











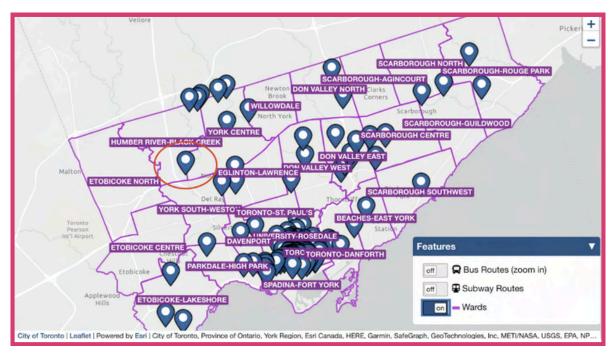






UNEVEN GEOGRAPHY OF INNOVATION

There is a noticeable concentration of innovation infrastructure in the downtown core, leaving the northwestern suburbs, including Jane-Finch, underserved.



Accelerators, Incubators, and Co-Working Spaces within the City of Toronto (BEA Circled in Red)

STUDY AREA

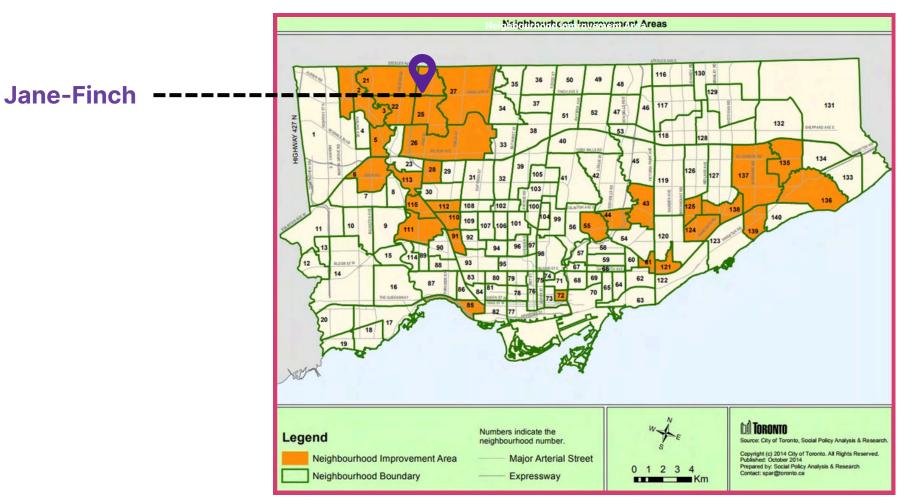


30 Forest Hill Village 01 Albion Islington Square 59 Riverside District 02 Baby Point Gates 31 Gerrard India Bazsar 60 Rogers Road 03 Bayview Leaside 32 Greektown on the Danforth 61 Roncesvalles Village 04 Bloor-Yorkville 33 Harbord Street 62 Rosedsle Main Street 05 Bloor Annex 63 Sheppard East Village 34 Hillcrest Village 35 Historic Queen East 64 shoptheQueensway 6 65 St. Clair Gardens 06 Bloor By The Park 07 Bloor Street 36 Junction Gardens 08 Bloor West Village Kennedy Road 66 St. Lawrence Market 09 Bleorcourt Village 10 Bloordale Village 38 Kensington Market 39 Korea Town Neighbourhood 67 The Beach Lake Ontario 11 Broadview Danforth 40 Lakeshore Village 68 The Eglinton Way 12 Cabbagutown 41 Leslieville 69 The Kingsway 70 The Waterfront 14 Church-Wellesley Village 15 CityPlace and Fort York 43 Little Italy 44 Little Portugal On Dundas 71 Toronto Entertainmen 45 Long Branch 46 MarkeTO District 16 College Promenade 72 Trinity Bellwoods 17 College West 73 Upper Village 61 Elobicoke North 18 Como Italia 47 Midtown Yonge Uptown Yonge 62 Embicola Centre 63 Embicola Centre 64 Parkdale-High Park 65 York South-Women 15 Don Valley West 16 Don Valley East 17 Don Valley North 19 Crossroads of the Danforth 20 Danforth Mosaic 48 Mimico By The Lake 75 Village of Islington 76 West Queen West 49 Minico Village Willowdale Beacher-East York 21 Dunforth Village 50 Mirvish Village Weston Village 66 York Centre 67 Humber River-Black Creek 22 Dovercourt Village 23 Downtown Yonge 51 Mount Dennis 78 Wexford Heights 65 Eglimon Lawrence 66 Eglimon Lawrence 69 Devemport 10 Spadina-Fort York 11 University Rosedule 12 Taronto-St. Paul's 13 Toronto Centre 52 Mount Pleasant Village Wilson Village 24 DuKe Heights 53 Oskwood Village 80 Wychwood Heights 25 Dupont by the Castle 81 Yonge & St. Clair 54 Ossington Avenue 26 Eglinton Hill 55 Pape Village 82 Yonge Lawrence Village 27 Emery Village 28 Fairbank Village 56 Parkdale Village 57 Queen Street West 83 York-Eglinton 58 Regal Heights Village

