COMMUNITY HUBS

Presentation for Creative Spaces
Outside the Core Roundtable

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Overview

Building Strong Neighbourhoods Strategy

- **ANC**: resident-led neighborhood groups/associations in 13 priority neighborhoods, with strong local leadership
- **TNR**: demonstration projects with goal to improve living conditions for residents and strengthen 4 high-rise communities working with residents/local partners.
- **Community Hubs**: community multiservice centres – one stop access
Research/convening informs our work

- Conduct research
  - Vertical Poverty (2010)
  - Losing Ground (2007)

- Strong Neighbourhood Task Force 2005 (City/UWT/others)
  - Proposed strategies for strengthening neighbourhoods
  - Identification of Priority Neighbourhoods for investment and action
Why a neighbourhoods and inner suburban focus

- Evidence showed us:
  - Growing concentrations of poverty especially in the inner suburbs
  - Insufficient service infrastructure where it was most needed
  - Some groups in society hit harder than others – families with children, single-parent families, newcomers and visible minority communities
  - 73% of Toronto population (many newcomers) living in inner suburbs, but in 2005 35% of UWT funding to inner suburbs
United Way Priority Neighbourhoods, ANC and Community Hubs Locations

Non-CHC Hubs  
TNR  
Community Health Centre* + Community Hub

*Community Health Centers offer primary health care and health promotion.
ANC Milestones

- $10.5M invested by United Way since 2005;
- New community groups established: 155.
- 425 neighborhood festivals and community events brought together local residents.
- Resident Action Grants totaling more than $733,000 funded 145 local projects and community improvements identified by residents.
- 17 new community gardens provided 76,000 square feet of soil to produce fresh fruits and vegetables — including North America’s largest urban urban orchard.
- Number of community safety audits completed: 35.
Addressing root causes: increasing resident leadership
Community Hubs: Why was social infrastructure needed?

- High rates of poverty
- Physical landscape creates isolation
- Services may be hard to find or hard to get to
- Transportation barriers
- Few places for residents to gather
- Services have not kept up with population growth
Community Hub Components

• Lead or coordinating agency

• Anchoring organizations: large and small

• Space (at no charge) for use by resident and grassroots groups

• Itinerant partners (use hotelling admin space and community rooms)
UWT’s Contributions and Commitments

Community Fund:
- $153,000 annually towards operating costs of hub
- Development grants for planning and partnerships

Major Gifts:
- $1 million+ to fund capital costs of hubs

Capacity Support
- Lead Agency group, Community Hub Day, consultant support, reserves/contingency fund
Hub Milestones

• 7 new Community Hubs opened in Toronto’s most under-served neighbourhoods; 1 more to come

• Number of agencies operating across all Hubs: 50+

• More than 168,000 square feet of new multiservice infrastructure including over 27,000 square feet of community space.
Partnerships

• Residents/local leadership
• Lead agency and agency partners
• Funding Partners: $30M in capital in 7 hubs
  ➢ 5 with CHCs
  ➢ 2 with CIC funded agencies
  ➢ Infrastructure Stimulus Fund
  ➢ Donors
  ➢ City of Toronto
  ➢ TDSB
  ➢ Legal Aid Ontario
  ➢ OTF
Lessons Learned from Hub Development

- Have good development dollars/time up front
- Key: Community resident involvement/challenge of long development time
- Challenge to finding good and affordable space
  - 5 leased spaces- easy to secure, range of reno costs/high rents
  - 1 school reno- hard to secure, high renos/ low rent
  - 1 new build - leased land, made to measure build- high cost/low rents
- Clear buy into vision/strong needs assessment
Lessons Learned

• Is it collocation, collaboration or partnership?
• Agencies taking space and not buying into vision
• Ownership/Governance Structure
• Operating/sustainability
  ➢ shared managers, reception, other shared costs, reserves, utilities, repairs
  ➢ support model i.e. community engagement staff
• Time and sustained commitment of all!
Hubs and Arts Culture Space
(some info from Victoria Village Hub Cultural Feasibility Study)

- Hubs Focus: full range of social, health and community services
- Partner agencies- universal desire for arts programs
- Residents use space for arts/community cultural activities
- Attracts people and enlivens the space
- Allows for connection of art, social services, employment
- Power of art as a community engagement connection tool
- No space for artists/performances – not considered
- Cost is a big challenge!
Victoria Village Hub Action for Neighbourhood Change (Ebru Community Art Exhibition)
Scarborough Storefront De-fencing Event

2012 TNR Bridging Festival
The Modern Batik workshops teach young art students the batik technique as well as how to market their art.

Instructor: David Kibuuka
Going Forward…

• UWT in Strategic Planning - Ongoing commitment to neighbourhoods - resident leadership and infrastructure

• Opportunities to explore -
  - Enhanced partnerships re: food, outdoor space, culture, arts in existing hubs
  - Using shared space in hubs for cultural events in off hours/artists
  - Overlay various mappings (e.g. intersection of culture data, Urban HEART, housing, food, etc)
  - Intentional about full communities’ needs/interests-clustering …pilot new type of hub!