

FOR INFORMATION

PUBLIC

OPEN SESSION

TO: UTSC Campus Affairs Committee

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DATE: Wednesday, April 26, 2017

AGENDA ITEM: 2b

ITEM IDENTIFICATION:

Annual Report: Community Partnerships and Engagement

JURISDICTIONAL INFORMATION:

Sections 5.1 and 5.9 of the UTSC Campus Affairs Committee Terms of Reference states that the Committee receives annually, from the appropriate administrators, reports on services within its areas of responsibility, including relations with the campus's external community.

GOVERNANCE PATH:

1. **UTSC Campus Affairs Committee [For Information] (April 26, 2017)**

PREVIOUS ACTION TAKEN:

No previous action in governance has been taken on this item.

HIGHLIGHTS:

The University of Toronto Scarborough has been an influential member of the Scarborough community for over 50 years. With a diverse student population and a picturesque campus located within Highland Creek in northeast Toronto, University of Toronto Scarborough has become a hub of student activity, ground-breaking research and community engagement. Intricately rooted in the community and invested in its long-term success, the University of Toronto Scarborough's approach to community development and engagement is based on a firm

belief of encouraging and exchanging local knowledge and expertise, in a mutually beneficial way, through community based research, scholarship and partnership.

U of T Scarborough has long recognized that our location is both a central part of our story and a unique strength. Our location attracts students of many backgrounds, innovative faculty, and committed staff, all working to advance our research, pedagogy, and social impact and encouraging an inclusive campus culture focused on excellence.

U of T Scarborough networks are growing and strengthening rapidly as community partners and residents see the benefit of having a world-class, post-secondary institution anchoring the Scarborough community. This year's Community Partnerships and Engagement Update reports on the University of Toronto Scarborough' anchor institution strategy as it relates to community development and engagement, focusing on the following core principles: *Social Procurement, Incubation, Network Building, Advocacy & Advising, Community Hub and Knowledge Exchange & Mobilization.*

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

There are no net financial implications for the campus' operating budget.

RECOMMENDATION:

Presented for information.

DOCUMENTATION PROVIDED:

Update-- Community Partnerships and Engagement



Community Partnerships & Engagement Report 2017

Building through the Anchor Institutions Framework

Established in 1964 as Scarborough College, the University of Toronto Scarborough has been an influential member of the Scarborough community for over 50 years. With a diverse student population and a picturesque campus located within Highland Creek in northeast Toronto, University of Toronto Scarborough has become a hub of student activity, groundbreaking research and community engagement. The University of Toronto Scarborough is intricately rooted in the community and invested in its long-term success. It is based on a firm belief of encouraging local knowledge and expertise, through community based research, scholarship and partnership with faculty, staff and students.

Anchor Institutions:

Anchor institutions are large public or nonprofit organizations – such as hospitals, universities or government agencies – that are rooted in community. An anchor mission is the process of deliberately deploying the institution’s long-term, place-based economic power to strengthen a local community, especially neighbourhoods where people facing historic and other barriers to economic opportunity.¹ As an anchor institution, the University of Toronto Scarborough is among the Eastern GTA’s largest employers and purchasers of goods and services. The University has a unique ability to improve the quality of life for all residents. By working together with anchor institutions such as the Scarborough and Rouge Hospital, Centennial College, Toronto Zoo and the Rouge National Urban Park, the University will be able to collectively generate more positive social impact.

At the University of Toronto Scarborough the core principles of our Anchor Institution Strategy include: *Social Procurement, Incubation, Network Building, Advocacy & Advising, Community Hub and Knowledge Exchange & Mobilization.*

1. Social Procurement

The Community of Practice for Public Sector Social Procurement, now known as AnchorTO, was convened in 2014 by the Atkinson Foundation and the City of Toronto to explore collaborative ways to drive institutional change through social procurement opportunities. University of Toronto Scarborough is a founding member and continues to play a leadership role. Members of the University of Toronto Scarborough leadership also visited Cleveland to explore the application of the anchor institution strategy through social procurement policies. Taking lessons from Cleveland it

¹ The Prosperous Province: Strategies for Building Community Wealth, Mowat Centre/Atkinson Foundation, August 2015.



was clear that Toronto, but especially Scarborough with historic underinvestment in infrastructure and a declining manufacturing base, was in a position to become a leader in anchor institution work.

