



What will we cover today?

Overview of the process

Findings from first phase:

input 1: Workshop

input 2: Contextual Research

input 3: Survey

Conclusions and Next Steps

Questions

Why are we doing this?

- In January 2020, Toronto City Council unanimously endorsed “the replacement of the St. Lawrence Centre (STLC) with a new re-imagined centre as a state-of-the-art cultural and civic hub”.
- In February 2020, TO Live and CreateTO established a partnership engaging in a process to deliver a project plan and schedule for “a new St. Lawrence Centre for the Arts for subsequent consideration and approval by City Council”.

City of Toronto, <https://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2020/rl/bgrd/backgroundfile-157981.pdf>

How are we doing this?

“...how do we act in the present towards the future? I believe we act with hope, with a belief that whatever the current circumstance there is a way to act that expresses the possibility of a renewal of the human.”

The Patterning of Hope
(Sharpe, 2016)



How are we doing this?

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Process Overview:

A - Gather information about change (April, May)

- Collect perspectives on desired futures
(framing workshop + survey)
- Understand what is changing (research)

Process Overview:

B - Process that information (June, July, August)

- Pattern find and make sense of complexity
- Imagine possible futures (stakeholder working group)
- Anticipate pathways from the present to the future (synthesis report)

Process Overview:

C - Use the information (August, September, October)

- Explore opportunities and threats (specialists)
- Envision and propose new resilient strategies
- Recommend change (report)

Where are we at after 15 months of change?

Findings so far...



Input 1: Hearing different voices

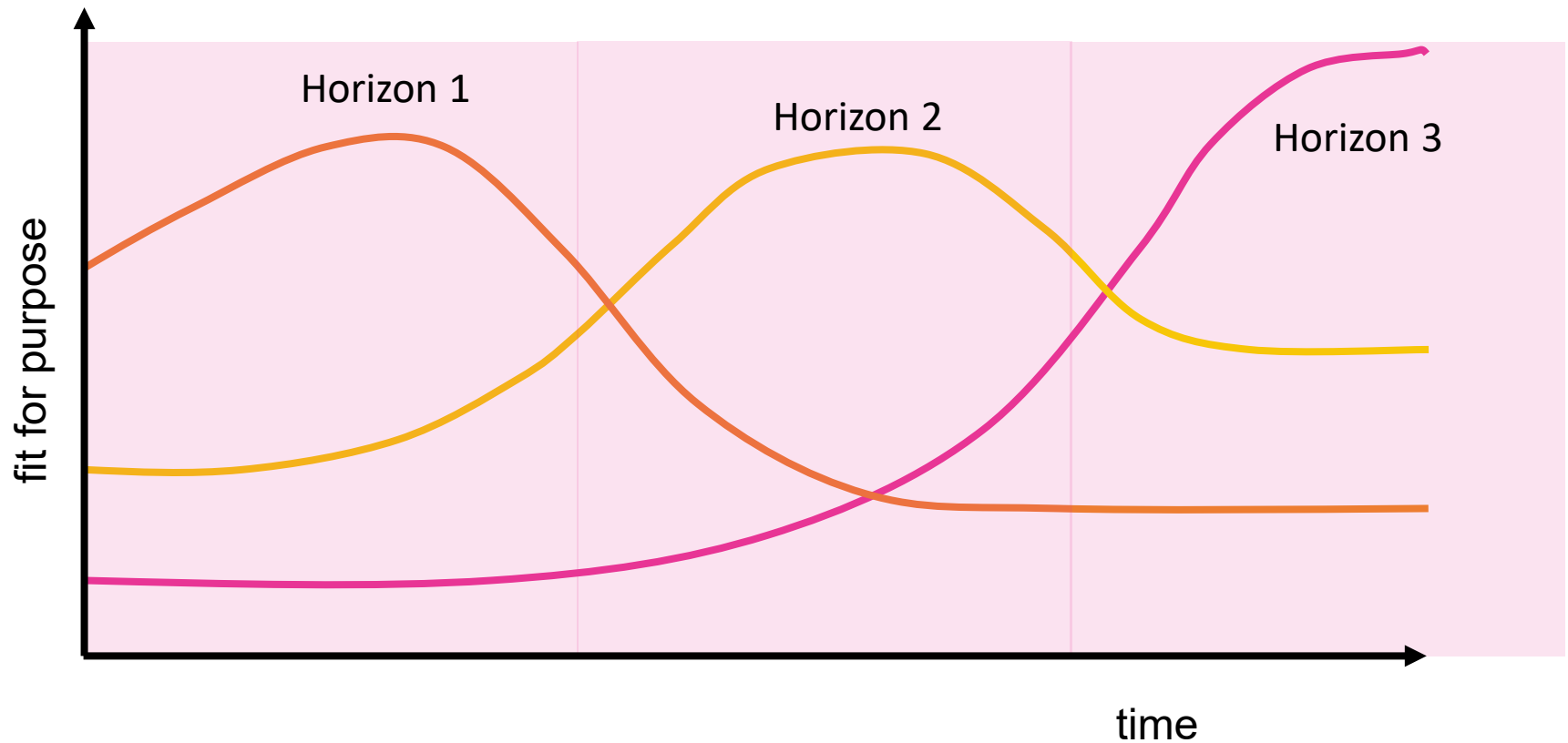
Exploring 3 Horizons:

