

Report to Strategic Priorities and Policy Committee

To: Chair and Members
Strategic Priorities and Policy Committee

From: Lynne Livingstone
City Manager

Subject: London Community Recovery Network – Update on
Municipally Funded and Community Initiatives

Date: June 7, 2022

Recommendation

That, on the recommendation of the City Manager, the report titled London Community Recovery Network – Update on Municipally Funded and Community Initiatives for **BE RECEIVED** for information.

Executive Summary

Over the course of the last two years, the members of the London Community Recovery Network (LCRN) have been collaborating on initiatives, programs, and strategies designed to contribute to a strong and inclusive post-COVID London. These efforts were led by the identification of 70 ideas for action in December 2020. Civic administration and community organizations have been implementing these ideas and have made significant progress to date. In October 2021, LCRN members took their next step by adopting the LCRN Framework, which lays out a common vision and shared measures to envision recovery and renewal in our community and measure our collective progress over a three-year period. Since the adoption of the LCRN Framework, members have been identifying, developing, and implementing further efforts that are contributing to London's community recovery and renewal.

The 2022 LCRN Showcase Report (**Appendix A**) provides an update of the initiatives undertaken to date as well as several programs and strategies that are underway following the adoption of the LCRN Framework. The 2022 LCRN Showcase Report includes updates on implementation and impact of all the ideas that have received municipal funding through the community recovery funding set aside by City Council. LCRN members are demonstrating their alignment with the common vision and shared measures found within the LCRN Framework.

The LCRN Framework sets out a common community vision for recovery and establishes shared indicators to drive and measure a strong, inclusive post-COVID London. These indicators are aligned along three recovery areas of focus:

- Investing in People
- Driving Prosperity
- Fostering Community

Since the adoption of the LCRN Framework last fall, LCRN members have come together to initiate over 260 actions, plans and objectives to support London's community recovery. LCRN's individual and collective actions will align to the LCRN Framework to maintain focus on the common vision developed by network members. Of the hundreds of actions currently underway or completed, nearly 40% are existing actions that have adjusted goals and objectives to align with the Framework indicators. The remaining 60% of these initiatives are new, created in collaboration with LCRN members, that may not have occurred without the sustained efforts and partnerships fostered through the LCRN process. The LCRN 2022 Showcase Report (**Appendix A**)

highlights submissions from the LCRN Members that demonstrate the rich and diverse recovery efforts underway across our community.

Linkage to the Corporate Strategic Plan

The London Community Recovery Framework includes strong alignment with all key areas of focus under the City of London Strategic Plan:

Strengthening our Community:

- Londoners have access to the supports they need to be successful
- Londoners have access to the services and supports that promote well-being, health, and safety in their neighbourhoods and across the city

Building a Sustainable City

- London has a strong and healthy environment
- Londoners can move around the city safely and easily in a manner that meets their needs

Growing our Economy:

- London will develop a top-quality workforce
- London is a leader in Ontario for attracting new jobs and investments
- London creates a supportive environment where entrepreneurs, businesses and talent can thrive

Creating a Safe City for Women and Girls

- London has enhanced the potential for women and girls to live safe lives

Leading in Public Service

- The City of London is trusted, open, and accountable in service of our community
- Londoners experience exceptional and valued customer service

In addition, the London Community Recovery Framework aligns with the City of London's commitment to Anti-Racism and Anti-Oppression by intentionally seeking input from equity-deserving groups and by ensuring that contributions toward shared measures are inclusive and equitable for all Londoners.

Analysis

1.0 Previous Reports Related to this Matter

- Access to City of London Funding for Social and Economic Recovery – London Community Recovery Network – March 8, 2022, SPPC
- London Community Recovery Framework – October 19, 2021, SPPC
- London Community Recovery Network – Community Led Ideas – Business Cases – May 18, 2021, SPPC
- London Community Recovery Network – Immediate Ideas for Action to Support London's COVID-19 Community Recovery – December 16, 2020, SPPC
- 2020 Mid-Year Operating Budget Monitoring Report & COVID-19 Financial Impacts - September 20, 2020, SPPC
- First Report of the London Community Recovery Network – July 14, 2020, SPPC
- Covid-19 Financial Impacts – Update – June 23, 2020, SPPC
- Second Report from the Mayor's Economic and Social Impact and Recovery Task Forces – May 8, 2020
- Covid-19 Financial Impacts and Additional Measures for Community Relief – April 28, 2020, SPPC
- Homeless Prevention COVID-19 Response and Funding Overview, Community and Protective Services Committee, April 28, 2020, Consent Item # 2.3
- Property Tax Deferral Options – April 14, 2020, CSC
- First Report from the Mayor's Economic and Social Impact and Recovery Task Forces – April 9, 2020

2.0 Background

Early in the pandemic, London City Council established the London Community Recovery Network (LCRN) in partnership with leaders from London's public, private, non-profit, and institutional sectors and those representing communities that have experienced disproportionate impacts from COVID-19. The purpose of the LCRN was to work to drive a strong and inclusive recovery for London.

With the creation of the LCRN, City Council approved a total of up to \$10 million in funding to support social and economic recovery measures. Through the course of the LCRN's work, several submissions have been presented to City Council where City funding was requested to support community recovery initiatives. To date, Council has approved a total allocation of \$3.7 million towards several business cases in support of these measures.

In its first phase of work from September 2020 to December 2020, LCRN members identified 70 ideas for action to drive an immediate community response to the impacts of the pandemic in our community. Of the 70 ideas, 36 were short term ideas to be led by Civic Administration and 24 were immediate recovery ideas to be implemented by community organizations or were already underway. Ten additional ideas were deemed as medium to long-term and will commence in the coming months.

In its second phase of work from March 2021 to December 2021, LCRN members jointly developed and adopted the London Community Recovery Framework (LCRN Framework), which provides a common vision and shared indicators to guide, measure, and align community recovery and renewal efforts. The LCRN Framework was unanimously endorsed by LCRN members, and by City Council on October 26, 2021.

In March 2022, Council approved a streamlined process for Civic Administration to continue to identify ideas for action and aligned initiatives within the LCRN Framework. This process has now been launched, with two streams available to Civic Administration and LCRN partners:

- The LCRN Recovery Fund, for recovery initiatives with an estimated budget of over \$5,000, to be presented to and approved by Council
- The LCRN Readiness Fund, for recovery initiatives with an estimated budget of under \$5,000, considered small scale community recovery initiatives or supports that both align with the LCRN Framework

The 2022 LCRN Showcase Report (**Appendix A**) provides an update on the 32 ideas led by Civic Administration as approved in December 2020 as well as more than a dozen community-led recovery initiatives, five of which received municipal funding by Council on May 25, 2021. It also highlights submissions from LCRN members that demonstrate the rich and diverse recovery efforts underway across the community since the adoption of the LCRN Framework in October 2021.

3.0 Financial Considerations

Between fall 2020 and spring 2021, Council approved a total of \$10 million to be set aside to support social and economic recovery measures. To date, the total Council approved allocation is \$3.7 million, leaving \$6.3 million still available to be allocated.

The process endorsed in March 2022, for accessing community recovery funding formalized the process that has been followed thus far to receive Council approval of the \$3.7 million allocated to date.

The source of funding for the \$100,000 commitment for the LCRN Readiness Fund is the funding that has been set aside by Council for social and economic recovery within the Economic Development Reserve Fund.

Conclusion

The 2022 LCRN Showcase Report (**Appendix A**) provides a progress update on the 32 Civic Administratively led Ideas for Action, of which 30 are complete and 2 are in

progress. There are also updates for 5 LCRN member led Ideas for Action, that received municipal funding as well a several community-led recovery initiatives that are underway or have been completed

Since the endorsement of the LCRN Framework, members have aligned programs, policies, and strategic plans to meet the goals and Focus Areas of the LCRN Framework.

For the remainder of 2022, and into 2023, LCRN members will continue to collaborate under the LCRN Framework. There is a commitment to provide Municipal Council an update on the progress of this work in Q4 2022, and Q4 2023. These annual reports will provide updates to the data tracking of the 23 shared indicators that were endorsed in the LCRN Framework. Baseline data for the 23 indicators was collected in 2021 and will be used to identify, evaluate, and inform future community recovery efforts and strategies for the coming years.

Applications to the LCRN Recovery and Readiness Funds will continue to be accepted and reviewed as new programs emerge to continue to support recovery and alignment to the LCRN Framework.

**Prepared and submitted by: Adam Thompson, Manager,
Government and External Relations**

Recommended by: Lynne Livingstone, City Manager

cc. Members of the London Community Recovery Network
City of London Senior Leadership Team
London Community Recovery Working Group
Chris Green, Economic Partnerships
Cathy Parsons, Economic Partnerships
Alan Dunbar, Financial Services and Supports



2022
**LCRN Showcase
Report**





INTRODUCTION

The 2022 LCRN Showcase Report provides a snapshot of the broad and diverse community recovery and renewal efforts underway across London. Since Fall 2020, LCRN members have been convening to share information and identify solutions to secure a strong, deep, and inclusive recovery and renewal for London. Many of the solutions discussed have taken shape as programs, initiatives, and strategies that have been put into action over the last two years.

With more than 260 initiatives completed or in progress for this year, LCRN members are busy contributing to London's recovery and renewal. The individual and collective efforts from members are firmly rooted in the LCRN Framework – a guiding document that sets out a common vision and shared measures for recovery in London.

In the 2022 LCRN Showcase Report, Londoners can view some of the initiatives that have been undertaken by LCRN members and the impacts these efforts are having on the ground.

A fulsome annual report will be delivered in late 2022. The annual report will include an evaluation of London's progress toward recovery and renewal using the shared measures within the LCRN Framework. The LCRN annual report – and the data-driven approach by LCRN members – will inform decision-makers at all levels and will drive the ongoing collective efforts of LCRN members over the next three years.

