Leadership in the Field

Visit some of Toronto’s most vibrant downtown districts. See the city and understand the role that leadership plays in asserting the relevancy of downtown. Meet with past and current leaders whose accomplishments are improving Toronto’s urban experience. Participate in conversations about how current challenges are being addressed.

Specific opportunities include:

**Bloor-Yorkville**

**From Shabby Streets & Parking Lots to Great Streets & Spaces**

Tour Facilitators

Lead

Ron Palmer,
- Partner, The Planning Partnership
- Planner
- Sits on Bloor-Yorkville BIA Board of Directors
- Expertise in developing creative implementation and funding strategies for downtown initiatives

Leaders in the Field

Briar de Lange
- General Manager of the Bloor-Yorkville BIA

Tour Description

The Bloor-Yorkville area is widely regarded as one of the most impressive shopping, dining and tourist areas in North America. Over the last 150 years it has experienced an amazing variety of reincarnations: from an autonomous village of charming Victorian residential streets until its annexation in 1883, to the emergence of specialty shops in 1950’s, to Canada’s notorious hippie haven of 1960’s, to the gentrification and emergence as a high-end shopping and residential area up until present-day.

After some years of modest decline 20 years ago, there has been a resurgence in the area primarily led by an extraordinary number of high-rise condominium towers signalling a reverse migration of primarily empty nesters and retirees moving back to the Downtown. In response to this pressure for redevelopment and the desire to retain the defining characteristics of the area, the local BIA initiated a master planning process that was eventually adopted by the City. As a result, major developments are enhancing the area’s network of squares, courtyards and laneways. Still investments in public realm were not adequate or keeping up with the level private investments. Two major public realm initiatives included turning a parking lot into the award winning Village of Yorkville Park and
the Bloor Street Transformation now underway, which through a creative funding strategy will turn this into one of North America most beautiful streets.

**Key Tour Topics**
- Bloor-Yorkville Urban Design Guidelines
- Streetscape Plans
- Bloor Street Transformation & Creative Funding Strategies
- Village of Yorkville Park
- Development Negotiated Public Realm Improvements – Four Season, 18 Yorkville
- Heritage Preservation/Compatible – 100 Yorkville, Hazelton
- Publically Accessible Private Mid-Block Connections & Courtyards

**Potential Itinerary**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2:00pm</td>
<td>Leave Delta Chelsea Hotel by bus</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:20pm</td>
<td>BIA Office for Presentation</td>
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<tr>
<td>3:00pm</td>
<td>Walking Tour:</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Yonge &amp; Bloor – Bloor Transformation</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Yorkville Avenue – Recent Developments</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>York Lane</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Village of Yorkville Park</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Bloor Street</td>
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<tr>
<td>4:45pm</td>
<td>Return to Delta Chelsea Hotel by bus</td>
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</tbody>
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**Waterfront Toronto**

**Building a 21st Century Waterfront, Downtown & City**

**Tour Facilitators**

**Lead**

**David Leinster**
- Partner, The Planning Partnership
- Landscape Architect
- Expertise in public realm planning and design
- Instrumental in a number of Waterfront Toronto projects, including West Don Lands Public Realm Plan, Sugar Beach Park, Sherbourne Park, Distillery District

**Leaders in the Field**

**Carla Guerrera**
- Planning & Design Project Manager, Waterfront Toronto

**Tour Description**

For the last century Toronto’s Downtown has had a sense of being disconnected from its waterfront, an area of underutilized industrial lands segregated from the
city by the elevated Gardiner Expressway. This vast land of extraordinary opportunity is now in the hands of Waterfront Toronto, a corporation set up at arms-length to local decision-making and funded by all three levels of governments. Mandated to build a viable, sustainable, inclusive and beautiful waterfront community, Waterfront has spared no expense and has not made any hasty decisions.

After years of comprehensive precinct planning, international design competitions and environmental assessments, the first phases are only now beginning to reveal themselves with the construction of the West Don Lands neighbourhood, the future site of the Athletes Village for the 2015 Pan American Games. Still ahead are extraordinary infrastructure projects that may include the dismantling of portions of the elevated highway, the introduction of a transit network, re-naturalization of the mouth of the Don River, and massive investments in creating great streets and parks.

