

# Public Art

An essential ingredient  
to a successful and  
vibrant Market District  
(and city)



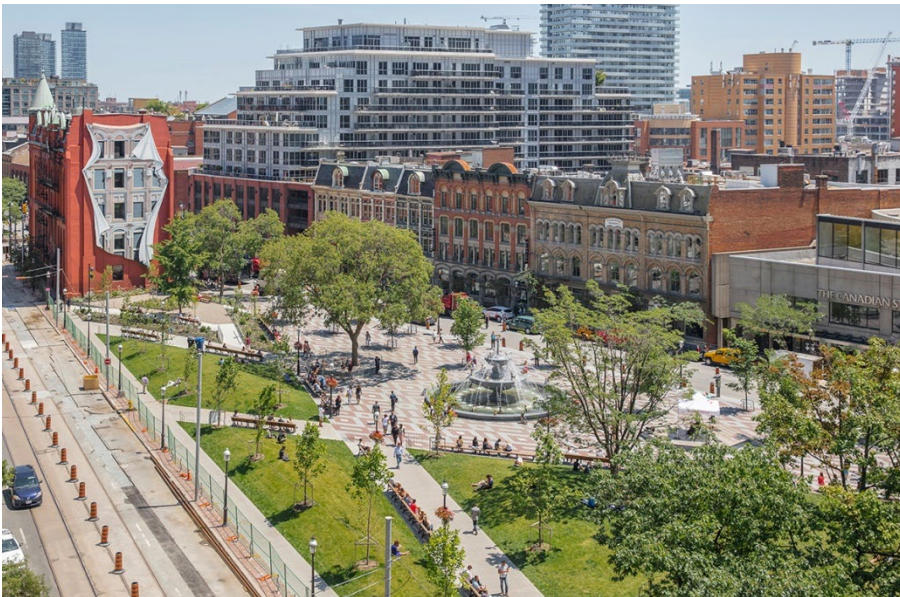
# More than icing on a cake...

Public Art is oftentimes thought of as frosting. A frill. An extra. Something pretty added, when time and ingredients allow. Sweet but not essential.

But art is a binding ingredient. It helps us connect to each other and it creates community. It allows us to relate to one another. It holds us together.

It creates landmarks and shared spaces. Public art should be thought of as an essential ingredient, an important and ongoing part of the infrastructure of a market district.

# Case Study: St Lawrence Market



## GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Guiding Principles were developed to inform the design explorations and recommendations. These principles were informed by the surveys, comments expressed by the BIA, and neighbourhood observations.

### 1. GREEN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD

Foster conditions for healthier street tree growth and pursue opportunities for new open spaces and upgrades to existing ones.

### 2. FAVOUR THE PEDESTRIAN

Widen and beautify sidewalks, enhance certain intersections, encourage mid-block connections, and rebalance street design priorities to encourage pedestrian activities.

### 3. CREATE QUALITY PUBLIC SPACES

As a vital neighbourhood for living and commercial activity, and one of Toronto's tourist showpieces, St. Lawrence should have only the highest quality urban parks, squares and streetscapes.

### 4. CELEBRATE UNIQUENESS AND CONTINUITY OF NEIGHBOURHOOD STREETS

Some streets should be considered unique destinations with special treatments, while others should have a sense of continuity as they extend into other neighbourhoods.

### 5. MAKE THE NEIGHBOURHOOD A SHOWCASE FOR PUBLIC ART

Public art has the power to amuse, inform and challenge, and can add vitality to public streets and parks.

### 6. CREATE STREETS AND LANES AS PUBLIC SPACE

In a dense, urban area such as St. Lawrence, streets and lanes hold the most promise for future public space. Through boulevard widenings, flex streets and temporary closures, streets can also serve as public squares.

### 7. CONTINUE AND COMPLETE FACILITIES TO SUPPORT AND ENCOURAGE CYCLING

Complete and expand on plans already in the works to add new cycling facilities to the neighbourhood.

### 8. CONNECT TO ADJACENT NEIGHBOURHOODS

Take advantage of recent development and new activity along the Waterfront and in the West Don Lands and Distillery District, by improving the underpasses and links across Parliament Street.

### 9. MOVE FORWARD STRATEGICALLY

Link recommended improvements to upcoming road upgrades, as well as to future private and public development.

### 10. DEFINE THE PUBLIC REALM WITH COMMON MATERIALS AND FURNISHINGS

Employ a common palette of materials and furnishings in the public realm to contribute to the identity and place making of the neighbourhood.

