

Architecture in a Contested Territory:

Co-creating a Community Hub with the People of Jane and Finch, Toronto

by

Lila Nguyen

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Keywords

Community, Community Centre, Jane and Finch, Public Spaces, Public Art, Living History, Community Engagement, Contested Territory.

Abstract

The population of the City of Toronto vastly increased due to a significant migration of people from all over the world to seek a better life after World War II. Many settled into ethnic enclaves that share similar cultures and characteristics. Since the 1970s, Toronto has grown into a large city much like Paris and London, where low-income families, which are mostly minorities, are pushed into the urban periphery. One of these inner-city neighbourhoods, Jane and Finch, is composed of two city neighbourhoods: Black Creek (Up Top, to the North) and Glenfield-Jane Heights (Down Bottom, to the South). Jane and Finch is a major intersection known for its high rates of gang violence such as shootings, drugs, robberies, and other gang-related activities. The negative reputation of Jane and Finch is further spread by the media, promulgating racial stereotypes about the neighbourhood. The rapid growth of the community in the 1960s to 1970s resulted in overcrowding in schools and insufficient recreational facilities, which caused additional stress for the residents. The gang rivalry over territory in Jane and Finch created an invisible barrier at the intersection: The Up Top and Down Bottom. Adding to the gang violence, the lack of city funding and general neglect transformed Jane and Finch into a community with the highest level of inequality amongst the neighbourhoods within the Greater Toronto Area.

Jane and Finch was not always like this, but it is difficult for people to see past its bad reputation. As a member of the community, I know of many positive aspects overlooked by outsiders. However, the reputation is slowly changing. Nowadays, Jane and Finch receives recognition for the art which the residents have created. I believe that the image of the community can be altered as long as people can learn about the positive stories of the residents.

This thesis looks at opportunities to co-create a community center for the people of Jane and Finch, with the use of community engagement as a process to work collectively with community members. The outcome is a building with a breadth of spaces and programs that is available to a diverse group of community users. The Jane and Finch Community Hub contains a youth lounge, daycare, art studio, music studio, dance studio, market space, communal kitchen, cafe, community training spaces and a pool.



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Thank you to Mr. Jacobs who inspired me to continue to further my education and showed me that anyone from our neighbourhood can succeed.

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Chapter One:
Jane and Finch

Introduction

Growing up in a single-parent household and being an Asian-female minority in Jane and Finch for more than 20 years, I experienced this area from a unique perspective. I felt safe walking freely to school, riding my bike, and playing at the park with no supervision. I attended an all-girls summer camp at Oakdale Community Centre in the summer to keep myself busy while my mom was at work. The camp provided a place to play sports, but as a creative person, I wish there was more that could pique my interest. It was not until I went to middle school that I became aware of gun violence and gang activities in the Jane and Finch community

My group of friends talked about gangs and formed cliques to watch each other's backs. Being the first generation in the household to attend middle school, I knew that I had a choice to make. It was either to get myself involved with street gangs or take the academic route. At the end of middle school, I was fortunate to have the opportunity to enroll in "Promoting Excellence", a program at York University that mentored middle school youth like myself on life skills, social justice, the arts, and English. This opened my eyes and others like me to a chance at succeeding in post-secondary education. The program also gave me a glimpse into life as a university student.

At the time, I did not know anyone in our community who succeeded academically, until I met my elementary school teacher, Mr. Jacobs. He grew up and went to school in the neighbourhood, and he continued to post-secondary education. Mr. Jacobs became a teacher and taught at his former elementary school. Mr. Jacobs told us stories of other successful Jane and Finch residents, like Dwight Drummond who became a news reporter. Other residents show the positive side of Jane and Finch not just academically but through arts and activism.

Kofi Frempong is a local artist and a health worker in the community. Frempong uses painting to explore visual images of Black Love, to show how it could be represented in art everywhere. Sharing the love for Jane and Finch, Frempong co-created an event called Freedom Friday in 2011 that happened on the last Friday of every month. He wanted to create a platform for artists where the community could come together to showcase their work. Hosting this event became important for the neighbourhood to help destigmatize



Figure 1.1: Published Article by Lila Nguyen about the Positive Impact in the Jane and Finch Community

what people tend to think of as a dangerous area in Toronto. Frempong mentioned that "More than ever, we need spaces where we can celebrate community through the arts, network and build relationships." Currently, many of the spaces hosting the arts are only temporary spaces the residents could use.

Paul Nguyen is a social activist and a filmmaker who uses his talent to advocate for the Jane and Finch community. Nguyen's family was part of the original 'Boat People' who came to Canada after the Vietnam War. After arriving, his parents chose to reside in Jane and Finch as the cheap housing attracted them to the area. Nguyen is the founder of a website called Jane-Finch.com, which was a staple while growing up in the neighbourhood to get local news and events going on. It gave youth, like myself at the time, an opportunity to see other people in the community succeeding. The website also became an online library of documents on the development of Jane and Finch. It created a way for residents to highlight the positive news throughout Jane and Finch.

Since I have graduated from high school and earned a university degree, I get asked often about living in Jane and Finch. I always responded that I am proudly from the neighbourhood, where I am still living with my family. I get asked whether I am fearfully living in such a dangerous part of the city. Perhaps, because I grew up in the neighbourhood, I became desensitized to the local violence. There is a lot of good that outsiders do not see. People who did not grow up in Jane and Finch do not see the human connections or relate to the experience of living there. For example, outsiders would not be able to relate to how comforting and reassuring it is to see others like me not being singled out as a Vietnamese female. The warmth I feel within the community knowing that there are others like me and that I could relate through food and culture makes it easy to feel right at home.

I wrote an article in middle school that was featured in the Toronto Star about the positive impact Jane and Finch had on me. Knowing then that I had to tell people the right story about my community (Figure 1.1). When I wrote the article thirteen years ago, I did not know what more I could do to help improve the image of Jane and Finch. How could I as a youth change outsiders' negative points of view about us? But now I do. It is with architecture that I can exert my influence and change things. I want to empower the

local community by using architecture to spread awareness of the realities of Jane and Finch.

Since the media has been the main narrator of stories on Jane and Finch, this thesis looks at a resident, like myself, who can change the stigma towards this neighbourhood with the development of a community hub. Taking a deeper look into how the history and development of Jane and Finch and how the lack of planning left the community with an absence of social infrastructure. The methodology uses community engagement as the main driver to research and gathers various community perspectives regarding the proposed site and programming. The mapping exercise explored stories and memories from the lived experiences within the community and was a vehicle to share the positive side of Jane and Finch through residents. This thesis looks at how we can co-create a community hub for the people of Jane and Finch within a contested territory.

LILA NGUYEN, 14:

People in Jane and Finch are not all bad. There are people who have graduated from secondary school, college, and university. There are people from this area that are very successful, like Dwight Drummond, a news reporter on City Pulse 24. Kevin Jacob is another example. Mr. Jacob is a man who went to Firgrove Public School, then Oakdale Park Middle School, and graduated from Westview Centennial Secondary School. He is now a teacher and has two kids and a lovely wife. These are just a few individuals who have come from this community, who have had a positive impact in this community.

Figure 1.2: Close up on article

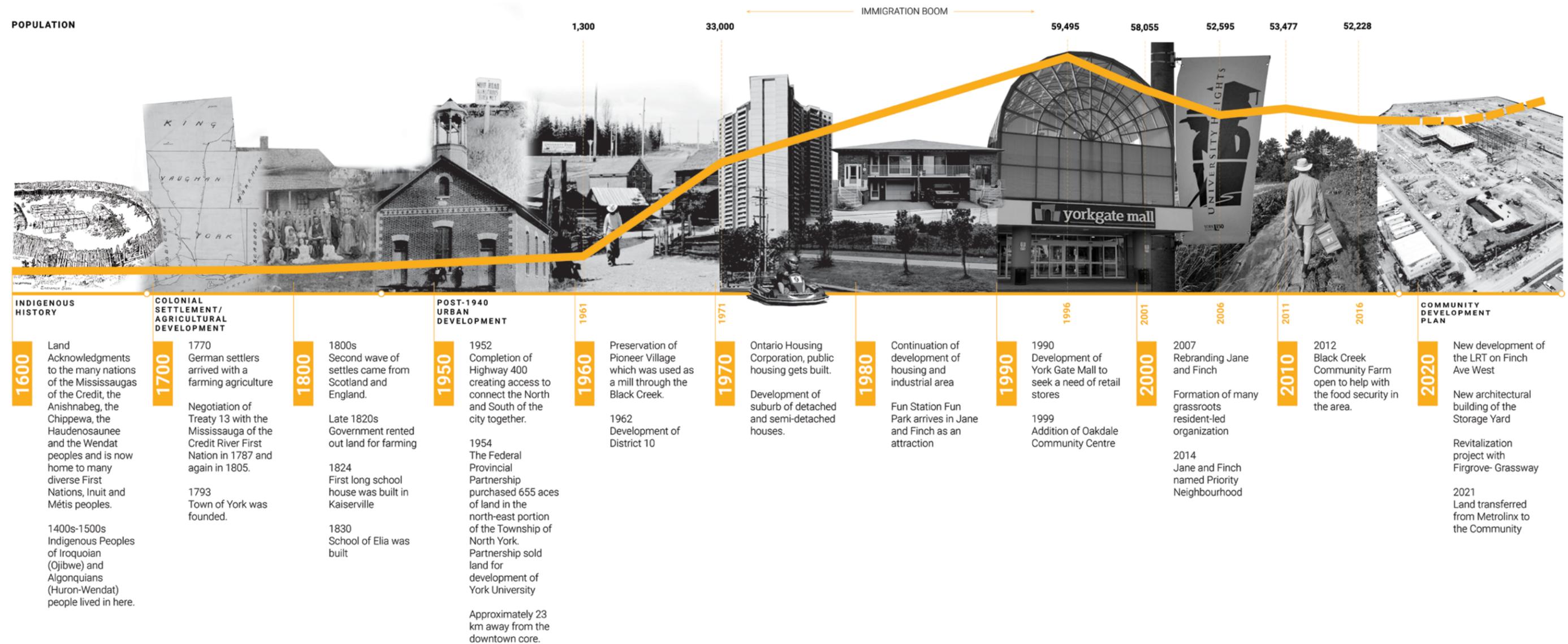


Figure 1.3: Historical Timeline of Jane and Finch



Figure 1.4: Collage of Images throughout History of Jane and Finch before 1970s

History of Jane and Finch

The historical context of Jane and Finch enables us to understand how the community came together. This major intersection is stigmatized through the media for its high rates of gang violence such as shootings, drugs, robberies, and other gang-related activities. There is more to the story than what the media showcases. It is important to understand the history behind Jane and Finch on how the community came together. There were three significant periods in the development of the neighbourhood: Indigenous history, colonial settlement/agriculture, and urban development that began in the 1940s. Throughout history, each time period has contributed to the diversity of the neighbourhood. Understanding what Jane and Finch has experienced can provide an alternative lens of the community. Many people do not know the history of Jane and Finch before the stigmatized narrative was produced for the community, this history will give insight into how this neighbourhood was developed.

Indigenous History

Before Jane and Finch, Indigenous Peoples of Iroquoian (Ojibwe) and Algonquians (Huron-Wendat) people lived in the territory.¹ The Huron-Wendat Village was composed of the Huron-Wendat and Ojibwe tribes who lived in longhouses on the current site of Jane and Finch. The site consisted of tradesmen, hunters, farmers, and other activities. This location is now known as the Parsons site, which was named after the Parson family who have been long-time farmers on the site.² The indigenous history dates back to approximately the 1400s to 1500s, as the site was situated on the south side of York University, adjacent to the Black Creek.¹ The Black Creek was a heavily wooded area that supplied nourished soil for plants to grow.⁴ The creek provided fresh water, a place to hunt and fish, and a river for travel and navigation.⁵ The site was surrounded by large fields of the three sisters: corn, squash, and beans.⁶ The Indigenous residents were affected by the lack of resources on the land as the soil lost its richness; the forest dispersed due to deforestation as a

¹ *Indigenous and Farming Communities and Jane Finch to 1980's*, Tools for Conducting Research in the Jane Finch Community, n.d., accessed March 10, 2021.

² *Indigenous and Farming Communities and Jane Finch to 1980's*.

³ *From Longhouse to Highrise* (North York, ON: Downsview Weston Action Community, 1986), 3.

⁴ *Ibid*, 3.

⁵ Thomas Peace, "500 Years of Building Communities and Changing Environments," *Black Creek Community Walk* (blog), April 21, 2010, <https://blackcreekwalk.wordpress.com/500-years-of-building-communities-and-changing-environments/>.

⁶ *Indigenous and Farming Communities and Jane Finch to 1980's*.

result of logging for firewood, and timber for construction. Slowly thereafter the wildlife in the area, too, started to disappear.⁷ Many did not think the Indigenous people were first on the land until artifacts were found when the land was excavated for agriculture.⁸ The land had been taken away from the Indigenous Peoples, and the White Settlers transformed it into farmland. It was not until 2013, that the Historical Wendat Ancestral Village was acknowledged, and as a commemoration, the city created a trail that runs from Keele Street and Jane Street through the powerlines of the Finch Hydro Corridor bike and walking path.⁹ The trail was named the Huron-Wendat trail, with signage along the path that explains the information about the Indigenous history. There was a Wendat representative present during the opening of the trail but was not consulted through the development process.¹⁰ As Jane and Finch started to grow, many migrated from different regions to the area.

Colonial Settlement and Agriculture

In 1770, settlers of German descent from the state of Pennsylvania migrated to the North after the American Revolution to escape political persecution.¹¹ They also moved to Canada for the 200 acres given to “any law-abiding Christian who is capable of manual labour.”¹² The requirement was that within two years, the settlers had to build a shingled frame or log house, and had to clear land for cultivation and also improve the roads in front of their property.¹³ The second wave of settlers came from Scotland and England in the 1800s.¹⁴ The families valued schooling for children, as schooling was important in their country of origin. In 1824, the first log schoolhouse was built in Kaiserville (where Black Creek Pioneer Village is located now) and lessons were taught in German.¹⁵ After the closure of the log schoolhouse, another was built down the street. Jane and Finch was called the Village of Elia in 1830, and so the school also took after the name Elia. The Elia School was a wood-framed building located by Keele Street and Finch Avenue.¹⁶ At this time many of the lessons were in English but German lessons were still taught.¹⁷ The school was an important place in the community as it was the only public building that served multiple purposes for the residents as a community meeting hall and as a church.

⁷ From Longhouse to Highrise, 5.

⁸ Ibid, 3.

⁹ Indigenous and Farming Communities and Jane Finch to 1980's.

¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹ From Longhouse to Highrise, 7.

¹² Ibid, 12.

¹³ Indigenous and Farming Communities and Jane Finch to 1980's.

¹⁴ Ibid.

¹⁵ From Longhouse to Highrise, 13.

¹⁶ Ibid, 13.

¹⁷ Ibid, 13.



Figure 1.5: Elia Public School

Agriculture

A farming community started to develop which resulted in the clearing of the forest for homes and farms.¹⁸ As the community started to grow, the land was divided into lots for farming, and by the late 1820s the government rented out plots of land for farming.¹⁹ Infrastructure and roads were not as developed. Without proper infrastructure, it was difficult for the farmsteads to connect, causing a barrier between them.²⁰ The mills in Kaiserville village were an important center and commercial backbone of the farming community.²¹ Several service roads were built in order to improve social interactions within the community.²²

Post-1940s

Jane and Finch is made up of two city neighbourhoods. On the north-side is Black Creek and, on the south-side, there is Glenfield-Jane Heights (Figure 1.6). There are no proper boundaries between Jane and Finch, it is just a major urban intersection. Residents refer to the location as Highway 400 to the west, Steeles Avenue West to the North, Sheppard Avenue West to the south and Keele Street to the east. The post-1940s development, which had much to do with the construction of Highway 400, influenced urban development of the 1950s, connecting downtown to the northern suburbs of the city.²³ The site is located approximately 20km away from Downtown, Toronto. (Figure 1.7) A preliminary report of 1962 on District 10 included Wards 1, 5 and 8.²⁴ The report for District 10 was the first of its kind prepared by Metropolitan Toronto as an 'experimental' case study of urban planning.²⁵ The report focused on three main areas: Land Use, Population and Transportation and the only social infrastructure were schools and parks, no other mentioned in the report.²⁶ Social infrastructure is a space that can facilitate social connections in an urban environment.²⁷ They are often referred to as public spaces like libraries, playgrounds, community halls, or markets that can provide a space "for society, politics, health and well-being."²⁸ The community

¹⁸ Ibid, 9.

¹⁹ Ibid, 11.

²⁰ Ibid, 11.

²¹ Ibid, 12.

²² *From Longhouse to Highrise*, 12.

²³ "Jane-Finch Initiative – Community Development Plan and Updated Land Use Planning Framework," Report for Action, February 25, 2020, 9, <https://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2020/ec/bgrd/backgroundfile-146426.pdf>.

²⁴ *Indigenous and Farming Communities and Jane Finch to 1980's*.

²⁵ Ibid.

²⁶ Ibid.

²⁷ Alan Latham and Jack Layton, "Social Infrastructure and the Public Life of Cities: Studying Urban Sociality and Public Spaces," *Geography Compass* 13, no. 7 (2019): 9, <https://doi.org/10.1111/gec3.12444>.

²⁸ Ibid, 9.

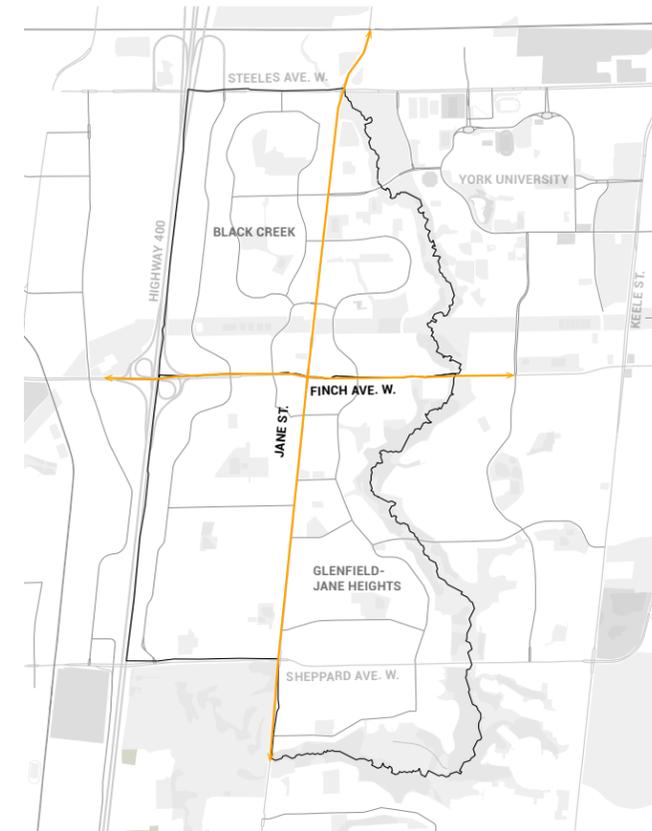


Figure 1.6: Two City Neighbourhood in Jane and Finch

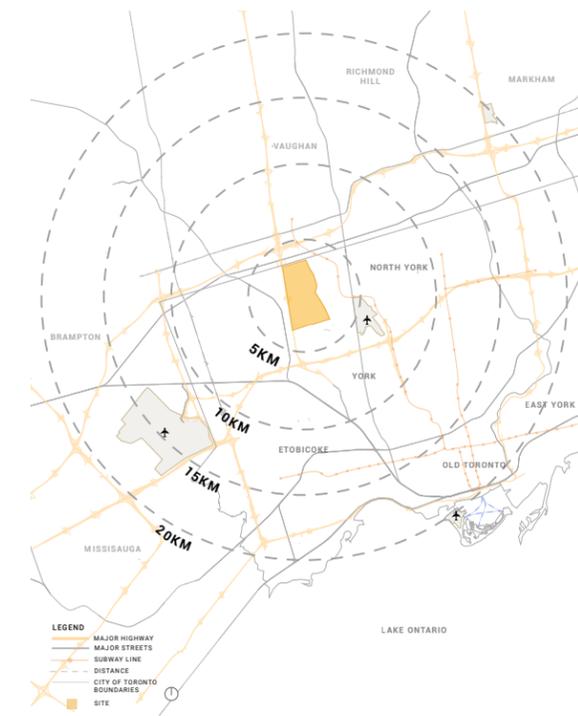


Figure 1.7: Access to Jane and Finch

planning focused on introducing a variety of dwelling types and on achieving higher density for a more diverse age group. Included in the District 10 plan was a large shopping mall that would provide retail for the Northern and Southern communities.²⁹ There were plans to include other amenities in Jane and Finch Mall such as a place for community activities, movie theatre, library, arena, bowling alley, police station and a curling rink.³⁰ The mall was built but none of these extra amenities were included. A part of the master plan was to expand public housing through the Ontario Housing Corporation (OHC), which was then switched under provincial jurisdiction into municipal governance with the Toronto Community Housing Corporation.³¹ The City of Toronto was pushing away low-income families from the Downtown core towards the suburbs to create new development, this was not solving the problem but moving it elsewhere.

The area experienced massive growth throughout the 1960s and 1970s (Figure 1.8/Appendix A). The population growth was due to the increase in the size of families and new immigrants moving to Toronto. This spike in population caused a housing shortage. In 1969, five years after the planning of District 10, nearly 90% of the population growth that was expected for 1990 was already in place.³² Jane and Finch became the area with the most significant concentration of OHC-owned housing in Toronto.³³ The population growth saw a huge influx of residents, from 1,301 in 1961 to 33,030 in 1971,³⁴ which is a 2400% increase in a decade. This rapid growth led to overcrowded schools with no obligations “to meet the needs of the culturally diverse community.”³⁵ Recreational programs were offered in the schools but were limited. The result of this growth produced a dense living environment with a lack of programmed activities for the residents. The problems of the early 1970s persist until today, with the need for daycare, education, information, and recreation.³⁶ In the 1990s, the Toronto Community Housing Corporation (TCHC) had major cutbacks from capital funding. The cutbacks worsened the social programs in the district and the decline in maintenance within the Toronto Community Housing. The community had outgrown many community centres and started to occupy informal spaces around the neighbourhood to fulfill the needs of the community members.

²⁹ *Indigenous and Farming Communities and Jane Finch to 1980's*.

³⁰ *Ibid.*

³¹ “Jane-Finch Initiative – Community Development Plan and Updated Land Use Planning Framework,” 9.

³² *From Longhouse to Highrise*, 27.

³³ “Jane-Finch Initiative – Community Development Plan and Updated Land Use Planning Framework,” 9.

³⁴ *From Longhouse to Highrise*, 27.

³⁵ *Ibid.*, 29.

³⁶ *Ibid.*, 29.

In the 1990s, the Yorkgate Mall offered additional commercial space for the community. The Oakdale Community Centre was built in 1999 to meet the demand for community spaces Jane and Finch was named a Priority Neighbourhood in 2014, that is – the district obtained a low score, which indicated the higher level of inequalities in the district.³⁷ Black Creek received a score of 21.38 points and Glenfield-Jane Heights received 24.39, both out of 100.³⁸ These scores indicated that two neighbourhoods were ranked at the top of the inequality index in Toronto.³⁹ Poverty rose by 368% between 1980 to 2000 because of the lack of community planning in these dense, racialized neighbourhoods.⁴⁰ As the community densified, there were no efforts by the City of Toronto to invest in its infrastructure or towards the needs of the community with food insecurity, housing and employment. Developments were stagnant for over a decade without any new infrastructure to improve the neighbourhood. Since then, there have been no new building developments except for the Metrolinx Storage Yard for the new Finch LRT on the northwest section of Jane and Finch. Jane and Finch attracted many new immigrants to the area for its low-income housing and cheap rent. The neighbourhood that was envisioned as a thriving community had its downfall with the planning of District 10. The poor planning and neglect towards the residents left the Jane and Finch community to decline in quality of life with no resources to support the marginalized and racialized residents.

³⁷ City of Toronto, “Appendix B Neighbourhood Equity Scores for Toronto Neighbourhoods and Recommended Neighbourhood Improvement Areas,” Toronto Strong Neighbourhoods Strategy 2020, 1, accessed September 21, 2020, <https://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2014/cd/bgrd/background-file-67351.pdf>.

³⁸ *Ibid.*, 1.

³⁹ *Ibid.*, 1.

⁴⁰ *Jane Finch From the 1990's Onwards and the Racialization of Poverty*, Tools for Conducting Research in the Jane Finch Community, n.d., accessed March 10, 2021.