The Three Horizons framework is a simple, intuitive way to encourage a conversation about the challenges in the present, our aspirations for the future and the kinds of innovation we might need in order to address both at the same time.

- International Futures Forum



Input 1: Hearing different voices



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What we learned:

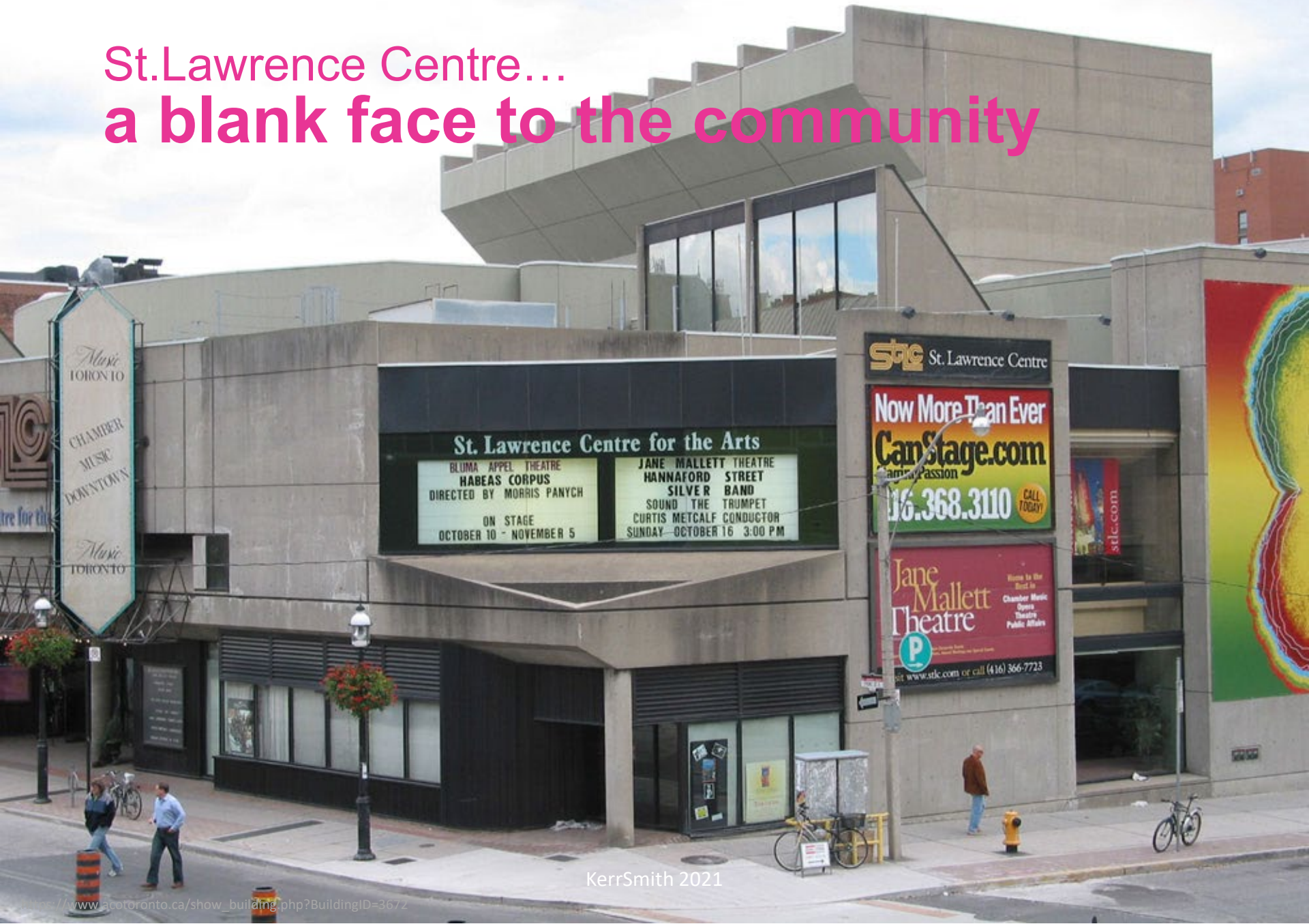
Dissatisfaction with the current situation, but cautious hope for better