Social procurement encourages the use of the procurement process for goods and services to advance positive economic, workforce and social development outcomes. Social procurement ensures that public sector purchasing decisions deliver on two bottom lines: a commitment to purchasing the best services and products at the most competitive prices, and a commitment to leverage limited public resources to achieve strategic community-building outcomes.

As an anchor institution, the University of Toronto Scarborough is intricately linked to the community and invested in its long-term success. By committing to both local training and development of young people, the University is leveraging its place in the community to build and create local opportunities for employment and economic development.

There are two central components to the University's social procurement objectives:

(i) Purchase of Goods and Services: involves the use of purchasing power and processes to advance positive economic, workforce, and social development outcomes, in addition to the delivery of efficient goods, services and works. The University has initiated the process of bringing diversity and local enterprises to the University's contracting process by addressing barriers for small and medium-sized enterprises. The resulting benefits include:

- Encouraging greater competition leading to cost efficiencies and more innovative products and services.
- Building the most-qualified supplier pool.
- Building economic capacity, job creation and prosperity in the community.

The University intends to conduct a series of industry workshops that introduce local companies and suppliers to the University procurement process. In addition, the University will be working with the City of Toronto and Scarborough Business Association to identify local qualified suppliers.

(ii) Workforce Development: The University is committed to increasing the number of employment, apprenticeship and training opportunities for our local communities (and in particular, for those living in poverty, newcomers and youth).

The East Scarborough Storefront has established a place-based workforce development strategy titled East Scarborough Works. The goal of this program is to build strong connections between the supply of qualified local candidates and local employer demand, to ensure that local infrastructure projects benefit local residents.



Recent construction projects at the University such as the Environmental Science and Chemistry Building and Highland Hall have created opportunities to work with the builders to initiate an apprenticeship program for underserved youth on the construction projects. The program, titled Hammerheads, was a great success, providing opportunities to local underserved youth with trades skills, training and work opportunity in their own communities. With its success, the University of Toronto Scarborough plans on including the program in future construction projects on campus.

Learn more; visit: *Linking public institutions to communities key to tackling poverty, report says* (Toronto Star, August 2015)

www.thestar.com/news/gta/2015/08/24/linking-public-institutions-to-communities-key-to-tackling-poverty-report-says.html

East End Trades Centre

In 2016, in concert with Councillor Paul Ainslie's Office, the University of Toronto Scarborough has begun conversations around the establishment of an East End Trades Centre in the community that would provide a space to teach and train basic trades skills for local youth. With the success of the Hammer Heads program on the University's construction projects, there is an opportunity to serve local Scarborough residents for trades pre-apprenticeship training. The University of Toronto Scarborough has joined community agencies and trade unions in the process of exploring possible locations and working with community partners to develop a vision and business plan for an East End Trades Centre. There is also interest from the trades' unions to use the facility to anchor environmental and sustainable construction education and training.

2. Incubation

Through the growing relationship between the Rouge National Urban Park and University of Toronto Scarborough, Parks Canada has hired a total of 23 co-op students over the past three summers. Building relationships with local partners will be a key part of our Anchor Institution Strategy where partners can work together to provide students with more opportunities in their local communities. The formal partnership has also lead to an exciting project through The Hub, University of Toronto Scarborough's centre for innovation and entrepreneurship, to create a content-rich app that visitors of Rouge Park can use to get more information to enhance their experience.

Learn more; visit: *A walk in the park, and an app for that* (U of T Scarborough News, June 2016)
ose.utoronto.ca/ose/story.php?id=8522

3. Network Building, Advocacy and Advising

The Anchor Institution Strategy places emphasis on the building of a network of partners who can work collaboratively to achieve common goals for all residents. In addition to the University's participation in Anchor TO, the University of Toronto Scarborough has embarked on a



number of initiatives that have enhanced the local community network while providing for unique opportunities for capacity building within the local community. The University of Toronto Scarborough is the founder of the Scarborough Anchor Institution group that features the two local hospitals, Centennial College, Toronto Zoo, and Parks Canada (Rouge National Urban Park) and also a founding member of the Scarborough Business Association. These initiatives assist to build relationships between other institutions and businesses. Some achievements over the past year include:

Eastern GTA Anchor Institutions Group

The Group was established in 2015 and meets quarterly to share information and discuss and share intelligence on emerging issues and funding opportunities within municipal, provincial and federal governments, master plans, social procurement and local economic development activities opportunities.