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2022 LCRN SHOWCASE REPORT BY THE NUMBERS

About LCRN

The London Community Recovery Network (LCRN) is chaired by the Mayor, supported by Council, and led by 51 community leaders who represent social, economic, and institutional organizations across London.

LCRN is working to build a strong and inclusive post-pandemic London by driving recovery and renewal in our community.

The London Community Recovery Framework

Through a collaborative, data-driven process, the LCRN identified recovery areas of focus, shared indicators, and metrics to guide and measure community efforts.

These components form the vision for community recovery described in the London Community Recovery Framework. Rooted in eight shared commitments, the LCRN Framework provides a resource for organizations to align their collective efforts on recovery while also meeting the needs of individual sectors, members, and organizations.

The Path Forward

The pandemic has demanded exceptional innovation, partnerships, and flexibility, and the recovery effort will require much of the same. Some of the emerging issues LCRN has identified include:

- Talent Recruitment and Retention is a City-Wide Challenge
- London's Relative Affordability Advantage is Under Stress
- Organizations Have Emphasized Community Impact
- Future Pandemic Resilience is Essential

LCRN members will continue to work together to address these challenges and others as we build towards a more resilient, equitable, and inclusive London for the future.

LCRN Shared Commitments

- Collaboration and Coordination
- Climate Change and Environment
- Innovation
- Local Purchasing
- Data Disaggregation
- Equity and Inclusion
- Infrastructure Investment
- Short-Term and Long-Term Focus



3 Areas of Focus



23 Indicators



35 Metrics

The Path Forward

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Progress Update

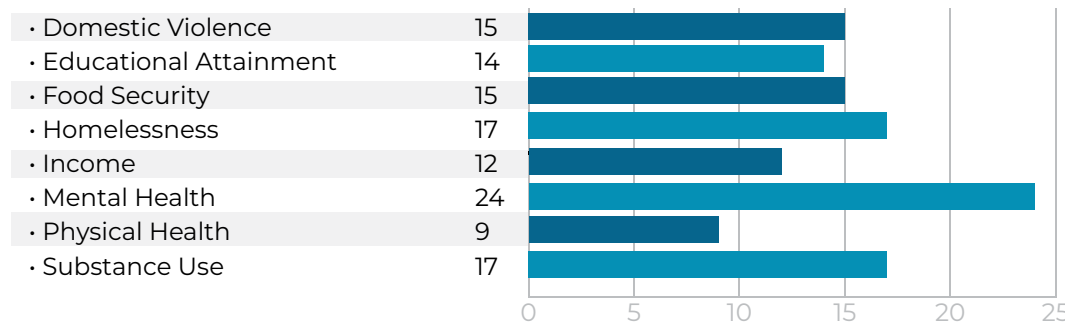
LCRN member organizations have identified 260 planned, ongoing, or completed initiatives through 2022 that are supporting London's recovery in alignment with one or more of the LCRN's vision and objectives.

Of the total, 198 are initiatives that were created in response to the pandemic, and 62 were existing initiatives that were redesigned to align with LCRN recovery efforts.

The following charts show how the 260 recovery initiatives align with the LCRN recovery areas of focus and how members are responding to the shared indicators prioritized by the community.

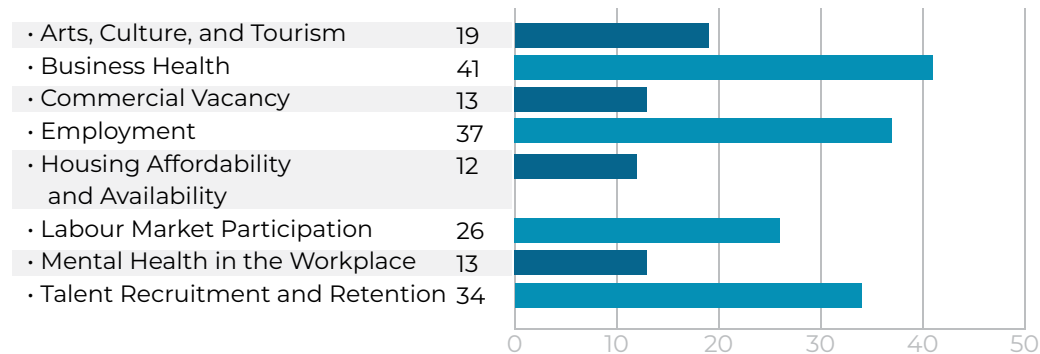
Investing in People

Improving quality of life so all Londoners can participate and succeed



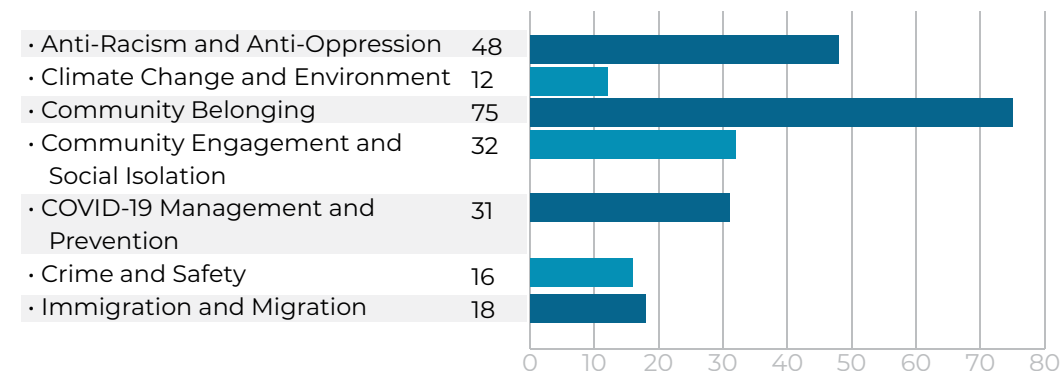
Driving Prosperity

Sustainable and inclusive economic recovery that creates opportunities for people and enterprises and strengthens London's diverse competitive potential.



Fostering Community

Reconnecting people and neighbourhoods and fostering a community where all Londoners can live, work, and play.





INVESTING IN PEOPLE

LCRN Commitment: "We collectively commit to recovery and improving quality of life so that all Londoners can participate and succeed"

Small Business Centre – Self-Employment Exploration Training for Unemployed

LCRN Focus Area Alignment: Investing in People;
Driving Prosperity
LCRN Indicators Alignment: Income; Employment
Idea Lead: City of London, Social & Health
Development, Life Stabilization
Funding: N/A
Status: Completed with Ongoing Activities

Idea Update:

The City of London has partnered with the Small Business Centre (SBC) to support self-employment exploration training for the unemployed, specifically for Ontario Works recipients interested in pursuing self-employment to become financially self-sufficient.

The idea is supported by Ontario Works through active promotion and client referrals to the SBC, including the following activities that occurred in 2021:

- 70 individuals were referred to SBC and participated in self-employment exploration.
- Two (2) Employment Newsletters email blasts to active Ontario Works participants, highlighting the SBC and self-employment training opportunities.
- On October 18, Ontario Works hosted a virtual Labour Market Information Session to highlight the SBC and self-employment opportunities. This was timed to coincide with London's Small Business Week 2021 and was open to all members of the public.
- London's Small Business Week 2021 included a celebration of entrepreneurs, including former Ontario Works clients who have been successful in launching their small businesses, with interviews broadcast to YouTube. Approximately 160 people tuned in to hear their success stories.



Tourism Beyond Covid

LCRN Focus Area Alignment: Investing in People; Driving Prosperity

LCRN Indicators Alignment: Educational Attainment, Business Health, Arts, Culture, and Tourism, Employment

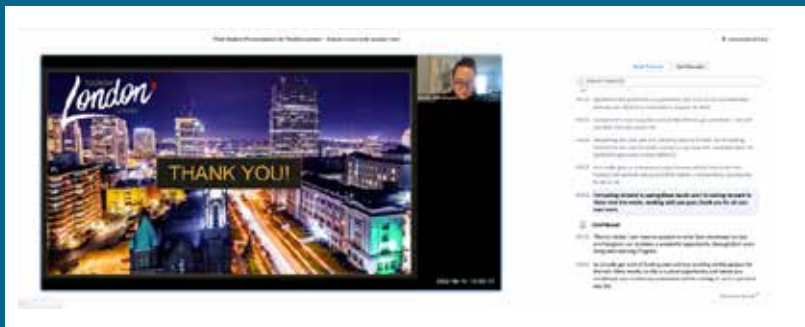
Idea Lead: Fanshawe College, Tourism London in partnership with CityStudio

Status: Ongoing



Idea Update:

Students from our Lawrence Kinlin Business School, Employer Rounds program worked through a CityStudio Project with Tourism London to develop a comprehensive Covid Recovery Marketing Strategy for US Tourism to our city. Tourism London was very pleased with the level and depth of the work presented. With funding from the Government of Canada through Riipen's LevelUP program, some of the students received stipends to continue the work and help implement some of the strategies presented.



Emergency Food Distribution

LCRN Focus Area Alignment: Investing in People
LCRN Indicators Alignment: Food Security
Idea Lead: The London Food Bank
Funding: N/A
Status: Completed

Idea Update:

The London Food Bank has teamed up with community resource centres in the city to bring its services closer to those in need. Transportation is one of the biggest barriers to service for people experiencing poverty, so going to the Food Bank can be a real challenge for individuals and families in need.

There are several neighbourhoods in the city that have been identified as being underserved, and together, the Food Bank and the resource centres are working to provide food to those areas. Each of the resource centres offers Food Bank visits on site at their locations, creating 4 new distribution sites closer to where people live. The Food Bank has started expanding that activity to offer food to under serviced areas, where currently one centre takes food out to locations that are identified as service deserts. Other resource centres are increasing their capacity to offer similar outreach. The initial response to the new distribution model accounted for 4% of Food Bank usage. The Food Bank continues to see growth in the program, in 2022 the distribution model increased to 11% of Food Bank usage.