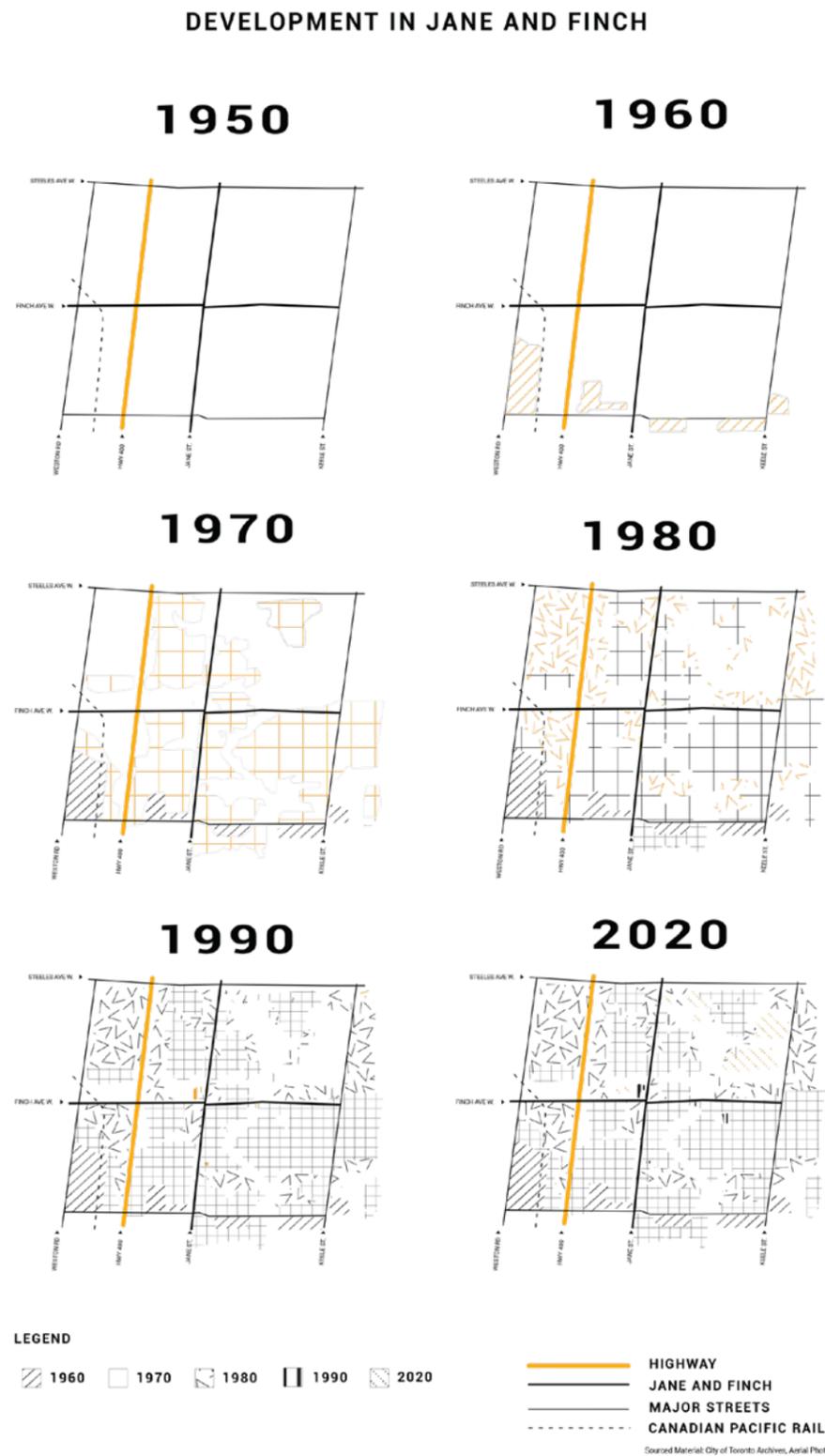


Figure 1.8: Development in Jane and Finch

JANE AND FINCH NEIGHBOURHOOD PROFILE

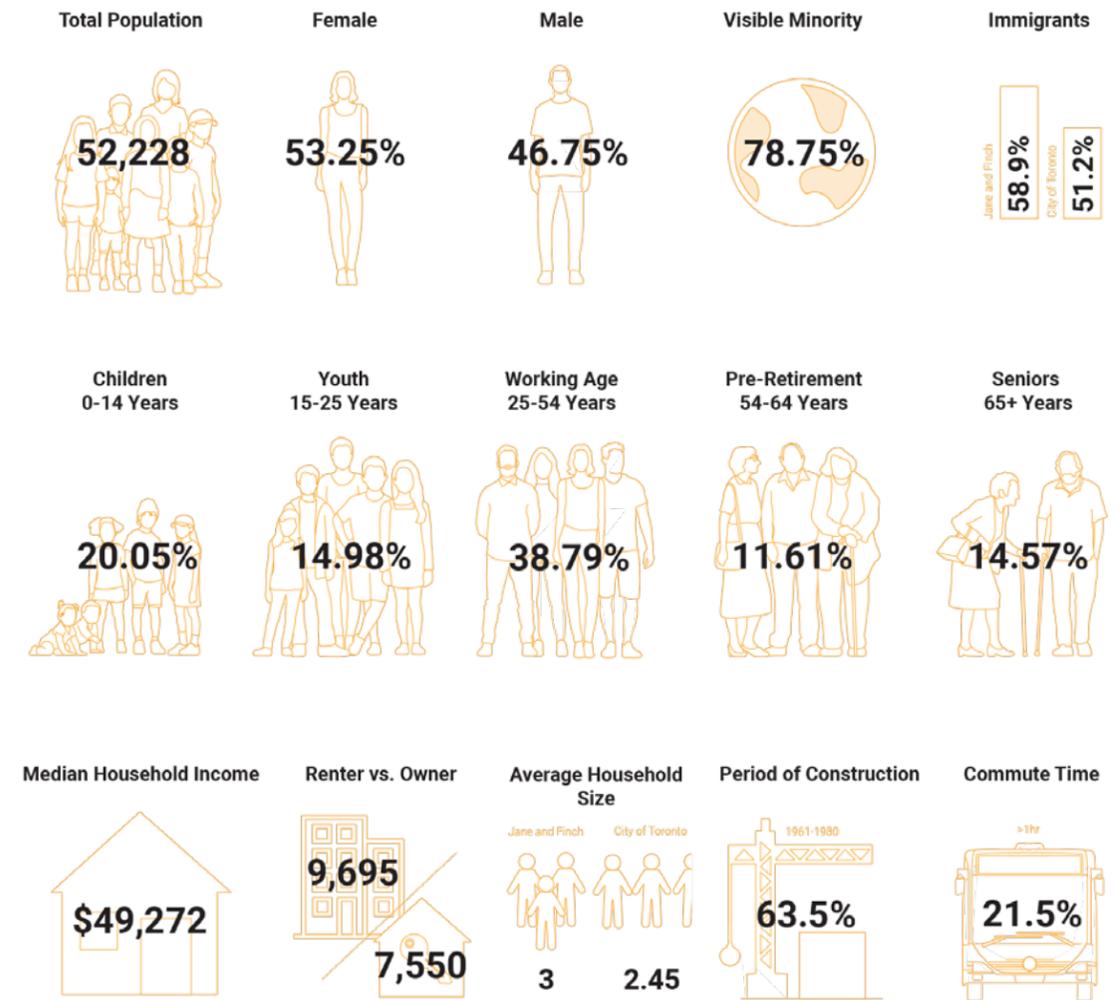


Figure 1.9: Jane and Finch Neighbourhood Profile

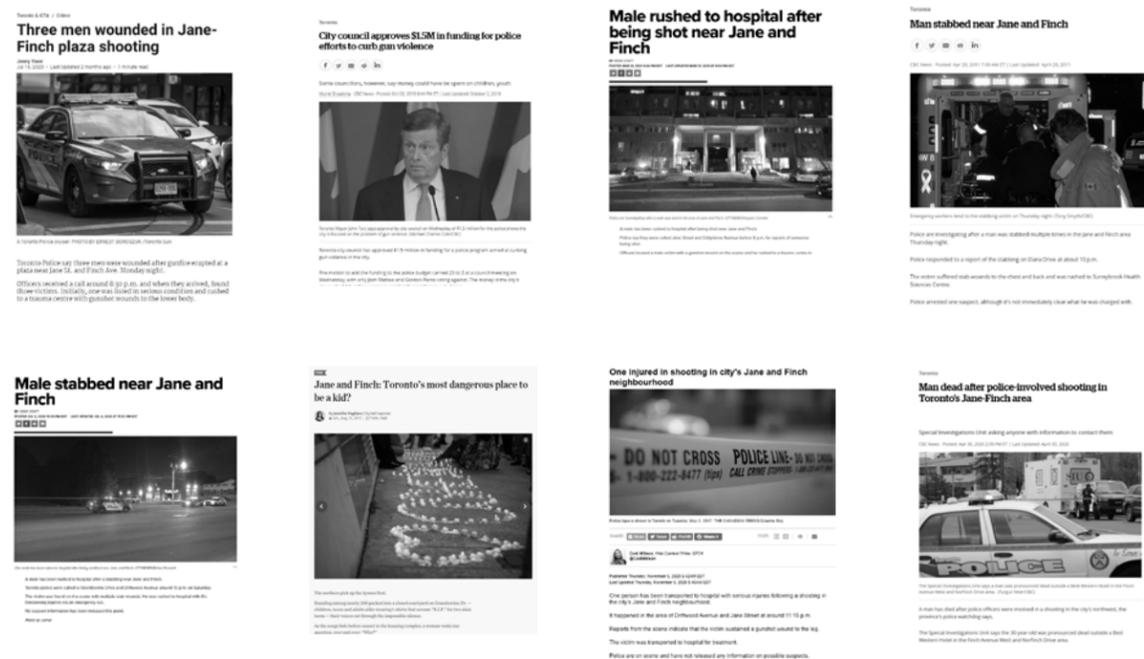


Figure 1.10: Screenshots of Media Coverage on Jane and Finch

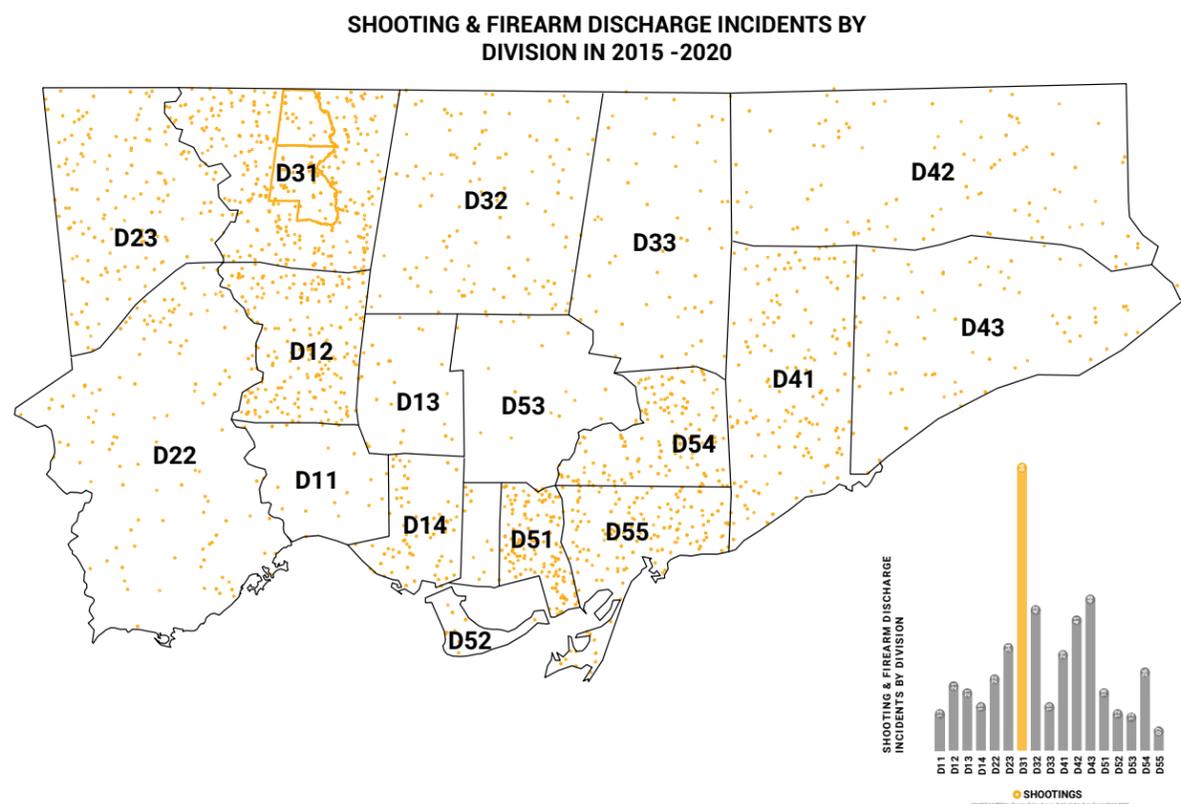


Figure 1.11: Gun Related Incidents in 2015-2020

Reputation and Rebranding

Jane and Finch is notorious for its high crime rate, specifically for shootings and gang violence. The collection of screenshots gives a few examples of how Jane and Finch is portrayed in the media (Figure 1.10). When mentioning the neighbourhood to others, the stigma is so heavily rooted that Jane and Finch is known all over the world. As media dubbed 2005 the *Year of the Gun*⁴¹, the “City of Toronto and the provincial government shifted towards a ‘law and order’ approach that created police initiatives such as Toronto Anti-Violence Intervention Strategy (TAVIS) which imposed channelling more funds to policing as opposed to the much-needed community and social services.”⁴² The focus on gun violence became a large issue for the community as the number of gun-related incidents was at an all-time high in 2017 at 68 shootings and firearms discharged in the 31 Division where Jane and Finch is located.⁴³ During the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, there were 86 gun-related incidents (Figure 1.11).⁴⁴ One of the objectives of the research is to discover why Jane and Finch has such a high rate of gun violence. Is it due to the higher police protocol in the area? Does the lack of employment and/or the racial profiling by the police have something to do with the increase in gun violence?

The community has had its tension with the police and even more so since the development of Jane and Finch began. The documentary, *Home Feeling: Struggle for Community* by Jennifer Hodge and Roger McFair in 1983, showcases how the city was relocating its problem from the downtown core towards the suburbs.⁴⁵ It is a documentary on the residents of Jane and Finch from the residents’ point of view which focuses on what they go through everyday living there. Police started to patrol the neighbourhood which caused racial tension, racial profiling of Black and visible minorities. The neighbourhood consists of many immigrant residents who wish to feel at home. The community would come together as a way to escape after a hard day of work. Regardless of the different types of cultures within the community, one thing they shared in common

⁴¹ “Gun Violence Still a Toronto Reality 15 Years after Deadly Boxing Day Shootout,” TorontoSun, accessed March 17, 2021, <https://torontosun.com/news/local-news/gun-violence-still-a-toronto-reality-15-years-after-deadly-boxing-day-shootout>.

⁴² *Jane Finch From the 1990's Onwards and the Racialization of Poverty*.

⁴³ “Historical Shooting and Firearm Discharges Analytics and Innovation,” Public Safety Data Portal (Toronto Police Service, May 6, 2020), <https://data.torontopolice.on.ca/pages/shootings>.

⁴⁴ “2020 Report Year to Date Shooting and Firearm Discharges Analytics and Innovation,” Public Safety Data Portal (Toronto Police Service, May 6, 2020), <https://data.torontopolice.on.ca/pages/shootings>.

⁴⁵ Jennifer Hodge and Roger McFair, *Home Feeling: Struggle for a Community*, accessed January 16, 2021, https://www.nfb.ca/film/home_feeling_struggle_for_a_community/.

was spending time with each other after school or work—a practice which the police did not understand. When there were large groups of people together, the police questioned if there were any criminal activity happening but realistically, they were just hanging out. Being a person of colour walking down the street, you would get carded by the police because you 'fit a description'. This type of profiling instilled fear within non-residents of the neighbourhood. There was a large amount of vandalism on the streets because of the lack of activities due to the overcrowded community centre and lack of funding for the neighbourhood.

At the beginning of the 1990s, gangs began to form and make their presence known in Toronto within the increased media attention.⁴⁶ An unofficial gang map of Jane and Finch on Jane-Finch.com clearly shows the gang territories in the north and the south (Figure 1.12). An invisible boundary lies between the north and south, separating the vibrant neighbourhood. Jane and Finch is composed of many immigrant residents, many who sought the feeling of belonging. Racial profiling residents by the police left many of them arrested even if they were innocent which made them miss work and/or fired from their job. This became a large issue within the community and created tension with the residents and the police. The systematic issues in the neighbourhood are deeply rooted. Residents are divided and families are torn apart from each other. Being a predominantly Black neighbourhood, where newspaper employees who were mainly White would be controlling the narrative with racial bias.⁴⁷ News reporting became problematic as, "mainstream news outlets often lumped all Black people together when laying the blame".⁴⁸ Cheryl Prescod from the Black Creek Community Health Centre mentioned that "I know young people who don't want to use their addresses when they apply for jobs because they think they'll be judged negatively".⁴⁹ Many had to resort to other ways of making money because the reputation of Jane and Finch affected many residents' employment opportunities due to their home address.

In 2007, Councillor Anthony Perruzza callously moved forward with the rebranding of Jane and Finch without consulting the residents. The city wanted to rebrand the neighbourhood as 'University Heights' in order to try to mask and disassociate the negative reputation of the infamous intersection.⁵⁰ The banner cost \$50,000 along with an image

⁴⁶ Ifeanyi Ezeonu, "Gun Violence in Toronto: Perspectives from the Police." *The Howard Journal of Criminal Justice*, 49: 147. <https://doi-org.libweb.laurentian.ca/10.1111/j.1468-2311.2009.00603.x> quoted in Laura Dunbar, "Youth Gangs in Canada: A Review of Current Topics and Issues," n.d., 3.

⁴⁷ Eternity Martis, "Collateral Damage," *Ryerson Review of Journalism*, April 11, 2016, 60. <http://www.jane-finch.com/files/collateraldamage.pdf>.

⁴⁸ Ibid, 60.

⁴⁹ Dominik Kurek, "Does Toronto's Jane and Finch Community Deserve Its Bad Reputation?" *toronto.com*, September 9, 2019, <https://www.toronto.com/news-story/9574323-does-toronto-s-jane-and-finch-community-deserve-its-bad-reputation-/>.

⁵⁰ Nick Aveling, "Rebranding Jane and Finch," *thestar.com*, January 8, 2009, https://www.thestar.com/news/gta/2009/01/08/rebranding_jane_and_finch.html.

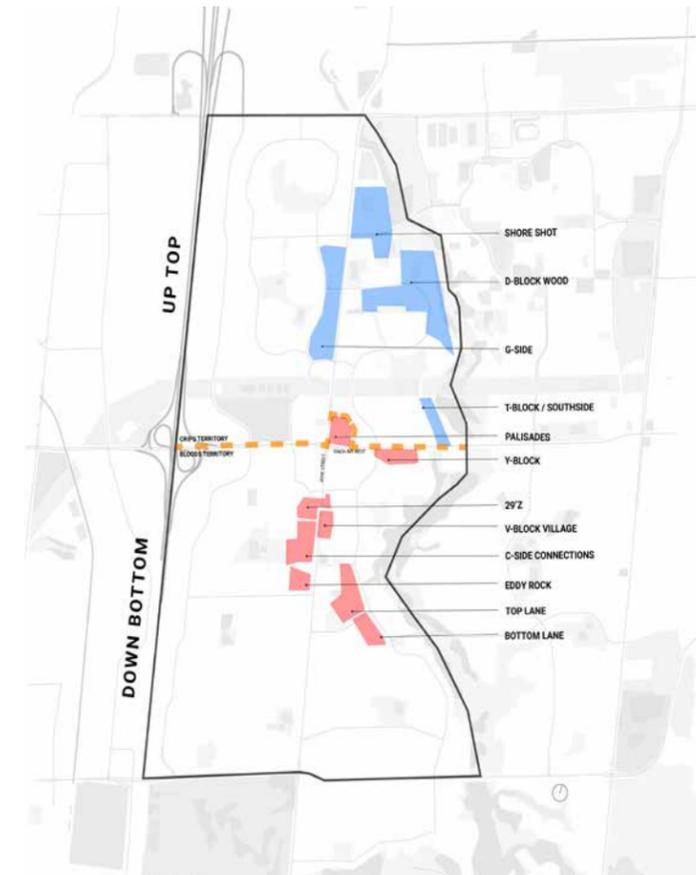


Figure 1.12: Unofficial Gang Boundaries in Jane and Finch

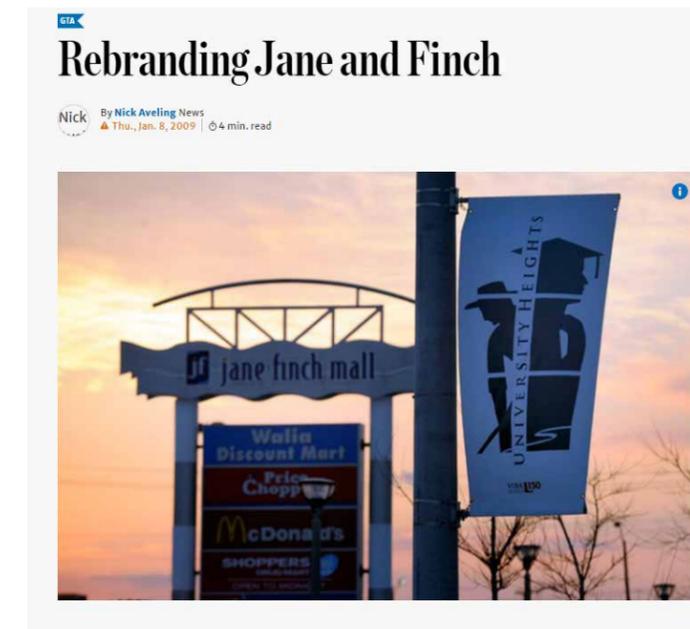


Figure 1.13 Rebranding Jane and Finch Banner

of someone graduating and a farmer with a connection to the Black Creek Pioneer Village (Figure 1.13).⁵¹ Re-branding a neighbourhood is not a new trend. Cities in the United States renamed neighbourhoods to disassociate communities from their histories. For example, the informal area named 'War Zone' in Albuquerque, New Mexico was rebranded as 'International District' due to its high crime and disinvestment in the area.⁵² Renaming International District was an effort to create a new image.⁵³ Rebranding a neighbourhood or district can have a negative impact as the rebranding and redevelopment can lead to gentrification. As Roger Bennett and Sharmila Savani said in *The Rebranding of City Places: An International Comparative Investigation*, "The urban decline within these cities, moreover, had frequently led to the media portrayal of their being associated with severe economic and social deprivation, homelessness, high levels of crime, vandalism, public disorder, dirtiness and a death of civic amenities."⁵⁴ As for Jane and Finch, re-branding will not improve the situation unless social problems are dealt with, and not simply swept under the rug.

While issues continued to pile in 2007 (and even to this day), the problems faced by the Jane and Finch community since the 1990s have yet to be dealt with, such as the "lack of access to employment, affordable healthy foods, decent housing, inadequate public transit, racialized poverty, targeted policing and lack of infrastructural investments from all three levels of government."⁵⁵ The community wants to speak out about their close relationships and frustrations; they want to see changes in the neighbourhoods. This growing citizen concern has led to community activism to the formation of The Jane and Finch Action Against Poverty (JFAAP) and other grassroots initiatives were formed in 2007. Resident-led community organizations increased visibility about the recurring issues and injustices happening within Jane and Finch.

Throughout history, the people of Jane and Finch have overcome the many obstacles that they were faced with. The strong sense of community ties created an extended family within the neighbourhood. Being in a diverse neighbourhood gives opportunities to share various cultures through food, art, music, and many others.

⁵¹ Donovan Vincent, "Banners 're-Brand' Jane-Finch," *Toronto Star*, August 17, 2008, https://www.thestar.com/news/gta/2008/10/17/banners_re-brand_janefinch.html.

⁵² "The International District" (Story of Place Institute, December 2015), 26, https://www.cabq.gov/culturalservices/public-art/documents/02-id-report_storyofplace_booklet.pdf.

⁵³ *Ibid.*, 30.

⁵⁴ Roger Bennett and Sharmila Savani, "The Rebranding of City Places: An International Comparative Investigation," *International Public Management Review* 4, no. 2 (2003): 71.

⁵⁵ *Jane Finch From the 1990's Onwards and the Racialization of Poverty*.



Figure 1.14: North-West View of Jane and Finch Intersection



TORONTO'S ETHNIC ORIGINS (2016)
1 DOT = 25 PEOPLE
● HISPANIC ● WHITE
● SOUTH ASIAN ● BLACK
● EAST & SOUTHEAST ASIAN
Source: Statistics Canada (2016)
* 25% sample size ethnic origin for population in private households

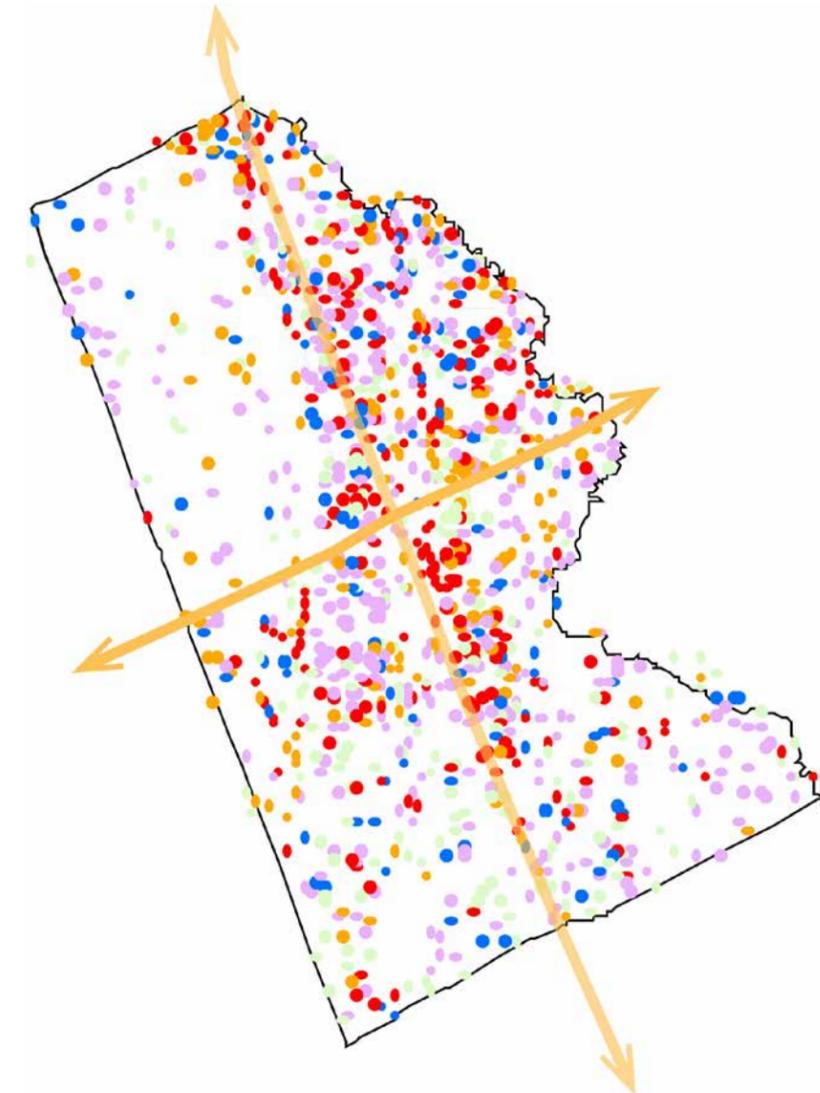
Figure 1.15: Toronto Ethnic Origins in 2016

Toronto's Ethnic Origins and Income

Mapping Ethnic Origins

Cartography was used as a technique to map out the ethnic origins of Toronto and compare how income has influenced the location of living. A style of thematic cartography, dot density mapping is a great method to visualize clusters and highlight certain areas within a map. The map can consist of many layers to highlight and tell a story.

In the process of mapping, you can see the diversity of Toronto, it is used here to visualize the locations of the different clusters of ethnic groups and show how areas of Toronto were shaped by migration. This map (Figure 1.15) shows more White residents are located in downtown Toronto, and the South Asians are distributed in the suburbs. Looking closely at Jane and Finch, the map shows the residents are predominantly People of Colour (Figure 1.16). This discovery led me to wonder why certain ethnic groups moved to Jane and Finch when they arrived in Canada. Through mapping and research, I discovered that many of the immigrants in Jane and Finch are Vietnamese and Jamaican. The diversity of new immigrant arrivals to Canada in 1976 was largely due to the Federal Government lifting the exclusionary immigration act that prohibited immigration from Africa, Asia, Latin America and West Indies.⁵⁶ Additionally, in 1978, 60,000 'Boat People' sought refuge in Canada after the Vietnam War, which is the largest resettlement in Canada.⁵⁷ This immigration history is reflected in the timeline of the urban development of Jane and Finch. The public housing operated by the Toronto Community Housing Corporation attracted many new immigrants who sought affordable housing in the district.



BLACK CREEK (24)

TOP FIVE ETHNIC ORIGINS (2016)

1. VIETNAMESE ————— 2,310
2. JAMAICAN ————— 2,055
3. CANADIAN ————— 1,755
4. ITALIAN ————— 1,565
5. EAST INDIAN ————— 1,500

81% Visible Minority Population
Compare to Toronto's Average of 51%

Sourced Material: City of Toronto, Neighbourhood Profile, Black Creek 24, 2016

GLENFIELD-JANE HEIGHTS (25)

TOP FIVE ETHNIC ORIGINS (2016)

1. ITALIAN ————— 4,310
2. VIETNAMESE ————— 3,580
3. JAMAICAN ————— 2,880
4. CHINESE ————— 2,265
5. EAST INDIAN ————— 1,975

77% Visible Minority Population
Compare to Toronto's Average of 51%

Sourced Material: City of Toronto, Neighbourhood Profile, Glenfield-Jane Heights 25, 2016

TORONTO'S ETHNIC ORIGINS (2016)

- HISPANIC
- SOUTH ASIAN
- EAST & SOUTHEAST ASIAN
- WHITE
- BLACK

Source Material: Statistics Canada (2016)

* 25% sample size ethnic origin for population in private households

1 Dot = 25 People

⁵⁶ Indigenous and Farming Communities and Jane Finch to 1980's.

⁵⁷ Refugees and Citizenship Canada Immigration, "Canada: A History of Refuge," Government of Canada, June 20, 2011, <https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/refugees/canada-role/timeline.html>.

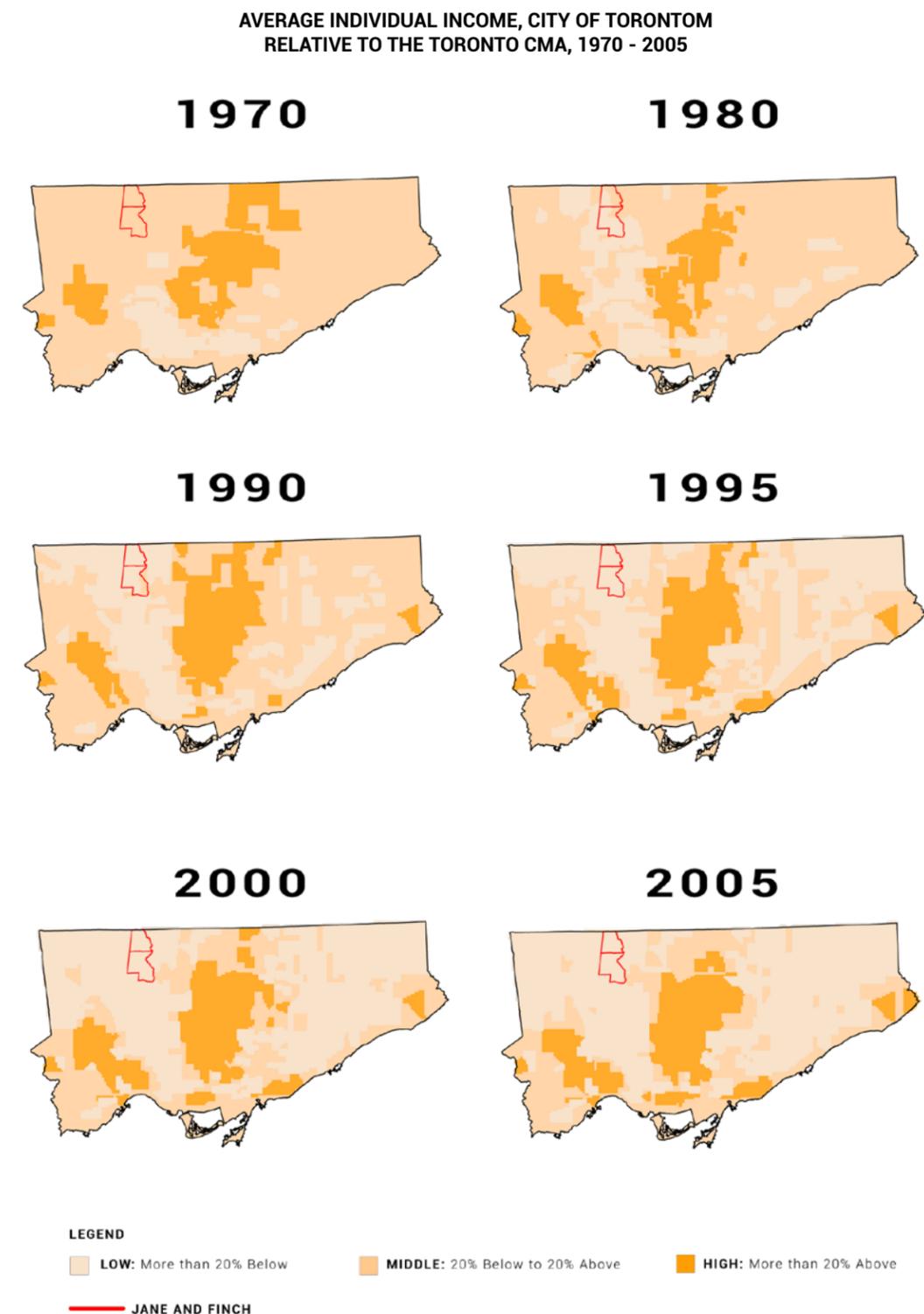
Figure 1.16: Jane and Finch Ethnic Origins in 2016

Toronto Income

David Hulchanski in *The Three Cities within Toronto: Income Polarization Among Toronto's Neighbourhoods, 1970-2005* divided Toronto into three average income classes: 1) High Income 2) Middle Income and 3) Low Income, and how they are segregated in the city.⁵⁸ With the rise of poverty in the 1970s, people moved from the centre of the city to the periphery, into inner-city neighbourhoods.⁵⁹ The low-income neighbourhoods in the periphery had inadequate access to public transit compared to those of higher income in the downtown core. An increasing income gap further segregated the City of Toronto.

When the development of District 10 began in the 1970s, Jane and Finch was a middle-class neighbourhood (Figure 1.17). In less than two decades, Jane and Finch grew into a low-income neighbourhood, due to overpopulation and lack of resources from the city for the community of low-income residents. Meanwhile, the high-income residents in the city's core are left unaffected while the surrounding neighbourhoods increased in population by 53% in 2005, more than twice the growth of 19% in 1970.⁶⁰ As low-income neighbourhoods grew, the middle-class began to disappear, leaving a greater gap between the classes.

There is a visible relationship between income and ethnicity in the city. By comparing the two maps, you can see that the wealthier neighbourhood is located in the center, with mostly White residents, while the low-income residents in the inner-city neighbourhoods are mostly racialized minorities. The low-wage earners living in the periphery travel to the city centre for work. The distance increased daily commute, which many low-wage earners cannot afford. Living in the Downtown core is next to impossible for the majority of the low-income population.



⁵⁸ John David Hulchanski, University of Toronto, and Cities Centre, *The Three Cities within Toronto: Income Polarization among Toronto's Neighbourhoods, 1970-2005* (Toronto, Ont.: Cities Centre, University of Toronto, 2011), 1, <https://www.deslibris.ca/ID/226176>.
⁵⁹ *Ibid.*, 1.
⁶⁰ *Ibid.*, 6.

Figure 1.17: Average Individual Income Comparison in Toronto

Sourced Material: John David Hulchanski, *The Three Cities Within Toronto: Income Polarization Among Toronto's Neighbourhoods, 1970-2005*

Chapter Two: Methodologies

Methodologies

Social engagement is an important process to engage residents of a community in the design of architecture. The design process centers the residents as primary users who inform and co-design with the architects. Architects use social engagement to “represent the community portrays an ideal neoliberal world in which the state would have very limited control of the perceived community.”¹ Unlike architecture designed with the client ‘only’ in mind, it gives a chance to design ‘with’ the participation of the community for the public good. It is a reminder that social engagement is not the final solution for social programs but instead a model to change how we can design a community centre for Jane and Finch.² The intent of this thesis to explore a variety of social engagement tools to incorporate the ideas and values of the community throughout the design process. The tools included charrettes, interviews, mapping and storytelling to influence the design of the building.

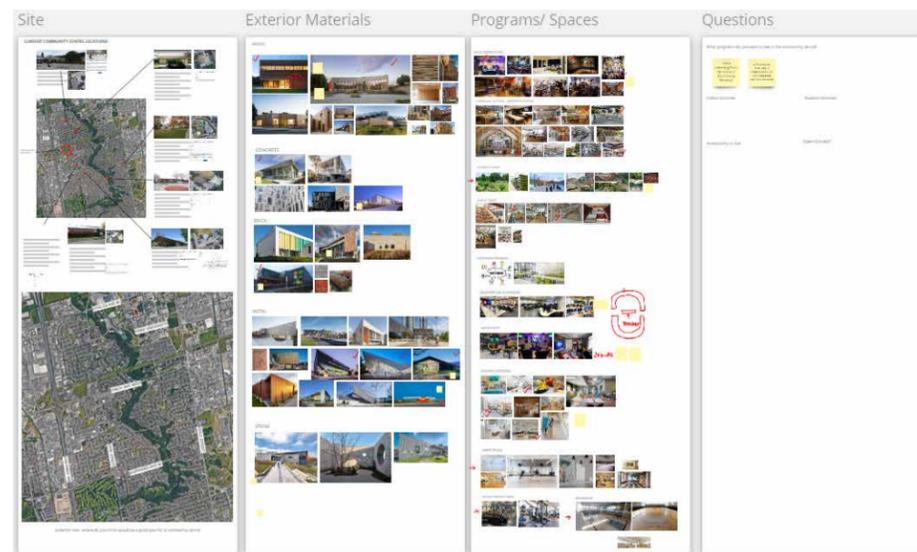


Figure 2.1: Screenshot of Miro Board when Conducted Charrette

Charrette

Of all the social engagement tools I employed, the charrette was the most important. Mainly, the charrettes allowed me to explore with residents the spatial program for the building. The time and process of working with the residents shaped the way I understood what the building needed to be – which evolved from my initial vision about the building. There was another takeaway for me. The engagement also gave me opportunities to communicate architectural design features like materiality, programs and site locations to the non-architects. I would use those suggestions towards the design to help visualize their ideas. For example, the residents helped me understand what “mood” might mean in creating a space, and how “mood” is expressed in the different rooms, with different functions. Designing during the pandemic meant that I had to engage with residents via Zoom and social media. I conducted charrettes on Miro through Zoom with Kofi Frempong to brainstorm programs, materiality, and types of spaces they wanted to see in the community (Figure 2.1). We explored what may be created to have a positive impact on the residents. I used Zoom and social media to connect with members from other community groups like Butterfly GoPaul from the Jane and Finch Against Poverty. I also connected with Clara Stewart-Robertson and Ernestine Aying at Jane/Finch Community and Family Centre, who are part of the group that oversees the current development of a future community centre, meeting them once a month during the design phase to get their input.

