



SUMMARY OF PROCESS

To develop ideas for how places can be improved and revitalized, PPS begins with some fundamental guidelines concerning the relationship between local communities and the planning of public spaces:

- **Approach the community in the beginning of the project.** The community's ideas and concerns should be elicited at the outset, so that their expertise can be used in the development of the vision.
- **The community's strengths should be tapped,** including their knowledge of local issues and how an area functions. Local people provide an historical perspective and create a sense of community ownership in the project.
- **Think long term but implement short term.** Short-term improvements are important for quickly adding value to a place, while demonstrating credibility and future potential. They strengthen community support and encourage more partners to become involved.
- **Develop strong communication between stakeholders.** Different city agencies, local institutions, residents and associations should find ways to collaborate around a Placemaking process. These partnerships strengthen as visible improvements begin.

In Mississauga, PPS utilized its community- and place-based approach to bring together stakeholders to elicit ideas and build support for improvements. These stakeholders included residents, city staff, institutions such as the library and Living Arts Centre, developers, seniors, youth, outdoor enthusiasts, and representatives from civic and cultural organizations. The proposals included in this document were developed from several phases of work with these partners.

TASK I: PUBLIC OUTREACH, WORKSHOPS

Over 400 people were involved in meetings in October 2005 to begin the planning of improvements to the city centre plaza spaces and Zonta Meadows and adjacent new parkland.

- To kick off the public outreach, **PPS facilitated a series of meetings and interviews with key city stakeholders**, as well as the Leadership Team and city staff. Participants came up with a series of recommendations to guide this next phase of planning work for the City.
- A public meeting was held on October 12 to **introduce the concept of Placemaking** and get feedback from the audience about how to apply



it to Mississauga. This provided an opportunity for anyone to get engaged, especially anyone who was not invited to participate in a stakeholder interview.

- On October 17, PPS facilitated a public workshop **focusing on Zonta Meadows and three adjacent new park spaces**. Invited participants included a diverse group of local stakeholders, residents, city staff, and others. This workshop utilized the Public Space Evaluation exercise, wherein people evaluate specific sites and surrounding areas and then come up with ideas for short- and long-term improvements.
- Another, smaller series of discussion were held with city staff and agency stakeholders, focusing on **generating ideas for creating places around the Living Arts Centre, City Hall, and the Central Library**, including adjacent streets.



TASK II: PRELIMINARY CONCEPT DEVELOPMENT AND JANUARY WORKSHOPS

The findings from the Task I workshops and meeting were the basis for preliminary concepts developed by PPS, which were then presented at two stakeholder meetings in January 2006:

- **A follow-up workshop was held in January 2006, inviting back those people who participated in the previous workshops.** After PPS presented the concepts, people divided into teams to refine and revise the concepts, each team marking up a plan of the concepts prepared by PPS. Teams 1 and 6 looked at the plans for the City Hall and Library plaza spaces; Teams 2 and 5 critiqued the “recreational park,” “urban backyard,” and “town square” concepts; Team 3 reviewed the principal streets and pedestrian linkages (it became clear that Duke Of York, Confederation Parkway and Living Arts Centre Drive had the potential to function as Main Streets for the city centre). Team 4 critiqued the plans for the LAC; Teams 7 and 8 looked at the proposed park concept fronting the Daniels development.

Each of the 8 groups was charged with identifying each of the following: The ten potential key destinations within each site; ten things to do at each destination; what improvements or activities to undertake first; and where to locate activities and improvements.

- At a second public meeting, the preliminary



concepts were presented to an audience of approximately 200 people. After the presentation, an open discussion followed, which gave the planning team a sense of which ideas had wide support and what kinds of adjustments needed to be made. By and large the preliminary concepts were received with great enthusiasm.

- Finally, PPS presented the concepts to the Leadership Team, Mayor and Council and initiated discussions about an action plan and strategy for implementing the recommendations.



TASK III: CONCEPT REFINEMENT

With the comments and new ideas that emerged from the Task II participation, and with further review from the Task Force to scan and adjust concepts for feasibility, PPS then developed the final concepts presented in the following section of this report.