

# Applicant Outreach Summary



## Community Outreach on Planning & Development Applicant-led Outreach Summary

**Please complete this form and include with your application submission.**

**Project name:** Podium at Aiss'ka'pooma

Did you conduct community outreach on your application? ☒ YES or ☐ NO

If no, please provide your rationale for why you did not conduct outreach.

### Outreach Strategy

Provide an overview of your outreach strategy, summary of tactics and techniques you undertook (Include dates, locations, # of participants and any other relevant details)

After completing the community outreach self-assessment tool, it was determined that the project scored a 1A - leading to a direct approach (2-3 tactics for a direct audience).

Tactics used:

-Direct Consultation with Indigenous (Blackfoot) Elder (Throughout June, July, August 2022) & Land Blessing Ceremony at project site (Aug 25th, 2022)

-On-line presentation to Bowness Community Association Planning & Development Committee (June 1st, 2022)

-City of Calgary Plan Circulation to Bowness Community Association, Patterson Heights Community Association, West Springs/Cougar Ridge Community Association. (April 27th, 2022 & July 21st, 2022)

### Stakeholders

Who did you connect with in your outreach program? List all stakeholder groups you connected with. (Please do not include individual names)

-Blackfoot Cultural Elder was engaged to consult on the site's themes and design. Please see attached letter of support.

-Neighboring Community Residents

-City Staff and stakeholders were invited to attend and participate in an informal indigenous land blessing ceremony Aug 25th, 2022.

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## Community Outreach for Planning & Development Applicant-led Outreach Summary

### What did you hear?

Provide a summary of main issues and ideas that were raised by participants in your outreach.

- Indigenous Elder provided knowledge of the cultural history/significance of the site - what kinds of plants and animals were present prior to modern times, and how indigenous peoples (namely the Blackfoot) used the area throughout the year.
- We heard that it was offensive to start construction, and damage Mother Earth, prior to asking permission through ceremony.
- We heard Paskapoo is a Cree word and not a Blackfoot word.
- The Bowness Community Association provided feedback both at a public engagement meeting along with an email. A summary can be found attached to this package.

### How did stakeholder input influence decisions?

Provide a summary of how the issues and ideas summarized above influenced project decisions. If they did not, provide a response for why.

- We planned and hosted an informal land blessing ceremony prior to beginning any earthworks on site. A more formal ground breaking event is being planned subsequent to DP approval.
- We incorporated several naming, and theming elements into the site design. Please see attached Letter of Support.
- The Bowness Community Association commentary influenced our decisions on multiple items. See attached sheet.

### How did you close the loop with stakeholders?

Provide a summary of how you shared outreach outcomes and final project decisions with the stakeholders that participated in your outreach. (Please include any reports or supplementary materials as attachments)

- Blackfoot Elder was given revised plans and authority to request changes, and we made revisions until we had ensured that we had included naming/theming in a respectful and appropriate way.
- Per request, we re-named the project to include the traditional Blackfoot name for the area: Aiss'ka'pooma.

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Attn: Mr. Quadri Adabeyo  
Planner 2  
Community Planning  
Corporate Planning Applications Group  
City of Calgary

RE: DP Review for DP2022-02607

Dear Sir,

Recently, I have been invited to consult with Deveraux Developments, the residential builder/developers of Podium at Aiss'ka'pooma, a new mixed-use housing project in the Medicine Hills Community. Deveraux has worked with me and sought my guidance as a Blackfoot Elder and Cultural Carrier to incorporate themes and design elements that reflect the indigenous cultural and historical significance of the land with a focus on Blackfoot as the original people in this territory. Kevin and Sameer from Deveraux have visited with me to hear teachings about the land and our way of life. I have found them to be sincere in their desire to honor, respect and incorporate indigenous understandings into their community plans and I fully support their efforts along with their application for development permits. I respectfully request that the City of Calgary approves the proposed indigenous themes/elements to be incorporated into this housing project, as they will act as an educational touchpoint for all residents and visitors of this new community.

As a summary for your reference, I highlight elements that Deveraux has included in their project proposal, along with my guidance, in order to honor the history and significance of this land:

- **Naming**
  - i. Overall project – **Podium at Aiss'ka'pooma**
  - ii. Commercial Amenities – **The Shoppes at Medicine Hill**
  - iii. Resident Amenity/Clubhouse – **The Lodge**
- **Street naming** – Common English name of culturally significant Blackfoot Plants & additional street signs w/ Blackfoot words
  - i. **Yarrow Landing (Aohtoksooki)**
  - ii. **Juniper Rise (Siiksinoko)**
  - iii. **Birch Gate (Siikokiinis)**
- **East Courtyard**
  - i. **Naming – Vision Quest Courtyard (ii 'too 'yii 'tsii 'sii)**
  - ii. Birch Trees planted at west of courtyard w/ interpretive signage
  - iii. Planter w/ plaque at courtyard entry - Explaining how Aiss'ka'pooma was used as a site for vision quests /spiritual journeys of the Blackfoot People