In addition to providing food for these families, the resource centres can forge relationships with people with a goal to connecting them with additional support.

With at least one of these mobile sites, many families who have never been able to access the Food Bank are now receiving assistance. Together, fewer children and families in London are going to bed hungry.



The Good Foods project

LCRN Focus Area Alignment: Investing in People; Fostering Community; Driving Prosperity
LCRN Indicators Alignment: Food Security; Income; Business Health
Idea Lead: Reimagine Institute for Community Sustainability
Funding: N/A
Status: Completed



Idea Update:

The goal of the Good Foods Project (Business Case #3), as presented to Council in April 2021, was to provide small independent food establishments with a route to recovery from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic through an affordable alternative to food delivery. Over the past year, Reimagine Institute for Community Sustainability has developed a partnership with Delivery Deals, a London-based delivery business which is launching an online platform with significantly lower fees to restaurants, enabling project partners to achieve this goal without needing to create a separate app or delivery infrastructure. Furthermore, Delivery Deals' app will allocate a percentage of revenue towards food security programs and other community initiatives and will facilitate the diversion of unsellable food from restaurants to Londoners experiencing hunger and homelessness.

Increase Focus on Addressing Food Insecurity

LCRN Focus Area Alignment: Investing in People
LCRN Indicators Alignment: Food Security, Physical Health; Mental Health
Idea Lead: Middlesex London Food Policy Council, and the City of London, Neighborhood and Community-Wide Services
Funding: \$100,000 (2021-2022)
Status: In Progress

Idea Update:

The Middlesex London Food Policy Council (MLFPC) secured Nutrition for Non Nutritionists (N4NN) to update the Community Food Assessment (CFA), with a targeted completion of Q4 2022. The key areas of focus include:

1. Introduction (including a description of the core concerns and rationale, updated background on the community as changed since 2016, methodological framework, research activities)
2. Sustainable Food Production
3. Equitable Food Access
4. Changing Food Consumption Trends
5. Envisioning a Food Justice Agenda for London Middlesex

This work will include an environmental scan to assess local and regional data, community discussions and consultations through stakeholder interviews, and a community survey.

Throughout the summer of 2021 MLFPC partnered with the City of London and other community groups to host local Agri-food webinars. In 2022, a number of other events and activities have been planned including a regional agri-food event in Nov, 2022 and additional Agri-food webinars.

The MLFPC Community Food Assessment committee was established in late 2021 to oversee the completion of the CFA. The committee consists of MLFPC members, coordinators, and four community members. These community members were recruited to represent “under-represented” groups, including BIPOC and LGBT2Q. This committee meets monthly to develop tools, provide direction to the consultants, and provide input into the final report.



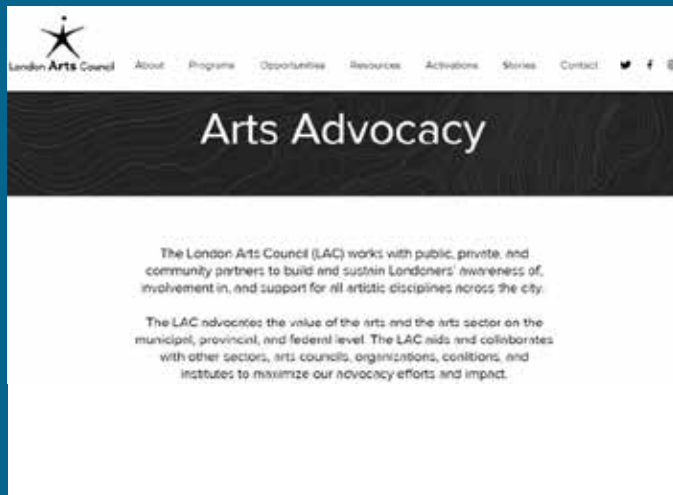
Advocacy on behalf of the Arts

LCRN Focus Area Alignment: Investing in People; Fostering Community; Driving Prosperity

LCRN Indicators Alignment: Mental Health; Income; COVID-19 Management and Prevention; Employment; Labour Market Participation; Arts, Culture, and Tourism; Business Health; Anti-Racism and Anti-Oppression

Idea Lead: London Arts Council

Status: An ongoing initiative, integral to the mission of advocating for the arts sector on the provincial and national level.



Idea Update:

In February 2022, the LAC prepared reports for the Provincial and Federal governments' pre-budget consultations. They determined initial recommendations based on group discussions and one on one conversations with artists and arts organizations in London since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. They then distributed a targeted survey, outlining six issues and subsequent recommendations, to non-profit arts organizations in London, seeking input regarding the congruency of the issues/recommendations and insights from their organizational perspectives. They used the insight gathered from the local arts organizations surveyed for LAC's recent Provincial Pre-Budget Consultation Submissions and developed this data to show its relevancy on a national scale for LAC's submission to the Federal Pre-Budget Consultation. This information and the reports are posted on the LAC website: <https://www.londonarts.ca/artsadvocacy>.

To advocate for the importance of the Arts, research is being conducted on the impact of the pandemic on artists/arts organizations and their staff. Many artists/arts organizations suffered, both financially and mentally. LAC provided online programming involving paid opportunities for artists to perform for a live audience through a digital platform. Once restrictions began to ease, social-distanced and masked live performances on the streets for passersby through London Arts Live were offered. For arts organizations, by working with London Community Foundation (LCF), LAC leveraged extra funds of \$77,500 (2020), \$72,500 (2021), and \$87,900 (2022) for Community Arts Investment Program (CAIP), providing much needed support during the pandemic. Currently, LAC is further collecting data on these activations and investments through artist and audience testimonies, to be presented at an appreciation event for funders and partners in September, to offer appreciation and bolster continued support for the arts sector.

Support for a National Child Care Framework

LCRN Focus Area Alignment: Investing in People; Driving Prosperity

LCRN Indicators Alignment: Educational Attainment; Employment; Labour Market Participation

Idea Lead: City of London, Social and Health Development, Child Care and Early Years

Funding: N/A

Status: Complete

Idea Update:

Staff collaborated with the Licensed Child Care Network to develop an advocacy letter with approved messaging that was sent out the week of March 15th, 2021.

On March 28, 2022, the Federal Government and Provincial Government entered into the Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care Agreement. As part of this agreement, Ontario will receive \$13.2 billion over six years beginning in 2021-22. Key components of the agreement include:

- Providing a 25% fee reduction, retroactive to April 1, 2022, building to a 50% reduction in average parent costs (based on 2020 levels) for licensed early learning and child care by the end of calendar year 2022 and reaching an average parent fee of \$10 a day by 2025-26 for licensed child care spaces;
- Creating 86,000 new high-quality, affordable licensed child care spaces (relative to 2019 levels), predominantly though not-for-profit licensed child care;
- Addressing barriers to providing inclusive child care; and
- Valuing the early childhood workforce and providing them with training and development opportunities.



Government
of Canada

Gouvernement
du Canada



Emergency Shelter Programs

LCRN Focus Area Alignment: Investing in People; Fostering Community; Driving Prosperity

LCRN Indicators Alignment: Homelessness; Community Belonging; Housing Affordability and Availability

Idea Lead: City of London, Social and Health Development, Housing Stability Services

Funding: N/A

Status: Complete

Idea Update:

Housing focused emergency shelter transformation work is ongoing with current shelters and resting space programs. Council supported the emergency shelter system in the following report:

<https://pub-london.escribemeetings.com/filestream.ashx?DocumentId=89809>

This support also included work to occur in 2022 that supports a number of system alignments for better, more transparent emergency shelter service provision that focuses on housing outcomes.

It is also noted that resting space beds and case management supports continue to be provided in community as outlined in the Core Area Action Plan and as approved by Council through the following report:

<https://pub-london.escribemeetings.com/filestream.ashx?DocumentId=76402>

Urgent Housing for Vulnerable Londoners

LCRN Focus Area Alignment: Investing in People; Fostering Community; Driving Prosperity

LCRN Indicators Alignment: Homelessness; Community Belonging; Housing Affordability and Availability

Idea Lead: City of London, Social and Health Development, Housing Stability Services

Funding: N/A

Status: Complete



Idea Update:

Winter response programs for 2020-21 and 2021-22 are now complete and outcome reports have been provided to community.

The 2021-22 winter response offered a number of options for unsheltered individuals. One option was temporary shelter-based supports at Fanshawe Golf Course that focused on supporting individuals who were actively seeking housing and an indigenous led shelter-based option at Parkwood hospital lands supporting indigenous homelessness. Overnight and day drop in spaces were also provide and operated as an out of the cold program in the core area.

For the two shelter locations, 57 individuals were supported with a variety of housing focused supported and 31 individuals were housed. For the overnight out of the cold program, 5750 overnight stays by over 400 unique individuals were supported along with the provision of 600 meals. The day drop-in space supported the provision of 12,000 meals along with making connection and direct referrals to other supporting social service providers, health providers and other support services.

2021-22 winter response outcomes report: <https://pub-london.escribemeetings.com/filestream.ashx?DocumentId=92052>

The 2020-21 winter response supported 62 additional overnight spaces supporting 75 individuals and 65 additional day time spaces were provided on a short-term basis. Over 5700 non-unique individuals were supported as part of the daytime out of the cold program, over 6000 hot lunches were provided, and many individuals were able to make connections with a variety of support services.