Now:

STLC – people find the current building uninviting, are unsure whether there is place for them



St. Lawrence Centre... a blank face to the community



KerrSmith 2021

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STLC – people find the current building uninviting, are unsure whether there is place for them

The Neighbourhood – a disconnect with current public realm and a changing community



St. Lawrence Centre... a neighbourhood in transition



KerrSmith 2021

Input 1 : Hearing different voices

What we learned:

Dissatisfaction with the current situation, but cautious hope for better

Now:

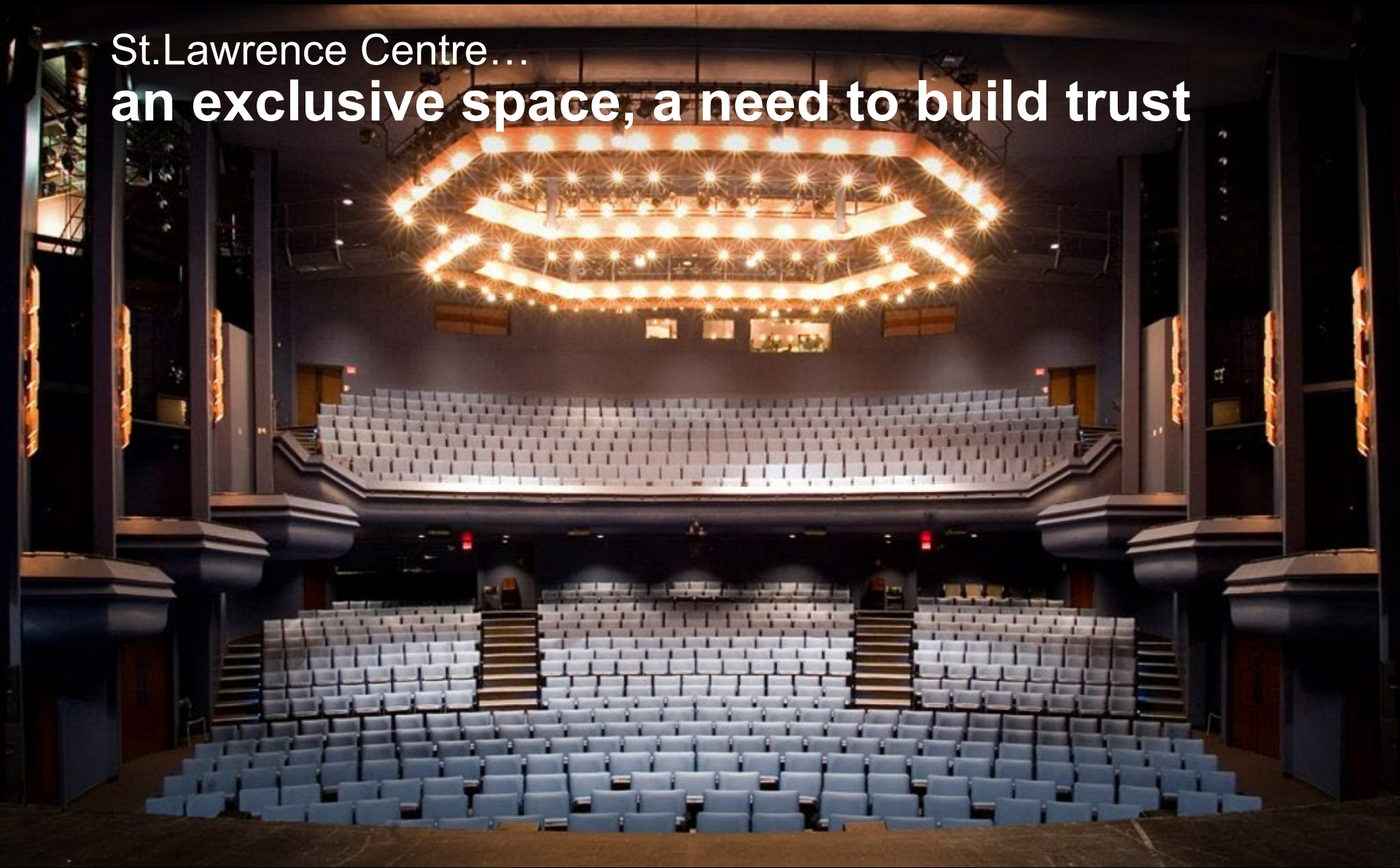
STLC – people find the current building uninviting, are unsure whether there is place for them