In July of 2016, the group jointly advocated in a letter to the Mayor and Councillors for a comprehensive transit system for all of Scarborough featuring the Scarborough Subway extension, Eglinton Crosstown East LRT and SmartTrack. The University continues to play a leadership role in addressing the lack of transit infrastructure spending in Scarborough that impacts not only our students but the Scarborough community at large.

Learn more; visit: Stop stalling on Scarborough transit (Toronto Star, July 2016)
www.thestar.com/opinion/letters_to_the_editors/2016/07/11/stop-stalling-on-scarborough-transit.html

New transit proposal a great moment for Scarborough (U of T Scarborough News, January 2016) - ose.utoronto.ca/ose/story.php?id=8174

East Scarborough Youth Friendly Designation

A partnership between the University of Toronto Scarborough and several community groups including the East Scarborough Boys & Girls Club, local youth, the East Scarborough Storefront and the City of Toronto helped secure a 'youth-friendly' designation for East Scarborough. This was achieved through the Youth Friendly Communities initiative run by Play Works, a non-profit that recognizes communities in Ontario who meet certain criteria to be considered 'youth-friendly'. Since 2012, through this partnership, approximately 75 University of Toronto Scarborough students have worked with Professor Ahmed Allahwala, the East Scarborough Boys & Girls Club and Let's Inspire For Today (L.I.F.T.) to gather data and conduct research on youth friendly initiatives, spaces, and access. L.I.F.T. developed as part of the process of obtaining the 'youth-friendly' designation. L.I.F.T. aims to provide a platform for local youth to share their voice on community issues through advocacy, leadership and empowerment.



Learn more; visit: *U of T Scarborough teams up with local groups for “Youth-Friendly” designation in East Scarborough* (U of T Scarborough News, September 2016)
ose.utsc.utoronto.ca/ose/story.php?id=8743

Healthy Campus Food Initiative

In 2016, the University of Toronto Scarborough embarked on an initiative with Aramark, Centennial College, and the Scarborough Rouge Hospital to work together for healthier and more sustainable food systems within our institutions. With significant local opportunities for food sourcing, food assembly and the reproduction of food this group came together to explore methods of improving the current food delivery systems in place. The focus will be working towards more efficient local purchasing, local job creation and training, working with companies such as 100km Food Inc. to better connect local producers to purchasers, exploring food share or rescue programs and working with other local partners such as the Community Development Council Durham and Durham College.

KGO Literacy Project

The University of Toronto Scarborough joined forces with twelve other partner organizations to establish the Kingston-Galloway Orton Park Literacy Improvement Collection (KLIC). The Collective aims to help develop an education-focused and neighbourhood-based literacy improvement strategy for the KGO neighbourhood. For many years there has been a fragmented effort of numerous independent programs and services that aimed to help learners, parents and youth in the community improve their literacy skills. This collaboration aims to take a holistic and collective approach to organize, coordinate and increase community assets and resources to more efficiently improve literacy in the KGO neighbourhood. KLIC was granted \$25,000 funded through the Laidlaw Foundation.

4. Community Hub

As part of the Anchor Institution Strategy, the University of Toronto Scarborough strives to be an institution that is very much involved in community activities and events that bring local residents, students, faculty and the local communities. The University has an established and strong history of working with the local communities to increase opportunities of learning and participation for residents. Collaboration between the University, community organizations and residents provides for a pooling of resources, abilities and skills that can improve the quality of life for residents. Over the last year the University of Toronto Scarborough has organized a number of events, programs and initiatives with a range of community partners.

