

Future Focus



1UP Toronto 2020 Conference Report

March 2020





TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 1 ABOUT 1UP TORONTO 3**
 - 2 CONFERENCE SNAPSHOT 4**
 - 3 1UP SCHOOL CHAPTERS 6**
 - 4 1UP DESIGN JAM 12**
 - 5 RECOMMENDATIONS 20**
- 

1 ABOUT 1UP TORONTO



gladki
planning
associates



1UP Toronto is a youth conference that brings together secondary school students across the Greater Toronto Area to celebrate and incubate city-building ideas.

The 2020 conference theme, Future Focus, highlights bold and innovative ideas related to transforming old spaces and structures into environmentally and socially sustainable places for future generations. Co-hosted by Urban Minds and RU A Planner, the conference took place on March 7, 2020 at Centre for Social Innovation (CSI) - Annex.

As the year-end celebration of the 1UP Program, the conference featured our 1UP School Chapters' projects, guest speakers, and the 1UP Design Jam, a student urban design competition.

For the 1UP Design Jam this year, we partnered with Gladki Planning Associates and the City of Toronto. As the Scarborough Centre Secondary plan is currently under review, it presented a great opportunity to challenge our youth participants to reimagine the complete communities at Scarborough Centre. We asked them how they would design an urban, pedestrian-friendly block that becomes a meaningful place to the diverse community. We hope our participants' creativity and thoughtfulness will be reflected in the comprehensive planning framework.

This report provides an update on the 1UP School Chapters' projects, as well as a summary of all the student teams' ideas from the 1UP Design Jam. We hope that through this conference, we can educate youth on city building and provide them an opportunity to shape the city they live in.