¹Farhan Karim, *The Routledge Companion to Architecture and Social Engagement* (New York; London: Routledge, 2018), xxxiv.
² Ibid, xxxv.

Story Telling and Mapping

The second major social engagement tool used was storytelling and mapping which was largely influenced by *Monument Lab: Creative Speculations for Philadelphia*, a project headed by Paul Farber and Ken Lum. The Monument Lab generated awareness of Confederate monuments by elevating the community's voice through public art.³ Monument Lab performed community engagement through a process of collecting data using a card containing a straightforward question. This sample card included the name and the place of the monument and a sketch or text about the space, zip code, age, name, and internal reference number.⁴ This type of research offered a blank canvas for residents to draw and encourage them to reflect on the types of stories they are sharing from the past or present. It is through their stories which can then be analyzed and then transcribed into maps or spreadsheets that another form of civic data may be collected and filtered for the sake of research.

This platform gave residents a way to represent their memories to share with the community. Many only see snippets of what goes on in Jane and Finch, and these stories help to fill in the gaps. The social engagement tool provided insights into what the residents thought about Jane and Finch during the time they lived here. I created a draft template of the mapping exercise of a plain map with just the roads of Jane and Finch and told them to map out their favourite spots. Some issues occurred, as some friends found it hard to locate areas in the map without street names, buildings and no space to write (Appendix B). I revised the template to have clear instructions, a space to write their names, a large blank area for them to create a mind-map to draw, and a writing area for them to explain their favourite place or memory. After the revisions, by mapping their stories, gave the residents an understanding of how other residents feel and visualize the neighbourhood and gives them the experience of power through their voices. Many of these memories or stories often get lost in history.

Storytelling and mapping also helped me to think broadly about public history and how it relates to place and politics. Dolores Hayden's theoretical lens in her book, *The Power of Place: Urban Landscapes as Public History* influenced my understanding of how the ability of local politics and memories can create a sense of place.⁵ What I learned from Hayden is the importance of acknowledging public history within the community. Hayden makes connections between architecture and cultural geography, and how those connections inform cultural identity, social history, and urban design. A strong sense of place is, for Hayden, peoples' connection with the physical environment. The architectural landmark becomes an important part of the sense of place as it is easy for people to perceive and remember the area. Hayden mentioned that territorial history is based on the limitations of certain people in public spaces of the area and would put limitations on certain parts of the neighbourhood.⁶ *The Power of Place* looked at combining public history and public art to recognize the cultural heritage in a diverse neighbourhood. Hayden used mapping techniques to showcase important standing structures in the neighbourhood.⁷

I printed out a map of Jane and Finch and started to highlight places I would visit the community (Appendix C). Many of the places I remembered going to were architectural landmarks like community centres, malls and schools. While mapping down the public spaces, it became apparent that many of these architectural landmarks were located in the "Down Bottom", Glenfield-Jane Heights. Unintentionally shows the influence of areas I would frequent as a resident living in the lower half of Jane and Finch. It also reflects the contested territory within the community and boundaries of places we wanted to hang out as a youth.

The understanding of *The Power of Place* enabled me to think critically about the political division of territory in Jane and Finch and about the history of gang rivalry in the neighbourhood. The storytelling and mapping empowered the residents to tell their stories. By acknowledging the public history that is not written in books, I hope to destigmatize the negative image of Jane and Finch by sharing these stories. Public art such as the murals displayed around Jane and Finch are also stories told merely through another form of media. Being able to visualize the urban neighbourhood while connecting it with the past and present can develop a stronger sense of memory for my diverse community members.⁸

³ Paul M. Farber and Ken Lum, eds., *Monument Lab: Creative Speculations for Philadelphia* (Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 2020).

⁴ "Report to the City" (Monument Lab, October 2018), 4, https://monumentlab.com/s/ML_Report_to_the_City_Web.pdf.

⁵ Dolores Hayden, "The Power of Place: Claiming Urban Landscapes as People's History," *Journal of Urban History*, August 18, 2016, 467, <https://doi.org/10.1177/009614429402000402>.

⁶ Dolores Hayden, *The Power of Place: Urban Landscape*, 4. print (The MIT Press, 1997), 24.

⁷ Hayden, "The Power of Place," August 18, 2016, 483.

⁸ *Ibid.*, 483.

Chapter Three:
The Untold Stories of Jane and Finch

Meet the Residents

A safe way to reach the residents throughout the pandemic was to create a public call-out on Facebook and other social media platforms posted in November 2020. This gave me time to collect the mapping exercise and read through their stories. The data collected in this exercise presents essential documentation of stories and public art around Jane and Finch. I attached to the public post a link to the participatory mapping exercise that people can download and fill out. I was able to introduce the premise of the thesis project and why gathering memories from the residents was important for the design process. I asked a simple question,

“Can you map out your favourite memory or place in Jane and Finch?”

The mapping exercise consisted of a space to draw a map of your favorite memory or place that can indicate the location of landmarks, activities, stories, postal code, boundaries, ethnicity, and age (Figure 3.1).

As the post was public, participating residents came from a wide age range. Twenty-six responses were collected that gave insight towards their different experiences of Jane and Finch through their submissions. It also showed where they grew up influenced the places they would visit and from which area of Jane and Finch. I learned that imagining a community hub symbolizes for the residents a move forward to actively change the enduring legacy of racial injustice and social inequality in the community.

CAN YOU MAP OUT YOUR FAVOURITE PLACE/MEMORIES OF JANE AND FINCH?

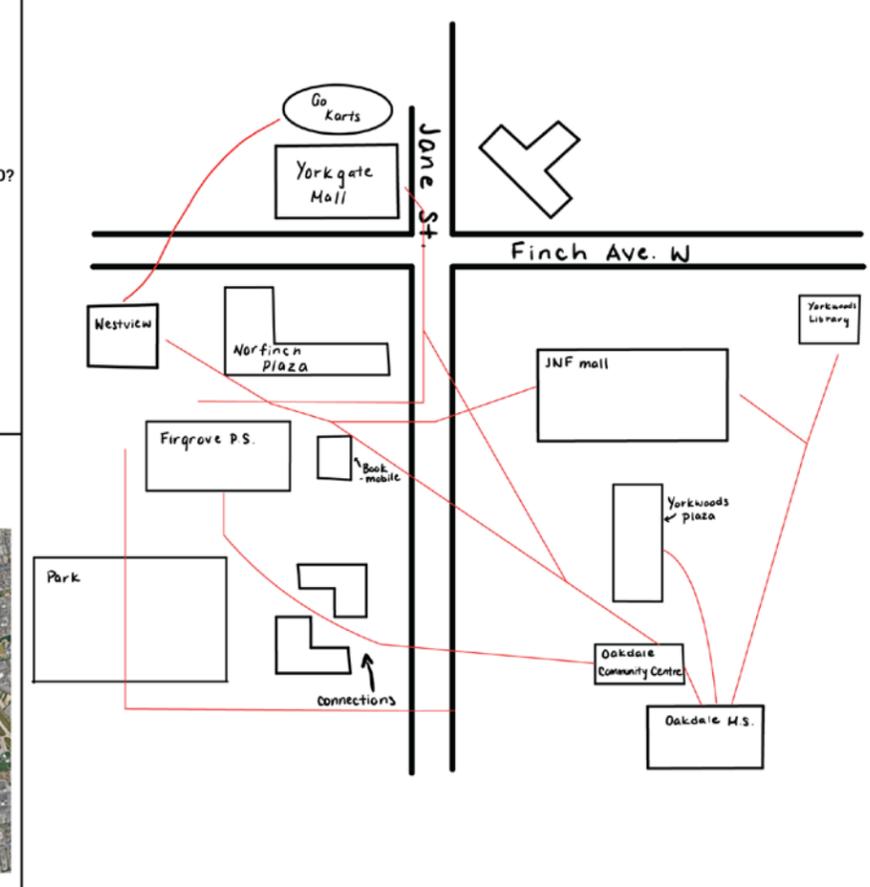
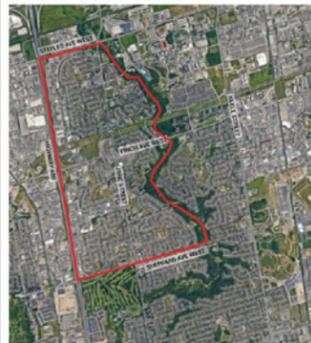
NAME: <u>Lila N.</u> AGE: <u>27</u> POSTAL CODE: <u>M3L 1Y3</u> WHAT IS YOUR ETHNICITY? <u>Vietnamese / Canadian</u> DESCRIBE JANE AND FINCH IN ONE WORD? <u>Diverse</u> HOW LONG HAVE YOU LIVED IN JANE AND FINCH FOR? <u>20</u>	
CAN YOU MARK WHAT YOU THINK THE JANE AND FINCH BOUNDARIES ARE? 	DESCRIBE WHAT YOU DREW ABOVE? <p>I remember attending Firgrove P.S. and playing at the park with my friends on the tire swings and riding my bike in the area. While growing up walking from Firgrove through Connections to get to Middle School. Or some days taking an alternate route when meeting up with my friends. In the summer while attending Oakdale M.S I went to summer camp at the Oakdale Community Centre and walking to Westview to have an all-girls summer camp. One of my favourite moments was while in summer camp was when we got to go, go-karting. As a young kid not being able to drive yet, it was very exciting! During my middle school years, I always would go off during lunch to go to the Yorkwoods Plaza to go to "Double Double" to get the classic poutine or a classic patty! Let's not forget the convenience store there to get Candy. Another place we went for lunch would be Jane and Finch Mall to get the McDonalds or \$2 fried rice and chicken wing. Since Yorkgate Mall was a little further I always remember going upstairs to the second floor to play in the playscape they once had there. I loved it when the bookmobile was in the neighbourhood because sometimes the Yorkwoods Library was far for us while we were kids. This is when I started to get interested in reading.</p>

Figure 3.1: Mapping Exercises for Residents to Fill Out

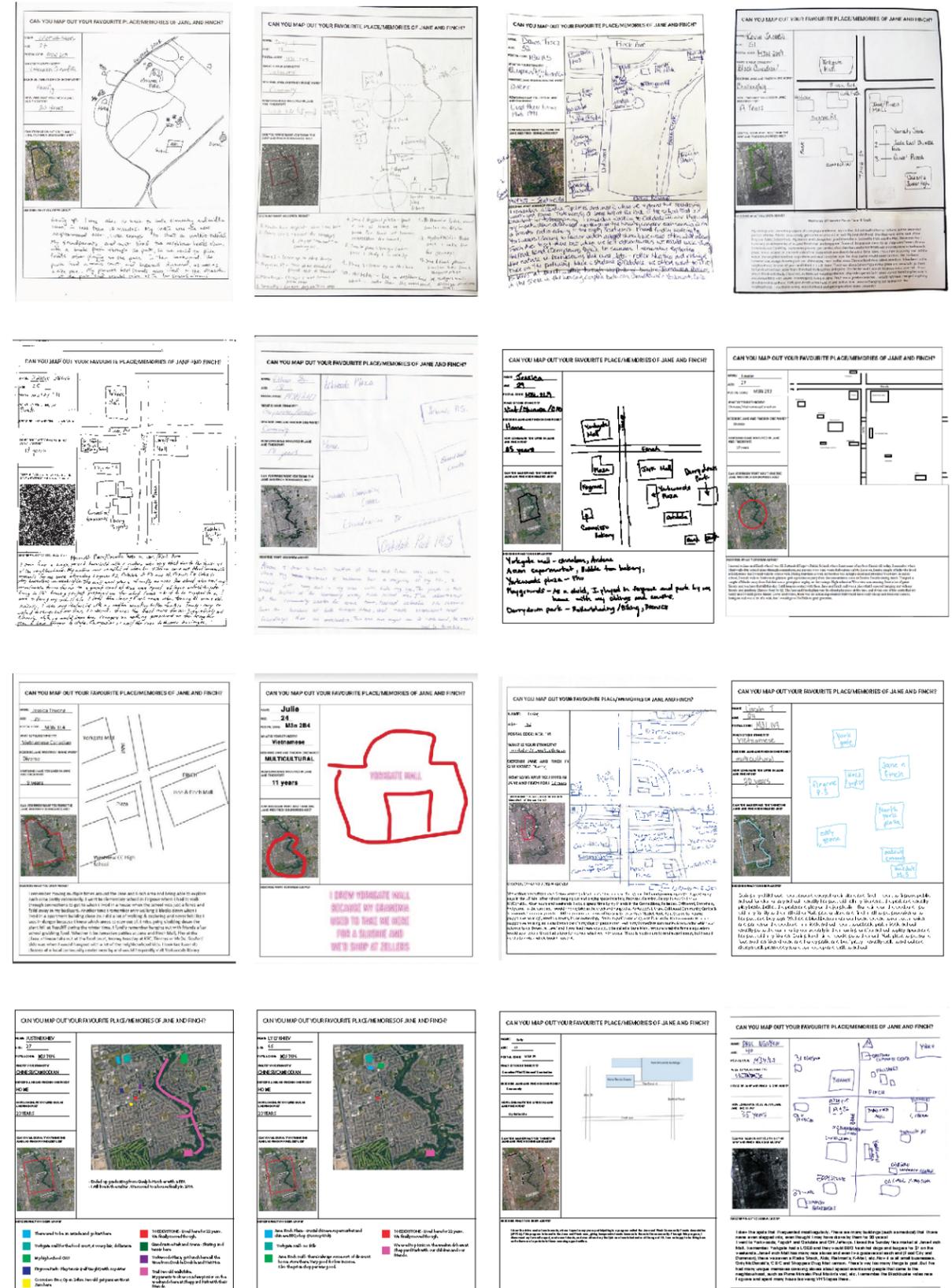
Mapping Findings

A significant aspect of the research process is to connect with the community in a series of interviews, consultations and charrettes that will discover the residents' favourite memories of Jane and Finch. These methods help uncover what is most essential to the residents within the community to reconnect the north and south of Jane and Finch together once again. The community has been able to do more for itself through free programs set up by the residents than the governing body has for the area. More change has taken place in such a small amount of time compared to a hundred years of planning and failed attempts by the government. Since residents in the neighbourhood will be running the community centre, the changes and level of education of the area will enhance the quality of the environment of how the place feels.

The mapping exercise involved the participation of 26 residents, some of whom used to live here and others who continue to reside in the neighbourhood. The exercise entailed residents retelling their favourite stories and their own experiences to guide the mapping process. When describing what Jane and Finch means in one word, 25% of the residents said that it is diverse and tied in second were Home and Community. These are important words the residents used to describe their depictions of Jane and Finch; and certainly, contradict the media portrayal. These stories gave a glimpse into the experiences of various generations who lived in Jane and Finch, and what it felt like growing up here. Wayne S who is 50 and lived in Jane and Finch for 10 years mentioned,

"We moved to Jane and Finch when I was in the seventh grade. Until then I had lived in predominantly white communities. Jane and Finch was ethnically diverse. We had a lot of immigrants up there—me being one of them. I had much in common with a lot of different folks from all over the world. I felt very comfortable in Jane and Finch. There was a sense of belonging." (See Appendix D - D.6)

The strong community ties brought everyone together while creating long-lasting connections. What others thought made us different, made us stronger.



(right) Figure 3.2: Samples of Filled Maps. (See Appendix D)

Many residents mentioned that walking and biking were the best and most accessible modes of transportation. The proximity of the plazas and malls made it easy to navigate from one place to another with a clear sense of direction. Yorkgate Mall had an arcade that students would go to after school or head over to the FunPark to go go-karting. Many residents that participated like Dolly K said, "I remember walking everywhere and not feeling unsafe, for the most part." Or Crystina D mentioned, "Growing up I was able to walk to both elementary and middle school in less than 15 minutes." It was normal for us to walk alone in the neighbourhood because we felt safe knowing others in the area. Walking and biking also became an outlet for many residents to get out of the house or apartments to get fresh air.

Most of the responses were connected to architectural landmarks clustered around the major intersection of Jane and Finch because of the location of the three major shopping areas, Jane and Finch Mall, Yorkgate Mall and Norfinch Plaza. The malls provided a location for friends to meet, socialize and shop. Another important finding was that many residents stated they connected with Jane and Finch through food. Jane and Finch is known for its diversity and wide range of various cultures. The food scene in Jane and Finch is highly underrated; there is an Asian supermarket, surrounded by Vietnamese, Jamaican, Caribbean, and West-Indie's restaurants. The neighbourhood is interconnected through food. Through the process of mapping and collecting stories from the residents, the information gathered portrayed the importance of food and architectural landmarks associated with fond memories of Jane and Finch.

As I encouraged residents to share their stories which would typically be left untold through traditional crime, socioeconomic, population data collection, and the media. The untold stories of the community share the urban history of Jane and Finch from the residents' perspective. Using this mapping exercise as a tool, created a platform for residents to share their experiences in Jane and Finch are their favourite spots or memories. Being able to draw a map breaks down the area on a smaller scale to appreciate various areas or memories residents had in a certain place. This exercise also shows the connection residents have with architectural landmarks in relation to their favourite memory. The map also highlights their important stories they want to contribute to the positive impact Jane and Finch had on them that are not often shared in the media.

MAPPING FINDINGS:

JANE AND FINCH WITH ONE WORD

Diverse	I	(6)
underrated		(1)
Family		(1)
Home		(4)
Community		(4)
Challenging		(1)
Multicultural		(2)
unique		(1)
Italian		(1)
Roots		(1)

ACTIVITIES MENTIONED IN TEXT

Go-Karts		(2)
Arcade		(3)
Biking		(5)
Picnic		(3)
Tennis		(2)
Billiards		(2)
Basketball		(2)
Soccer		(1)
Skating		(3)
Tobogganing		(2)
Walking	I	(6)

LANDMARKS MENTIONED IN TEXT

SCHOOLS	Gosford P.S.		(1)
	Brookview M.S.		(2)
	Westview S.S.		(5)
	Top Cliff P.S.		(1)
	Figrove P.S.		(8)
	Shoreham P.S.		(2)
	Oakdale Park M.S	I	(11)
	Stanley P.S.		(1)
C. W. Jefferys C.I.		(1)	
PARKS	Firgrove Park		(1)
	Hullmar Park		(1)
	Grandravine Park		(3)
	Driftwood Park		(2)
	Dells Park		(1)
	Top Cliff Park		(1)
	Derry Down Park		(1)
Spenny Valley Park		(2)	
COMMERCIAL	Yorkgate Mall		(12)
	Jane and Finch Mall (JNF)		(12)
	Norfinch Plaza (NFP)		(8)
	Yorkwoods Plaza (YWP)		(8)
	Jane and Sheppard Plaza (JNS)		(3)
	Shoreham Plaza		(4)
PUBLIC INSTITUTION	Driftwood Community Centre		(4)
	Oakdale Community Centre		(5)
	Yorkwoods Library	I	(6)
	Jane And Sheppard Toronto Library		(1)
PLACES	Blockbuster		(3)
	Humber River Hospital		(2)
	Connections		(5)
	Eddystone		(3)
FOOD RELATED	Mac Milk		(3)
	Asian Supermarket		(2)
	Indian Supermarket		(1)
	Double Double @YWP		(3)
	Viet Hoa @YWP		(1)
	Commissio Brothers		(4)
	Mc Donalds @JNF Mall		(2)
	Pizza Pizza @JNS		(1)
Fish + Chips @Brookview		(2)	
KFC @NFP		(1)	
Pho @NFP		(2)	
Patties @YWP + JNF Mall		(3)	

Figure 3.3: Research and Tally Marks of Places, Words and Activities Mentioned

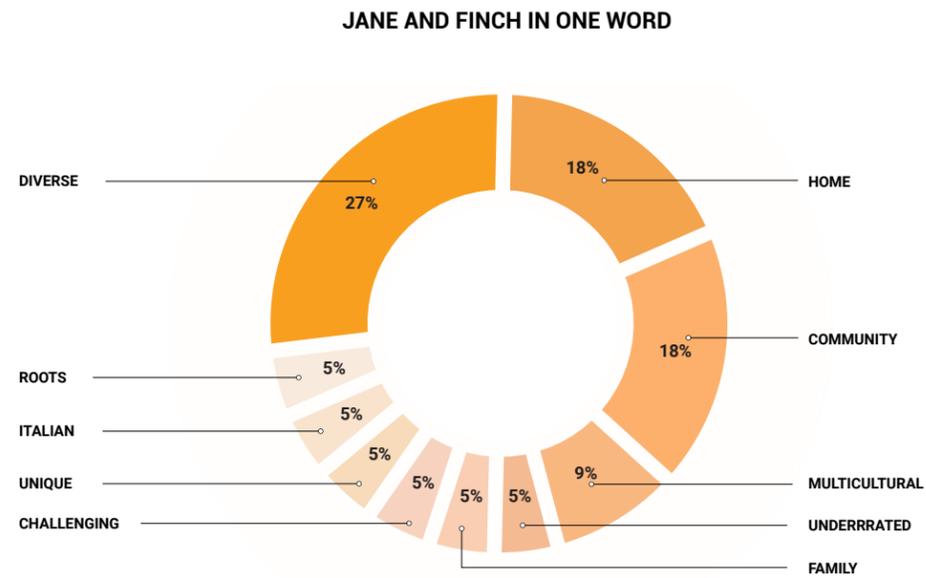


Figure 3.4: One Word that Describes Jane and Finch

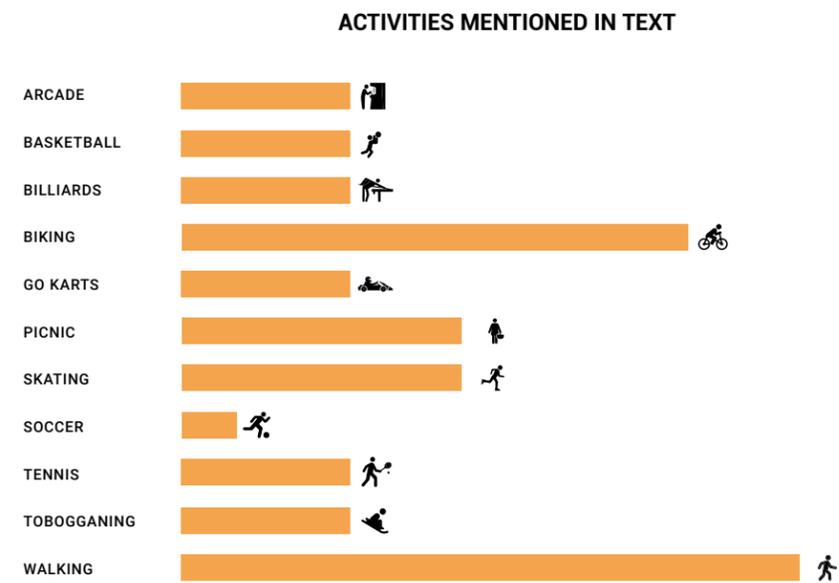


Figure 3.5: Favourite Activities in Jane and Finch

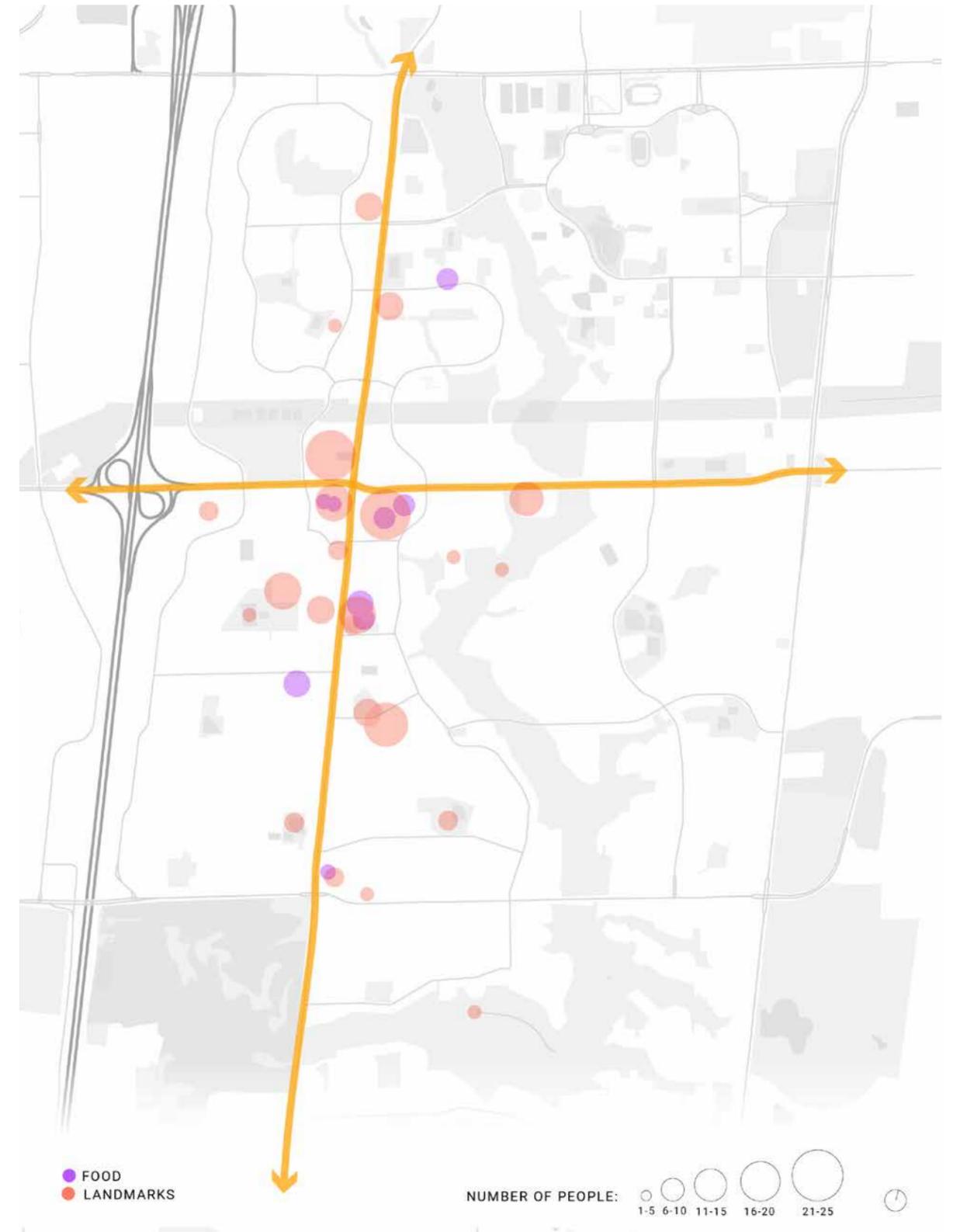


Figure 3.6: Favourite Food and Landmarks in Jane and Finch

Chapter Four:
Site and Concept

Site Analysis

The site analysis of Jane and Finch was explored in four maps: formal access, informal access, green spaces, and gang boundaries. The mapping process started as a way to understand the site and how it could influence the architectural design. Analyzing each element separately to understand how they can impact the site individually. It creates a different perspective in the way outsiders and how residents see the site. The maps will be combined and analyzed to highlight the connection between all four maps.



Figure 4.1: Green Space

Green Space

There are over 20 green spaces in Jane and Finch, and a long green belt to the west of the site along the Black Creek (Figure 4.1). A majority of these parks are owned by the City of Toronto; they have no specific programs to encourage various age groups to use the park. Some of these parks are located near schools, and residents hesitate to use them due to the feeling of being watched or judged.

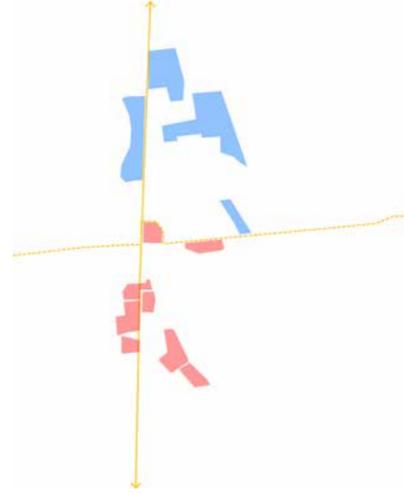


Figure 4.2: Gang Boundaries

Gang Boundaries

This is a re-drawn gang boundaries map provided by Jane-Finch.com showing the location of the boundaries (Figure 4.2). The gangs occupy two clusters of the community, one in the North and one in the South. The disconnect between the two city neighbourhoods created an invisible barrier and tension for the residents in the North and South.

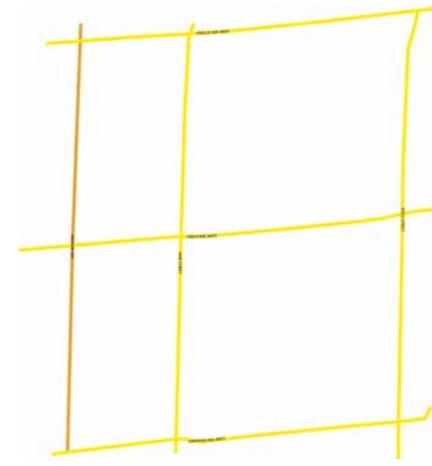


Figure 4.3: Formal Access

Formal Access

As seen early during the site analysis, the main streets and major Highway 400 serve as the formal access towards Jane and Finch (Figure 4.3). The formal roads give clear direction on what routes one must take. It provides visualization of the grid that outlines the blocks used to plan out the neighbourhood. Formal access is what outsiders see on a map while Googling Jane and Finch. It only tells one side of the story, for people who do not know the area.

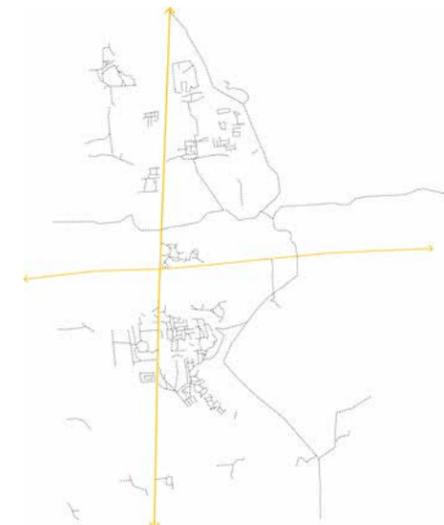


Figure 4.4: Informal Access

Informal Access

Mapping the informal pathways and walkways residents take creates a maze-like pattern (Figure 4.4). There are two visible clusters—one in the North and one in the South—that reflect the location of the corridors in the neighbourhood. Parts of these areas are dangerous unless you know how to navigate through the neighbourhood. The informal access shows the residents' intimacy and familiarity regarding their knowledge of the neighbourhood compared to outsiders. It presents another layer to uncover in order to get to know and familiarize oneself with navigating the area. Residents can reach their destinations much more quickly by walking and biking while taking advantage of these informal routes.

Combined Mapped

While compiling the analyses and combining all the maps together, many visual connections become apparent (Figure 4.5). The cluster of informal access is overlaid with gang territory which is located by the public parks. The parks within the green belt are underutilized due to the safety concern of it being so secluded, as well as the fact that many of the crimes tend to happen within the park. Many other parks are located in a semi-public area such as a school zone with other people from the community who do not use it as often, because many feel as though they are being watched. The green belt has no formal programs and is publicly owned by the city of Toronto. Some parts of the green belt are not accessible to all residents. Many of these areas are not appealing to the youth as these areas tend to be hidden from the public eye. Yorkgate Mall has been a neutral zone for the community with events being held such as Freedom Friday; these events allow everyone from the North and South to come together through food, music, and art. More community events are being hosted to make them more available for the neighbourhood. The proposed site is located on the west side of the mall along a public main street.

