

EASTERN FOOD HUB + URBAN FARM PROPOSAL

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Collaboration Objective

Bowery Project and Common Ground are looking to partner with Infrastructure Ontario (IO) to create a multi-phased urban farm and food hub with the objective of creating a sustainable and innovative destination that addresses social inequality through food production, accessibility and distribution. We have identified IO's under-utilized buildings and surrounding lots at 153-185 Eastern Avenue, the former Dominion Wheel and Foundry, as an outstanding location for this sustainable and innovative landmark application.

An installation of a 500 milk crate urban farm that currently exists at Front and Cherry St. can be relocated as early as this fall 2020 as we learn more about the availability of the site. We will bring in the necessary partners as needed to create this Centre for Urban Agriculture.

Short term and long term partnership goals:

- **Food Growing**
 - Community garden
 - Milk crate garden and raised garden beds
 - Rooftop garden
 - Community plots/Incubator farming plots
 - Future indoor/overwinter growing/ greenhouse growing
- **Food Hub**
 - Year-round farmers' market
 - Subsidized food program
 - Produce pick-up/delivery service
 - Communal area for residents/ patio/ tea garden/ etc.
 - Restaurant
- **Food Community**
 - Employment opportunities
 - Volunteer opportunities
 - Resident meeting ground
 - City destination and model

Proposed Site - The Dominion Wheel and Foundry

The existing structure and surrounding property at IO's Eastern Avenue create an ideal site for this partnership:

- Suitable Micro-Climate - vacant space with ideal sunlight and growing conditions prime for transformation with protection from the wind with the existing heritage and new condo buildings.
- Site Infrastructure - beautiful historical buildings for future food hub
- Geography - downtown Toronto, central to canary district; connecting north and south by the DVP and East and West by the Gardiner.
- Racial and cultural demographic with a growing population due to surrounding residential development.
- Economic demographic - positioned between affordable housing and new condo buildings and its proximity to Regent Park and Moss Park.

Provincial Opportunity

Environmental Plan, Food based metrics and Circular Economy

To turn existing government (IO) owned buildings and surrounding vacant space into a leader of innovation in the field of urban agriculture and food sovereignty. What was once building railways connecting our city to the province and beyond will now become a centre for sustainable farming in the heart of the city connecting people through food.

- Provide residents with an opportunity to learn how to grow their own food including an education about the soil food web.
- Connect citizens to places to grow food with the opportunity to sell food they grow and compost that is created.
- Employment opportunities for local residents and marginalized groups.
- Create a localized economy that is based on community members supporting one another and feeding one another while collecting data from soil to seed to fork to track impact.
- Create a Community Compost Exchange Program where generating compost reduces operation and food cost. Reducing organic waste through composting systems supports a circular economy diverting waste from landfills.
- Fulfill IO's 'made-in-Ontario approach' to enrich the quality of life in communities across the province revitalizing the Eastern Avenue site by creating an environmentally sustainable destination that supports the City of Toronto's Food Policy agenda.
- Increase property values, crime reduction and health benefits for people and the environment.

Background and Experience

Bowery Project is a not-for-profit organization with a mission to create opportunities for urban agriculture through the temporary use of vacant lots. Our three-fold mission is to transform under-utilized spaces into biodiverse and productive growing places, to engage and educate the community through urban farming experiences and environmental sustainability and to support the Farm-to-Table movement by providing hyper-local food to restaurants, residents and community groups. Our container farms have popped up at incredible festivals and expos, are embedded in some of the most high-need underserved communities, grant interactive educational green space at schools and create edible landscapes in otherwise barren locations.

Bowery Project Experience and Proven Success:

- Designed, installed and operated 8 mobile urban farms in downtown Toronto from 2013-2020
- Produced over 3,000 lbs of organic herbs, greens and vegetables sold to local restaurants and chefs and donated to organizations in need
- Provided hundreds of hours of hands on programming to local residents, volunteers, university and school students and corporate groups
- Successful relationships with land owners and developers - Tridel, TAS Build Design, Oben Flats, Dream, Sidewalk TO, Stackt, Windmill Developments and Curated Properties
- Clean 50 Top Project 2018
- Feature outdoor exhibit at DX EDIT 2017
- Landscape Ontario Bursary 2018, 2017
- Whole Food Grant recipient 2016
- Best Signage BILD award 2016
- Toronto Foundation Vital Innovation Award 2016
- Ontario Trillium Grant 2015

Common Ground is a not-for-profit organization with the mission to establish sustainable and holistic community-led food systems that serve to support those most affected by food insecurity. With community involvement in farming, gardening, food education and food sharing initiatives, we strive to improve access to fresh and healthy food. Our values in food sovereignty guide us to empower individuals and families to be able to feed themselves. We believe that food is a multifaceted value proposition and we are steered by a three-core value system: food as a tool to affect positive socio-economic and cultural changes; food as a common connection to each other; food as a basic connection to nature.

