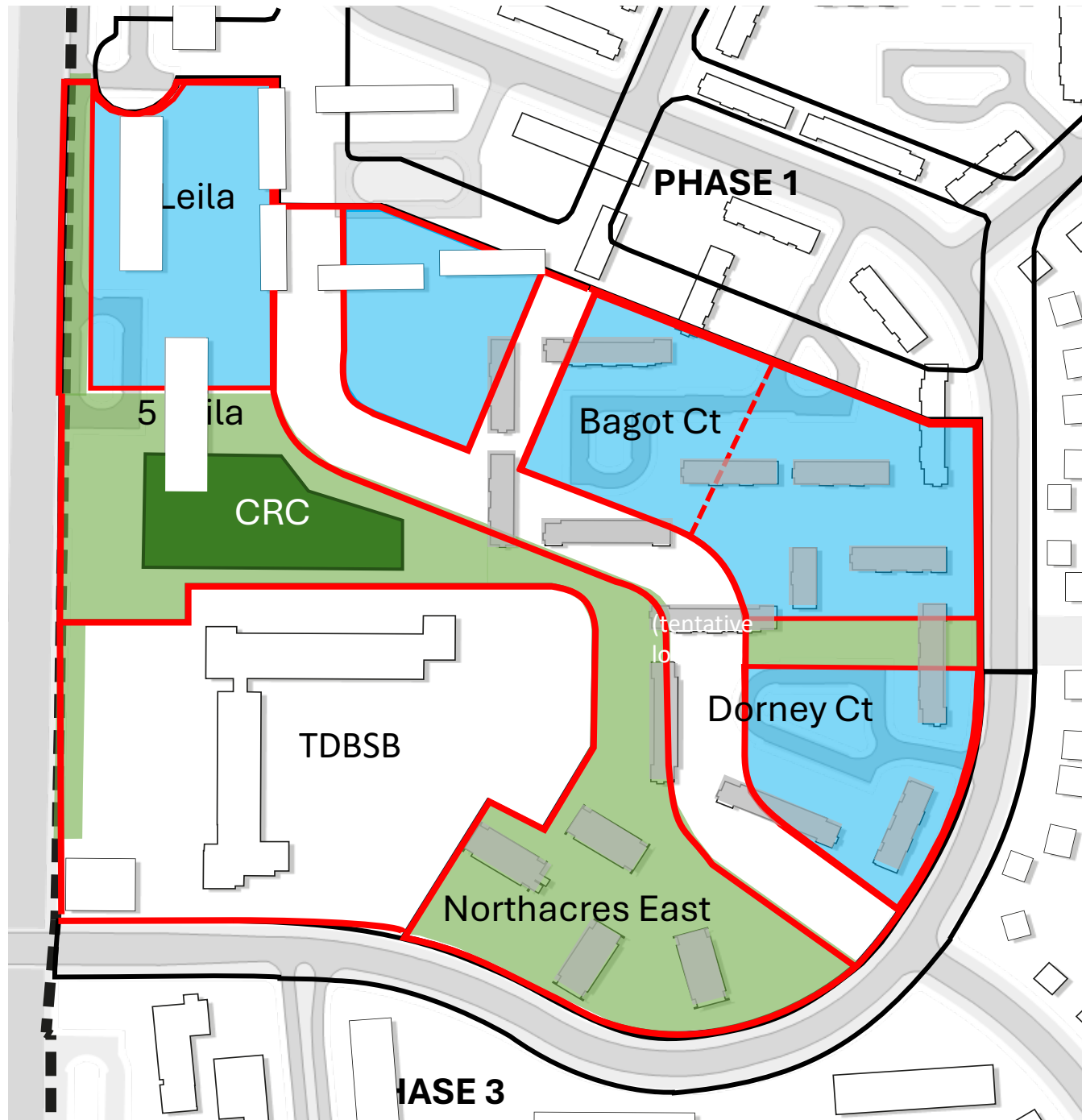


Phase 2

*2024-2032

Existing units in Phase 2 includes:

- 3 & 5 Leila Lane
- 31-109 Bagot Court
- 1-97 Dorney Court
- Northacres East



Phase 2 Tentative Timelines





Q and A



DEEP ROOTS

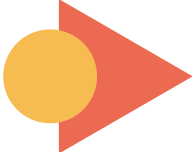
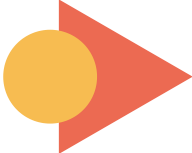
Empowering Community Voices for Lasting Change



Toronto
Community
Housing



What We Will Share Tonight:

-  **Purpose: Why** We Sought Community's Insights
-  **Process: How** We Sought Community's Insights
-  **Key Findings: What** We Heard from the Community

Why

We Sought Community's Insights



Validate priorities to achieve the Lawrence Heights Social Development Plan vision.

Our Vision

Lawrence-Height Social Development Plan -2012

Together, we see the revitalization of Lawrence Heights as an opportunity to redefine our community, shape our future for our children and our families, and build our connections with the rest of Toronto.



OUR CONNECTIONS



OUR SERVICES



OUR SAFETY



OUR HOUSING



OUR GREEN SPACE



OUR WORK

Why

Inform the Phase 2 developer
Request for Proposal (RFP).

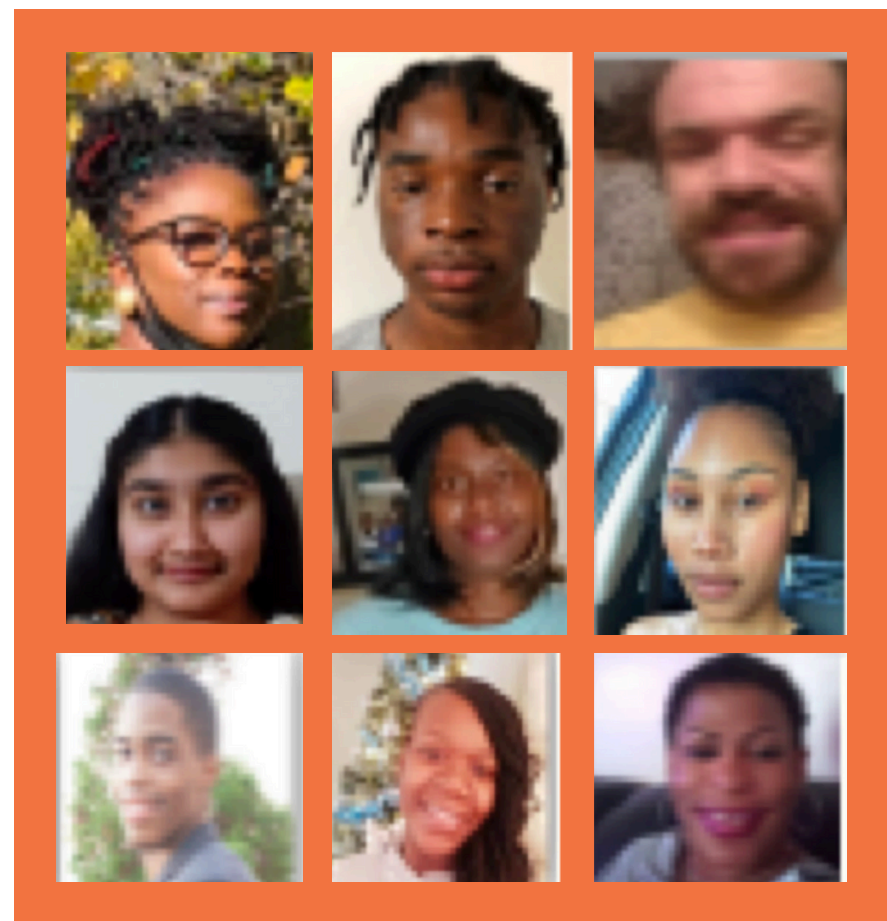


How

We Sought Community's Insights



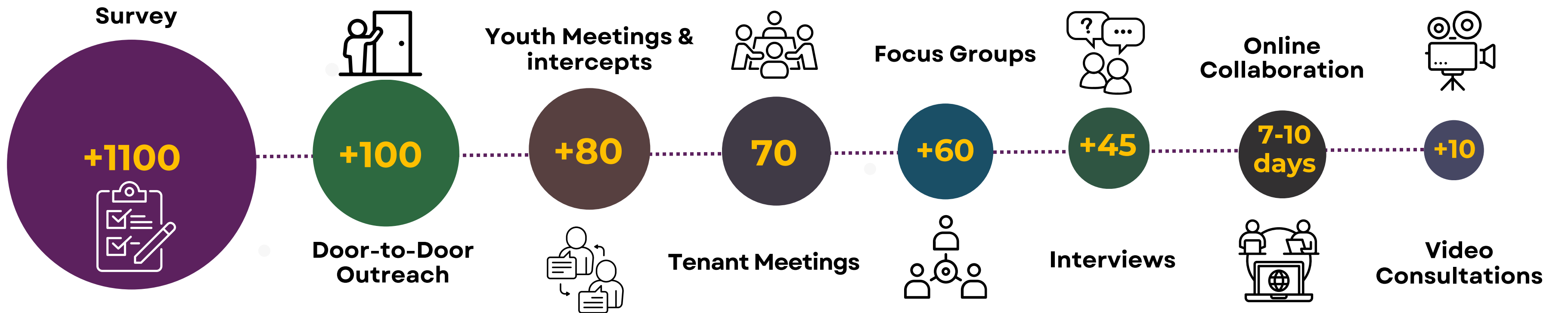
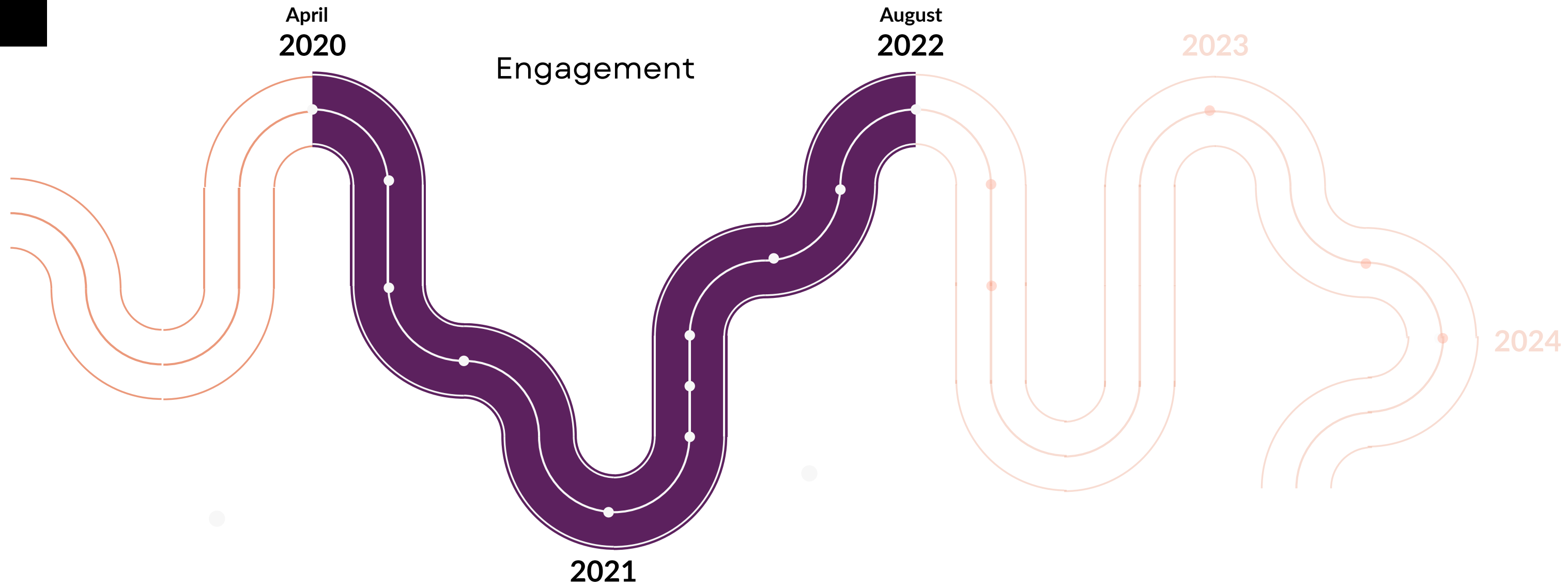
Celebrating Revitalization Ambassadors