The Neighbourhood – a disconnect with current public realm and a changing community

The City- will marginalized voices be heard?



St.Lawrence Centre...
an exclusive space, a need to build trust



Input 1 : Hearing different voices

What we learned:

Dissatisfaction with the current situation, but cautious hope for better

Now:

STLC – people find the current building uninviting, are unsure of who the programming is for, whether there is place for them

The Neighbourhood – a disconnect with current public realm and a changing community

The City- will marginalized voices be heard?

Next:

Desire for a flexible, community and cultural hub with altered inclusive decision-making approaches



Input 2: Contextual research

What we learned:

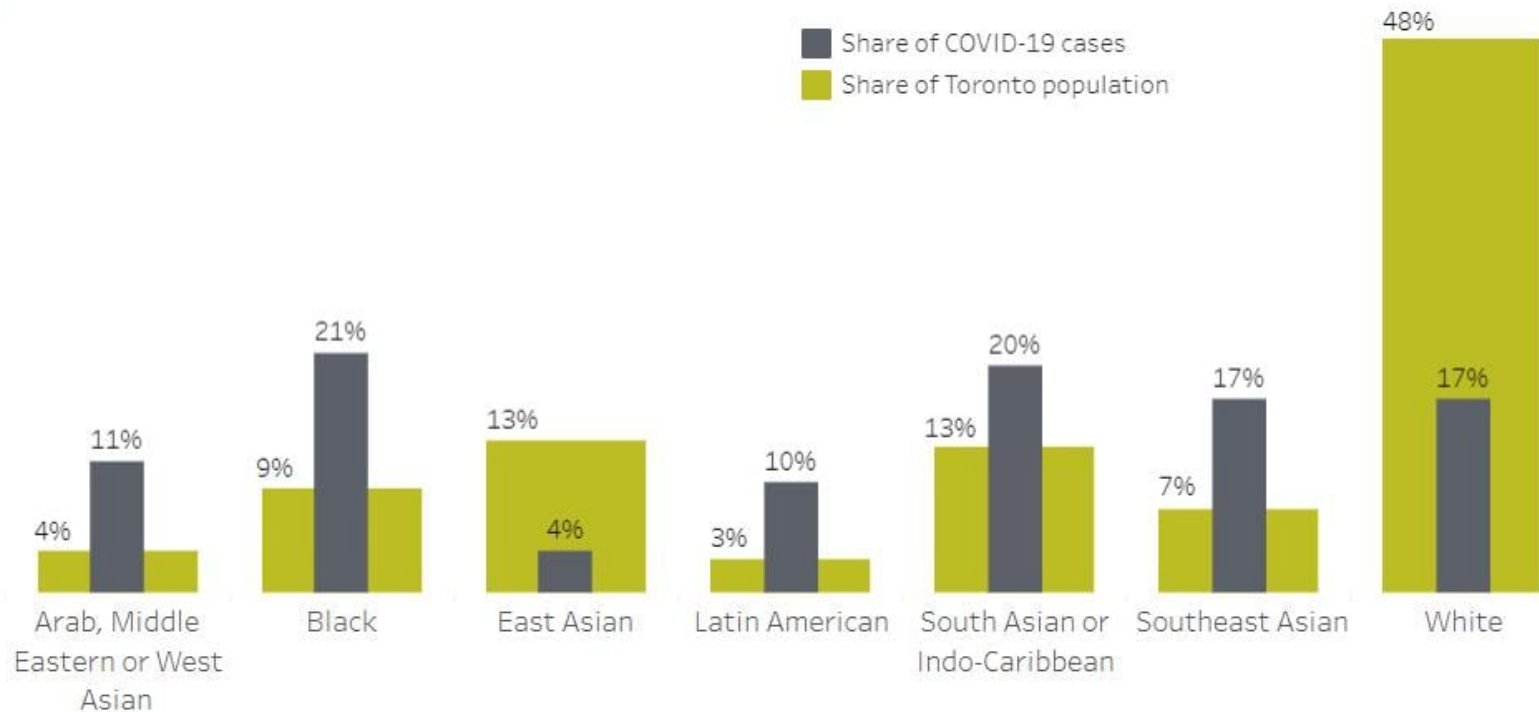
In response to the changing post pandemic situation, we surveyed current quantitative and qualitative sources and built on the workshop expressions of concern to identify some key issues:

- a) Equity in the city is uneven
- b) Arts creation is changing
- c) Presentation and dissemination of the arts is taking new form
- d) Audiences are consuming the arts differently
- e) Making space for culture and community is required



a) Equity in the City is Uneven

Share of COVID-19 cases among ethno-racial groups compared to the share of people living in Toronto, with valid data up to July 16, 2020 (N=3,861)



a) Equity in the City is Uneven

- Racialized, Indigenous, Disabled and low-income Torontonians have suffered most, women and artists especially
- Representation vs True Power Sharing
- Potential Impact of Arts-driven Gentrification
- Exclusion is Systemic

b) Arts Creation is Changing



b) Arts Creation is Changing

- Pandemic trauma is taking an emotional toll
- More voices are wanted and needed

c) Presentation & dissemination of arts take new form



Presentation & dissemination of the arts take new form

- Emerging practices enable new ways of sharing performance as platforms shift
- Consolidation and closure will likely continue
- Funding mechanisms are likely to be challenged over time
- Competition is everywhere

Audiences are consuming the arts differently

NETFLIX



Audiences are consuming the arts differently

- Streaming may be forever
- Targeted preferences build different audiences
- Co-produced, co-authored, collaborated
- The arts provide mental health benefit to society

Making space for culture and community



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Making space for culture and community

- Mixed use reduces boundaries
- Flexibility of physical spaces is critical
- Demand for environmental accountability is high

Input 3: Community and arts sector survey

What we are learning:

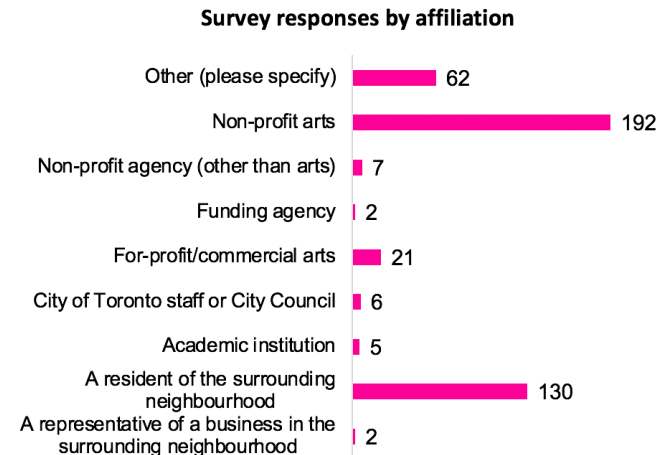
Survey closed May 31st, and data processing is ongoing.