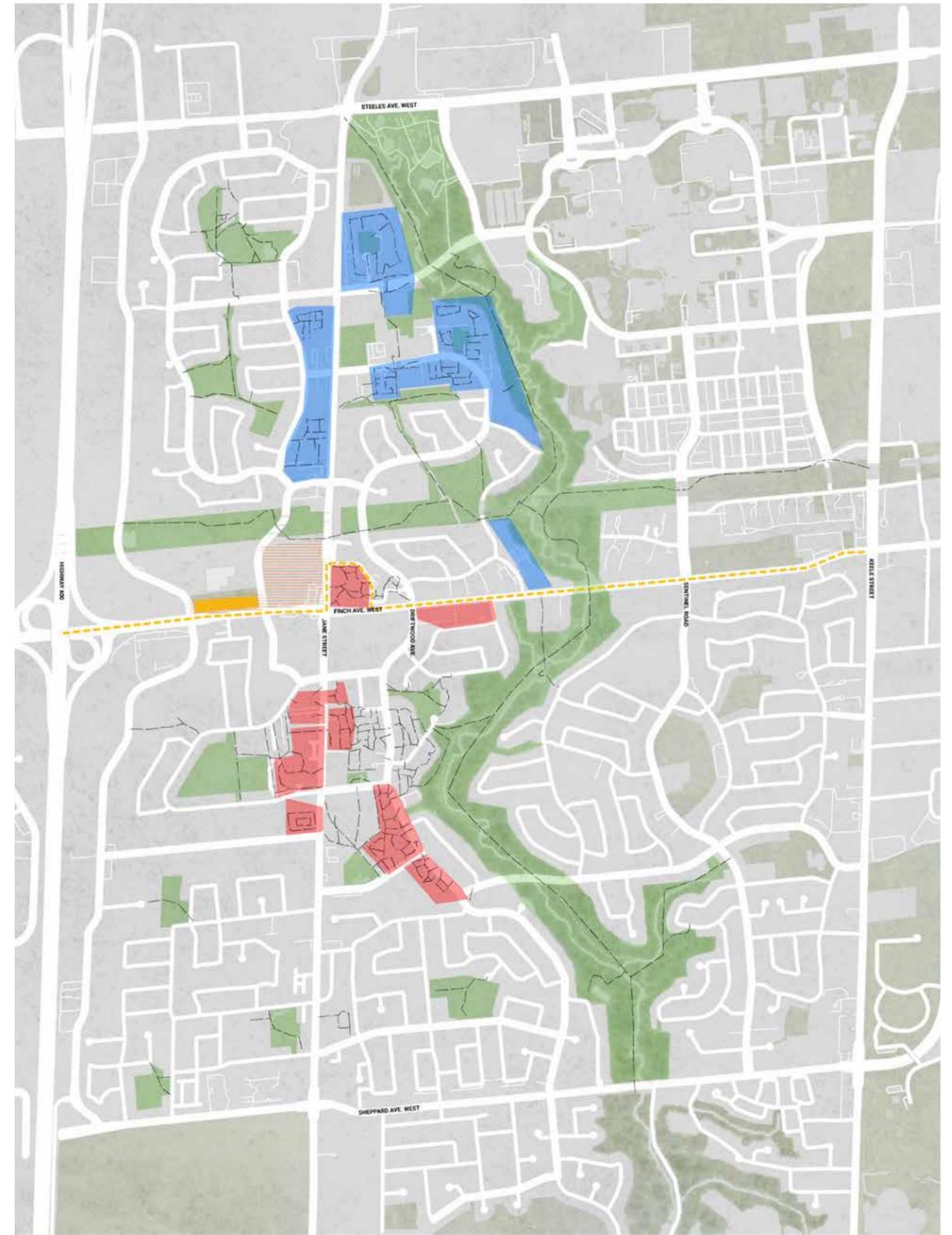


Figure 4.5: Combined Maps of Site Analysis



Figure 4.6: Location of Murals in Jane and Finch

Murals

The majority of the murals are located on Jane Street (Figure 4.6). They create a public art gallery while you are driving or walking along the street. They are everywhere in the neighbourhood. Art on the hard surfaces of modernist buildings can soften it. Murals provide a glimpse into the community, creativity, telling their stories through art. Some murals can even empower women and carry a message about food insecurity, as memorials for the lost ones.¹ Many of these murals were created by local artists incorporating the input of the community, from people of all ages, ethnicity, and gender. The murals are ways for residents to have an outlet to share their stories and to create a collective identity.² Murals can be used to create a buffer zone between the two groups' public space that resonate a sense of belonging for community members.

¹Talisha Ramsaroop, "Murals Talk Back: An Understanding of Community Murals in Jane Finch," n.d., 12.
² Ibid, 47.

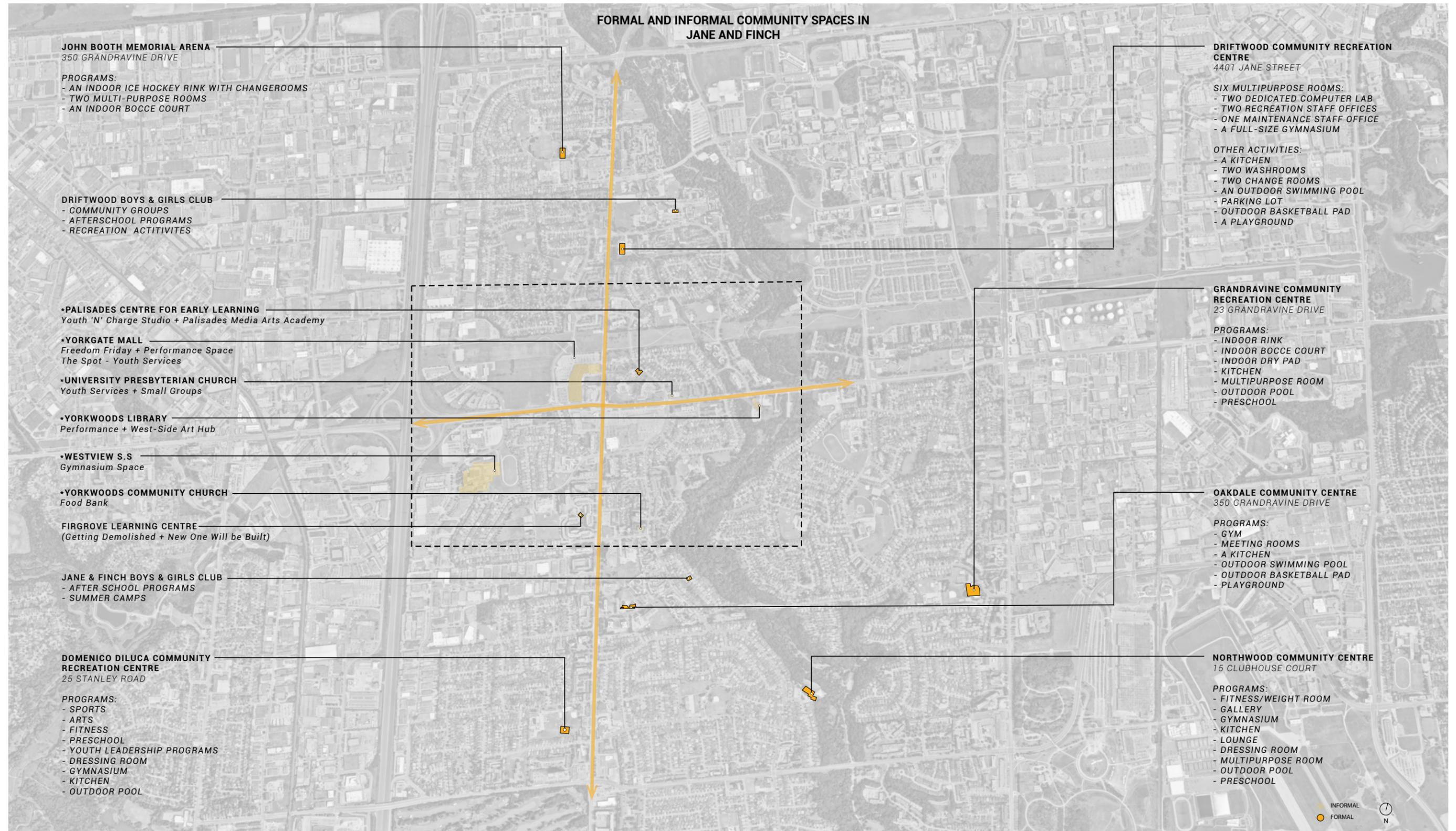


Figure 4.7: Formal and Informal Community Spaces in Jane and Finch with Types of Programming



Figure 4.8: Basketball Court by Oakdale Community Centre

Community Centres

The importance of creating a community centre as stated by Alan Twelvetrees in *Community Associations and Centres A Comparative Study* is to foster the growth of the community spirit.³ When collaborating with others it is found that smaller groups work the best because in larger groups the participants tend to keep to themselves. A community centre alone does not foster this sense of community but rather in taking positive actions to promote resident involvement.

Community centres are often associated with physical activities such as sports or as a place for after-school programs. Community centres are more than just a place to play sports or to have fun after school, as defined as “a place where people from a particular community can meet for social, educational, or recreational activities.”⁴ Jane and Finch already has many recreational facilities in the area for physical activities and sports. As a community, we need a space that can support and provide the right resources to the neighbourhood. By creating accessible leisure facilities for leisure as well as outreach, entrepreneurialism, along with spaces for social services that help to reduce social and economic inequalities.⁵

The growth in population has increased density, but yet public resources and services have remained the same (Figure 4.7). With city funding, community services and the arts and culture can be brought together. This can be done on resident-led initiatives. An example is the “West-side Art Hub” at the Yorkwoods Library, created in response to a need for a space for the growing art scene. Unfortunately, the lack of funding has ended this program and many others like it. A community centre is a place that can bring people from all over the neighbourhood—no matter their race, age, or culture—to come together.

³ Alan C. Twelvetrees, *Community Associations and Centres: A Comparative Study*, 1st ed, Pergamon International Library of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Social Studies (Oxford; New York: Pergamon Press, 1976), 121. Library of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Social Studies (Oxford; New York: Pergamon Press, 1976), 121.

⁴ “Definition of Community Centre,” Dictionary, Lexico Dictionaries, accessed December 20, 2020, https://www.lexico.com/definition/community_centre.

⁵ James Higgerson et al., “Impact of Free Access to Leisure Facilities and Community Outreach on Inequalities in Physical Activity: A Quasi-Experimental Study,” *Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health* 72, no. 3 (March 2018): 252, <https://doi.org/10.1136/jech-2017-209882>.

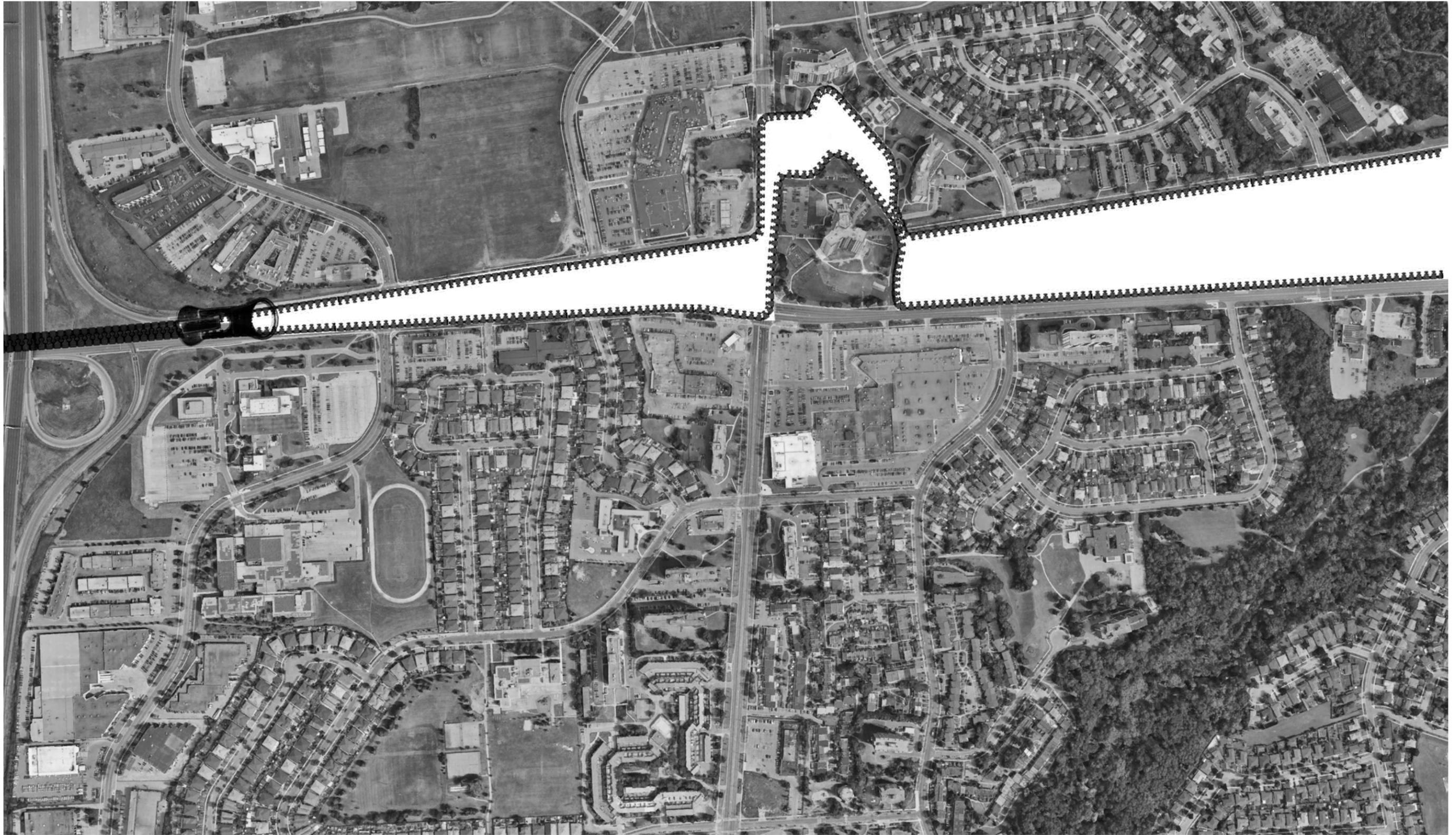


Figure 4.8: Zipper Collage of Jane and Finch

Site Proposal

Previously mentioned that Jane and Finch is a walkable neighbourhood. Within five to ten minutes you can reach Yorkgate Mall, Jane and Finch Mall and North Finch Plaza. They offer a variety of retail and food-related stores. The site itself is situated across the street from a nursing home, a medical building and a residential neighbourhood. Behind the site, itself is the Metrolinx Storage Yard, Remberto Navia Sport Fields and the Finch Hydro Corridor Recreational Trail. The west of the site, you have the hotels, 31 Divison, Norfinch Adult Education Centre and near the Highway 400 entry.

The proposed site is in the heart of Jane and Finch, connecting Black Creek (North) and Glenfield-Jane Heights (South) (Figure 4.9). The importance of this location is its connection to the "Up Top" and "Down Bottom". Notorious for high crime rates and gang rivals, the site will be transformed into an area where the community can come together in peace. Over time, Yorkgate Mall located east of the site became a neutral zone for rivalry gangs to attend certain events such as Freedom Friday which hosts live performances and artists at The Spot. The site is pedestrian-friendly and accessible by public transit and vehicles. It is also located by Highway 400, which connects the north and south of the city. These access points will give residents easier entry to the site for future events and activities. The site is situated close to outreach programs, thus creating opportunities for collaboration. By including green/open public space, the proposed design will allow the residents to have access to the public landscape.

As mentioned in the site analysis, Jane and Finch is seen disconnected from the community through the north and south because of these issues of conflicted territories. Through architecture, we can slowly pull a zipper, connect the two city neighbourhoods again. How can architecture become an instrument to reconnect conflicted territories? How can architecture create a new image for the future of the Jane and Finch community?

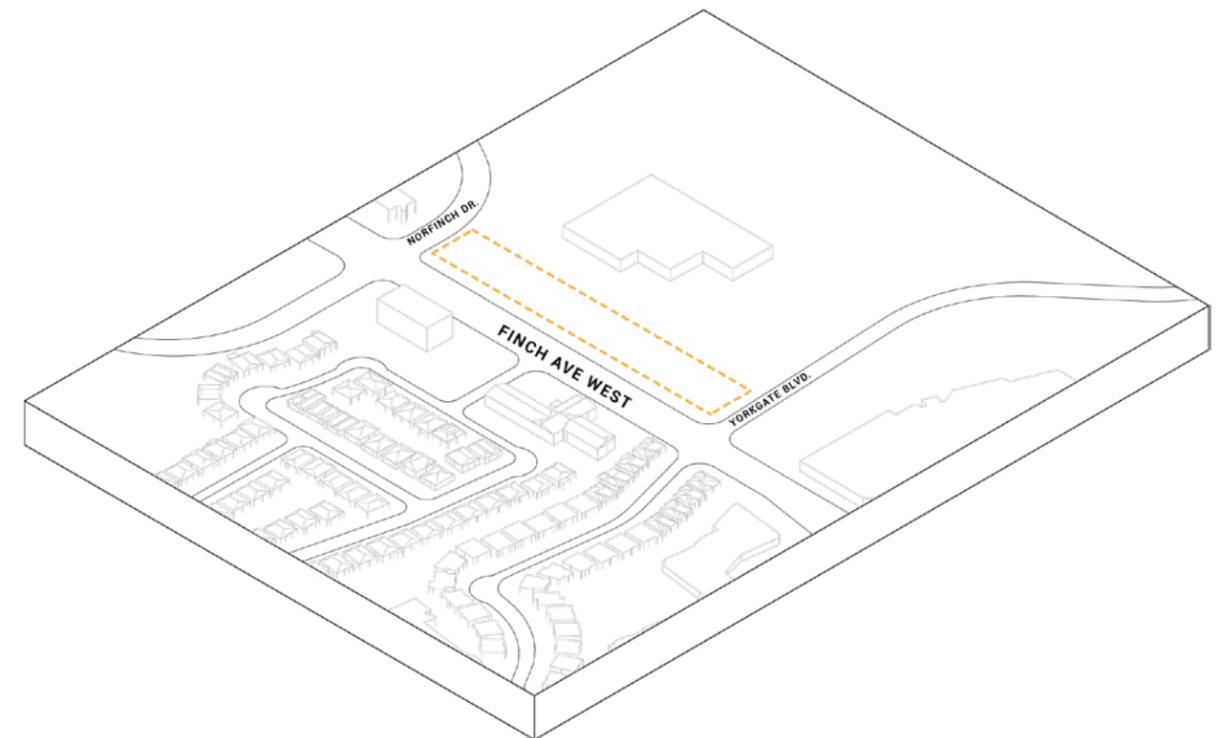


Figure 4.9: Proposal Site Location

Surrounding Site

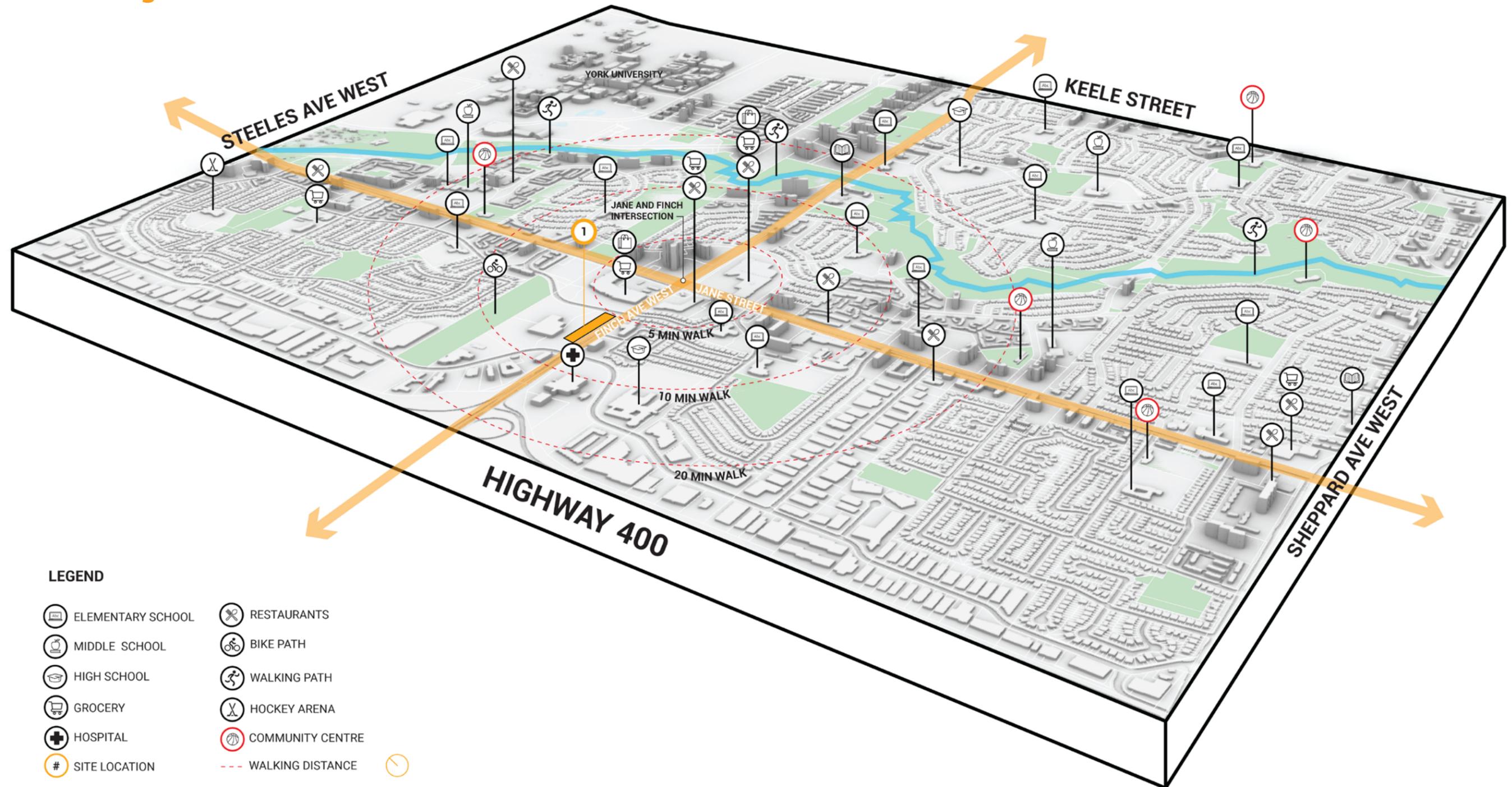


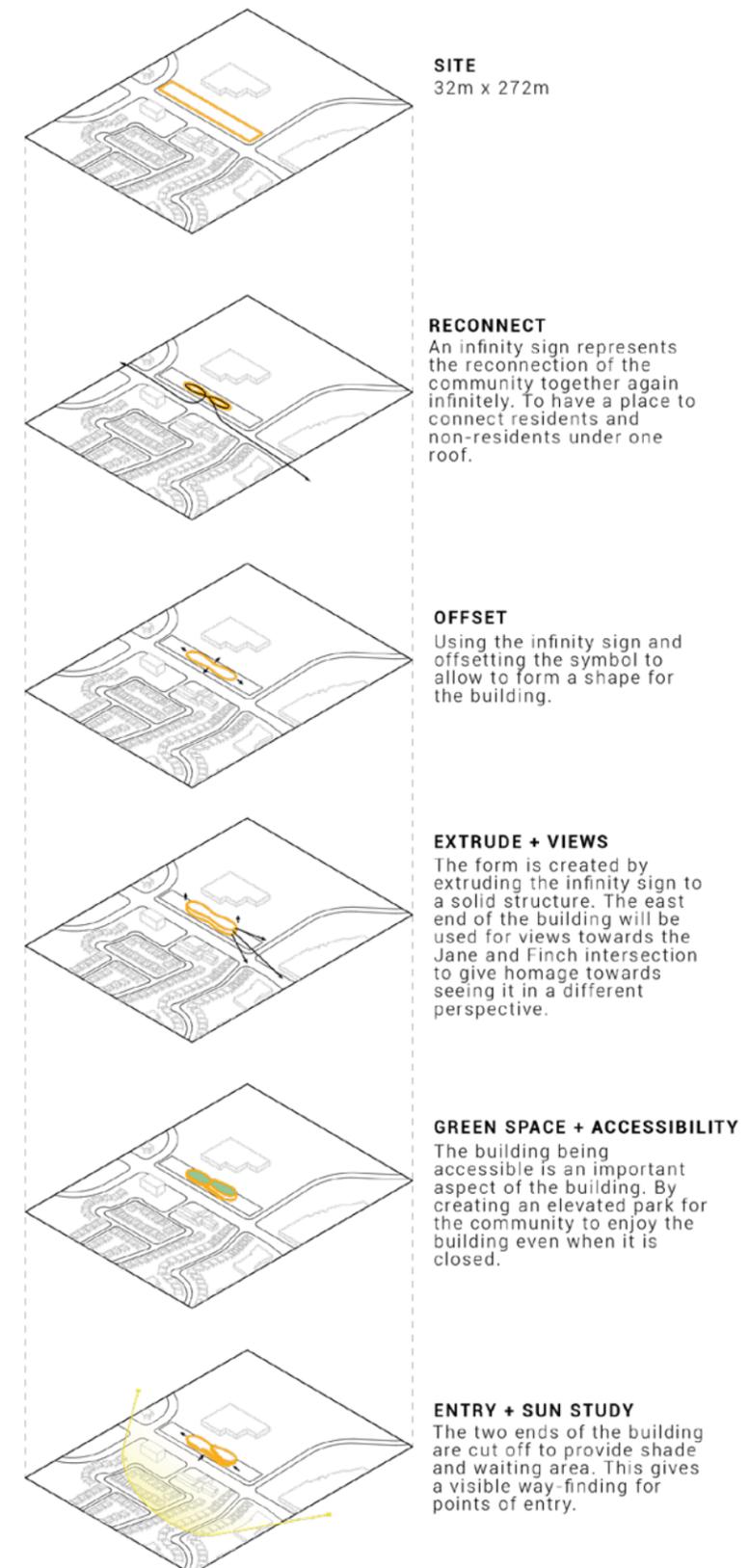
Figure 4.10: Site Analysis on Surroundings

Concept

The data from the participating tools: mapping, storytelling guided the architectural design proposed in this thesis. The building is intended to reduce the divide between the two conflicted neighbourhoods of Jane and Finch. My hope is to empower the community with resources and programs in the form of a community hub.

The site is a green space currently underused except a portion is currently being developed into a storage yard for Metrolinx. It is worth noting that this site is a chosen site for a future community centre. I have used the feasibility study done by the community for the future community centre as my guideline to develop my proposed community hub with the community members.

The site is long and narrow. The dimensions are 272m by 32m. The shape of the building was inspired by an infinity sign which symbolizes a community that is always connected. The east side of the building is lifted to give a vantage point of the Jane and Finch intersection. As the area is occupied by a diverse group of residents, creating a space that can be accessible for all is important. The ramped roof gives residents access to the park even when the building is closed. Everyone is welcome. The south-facing facade is adhesive with low-impact designs; the green roof is used to reduce the urban heat effect.



(right) Figure 4.11: Concept Diagram



Figure 4.12: Site Location before Construction - View from Finch Ave West

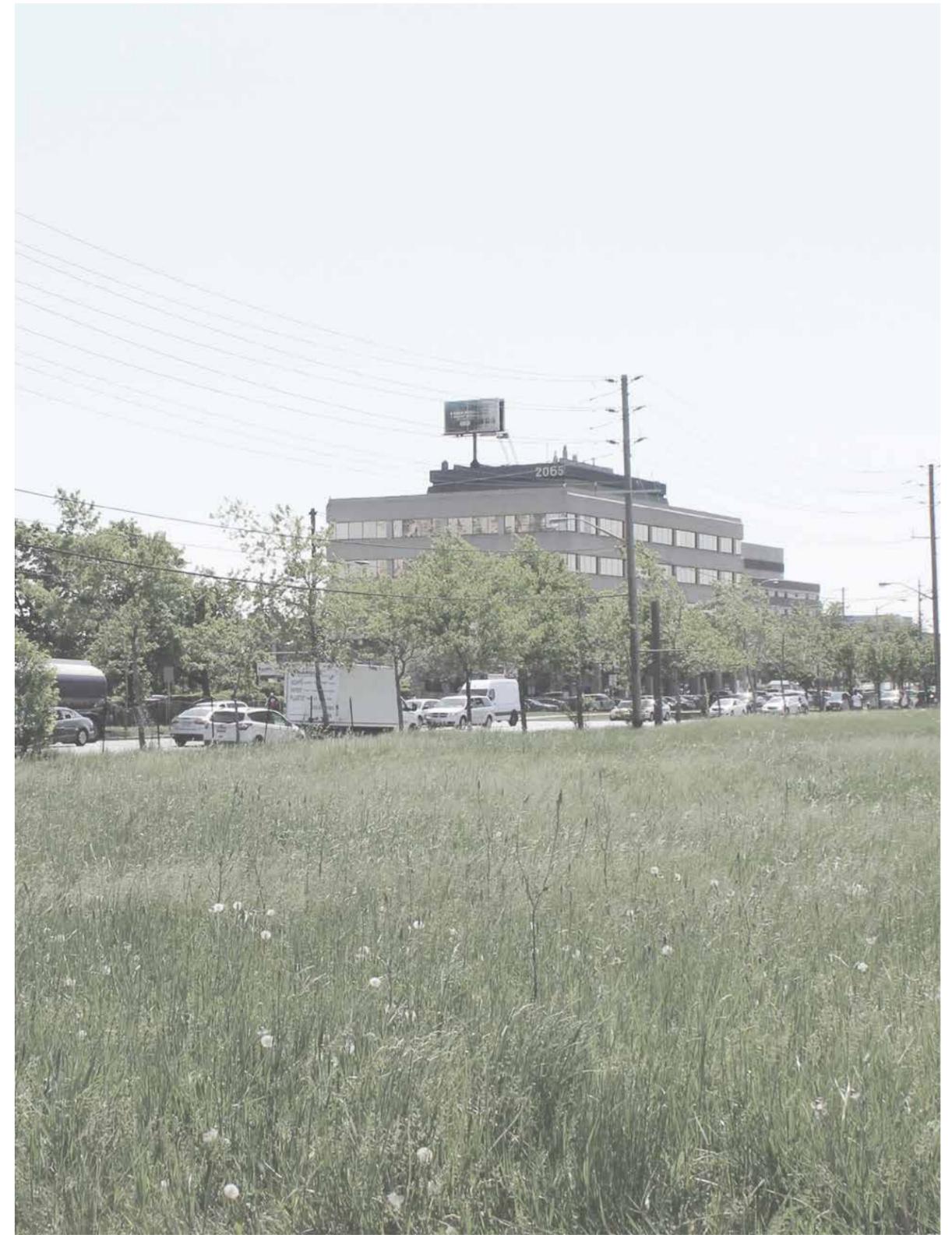


Figure 4.13: Site Location before Construction - View from Yorkgate Blvd towards Finch Ave West

“...take pride in our community and the history which we have all shared in making.” - From Longhouse to Highrise

Chapter Five: Program

Programmatic Analysis

The programs for the community hub are meant to embrace the cultural impacts of the conflicted territories between the North and South. The objective of these programs is to assist the local community with issues such as unemployment, lack of childcare facilities, space for youths and to share the local culture for all.