Common Ground Experience and Proven Success:

- After over two years of operation, we have delivered over 40,000lbs of produce and over 2,500 packages of fresh foods.
- Established and managed various food programs such as:
 - a farmers' market;
 - a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program;
 - a front door delivery food box program;
 - We have installed and managed a backyard garden, which is completely funded by the proceeds of our food box program. The food grown in this backyard garden is used to supplement our food box program to ensure our families have access to fresh, local, organic foods.
- We organize and operate a local breakfast club through funding provided by Breakfast Club of Canada.

Project Scope

Item	Timeline
Urban farm decision and design Client approval	Fall 2020
Seed selection and starting Client approval	February-April
Urban farm installation and planting day IO and Canary District community will be engaged to build and plant the urban farm.	April-May
Maintenance and Programming TBD Schedule will be determined by BP and CG including watering, fertilizing, harvesting, educational programming and hands on workshops	June-November
Final Harvest	October/November

BOWERY PROJECT SITES



2 Tecumseth - TAS Design - 2018/2019/2020



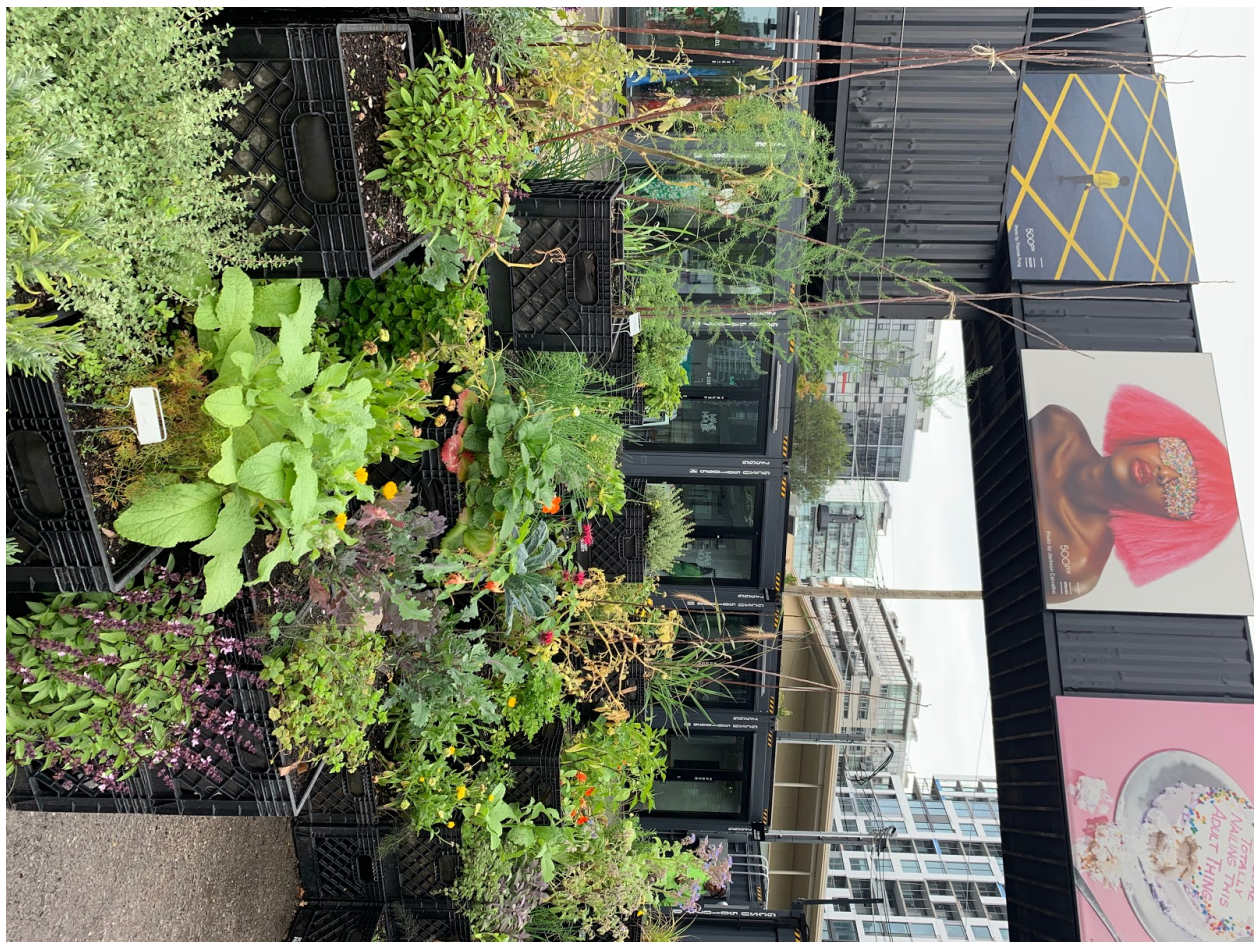
Block 10 - Canary District - Dream/Kilmer/Tricon/AHT - 2019/2020



EDIT Design Exchange Festival - 2017



307 Sherbourne - Oben Flats - 2016/2017/2018/2019



Stackt Market - 2 Bathurst St - 2019/2020