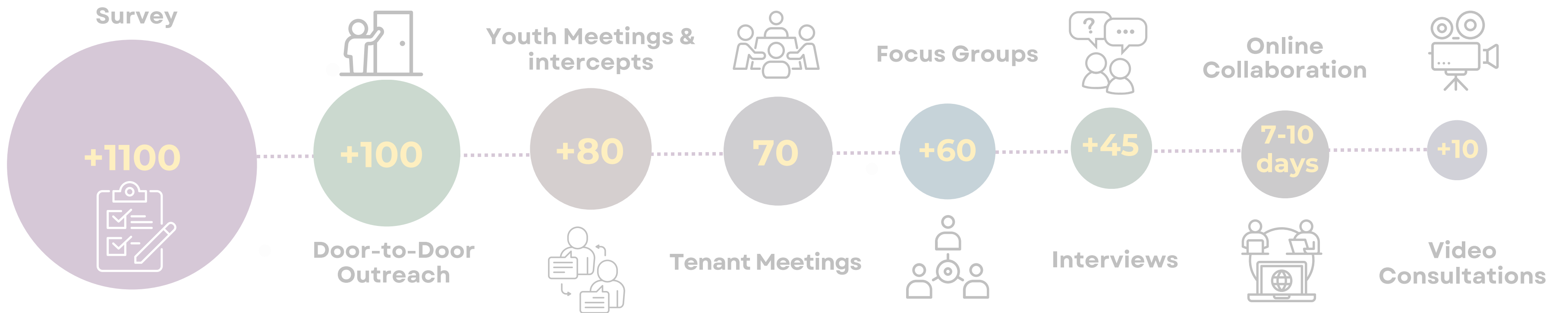
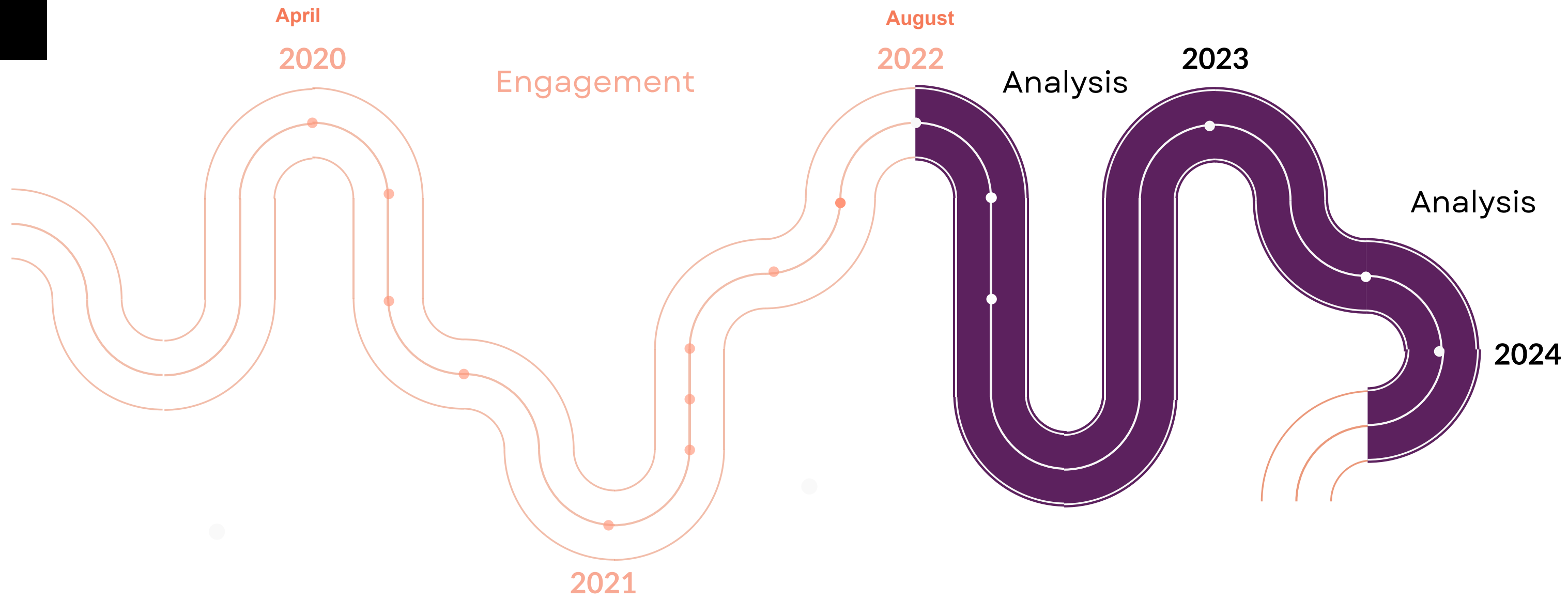
- ▶ 14 local community ambassadors
- ▶ Key roles in community outreach
- ▶ Professional development sessions and regular team meetings