Some programmatic elements in the Community Hub might be duplicated to accommodate the residents of the contested territories. The duplicated rooms can eventually merge or change into other programs when the conflict of the contested territories is resolved. The design process was a way to enhance programs with a focus on the community's needs. The streetscape of the site will be heavily influenced by the surroundings and location of the programmatic activities such as the marketspace, lobby, café and youth lounge. This will provide shareable open spaces that are also available to the outreach programs in the vicinity. By providing curated outdoor activities on top of indoor programs, the building is not limited to the interior but rather extends itself towards the street.

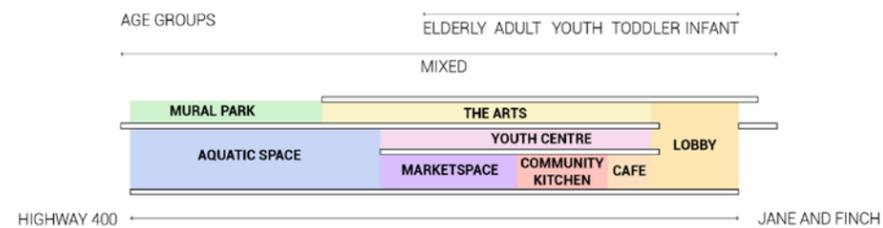


Figure 5.1: Program Location Influenced by Age Groups and Main Streets

PROGRAMMING DIAGRAM

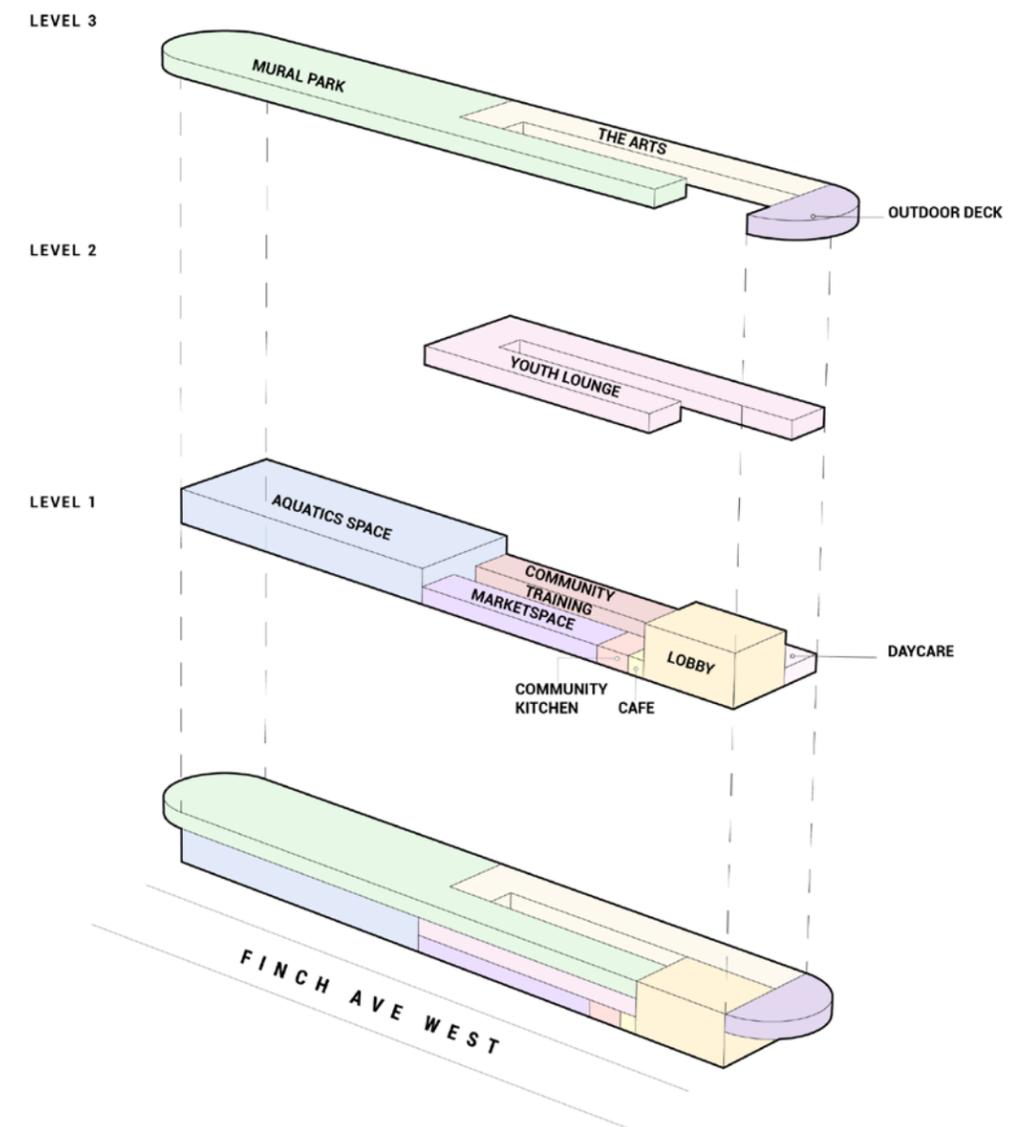


Figure 5.2: Programming Diagram of Each Floor

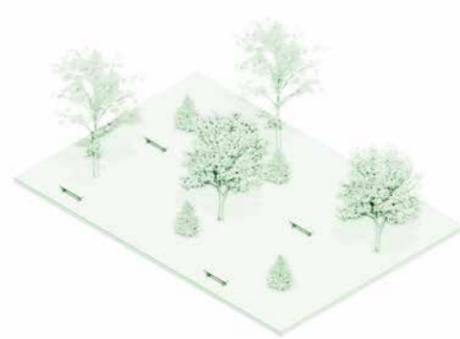


Figure 5.3: Mural Park



Figure 5.4: B.B.Q Area



Figure 5.5: Basketball Court



Figure 5.6: Splash Pad

Mural Park

The mural park would give residents a programmed park by allowing the artists in the community to create murals, thus giving them opportunities to share their stories through art. The elevated roof also gives residents various points of view of Jane and Finch. On the way up to the mural park, there are small gardens for resting spots, mural viewing, and an area for rock/rope climbing for kids. Mural Park can also host live events on the roof and provide outdoor seating for its users.

Outdoor Space

The community hub will provide many outdoor spaces to use year-round. The outdoor programs will include a parkour station, a water splash pad, a barbecue area, and outdoor seating. The basketball court at the rear end will transform into a skating rink during the winter months. The most important outdoor space would be the memorial garden in front of the building. There is garden space dedicated to honouring the lives of victims due to gun violence. Curated pieces and stories will populate this space as a way to acknowledge the pain and losses of the community.

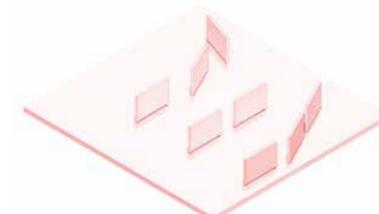


Figure 5.7: Art Gallery

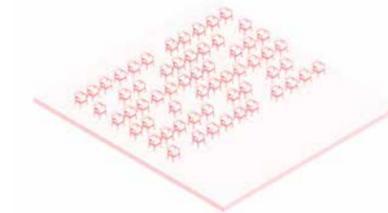


Figure 5.8: Town Hall

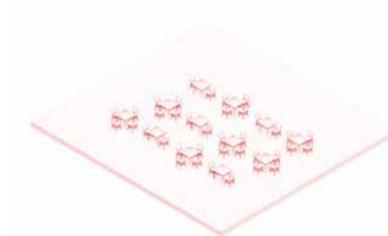


Figure 5.9: Cafe Seating Area

Lobby

The lobby acts as a multipurpose space that can be used as an art gallery, a town hall for social action, for after-school programs or an informal space for residents to hang out as an extension of the youth lounge. The area also acts as a free space for community members to come hang out without needing to pay. The common space could be used as an extension of the nursing home across the street to connect and meet with youth to provide an area to socialize.



Figure 5.10: Dance Studio



Figure 5.11: Music Studio



Figure 5.12: Art Studio

The Arts

Many of the community centres in the area do not provide a diverse selection of programs for the arts. By providing a space for the arts, various members of the community, especially the youth, can explore their creativity and thrive in a space that is made for them. Art programs will range from fine arts (painting, sculptures, and drawings), digital art, a music studio (practice and recording room) and a dance studio. The residents of Jane and Finch are talented in the music realm, the arts with murals around the neighbourhood and a dance studio. The residents of Jane and Finch have shown their talents in the music realm, with visual arts through murals around the neighbourhood, and even through dance. These programs would be more useful to the Jane and Finch demographic as it has more appeal than a gymnasium.



Figure 5.13: Small Marketplace

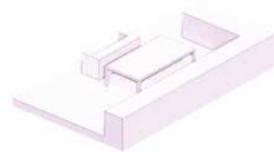


Figure 5.14: Mid-Size Marketplace

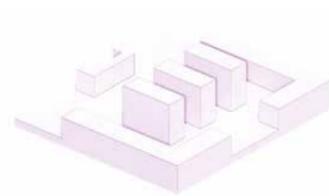


Figure 5.15: Large Marketplace

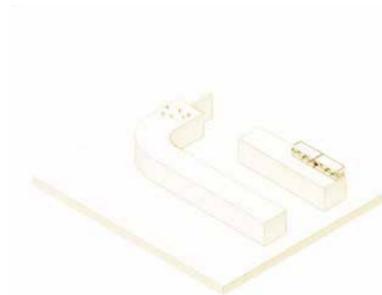


Figure 5.16: Cafe

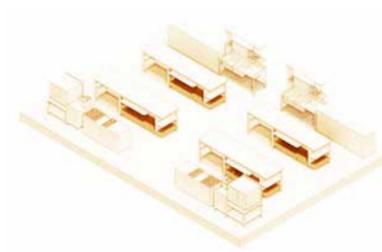


Figure 5.17: Community Kitchen

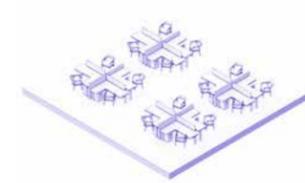


Figure 5.18: Community Training Space



Figure 5.19: Meeting Rooms



Figure 5.20: Multipurpose Room



Figure 5.21: Hot Tub



Figure 5.22: Leisure Pool



Figure 5.23: 5-Lane 25m Pool

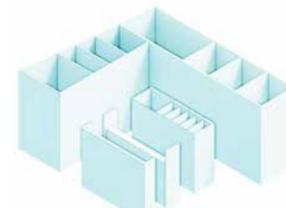


Figure 5.24: Universal Change Room

Marketplace for Entrepreneurs

A pop-up store is designed to encourage local entrepreneurs. The aim is to help with some of the employment challenges and provide commercial spaces for entrepreneurship. The COVID-19 pandemic has led many people to discover their creative talents such as knitting, creating candles, and making artwork; the marketplace gives the community a space to sell their craft products. I imagine the market to be operated by Black Creek Community Farm to sell local fruits and vegetables directly to the residents in order to help with access to affordable fresh produce.

Community Kitchen and Café

A community kitchen is designed to benefit the neighbourhood through the promotion of local authentic food in the community from various cultures. It can also provide a space for residents to learn how to cook and get familiar with various types of food and culture. The café is connected to the communal kitchen to serve food from different chefs and the menu can change depending on who is cooking that day, week, or month. The café provides a space for residents to grab food or drinks, and to hang out as well.

Community Space:

A community space is provided for the residents to use for training and employment programs to help with job search and skills training. There is a multipurpose room designated as a flexible space for different events, from private meetings as well as public conferences. The room can also be rented out by the community for private meetings or to host closed events. The multipurpose rooms can accommodate future programs as the community hub grows.

Pool

There are two indoor pools in the area and five outdoor pools in the neighbourhood that are used in the summer. The two indoor pools are located inside a school which decreases accessibility for the rest of the community. Even though there are five outdoor pools in the area, they can only be used in the summer which limits their use and cannot be used during the winter. The indoor pool in the community centre can provide a place for residents to go to during the colder months as well as provide lessons and leisure pools for various age groups.



Figure 5.25: Youth Coordinator



Figure 5.26: Classroom/ Mentor Space

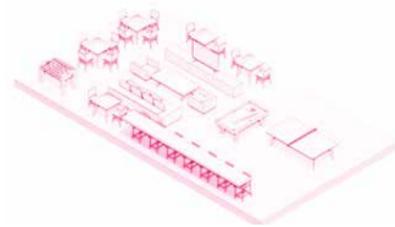


Figure 5.27: Youth Lounge Games Room

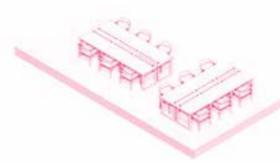


Figure 5.28: Quiet Study Area

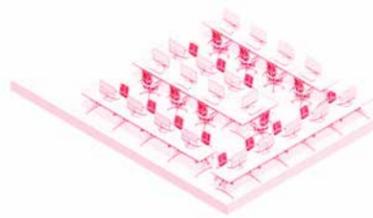


Figure 5.29: Computer Lab

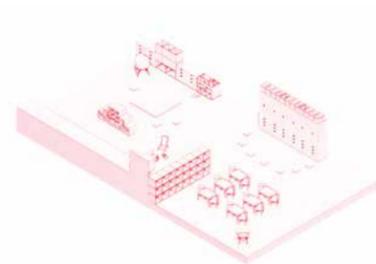


Figure 5.30: Daycare

Youth Lounge and Daycare

A big part of the community hub is to create a space for individuals of the community to be seen and share their knowledge. The Community Hub will feature spaces for a mentorship program for youth, where adults may guide and connect them to the correct resources and knowledge. The youth would have a place to lounge, do homework and play games. This is motivated by high crime rates involving youth in the area, creating an opportunity to improve and better guide our youth. By creating a childcare service in such a central location, it would provide support and flexibility to benefit residents needing extra assistance. These two programs stay open 24 hours to allow for flexibility for parent(s)/guardians working long hours at various jobs and provides a safe space where youth can go at any time of day.

Chapter Six:
Architectural Approach and Design

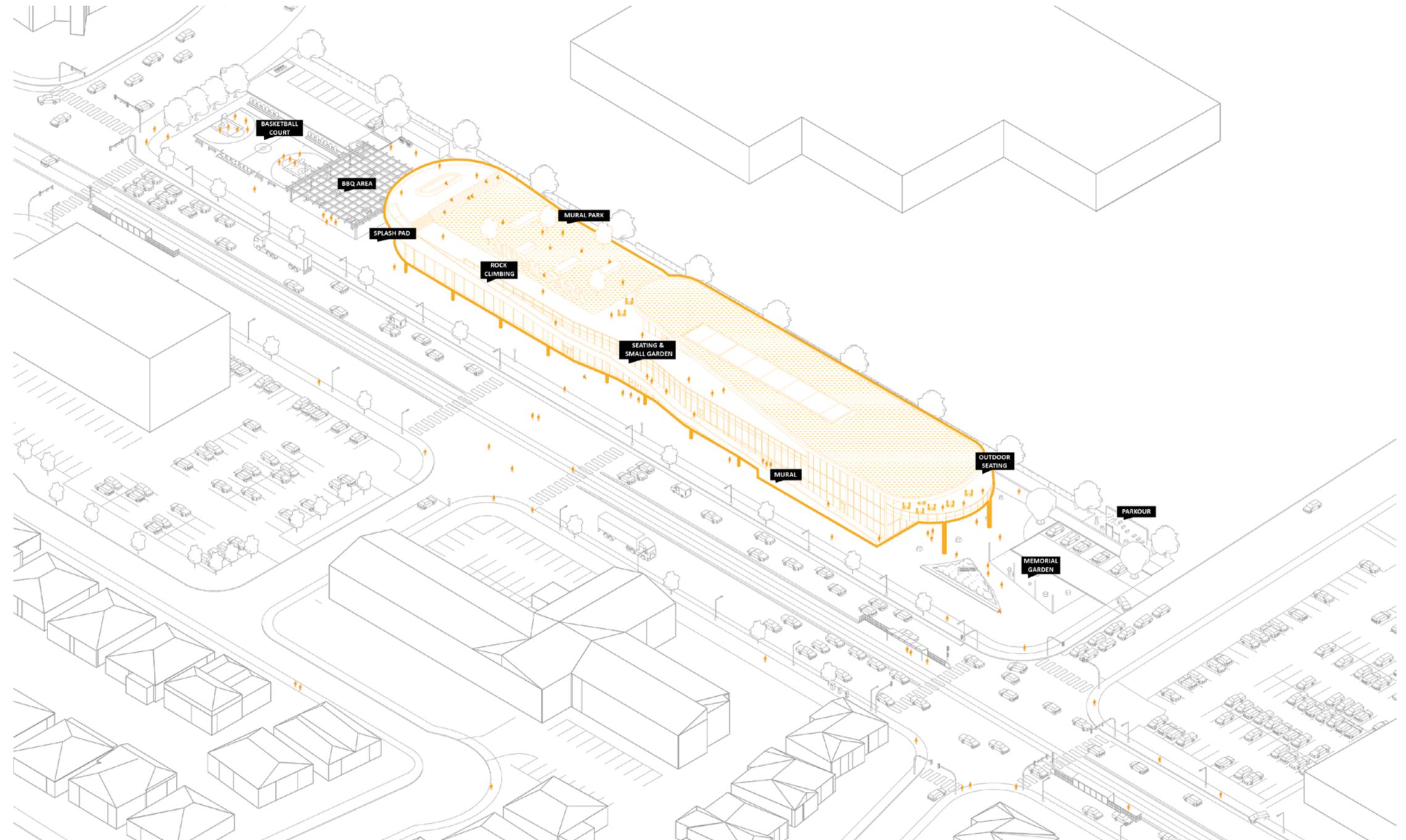
Final Design Proposal

The final design of the building aims to highlight the stories and memories of the Jane and Finch community through public art and history. The Jane and Finch Community Hub is a place that is co-created by the community for the community to feature the talent within the neighbourhood. The overall form of the building is a symbolic gesture of the infinity sign to represent that the community is always connected with each other. As the building lights up at night, it acts similar to a lighthouse to guide residents and help navigate their way towards the site. Jane and Finch residents will finally have a formal place to host community events and art shows within the neighbourhood.

The urban design of the site allows programs to be placed on the east and west side of the building. The entrance of the building is greeted with a memorial garden to remember the lives that have been taken from the Jane and Finch community. A memorial garden to commemorate the lives that have been taken away. From the Jane and Finch community greets those entering the building. The outdoor seating in the front of the building may serve as an area for car pick-up and drop-off, or as a waiting area for friends getting off the LRT. The other entrance of the building is located across the street from the nursing home and residents to create a direct connection with its surrounding site and giving the residents and elderly in the nursing home an extended outdoor space.

The Community Hub features low-impact designs throughout the site, such as permeable surfaces and rainwater collection on the sidewalk and within the ramp. The design includes a semi-intensive green roof to reduce the urban island heat effect with the south-facing sun. The introduction of bike lanes and the construction of wide sidewalks will help relieve traffic in the area as well as create a comfortable walking area for pedestrians. In doing so, there is a great opportunity for the implementation of outdoor market spaces which will surely improve and liven up the street life outside of the Community Hub.

(right) Figure 6.1: Axonometric Diagram with Urban Design



First Floor

The first floor of the Community Hub serves as a multipurpose lobby for residents to use as an art gallery, seating, and space for town hall meetings. The daycare is located by the entrance for easy drop-off and pick-up. It offers a designated play area for the daycare, located outside, at the back of the building. During after-hours when the building is closed, this will be the entrance towards the youth lounge as well. The market space, community kitchen and café are located near the front of the building—creating a streetscape for pedestrians to look in while walking on the streets. Community training spaces to empower and educate residents on topics related to employment and entrepreneurship are located at the back of the building. The market space is also accessible from the inside during the winter months to give shelter from the colder weather and is located across from the community training. This decision is motivated by the hope to inspire residents to expand their craft and sell their own products allowing them to become future entrepreneurs. The service group and multipurpose room can adapt to the growth of the community hub over time. At the west of the building is the aquatic area that includes a 25m, five lane-pool, a leisure pool, a hot tub and a spectator area. During the summer months, the sliding door of the aquatic area opens up a splash pad for kids to play in. The youth lounge is located on the half level which provides an open lounge for youth to play games, hang out and overlooks the lobby. Provided in this space is a small kitchenette to warm up food. The location of the youth lounge is dedicated to the underrepresented youth of the neighbourhood and a direct view towards the Jane and Finch intersection.

Second Floor

The second floor consists of the youth lounge and spectator seating for the pool. The youth lounge consists of a study room, a computer lab, a classroom, and an open seating area. The classroom can be used for afterschool homework help and for hosting mentorship programs for youth to explore various career opportunities. The computer lab will be used alongside the art programs to create digital art and offer a place where residents can have access to computers and the internet. There are two youth coordinator rooms that can assist with mental health and consultation for youth in the community.

Third Floor

On the third floor, the building has an outdoor viewing area, Mural Park, and the arts programs. The outdoor viewing area gives you another perspective to Yorkgate Mall and the Jane and Finch intersection. The art programs include a large dance studio with a small storage space to store their props. The music studio includes a recording studio so residents can record and produce their own music. It also has a practice room next to each other to encourage residents to play together and practice with each other. The art studio provides a space to work on traditional art such as painting and drawing. There is an outdoor space on the first floor to work on large sculptures. Being on the second floor also gives access towards Mural Park. Mural Park is an elevated green space to enjoy the residents' artworks and outdoor communal space which may be used to host live events. It provides a distinctive experience for the Jane and Finch community. The west end of the building has an outdoor barbecue area to host community events. The basketball court is a multi-purpose space that can be transformed into a skating rink during wintertime to provide activities for the community year-round.

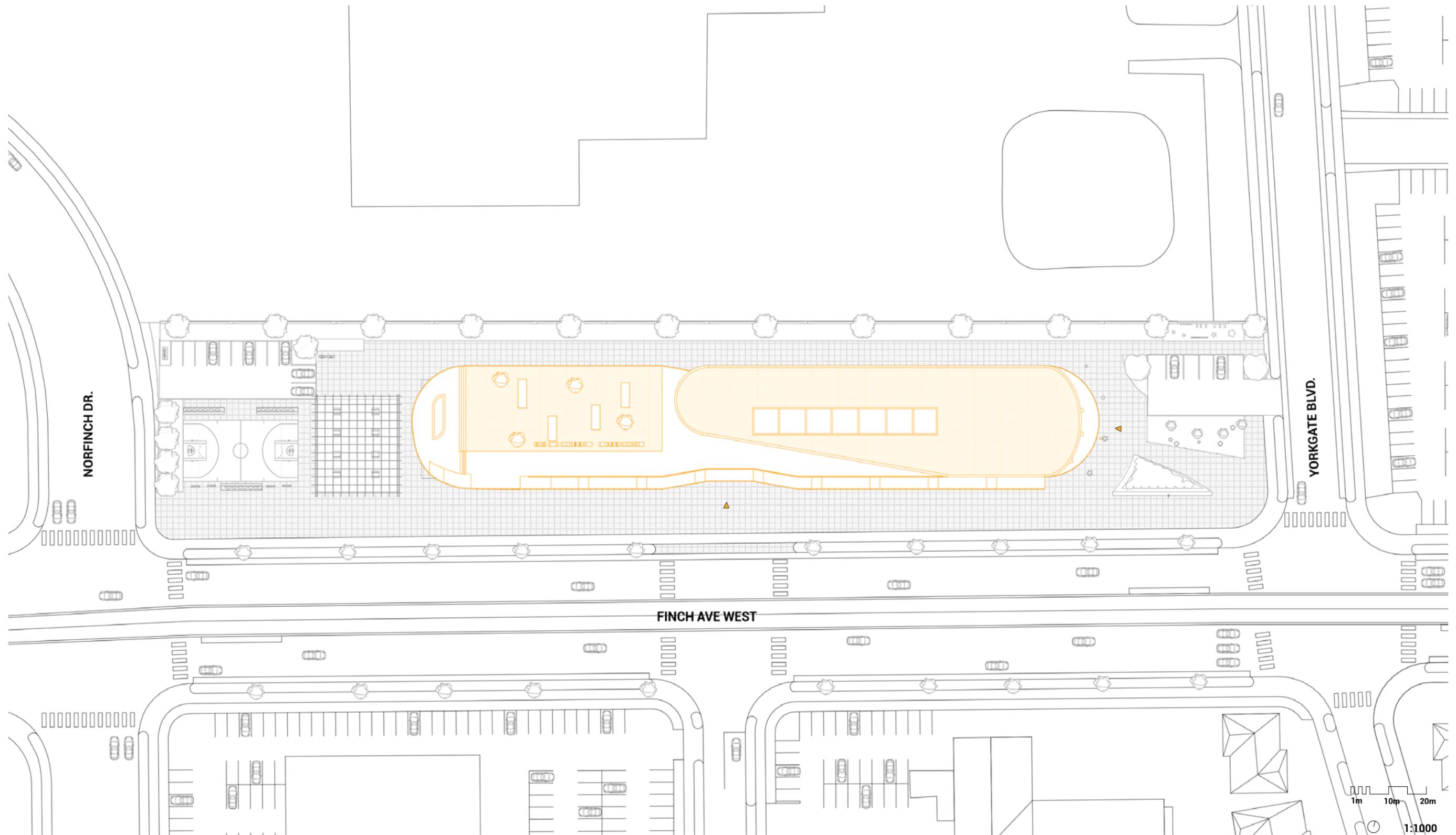


Figure 6.2: Site Plan with Roof Plan

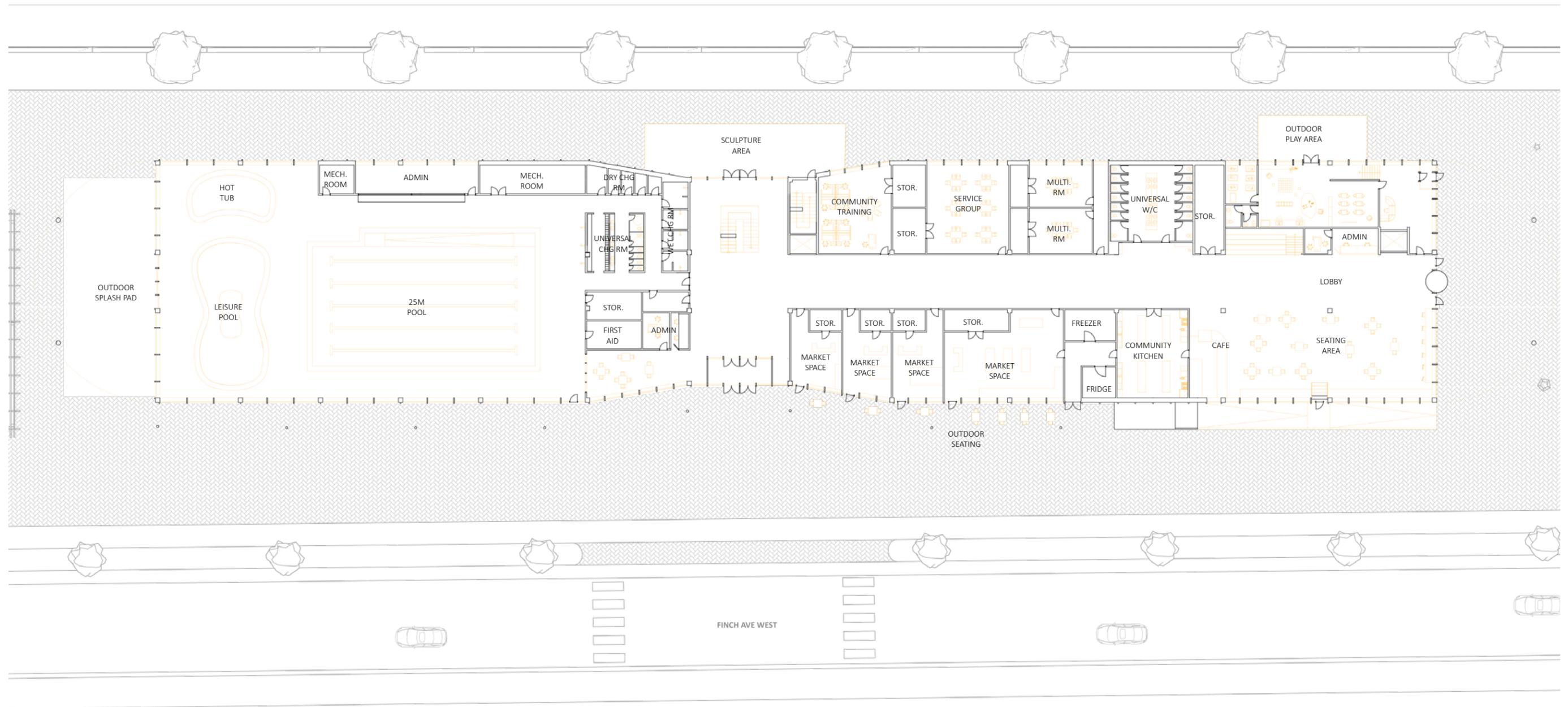
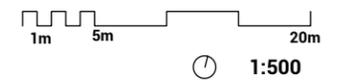


Figure 6.3: First Floor Plan



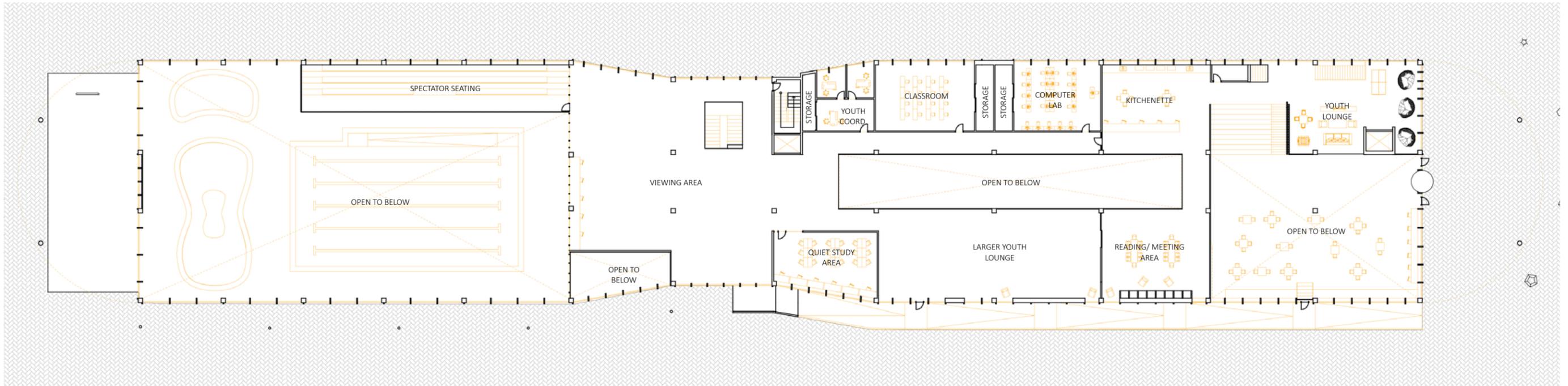


Figure 6.4: Second Floor Plan

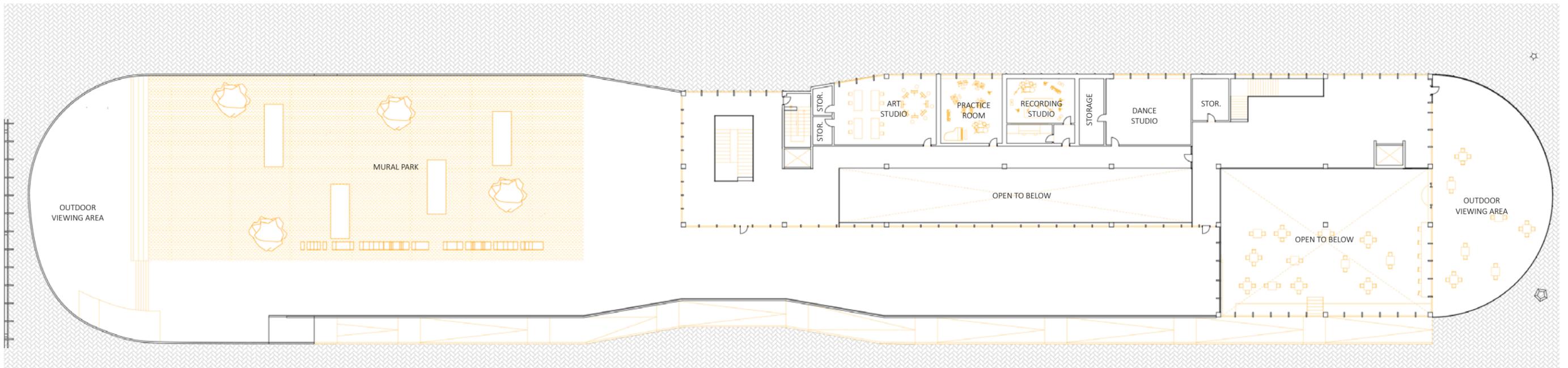
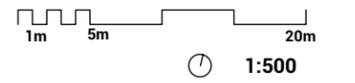
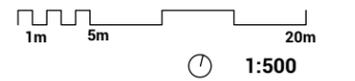


Figure 6.5: Third Floor Plan



Materiality and Structure

The Community Hub takes inspiration from the history of Jane and Finch and is shaped physically by structural qualities and materiality from the past and present. The indigenous peoples' longhouses and settlers' farm houses inspired the use of wood in this building as a material element. The post-1940 development of Jane and Finch used concrete in the highway's construction and buildings. Yorkgate Mall is also known for its large glass construction of its entrances. By combining these three materials, the Community Hub represents with its physical attributes the various stages of development that Jane and Finch underwent through different eras of architecture.