- iv. Oval reflection pond centered in the courtyard w/ plaques surrounding the oval explaining Elder Pablo Russell's quote "Why We Call Her Mother Earth"
  - v. Artistic permanent installation of a tipi on east end of courtyard
- **Southeast Pedestrian Plaza**
    - i. Naming – **liníí Plaza**
    - ii. Large Stone Erratic w/ bronze plaque at entry – explaining the name liníí Plaza & the history of Aiss'ka'pooma as a Buffalo Jump/processing area
    - iii. Raised planter w/ interpretive signage explaining plants of cultural significance to the Blackfoot People (**Sweetgrass, Sage, Brown-Eyed Susan, Horsemint, Yarrow**)
    - iv. Artistic installation of metal relief art – one cohesive piece exploring the 7 Grandfather Teachings with the individual elements/animal totems - including a plaque explaining it as an integrated teaching, greater than the sum of its parts.
  - **Landscaping**
    - i. Palette of tree, shrub and perennial species that would have existed in the Aiss'ka'pooma area prior to modern times – to be planted throughout the project.
    - ii. Ensuring that plantings of Chokecherry and Saskatoon Berry are in the native shrub form.
    - iii. Large format stones to serve as wayfinding guides throughout the community
    - iv. Aspen groves to be planted in cohesive groups mimicking naturalized state
    - v. All areas surrounding the project to be naturalized seed mixes and plantings – restoring the slopes to naturalized grassland without the need for irrigation

Again, after consulting alongside the Deveraux Group, I am happy to support their efforts to incorporate indigenous themes and understandings into this project. It pays respect to the land and to us, it's traditional care takers.

Deveraux has committed to continued consultations with me as the project progresses, to ensure that all final interpretive signage and public artwork is respectful and meets the design intent, prior to final installation. Thank you for your time and consideration in approving this proposal. I look forward to ongoing work and education together with Deveraux to ensure the execution of this vision.

Sincerely,



Camille Pablo Russell

Blackfoot Elder & Cultural Carrier

thebuffaloway@gmail.com



## Deveraux Bowness Community Association Public Engagement

## Applicant Outreach Summary

Summary of engagement:		Response
1)	DTR1 circulated April 21, 2022	None
2)	Voluntary engagement session/presentation - June 1, 2022	Below
3)	DTR2 circulated July 21st, 2022	None
4)	Recommendation for approval outreach - October 28, 2022	Email Below

## 2) Engagement Session/Presentation Summary

<b>Date:</b> 01-Jun-22 <b>Time:</b> 7:00pm		<b>Location:</b> Virtual	
TOPIC DISCUSSED	WHAT WE HEARD	OUR RESPONSE	HOW INPUT INFLUENCED DECISIONS
Development Plans - Unit Counts, Unit Mix, Overall Development	<i>No comments received</i>		
Open public space - SE Plaza	<i>Community does not like the community space at the corner near the roundabout</i>	This was a request during the pre-application from the City to facilitate connectivity and open space into our site. We will explore enhancing the area to be pleasing and a gateway into our development.	We designed with intent and focus to ensure that residents of not only our development but surrounding areas will find the area pleasing and a good addition to the Medicine Hill community.
Site Location/Access	<i>Residents of Bowness- how do they get to the development?</i>	We touched on an overall map to show its location in relation to Bowness. Understandably, the lands are separated by 16th Avenue, Greenwich, and the commercial corridor.	Ensure ease of access into our site, including ensuring an all turns access exists off our main street, where the commercial corridor will be
Pedestrian Crossing	<i>They feel pedestrian crossing is dangerous. Should have flashing lights</i>	We acknowledged this and mentioned we will proceed to review this through the application.	After review, we have elected to agree with the Bowness community and include flashing beacons for the pedestrian crossing to COP.