2020-21 winter response outcomes report: <https://pub-london.escribemeetings.com/filestream.ashx?DocumentId=80414>

Community Arts Investment Program

LCRN Focus Area Alignment: Investing in People; Fostering Community; Driving Prosperity

LCRN Indicators Alignment: Income; Arts, Culture, and Tourism; Business Health; Employment; COVID-19 Management and Prevention, Income; Talent Recruitment and Retention; Anti-Racism and Anti-Oppression

Idea Lead: London Arts Council

Status: An ongoing annual program, integral to the LAC mission of investment in the operations of arts organizations and the projects of professional artists in the community. CAIP 2021 completed, CAIP 2022 ongoing.

Idea Update:

During the pandemic, many turned to the arts to cope with and process the emotional/physical toll of stress, isolation, fear, uncertainty surrounding life during the pandemic. Arts organizations suffered financially, as did the mental health of artists and staff members. Organizations laid off staff, fearing for their organization due to inability and capacity for events, performances, classes, workshops. Many professional artists are self-employed and with closed venues they lost the paid opportunities relied on for income.

The 2021 Community Arts Investment Program (CAIP) invested \$478,500.00 in the annual/seasonal operations of eighteen non-profit arts organizations. Through a continued collaboration with London Community Foundation (LCF), LAC leveraged extra funds of \$77,500 (2020), \$72,500(2021), and \$87,900 (2022) for Community Arts Investment Program (CAIP) organizations. These investments provided crucial support to arts organizations, maintaining employment of professional arts management staff, continued programming development/delivery (in person/virtual) and maintenance/security of arts-presenting venues.

CAIP 2021 invested \$251,240.00 in creation/production/presentation projects of twenty-six individual professional artists and eighteen professional artist collectives, providing paid opportunities for professional artists to create and deliver artworks within the community.

CAIP 2022 Development Acceleration Stream and Annual Stream submissions peer jury review process is complete. Nineteen non-profit arts organizations received investments totaling \$453,100.00. LCF invested a further \$87,900.00 through CAIP 2022 supporting essential artistic programming and services provided for London. Individual Artists/Artist Collectives submissions jury review is in process.



Fast-Tracking the Creation of Core Area Housing in London Using Innovation.

LCRN Focus Area Alignment: Investing in People; Fostering Community; Driving Prosperity
LCRN Indicators Alignment: Homelessness; Community Belonging; Housing Affordability and Availability
Idea Lead: City of London, Social and Health Development, Housing Stability Services
Funding: N/A
Status: Completed



Baseline Road – Rapid Housing Initiative Project



Thompson Road – Rapid Housing Initiative Project

Idea Update:

The Baseline affordable housing development is fully occupied. Move-ins took place over the month of March 2022. 61 units have been filled from the city's By-Name List. Final site work is underway and will be completed by summer 2022.

Thompson road affordable housing development project is under construction and the Sylvan street affordable housing development is in final stages of site plan process with construction expected to begin in late 2022/early 2023.

City led and facilitated work continues on affordable housing. Details related to Councils direction on affordable housing construction can be found in the following staff report: <https://pub-london.escribemeetings.com/filestream.ashx?DocumentId=88095>

Consultants report: <https://pub-london.escribemeetings.com/filestream.ashx?DocumentId=88096>

London Arts Live and Culture City X

LCRN Focus Area Alignment: Investing in People; Fostering Community; Driving Prosperity

LCRN Indicators Alignment: Arts, Culture, and Tourism; Community Belonging; Community Engagement and Social Isolation; Income; Labour Market Participation; Talent Recruitment and Retention; Mental Health; Anti-Racism and Anti-Oppression; Crime and Safety

Idea Lead: London Arts Council

Status: Ongoing initiatives



Idea Update:

The London Arts Live (LAL), pop-up, performance based temporary public art program, provides high quality arts activations to public spaces. The LAC works with emerging, mid-career and senior culturally diverse artists, thus providing them with meaningful work with income opportunities, professional development and networking opportunities, and a chance to contribute to London's cultural ecosphere. In 2021, the LAC completed 203 activations by employing 170 artists, 52 of whom were Indigenous, Black, and People of Colour.

Solomon Marley-Spence, a hip hop musician who immigrated from Kingston Jamaica to London in 2018, has stated that his LAL performances in 2021 (post-lockdown) enabled him to continue writing and rapping regularly. As such, Solomon produced and disseminated several tracks which caught the attention of a major American record label. Consequently, Solomon was signed to Universal Records in February 2022. Solomon has acknowledged that the LAC and the LAL program provided the means and support for his success in this regard.



Culture City X (CCX) is a social enterprise program that provides meaningful work and professional development opportunities for artists. Through CCX, LAC provides curated live performances and animated tours to clients meeting their unique needs: <https://www.londonarts.ca/culture-city-x>

CCX in Core Areas especially supported the City's core area revitalization efforts and helped local businesses significantly by improving inter-personal staff relations and/or business sales. For example, the owner of Coffee Culture & Eatery (260 Dundas St) has indicated that CCX activations on the street increase sales due to the increase of street (walking) traffic.

Increased funding for mental health phone and virtual supports during the recovery period

LCRN Focus Area Alignment: Investing in People; Driving Prosperity

LCRN Indicators Alignment: Mental Health; Mental Health in the Workplace

Idea Lead: City of London, Enterprise Supports, Strategic Communications and Government Relations

Funding: N/A

Status: Completed

Idea Update:

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on people's mental health. The impacts of the pandemic permeated all aspects of daily life – from how we work, to how we shop, and how we connect as a community. Good mental health and wellbeing are essential assets for individuals and communities and help to secure a foundation for strong recovery and renewal for London.

Since 2021, the City of London has maintained increasing supports from other governments for mental health and addictions initiatives as a priority. This idea from LCRN members requested direct advocacy from Civic Administration to provincial and federal governments to increase available funding for immediate term mental health supports. A number of communications were sent to local Members of Parliament and Members of Provincial Parliament over the course of 2021/22. Programming and funding that targets greater supports for those experiencing mental health and addictions crisis figure prominently in the City of London's budget submissions to both federal and provincial governments. For example, the City of London is working in partnership with numerous LCRN members to secure annual funding toward the creation of a Community Stabilization Space to support London's most at-risk populations who experience crisis. Civic Administration is working closely with the local provincial health team and St. Joseph's Health Care to advance this priority following the provincial election.

Mental health and addictions remain a top priority in additional supports the City of London requires from other orders of government. As such, this idea for action has been incorporated into the City of London's Strategic Advocacy Framework as a priority area for the duration of community recovery and beyond.

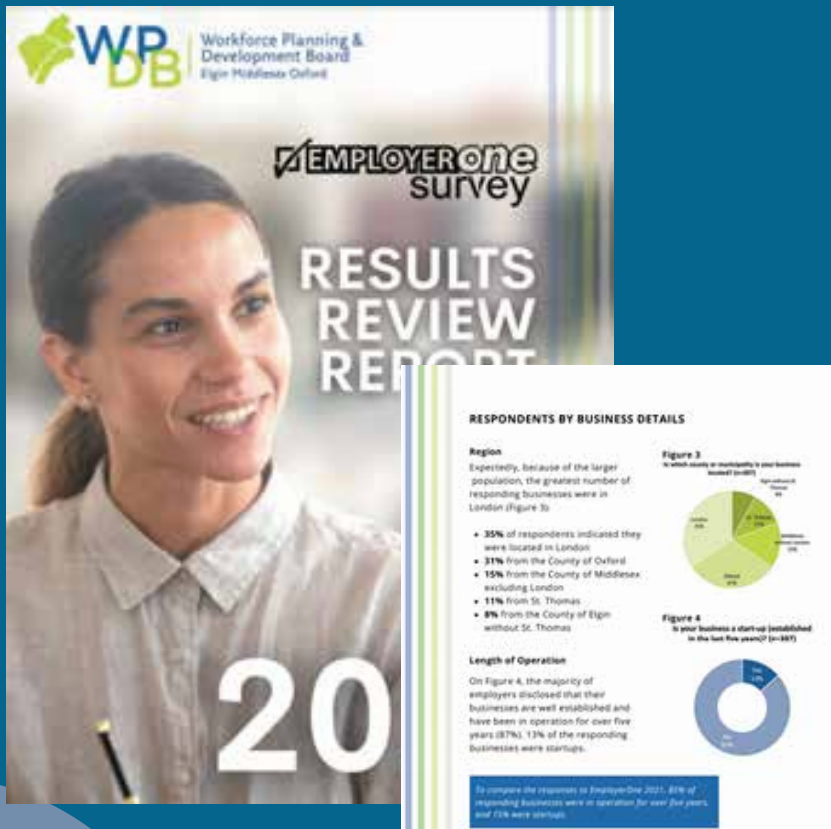


DRIVING PROSPERITY

LCRN Commitment: “We collectively commit to sustainable and inclusive economic recovery that creates opportunities for people and enterprises and strengthens London’s diverse competitive potential.”

Employer One Survey

LCRN Focus Area Alignment: Driving Prosperity
LCRN Indicators Alignment: Talent Recruitment and Retention, and Employment
Idea Lead: Elgin Middlesex Oxford Workforce Planning and Development Board
Status: Completed in March 2022



Idea Update:

Employer One Survey is an annual local data collection run by the Elgin Middlesex Oxford Workforce Planning and Development Board with the purpose of understanding workforce issues experienced by employers in the London Economic Region. Questions asked in the survey explore a wide range of topics such as, hiring, separations, recruitment methods, availability of talent, hard-to-fill jobs, skills sought after, workforce succession plans, intentions to hire, and more.

In January 2022, Employer One Survey collected 397 usable responses, which have been analyzed and presented to the London Economic Region Community in March 23. The 2022 report of these findings was released by EMOWPDB on April 27th, 2022. Employers had the opportunity to voice out their workforce experiences and challenges, particularly those regarding the current shortage of talent and difficulty to retain valuable employees.