427 survey responses from community and the arts sector



Preliminary findings: Respondent Profiles

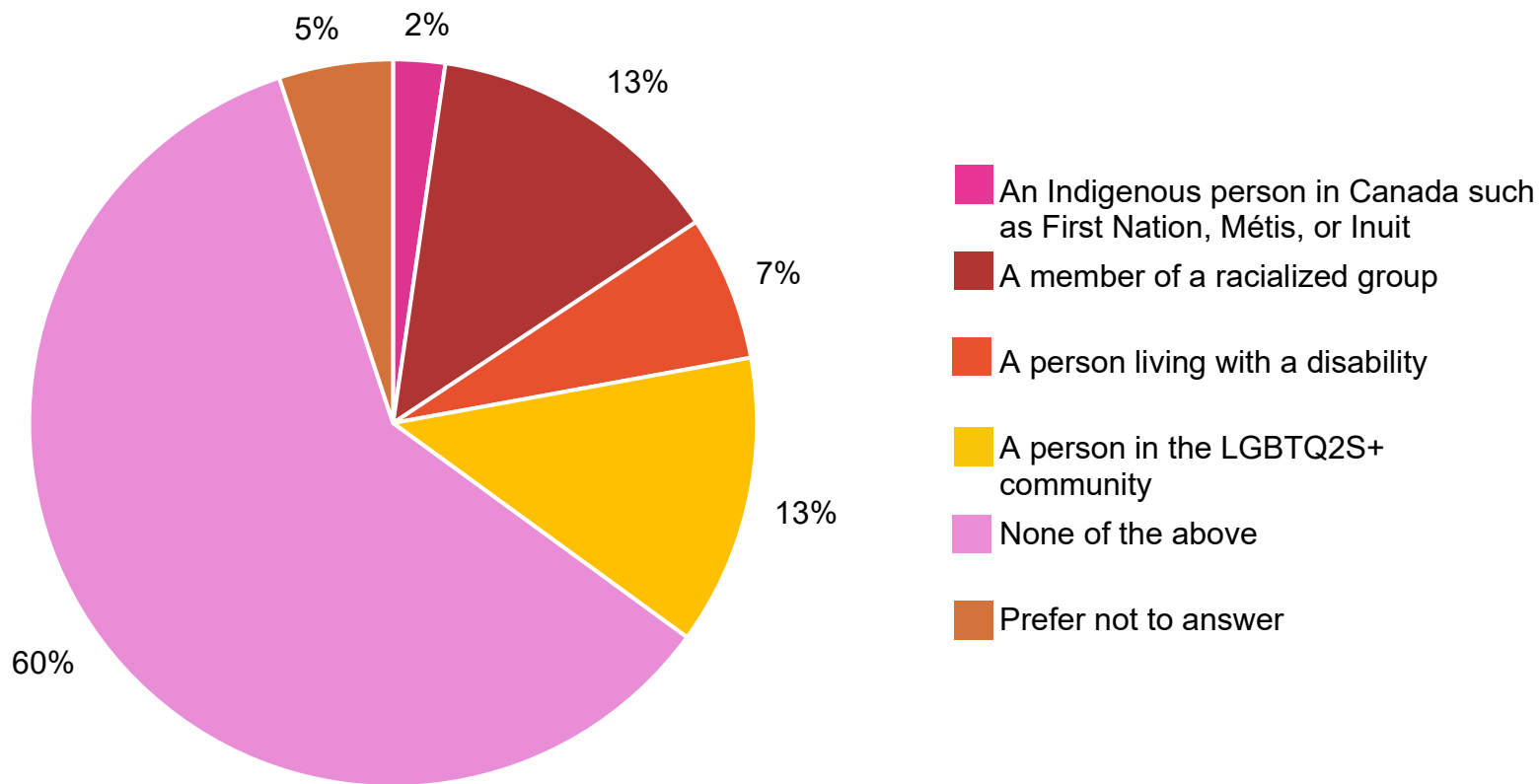
Of the surveys completed by the arts community, there were responses from **creators, performers, technicians, producers, presenters, educators, funders, and administrators, executives and creative leaders.**