## Public Art

Public art should contribute to the overall cultural vitality of the neighbourhood, be complementary to the specific qualities of sites and to help articulate the sequence of public spaces.

The neighbourhood has a growing collection of public art, primarily within the parks and other open spaces. The future revitalization of Berczy Park is an exciting opportunity to introduce a major new installation. Upcoming work to St. James Park also provides the potential to include public art as part of its improvements.

The role of public art should be to elevate the visibility and profile of the public spaces. Opportunities to add new public art should be explored. New installations should be strategically located to assist with identity, place making and orientation.

This plan process was not at a sufficient scale or level of detail to address all of the technical issues related to public art. To further share the story of the St. Lawrence neighbourhood, this plan recommends that the City commission a suitable public art master plan for this important part of Toronto.

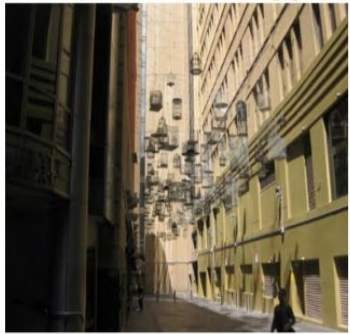
## Inside the Market Building



Exhibit: StreetArt Toronto You've Changed



Art has the potential to transform challenging urban environments and tell stories about the neighbourhood's heritage



Temporary art installations can enliven and energize the public realm



The St Lawrence Market is home to the Market Gallery, hosting rotating exhibits of art and artifacts which explore the ever changing identity of the city's past present and future.

# St James Park

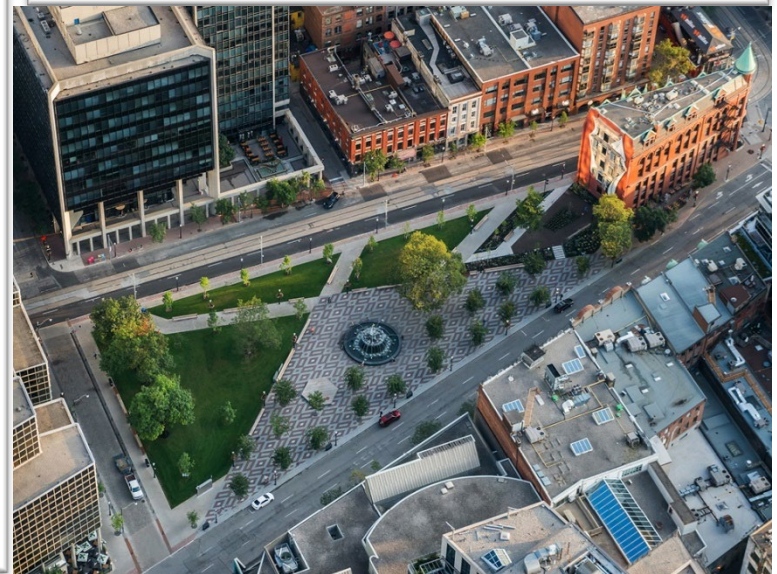
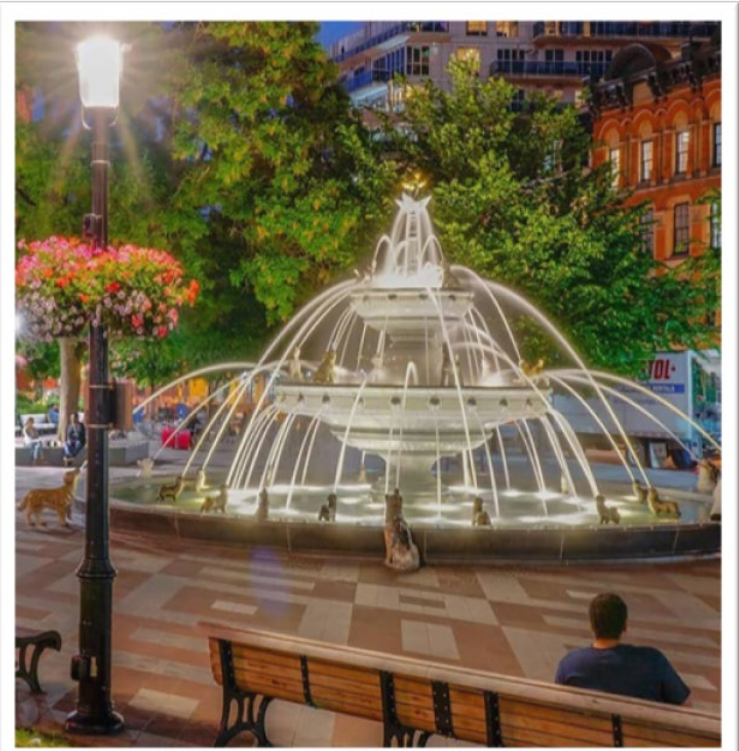


These wheelbarrow seats, titled Plant it Forward and designed by James Notten are a winning entry in Toronto's Temporary Parklet Design Competition.