How

+1000 Interactions

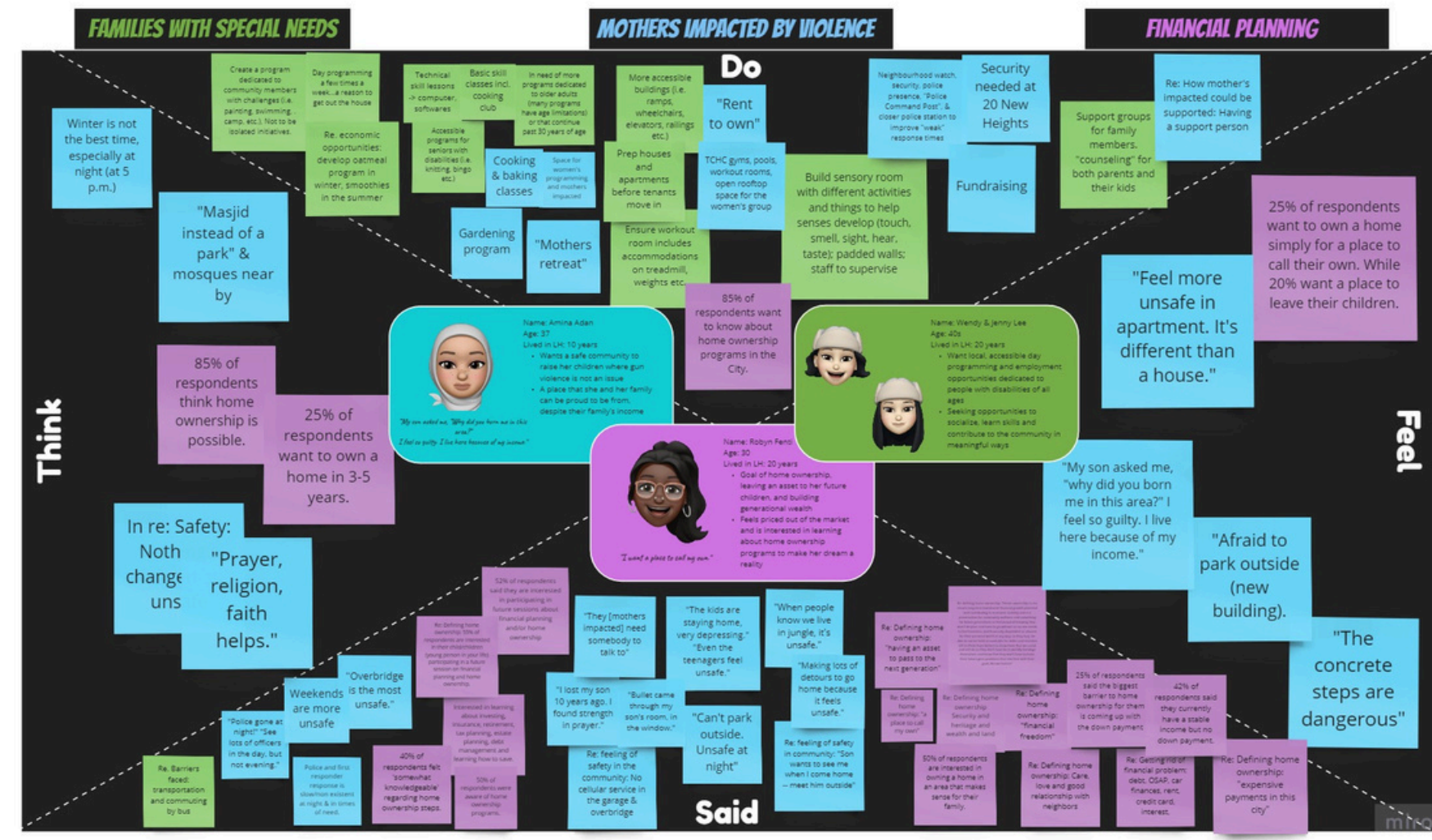


How



How

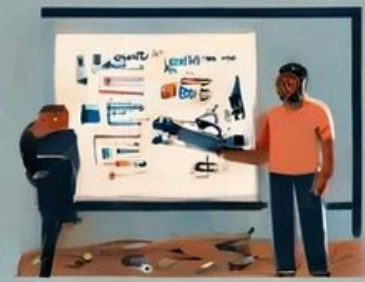
We **empathized** the stories and ideas shared by tenants and created Personas to help us identify **desired changes**.



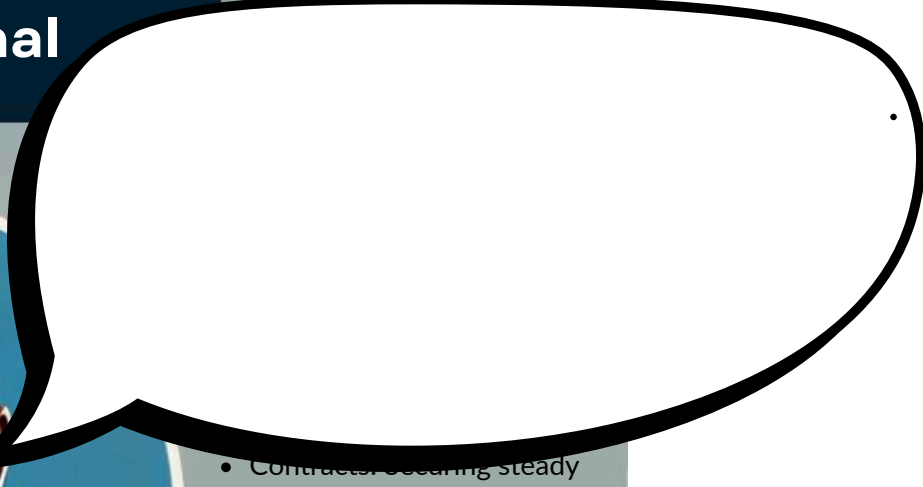
Meet Jamal

- Age: 45
- Residence: Lawrence Heights (15+ years)
- Family: Wife and two children
- Background: Skilled in painting, flooring, and home improvement

"Having a business would impact lives by giving them financial independence and security."



"We have a lot of youth and families ... it would be a good opportunity to have businesses in the community hiring young people."