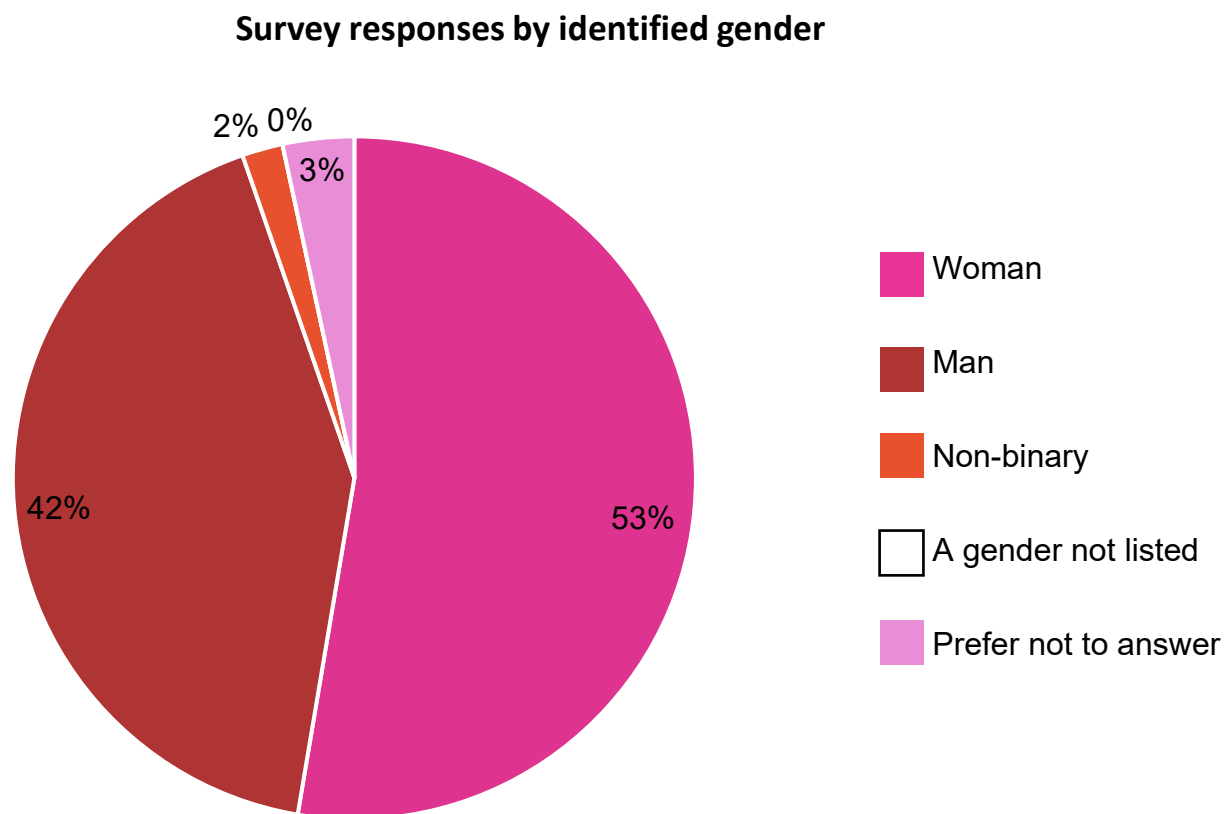
The following chart shows the number of survey responses by affiliation. People affiliated with **non-profit arts** and **residents of the surrounding community** were well-represented in the survey.