The City of London worked to promote and advertise the survey to London and area businesses, enhancing the community-wide efforts in place. Various strategies were employed to target London businesses, including the use of the City of London’s social media accounts and word of mouth communications from members of Council and Civic Administration. The results of the 2022 EmployerOne Survey will continue to be an essential data set for the wider community to understand the economic environment of the region. This data will help to shape local solutions to target many of the lingering effects – and upcoming opportunities – that have arisen in a post-pandemic London.



Appoint a downtown lead at City Hall / Create a Core Area Champion at Senior Level

LCRN Focus Area Alignment: Driving Prosperity

LCRN Indicators Alignment: Business Health, Employment, Commercial Vacancy

Idea Lead: City of London, Core Area Steering Committee

Status: Completed with Ongoing Activities

Idea Update:

The City of London responded to this idea by integrating the community request into the Core Area Action Plan (CAAP). Under the CAAP, and the Core Area Steering Committee (CASC) that oversees the implementation of the plan, senior leadership from across Civic Administration collaborate through an enterprise-wide approach. The CASC oversees three internal teams tasked with delivering the CAAP and other initiatives in the Core: the People, Places, and Economy Teams. The CASC works with a variety of member organizations from the community. The commitment to alignment between CAAP and LCRN was approved by Council on February 23, 2021. Since then, the CASC has been kept up to date with the ongoing efforts of LCRN members, many of which feed into the City's core area work directly and indirectly.

Check out <https://getinvolved.london.ca/corearea> for more information about the Core Area Action Plan and the enterprise-wide approach in progress.

REVIVE: Live Concert Series Program

LCRN Focus Area Alignment: Driving Prosperity; Investing in People; Fostering Community
LCRN Indicators Alignment: Income; Community Engagement and Social Isolation; Arts Culture and Tourism
Idea Lead: City of London, Planning and Economic Development, Music Office
Funding: N/A
Status: Completed with Ongoing Activities



Sarina Haggerty Band @ London Music Hall
Photo by Whitney South



Texas King @ London Music Hall
Photo by Bill Woodcock

Idea Update:

Revive Live was created to bridge the live music sector through the pandemic. The program provided the live music ecosystem with a support mechanism that employed a skilled workforce and entertained audiences during a time when the live music sector was not able to work with in person audiences. Through the first integration of program, Revive Live employed 145 technical crew (Sound Engineers, Lighting Techs, Stagehands, Site Managers, Camera Operators, Switchers, Photographers), 87 individual musicians employed, 17,000+ fans watched concerts.

Once live music was permitted under the Re-Opening Ontario Act, Revive Live hosted patio performances with live audiences generating greater economic impact through additional jobs not outlined above through employment opportunities in the hospitality sector such as servers and kitchen staff.

Increase Grant funding/ Upgrade Building Code for Façade Upgrades

LCRN Focus Area Alignment: Driving Prosperity
LCRN Indicators Alignment: Business Health, Commercial Vacancy, Arts, Culture, Tourism
Idea Lead: City of London, Planning and Economic Development, Core Area and Urban Regeneration
Funding: \$250,000 (2021)
Status: Completed



Idea Update:

Through LCRN Initiative 2.5, the City of London created a new Recovery Grant program for property owners and tenants in five community improvement project areas (Downtown, Hamilton Road, Lambeth, Old East Village, and SoHo). The grant helped cover the cost of interior and exterior property improvements.

An application window was open between May 5, 2021, and June 11, 2021, for potential applicants to apply for the grant program.

In total, 58 applications were received. Of the 58 applications, 52 were approved in full and two applications approved partially — meaning some funding was allocated and some funding was waitlisted. As a result, six applications (four applications and the two partially approved applications) were placed on a waitlist to ensure total grant funding committed by the City of London did not exceed the allocated amount.

As of April 2022, 43 grants have been paid. The remaining grants will be paid once the applicants has finished the approved improvements to their property.

A portion of the Recovery Grant funding was also transferred to the Old East Village BIA and Hamilton Road BIA to fund graffiti removal across multiple properties.



Local Labour Market Plan 2022-23

LCRN Focus Area Alignment: Driving Prosperity
LCRN Indicators Alignment: Employment; Labour Market Participation; Talent Recruitment and Retention
Idea Lead: Elgin Middlesex Oxford Workforce Planning and Development Board
Status: Released in January 2022



Idea Update:

The document provides a labour market planning update for 2022-2023. It starts with a comprehensive review of local labour market data from a variety of sources. Inspired by the trends revealed by the local data, community conversations were held in each county in the London Economic Region, drawing on necessary actions for local economic recovery and growth. The Local Labour Market Plan summarizes the community suggested actions, which could be converted into regional community projects, if appropriate funding is available. For more information visit <https://workforcedevelopment.ca/>

City Wide 'Support Local' Promotional Campaign

LCRN Focus Area Alignment: Driving Prosperity; Fostering Community

LCRN Indicators Alignment: Arts, Culture, and Tourism; Business Health; Community Belonging

Idea Lead: City of London, Tourism London

Funding: \$760,000

Status: Completed with Ongoing Activities



Idea Update:

In collaboration with Argyle BIA, Downtown London, Hamilton Road BIA, Hyde Park BIA, Old East Village BIA and others, a city wide 'Support Local' promotional campaign was established and led by Tourism London and its partners. The partnership program focused on promoting local tourism and small businesses through several initiatives and builds upon the already successful and proven Stay a Little Longer and Support Local promotional campaign.



Tourism London hired the Project Coordinator; VISA Cards for the Stay a Little Longer extension and the BIA Recovery Dollars Pilot Project were received and delivered to the appropriate parties; Tourism London extended their Stay a Little Longer campaign until December 2022; Two local companies were selected from the Photo/Video RFP and the Graphic Design/Website RFP; The entire campaign brand was determined, a logo created and a website produced (Find it in London) www.finditinlondon.ca; 44 businesses across London are signed up for videos for 2022, 15 videos have been completed & featured on the FIIL website, 47 videos have been shot and another 52 businesses have been invited to participate; There were 10 categories on the 2021 Holiday Gift Guide which featured 120 individual businesses. As of year-end there were 159 businesses listed in the online business directory and interactive map.

Note* this Business Case aligned and incorporated 13 LCRN ideas: including 1.6 London Getaway Packages; 1.7 Buying Local; 5.3 Interactive Distanced Festivals and Events; and 5.8 Develop an app with Augmented Reality to organize self-directed scavenger hunts.

London Innovation Challenge

LCRN Focus Area Alignment: Driving Prosperity, Investing in People; Fostering Community

LCRN Indicators Alignment: Business Health; Employment; Talent Recruitment and Retention

Idea Lead: TechAlliance of Southwest Ontario

Funding: \$180,000

Status: Completed

Idea Update:

As part of the London Innovation Challenge, six London companies were awarded \$20,000 each to address the recovery and renewal areas of focus identified by the London community – Investing in People, Driving Prosperity and Fostering Community.

The Two Challenges:

1. REIMAGINE SYSTEMS FOR PEOPLE: Focusing on inclusivity to drive sustainable growth, three recipients of this challenge represent a variety of sectors including health care, equitable talent acquisition, and small business support.

With help from the London Innovation Challenge:

- a. Caring Support has reached new heights and continues to help students find placements in the health industry.
- b. Locorum has capitalized on their innovative product and has added hundreds of small businesses to their platform.
- c. Zersent has validated their ESG compliance platform and has engaged local clients.

2. STRENGTHEN BUSINESS HEALTH: With a focus on giving tools to small businesses to drive sustainable growth and safely re-open, three recipients of this Challenge represent a variety of sectors including health & safety, retail, and human resources.

With help from the London Innovation Challenge:

- a. In The ClearZone has continued to make London businesses safer.
- b. Labourly has validated their product and is now a tool used by Fanshawe students to find opportunities in the trade industry while accurately displaying their relevant certifications for the workplace.
- c. SizeWize has helped London clothing businesses elevate their digital experience to customers who prefer online shopping.



Sidewalk Sales

LCRN Focus Area Alignment: Driving Prosperity; Investing in People
LCRN Indicators Alignment: Income; Business Health; Employment
Idea Lead: City of London, Zoning, Business Hub & Public Property Compliance – Building Division
Funding: N/A
Status: Completed

Idea Update:

The Sidewalk Sales program was created and implemented in Spring of 2021. It is administered by the Business Hub and Public Property Compliance service areas. The program remains in place for interested businesses



SIDEWALK SALES ON CITY PROPERTY

WHAT IS IT?
 A sidewalk sale is considered to be the display and sale of merchandise from a stand on the City sidewalk or boulevard fronting your store.

WHAT CAN I SELL?
 Only merchandise sold within the store.

WHAT IS THE COST?
 There is no fee.

WHERE CAN IT GO?

- The stand can be located in front of the building where the merchandise is sold.
- The stand cannot block any entrances or exits of your building or the neighbour's property.
- There must be at least a 1.5m (5ft) clear way for pedestrian travel.
- The stand must be placed a minimum of 0.6m (2ft) from the curb, and
- The stand must not interfere with vehicular on-street parking.

HOW DO I APPLY?
 In order to get permission to locate a sidewalk stand on City property, you will need to:

- Complete the application form.
- Have your insurance company complete the Certificate of Insurance – Standard.
- Provide photos and a drawing indicating the size of the stand and location in relation to the building, curb, light standards, boulevard trees, garbage bins, and any other street furniture.
- Submit the complete package as outlined above to business@cityoflondon.ca and
- Sign and return the licensing agreement provided by the Service London Business Hub Team.

THE FINE PRINT
 Following registration, the sidewalk stand can be placed on public property when the business is open. The information above is provided as a summary and does not replace the regulations found in Streets By-law 5-1.