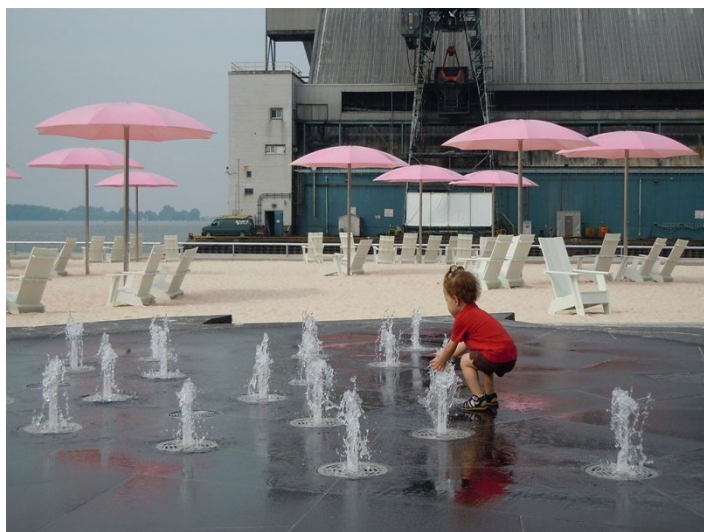


The market theme is carried into the playground at St James Park

# Berczy Park

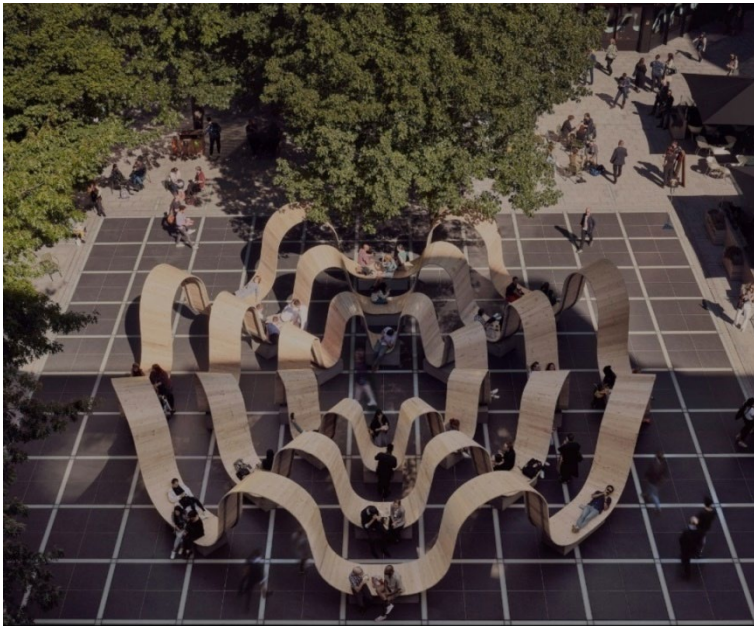


# Sugar Beach

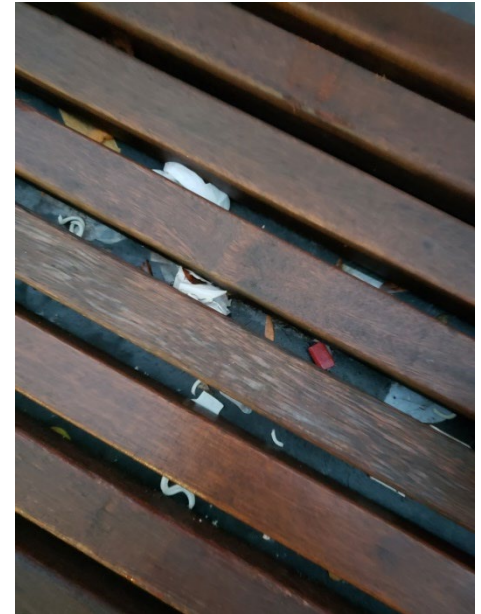
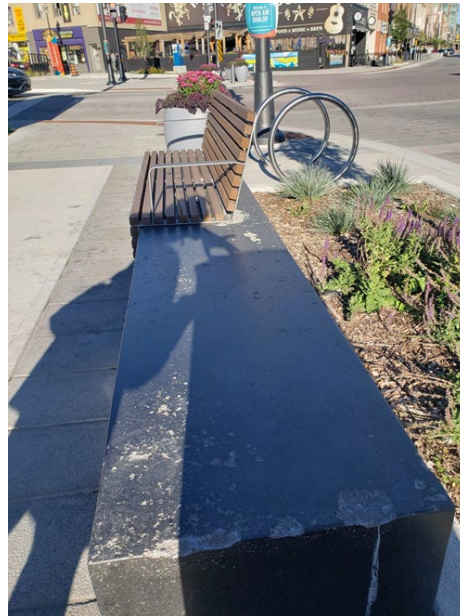