Scarborough Food Truck Festival

On May 28th, 2016 the University of Toronto Scarborough hosted the first ever Scarborough Food Truck Festival. The community event organized as a fundraiser for the



Boys and Girls Club of East Scarborough and attracted over 5000 attendees and 15 food trucks. The event included performances by local community groups, prizes, kids activities and lots of food options. Our local University of Toronto Playing4Keeps Hub also participated. Four Playing 4 Keeps volunteers got people moving and thinking with their recreational activities.

TDSB Equity - Believe! Girls' Symposium

On May 11th, 2016 the University of Toronto Scarborough hosted a Girl's Symposium organized by the TDSB Equity Department. Over 60 students from grades 9-12 attended and 12 University of Toronto Scarborough students participated in a day full of engaging speeches and interactive workshops around issues healthy relationships, shadeism, social pressures and stereotypes, sexual violence against women and misrepresentation of young women of colour in the media and society.

Scarborough Film Festival

The University of Toronto partnered with the Scarborough Film Festival to participate in their annual celebration to showcase local, Canadian and international cinema with a goal to enhance the Scarborough cultural arts scene. As the presenting sponsor of the Scarborough Film Festival, the University hosted an exhibition on the cinematic experience in the Doris McCarthy Gallery. Film screenings were hosted in the Academic Resource Centre auditorium with significant participation of the University and local communities.

Malvern Family Resource Centre (MFRC)

Since 2014, the University of Toronto Scarborough has been working with the MFRC as its primary academic partner, providing support to build capacity among residents, volunteers and staff, by providing research opportunities and support for programming and community initiatives. The partnerships with MFRC and University of Toronto Scarborough spans many departments including Partnerships and Legal Counsel, Student Life, and Centre for Teaching and Learning in addition to several academic departments including City Studies, Health Studies, Culinary Studies and Environmental Sciences. As the Malvern neighbourhood transitions out of a Neighbourhood Improvement Area (formerly known as a Priority Neighbourhood), the University of Toronto Scarborough has been actively supporting the development of the transition strategy through participating on the OneLoveMalvern table and the Integrated Inclusive Local Labour Market group. The University of Toronto Scarborough is also working with the MFRC and other community partners on the East Scarborough Multi-Sport Collaborative.

Skills 4 You: Soccer Program

The University of Toronto Scarborough along with the Boys & Girls Club of East Scarborough organized a 'Learn to Play Soccer' program during the summer months running



from June to August. The eight week program engaged 35 youth, ages seven to 15 and provided them with an opportunity to learn basic soccer skills from experienced student coaches at the University of Toronto Scarborough. The program will run for two consecutive summers funded by the Ontario Trillium Fund in the amount of \$78,000 for engagement of a total of 100 youth. Skills 4 You has provided and will continue to provide critical hands on coaching, leadership and mentorship experiences our six students.

Understanding Your Environment course

In the Spring of 2016, the University of Toronto Scarborough in partnership with East Scarborough Storefront ran a six week course titled Understanding Your Environment. The main goal of this course was to help develop local environmental knowledge and build capacity of residents, while connecting 20 Kingston-Galloway Orton Park residents to green spaces. Tim Lang, Manager, Sustainability Office at University of Toronto Scarborough taught the course using the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals as a guide. Each week covered a different topic including: Sustainability 101, ecosystem services, food and agriculture, energy and climate change, water, and system dynamics.

WaterWise

Last fall, WaterWise, an ecological festival to learn about and celebrate water, was a huge success with over 280 residents. University of Toronto Scarborough worked with the East Scarborough Storefront and other community partners to have interactive stations ranging from face painting, to showcasing a natural water filtration system, to water trivia questions, to an interactive photo booth with a Scarborough Bluffs background. The event was a great success with significant youth involvement, a walk led by Playing 4 Keeps Pathfinding and Jane's Walk, numerous interactive activities, food and music.

TDSB EcoSchools Conference

University of Toronto Scarborough hosted the Toronto District School Board's EcoSchools Conference in October of 2016. Over 200 high-school, students and 44 TDSB staff members from 36 schools participated in a number of workshops to learn about environmental sustainability, greening initiatives and reducing one's own ecofoot print. Workshops were organized by Nadia Harduar from the Sustainability Office, Scott MacIvor - a biological science instructor and CultureLink. The University of Toronto Scarborough has a growing and respected environmental science program featuring world class faculty and the opportunity to host and sponsor the TDSB EcoSchools Conference was a great fit for prospective students.