Vision for Change

- Collaboration among local tradespeople
- Contribute to the improvement of Lawrence Heights through contacts.
- Offer opportunities to young people
- Support his family and community growth



Motivations & Goals

- Provide stable income
- Enjoys transforming spaces
- Become a reliable handyman in the community
- Hire and train local youth

What

We heard from the community



Priority Areas

Tenant Engagement



**Education, Training, Jobs
and Tenant Businesses**



Access and Inclusion



Community Safety



Community Space





“ I need to learn where to go to get **business grants** or to get someone who has been in the business to **partner** with. ”

Education, Training, Jobs, and Tenant Businesses

Many people in the community don't have enough access to relevant education, job training, jobs, and chances to start their own businesses. This makes it hard for the community to grow and thrive.

Key Findings:



Strengthening Neighbourhood Bonds

- Tenants expressed that local small businesses can strengthen community bonds and create a community legacy.



Business Benefits During Revitalization

- Tenant-owned businesses can benefit from providing services during revitalization.
- Tenant entrepreneurs seek connection with established local business owners as mentors.
- Tenants stressed the importance of securing start-up funding and affordable retail spaces.



The first thing I would seek is support from professional business owners who were successful with running their business.



Key Findings:



Addressing Unemployment and Career Development

- High levels of youth and young adult unemployment a major concern.
- Challenges for securing long-term employment: limited formal education and related work experience.
- Tenants need career development resources and sector specific job readiness opportunities.



Desiring Financial Stability

- Lack of financial literacy hinders effective financial planning.
- Desire for stable employment and greater financial independence.





“When you are anxious all the time about safety it affects your mental health and physical health. ”

Community Safety

Fear of violence and worries about safety and crime, make it difficult for the community to feel secure and live happy and healthy lives.

Key Findings:



Perception of Safety

- Mixed feelings about safety, with some concerns about gun violence, criminal activity, property damage, neighbour disputes, and construction disruption
- Emphasis on community socialization as an indicator of safety.



Safe Community Spaces and Vibe

- Suggestions for a neighbourhood watch program run by tenants.
- Safety enhancement recommendations: Traffic safety measures, better lighting, surveillance, and satellite police stations.
- Mothers Impacted by Violence proposed creating a dedicated community space for safety-focused services and initiatives.
- Community input in space design to address safety concerns.



Key Findings:

Tenants and parents can be part of the solution.



Resources for Community Bond and Mental Well-Being

- Emphasis on dedicated space and initiatives for mental well-being and intergenerational connections.
- Opportunities for families, children and youth, and families affected by violence.



Raising Awareness and Advocacy

- Tenants stressed a need for better relationship with police and to speak up against community violence.
- Tenants emphasized youth education on street safety, and implementing safety awareness initiatives.





“The more that we use social spaces, the more programs and events we can bring into the community.”

Community Space

Insufficient community spaces and amenities limit community interaction and quality of life.

Key Findings:

Make sure that everyone's voice is heard and that they all agree to the way the space will be shared.



Equitable Access and Conflict Reduction

- Need for equitable distribution of space across the community.
- Strong concern about prioritization of space.
- Need for more multi-functional spaces to reduce conflicts and ensure access.
- Tenant emphasis on community-driven processes to ensure everyone's voice is heard.



Permanent Spaces for Essential Services

- Need for permanent spaces for essential community services like food banks and mental health support.



Key Findings:



Multi-purpose Community Space

- Need for spaces accommodating diverse activities for all ages and groups.
- Community space identified as essential for enhancing safety, economic development, tenant interaction, youth engagement, learning, and career-building.



Community-Informed Design

- Emphasis on incorporating tenants' visions and preferences in design and planning of revitalized community spaces.

We need space where we have a sense of belonging.





“The more that we use social spaces, the more programs and events we can bring into the community.”

Access and Inclusion

Challenges related to access to space, services, and opportunities impact the overall well-being of tenants, particularly seniors and those with special needs.

Key Findings:



Accessibility Challenges

- Tenants emphasis on addressing accessibility challenges to enhance overall well-being.
- Concerns included inaccessible amenity spaces for tenants with special needs, limited accessible design features in residential units, and insufficient design considerations for seniors.



Measures to Improve Accessibility

- Tenant emphasis on infrastructure improvements.
- Strong desire for amenity spaces designed with special needs considerations, through a community-informed process.