Contact us for more information
businesshub@london.ca / 311 ext 5688




Service London Business Hub
 Sidewalk Sales
 Phone: 311 extension 5688
 Email: businesshub@london.ca

APPLICANT INFORMATION (please print)

Last name: _____ First name: _____ Business Name: _____
 Business Address: _____ Demographic Type: Sole Partnership Corporation
 Telephone number: _____ Cell number: _____ E-mail: _____

SIDEWALK SALES INFORMATION
 Proposed time location: Inside or above

Item to be displayed: Clothes Food Merchandise Other

LOCATION PLAN – AM Photos as Separate Files

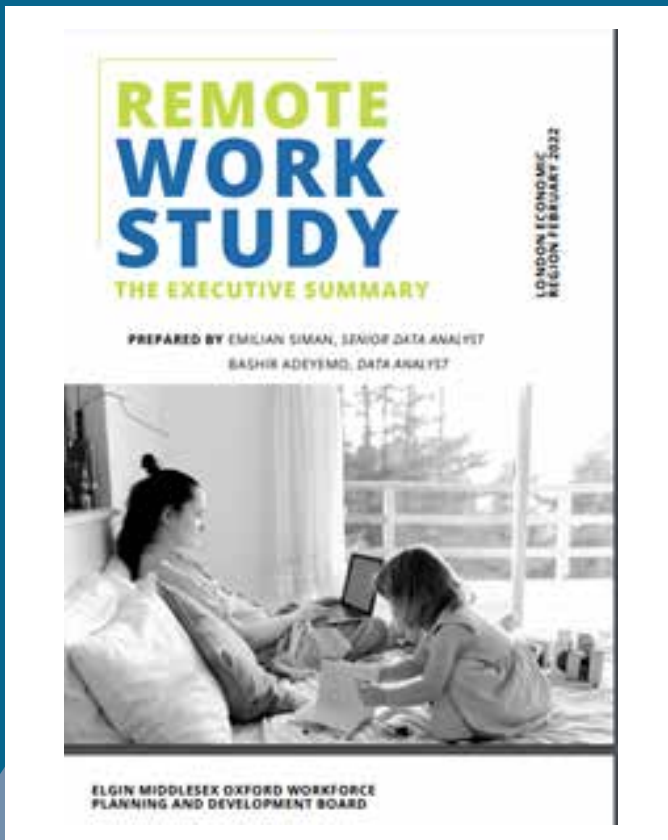
Business's Signature: _____ Date (yyyy-mm-dd): _____

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY	AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE	DATE
SOLE MANAGER The applicant has filed proof of liability coverage.		
PUBLIC PROPERTY COMPLIANCE		
SERVICE LONDON BUSINESS HUB The applicant has provided licensing agreement.		

Remote Work Study

LCRN Focus Area Alignment: Driving Prosperity
LCRN Indicators Alignment: Employment, Labour Market Participation, and Talent Recruitment and Retention
Idea Lead: Elgin Middlesex Oxford Workforce Planning and Development Board
Status: Released in February 2022



Idea Update:

The Remote Work Study offers a comparative perspective upon opinions of workers, employers and job seekers regarding remote work in the London Economic Region. Six main areas of investigation have been targeted by the study: benefits, costs, performance, support, management, and job security. Commonalities and divergencies in opinions across the three groups on the announced topics were driven by individual or business interests held by the group they represent. The study reports on 289 surveys responses collected through Web crowding technique. The findings presented in the report have numerous implications on job design, motivation, performance evaluation, incentive systems design, on boarding, working space design, training, etc. For more information visit: <https://workforcedevelopment.ca/>

Seasonal Patios on Private Property

LCRN Focus Area Alignment: Driving Prosperity; Fostering Community

LCRN Indicators Alignment: Business Health; Community Engagement and Social Isolation

Idea Lead: City of London, Municipal Compliance, Planning & Economic Development

Funding: N/A

Status: Future report to Planning and Environment Committee

Idea Update:

On April 12, 2022, Council directed staff to report back with options to amend the capacity restrictions for outdoor patios to allow for great flexibility for businesses.

An options report, in response to Council direction, is scheduled before the Planning and Environment Committee on June 20, 2022. Civic Administration is recommending deleting the capacity restrictions for temporary seasonal outdoor patios. If approved by Council, a public Zoning By-law amendment process will follow.

Focus on Actions That Get People Moving Around the Core

LCRN Focus Area Alignment: Driving Prosperity
LCRN Indicators Alignment: Arts, Culture, and Tourism; Business Health; Commercial Vacancy
Idea Lead: City of London, Planning & Economic Development, Core Area and Urban Regeneration
Funding: \$330,000
Status: Completed with Ongoing Activities

Idea Update:

Downtown Wayfinding Plan: Designs for all signs in wayfinding signage system were approved in February 2022 by Core Area Steering Committee. Locations of signs for Phase 1 sign installation will be finalized in May 2022. Signs to be installed by December 2022. Complementary initiatives are planned or underway to improve mobility and accessibility in the core include new cycling and rapid transit infrastructure projects, and sidewalk repairs to be completed by year end.

Create an Integrated Economic Blueprint

LCRN Focus Area Alignment: Driving Prosperity; Investing in People; Fostering Community
LCRN Indicators Alignment: Business Health; Employment; Talent Recruitment and Retention
Idea Lead: City of London, Planning and Economic Development, Economic Partnerships
Funding: N/A
Status: Completed with Ongoing Activities

Idea Update:

Through a collaborative, data-driven process, the LCRN identified recovery areas of focus, shared indicators, and metrics to guide and measure community efforts. The recent Council approved LCRN Framework (October 2021) accomplishes phase one of idea 2.9 by identifying specific Areas of Focus (Investing in People; Driving Prosperity; Fostering Community). LCRN member organizations have identified 260 planned, ongoing, or completed initiatives through 2022 that are supporting London's recovery in alignment with one or more of the LCRN's vision and objectives. The next phase of the process will be to prioritize learnings from LCRN to ensure that the LCRN initiatives are considered and where appropriate aligned with the new Council Strategic Plan.



Provide Better Market Data to Attract New Business

LCRN Focus Area Alignment: Driving Prosperity
LCRN Indicators Alignment: Business Health
Idea Lead: City of London, Planning and Economic Development, Economic Partnerships
Funding: N/A
Status: Completed with Ongoing Activities



Idea Update:

The City of London improved its abilities to provide demographic and movement-based data to business partners. With the additional datasets acquired through Environics, the City of London assisted organizations such as the Chamber of Commerce, Business Improvement Associations, and Pillar Non-Profit in strategic planning.

The enhancements added from Environics has allowed deeper partnership with the Business Improvement Areas as well as other external partners, such as LEDC and TechAlliance. The additional datasets from Environics have also allowed for enhanced evaluation and analytics for corporate initiatives such as Core Area Action Program and Downtown Ambassador Program.



Goodwill – Circular Economy Work and Training Platforms

LCRN Focus Area Alignment: Driving Prosperity; Investing in People; Fostering Community

LCRN Indicators Alignment: Income; Climate Change and Environment; Employment

Idea Lead: Goodwill Industries

Funding: \$249,000 (2021-2023)

Status: In progress



Idea Update:

The City of London is supporting the development, pilot and launch of a Light Industrial Power Sewing platform; creating 'green' jobs and training for people with barriers to employment or who are shut out of the labour market with Goodwill Industries, Ontario Great Lakes. The aim is to develop a fully circular textile social enterprise initiative in the local economy.

Goodwill achieved significant milestones including growing the product brand **WORTH** as a showcase for remanufactured goods, building capacity to remanufacture used textiles into new consumer goods, training workers on the sewing platform, and generating modest revenue.

WORTH has secured remanufacturing contracts with B2B clients, Western University, Canadian Tire and The Beer Store and others with the intention of growing a line of contracts where used corporate wear is remanufactured. The sewing platform manufactured masks for Goodwill, businesses, and non-profits, generating a share of WORTH revenue.

Goodwill trained and employed 46 people at peak production with 35 people consistently working on the sewing platform through 2021, despite numerous COVID-19 restrictions that impacted operations. New workforce development relationships are being established with businesses looking to hire skilled sewers and referral partnerships developed with Settlement Service organizations and others.

The purchase of seven new sewing machines, funded by LCRN, expanded and contributed to increasing capacity. Goodwill is waiting for delivery of a textile shredder with the support of LCRN funds which will use by-products from the sewing platform to turn them into various recycling innovations including shredding for commercial or industrial uses such as automobile insulation or agricultural use.

Instagram takeovers in support of local businesses

LCRN Focus Area Alignment: Driving Prosperity; Fostering Community
LCRN Indicators Alignment: Business Health; Arts Culture and Tourism; Community Belonging; Community Engagement and Social Isolation
Idea Lead: City of London, Enterprise Supports, Strategic Communications and Government Relations
Funding: N/A
Status: Completed



Idea Update:

Throughout the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, London's small businesses were required to pivot operations to new areas such as e-commerce and curbside pick-up for retail and food industries. The City of London sought novel ways to support small businesses through the creative use of its social media presence, strengthening and enhancing relationships within and across the community in support of London's small business.

Over the past year, the City of London has delivered a consistent message to support local businesses throughout the pandemic. The City has incorporated internal and external events into its messaging to enhance visibility for small business, including Small Business Week, holidays, and major sports events such as the Super Bowl. As part of LCRN's work, community partners came together to develop a one-stop-shop for local businesses - FinditInLondon.ca. Small businesses were encouraged to add their details to this portal and expand their visibility online. The City of London prioritized the promotion of the portal to Londoners to:

- Highlight important opportunities for Londoners to support local businesses
- Extend the reach of small businesses by using the City of London's broader reach
- Increase the City of London's following and engagement to support other municipal programs and initiatives
- Show a commitment to inclusivity by showcasing London's diverse business sector

Downtown recovery – free transit access to the downtown/ strengthening our downtown as a community hub

LCRN Focus Area Alignment: Driving Prosperity; Fostering Community

LCRN Indicators Alignment: Talent Recruitment and Retention; Business Health; Climate Change and Environmental Sustainability; Public Health

Idea Lead: City of London, Enterprise Supports, Strategic Communications and Government Relations/ Planning and Economic Development, Parking Services and Compliance

Funding: N/A

Status: Completed

Idea Update:

This idea for action was submitted as an immediate relief mechanism for Londoners and businesses to encourage more transit trips to London’s downtown and core area. Civic Administration determined that the cost of offering free transit would be significant and could potentially jeopardize the financial sustainability of the transit system, particularly as the system itself was – and remains – challenged by the restrictions and changes in travel behaviours resulting from the pandemic.