2 CONFERENCE SNAPSHOT

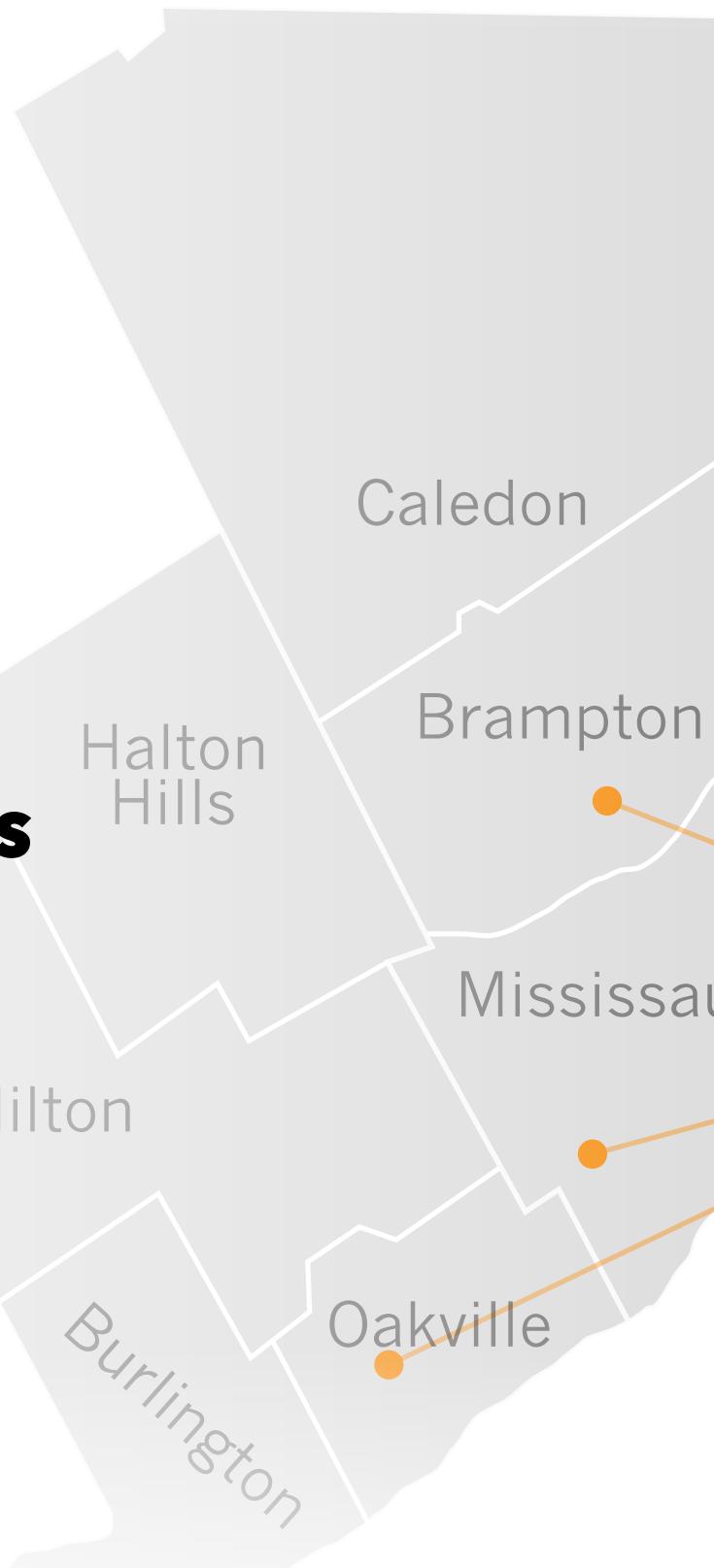
66 STUDENTS

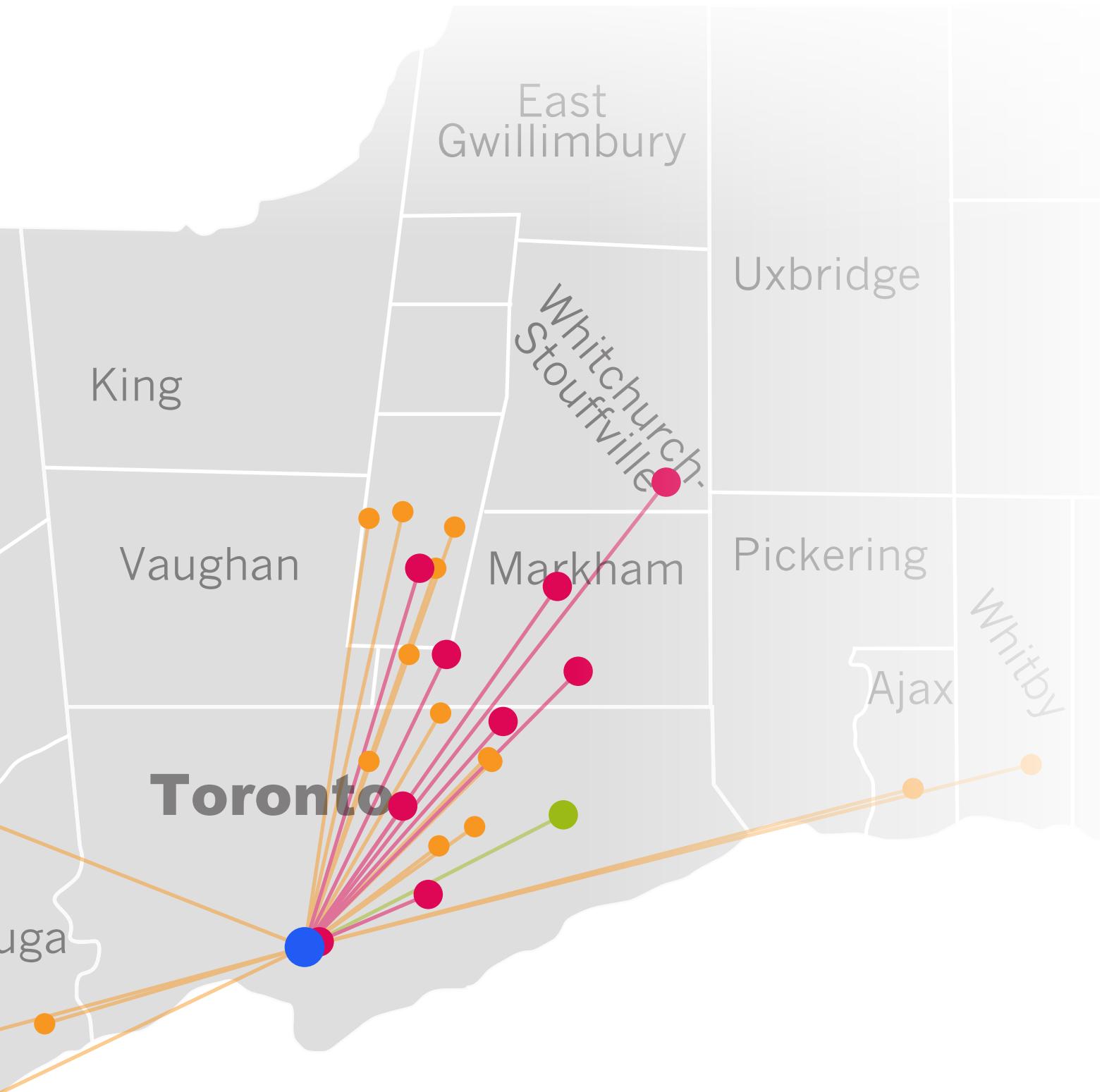
24 HIGH SCHOOLS

9 MUNICIPALITIES

**9 1UP SCHOOL
CHAPTERS**

**1 1UP TORONTO
CONFERENCE**





● 1UP School Chapters

Fr. Michael McGivney Catholic Academy
Pierre Elliott Trudeau High School
York Mills Collegiate Institute
University of Toronto Schools
Dr. Norman Bethune Collegiate Institute
St. Robert Catholic High School
Marc Garneau Collegiate Institute
Bayview Secondary School
Stouffville District Secondary School

● Participating Schools

(See list of schools on page 22)

● 1UP Design Jam Location

Scarborough Centre

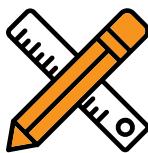
● 1UP Toronto 2020 Conference Venue

CSI Annex
720 Bathurst Street

3 1UP SCHOOL CHAPTERS

In the 2019-2020 school year, student leaders from nine high schools took on the challenge to become 1UP Fellows. They led their school chapters to create and implement community design-build projects to address a specific issue that they identified in their communities.