Key Tour Topics
- Waterfront Corporation – organization, mandate and funding
- Distillery District – National Heritage Site
- West Don lands – First neighbourhood and athletes village
- Sustainable Planning
- Design Review Panel
- Sugar Beach
- Gardiner Expressway Transformation
- Cherry LRT
- Queens Quay Transformation
- Port lands
- Commissioners Park

Potential Itinerary
2:00pm Leave Delta Chelsea Hotel by bus
2:30pm Presentation at Waterfront Toronto
3:30pm Bus tour of waterfront
4:00pm Foot tour of Distillery District
4:45pm Return to Delta Chelsea Hotel by bus

Inner City Main Streets & Neighbourhoods
Being Jane Jacobs

Tour Facilitators
Lead
Rick Merrill
- Partner, The Planning Partnership
- Planner, Urban Designer, Architect
• Extensive US experience and expertise in transit-oriented development, intensification and infill
• A member of Board of the Cabbagetown Preservation Association a vibrant inner-city Victorian Community saved from demolition to become a much sought after residential community

Leaders in the Field

Alan Waterhouse
• Professor of Urban Planning and long time resident of Cabbagetown

Dean Goodman
• Architect involved in the emerging King West Community

Tour Description
Many suggest that one of Toronto’s greatest assets is its inner city neighbourhoods and main streets for which the late Jane Jacobs often advocated for protecting once making Toronto her home. Following the successful deterrence of the ambitious renewal project in the 1960s, these neighbourhoods and main streets have thrived into some of the city’s most vibrant and ethnically diverse areas, which are now highly desired and sought after addresses. This is not surprising given that these places have the all the hallmarks of the liveable communities Jacobs wrote about. Yet, though they share similarities in structure, they are each distinct and unique in their own ways. Some have long been established as desired communities and some further from the core are only now emerging as hip neighbourhoods as the Downtown becomes less affordable.

Key Tour Topics
• Main Streets Initiative
• New Official Plan – Intensified ‘Avenues’ & Protected ‘Neighbourhoods’
• Anti-renewal movements
• St. James Town
• Heritage and Cultural preservation as a catalyst for revitalization – Gladstone and Drake

Potential Itinerary
2:00pm Leave Delta Chelsea Hotel by bus
2:15pm Walking tour of Cabbagetown
2:45pm Bus tour of Annex and College Street
3:45pm Tour of the Gladstone
4:15pm Bus tour of Queen & King West & Chinatown/Kensington Market
4:45pm Return to Delta Chelsea Hotel by bus
Learning from St. Lawrence & Regent Park
Toronto’s Pioneering Mixed-Income Neighbourhoods

Tour Facilitators
Lead

Donna Hinde
- Partner, The Planning Partnership
- Planner, Landscape Architect
- Expertise in public realm planning and design, as well as public consultation strategies
- Leading the public engagement for the design of the central park in Regent Park

Leaders in the Field

Annely Zonena
- Associate development Manager, Toronto Community Housing Corporation

Mitchell Cohen
- President, The Daniels Corporation
- Developer of Regent Park Phase 1

Tour Description
The St. Lawrence Neighbourhood stands out as a major success storey in early brownfield development in the Downtown. Initiated by the Province, construction began in 1976 on the derelict railway and industrial lands that added hundreds of housing units, and breaking new ground by introducing a new concept in mixed-use, mixed-income development. Rent-geared to income, social housing, market housing and community amenities had been successfully integrated in a variety of building typologies and into a community organized along a linear open space known as Crombie Park.

A short distance away is Canada’s oldest and largest social housing project designed and built along the same lines and afflicted with many of the same issues as many other American inner city urban renewal projects. That is now all changing with an ambitious redevelopment of the entire site that includes the reintroduction of the city grid, a new central park, and the introduction of market housing alongside social housing in bold architecturally designed buildings. Now with the first phase nearly completed, the success of this development has been pioneering on a number of fronts including reintegration, consultation, sustainability, public-private partnerships and design.