However, Civic Administration recognized the underlying principle of the idea was to explore innovative and creative methods of supporting more trips to the downtown and core areas to support businesses and communities struggling with the impacts of pandemic response measures. As a result, this idea for action was submitted as a principle for inclusion into the City’s Mobility Master Plan development process.

The draft vision of the Mobility Master Plan includes a commitment to ensure that the movement of people across the city “will be environmentally sustainable, affordable, and supportive of economic growth and development.” The spirit of this idea from the community will be reflected in the information presented to Londoners for comment over the coming months.

Create a Business Concierge Service

LCRN Focus Area Alignment: Driving Prosperity; Investing in People,
LCRN Indicators Alignment: Income; Business Health; Employment
Idea Lead: City of London, Planning and Economic Development, Building Services
Funding: N/A
Status: Completed

Idea Update:

The Business Hub, housed within Planning and Economic Development was the ideal starting point to address this idea. The Business Hub already had two Business and Zoning Coordinators whose role it was to help businesses navigate through City processes and applications while feeling supported and aware of any requirements. This role has increased its focus on supporting businesses, especially as many work their way out of the effects of the pandemic. The area continues to facilitate and expedite business ventures that are in and outside of the Core. The Business Hub regularly presents in partnership with the Small Business Centre to individuals looking to start a new business. Presentations have also been provided in partnership with Fanshawe College and Northwest London Resource Centre. Outreach and networking continue with all local BIAs to help support their memberships.



Group Buying to Lower Costs of PPE

LCRN Focus Area Alignment: Driving Prosperity

LCRN Indicators Alignment: Business Health

Idea Lead: City of London, Finance Supports, Financial Planning and Policy

Funding: N/A

Status: Completed

Idea Update:

Finance has compiled a list of local PPE suppliers and a contact at Mohawk Medbuy, the former St. Joe's Health System Group Purchasing Organization. All have agreed to assist with procurement (group buying) for small local businesses, including non-profits.

Develop a more strategic approach to events, activations and placemaking

LCRN Focus Area Alignment: Driving Prosperity; Fostering Community
LCRN Indicators Alignment: Arts Culture and Tourism; Community Belonging; Community Engagement and Social Isolation
Idea Lead: City of London, Planning and Economic Development, Core Area Programs
Funding: N/A
Status: Completed

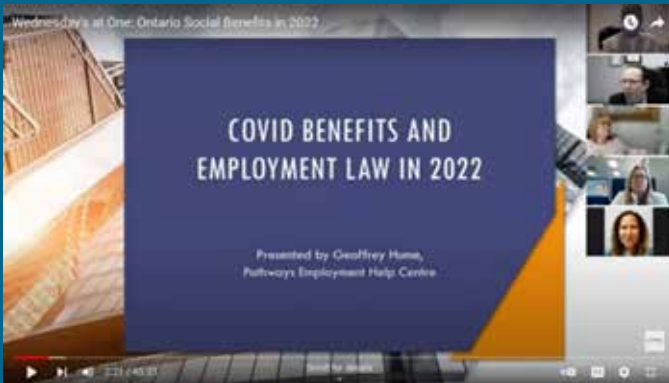
Idea Update:

The Core Area Activation Coordination team is meeting regularly to coordinate placemaking opportunities. The Core Area Ambassador program has started operating. Bistro tables and chairs and a small electric vehicle have been purchased to support more placemaking activities in different parts of the Core.



Pandemic Recovery Resources and Training to Enhance Employment for Londoners

LCRN Focus Area Alignment: Driving Prosperity
LCRN Indicators Alignment: Employment; Labour Market Participation; Talent Recruitment and Retention
Idea Lead: Employment Sector Council (ESC)
Funding: \$135,000 (2021-2023)
Status: In progress



Idea Update:

The Employment Sector Council (ESC) network is coordinating information sessions for London's employment and training professionals to enhance how they assist job seekers and employers impacted by the pandemic. So far, almost 300 front-line staff from community employment organizations have participated in these sessions to learn, discuss and share current and relevant pandemic recovery information, resources, tools and supports. Most attendees report that they learn information in these sessions that they can then use immediately in their professional roles.

These recovery conversations are known as “Wednesdays at One” series – held on a consistent day and time – and are co-hosted by ESC and the Workforce Planning & Development Board. ESC records these sessions so that staff can revisit relevant resources and information at any time. Thirteen sessions have been offered to date under 3 distinct themes:

- “What’s Working?” feature current and relevant pandemic and recovery resources and information, such as the COVID-19 benefits and programs which are available for workers and employers.
- “Engaging Employers” sessions tackle the recruiting and hiring challenges that London companies face because of the pandemic. Employment professionals such as job developers use these sessions to thoroughly understand businesses’ workforce needs so they can connect them with the best job seeker candidates.
- “Bite-Sized LMI” are Labour Market Information workshops for employment service frontline staff on relevant COVID-19 impacts on and implications for the London region’s labour market, so they can better assist job seekers and students with making good employment planning decisions.



FOSTERING COMMUNITY

LCRN Commitment: “We collectively commit to reconnecting people and neighbourhoods and fostering a community where all Londoners can live, work, and play.”

London Mural and Art Walk

LCRN Focus Area Alignment: Fostering Community; Driving Prosperity

LCRN Indicators Alignment: Arts Culture and Tourism; Community Belonging; Community Engagement and Social Isolation

Idea Lead: City of London, Neighborhood and Community-Wide Services, Culture Services

Funding: \$50,000 (2021) and \$50,000 (2022)

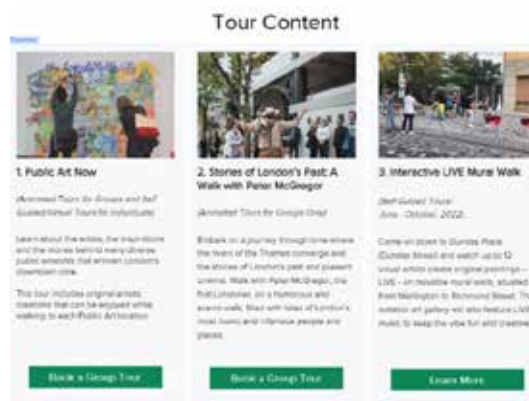
Status: Completed with Ongoing Activities



Idea Update:

In October 2021, the LAC initiated Interactive Live Mural Walk (self-guided walking tour) along Dundas Place featuring a variety of artists painting on movable murals. 8 mural (4-sided) mural walls with wheels that could be easily and safely moved were fabricated by London Woodshop Collective and were set up to facilitate LIVE mural paintings. Eight artists were selected (4 of whom are BIPOC) and scheduled to LIVE paint throughout Dundas Place over the course of eight weeks (October-November 2021).

Tourists were encouraged to talk to the artists and to help paint selected parts of some murals. Each of the artists reported that this experience enabled them to increase their professional network and customer base. This Interactive Live Mural Walk is expected to resume in June 2022.



In March 2022, the LAC initiated two animated group tours, and two virtual/self-guided tours demarcated within the downtown core. These tours can be experienced as: 1) a fee-based, multi-media formally guided group tour, led by a knowledgeable and entertaining artist, 2) a free virtual tour by which individuals can access and experience anywhere through their mobile, laptop and/or tablet, 3) a free self-guided walking tour that individuals can experience through their mobile and/or tablet. The tours can be accessed through the London Arts Council website: <https://www.londonarts.ca/culture-city-x>

The 1.5-hour animated group tours can run from May to October. The virtual and self-guided tours can run year-round.

Cultivating Allyship

LCRN Focus Area Alignment: Fostering Community
LCRN Indicators Alignment: Anti-Racism and Anti-Oppression; Community Belonging; Community Engagement and Social Isolation; Immigration and Migration
Idea Lead: London Arts Council
Status: An ongoing initiative.



Idea Update:

Our Cultivating Allyship initiative began as “Building Allyship” in 2020 through co-created listening sessions with Black, Indigenous, and People of Colour community members. In 2021, Building Allyship was rebranded to “Cultivating Allyship,” to reflect an organic process involving stages mirroring seasonal changes. Cultivating Allyship also includes Bizindaage Listening Sessions emphasizing the importance of active and engaged listening.

Through Cultivating Allyship, the LAC has transformed operations, programming and services and influenced other arts organizations by establishing equity criteria for the Community Arts Investment Program and providing consultations to start/further developing work in equity, diversity, and inclusivity. LAC has actively developed relationships with IBPOC communities and organizations and has diversified artist rosters for our London Arts Live (LAL) and Culture City X (CCX). This active work in Cultivating Allyship allowed the LAC to further develop/provide meaningful opportunities (income, performances, professional development, mentorship, etc.) to artists from the equity seeking group.

The stages involved in our Cultivating Allyship initiative include providing paid internships and mentorships. For this, the LAC hired two consultants to help develop this work. We were also successful in our application for four Canada Summer Jobs positions to provide internship opportunities for arts administrators from equity seeking groups at diverse local arts organizations.

