

Appendix G – Youth engagement

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G.1 Level up Winnipeg

In April 2023, Winnipeg launched Level Up Winnipeg in collaboration with Microsoft Canada, Minecraft Education, Winnipeg's six school divisions, the Division scolaire franco-manitobaine, Lord Selkirk, Balmoral Hall, and the City of Winnipeg.

Through Level Up Winnipeg, local students had chance to use the popular video Minecraft game to re-imagine our Downtown. Using what they learned through the game, students built something in the Minecraft Winnipeg world, and uploaded a short video explaining their projects.

Hundreds of students submitted their projects, and of these, select project summaries from Winnipeg school divisions were submitted for analysis as part of the CentrePlan 2050.

Overall, project ideas reflect a holistic approach to re-imagining Downtown that consider and embrace environmental sustainability, culture, social support, and accessibility. Ideas are summarized below by topic.

Parks, greening, and recreation

Projects within this theme emphasizes the importance of green spaces, recreational facilities, and sustainable features within the community.

Elements like the Medicine Wheel-themed playground equipment, accessible playgrounds, hedge maze, and outdoor ice rink promote physical activity and inclusivity. The inclusion of a Turtle Island stadium, farmers' markets, and dog parks indicates a focus on community engagement and social interaction within these green spaces.

- Medicine wheel themed playground equipment
- Sharing circle and inclusive warming hut
- Twin/double fountain representing merger of rivers
- Three Trees living monument
- Recreation centre
- Hedge maze
- Accessible arena, solar powered year-round outdoor ice rink
- Make your own ice cream shop
- Turtle Island stadium
- Accessible playground and garden
- Community greenhouse
- Greenhouse and learning space
- Sustainable Library
- Basketball courts, accessible parking, circle of courage, food distribution centre with healthy food, public washroom

- Basketball court, park/plaza with tables, greenery, food centre, non-emergency medical centre
- Bee sanctuary
- Farmers' market with restaurant, electric vehicle charging stations, bike paths
- Accessible park with trees, flowers, bushes, place for active play, place to shop. Farmers' market and gardens, dog park, fountain, community gardens, bike and car parking, food trucks, benches
- Park with basketball court, benches, playground, that will "help everyone feel like they belong"
- Park with trees, benches, and mushrooms made of recycled plastic

Art

Art is integrated into projects through murals, art galleries, and restaurants, highlighting the cultural and creativity.

- Mural of seven teachings
- Art gallery and restaurant

Community safety and well-being

Projects within this theme address the well-being of residents through various social services and facilities.

Centres for learning, mental health, and wellness, along with shelters, aim to provide essential support to the community. Long-term housing options, and community centres demonstrate a commitment to addressing homelessness and addiction issues.

- Community learning centre
- Indigenous learning Centre
- Mental health and wellness Centre
- Riverside Commons
- Shelter and community gardens
- Apartment to help address homelessness, grocery store, rooftop community garden, greenhouse, bike racks – noted need for more greenspace downtown, bike path, police station, shopping centre
- Safe, long term housing with bee sanctuary, gardens, chickens
- Community centre with free gym, safe consumption site, greenhouse, football and soccer fields, and library.
- Free restaurant that gets supplies from greenhouse on the roof, homeless shelter, local free library
- School and apartment focused on composting and reducing waste, homeless shelter, bubble city that has community centre with flower shop, nature park, eco-cycle (safe storage of bikes, based on Japanese model),
- "tiny town", with kitchen, tiny portable homes, apiary, composting litter box for pets, "blackwater digester, Aquaponics.
- Safe sleeping pods

- Vertical farming centre on Alexander Avenue

Housing

Projects related to housing emphasize sustainability and green infrastructure.

- Apartments with green infrastructure, larger sidewalks, sky train, recycling vending machines
- Apartment buildings, super trees (installations that collect rainwater and have solar panels), heat relief, welcoming building, monorail, nature garden

Transportation

Projects related to transportation focus on efficient, eco-friendly, and accessible transit options.

- Winnipeg subway
- Public monorail
- Electric trolley and scooter transportation
- Electric buses, heated bus stops
- Subway station
- Pedestrian bridge to cross the road at Portage and Main, with decorative (and functional) lighting

Services

- Power plant turning snow into energy

Sticky notes have been transcribed and categorized by theme below.

Theme	Sticky notes
Housing	Affordable housing and more walking and bike paths
Community safety & well-being	- We build an addiction center name for flip grid - More shelters - Stop racism! - Less money for food and other stuff - More food for homeless people - Inclusive washrooms, showers, water fountains, washrooms accessible free, solar panels - More help for homeless people - Make a system that gives people more opportunity to be themselves
Parks, trees, greenery	- More trees - Tress/parks, flowers, shelters, green house - More greenery and sustainability! - More dog parks - Maybe we should make more parks with playgrounds to attract kids - More trees and plants - More attractions, parks, ponds, etc.
Getting around (walk, bike, bus)	- Affordable housing and more walking and bike paths - Good rapid transit from Polo Park to downtown as well as Rapid Transit along Kenaston (and bike lanes) will really encourage people to come downtown! And make it easy to do - Scrap the Kenaston widening and add rapid bus lanes and cycle lanes. If you do this well, more people will access the downtown without the traffic issues. Widen a road brings induced demand. - Bike path please - Buildings close so more walking and less driving - A water bottle bus. It picks up plastic and gives a free ride. Also has a garden and wheel chair spots - Walking/biking paths, more greenery. Pedestrianize it and provide fast easy transit i.e. rapid transit and bike lanes. Brings people downtown
Recreation, entertainment, and community amenities	- More public bathrooms - Inclusive washrooms, showers, water fountains, washrooms accessible free, solar panels - To make everyone to come Downtown would make a pool for free - More libraries - More attractions - A community center for all ages with a restaurant - More theatres - More indoor water parks

Theme	Sticky notes
	• Outdoor gym • Movie theatres • More attractions, parks, ponds, etc. • Have more recreation centres!!! • More grocery stores • Make shops open longer
Other	• Stop graffiti!!! • Car

Re-imagining Graham Avenue