# Back to Barrie - Elevating the Everyday:

Art encourages us to look at things in new ways and it's through that lense that we should view the market district. Art can be used to elevate.



Please Be Seated by Paul Cockledge



## Public Seating:

More than just a place to sit, it can be an invitation to linger; to participate in public life; to belong. It can create an opportunity for connection and conversation.



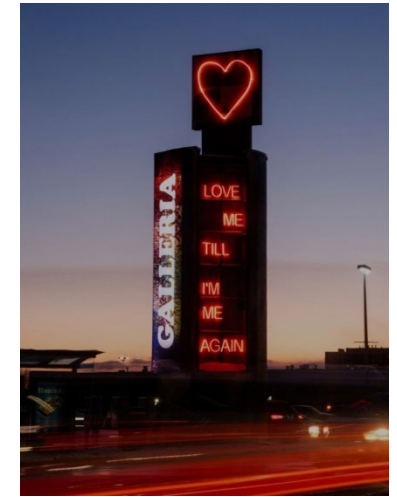


Only when opportunities for sitting exist, can there be stays of any duration. Suitable places to sit should be placed every 100 metres. Beyond tables and chairs, secondary seating such as stairs, low walls, ledges and grassy hills should be considered.  
- Jan Gehl, architect and city planner



# Lighting:

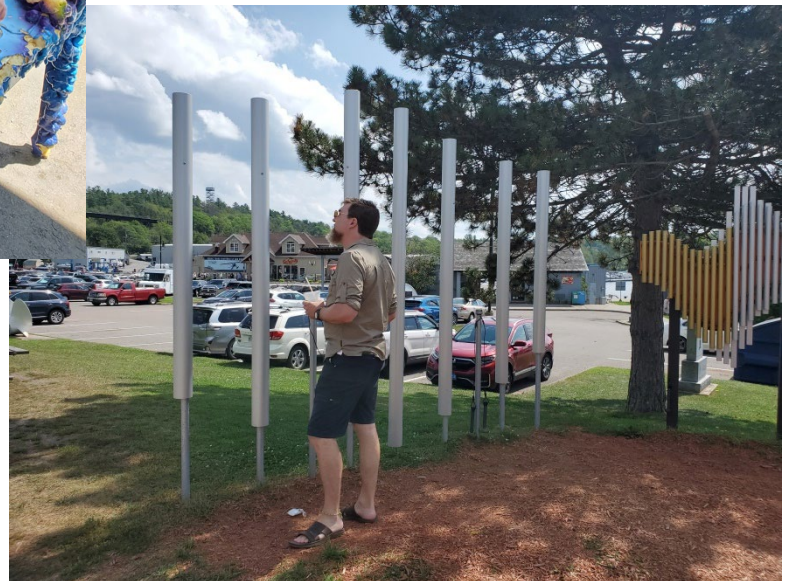
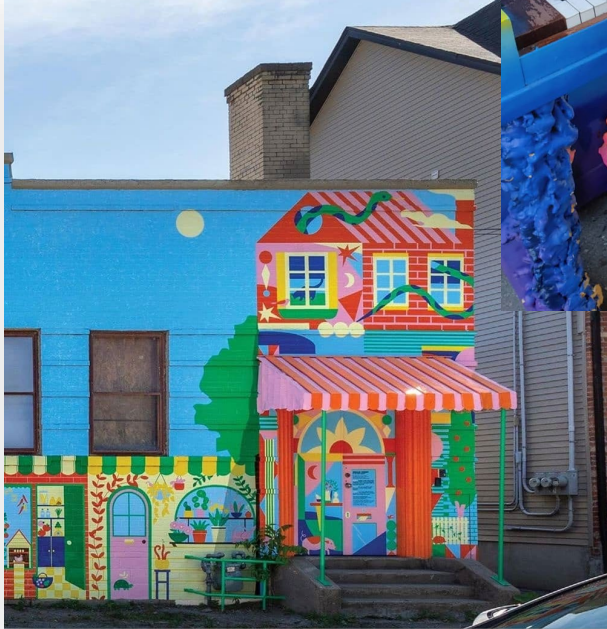
Light adds safety, but it can also inspire and give hope. It can guide you through a space and make it feel welcoming. It can add a sense of wonder.