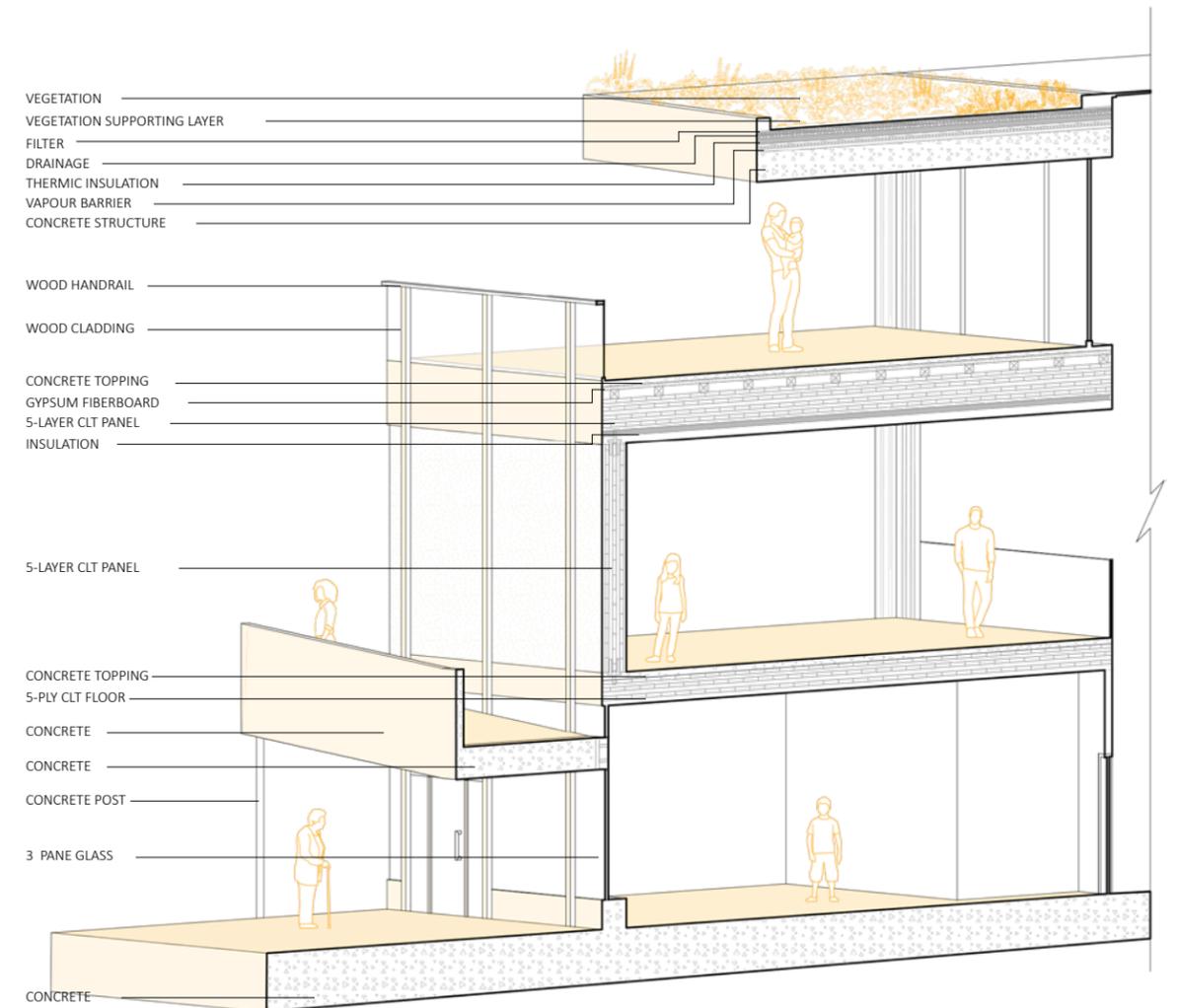


Figure 6.6: Material and Structure Diagram

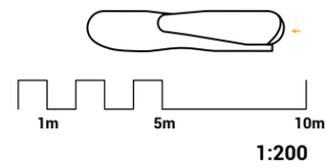


Figure 6.7: West Elevation



Figure 6.8: View from Across the LRT Stop of the Entrance

Safety

The Jane and Finch community has had issues with the police regarding safety. In December 2019, we received notification from the Toronto Police Service (TPS) that closed-circuit television (CCTV) cameras were getting installed in public spaces around the neighbourhood to increase public safety, deter crime and for use as evidence in court for unlawful activities. Being a predominantly Black community, the residents have faced racial profiling and harassment by the police. Again, the installation of the CCTV camera was not consulted with the community. In a deputation to the City of Toronto by Sam Teclé mentioned, "Toronto Police's secretive use of controversial and unethical facial recognition software, which demonstrates to us that the Toronto Police Force cannot and should not be trusted. And casts doubt on the utility of this body to provide substantive oversight."¹ This causes many privacy concerns in terms of how long the videos are stored and how they could be used. Community organizations have created a petition to ask the Toronto Police Services to terminate plans of installing any CCTV cameras in Jane and Finch. A spokesperson for the TPS said, "it is part of a larger three-million-dollar plan by the province and city to increase the number of CCTV cameras in Toronto from 34 to 74 to curb gun violence."² There are other ways to implement security with an action that results in safety within a community without the invasive measures of CCTV cameras that invade the privacy of the residents.

Growing up and living in a high crime, low-income neighbourhood highlights the importance of safety and having a sense of community. The Jane and Finch community was built around the automobile, but now taking it over to generate a well-built street life again. Jane Jacobs' book, *The Death and Life of Great American Cities*, talked about how the physical environments can reduce crime and increase safety in the neighbourhood without the police. Jacobs is known for her theory 'eyes on the street' that refers to using the city streets as a way to create a safer neighbourhood. Jacobs believed that regardless of being strangers, the residents can watch over each other rather than increase policing in the area.³ Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED), which was inspired by Jane Jacobs, was coined by C. Ray Jeffery that refers to a way of designing an area for crime prevention, focusing on urban planning and architectural

design.⁴ Including natural surveillance to give views towards the inside and out of the building. The outdoor seating located around the building can provide a sense of safety as residents can keep an eye on each other. CPTED will also feature a well-lit street and an urban facade to increase visibility on the main street of Finch Avenue West, the entrance of the market space, café, and ramping up the mural park. Wider sidewalks give opportunities for the market space to expand and have outdoor markets and seating for residents. Jacobs suggested that public parks in lively places allow non-residents and residents to come and socialize together.⁵ It explores ways to reduce policing and create a more welcoming experience for the community.

¹ Sam Teclé, "CCTV Cameras to Be Installed by Toronto Police Force," *AFTERCURRENTS: Word To The Wise* (blog), March 3, 2020, <https://samtecle.wordpress.com/2020/03/03/cctv-cameras-to-be-installed-by-toronto-police-force/>.

² Muriel Draaisma et al., "Plan by Toronto Police to Install CCTV Cameras in Jane-Finch Area Angers Community," CBC, February 20, 2020, <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/toronto-police-plan-cctv-cameras-jane-finch-community-surprised-angry-1.5469409>.

³ Jane Jacobs, *The Death and Life of Great American Cities*, Vintage Books ed (New York: Vintage Books, 1992), 56.

⁴ "CPTED | CPTED Ontario," accessed September 14, 2020, <https://www.cptedontario.com/>.

⁵ Jacobs, *The Death and Life of Great American Cities*, 218.

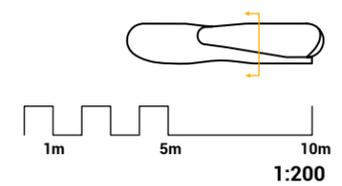
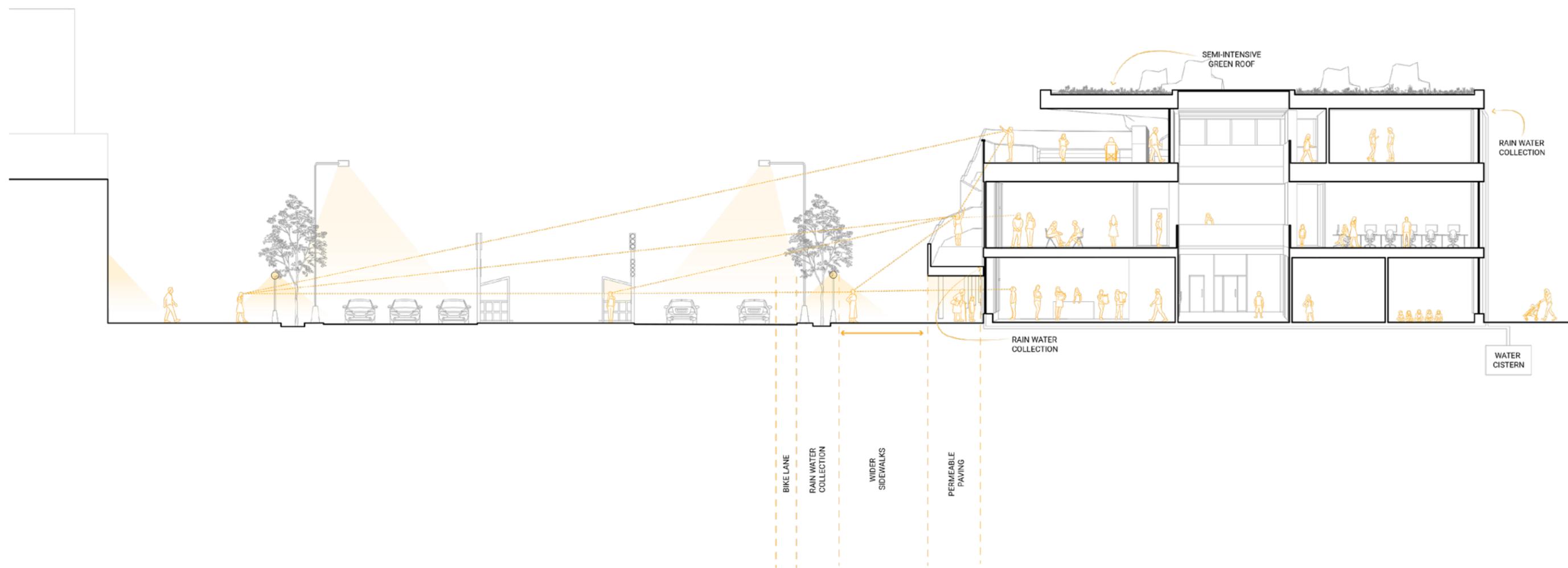


Figure 6.9: Section A with Safety Interventions of CPTED and Low Impact Designs

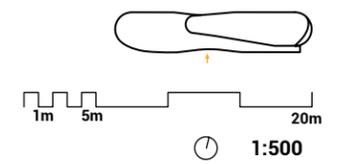


Figure 6.10: North Elevation

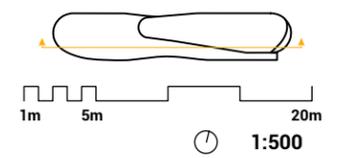


Figure 6.11: Section B (Long Section through Building)



Figure 6.12: Exterior Night Render of Entrance from Across the Street



Figure 6.13: Main Lobby with Cafe Seating



Figure 6.14: Main Lobby Used as Art Gallery



Figure 6.15: Youth Lounge with Games Area



Figure 6.16: Community Kitchen



Figure 6.17: Outside Marketspace

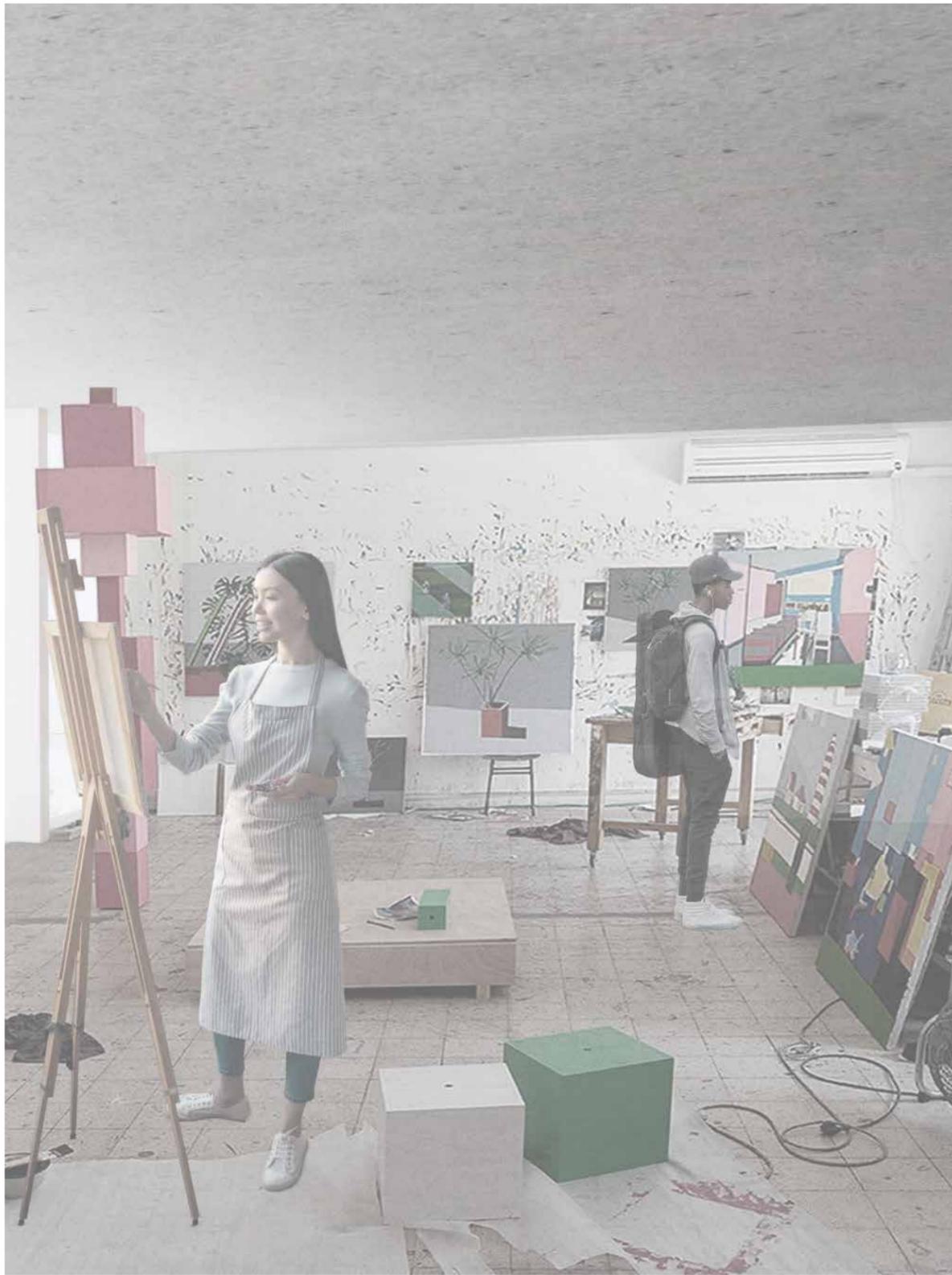


Figure 6.18: Art Studio



Figure 6.19: Mural Park



Figure 6.20: View of the 5-Lane 25m Lap Pool, Leisure Pool and Outdoor Splash Pad



Figure 6.21: West Side of Building Showing Winter Activities

Conclusion

Initially, this thesis aimed to explore solutions to help alleviate crime and persistent issues within Jane and Finch. However, through the social engagement process, it was clear the residents had another side of the story that was not often shared in the media. It was important to shift our focus and bring light to the public history and art of the community. It is important to continue to gather stories from residents to keep the public history of Jane and Finch alive. This gave the residents an opportunity to tell their stories instead of hearing the narrative constructed by the media. It is important to show others that together this community is a large extended family. The mapping exercises also highlighted the significance of residents' experiences that dealt with food and architectural landmarks surrounding the Jane and Finch intersection. The exploration of the writing of past and present residents gives an insight to lived experiences. Despite living in different time periods, the residents continue to share similar stories about the places they have experienced in the neighbourhood.

The Jane and Finch Community Hub is more than just another community centre but a place co-designed by the people who live in the neighbourhood. The process of participatory mapping exercises to collect memories and the use of charrettes have empowered the community to share their public history. The Community Hub symbolizes a place of healing and celebration for the community and a platform to share and explore memories, voices, and people we have lost. This proposal provides a space that aims to invite the community to share their art and experiences. Murals in the neighbourhood represent another form of storytelling, revealing experiences that community members have. The project speaks to the diversity of the community not only through residents but the type of programming and spaces that the hub hosts.

This thesis challenges the definition of a community centre with its programming as well as what it can mean for the Jane and Finch neighbourhood and the residents' sense of belonging. It is an urban infrastructure rather than a discreet building. It opens its use to a wider definition of inclusion. The hub has a large focus on youth programs as they are often overlooked in the community programming. Many of the community centres built in Jane and Finch offer typical programs such as a gymnasium, a multipurpose room, and a place for afterschool programs—often which are programs that are executed without the consultation of the community. This history

of implementing programs in Jane and Finch where the governing party neglected the residents' has led to the failure to fulfill the true needs of the community time and time again.

Jane and Finch Community Hub may be funded through various potential actors and funders. The community shall own the building and run the programs, and with additional external funding, the Community Hub may continue to be more sustainable over time. Potential funders may involve the City of Toronto, Toronto Community Housing Corporation, as well as the provincial and federal governments. These entities performed numerous cutbacks on the community in the past, so this Community Hub presents an opportunity for them to unite and participate in the revitalization of the Jane and Finch Community. Similar to the Daniels Spectrum in Regent Park, the site is surrounded by Toronto Community Housing. With apartments and townhouses not having enough green spaces or community spaces, the Jane and Finch Community Hub becomes an outlet for many residents to discover the arts, entrepreneurship, cooking, and various afterschool programs. It is a place where residents can look forward to visiting during the colder months, in order to stay busy and participate in various events and activities. Lastly, rather than utilizing public funds to rebrand the neighbourhood or to put up CCTV cameras, the money may instead go towards the Community Hub to create a lasting impact and change for the community.

Looking back on the article I wrote in the Toronto Star thirteen years ago, back then I had no idea how to create a positive impact within the Jane and Finch community. Thirteen years later, through various life experiences, my pursuit of education and knowledge in architecture, the sum of all these things, big and small, has resulted in the conception of this Community Hub. This community already possesses countless talented individuals, who share a passion and love for the Jane and Finch community and have gone on to form organizations that provide platforms for fellow residents to share their voice and be heard. Co-creating this Community Hub with the residents has allowed us to establish deeper connections and explore another layer of understanding by listening to each other's stories and experiences. We all have different lives, come from different cultures and backgrounds, but when all is said and done this community is one big family that can set aside differences and work together. Every element of the Community Hub is influenced by the residents, created to express self through the arts – it is a place to call our second home where we can learn and grow together. *This is how we co-created the Jane and Finch Community Hub.*

