

Applicant Outreach Summary



Community Outreach on Planning & Development Applicant-led Outreach Summary

MAY 30, 2023

Please complete this form and include with your application [submission](#)

Project name: 2620 40 Street SE Land Use Redesignation Application

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)

The outreach process has been conducted as a series of face to face and phone meetings and began in 2017, when YCC - Youth Centres of Calgary was incorporated, a board was formed, CRA Charitable Status was [obtained](#) and an urban study was performed to identify the communities who could maximally benefit from a free after school [centre](#) for underserved and low income youth. We spoke with social workers from Calgary Housing, representatives of Boardwalk Rental Communities, CBE principals and the [Millican-Ogden Community Association](#). YCC's Executive Director had coffee meetings, spoke at the community association [meeting](#) and canvassed the homes in the community to determine the likelihood of support within the community. This was a successful practice that was templated in Ogden, a home was opened in the community of Ogden and the [centre](#) was operating in 2019 after a temporary occupancy permit and then a Land Use Amendment was obtained for that site. The Ogden [centre](#) is thriving with an abundance of happy, [safe](#) and engaged youth attending daily.

At that time, these same conversations led to the conclusion that Dover/South Forest Lawn would be an ideal next location. The city's data supported this decision, as did the urban study. A conversation was had with the Ian [Bazelgette Junior High School](#) principal at the time, where she suggested locating across the street from the school (and two other schools). This is the location that we have chosen and have purchased the home which is currently being renovated for our new [centre](#).

Since that time, we have:

1. Met with 2 members of the Dover Community Association, at the community hall. (April 27, 2023)
2. Met with the president of the Forest Lawn Community Association and the president of the Elbow Park community association for coffee in Forest Lawn. (March 3, 2023)
3. Met with Calgary Green Line's communications director for coffee to discuss the Green Line and YCC's expansion plans. (March 13, 2023)

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4. Met with 2 members of Calgary Parks Foundation on zoom to discuss park redevelopment in Ogden and the expansion plans. (March 16, 2023)
5. Met with the United Way – Building Safer Communities representative (March, 2023)
6. Met with a member of the Rotary Club of Calgary Downtown and 2 leaders of the South Sudanese community in Forest Lawn at the Blackfoot Truck Stop to discuss expansion plans. (March 16, 2023)
7. Met with City of Calgary Outreach Social Worker (Forest Lawn) over the phone (March 17, 2023)
8. Met with Calgary Catholic Schools Racial Diversity and Equity representative (March 2023)
9. Met with the Principal of Ian Bazelgette over the phone (March 2023).
10. Met with Planet Youth Manager Forest Lawn – Trellis Organization (April 19, 2023)
11. Met the principal and teachers at Valley View School, at the school and discussed the expansion to their community and the prospective opening in the fall to their students. (May 16, 2023)
12. Visited, door-knocked at the homes of surrounding neighbour's to consult with them about the plan to create a youth centre in the community and received a strong positive response and received no opposition to the plan of expanding to the new location. (May 18, 2023)

Stakeholders

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

Ian Bazelgette School
 Holy Cross School
 Valley View School
 Forest Lawn Community Association
 Homeowners and tenants of homes on 40th St. SE, north of the schools (listed above)
 CBE administration at Forest Lawn High School
 Trellis Organization - Planet Youth – Forest Lawn outreach manager
 United Way – Building Safer Communities – Forest Lawn representative
 Calgary Catholic Schools – Racial Diversity and Equity representative
 City of Calgary Social Worker Community Liaisons (2)
 City of Calgary Social Worker – Community support
 City Councillor Gian-Carlo Carra
 Calgary Parks Foundation (2)
 Financial Donors to YCC (list available upon request), and volunteers
 The Rotary Clubs of Calgary Downtown and of Stampede Park

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What did you hear?

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

The main issues raised in the outreach:

1. That there is a need for youth to find a better sense of connection with other youth outside of school.
2. That there is a need for youth-related opportunities and activities in the SE of Calgary, particularly Dover, Forest Lawn.
3. That the poor mental health of many youth, and the lack of purpose that they feel outside of school is problematic. Idea: A youth centre is an "oasis" for kids to attend so that they can feel engaged, mentored and cared for by adults who care about their success and the community of kids who also attend the centre.
4. Poverty and the cost of food, and food insecurity in the low income communities. Idea: A youth centre can provide all youth with unlimited healthy food for consumption daily at the centre, and to take home to their families, whenever possible.
5. Crime and gang related problems in the community. Idea: Keeping kids engaged, happy and supervised is a crime reduction strategy.
6. The growing numbers of kids in Calgary who are in need of access to services such as a youth centre. Idea: Strategically grow our youth centre model.
7. Whether the addition of a youth centre in the community would create issues for close neighbours. Ideas: Have a stringent set of rules of behaviour, monitored by qualified staff and volunteers with clear mandates to keep the youth engaged and behaving respectfully, so as to ensure safety, peaceful enjoyment of the centre and the neighbours of their own homes, camera monitoring and responsiveness of staff and volunteers to issues that might arise.
8. Whether the permitting process would impede operations and a swift opening of the centre. Ideas: To provide the City of Calgary with detailed and comprehensive information for easiest resolution possible of all concerns in the immediate time and in the future.

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.

In the outreach process, YCC further appreciated the need to communicate, engage, to listen and to respond to issues with professionalism and compassion towards the community at large and the neighbours. It's understood that a youth centre would be both safe and would keep the community safer, with kids being busy, active, happy and without the time or the desire to engage in unhealthy or illegal behaviour. It would also develop a sense of community and reduce the loneliness and mental health issues that ensue when youth are engaged in unhealthy behaviours, relationships, or spending most of their time alone. YCC also appreciates that it is a "guest" in the community and must create a benefit to all of the community, support the community associations, the schools, the social workers and other agency partners in collaboration, for the benefit of the kids. YCC is one participant of many in the community's wraparound of services for kids. The process affirmed the need to work with the community, and the kids so as to create a

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special place that would be supported by the community in which it serves. This was learned in Ogden as well and we believe that Forest Lawn's community also requires this very high level of respect and responsiveness to the needs of the community and its kids.

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)

To update and share our outcomes with our stakeholders we have sent emails and have had phone calls, lunches, coffee meetings and door to door chats in the neighbourhood. We are also currently preparing a newsletter that will be emailed to approximately 850 contacts in our database on May 26th to update our community on the steps taken so far. These contacts include stakeholders, community members, parents, City of Calgary, community social workers, schools, Calgary Police Services, donors and grant providers

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SEPTEMBER 9, 2023 – OPEN HOUSE

YCC Open House Forest Lawn 2620 40 St SE – Saturday Sept. 9, 2023

Re: LOC2023-0148

Summary of Open House

Date: Saturday Sept. 9., 2023

Hours: 11:00am – 12:30pm

Invitation:



Fifty invitations were printed on 8 ½ x 11 sheets of paper and were handed out to neighbours, and put in neighbour's doors, dropped in mailboxes and distributed to the neighbouring schools. Four were posted on nearby telephone posts.

YCC had the following in attendance;

Jane Wachowich – Executive Director
Clare Smart – Board Member, CPS
Zev Klymochko – Ogden-Milligen Community Association Board Member and Volunteer
Karn Sureshkumar – Program Coordinator Ogden
JJ Mission – Program Coordinator Forest Lawn
Mikki Sparks – Donor and Volunteer
Jane Ibbotson – Donor and Volunteer
Leslie Irwin – Administration & Fundraising

Attendance from the Community (numbers are approximate)

15 adults
15 children

We had about 15 adults and children in the community drop in and they were supportive of what we were doing. Many could see the need and cited other improvements in the neighbourhood (i.e. the redeveloped park across the road) that are improving the safety and neighbourliness of their community.

Not as many people dropped by the house as we had hoped, so we went door to door as well as across to 2 parks to talk to people in the park and spoke to an additional 15 people. We also did a general clean up in the park areas and our laneway.

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We met with both rental property neighbours to the east of the property and once they understood the nature of the after school drop-in youth centre, they said they would not raise any objections to the opening of the centre. They were originally under the assumption that the house was going to be used as a halfway house for troubled youth. This seemed to be a common misconception in the community.

While door knocking, we had 2 adults express concerns about the house being taken off the market and therefore not providing affordable housing for up to 2 families.

In general, we felt very positive about the support we were getting from the neighbours although some also wanted to see the city address the affordable housing issue.

This event was our third planned community engagement event, and we will host another event with local social service providers and a broader range of invitees (social workers, school principals) will be asked to attend. This event of September 9th was mostly limited to those who would be directly affected by the new home. We achieved the communication of a better understanding of our work as a centre that would benefit the kids and families of the community, increase school attendance, enhance the behaviour of youth, keep them active and engaged, show respect for the neighbours, and operate in the out of school hours, from 3pm until 6pm on weekdays. We look forward to the next open house!

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