5. Knowledge Exchange and Mobilization

The need to work with and learn from across sectors and networks outside of Scarborough is essential in ensuring development of new and creative initiatives as our Anchor Institution



Strategy continues to evolve. The University of Toronto Scarborough seeks out opportunities to exchange knowledge and participate in learning opportunities across Canada and the United States including the following recent initiatives:

Soul on Ice - The University of Toronto was pleased to share Soul on Ice: Past Present and Future. This captivating documentary looked at the history and future of black hockey players from the minor leagues to the majors, exploring their experiences as athletes, coaches and icons.

Date: March 2016 at the Goldring Centre for High Performance Sport

- Film Screening and Facilitated Panel Discussion: Moderated by Kimberley Tull, panelists include: Kwame Mason – Filmmaker; Heather Lindo – Mother of Jaden Lindo, featured in the film; Darren Lowe – Varsity Blues men’s hockey coach
- 12 University of Toronto Scarborough students and 6 University of Toronto Scarborough staff members attended

Toronto East Quadrant - Local Immigration Partnership - Bridges Collaboration Forum

Date: February 24, 2016 at Tropicana Community Services

- The Local Immigration Partnership held the 5th annual Bridges 2016 Collaboration Forum where over 120 participants attended, representing various settlement services, employment, health, government, youth service sectors and refugee sponsor groups.
- Facilitated session by Kimberley Tull and Ewa Cerda-Llanos (East Scarborough Storefront) on community-university partnerships – how to engage with academic institutions and examining notions of empathy

CITB03 Social Planning and Community Development Course with Professor Susannah Bunce

Date: March 31, 2016

- Topics discussed: community development, local organizations, partnerships with formal institutions like universities
- This course provides a learning space that encouraged exploration, discussion, and debate of various themes and topics starting with exploration of their own histories and engagement as music makers and engagers
- Guest Speakers - Kimberley Tull and Ewa Cerda-Llanos (East Scarborough Storefront)

Beyond the Ivory Tower: Co-Creating Community-University Partnerships That Work

Date: June 6-7, 2016 at the University of Michigan Detroit Center

- Over 100 academics and community organization practitioners from 55 university and non-profit organizations attended the symposium.
- Keynote delivered by Kimberley Tull and Ewa Cerda-Llanos (East Scarborough Storefront) providing an overview of the successful and innovative Community-University partnership model.



VPMB01 Introduction to Community Music Course with Professor Lynn Tucker

Date: November 9, 2016

- Topics discussed: community development, local organizations, partnerships with formal institutions like universities
- This course provides a learning space that encouraged exploration, discussion, and debate of various themes and topics starting with exploration of their own histories and engagement as music makers and engagers
- Guest Speakers - Melanie Blackman and Kimberley Tull

CITC02 "The Great Scarborough Mash-Up: People, Place, Community, Experience" Course with Professor Susannah Bunce

Date: November 17, 2016

- 30 students
- Providing an overview of the successful and innovative Community-University partnership model, examining existing systems of power and privilege, and reciprocal partnerships
- Guest Speakers - Melanie Blackman, Kimberley Tull, Karen Cook (East Scarborough Storefront)

Upcoming Presentations:

Get Hired

April 27, 2017

- Keynote presentation (Kimberley Tull) discussing social justice and social equity within the workplace

Association for Nonprofit and Social Economy Research Conference at Ryerson University from May 31 - June 2, 2017

- Roundtable discussion, theme: "Anchor Institutions: Driving Inclusive Economic Growth through Social Procurement and Community Benefits"

In Closing

Our goal has been to move away from traditional models of public service in which faculty and students are involved in the community for charitable reasons, and encourage a model of community engagement that taps, engages and develops the civic agency and capacities of everyone involved. Our strategic activities in these areas already range from cross-disciplinary initiatives rooted in community, to partnerships with diverse communities of experts, to co-created spaces in the city and surrounding region. Throughout this process, we seek to pool the expertise and energies of our faculty, staff, and students with those partners from across the public, private, and nonprofit sectors for the betterment of *our* Scarborough.