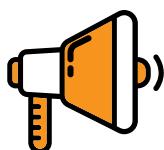
Each school chapter was provided with a 1UP Starter Kit, a mentor, and a \$200 project stipend to kick start their project. While their work continues until the end of the school year, the 1UP Fellows presented project updates at the 1UP Toronto 2020 Conference to inspire others to take on the challenge in the new school year.



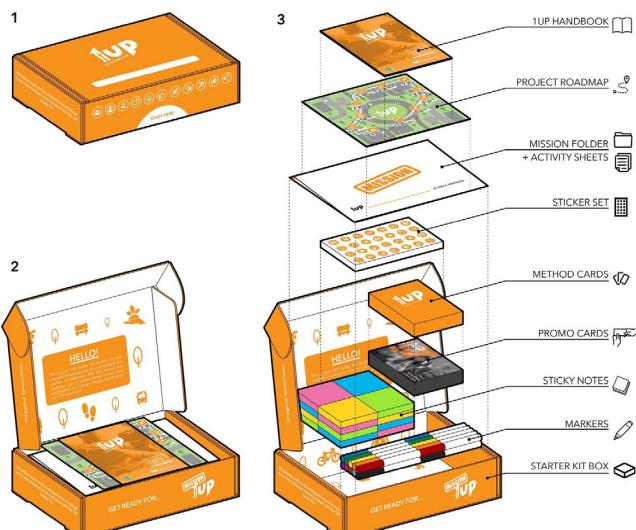
Design solutions to improve a public space in a neighbourhood



Build prototypes to test the school chapter's ideas and get feedback from real users



Pitch the chapter's project at the 1UP Toronto Conference to maximize reach and impact



The **1UP Starter Kit** is a free toolkit provided to each school chapter to help start their project. Funded by the Sappi Ideas That Matter grant, the 1UP Starter Kits are designed and produced in partnership with 8 80 Cities.

PHONE CHARGING STATION

1UP Father Michael McGivney

Fellows: Carson Bautista, Bryan Fu

Mentor: Amanda Crompton (City of Markham)

Father Michael McGivney's library has limited space but requires some improvement. This 1UP team is thinking "Future Focus" by constructing a wooden phone charging station. The team is collaborating with the school's art club and taking advantage of the woodshop for this custom design.

"How might we improve the livelihood and productivity of students in the limitations of the surrounding physical space in a technologically advancing world?"



BOOK EXCHANGE CENTRE

1UP PETHS

Fellow: Mengyu Gao

Mentor: Sophie Xu (Petroff)

From an observational study, 1UP PETHS found most students interacting with their phones and only read textbook material. To make reading fun again, the team is creating a designated space in the cafeteria so people can exchange, read and talk everything about books.

"How might we stop people from overusing their phone?"

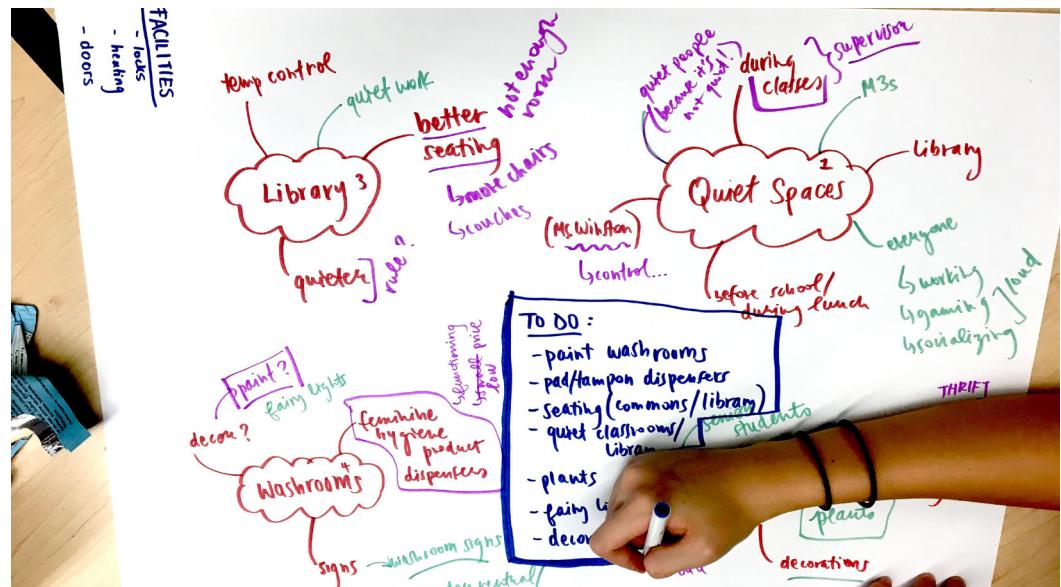


PLANTS AT UTS 1UP UTS

Fellow: Katie Wang

Mentor: Lindsay Toth (Gladki)

The UTS 1UP Chapter is revamping their school by placing low maintenance plants in popular areas. By introducing greenery throughout the school, they hope to improve indoor air circulation, promote student activity and create a more aesthetic and comfortable environment