In February 2022, in participating in Black History Month to honour the legacy of Black artists and Black artistic communities, LAC supported Black communities led initiatives by providing artistic activations through London Arts Live and Culture City X. We provided paid opportunities for 12 Black artists to share their perspectives about what it means to live and create as a black artist in London. For more information, please visit: <https://www.londonarts.ca/blackhistorymonth>.

Outdoor Concerts and Arts Performances

LCRN Focus Area Alignment: Fostering Community; Driving Prosperity

LCRN Indicators Alignment: Arts Culture and Tourism; Community Belonging; Community Engagement and Social Isolation

Idea Lead: City of London, Neighbourhood and Community-Wide Services, Culture Services

Funding: \$200,000 (2021-2022)

Status: Completed with Ongoing Activities



Idea Update:

City of London is working with the London Arts Council (LAC) to expand the frequency, intensity, and duration of artist public space performance opportunities throughout the core area.

In 2021, the LAC completed 70 activations through its programs London Arts Live and Culture City X. These activations employed 74 artists, 38 of whom were Indigenous, Black, and People of Colour.

In addition, two large scale new repertoires were created by two artistic groups: La Compagnie de Danse and Hip-Hop Crew. The newly developed repertoires have been performed in various locations throughout the core. Also, 8 visual artists (4 of whom were Indigenous, Black, People of Color) were contracted to paint portable mural walls. They performed live paintings between late October and early November, activating Dundas Place with vibrant and diverse artwork. Furthermore, a small investment was put toward sound equipment for the City's Music Officer to share and assist with implementing these outdoor concerts and performances.



Breakfast with Santa

LCRN Focus Area Alignment: Fostering Community
LCRN Indicators Alignment: Community Belonging, Community Engagement and Social Isolation
Idea Lead: Hyde Park Business Improvement Area - Donna Szpakowski
Status: Annual



Idea Update:

Breakfast with Santa is the Hyde Park BIA's annual Christmas event. Put on in partnership with the Hyde Park and District Lions, Breakfast with Santa gives families the opportunity to partake in Christmas crafts and activities while meeting the big man himself!

This year, we worked together with Family Centre Fox Hollow, the Northwest London Resource Centre, and Oxford Dodge to put on the event. Over 500 pancakes were served, and 300+ families attended the morning festivities. A band played live Christmas music throughout the event, encouraging those around to dance and sing.

Crafts were available for children to make, and a mailbox for Letters to Santa was made available. The letters go directly to the North Pole, where Santa takes the time to read and reply to each letter.

This year, Breakfast with Santa was able to donate a considerable amount of Christmas gifts and canned food to the Northwest London Resource Centre to help support our community.

Bike and Scooter Share

LCRN Focus Area Alignment: Fostering Community
LCRN Indicators Alignment: Community Belonging;
Climate Change and Environmental Sustainability
Idea Lead: City of London, Environment and
Infrastructure; Climate Change, Environment, and
Waste Management
Funding: N/A
Status: In progress

Idea Update:

The Environment & Infrastructure (Climate Change and Environmental Stewardship) team continues to review the outcome of the community engagement program and feedback provided related to e-scooters. This includes further reviews with pilot project participants across Ontario. More time is needed to analyze the feedback before a recommendation can be made on bike share and e-scooter share.

RFP schedule has been revised to complete community engagement on e-scooters and receive approval from Council on next steps. Subject to Council decision on additional specifics on the use of e-scooters, the new RFP for bike share and possibly e-scooters would be released in Quarter 2 or 3, 2022. Implementation could possibly occur in spring 2023 depending on Council direction.

Hyde and Seek

LCRN Focus Area Alignment: Fostering Community; Driving Prosperity

LCRN Indicators Alignment: Community Belonging; Community Engagement and Social Isolation; Arts, Culture, Tourism; Business Health

Idea Lead: Hyde Park Business Improvement Area - Donna Szpakowski

Status: Complete



Idea Update:

Hyde and Seek was an activity that ran during the summer of 2021. It was an initiative to get the community into the Hyde Park area and increase foot traffic to our stores during COVID restrictions.

Using the GooseChase scavenger hunt app, the HPBIA set up a series of “missions” around Hyde Park for the community to take part in. The activity was self-directed through the app, and participants could partake over the two-week period. Participants would submit pictures of themselves completing the challenges to win points.

The points were then converted into Hyde Park dollars, which participants can redeem at any participating retailer.

Public Toilets and Sanitation

LCRN Focus Area Alignment: Fostering Community

LCRN Indicators Alignment: Community Belonging

Idea Lead: City of London, Environment and Infrastructure; Parks Operations

Funding: \$600,000

Status: Completed with Ongoing Activities

Idea Update:

The LCRN Business Case for Idea #4.4 was approved, allocating \$600,000 to support operational funding for staff and security for 2021 and 2022 as part of the pilot for extended public washroom hours at Victoria Park and the Dundas Place Fieldhouse.

Two public washroom sites are open extended hours (Victoria Park – 8am-8pm) and Dundas Place (7am to 11pm, 7 days a week including holidays)

Christmas (Holiday) Market

LCRN Focus Area Alignment: Fostering Community; Driving Prosperity

LCRN Indicators Alignment: Arts Culture and Tourism; Community Belonging; Community Engagement and Social Isolation

Idea Lead: City of London, Planning and Economic Development, Core Area Programs; Downtown London

Funding: \$200,000 (2021/2022)

Status: Completed with Ongoing Activities

Idea Update:

2021 Holiday Market on Dundas Place was led by Downtown London. The Manager of Core Area Programs is working with Downtown London and the Covent Garden Market to move the Christmas (Holiday) market onto Market Square. The Core Area team is meeting monthly with other downtown partners to prepare for this new Holiday Market. The Manager of Core Area Programs is facilitating the planning process. The goal is to coordinate all Downtown Holiday activities including Lighting of the Lights, Victoria Park decorations, and Rock'n New Years Eve along with the Holiday Market under a common identity and communications strategy.



Community/business use of municipal parking lots

LCRN Focus Area Alignment: Fostering Community; Driving Prosperity

LCRN Indicators Alignment: Arts Culture and Tourism; Community Belonging; Community Engagement and Social Isolation

Idea Lead: City of London, Planning and Economic Development, Parking Services and Compliance

Funding: N/A

Status: Completed

Idea Update:

In response to this idea from the community, Civic Administration undertook a review process and created a new administrative policy, building off the Special Events policy currently in place. A survey was sent out to London's Business Improvement Areas to identify potential municipal parking lots that would be ideal for use by businesses to run outdoor markets. A handful of lots were identified and the administrative policy was implemented. While the uptake from the community was low, mostly in part because of the easing of lockdown provisions in late 2021, the policy created to respond to this idea helped to demonstrate the City of London's commitment to working with the community to respond to emergent needs rapidly.

The administrative policy for use of Parking Lots to support Community Business expired in December of 2021. With the easing of restrictions on business operations, it was determined that this policy would not be required moving forward.

Social Housing Retrofits Program

LCRN Focus Area Alignment: Fostering Community;
Driving Prosperity

LCRN Indicators Alignment: Climate Change and
Environmental Sustainability; Housing Affordability
and Availability

Idea Lead: City of London, Enterprise Supports,
Strategic Communications and Government
Relations

Funding: N/A

Status: Completed

Idea Update:

Responding to a changing climate and improving London's resiliency has been recognized as a priority for the members of the London Community Recovery Network (LCRN). Climate action was deemed urgent by London families, businesses and anchor institutions prior to the pandemic, yet deliberate efforts were stifled by the impacts of COVID-19 on our community. As the immediate impacts of the pandemic recede, LCRN members are committed to resuming individual and collective efforts. For the City of London, this action is set out in the recently released Climate Emergency Action Plan.

One Idea for Action identified early in the pandemic was for LCRN to advocate to other governments to support the regeneration of London's community and affordable housing stock using new retrofit tools that could contribute to more efficient, more resilient housing stock in London.

The City of London has brought forward this idea to other orders of government on behalf of the community. Civic Administration has submitted this idea for development through the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO). Given that past retrofit programs of this nature have either been province or nation-wide, securing the support of municipal associations to encourage such new programs was prioritized. However, the City of London has also shared this idea with local Members of Parliament and Members of Provincial Parliament as well.

While no incremental programming for community housing retrofits have been identified in federal or provincial budgets, other orders of government are investing in general community housing regeneration, including a \$40 million program announced in 2020. As community recovery is expected to take time, the City of London will continue to advocate for these types of programs in upcoming budgets to contribute directly to the LCRN shared indicator of climate change and environmental sustainability within the LCRN Framework.

Hyde Park Christmas Market in UpTown

LCRN Focus Area Alignment: Fostering Community
LCRN Indicators Alignment: Community Belonging, Community Engagement and Social Isolation
Idea Lead: Hyde Park Business Improvement Association - Donna Szpakowski, Ellen McGran
Status: Annual



Idea Update:

The Hyde Park Christmas Market in UpTown London provided the community of Hyde Park an opportunity to reconnect after 2 hard years of COVID restrictions. Families and community members arrived at the market in droves – some even a few hours early. The BIA had people commenting all day how wonderful and meaningful it was to have a community outing.

The feature event on Saturday evening was fireworks set to Christmas music. These were the first fireworks in London since the pandemic. Members knew that people would be excited, but never could have imagined the impact. As soon as the fireworks started, there was a collective sense of admiration.

The fireworks lasted 12 minutes, being set to Christmas music. There were cheers from the crowds, sounds of disappointment when they thought the fireworks had stopped, and then cheers of excitement when they continued. Families were singing along to the Christmas carols, and there were lots of hugs and embraces.

By the end of the display, there were many people in tears. The fireworks provided a sense of normalcy around the holidays that our community had not seen since the beginning of the pandemic.

There were remarks after the fireworks that they were the best that many had ever seen. People are still thanking us for putting on the display and celebrating a time of year that many feel has not been special for the last little while.

