

Toronto is getting a new public square and arts hub

City

Derek Flack Posted 2 days ago

Toronto's newest large-scale developments are bringing more to the city than just clusters of condo towers plopped down on a site with few amenities. More and more, these projects are being envisioned as master plans with significant attention to community features and retail space.

One of the better examples is **Bloor & Dufferin**, a new development from Capital Developments and Metropia, which will completely reshape a site that's currently home to defunct public schools Kent School and Bloor Collegiate.

The latter school will eventually find a home at the current site of Brockton High School at



Kent School reimagined as a community hub. Image courtesy of Bloor Dufferin Development Limited Partnership.

According to the early plans, Kent School, which has been around since 1908, would be refurbished to serve as a community arts hub. Right now, plans call for a space that's **up to 30,000 square feet**.



A new park planned for the north side of Croatia Street. Image courtesy of Bloor Dufferin Development Limited Partnership.

Beside it, concept renderings show a park and public square, which would act as a community gathering point, something that the neighbourhood currently lacks beyond Dufferin Grove Park.



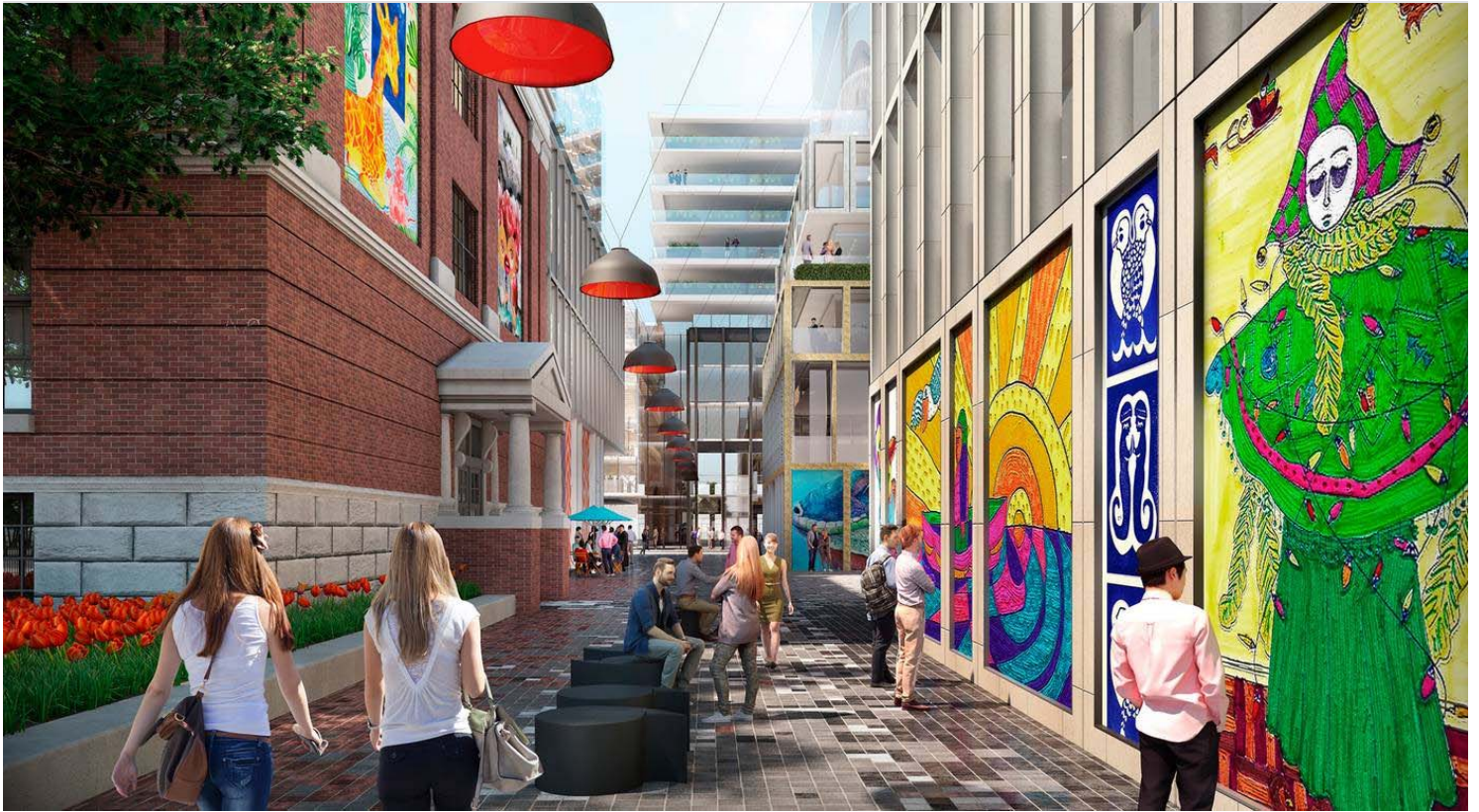
What the new development would look like facing Bloor Street. Image courtesy of Bloor Dufferin Development Limited Partnership.

Surrounding these community amenities would be a series of condos with retail at grade. It's common, of course, to put retail at the bottom of residential towers, but the architects and planners here (which **include some impressive names**) envision greater integration via the creation of two new streets.



Looking south down the newly proposed High Street. Image courtesy Bloor Dufferin Development Limited Partnership.

They would roughly correspond to the locations of Russett and Pauline avenues and extend them south, though likely with new names (one of them has already been pegged as "High Street").



One of the various public spaces planned around the site. Image courtesy of Bloor Dufferin Development Limited Partnership.

Right now, the defunct schools act as a wall between Bloor Street and the area to the south, so the addition of retail-lined thoroughfares would completely revamp the Bloordale neighbourhood.

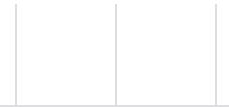
Public consultations for this project have just begun, so plenty can change before there are shovels in the ground, but right now the concept plans promise an exciting revamp of a site that's currently just a black hole in a vibrant neighbourhood.

Lead photo by Bloor Dufferin Development Limited Partnership

Share

Tweet

Save this Article



Join the conversation

Load 0 comments

Stay in the loop

Subscribe

Latest in City