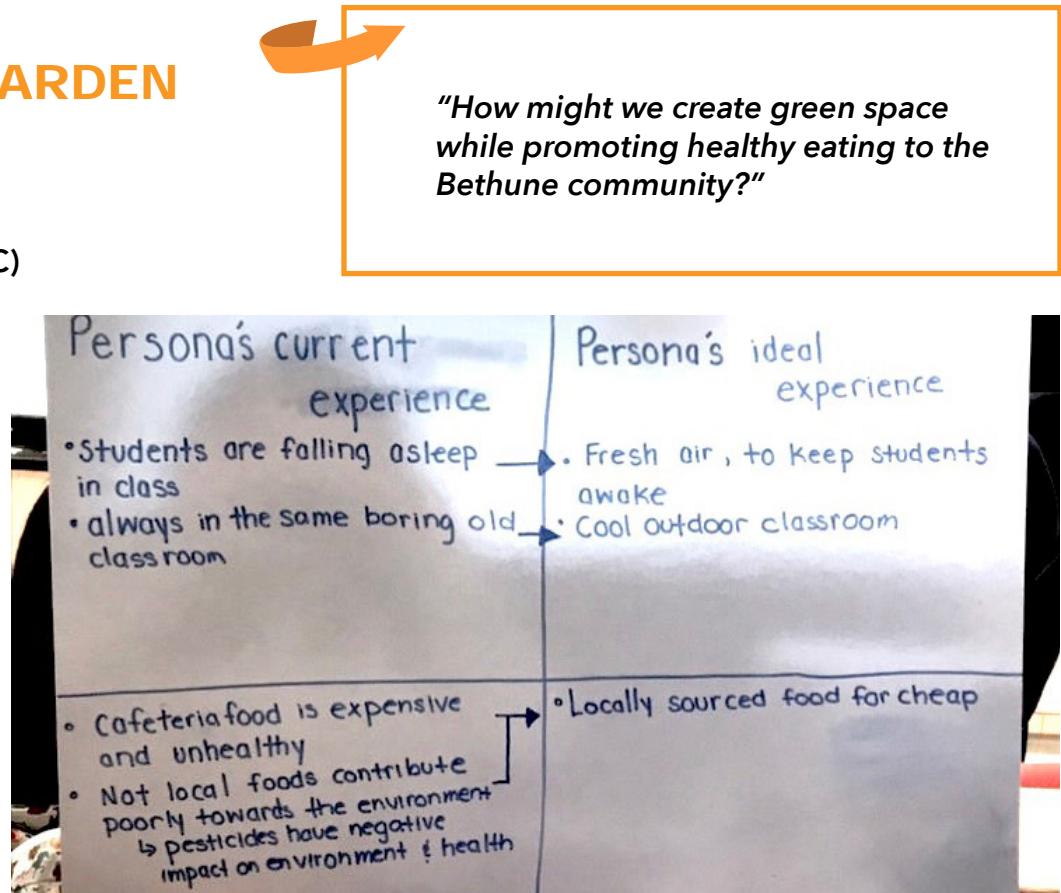
BETHUNE COMMUNITY GARDEN 1UP Bethune

Fellow: Michelle Ko

Mentor: Kathy Chan (CIBC)

Due to the lack of healthy and inexpensive food on school grounds, 1UP Bethune is improving the community garden to grow local fruits and vegetables. Once these crops are ready to harvest, the chapter hopes to make yummy smoothies and salads for the students to enjoy.

"How might we create an environment that improves both the physical and mental health of members of the UTS community?"



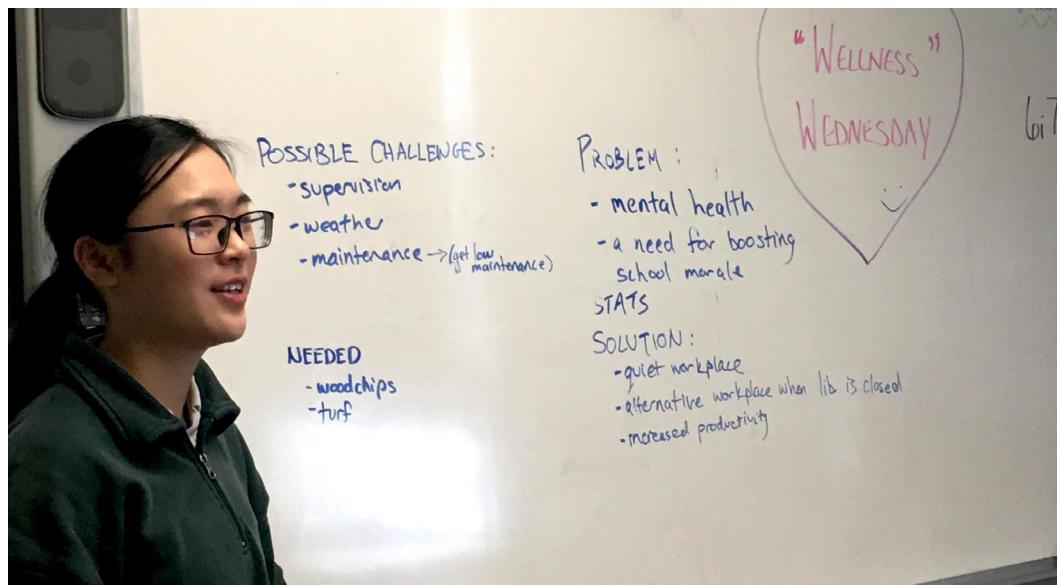
OUTDOOR STUDENT HUB

1UP St. Robert

Fellows: Mary Wang, Angela Chen
Mentor: Sean Morris (Century 21)

In light of a recent tragedy, 1UP St. Robert wants to create a space for students to relax and to take a well needed break from school. The Outdoor Student Hub will consist of tables, benches and a community garden - creating an open and healthy space for socializing and studying.

"How might we bring awareness about mental health to our school community?"



BACKFIELD BRUSH-UP

1UP Marc Garneau

Fellows: Kelly Qu, Michelle Wang
Mentor: Emma Loewen (Waterfront Toronto)

Marc Garneau's backfield was looking a bit worn-down and underutilized by the students. This 1UP team wants to bring the backfield back to life through various initiatives: recycled crates to make eco-friendly chairs and tables; repainting football posts; and grow flora to add colour and vibrancy.

"How might we encourage more students to come to the field by ensuring comfort and security?"



A SIDEWALK NAMED BAYVIEW 1UP Bayview

Fellow: Andrew Wong

Mentor: Nicole Beuglet (Dillon Consulting)

With many students commuting school, 1UP Bayview is thinking of ways to improve a nearby bus stop. They hope to add a pathway behind the shelter, so cyclists and pedestrians can pass through during rush hours - typically when the sidewalk is blocked by commuters.



"How might we redesign a sidewalk to be conducive to the different ways of getting to and from school?"

PILLAR REDESIGN & THE STUDENT VOICE WALL

1UP York Mills

Fellow: Dores Cheung

Mentor: Michelle Rowland (Urban Strategies)

1UP York Mills is giving the school's library an uplift as it is currently dull and disorganized. The project will redesign several pillars with inspiring messages and colourful graphics. One important feature will be the "Student Voice Wall" which will display student's work including poetry.



"How might we create a school library that welcomes, inspires and connects York Mill students, staff and the community?"

STOUFFVILLE MURAL MISSION

1UP Stouffville District

Fellow: Nadia Ali

Mentor: Ryan Lo (City of Toronto)

"How might we change our school's hallways in an artistic way to motivate students and make them feel welcomed?"

1UP Stouffville is looking to liven up the school hallways through energetic colours and graphics. They hope this makes students feel more welcome and motivated. The proposed project will include murals and art pieces, embracing the students' creativity.



4 1UP DESIGN JAM

The 1UP Design Jam is a 3-hour student design competition for real-life urban challenges in Toronto. Students at the conference were assigned into teams of four to six, to tackle a case challenge provided by our Design Jam Partner, Gladki Planning Associates. Each team was guided by facilitators and had access to a Design Jam Partner representative in the room available for consultation on the case challenge. Each team was tasked to design for one of three groups of personas provided in the case challenge.

The desired outcomes of the 1UP Design Jam were:

- To develop greater empathy and curiosity in youth of current challenges in Toronto's communities
- To create imaginative youth-led solutions for our partner to consider implementing or incorporating
- To apply a user-centered approach to solve real-world community challenges

The 1UP Design Jam took inspiration from the Design Thinking (or human-centred design) model:

1. EMPATHIZE

Understand the place, people and problem

2. DEFINE

Identify a specific challenge to address within a greater issue

3. IDEATE

Brainstorm possible solutions

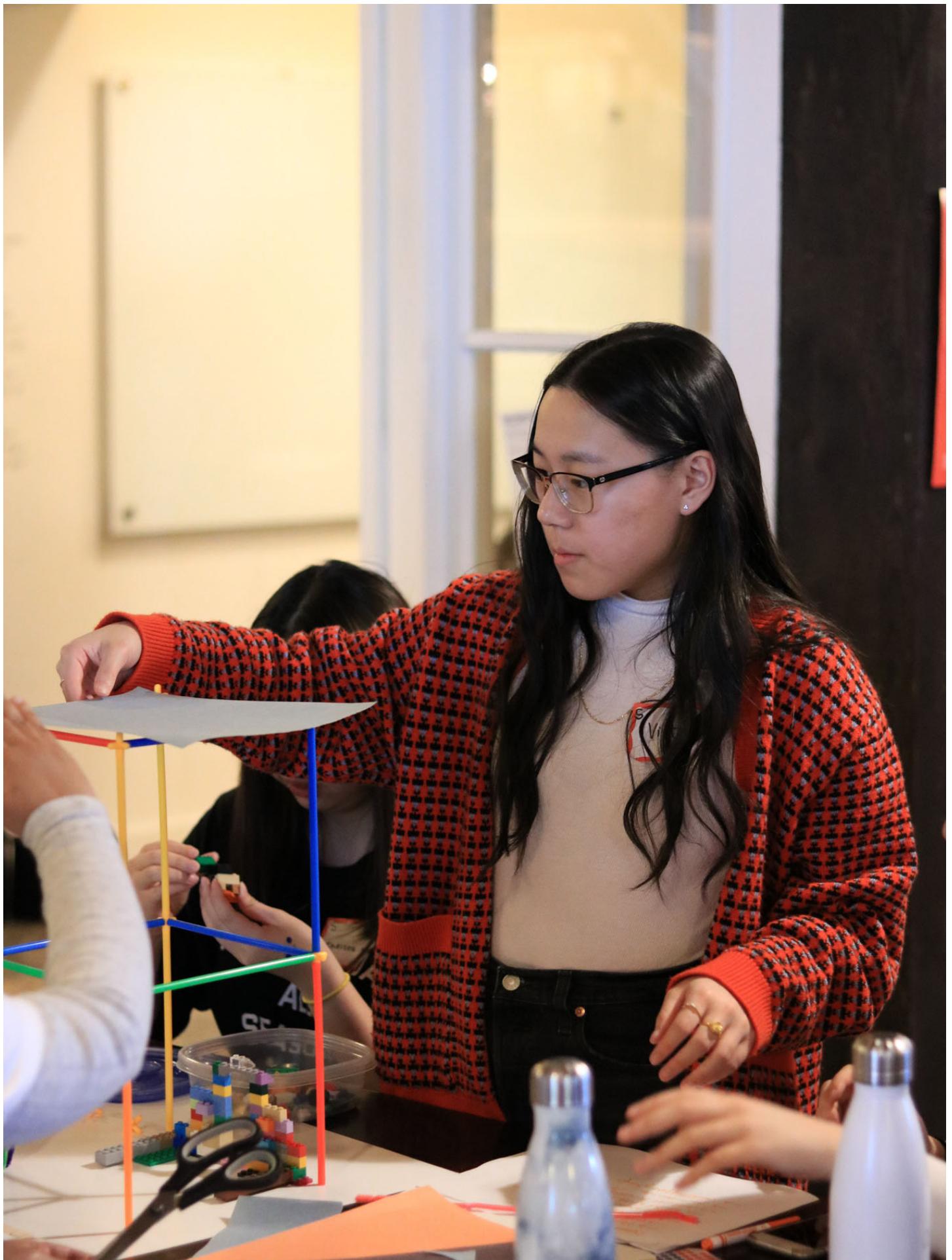
4. PROTOTYPE / TEST

Build and test a physical model of a solution

5. PITCH

Present the solution to others for feedback



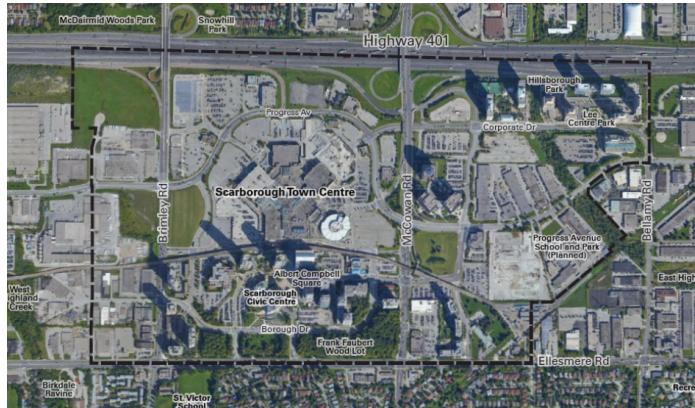


CASE CHALLENGE: SCARBOROUGH CENTRE



Scarborough Centre is one of Toronto's four Centres. They are hubs of economic activity and social life for their broader communities, but Scarborough Centre doesn't currently realize its potential. In the coming decades the City of Toronto aims to strengthen and transform the area into a complete community. It will have a balance of homes and jobs, easy access to amenities, beautiful parks and green spaces, a safe and connected transportation system, and most importantly a character that is uniquely "Scarborough".

"How might we create an urban, pedestrian-friendly block that becomes a meaningful place to the diverse community of Scarborough Centre?"



Scarborough Centre today.



The Design Jam site, a vacant lot in need of reimagination.

PERSONAS: Group 1



Michael, 67

- Widower who often feels lonely and likes to walk around the neighbourhood in his spare time
- Studied Computational Aerodynamics when he was in university and continues to show his love for the subject by speaking at local conferences and university lectures
- He is looking to make new friends however he can



Ricky, 15

- Immigrated to Canada from China two years ago with his parents
- Ricky has made some friends through his passion for sports, though he hopes to make more friends by increasing his participation in Canadian sports culture
- He would like to help his parents understand Western culture better

PERSONAS: Group 2



Jaime, 42

- Mother of two children ages 3 and 6. Wife to a stay-at-home father
- Doesn't have a lot of time to spend with her family because she spends much of her time at work in downtown Toronto or during her commute by public transit
- When she has free time she enjoys dancing, swimming, and cooking



Elisa, 19

- Studies Art History and Visual Culture (BA) at the University of Toronto - Scarborough Campus
- They identify as non-binary. Elisa loves hearing other people's inspiring stories about discovering and coming to terms with their own identities.
- Elisa lives in a rental apartment with two supporting roommates

PERSONAS: Group 3



Raj, 9

- He loves to read books and watch documentaries about aircrafts during his spare time, and builds his own model planes out of legos and other craft supplies
- Often unable to pursue his interests due to the financial barriers his father encounters while trying to support his family
- Raj spends most of his time at the library

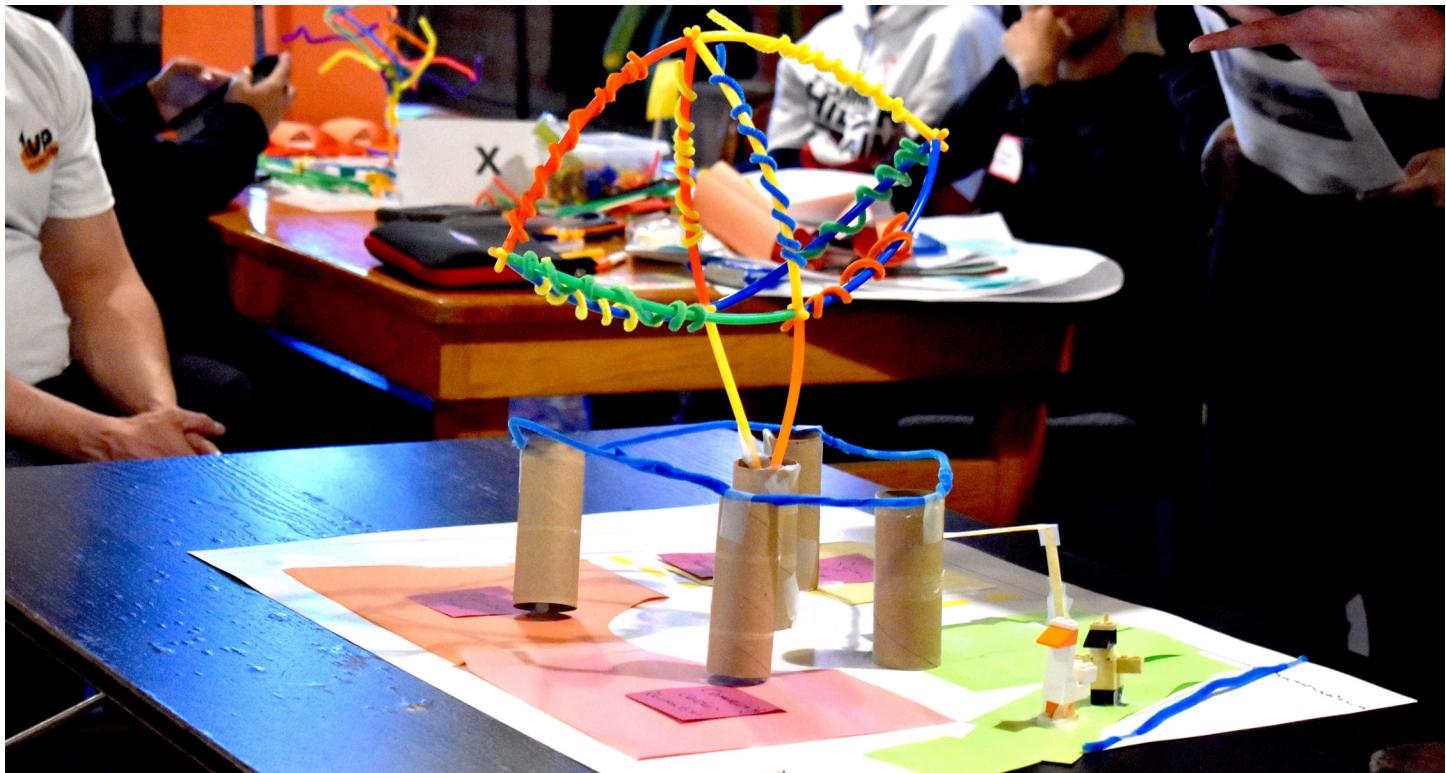


Brandon, 32

- Works 45 hours weekly as a financial officer of an industrial cleaning and paper products supplies company
- Brandon uses the TTC to commute from his home in Markham
- Volunteers at the Mount Sinai Hospital and coaching his seven-year-old son's soccer and basketball team

TEAM PITCHES

1st Place: Team YUK



"Scarborough Goose Village" is an innovative neighbourhood that has an emphasis on community through inclusivity, diversity, accessibility and sustainability.

- **Shuttle Bus:** a frequent shuttle bus that connects residents to the Scarborough Town Centre
- **Creek Conservation Green Space:** a designated area for a permanent habitat for geese. Persona "Michael" and others will be able to visit and enjoy.
- **Residential Building:** at-grade retail with a rooftop bar and BBQ including a cocktail program for elders.
- **Recreational Facility:** community centre with a theatre and programming for sports and ESL.
- **Interconnected Network:** pedestrian-friendly road that runs across the entire neighbourhood.



1st place winners, Team YUK, with Lindsay Toth (left), Gladki Planning Associates and Kelly Dynes (right), City of Toronto

TEAM PITCHES

2nd Place: Team 'O'



Team 'O' did a spin on Canada's Wonderland, by designing a complete community to live work, play and learn.

- **Local Pond:** a water feature that can be used as a pool in the summer and rink in the winter
- **Interlinked Walkways:** paths that connect all buildings and amenities, making it easier for people to get around
- **Bus Stops:** nearby transit connections for those who commute to work/school and to attract visitors
- **Mixed Use Areas:** residential developments, with a community centre and boutiques
- **Socialization Zones:** spaces to meet new people and interact with friends and family.



2nd place winners, Team 'O', with Lindsay Toth (left), Gladki Planning Associates and Kelly Dynes (right), City of Toronto

TEAM PITCHES

People's Choice Award: Team 'H'



"Con Corporate Quad" is a multi-purpose space that embraces open areas and education.

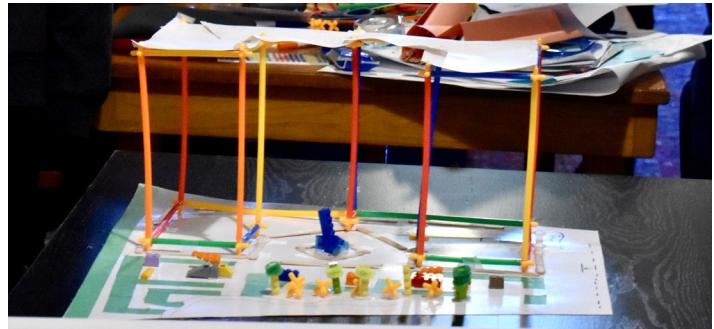
- **Science Facility:** an all-ages resource for the community to explore and learn
- **Open Theatre Space:** programmed with family events, festivals and "outdoor living" activities
- **Edible Garden:** for the local community to crop vegetables for their families
- **Open Green Space:** a field for residents to play sports like soccer
- **Multipurpose Developments:** community centre with office spaces above, as well as residential towers with recreational programming



People's Choice winners, Team 'H', with Lindsay Toth (left), Gladki Planning Associates and Kelly Dynes (right), City of Toronto

TEAM PITCHES

Standout Ideas



SUSTAINABILITY

- **Solar Panels:** introducing renewable energy to power the neighbourhood
- **Farmers Market:** locally sourced food
- **Rain Water Collection:** cooling system as a resource-saving technology
- **Permeable Sidewalks:** to prevent toxic runoff

OUTDOOR ENTERTAINMENT

- **Amphitheater:** encouraging outdoor performances and festivals
- **Food Trucks:** providing variety of food options using locally-sourced produce
- **Recreational Facilities:** rock climbing wall, basketball court and outdoor pool

INTERGENERATIONALITY

- **Childcare Amenities:** playgrounds and daycare for young kids
- **Retirement Homes:** living spaces for people to grow in
- **Pedestrian-Friendly Paths:** wide sidewalks for all modes of movement (stroller, wheelchair)

UNIQUE SPACES

- **STEM Youth Hub:** promoting innovation
- **Underground Path to STC:** year-round access
- **Animal Feeding Stations:** snacks for geese!

5

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR GLADKI & CITY OF TORONTO



The 1UP Toronto Conference and particularly the 1UP Design Jam provided a platform for youth to shape the built environment around them in a fun and creative way. The ideas that each student team proposed within such a short period of time demonstrated their level of thoughtfulness and consideration for the users.

We have summarized some key themes that emerged from the student teams' ideas. We hope Gladki Planning Associates and City of Toronto would consider incorporating them into the Scarborough Centre Review.

COMMON THEMES

- Open spaces with flexible configuration
- Emphasis on safety, convenience, comfort and accessibility
- Incorporating connections to the existing creek to enhance mental well-being
- Environmentally sustainable designs
- Provide accessible connections to STC
- Equitable and socially responsible practices to support youth employment and food security
- Designing for all ages including parents, seniors, youth and young children
- Mixed-uses providing the community with a variety of every-day services
- Encourage arts and musical programming through murals and public performances



NEXT STEPS

1. Professional Development Workshop:

The purpose of the workshop is to provide training for City of Toronto staff on youth engagement in the context of intergenerational spaces. With staff's participation, we hope to better understand barriers to youth participation and identify areas of improvement in youth services related to the design and programming of spaces.

2. Local Youth Design Jam:

We believe that local outreach in the form of a local Design Jam should be done at Scarborough Centre to directly engage the real users and understand their needs.

3. Partnership with Gladki and City of Toronto:

Toronto: The ideas generated through youth engagement should inform the final comprehensive planning framework. Gladki, City of Toronto and Urban Minds should also continue to explore opportunities for youth engagement for other projects and planning exercises.

PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS

A Y Jackson Secondary School
Abbey Park High School
Ajax High School
Bayview Secondary School
Cawthra Park Secondary School
Don Mills Collegiate Institute
Dr. Norman Bethune Collegiate Institute
Earl Haig Secondary School
Erindale Secondary School
Father Michael McGivney Catholic Academy High School
J B Tyrrell Senior Public School
Richmond Green Secondary School
Richmond Hill High School
Silver Stream Public School
Sir John A Macdonald Collegiate Institute
St. Robert Catholic High School
St. Theresa of Lisieux Catholic High School
Stouffville District Secondary School
Thornlea Secondary School
Trafalgar Castle School
Turner Fenton Secondary School
University of Toronto Schools (Bloor Site)
Victoria Park Collegiate Institute
York Mills Collegiate Institute

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Contact:

Santessa Henriques, Program Manager
Urban Minds
santessahenriques@urbanminds.co