Jane & Finch Area Map | Source: City Of Toronto October 2022

The northwestern corner of Toronto is defined as a cluster of communities between Dufferin St. & Highway 27 to the west, running south from Steeles Ave. to Eglinton Ave.

UNEVEN GEOGRAPHY OF OPPORTUNITY



Map of City of Toronto Neighbourhood Improvement Areas (NIAs) (City of Toronto, 2014)

STUDY AREA: OPPORTUNITIES



Jane-Finch Community Hub & Centre for the Arts (Urban Toronto, 2021)





Corner Commons (The Local, 2023)



Community services and facilities in Jane-Finch (City of Toronto, 2021)



Jane-Finch Mall Redevelopment (JFM+, n.d.)



York University Keele Campus Revitalization Vision (York University, 2021)



Id8 Downsview (Urban Toronto, 2024)



WHY AN INNOVATION HUB?

"An important component of the startup ecosystem is the innovation infrastructure that supports new business formation and growth, in particular business incubators, accelerators and co-working spaces."

— From Concept to Commercialization: A Startup Ecosytem Strategy for the City of Toronto, 2015

WHY AN INNOVATION HUB?

"This type of infrastructure can advance business formation, create and retain jobs, commercialize technologies, and accelerate the delivery of new products and services to the marketplace." (City of Toronto, 2015).



Knowle West Media Centre (KWMC)'s

Bristol Living Lab

Bristol, UK

(Knowle West Media Centre, n.d.)



Platform Calgary Calgary, Alberta (Platform Calgary, n.d.)



Centre for Social Innovation
Toronto, Ontario
(Centre for Social Innovation, n.d.)



València Living Lab València, Spain (You Valencia Press, 2018)



ABOUT THE STUDY

"How can the BEA and key partners build an innovation hub that fosters a culture of innovation and education and equips underrepresented groups within marginalized communities with the tools to successfully navigate the entrepreneurial and talent ecosystem?"

- Main Question

RESEARCH RESULTS

May - November 2023



Case Studies

Drawing from six global innovation spaces, our hub's development prioritizes programs enhancing individual and community capabilities through funding, civic engagement, and workforce initiatives, promoting multi-sectoral collaboration and community-wealth building.



Stakeholder Engagement

Insights from 23 stakeholders stress the importance of community partnerships, trust-building, and high-quality programming for sustainable outcomes. Our approach emphasizes inclusivity, community-driven strategies, and strategic planning for success.



Survey

Based on 190 participants, including Jane-Finch residents, our survey identifies crucial resources, amenities, and programming preferences for an inclusive hub. It emphasizes community engagement and essential entrepreneurial and workforce skills.

ACCESSIBLE TO ALI

Developing a state-of-the-art, mixed-used innovation hub that supports:





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An early entry point to innovation for youth, women, and racialized groups

Generating a future-ready, diverse workforce for emerging labour needs through forward-looking skill-based education.