## Deveraux Bowness Community Association Public Engagement

Bridge between site A and B	<i>Residents were very unhappy the bridge between Block A and B was no longer included.</i>	We explained that this was an item between the developer (Trinity) and the City on the subdivision development and outside the scope of this Development Permit. We further explained that it was ultimately decided between the City and Trinity that the bridge was no longer part of the subdivision obligations based on the rezoning of the lands now being predominately residential and no longer a large format commercial. We have no affiliation with subdivision/developers obligations.	To ensure appropriate connectivity from our main street to the adjacent commercial, we have ensured full pedestrian connectivity to the existing regional pathways.
Traffic	<i>It was suggested that entrances will add to traffic congestion</i>	We acknowledged increase residents will add traffic but commercial traffic does generate more traffic than residential. We will review further through our permit to ensure traffic studies can confirm adequate intersection capacity.	We engaged a traffic engineer consultant to complete traffic studies. They have confirmed that our intersections meet traffic requirements.
Pedestrian Crossing Without A Bridge	<i>It was suggested that pedestrian crossings are not safe and will increase congestion as cars back up. They feel we have isolated ourselves from the balance of the retail areas (across the road)</i>	Subdivision circulation is related to the subdivision design completed by Trinity and outside our project boundary.	We have ensured our onsite circulation along with connectivity to adjacent pathways have been achieved effectively.
Community Space	<i>They don't feel enough community spaces- challenged the surface parking around the clubhouse. –</i>	We acknowledge the desire for community spaces and believe we do have adequate spaces from two major outdoor plazas, a public mainstreet with ground oriented retail, and private amenity clubhouse and patio spaces.	We took this into consideration and enhanced our plaza spaces and our offering to our clientele. We believe one row of parking adjacent to our clubhouse is limited, but also allows us to ensure we can provide high level amenities to our facility.
Building Design	<i>Suggested homogenous buildings- doesn't like materiality and not enough material change. –</i>	We mentioned the need to ensure architecture is cohesive and complementary to each building, with minor differences to ensure a community village feel. With this, we will review our architecture once again.	We further detailed our architecture to create distinguishing features between every building so we don't have 6 identical residential buildings. We also designed the architecture in conjunction with our indigenous elder to create a naturalized design that takes into account the varying layers of Mother Earth (layering of the architecture to represent the layers of rock below ground).

## Deveraux Bowness Community Association Public Engagement

**4) Recommended for Approval Engagement Summary**

An email from the file planner to the Bowness Community Association was sent October 28th, 2022. The following comments were received November 9, 2022:

<p><i>"Our previous coordinator reached out to multiple parties asking for questions that were never answered. One of those questions was regarding a pedestrian bridge; the Committee remembered a LOC they believe went to council in 2018 and was approved. That was to amend space above the Canada Olympic Drive roadway to enable the developer to build a private bridge above the Southwest roadway. An update for this development was requested since it's not included in the DP2022-02607 application.</i></p>	
<b>OUR RESPONSE:</b>	<p>The original intent of the bridge was when the ownership between Block A and Block B were to be the same, as large scale commercial development. Presently, ownership is different between the two parcels and our development is following the new zoning that includes Residential. The intent is to develop our site as a predominantly residential development. Any prior discussions on the bridge are outside the scope of our development, as we are not connected to the adjacent parcel. It was also confirmed by all parties (ourselves, Trinity, the subdivision developer, and the City of Calgary), that a vehicular or pedestrian bridge is no longer necessary given the change of use. It was intended that our connectivity would follow standard subdivision designs and connect through the public regional pathways.</p>
<b>HOW INPUT INFLUENCED DECISIONS:</b>	<p>We were not a party to the prior subdivision development plans and do not intend to build additional public roadways as our development is isolated to our site. We have designed with intent to ensure pedestrian connectivity exists and is appropriate, of ease, and homogenous with the area.</p>
<p><i>"I also learned that there was a lengthy discussion about the access points and the challenges presented by the pedestrian flow, as the connection to the rest of the Medicine Hills Development will be through a traffic circle along the east end of the site on Canada Olympic Drive SW. It was also argued that the development is essentially closed off to Bowness as the only access is across the Trans-Canada Highway at the Bowfort Road interchange – certainly not conducive to pedestrian travel. Overall very disappointing development, and unsure who would want to live there."</i></p>	
<b>OUR RESPONSE:</b>	<p>We've worked with the City, our engineers, and architects in great detail to ensure pedestrian flows are acceptable and connectivity was well thought out. We have also incorporated feedback from our public engagement from the Bowness Community Association to ensure pedestrian safety by adding flashing beacons to the connectivity between COP and our main street.</p> <p>We acknowledge that the development is closed off from Bowness as there is a major highway in between Bowness and our development. There has never been any ability or intent to directly connect Bowness to our lands via additional bridges or tunnels across Highway 1.</p> <p>We have completed market research and believe our highly amenitized development with a full stand alone amenity center, which includes a pool, fitness room, lounge, study, golf simulators and golf putting greens, along with dog wash stations and parcel management, we will be able to attract tenants.</p>
<b>HOW INPUT INFLUENCED DECISIONS:</b>	<p>We have ensured pedestrian connectivity has been a high focus with clear intuitive pathway system, which includes connectivity from COP to the adjacent commercial through our site. The pathway route also includes access to commercial, seating, as well as a plaza with commemorations to our Indigenous community. We also believe we have developed a highly amenitized development for our residents.</p>