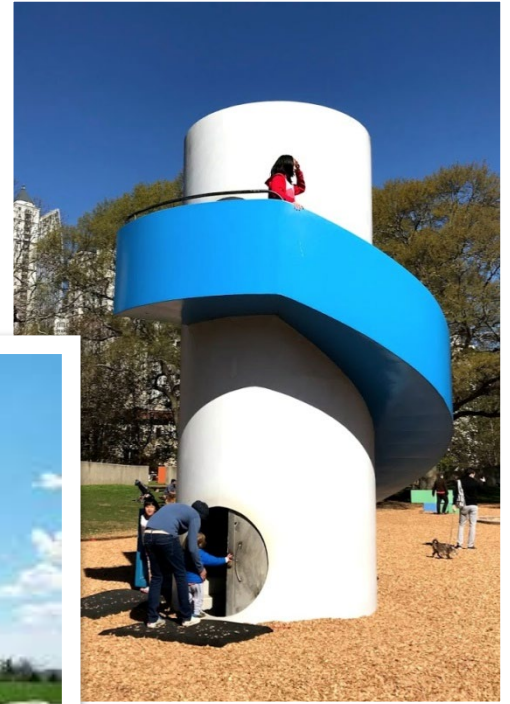
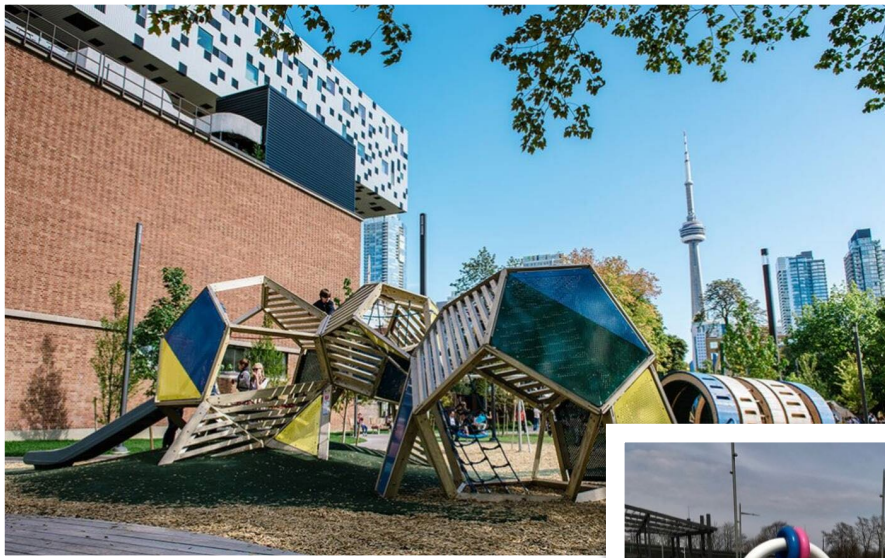


Good lighting can extend the number of hours that a space can be used.



# Art Can Encourage Imagination and Play





# Promote Active & Public Transportation



**POETRY WAY**

*Dear Colin*  
Your father was born in Woodstock, Ontario in 1928. He studied at Cambridge University and lived in Europe for many years before returning to Canada in the 60's. He received the Governor General's Literary Award (shared) in 1981 for The Poems of the Medieval World from which this poem is taken. He currently lives in Toronto and teaches at York University.

My son  
at the  
seashore,  
age two

He laughs and a breeze  
lifts his hair. His face tilts up  
towards what has happened  
to his hair, that it should lift,  
and his laugh goes. Why  
is this happening, his suddenly  
serious face wants to know, and  
what is happening. But  
all it is is a little breeze:  
lifting his hair for a few seconds,  
a little breeze passing by  
on its way to children —  
as this day is on its way there too,  
and as that day, twenty years ago  
was, too.

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Poems of the Medieval World.

# Creating Space for Creativity and Collaboration



Streetlab in New York uses this moveable and adaptable street furniture to create popup reading rooms, homework hubs and drawing studios. These easels and stools from Perth Australia invite people to make art in public.



# A Significant Work