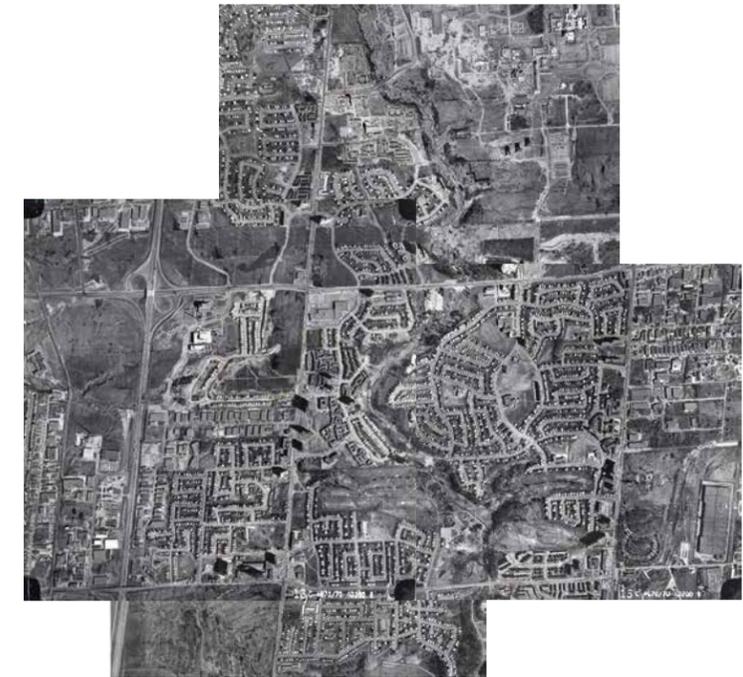
Appendix



1950



1960



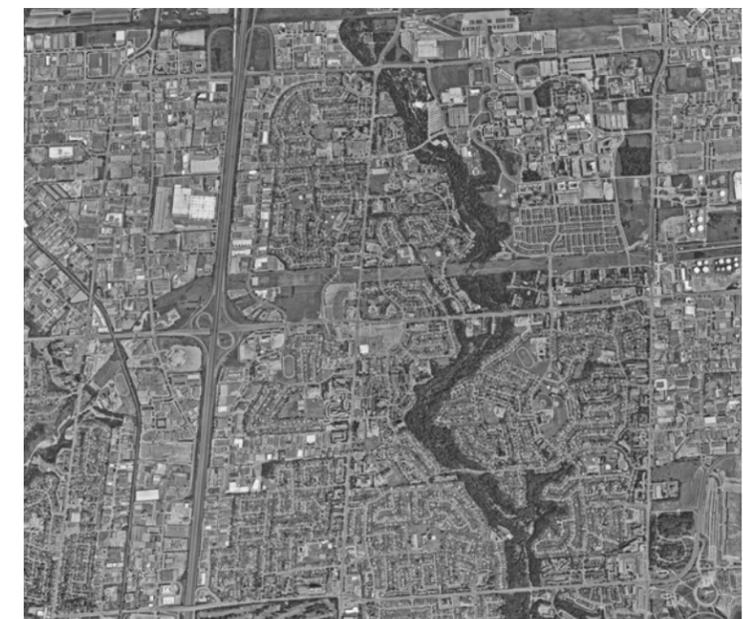
1970



1980



1992



2018

Figure A.1: Photographs of Jane and Finch Development

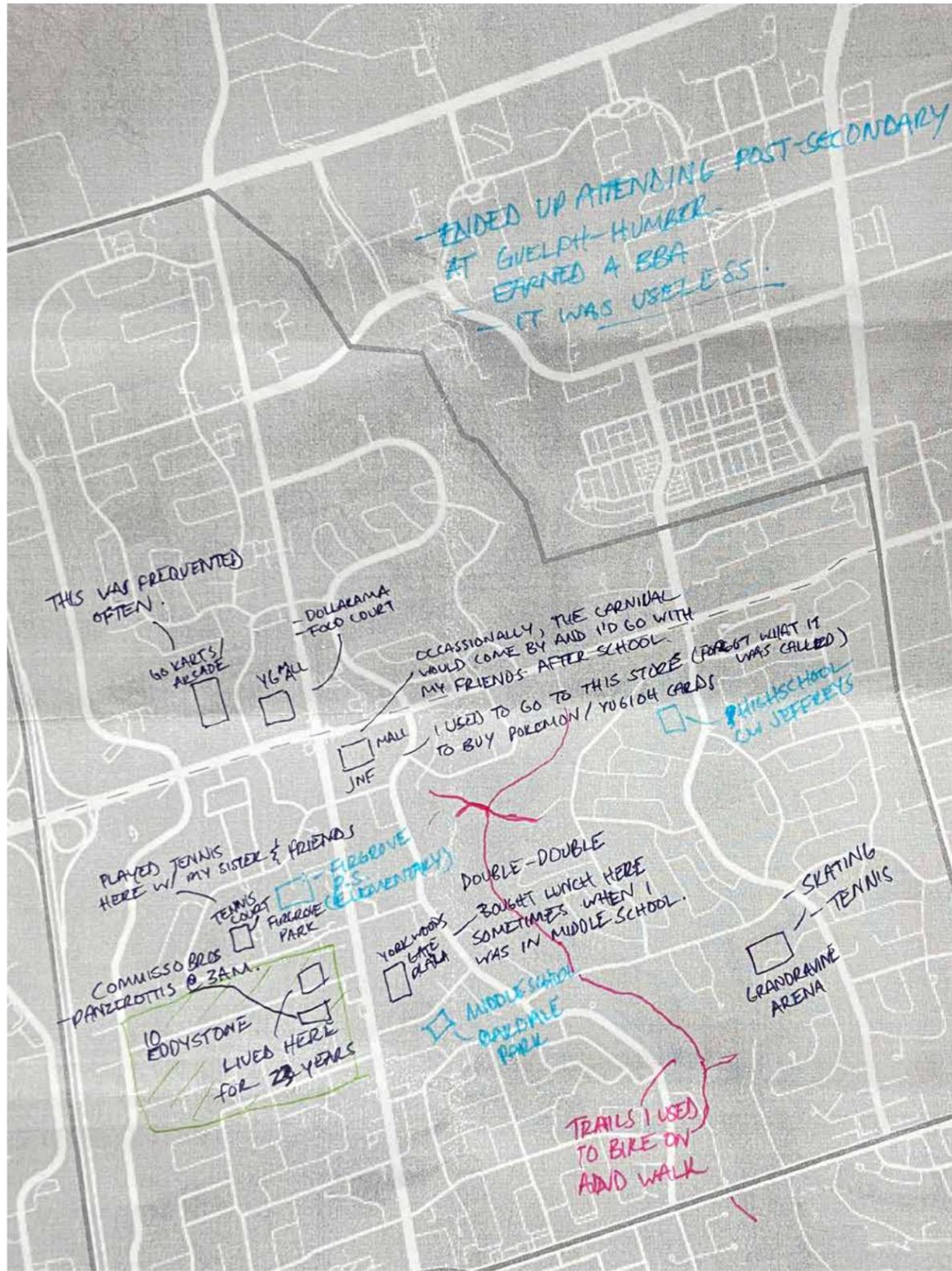


Figure B.1: Participant #1 Drawing Favourite Place or Memory of Jane and Finch

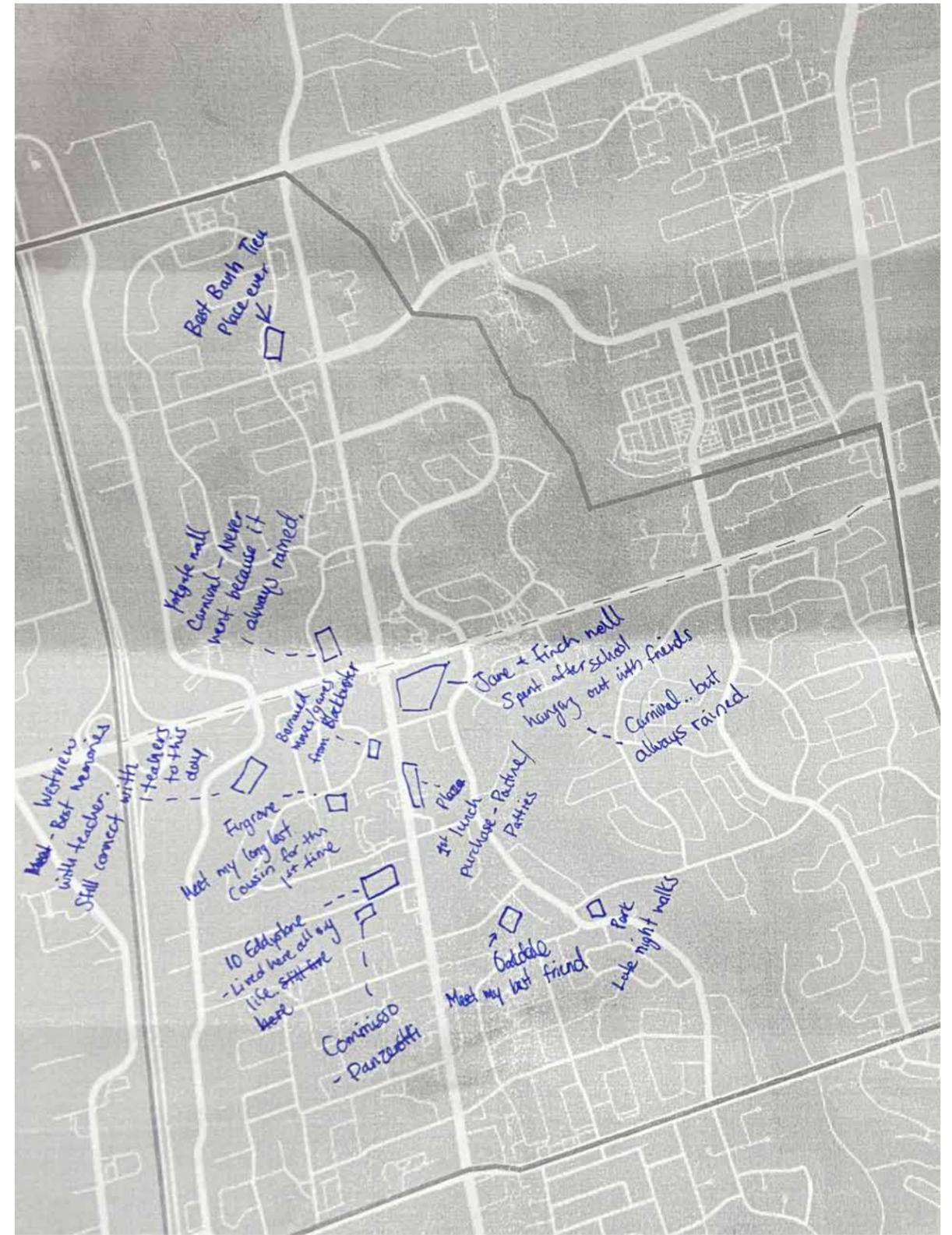


Figure B.2: Participant #2 Drawing Favourite Place or Memory of Jane and Finch

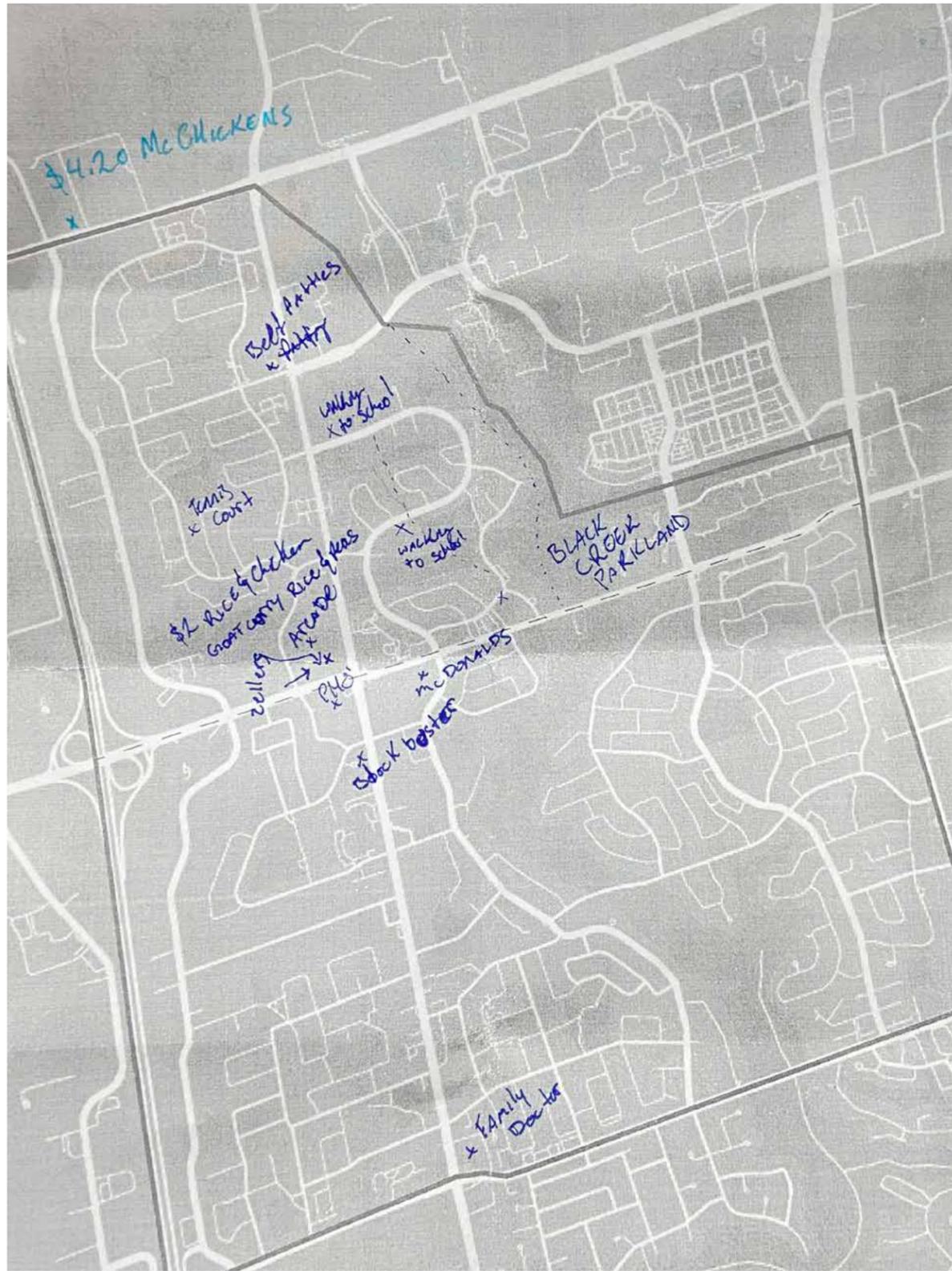


Figure B.3: Participant #3 Drawing Favourite Place or Memory of Jane and Finch

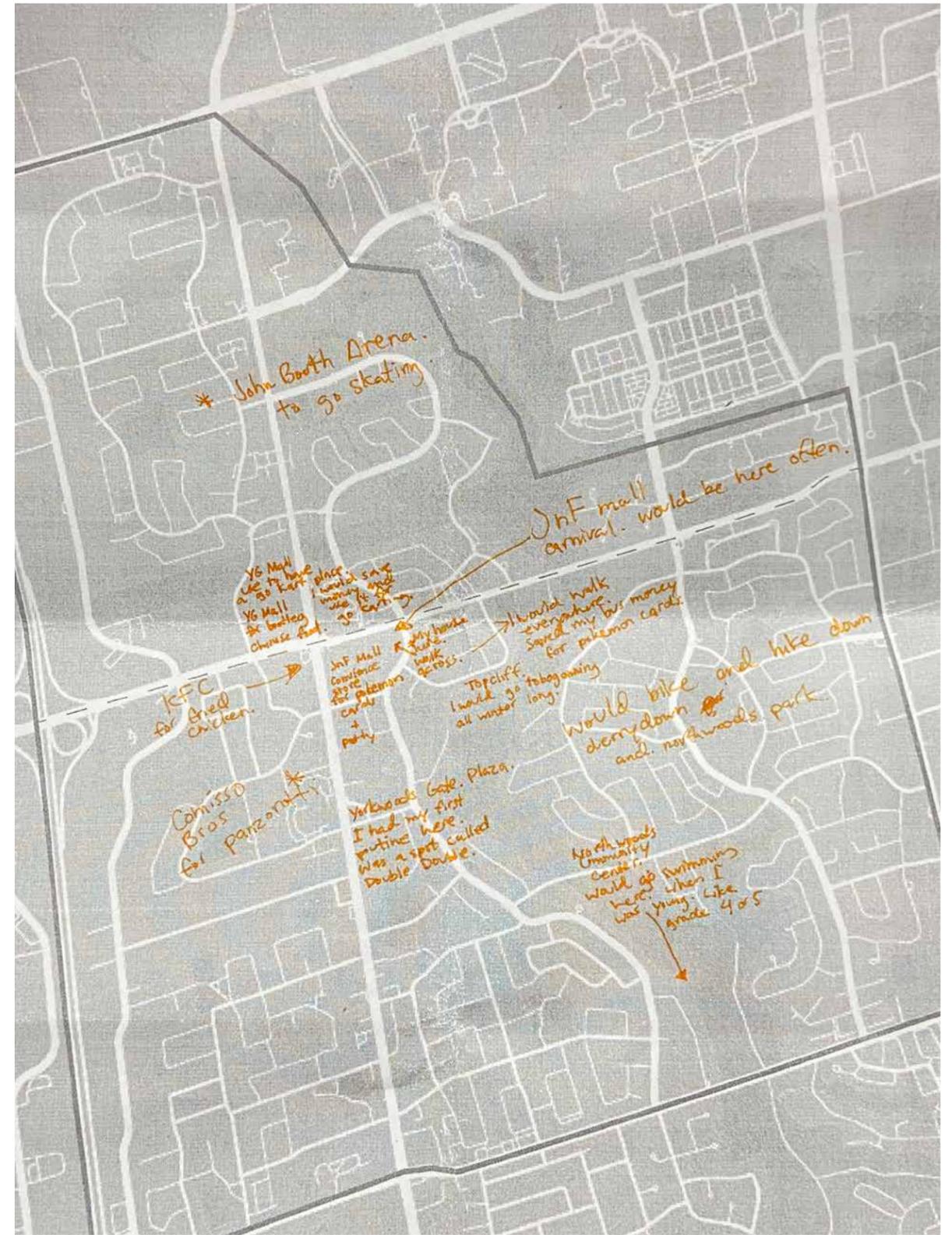


Figure B.4: Participant #4 Drawing Favourite Place or Memory of Jane and Finch

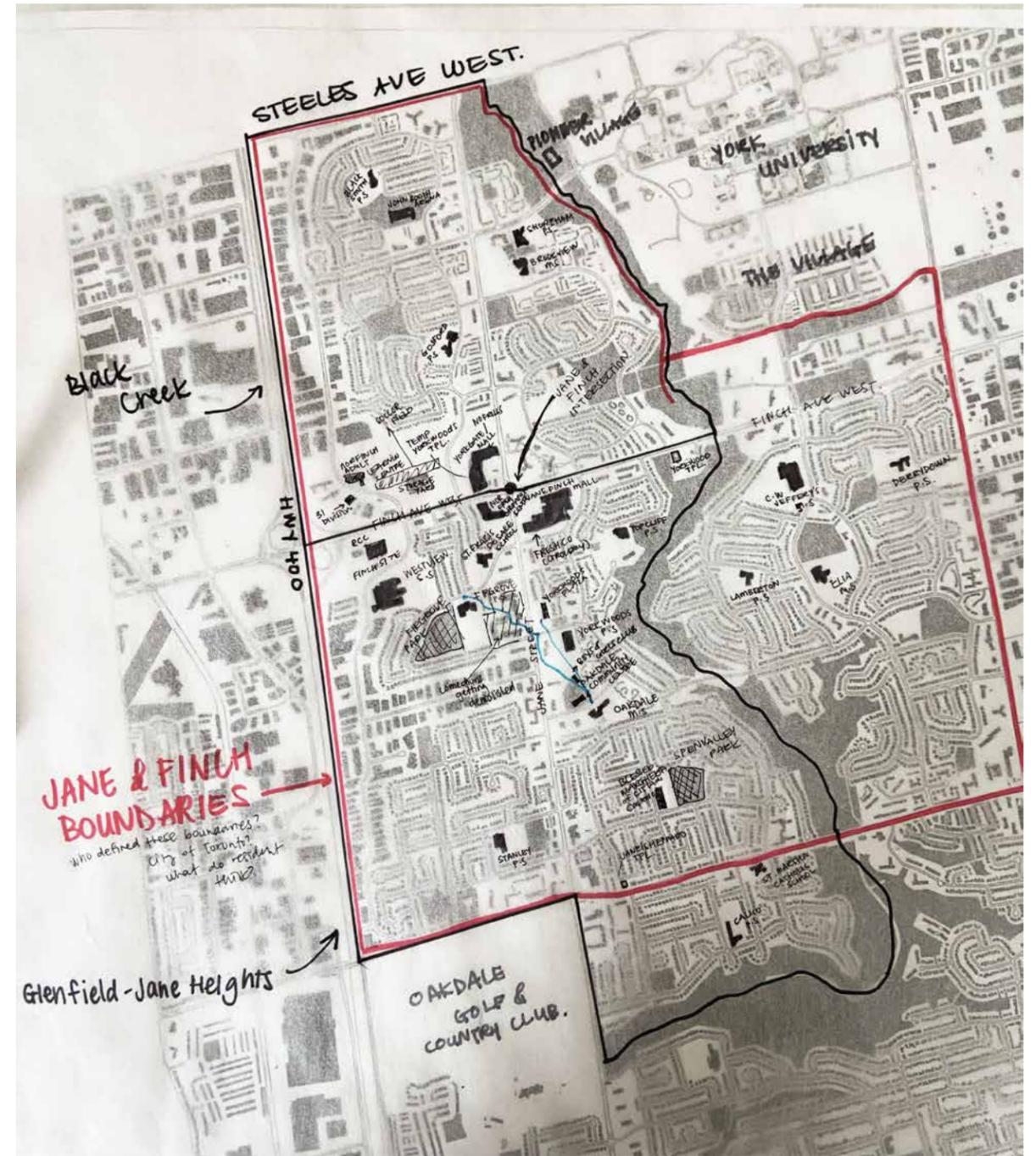


Figure C.1: Memories / Landmarks of Places in Jane and Finch

CAN YOU MAP OUT YOUR FAVOURITE PLACE/MEMORIES OF JANE AND FINCH?

NAME: ADRIAN THOMAS

AGE: 29

POSTAL CODE: M3N 2K6

WHAT IS YOUR ETHNICITY?
JAMAICAN-CANADIAN

DESCRIBE JANE AND FINCH IN ONE WORD?
UNDERRATED

HOW LONG HAVE YOU LIVED IN JANE AND FINCH FOR?
ON AND OFF FOR 20 YEARS

CAN YOU MARK WHAT YOU THINK THE JANE AND FINCH BOUNDARIES ARE?



DESCRIBE WHAT YOU DREW ABOVE?

I've always felt JNF extends to every major street from each direction with the Jane and Finch intersection as its core, but I've drawn a bit smaller of a boundary above, about as North as Shoreham Dr, as West as Hwy 400, as South as about Grand Ravine Dr, and as East as Sentinel Dr. If the JnF intersection was the closest area for the resources you needed to survive, you were part of the JnF Community.

I grew up in a Neighbourhood called Gosford, my friends and I called it, and ourselves "G-Side". Gosford is close to Gosford Public School, Brookview Middle School, and the Driftwood Community Centre, close to the intersection of Jane Street and Driftwood Ave/Milo Park Gate. Ironically I type this as my Grandmother has just passed away last night, as she is the reason Jane and Finch has been part of my life for so long. She'd lived at 4500 Jane Street, at the same intersection I mentioned above ever since she moved to Canada almost 40 years ago. I've lived with her, or close to her for many different parts of my life until I moved out on my own. She's definitely my favourite memory of Jane and Finch. My other memories are the multicultural community in Jane and Finch that I grew up with thinking that was the Canadian Norm. It wasn't until High School that I learned and experienced that Canada was actually a predominately white country overall. The only other place I've found with a comparable community feeling in Toronto to Jane and Finch would be Jane and Wilson, which is still very similar, if not an extension of the Jane and Finch Community. JNF is the only place where you can find a Jamaican Restaurant, beside a Chinese supermarket, beside a Pho Restaurant, beside an Italian Bakery, beside an Indian restaurant. With 2 Malls, and an outdoor plaza with some of the best deals and value in the city, even after I've moved, there are still so many things I could only find by returning to Jane and Finch. This is why I consider it underrated. The area really has every aspect needed for its community, who are almost all struggling with poverty to make sure they can live their lives with everything they need at a price they can afford. Small business flourish here as well, making it actually feel like a small village, and not an area of one of the biggest cities in North America. Finally, I feel safest in Jane and Finch, maybe because I don't have to fear certain types of racism that I might be victim to in other parts of the city. Black people are not seen as a minority in this community. Yes, there is violence, as people who try to escape poverty turn to dangerous methods that lead to terrible outcomes. But that is truly a minority of everything that the community represents, and what actually occurs there. I also personally believe that most of the violence in Jane and Finch is escalated from problems between individuals that they've decided they won't try to solve with words, and not random acts of violence towards innocent and uninvolved bystanders.

Figure D.1: Adrian Thomas Completed Mapping Exercise

CAN YOU MAP OUT YOUR FAVOURITE PLACE/MEMORIES OF JANE AND FINCH?

NAME: CRYSTINA DANG

AGE: 27

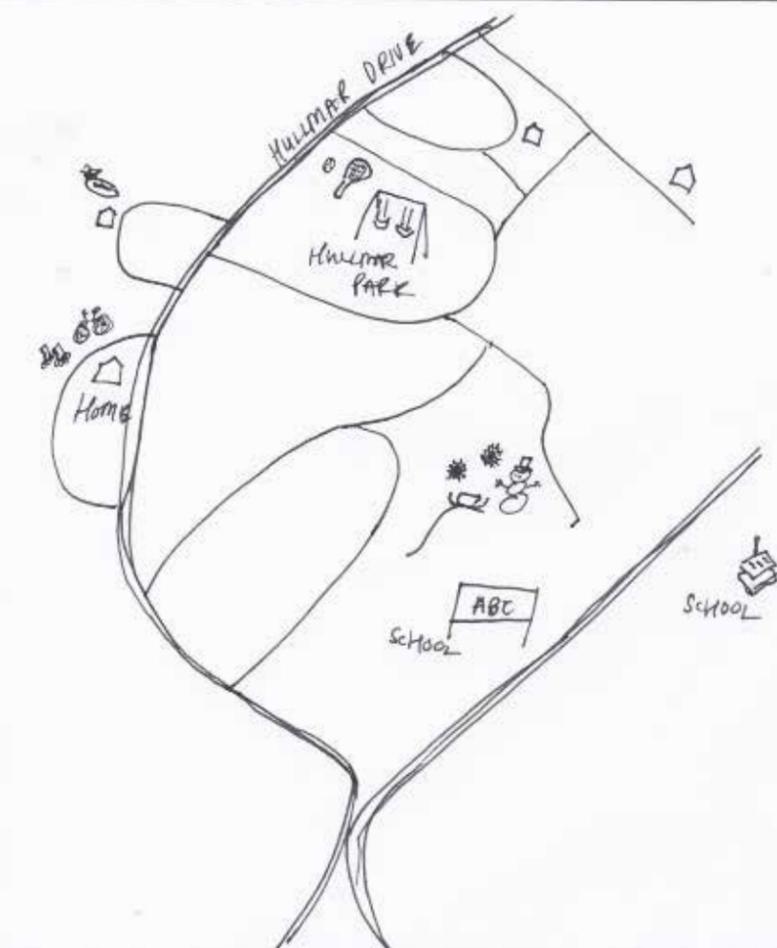
POSTAL CODE: M3N 2C9

WHAT IS YOUR ETHNICITY?
Vietnamese Canadian

DESCRIBE JANE AND FINCH IN ONE WORD?
Family

HOW LONG HAVE YOU LIVED IN JANE AND FINCH FOR?
20 years

CAN YOU MARK WHAT YOU THINK THE JANE AND FINCH BOUNDARIES ARE?



DESCRIBE WHAT YOU DREW ABOVE?

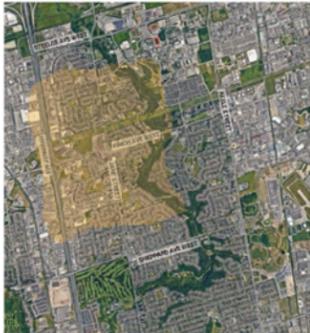
Growing up, I was able to walk to both elementary and middle school in less than 15 minutes. My cousin was the next neighbourhood over, close enough to chat on walkie talkies. My grandparents and aunt lived two neighbour hoods down, with a back path through the park, so we would go pick fruits after playing at the park in their backyard. The park had a tennis court and baseball diamond, as well as a fire pole. My parent's best friends also lived on the other side of the park and would take us in for snacks always.

Figure D.2: Crystina Dang Completed Mapping Exercise

CAN YOU MAP OUT YOUR FAVOURITE PLACE/MEMORIES OF JANE AND FINCH?

NAME: Jenny Nguyen
 AGE: 28
 POSTAL CODE: M3N2C4
 WHAT IS YOUR ETHNICITY?
Vietnamese
 DESCRIBE JANE AND FINCH IN ONE WORD?
Community
 HOW LONG HAVE YOU LIVED IN JANE AND FINCH FOR?
24 Years

CAN YOU MARK WHAT YOU THINK THE JANE AND FINCH BOUNDARIES ARE?



DESCRIBE WHAT YOU DREW ABOVE?

I grew up moving up and down the Jane strip starting from Shoreham to Jane and Finch. The places I drew above are the places I remember visiting most as a kid. I remember my siblings and I would walk to Jane and Finch from Shoreham to grab \$2 Chinese food from York Gate mall, then head over to fun park to play in the arcade. My brother was always dueling random strangers in Dance Dance Revolution or Initial D and won money! I remember the frequent visits to Blockbuster with my family and arguing which movies or games to rent out with my siblings or playing in the mini playground at the McDonalds in Jane and Finch mall. When the internet boomed, we'd head to the library and stay there for hours because we didn't have a computer. During the summers we'd go swimming at Driftwood Center or go to the creek to dig for crawfish. People always have a misconception of Jane and Finch but growing up in the area, I've never felt unsafe. I find it's very community like and I've seen that based on the community events like the local Galati's at Shoreham Plaza partnering up with schools for contests, the many winters where strangers would help other strangers push cars out of the snow, the kindness of neighbors during holidays and the compassion for immigrants new to the area.

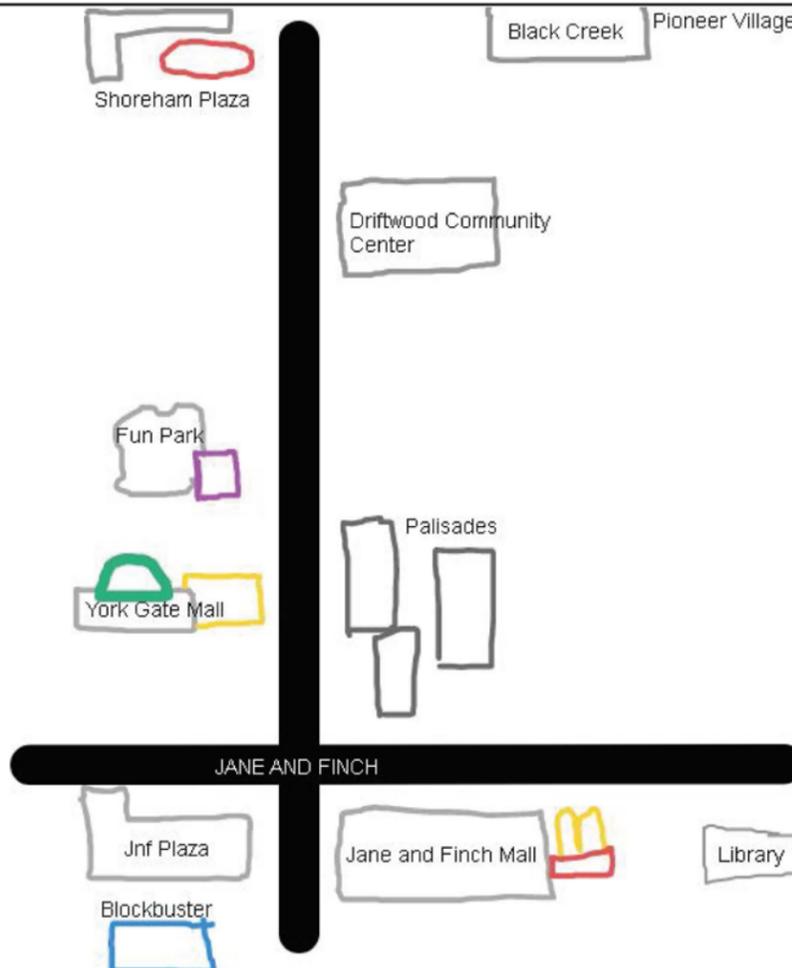


Figure D.3: Jenny Nguyen Completed Mapping Exercise

CAN YOU MAP OUT YOUR FAVOURITE PLACE/MEMORIES OF JANE AND FINCH?

NAME: Danny D
 AGE: 18
 POSTAL CODE: M3L 1Y13
 WHAT IS YOUR ETHNICITY?
Vietnamese
 DESCRIBE JANE AND FINCH IN ONE WORD?
Community
 HOW LONG HAVE YOU LIVED IN JANE AND FINCH FOR?
Whole life (18 years)

CAN YOU MARK WHAT YOU THINK THE JANE AND FINCH BOUNDARIES ARE?



DESCRIBE WHAT YOU DREW ABOVE?

1. Humber River Hospital - when I was born
 2. Family Clinic - visited for checkups & played "Manhunt" in parking lot.
 3. Home 1 - Grew up in this house
 4. Firgrove PS - First school attended & played alot of "Manhunt"
 5. Pizza Pizza - Closest & most common pizza shop
 6. Spennalleg - Common dog walking area
 7. Jane & Sheppard plaza - spent a lot of time in this area for food or common intersection for travel.
 8. Toronto Public Library - Common place I study & is close by
 9. Home 2 - Grew up in this home
 10. Arteta - Bike in neighbourhood which is safer than the main road.
 11. Driftwood - Bike road similar to Arteta
 12. Hydrofields - Bike path I take for far journeys.
 13. Jane & Finch plaza - similar like Jane & Sheppard plaza
 14. Yorkgate mall - Nostalgic rundown mall.

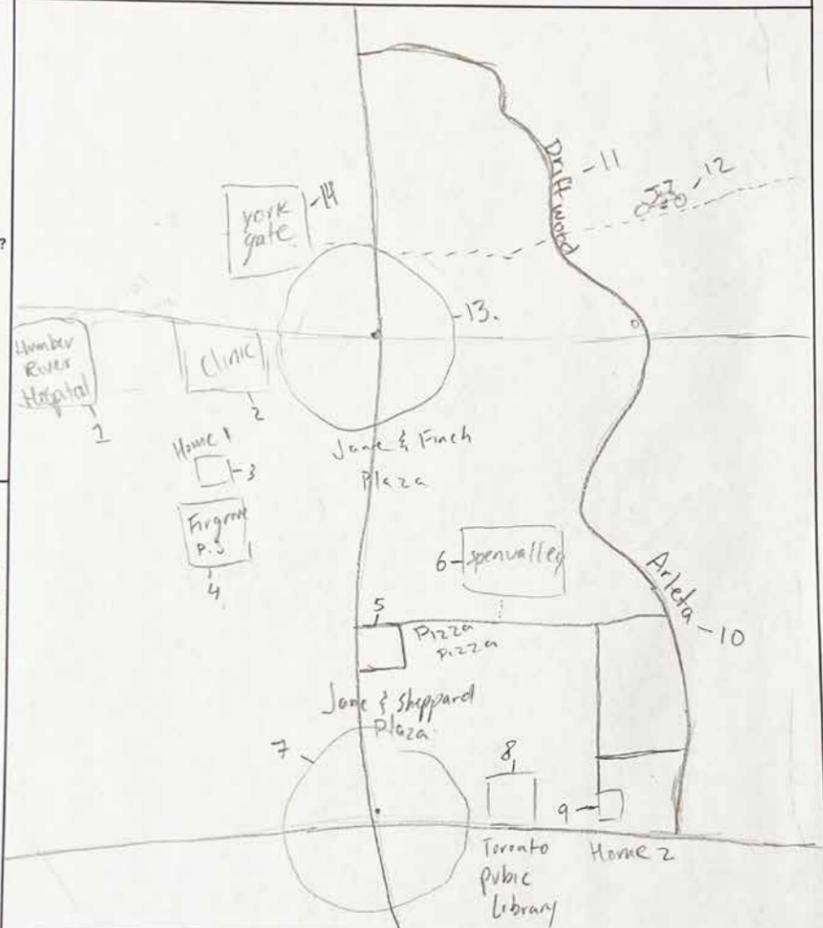


Figure D.4: Danny D Completed Mapping Exercise

CAN YOU MAP OUT YOUR FAVOURITE PLACE/MEMORIES OF JANE AND FINCH?

NAME: Dawn Tracz
 AGE: 52
 POSTAL CODE: N3N 1L5
 WHAT IS YOUR ETHNICITY? European/Irish/Scottish/Can.
 DESCRIBE JANE AND FINCH IN ONE WORD? Diverse
 HOW LONG HAVE YOU LIVED IN JANE AND FINCH FOR? Lived there from 1968-1991.
 CAN YOU MARK WHAT YOU THINK THE JANE AND FINCH BOUNDARIES ARE?

 Hwy 400 - Sentinel Rd
 DESCRIBE WHAT YOU DREW ABOVE?
 I remember attending Topcliff PS and loved it when we explored the neighboring woods and ravine. There was/is a large hill at the back of the school that is excellent for tobogganing. I remember walking to Oakdale Junior High with my friends, down Driftwood and through the housing complex, each morning with a friend's radio echoing in the empty courtyards. I recall fondly walking to Yorkwoods Library to read or watch a puppet show, we would often walk along Finch Ave to get there but when we felt adventurous we would walk through the park land (Derrydowns Park). In summer I remember exploring the nature in Derrydowns Park and later - roller skating and riding a bike on the pathway. While a student @ Oakdale we often went to Trio Billiards at lunch, walking through the park or buying Jamaican Patties in the store in the housing complex between Grand Ravine & Yorkwoods Gate.

Figure D.5: Dawn Tracz Completed Mapping Exercise

CAN YOU MAP OUT YOUR FAVOURITE PLACE/MEMORIES OF JANE AND FINCH?

NAME: Dwayne Jacobs
 AGE: 50
 POSTAL CODE: L4K 1H1
 WHAT IS YOUR ETHNICITY? Black
 DESCRIBE JANE AND FINCH IN ONE WORD?
 HOW LONG HAVE YOU LIVED IN JANE AND FINCH FOR? 19 years
 CAN YOU MARK WHAT YOU THINK THE JANE AND FINCH BOUNDARIES ARE?

 DESCRIBE WHAT YOU DREW ABOVE?
 Memorable Places/Favorite Spots in Jane/Finch Area
 I come from a single parent household with a mother who very strict due to the dynamics of the neighborhood. My mother was mindful of when her children were out. Most memorable moments for me were attending Firgrove PS, Oakdale Jr PS and St. Francis De Sales to play basketball on weeknights. The mall and plaza directly across the street also had very memorable times for me as a great deal of time was spent at these establishments. Living in this housing project prepared me for what I was about to be exposed to as I was entering my adult life. I left the Jane & Finch area when turning 21 years old. Initially, I was very disturbed with my mother wanting better for her family: very resistant to change but over time, I learned, it was the best move for us. Figuratively and literally. Nothing would have been changed as nothing prepared me for being the man I have become to date. On occasion, I visit the area to observe the changes.

Figure D.6: Dwayne Jacobs Completed Mapping Exercise

CAN YOU MAP OUT YOUR FAVOURITE PLACE/MEMORIES OF JANE AND FINCH?

NAME: Ethan S
 AGE: 18
 POSTAL CODE: M3N 2H7
 WHAT IS YOUR ETHNICITY?
Guyanese/Canadian
 DESCRIBE JANE AND FINCH IN ONE WORD?
Community
 HOW LONG HAVE YOU LIVED IN JANE AND FINCH FOR?
18 years

CAN YOU MARK WHAT YOU THINK THE JANE AND FINCH BOUNDARIES ARE?



Hand-drawn map showing Jane and Finch boundaries and favorite places:
 Yorkwoods Plaza
 Yorkwoods P.S.
 Home
 Basketball Courts
 Oakdale Community Centre
 Grandravine Dr
 Oakdale Park M.S.

DESCRIBE WHAT YOU DREW ABOVE?

Above I drew a small section of Jane and Finch very close to where my ~~home~~ apartment is because for a majority of my life, I would just hang out in my area with kids my age. The people in this small section of the community pretty much raised me. I've volunteered at the community centre for some time, learned valuable life lessons from the teachers at both schools above, and made connections and friendships that are invaluable. This area has taught me to work hard, be smart and be humble.

Figure D.7: Ethan S. Completed Mapping Exercise

CAN YOU MAP OUT YOUR FAVOURITE PLACE/MEMORIES OF JANE AND FINCH?

NAME: Jessica
 AGE: 29
 POSTAL CODE: M3L 2L9
 WHAT IS YOUR ETHNICITY?
Viet/Chinese/CAD
 DESCRIBE JANE AND FINCH IN ONE WORD?
Home
 HOW LONG HAVE YOU LIVED IN JANE AND FINCH FOR?
25 years

CAN YOU MARK WHAT YOU THINK THE JANE AND FINCH BOUNDARIES ARE?



Hand-drawn map showing Jane and Finch boundaries and favorite places:
 Yorkgate Mall
 Jane
 Finch
 Plaza
 JNF Mall
 Derrydown Park
 Yorkwoods Plaza
 Oakdale
 Comisso Bakery
 Home
 Park

DESCRIBE WHAT YOU DREW ABOVE?

Yorkgate mall - cinnabon, Ardene
 Asian supermarket, Bubble tea bakery,
 Yorkwoods plaza - Pho
 Playgrounds - As a child, I played in firgrove and park by my home with my siblings and cousins.
 Derrydown park - Rollerblading / Biking, Picnics

Figure D.8: Jessica Completed Mapping Exercise

CAN YOU MAP OUT YOUR FAVOURITE PLACE/MEMORIES OF JANE AND FINCH?

NAME: Jessica Truong
 AGE: 29
 POSTAL CODE: M3N 1L4
 WHAT IS YOUR ETHNICITY?
Vietnamese Canadian
 DESCRIBE JANE AND FINCH IN ONE WORD?
Diverse
 HOW LONG HAVE YOU LIVED IN JANE AND FINCH FOR?
9 years

CAN YOU MARK WHAT YOU THINK THE JANE AND FINCH BOUNDARIES ARE?



