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CHURCH  
STREET

# Community Engagement

## **625 Church is being designed for and with the community.**

Community engagement has been integral to the 625 Church development process from day one and will continue to be as we move forward with our planning.

We committed from the outset to a robust consultation process, which has included multiple engagements with the community before submitting an application to the City, additional engagement following our application, and ongoing open dialogue with community stakeholders.

More importantly, not only have we consulted – we have listened. We have heard what community members, neighbourhood associations, BIAs, residents, city planners and others had to say about 625 Church and our design and planning reflects and have evolved to better meet those needs. A few examples include:

**Heritage:** Original plans for 625 Church already retained the west façade of the existing building in entirety and, based on community input emphasizing the importance of retaining the original character of the building, we evolved our design to also retain the entire north and south façades, with minor adjustments to the windows to bring in additional natural light. We're proud to incorporate the existing building into the development in what is one of the largest in-situ heritage preservations in Toronto's history.

**Architecture:** In further effort to preserve the architectural features of the building, we also revised the design based on community input to eliminate massing and balcony cantilevers over the heritage building and integrate generous setbacks to the proposed tower structure above. This evolution ensures 625 Church continues to complement the historical character of the neighbourhood and support its future potential as a growing, vibrant community.

**Housing:** 625 Church is a mixed-use development that will offer the suite of living options the community has expressed interest in, including 100 percent rental units with more than 40 percent being 2-3 bedroom units well suited to families, a range of indoor/outdoor amenities, and five levels of below ground parking.

**Streetscape:** Original plans for 625 Church had already accounted for a range of pedestrian and community-friendly design elements, including pedestrian walkways, retail frontage, and shared spaces. Feedback from the community led to expansion of those offerings in our design including:

- Enhancing pedestrian connectivity through the community off Church Street by integrating differentiated unilock paving and hardscape design signals to create a safe, European-style shared space between slow-moving vehicles, bicycles, and pedestrians.
- Integrating a Privately-Owned Publicly-Accessible Space (POPS) along the south side of the property between the pedestrian walkway and the façade of the building that will be coordinated with new boulevard improvements along Charles Street East and provide publicly accessible seating and congregating space.
- Ensuring loading and servicing areas are accessed via a rear private laneway located off Charles Street and Hayden Street and that service functions, such as waste collection and moving, are fully contained within the building at all times.