Preliminary findings: Respondent Profiles

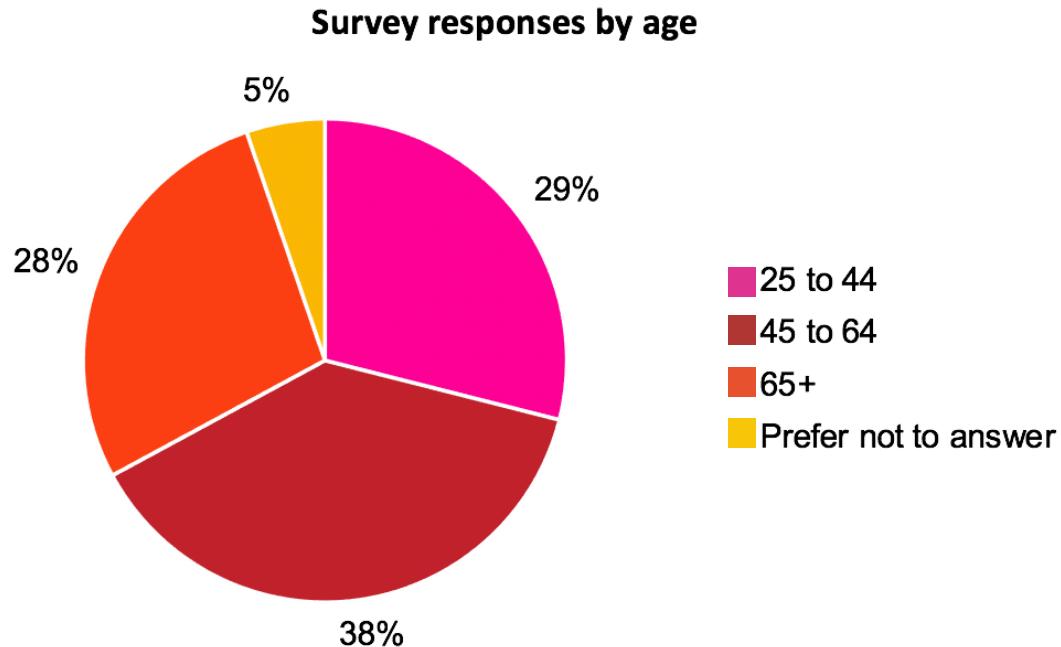
Survey responses by self-identified group



Preliminary findings: Respondent Profiles



Preliminary findings: Respondent Profiles



- The respondent **age mix was fairly balanced** between individuals aged 25 to 44, those aged 45 to 64, and those aged 65 and older.
- There were no respondents under the age of 25.

Preliminary findings: detailed responses to questions

Q18: In your opinion, what could the STLC NEXT initiative do to ensure equity, diversity and inclusion?

Example quotes:

“Build a space that actively supports and includes creators from all of the city’s communities and cultures”



“Hire young curators and give them a budget. Make sure you can smudge in any space. Consider this in the design of the space. Open. Low profile or no security.”



“Specific showcases and/or a commitment to content created by BIPOC artists. Ensuring that marketing targets communities outside of the narrow perception of what the theatre going audience is”

How we make sense of the data:

- Aggregate stakeholder feedback
- Deconstruct the meanings
- Cluster consistent concepts together

Next steps...

- Survey analysis complete mid-June
- Stakeholder working group engagement
June 17, July 6, July 27, August 12
- Final report of findings and design brief including:
relevant design principles and building program



QUESTIONS



photos used in this presentation:

- Krawczyk, B. *St. Lawrence Centre for the Arts* [Image]. Retrieved from http://www.acotoronto.ca/show_building.php?BuildingID=3672
- Pope Real Estate Limited. *View of Flatiron building from Church and Front Streets* [Image]. Retrieved from <https://poperealestate.ca/portfolio/507-35-church-street/>
- Intermission Magazine. *View of Bluma Appel Theatre* [Image]. Retrieved from <https://www.intermissionmagazine.ca/insider-intel/where-to-eat-drink-near-bluma-appel/>
- Canadian Broadcasting Corporation. (2020). *The graph shows reported COVID-19 cases among ethno-racial groups compared to the share of people living in Toronto.* [Image]. Retrieved from <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/toronto-covid-19-data-1.5669091>
- Osorio, C. (2020). *Demonstrators threw pink paint on a King Edward VII Equestrian Statue at Queen's Park in Toronto on July 18, 2020.* [Image]. Retrieved from <https://www.theglobeandmail.com/canada/toronto/article-calls-grow-for-toronto-police-to-drop-charges-against-protesters-who/#c-image-0>
- Persson, J. (2021). *Visitors to Current, Rising at the Royal Opera House enter a whole new reality* [Image]. Retrieved from <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/opera/what-to-see/current-rising-royal-opera-house-review-virtual-reality-no-match/>
- Mobile Marketing. (2019). *Image of Netflix show "Narcos" streaming on a mobile phone* [Image]. Retrieved from <https://mobilemarketingmagazine.com/netflix-low-cost-mobile-plan-india>
- Image courtesy of the artist, Que Rock, <https://www.instagram.com/miangunclan/?hl=en>