

# City of Mississauga

## Corporate Report



Date: August 14, 2020

To: Chair and Members of General Committee

From: Shari Lichterman, CPA, CMA, Commissioner of  
Community Services

Originator's files:

Meeting date:  
September 9, 2020

## Subject

**2020 Youth Plan for Recreation Final Report**

## Recommendation

That the recommendations outlined in the corporate report entitled "2020 Youth Plan for Recreation Final Report" dated August 14, 2020 from the Commissioner of Community Services be approved subject to the annual budget process.

## Report Highlights

- Much progress has been made with the implementation of the 2009 Mississauga Youth plan.
- While several City departments continue to share responsibility for providing a variety and choice of programs and services for youth, the scope of this Youth Plan is on the Recreation Division.
- The 2020 Youth Plan for Recreation has 18 recommendations that will inform programming and service priorities over a five year planning horizon.
- The recommendations are centered on five focus areas that were developed through various research initiatives including stakeholder and staff engagement sessions and an online survey directed to youth ages 10-24 years old that garnered 850 responses.
- These focus areas include: use of space and new programming opportunities; inclusion, access and supportive environments; youth leadership and employment opportunities; communications targeted to youth; and role clarity between the City and its partners.
- The implementation is phased over a short (1-2 years), and medium (3-5 years) planning horizon and will consider emerging priorities, ongoing input from youth and other community stakeholders as well as available resources.

- Short term initiatives will incorporate COVID-19 recovery planning and impact, and the plan may be further adapted based on the ongoing pandemic.

## Background

The Mississauga Youth Plan developed in 2009 has provided guidance to the City by identifying initiatives primarily focused on recreation, parks, library, and arts and cultural services. With its implementation over the past decade, the City has made progress in addressing needs and priorities that were contained in that plan. Key achievements of the 2009 Youth Plan included implementation of the Freedom Pass allowing youth to travel for free on Mississauga Transit while participating in recreation programs, expansion of the Sauga At Play Program, more affordable youth access to drop in programs, the establishment of Mississauga Youth Advisory Committee (MYAC), and attaining Youth Friendly Community Status.

The 2019 Future Directions Master Plan for Recreation recommended the development of a Recreation focused youth plan to further advance priorities for Mississauga's youth population which accounts for approximately one-fifth of the City's total population, and aligns with other provincial national priorities including those outlined in the Framework for Recreation in Canada.

### 2020 Youth Plan for Recreation

Monteith Brown Planning Consultants and Tucker Reid Associates were engaged to support the development of the 2020 Youth Plan for Recreation. This work was initiated in spring 2018 and included the following phases:

<b>Timeframe</b>	<b>Project Phase</b>
May 2018 – May 2019	Background Research & Initial Consultation
Jun – Oct 2019	Staff, Stakeholder and Youth Engagement
Nov – Dec 2019	Consultants Develops Draft Youth Plan
Jan – March 2020	City Internal Review of Draft Plan
September 2020	Final Plan to Council for Approval

The Background Research & Initial Consultation Phase included focus groups with youth, community stakeholders and staff as well as scans of relevant policies, frameworks, legislation and best practices; demographics and participation analysis, identification of trends; and an assessment of Recreation's role in delivering youth programs and services. In an effort to reach a broader base and gain further insight into youth needs for recreation programs and services in Mississauga, additional engagement was conducted in the Fall of 2019 through an online survey targeted specifically to youth ages 10-24 years old. The information gathered from the 850 responses helped to guide the focus and related actions of the Youth Plan. In addition to the online survey, a community engagement session was held with stakeholders representing the following categories: Government and System Partners, Newcomer Services, Youth Serving Agencies and Community Organizations.

While the 2020 Youth Plan for Recreation builds on the progress made with the 2009 Mississauga Youth Plan, the scope of the this plan is focused on the Recreation Division, its Community Development Unit and staff serving youth in the community centres. By identifying relevant issues for youth, the plan will support the Recreation Division's decision-making as how best to address the needs of Mississauga's youth through the delivery of programs and services as well as working collectively with community partners over the next 5 years.

## Comments

Trend findings demonstrate that youth continue to constitute a key market to which recreation services will need to be provided in Mississauga. Increased 'screen time' has led to declining levels of physical activity and the growing interest in technology may impact types of programs requested. The 2020 Youth Plan has 18 recommendations that will inform programming and service priorities over a five year planning horizon that aim to increase youth engagement through meaningful recreation pursuits. The recommendations are centred on five focus areas that include: use of space and new programming opportunities; inclusion, access and supportive environments; youth leadership and employment opportunities; communications targeted to youth; and role clarity between the City and its partners (See Appendix 1 for further details).

The Implementation Guide included in the plan prioritizes the recommendations as high, medium and low significance based on community demand and resources available to the Recreation division. Timing for implementation has been organized into ongoing short-term (1-2 years) and medium-term (3-5 years) to help guide annual work plans. These annual work plans will consider emerging priorities, ongoing input from youth and other community stakeholders as well as available resources. Where additional funding changes and significant service level changes are required these items will be brought forward for Council's approval.

A key development that will impact the implementation of the 2020 Youth Plan for Recreation is the COVID-19 pandemic which resulted in the closure of City facilities and cancellation of non-essential programming including youth recreation programs and services, volunteer and employment opportunities since March 2020. As outlined in the City's Recovery Framework, the Recreation Division is taking a measured approach to returning service delivery in coordination with Peel Public Health and the Provincial Orders. As facilities re-open and services resume, youth can expect a different experience when visiting their local Community Centre which may not fully align with the needs and preferences identified in the 2020 Youth Plan for Recreation in the short term. For example, access to indoor facilities will require reservation or pre-registration, screening measures at the entrance and face coverings when moving throughout the building. Use of alternative spaces including outdoor amenities and alternative delivery formats such as virtual programs may therefore become a greater priority than initially anticipated.

While considerable engagement occurred to develop the 2020 Youth Plan for Recreation a key to success will be continued and targeted engagement with the community and youth residents

to ensure that annual work plans consider and respond to emerging priorities and the needs of Mississauga's diverse youth population and to hold ourselves accountable to achieve the vision outlined in this plan that "*Mississauga is a youth and young adult friendly city that is respectful, inclusive, and forward thinking; a City where youth are meaningfully engaged and thrive as equal members of the community*". Where possible, this engagement will align with other engagement activities undertaken by the City including those outlined in [Resolution 0207-2020 – Anti Black and Indigenous Racism](#) that was unanimously supported by Council in June 2020 and the City's Diversity and Inclusion Strategy.

## Strategic Plan

The Youth Plan for Recreation is aligned to our strategic pillar of Belong. It supports building an inclusive community attractive to youth where they feel empowered and engaged to participate in recreation programs and services. Implementation will also align with and advance with the City's COVID-19 Recovery Framework.

## Financial Impact

There is no financial impact from the recommendations in this report. The financial impact and detailed prioritization of the Youth Plan for Recreation recommendations will be identified through the annual budget and business planning process with substantiation that they remain reflective of local conditions and the changing needs of the community,

## Conclusion

The 2020 Youth Plan for Recreation builds on the progress made with the 2009 Mississauga Youth Plan with a focused scope on the Recreation Division, its Community Development Unit and staff serving youth in the community centres. It provides an overarching framework to guide recreation program and service delivery over the next 3-5 years. It will consider and respond to emerging priorities and needs over time to ensure a positive contribution to the overall development of Mississauga youth.

## Attachments

Appendix 1: 2020 Youth Plan for Recreation




---

Shari Lichterman, CPA, Commissioner of Community Services

Prepared by: Julia Giovinazzo, Business Advisor, Business Planning