Seniors and mothers with children deserve space that caters to them.



Key Findings:



Inclusive Access to Opportunities and Support

- Concerns about limited job opportunities and programs for persons and families with special needs.
- Need for special relocation support tailored to families with special needs.
- Need for engagement strategies tailored to seniors.
- Emphasis on inclusive programming and services to support tenants with diverse needs and abilities.





“Tenants [need to be] involved from the beginning... tenant involvement isn't an after thought. ”

Tenant Engagement

Lack of trust and poor communication hinders community collaboration and buy-in.

Key Findings:

The developer must show that they care for the people who live here



Core Values

- Personal/Family
 - Respect
 - Honesty
 - Family
- Community
 - Real change begins with us (tenants)
 - Inclusivity and participation
 - Health and well-being



Community Empowerment

- Tenant emphasis on opportunities for tenants to collaborate with developers.
- Desired initiatives prioritize tenant well-being, align with community values, and foster a supportive environment.



Key Findings:

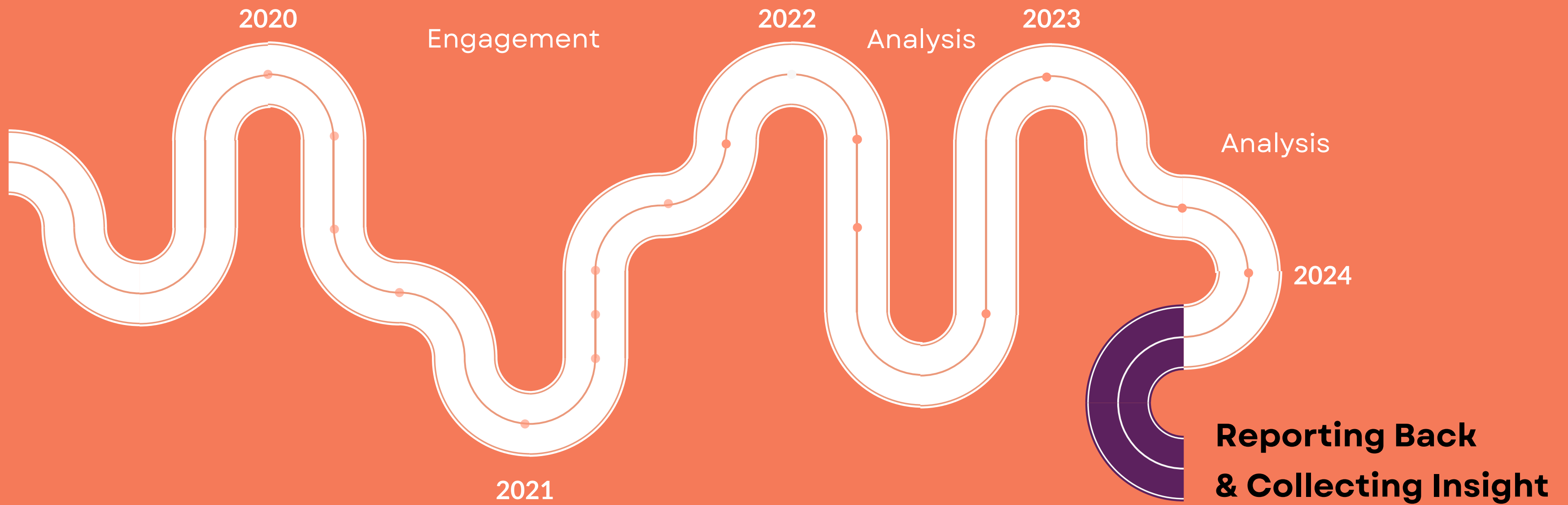
Engagement from the developer is important so tenants know what's going on stage by stage and are in agreement



Collaborative Decision-Making

- Developer's identity and physical presence in the community are expected.
- Need for diverse communication methods, including direct meetings with developers.
- Emphasis on consistent and transparent updates.
- Emphasis on integrating tenant feedback into decision-making.





And Now

What? Let's discuss

THANK YOU!



Toronto
Community
Housing

