

Celebrate

The World Urban Pavilion in Regent Park: A Global Knowledge Exchange Hub



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On April 21st, 2022 the City of Toronto welcomed the world to celebrate the opening of the **World Urban Pavilion in Regent Park**.

It was a landmark moment in the history of our city, celebrating the spirit of community at the heart of the Regent Park revitalization.

It was also a day to honour the late Councillor, Pam McConnell, who envisioned and nurtured the revitalization, and residents of the community – who didn't simply dream of a better community – but took action to bring those dreams to life.

The vision and dedication of those local residents inspired the founding partners — UN Habitat, Urban Economy Forum, Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation and The Daniels Corporation — to create a global platform where cities and countries will share best practices in building healthy, sustainable communities.

Many of those best practices will be showcased immediately, including affordable rental and ownership models initiated in Regent Park that can be replicated across the country and beyond.

Accessibility will also be showcased, with local residents sharing lived experiences, working with AccessNow to map Regent Park's accessibility accomplishments and challenges, contributing to a global dialogue that will ensure all of our homes and communities are safe, inclusive and accessible.

The new Pavilion will be a place to learn with and from city-builders from around the world, and to share lessons learned in Regent Park. One of the fundamental lessons is the importance of partnership and collaboration, of

bringing all sectors together under the umbrella of a shared and powerful vision.

At the outset, the City of Toronto embraced a public/private partnership model, setting the stage for an approach that enabled innovation and creativity to flourish across all sectors.

Private-sector partners brought enormous resources and expertise to the table, and post-secondary institutions demonstrated the impact of being 'on the ground', implementing 'communiversity' practices and breaking down barriers that have made post-secondary education an impossible dream for too many people.

The non-profit and charitable sectors stepped well beyond traditional service-based models to build individual capacity and community wealth, embracing collaboration over competition.

United Way Greater Toronto's Social Infrastructure Investment Fund, for example, is worthy of celebration, demonstrating place-based participatory grant-making with residents that can be replicated around the world.



Photo credit: Yasin Osman

The World Urban Pavilion in Regent Park – Powered by Daniels, is a global knowledge exchange hub sharing best practices in urban development.

The World Urban Pavilion represents a global movement that will harness the tools and technology of tomorrow while embracing the wisdom of Indigenous Elders who have lived in harmony with the earth for thousands of years. Together we will look back to move forward. We will listen, learn and share, creating cities that are truly inclusive, resilient and sustainable.

To learn more about the World Urban Pavilion in Regent Park visit worldurbanpavilion.org.

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