Key Tour Topics
- Mixed-income neighbourhoods
• Public-Private Partnerships
• Architectural competitions
• Public realm armatures for inner city neighbourhoods – Regent Central Park, Crombie Park

Potential Itinerary
2:00pm Leave Delta Chelsea Hotel by bus
2:15pm Presentation at Regent Park Presentation Centre
3:15pm Walking tour of Regent Park Phase 1
4:00pm Bus Tour of St. Lawrence Neighbourhood
4:45pm Return to Delta Chelsea Hotel by bus

Downtown Yonge & Yonge-Dundas Square
A New Urban Square as a Catalyst for Revitalization

Tour Facilitators
Lead
James Robinson
• Executive Director, Downtown-Yonge BIA

Leaders in the Field
Ron Soskolne
• Principal, Soskolne Associates
• Architect and Real Estate Consultant
• Former Board Member of the Downtown-Yonge BIA
• Former Chair of Yonge-Dundas Square

Ian Hamilton (TBC)
• Director, Campus Planning & Facilities, Ryerson University

Tour Description
25 years ago, the ‘Yonge Strip’ was not much more than a clutter of dollar stores, adult entertainment and head shops. Most would point to the immensely successful adjacent Eaton Centre as the culprit of this decline, having turned its back on the street. Today, this area is undergoing a renaissance brought on by a number of surgical interventions including the re-facing of the Eaton Centre, the acquisition of properties to create a vibrant urban square, the embracing of bold large-scale signage as part of the area’s attraction, and an ever-expanding Ryerson University. Learn how vision and risk taking have turned an area’s image and prospect around, landing major retail and entertainment anchors and fuelling a 24-hour street life on Toronto’s ‘Main Street’.

Key Tour Topics
• Yonge-Dundas Square
• Public-Private Partnerships
• A Unique Signage Vision
• Ryerson University Master Plan

Potential Itinerary
2:00pm  Meet at Delta Chelsea Hotel for overview presentation
2:30pm  Leave Delta Chelsea Hotel on foot
2:35pm  Walking tour of Yonge-Dundas Square
3:00pm  Presentation on Yonge-Dundas at City TV
3:45pm  Presentation on Ryerson Master Plan at Ted Rogers School of Management
4:45pm  Return to Delta Chelsea Hotel on foot

Entertainment District-King West
Building Vibrant Downtown Mixed-Use Neighbourhoods

Tour Facilitators
Lead
Harold Madi
- Partner, The Planning Partnership
- Planner, Urban Designer
- Expertise in Downtown Planning & Revitalization
- Managed numerous award winning downtown and main street plans across North America
- Led the Downtown Yonge Signage Vision and Entertainment District Master Plan

Leaders in the Field
Janice Solomon
- Executive Director of the Entertainment District BIA

Michael Emory
- Chair of the Entertainment District BIA Master Plan Advisory Committee
- Principal, Allied Properties

Peter Freed
- Principal, Freed Developments

Tour Description
The fast transforming Entertainment District and hip King West area provide a peek into Toronto’s future downtown. What was a thriving industrial area in the middle of the last century had been in decline and was struggling until the introduction of an innovative zoning strategy in 1996. The area has since
become a thriving district triggered by the construction of major cultural venues, a bustling nightlife and the emergence of creative industries attracted by the architecture of the ‘brick and beam’ buildings. More recently, the area is in the midst of a major construction boom, that will more than double the residential population in the next 5 years, making this one of Toronto’s fastest growing and most popular mixed-use neighbourhoods.

Despite all this growth, investment in the public realm has not kept up. Also, conflicts have emerged between new residential developments and existing nightlife venues. Increasing development pressures to go larger and taller is also threatening the area’s heritage. In response to these growing pains, a number of initiatives are underway, including the establishment of BIAs, new area policy plans, regulations governing nightclubs, and a bold vision for improving streets and open spaces. The success of this area and its ongoing shift are in large part due to the creative thinking of the area’s major institutions, organizations and handful of bright developers readapting and investing in the remaining stock of character buildings.

**Key Tour Topics**
- Conversion of brick and beam warehousing
- Conversion of one-way to two-way streets
- Polices and regulations relating to nightclubs
- Form-Based zoning regulations
- Entertainment District Master Plan
- John Street Arts and Culture Promenade
- Mid-Rise and High-Rise residential developments
- Embracing contemporary architecture in heritage contexts

**Potential Itinerary**
- 2:00pm Leave Delta Chelsea Hotel by bus
- 2:20pm BIA Office for Presentation
- 3:00pm Allied Properties
- 3:30pm Walking Tour along King Street beginning at Simcoe Street and ending at Portland Street
- 4:30pm Freed Developments Presentation Centre
- 4:45pm Return to Delta Chelsea Hotel by bus