Describe Jane and Finch in one word?
JANE

Describe Jane and Finch in one word?
FINCH

Describe Jane and Finch in one word?
Jane & Finch Mall

Describe Jane and Finch in one word?
Plaza

Describe Jane and Finch in one word?
Westview CC High School

Describe what you drew above?
 I remember moving multiple times around the Jane and Finch area and being able to explore each area pretty extensively. I went to elementary school in Firgrove where I had to walk through connections to get to when i lived in a house when the school was just a fence and feild away in my backyard. Another time I remember only walking 3 blocks down when I lived in a apartment building close by. I did a lot of walking & exploring and never felt like I was in danger because I knew which areas to stay out of. I miss going sledding down the giant hill at Topcliff during the winter time. I fondly remember hanging out with friends after school grabbing food. Whether it be Jamacian patties at Jane and Finch Mall, Pho at the plaza, chinese take out at the food court, tooney tuesday at KFC, Timmys or McDs. Gosford side was when I would hangout with a lot of the neighbourhood kids. I took tae kwon do classes at a local community center near by and would frequently visit Yorkwoods library.

Figure D.9: Jessica Truong Completed Mapping Exercise

CAN YOU MAP OUT YOUR FAVOURITE PLACE/MEMORIES OF JANE AND FINCH?

NAME: Julie
 AGE: 24
 POSTAL CODE: M3n 2B4
 WHAT IS YOUR ETHNICITY?
Vietnamese
 DESCRIBE JANE AND FINCH IN ONE WORD?
MULTICULTURAL
 HOW LONG HAVE YOU LIVED IN JANE AND FINCH FOR?
11 years

CAN YOU MARK WHAT YOU THINK THE JANE AND FINCH BOUNDARIES ARE?



Describe Jane and Finch in one word?
YORKGATE MALL

Describe what you drew above?
I DREW YORKGATE MALL BECAUSE MY GRANDMA USED TO TAKE ME HERE FOR A SLUSHIE AND WE'D SHOP AT ZELLERS

Figure D.10: Julie Completed Mapping Exercise

CAN YOU MAP OUT YOUR FAVOURITE PLACE/MEMORIES OF JANE AND FINCH?

NAME: Junior
 AGE: 52
 POSTAL CODE: M3N 1J4
 WHAT IS YOUR ETHNICITY?
Trinidadian/Brown/South Asian
 DESCRIBE JANE AND FINCH IN ONE WORD? Diverse
 HOW LONG HAVE YOU LIVED IN JANE AND FINCH FOR? 12 years

CAN YOU MARK WHAT YOU THINK THE JANE AND FINCH BOUNDARIES ARE?



DESCRIBE WHAT YOU DREW ABOVE?

The various areas that I have drawn were significant places I would visit during my childhood growing up in J/F. I spent many days in the J/F Mall after school hanging out and playing space invaders, Pac Man, Galaxian, Galaga in Arcade beside McDonalds. After hours and weekends, I would spend time by my friends in the Connections, Palisades, Driftwood, Shoreham, Eddystone. In the summer, I would ride my bike in the creek and hangout at Yorkwoods Library, Driftwood Community Centre & Yorkwoods Community Centre. Although there are a mix of housing types such as Market Rent, Rent Geared to Income (supportive housing), Freehold towns, home ownership, I found myself associating with folks in the Metro Toronto Housing (supportive housing) as it was known back in my days or people that lived in my immediate community Grandravine which was referred to as 'Down the Lane' and if you lived there you would be called a 'Lane Man', not sure what the female equivalent would be or even if there had a term for women who lived in this area. There is much more to reminiscent about, but I would need a to write a whole book to cover it.



Figure D.11: Junior Completed Mapping Exercise

CAN YOU MAP OUT YOUR FAVOURITE PLACE/MEMORIES OF JANE AND FINCH?

NAME: JUSTINE KHIEV
 AGE: 27
 POSTAL CODE: M3J 1W6
 WHAT IS YOUR ETHNICITY?
CHINESE/CAMBODIAN
 DESCRIBE JANE AND FINCH IN ONE WORD?
HOME
 HOW LONG HAVE YOU LIVED IN JANE AND FINCH FOR?
23 YEARS

CAN YOU MARK WHAT YOU THINK THE JANE AND FINCH BOUNDARIES ARE?



DESCRIBE WHAT YOU DREW ABOVE?

- There used to be an arcade and go kart here
- Yorkgate mall for the food court, si vous plais, dollarama
- My high school CWJ
- Firgrove Park - Play tennis (self taught) with my sister
- Comisso Bros, Open 24hrs. I would get panzerottis at 3am here
- 10 EDDYSTONE - Lived here for 22 years. We finally moved though.
- Grandravine Park and Arena - Skating and tennis here
- Yorkwoods Plaza, got lunch here all the time from Double Double and Viet Hoa
- Trail I would walk/bike. My parents took us on a few picnics on the weekends here at Sheppard Park with their friends.



- Ended up graduating from Guelph-Humber with a BBA
 - I still live in the radius . We moved to a house finally in 2018.

Figure D.12: Justine Khiev Completed Mapping Exercise

CAN YOU MAP OUT YOUR FAVOURITE PLACE/MEMORIES OF JANE AND FINCH?

NAME: LY LY KHIEV
 AGE: 65
 POSTAL CODE: M3J 1W6
 WHAT IS YOUR ETHNICITY?
CHINESE/CAMBODIAN
 DESCRIBE JANE AND FINCH IN ONE WORD?
HOME
 HOW LONG HAVE YOU LIVED IN JANE AND FINCH FOR?
23 YEARS

CAN YOU MARK WHAT YOU THINK THE JANE AND FINCH BOUNDARIES ARE?



DESCRIBE WHAT YOU DREW ABOVE?

 Jane Finch Plaza - crucial chinese supermarket and chinese BBQ shop (Yummy Wok)	 10 EDDYSTONE - Lived here for 22 years. We finally moved though.
 Yorkgate mall - no frills	 We used to picnic on the weekends here at Sheppard Park with our children and our friends.
 Jane Finch mall - there's always some sort of discount home store there. Very good for low income. Also the price chopper was good.	



Figure D.13: Ly Ly Khiev Completed Mapping Exercise

CAN YOU MAP OUT YOUR FAVOURITE PLACE/MEMORIES OF JANE AND FINCH?

NAME: Kelly
 AGE: 17
 POSTAL CODE: M3J1S9
 WHAT IS YOUR ETHNICITY?
Canadian/ Viet/ Chinese/ Cambodian
 DESCRIBE JANE AND FINCH IN ONE WORD?
Community
 HOW LONG HAVE YOU LIVED IN JANE AND FINCH FOR?
My Entire Life

CAN YOU MARK WHAT YOU THINK THE JANE AND FINCH BOUNDARIES ARE?



DESCRIBE WHAT YOU DREW ABOVE?

I drew the Aviva centre tennis courts, where I spent many years participating in a program called the Jane and Finch Community Tennis Association (JFTCA). This program is based in the Jane and Finch area, giving inexpensive tennis lessons to those in the community. Through this program, I discovered my favourite sport, made new friends, and was offered my first job as a tennis instructor at the age of 15. I am so happy to be living here as it allows me to partake in these amazing opportunities.

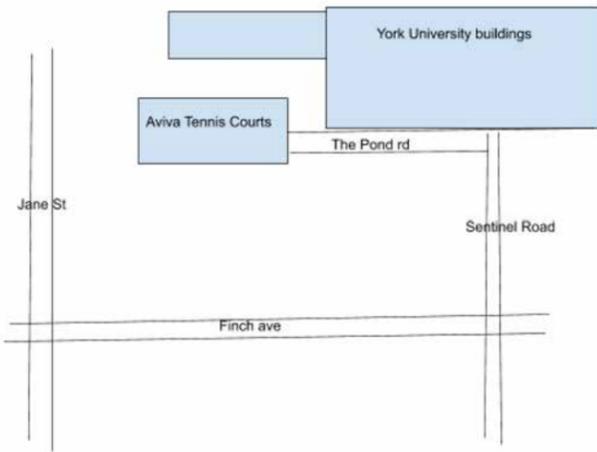


Figure D.14: Kelly Completed Mapping Exercise

CAN YOU MAP OUT YOUR FAVOURITE PLACE/MEMORIES OF JANE AND FINCH?

NAME: Kevin Jacobs
 AGE: 51
 POSTAL CODE: M3N 2W9
 WHAT IS YOUR ETHNICITY?
Black Canadian
 DESCRIBE JANE AND FINCH IN ONE WORD?
Challenging
 HOW LONG HAVE YOU LIVED IN JANE AND FINCH FOR?
19 Years

CAN YOU MARK WHAT YOU THINK THE JANE AND FINCH BOUNDARIES ARE?



DESCRIBE WHAT YOU DREW ABOVE?
 Memories of Favorite Places / Jane & Finch

My siblings and I were the products of a single parent home. My mother did not really allow us to hang out for extended periods of time. We did occasionally get out for errands at the mall. My best childhood play days were in the back of the Firgrove Public School Field. My friends and I always had good times there. Second to that, was the Mall. The stores that I have very vivid memories of in Jane/ Finch mall are long gone. Some of the popular stores to go shop were Towers, Bi-way, Dominion and Food City. My favorite place to get candies, chocolate bars and other treats was a variety store in Yorkwoods plaza. It was located on the north side of the plaza which was directly beside a Royal bank. This is now a Laundry mat. All the kids in the neighborhood use to go there and steal candy because the shop owner would never catch us. Her husband however was always throwing kids out of the store. Next to that was a Chinese food store called Jade East. It has been in the neighborhood for over 40 years and I think it is still there. There was also a Gino's Pizza in that plaza and we would go there for lunch when I was junior high. They had the best fries and gravy. On the far south side of the plaza was a pool hall. It was always filled with shady characters. As teens we would go there to play video games but I never stayed there long because it was always filled with smoke. In retrospect, living in Jane/ Finch was a great experience. I would not have changed anything about growing up there. I left Jane /Finch when I was 21 and at that time I was not hanging out as much in the neighborhood. I was transitioning into adulthood and getting ready to enter University.

Figure D.15: Kevin Jacobs Completed Mapping Exercise

CAN YOU MAP OUT YOUR FAVOURITE PLACE/MEMORIES OF JANE AND FINCH?

NAME: Laurie
 AGE: 27
 POSTAL CODE: M3N 2T2
 WHAT IS YOUR ETHNICITY?
 Chinese/Vietnamese/Canadian
 DESCRIBE JANE AND FINCH IN ONE WORD?
 Diverse
 HOW LONG HAVE YOU LIVED IN JANE AND FINCH FOR?
 17 years

CAN YOU MARK WHAT YOU THINK THE JANE AND FINCH BOUNDARIES ARE?



DESCRIBE WHAT YOU DREW ABOVE?

I moved to Jane and Finch when I was 10. I attended Firgrove Public School, where I met some of my best friends till today. I remember when I first walked to school alone through connections, my parents were very worried about my safety. Later on, I met a couple of kids who lived at Eddystone that I would walk to school with. During that time as well, my brother was in highschool and attended Westview. In middle school, I would walk to Yorkwoods plaza to grab a poutine or patty from the convenience store or Double Double during lunch. The park a couple of blocks away from Oakdale was a great place to play on the swings. High school at Westview was amazing. I met a lot of great friends and teachers that till this day, I still keep in contact with them. Jane and Finch mall was a place that I enjoyed hanging out with my friends and grabbing Chinese food for \$2. The Jane and Finch plaza was the closet pho place at the time, and it was one of the spots that my family and I would go for dinner. Down Eddystone, there was an Indian supermarket that would have really cheap and delicious samosa. Yorkgate mall was a bit of a walk, but I would go to No Frills to grab groceries.

Figure D.16: Laurie Completed Mapping Exercise

CAN YOU MAP OUT YOUR FAVOURITE PLACE/MEMORIES OF JANE AND FINCH?

NAME: Lincoln T
 AGE: 24
 POSTAL CODE: M3L 1Y3
 WHAT IS YOUR ETHNICITY?
Vietnamese
 DESCRIBE JANE AND FINCH IN ONE WORD?
multicultural
 HOW LONG HAVE YOU LIVED IN JANE AND FINCH FOR?
20 years

CAN YOU MARK WHAT YOU THINK THE JANE AND FINCH BOUNDARIES ARE?



DESCRIBE WHAT YOU DREW ABOVE?

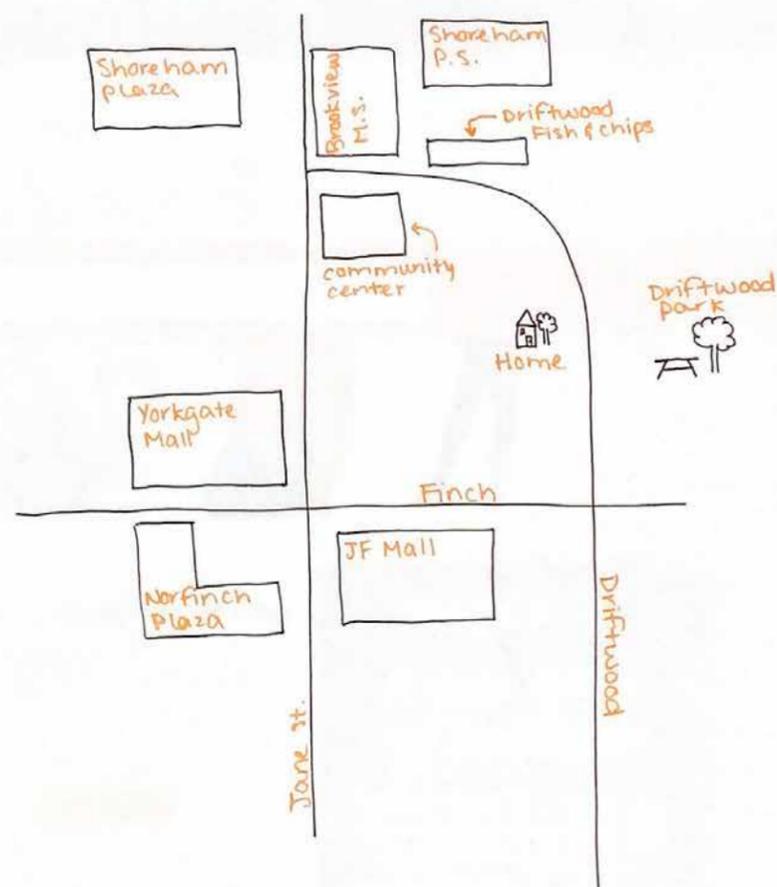
During my childhood I went around everywhere in Jane and Finch. I went to firgrove public school for elementary school I usually hangout with all my friends at the park and usually play basketball at the parks and play on the jungle Jim. Sometime on the weekend I go with my family to the mall either York gate or Jane and finch mall to get groceries or to hangout and buy toys. We had a blockbuster near our house we use to rent out movies and games on the weekend. In middle school I went to oakdale park middle school. I usually go to the community centre early in the morning or after school to play sports and hangout with my friends. During lunch time I would go to the north York plaza to get some food such as fries cheese and honey garlic and beef patty. I usually walk to school and always walk pass eddy stone to meet up and walk to school.

Figure D.17: Lincoln T Completed Mapping Exercise

CAN YOU MAP OUT YOUR FAVOURITE PLACE/MEMORIES OF JANE AND FINCH?

NAME: Lois Tuck
 AGE: 18
 POSTAL CODE: M3N 2Y7
 WHAT IS YOUR ETHNICITY?
Filipino/Canadian
 DESCRIBE JANE AND FINCH IN ONE WORD?
Unique
 HOW LONG HAVE YOU LIVED IN JANE AND FINCH FOR?
18 years

CAN YOU MARK WHAT YOU THINK THE JANE AND FINCH BOUNDARIES ARE?



DESCRIBE WHAT YOU DREW ABOVE?

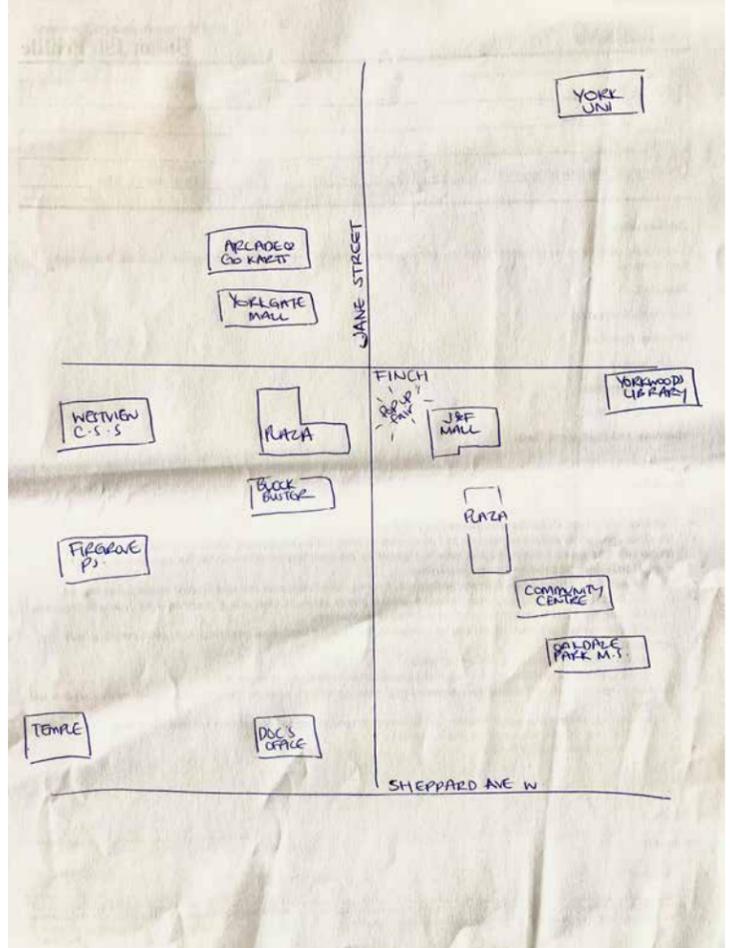
My best memories were mostly made at shoreham P.S. and the community center. My friends and I would always get fish and chips for lunch, hang out in the school playground, and go swimming at the community center. Some of my basketball tournaments were at Brookview M.S. and I did soccer camp there one year too. I used to always go shopping with my parents at all the malls and plazas and spend time with my friends at the park.

Figure D.18: Lois Tuck Completed Mapping Exercise

CAN YOU MAP OUT YOUR FAVOURITE PLACE/MEMORIES OF JANE AND FINCH?

NAME: Nav Samra
 AGE: 27
 POSTAL CODE: M3N2B4
 WHAT IS YOUR ETHNICITY?
South Asian
 DESCRIBE JANE AND FINCH IN ONE WORD?
Diverse
 HOW LONG HAVE YOU LIVED IN JANE AND FINCH FOR?
24 years

CAN YOU MARK WHAT YOU THINK THE JANE AND FINCH BOUNDARIES ARE?

DESCRIBE WHAT YOU DREW ABOVE?
 I was born and raised in Jane & Finch and absolutely loved it – my parents still refuse to leave. I remember growing up there used to be an arcade behind Yorkgate Mall, and a Blockbusters in front of our building. My siblings and I spent a lot of time there. I also spent a lot of time at school, the library, and the community centre. My mom used to sign us up for every class/activity to keep us busy. I loved that all the schools were close by so there was no need to commute. Every now and then there would be a pop up fair in the Jane Finch Mall parking lot which was fun. There was always something to do in the community

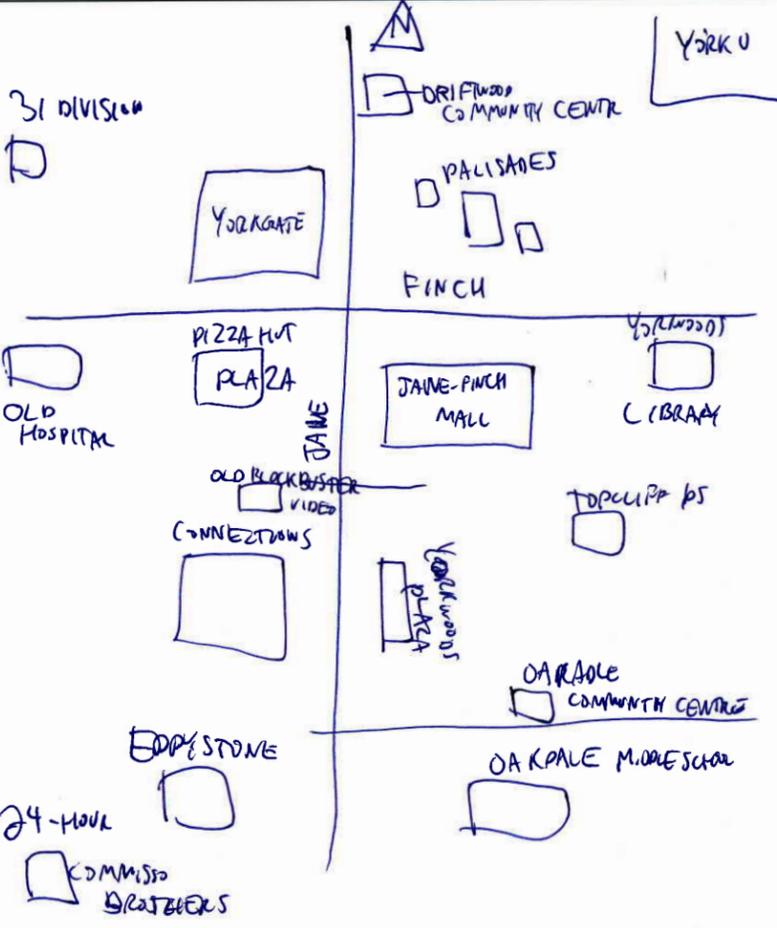
Figure D.19: Nav Samra Completed Mapping Exercise

CAN YOU MAP OUT YOUR FAVOURITE PLACE/MEMORIES OF JANE AND FINCH?

NAME: PAUL NGUYEN
 AGE: 40
 POSTAL CODE: M3N1L9
 WHAT IS YOUR ETHNICITY?
VIETNAMESE
 DESCRIBE JANE AND FINCH IN ONE WORD?

 HOW LONG HAVE YOU LIVED IN JANE AND FINCH FOR?
35 years

CAN YOU MARK WHAT YOU THINK THE JANE AND FINCH BOUNDARIES ARE?

DESCRIBE WHAT YOU DREW ABOVE?
 I drew the spots that I frequented most/regularly. There are many buildings (such as medical) that I have never even stepped into, even though I may have driven by them for 30 years! I went to Yorkwoods, Topcliff and Oakdale and CW Jefferys. I loved the Sunday flea market at Jane-Finch Mall. I remember Yorkgate had a LOEB and they would BBQ fresh hot dogs and burgers for \$1 on the weekends. Jane-Finch Mall has many nice stores and even two groceries at each end (Food City and Dominion), there was even a Radio Shack, Aldo, Reitman's, K-Mart, etc. Now it is all small businesses. Only McDonald's, CIBC and Shoppers Drug Mart remain. There's way too many things to post. But I've had many unique memories covering stories about special events and people that came to the neighbourhood, such as Prime Minister Paul Martin's visit, etc. I remember the Blockbuster video near Firgrove and spent many hours browsing VHS tapes there.

Figure D.20: Paul Nguyen Completed Mapping Exercise

CAN YOU MAP OUT YOUR FAVOURITE PLACE/MEMORIES OF JANE AND FINCH?

NAME: Wayne Salmon
 AGE: 50
 POSTAL CODE: M3N 1J1
 WHAT IS YOUR ETHNICITY?
Black
 DESCRIBE JANE AND FINCH IN ONE WORD?
HOME
 HOW LONG HAVE YOU LIVED IN JANE AND FINCH FOR?
Ten years

CAN YOU MARK WHAT YOU THINK THE JANE AND FINCH BOUNDARIES ARE?

DESCRIBE WHAT YOU DREW ABOVE?
 What I have drawn here are the boundaries of a world.
 We moved to Jane and Finch when I was in the seventh grade. Until then I had lived in predominantly white communities. Jane and Finch was ethnically diverse. We had a lot of immigrants up there--me being one of them. I had much in common with a lot of different folks from all over the world. I felt very comfortable in Jane and Finch. There was a sense of belonging.
 Outside of school and the homes of friends in the community, you could find us at the mall or at the plaza. Big up the Jade East Chinese Food spot, Gino's Pizza, Star War Burgers and their far out french fries and gravy as well. We can't omit the shady basement billiards spot either--cigarette smoke enough to scare cancer.
 I worked in the community as well. I worked in the bookstore and in the photolab in the original Jane and Finch neighbourhood the courts. There really wasn't much of a need for me to leave the community for much of anything. For me the community was safe. We eventually moved to Oshawa, which was a different experience entirely. Jane and Finch was a special place. The friends I made their I still have today.

Figure D.21: Wayne Salmon Completed Mapping Exercise

CAN YOU MAP OUT YOUR FAVOURITE PLACE/MEMORIES OF JANE AND FINCH?

NAME: Floyd Thompson
 AGE: 61
 POSTAL CODE: L4C 9S4
 WHAT IS YOUR ETHNICITY?
Black
 DESCRIBE JANE AND FINCH IN ONE WORD?
"Roots"
 HOW LONG HAVE YOU LIVED IN JANE AND FINCH FOR?
From 1972 - 1997

CAN YOU MARK WHAT YOU THINK THE JANE AND FINCH BOUNDARIES ARE?

DESCRIBE WHAT YOU DREW ABOVE?
 The thicker, darker lines outline my definition of the J/F boundaries. Downsview Dells was my favourite place. Although slightly beyond the perimeter of the boundaries, it was easily the location of my fondest childhood memories. As a child, "The Dells" generated a place for our imaginations to blossom. Throughout the year, we would use its woodlands to create games, toboggan, ride our bikes and just talk. I don't recall any sense of danger down there. I'm old enough to remember seeing horse-jumping shows held down there. I should have a dime for every time my childhood friends, most of which I still maintain contact with to this day, sat on the fallen logs that were beside Black Creek at its bend.

Figure D.22: Floyd Thompson Completed Mapping Exercise

CAN YOU MAP OUT YOUR FAVOURITE PLACE/MEMORIES OF JANE AND FINCH?

NAME: Shaunelle Pixley
 AGE: 58
 POSTAL CODE: M3N 2W9
 WHAT IS YOUR ETHNICITY?
Jamaican Canadian
 DESCRIBE JANE AND FINCH IN ONE WORD?
Diverse
 HOW LONG HAVE YOU LIVED IN JANE AND FINCH FOR?
19 years

CAN YOU MARK WHAT YOU THINK THE JANE AND FINCH BOUNDARIES ARE?

DESCRIBE WHAT YOU DREW ABOVE?

My Fondest Memories Of Growing Up In Jane & Finch:

When I reflect, it goes back to hanging out with my friends, both male and female having clean fun-walking through the Jane & Finch Mall. Checking out the athletic store to see if the newest pair of sneakers arrived. Attending Oakdale Junior High was a high point for me because that's where I met most of my friends and some I still keep in contact with. Taking part in the afterschool parks and recreation program at Oakdale Junior High playing basketball and participating in the basketball tournaments that were organized during the summer months at Westview Secondary by a gentleman named Mustafa, are also highlights to be remembered. Yorkwoods Plaza also holds some cherished memories. For example, Jades Chinese restaurant where I ordered my favorite Chinese dish, steamed rice with beef and Chinese broccoli. The other restaurant (Take Out) was Gino's Pizza which offered student discounts. My absolute favourite lunch when I treated myself was 2 piece "chicken broasted" with french fries and gravy-THE BEST!!!! Overall, my teen years into young adulthood living in Jane & Finch was very positive due to my single mother's parenting and her high academic expectations for her children.

Figure D.23: Shaunelle Pixley Completed Mapping Exercise



Janice T Clement

I understand the assignment but would say I went from home to school (Spenny Valley, Oakdale then Westview) or to friends homes. Only other place was an outdoor skating rink down towards Jane/Sheppard. M3L 2B2 - 25 yrs. Scottish. One word - Italian. Good luck with your assignment



Figure D.24: Janice Clement Completed Mapping Exercise



Mick Spencer
 Moved to 307 Grandravine Dr #221 in 1967.. I was 9 Years Old. A Large family... The Spencer's.. i am sure many people know of my Brothers and Sisters.. My Dad worked for the Borough of North York.. Amesbury Rec Center near Keele and Lawrence. Growing up in that area back in the day was simply Wonderful. The Jane & Finch Mall wasn't to far away...we walked and biked everywhere. At that time... Driftwood never crossed Black Creek...it ended at the top of the Hill.. then called "Lovers Lane" We use to sneak up on the couples in their cars... watching them Kiss and Bang each other..lol The Italian homes were in the process of being built and we use to make underground forts in the Woods.. I use to fish in Black Creek and actually catch small trout. Turning over Rocks looking for Salamanders and catching garter snakes were a really cool thing to do.. I had a few escape in house and end up in my Moms laundry basket...lol Walking through the townhouses up the stairs or the tiny hill beside them riding my bike was fun.. The Variety Store.. Beckers... Jade East... the Barber Shop in the center... Hamburger Place?... Trio Billiards? ...went there almost daily. I walked the beams at the Jane and Finch Mall... Towers was just being built... Dominion was on the other end...they had a little stand up coffee bar where it met the Mall... The Liquor Store was something... you had to fill out your little piece of paper from the lists on the board then hand it too the guy at the front...he would go grab it...put it in a paper bag.. In the center of the Mall...there was a T Shirt booth and you could choose what you wanted to have printed on it...right there. The traveling Carnival would set up in the corner of the parking lot where Jane and Finch meet.. Sneaking into Pioneer Village... 400 Drive Inn... was a thrill... I caddied at Oakdale Golf and Country Club for a few years...starte as a "B" caddy and ended up as a "AA".. Vince and Pasqualle were the Caddy Masters... George Knudson was the course PRO.. We always managed to make money as kids...if it was singing Christmas Carols door to door...Shoveling driveways when it snowed OR just collecting pop bottles...we always manged to buy our Candy...lol Oakdale Junior High School was basically Imy Backyard.. on the Weekends we would play Baseball...Golf... Climb the trees that ran along the fence to the Golf Course. I climbed the Smokestack many times...wouldn't dare do it now...lol Life as a Child...was absolutely Wonderful... we never had much but we made the most of what we did have... Memories will be with me to my grave... Good Times.. 🙌🥰

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Figure D.25: Mick Spencer Completed Mapping Exercise



Dolly Kao
 I lived just west of Jane and Shepperd and went to Stanley Public School, followed by Oakdale Junior High, and then CW Jefferys SS. I often went to Yorkwoods Library to read, study and listen to music. Back then, I walked everywhere. I remember playing baritone sax as part of the school brass band in Jane and Finch Mall. I often went to Jane Finch Mall and to the plazas near Jane and Shepperd where I could get baked goods at Capri Bakery and Italian gelato at La Stella. There was also a fast food restaurant called Pink Panther there for a brief period that made fries better than McDonalds. I too skated at the outdoor rink near the schoolyard of Stanley Public School. In the same area was a Macs Milk where I would go to try every chocolate bar and candy. My family would also go to Black Creek Park where I would wade in the creek looking for fossils and interesting rocks. I am almost 52 years old so these memories are starting to wane. I remember walking everywhere and not feeling unsafe, for the most part. I agree that the neighborhood where I lived was Italian. I remember the manicured lawns and the well kept homes. The best part of growing up there was the multicultural school environment. I really liked the diversity and getting to know people from all over the world. I also had a chance at Oakdale Junior High to play on a cricket team. I think that I was one of the few kids who wasn't from Jamaica. We played against Upper Canada College and then ate these cucumber egg sandwiches in the school mess hall. Anyway, all of this is to say that I felt that I had many rich experiences growing up in the Jane and Shepperd area and going to school near Jane and Finch. I feel that I got a very good education and lots of opportunities to experience different things including skiing and music. Sorry forgot the long rambling message. It's getting late. Finally, Dawn Tracz and I were classmates. 😊

4

Figure D.26 Dolly Kao Completed Mapping Exercise

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