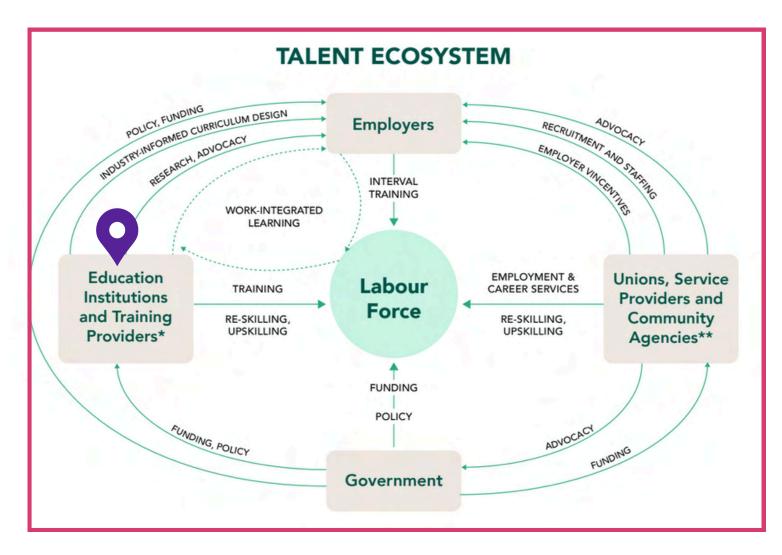
Accelerate Black and BIPOC-led startup companies, social ventures and founders.

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Exporting local innovation - A direct connector between the local community, academia, and the broader innovation network

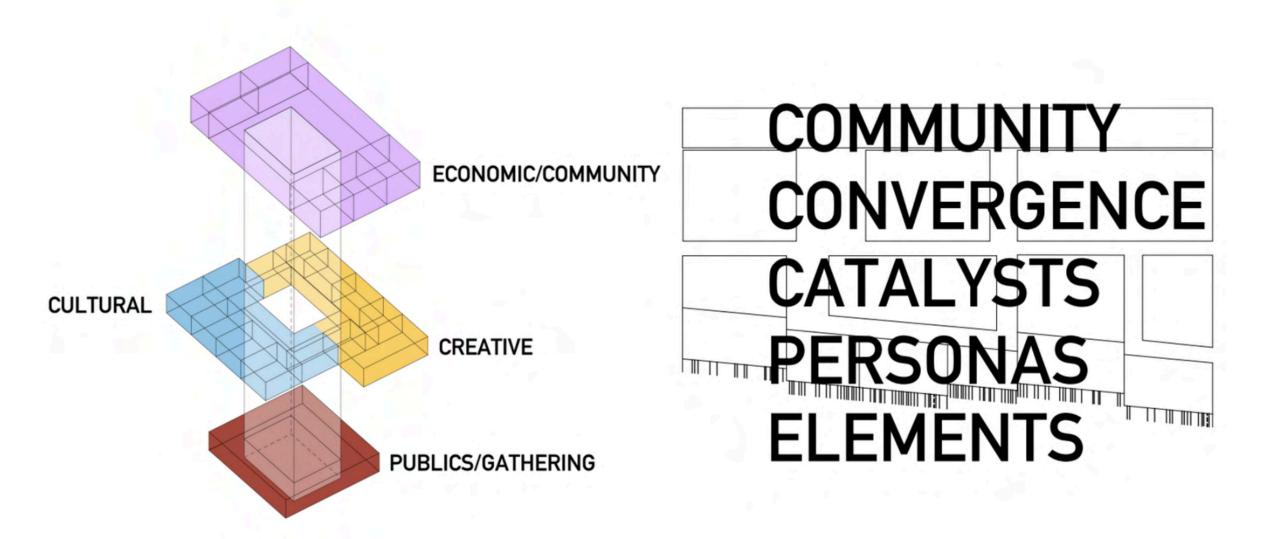


HUB ROLE: SUPPORTING A TALENT ECOSYSTEM



The Element Centre serves as an intermediary between local and broader economic development, seeking to bridge the gap between local economies and the resource-rich innovation ecosystem's knowledge, networks, and investment opportunities.







HUB PERSONAS



Future Innovators

Youth interested in innovation, entrepreneurship, and tailored early-intervention learning.



Underrepresented Founders

Entrepreneurs seeking to grow their ventures through the hub's programs and networks.



Underrepresented Professionals

Those aiming to enter or transition to high-paying STEM careers, emerging sectors or advance to leadership roles.



Catalysts

Connectors to the industry and resources, aiding others' capacity and growth.





Study Supported by:















