

The ideas presented in this document are conceptual and may not represent what is currently in existing City land use and transportation plans. Nevertheless, they represent a future vision, which would undergo further refinement, community engagement, and technical review.

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# 1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY »

# A five-day design charrette explored the community's vision, ideas, and opportunities for the North Shore.

## **CHARRETTE OVERVIEW AND PROCESS**

For the North Shore Neighbourhood Plan Design Charrette, a dedicated team of urban designers, planners, and illustrators was invited to spend five days on the North Shore, working with community members to collaboratively envision a future for the Tranquille Market Corridor and North Shore Town Centre. Events over the five days consisted of:

- Day 1 | Getting on the Ground: Walking Tour and Stakeholder Workshop
- Day 2 | Emerging Ideas: Design Team Working Session and Public Event
- Day 3 | Mid-Course Check-In: Stakeholder Pin-up
- Day 4 | Concept Refinement: Design Team Working Session (full day)
- Day 5 | Concept Reveal: Public Event (virtual presentation & Q&A)

Public and stakeholder events were held throughout the week-long process to facilitate collaborative and iterative community design. Participants were invited to comment on ideas as they were being created and feedback was incorporated in real time.

#### **Design Team Members:**

- Scot Hein, Urban Designer & Architect
- Cal Srigley, Urban Designer & Illustrator, Placemaker

MODUS Planning Design & Engagement Inc.

- Edward Porter, Senior Urban Designer
- Jessica Mann, Urban Designer
- Aby Refaei, Urban Designer
- Athulya Pulimood, Graphic Facilitator

# WHY CHOOSE TO DO A DESIGN CHARRETTE?

#### **Design Charrettes are:**

**CREATIVE** | Charrettes use creative tools and techniques, including facilitated brainstorming, concept drawing, and illustration to develop, test, and refine ideas.

**REFLECTIVE** | Charrettes include critical feedback loops and "mid-course corrections" with key stakeholders to receive input, challenge assumptions, and confirm directions.

**MULTI-DISCIPLINARY** | Charrettes bring together relevant professions to inform the planning, design, and decision-making process.

**COLLABORATIVE** | Charrettes work closely with community and key stakeholders to understand community history, needs, values, and priorities.

**INTENSIVE** | Charrettes conclude within a limited time frame to increase efficiency in decision-making and avoid "analysis paralysis."

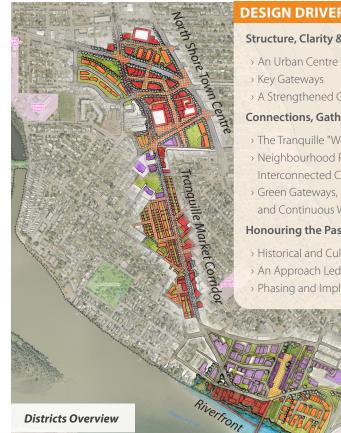
**SOLUTIONS-ORIENTED** | Charrettes aim to deliver clear community-supported and technically-feasible design options for review and revision.

# **CHARRETTE OUTCOMES**

Early on in the charrette, a list of **design drivers** emerged as recurring themes that guided design thinking and the exploration of ideas.

Similarly, the study area was organized into **three districts** – the North Shore Town Centre, the Tranquille Market Corridor, and the Riverfront – each distinct in its size, general mix of uses, and character.

Districts were further defined by smaller, distinct **character areas** that vary in their specific uses, architectural styles, and sense of place.



#### **DESIGN DRIVERS**

- Structure, Clarity & Logic
- > An Urban Centre and Welcoming Districts
- > A Strengthened Grid and Distinct Patches

#### **Connections, Gathering & Continuity**

- > The Tranquille "Weave"
- > Neighbourhood Portals and
- Interconnected Community Hearts
- > Green Gateways, River-to-River Stitching, and Continuous Waterfront

#### Honouring the Past, Present & Future

> Historical and Cultural Recognition > An Approach Led with Empathy > Phasing and Implementation







# 2.0 CHARRETTE PROCESS »

The Design Charrette was a unique opportunity to share in a week of fun, collaborative, creative brainstorming and conceptual design. It brought community members and stakeholders together with a team of planners, urban designers, facilitators, and illustrators to explore a shared vision for the future of the North Shore.

# **CHARRETTE OBJECTIVES**

The charrette objectives were:

- to generate momentum and excitement for the emerging vision, values, and goals
- to address issues raised by the community and explore potential development opportunities
- to address the North Shore's unique needs, take a sensitive approach to design, and be mindful to mitigate potential impacts of urban redevelopment on vulnerable populations

The charrette team explored and illustrated an emerging community vision through use of precedent imagery, conceptual diagrams, site plans, and sketches. Throughout the week, stakeholders and community members provided ideas at workshops and pin-up sessions.



taking in the riverfront on the Day 1 Site Tour

# **CHARRETTE FOCUS AREA**

#### The charrette focused on:

- the North Shore Town Centre, the Tranquille Market Corridor, and the Riverfront
- vacant and underutilized properties that present an opportunity for reuse and/or redevelopment



presenting emerging ideas at the Day 2 Public Event



taking notes on the Day 1 Site Tour

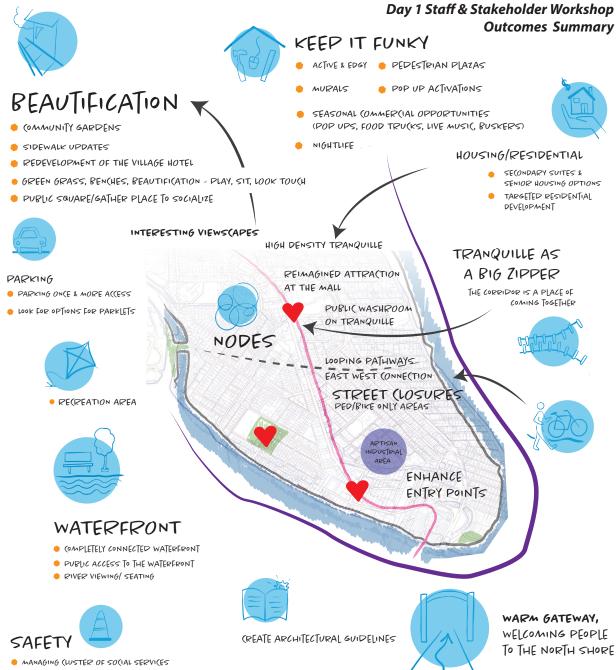


advancing ideas at the Day 2 Public Event

# **CHARRETTE AGENDA**

The charrette was held over a five-day period (November 17 – 21, 2020) and hosted more than 100 participants via in-person and virtual events.

Day 1   Tue, Nov 17	Day 2   Wed, Nov 18	Day 3   Thu, Nov 19	Day 4   Fri, Nov 20	Day 5   Sat, Nov 21
Walking Tour	Design Team Working Session	Design Team Working Session	Design Team Working	CONCEPT REVEAL
(8:30am-12:00pm) Familiarized the charrette team with the North Shore, focusing on the Tranquille Market Corridor and North Shore Town Centre.	Confirmed key sites and began developing design concepts for the Tranquille Market Corridor and North Shore Town Centre.	Continued developing design concepts.	Session (Full Day) Revised and finalized materials following mid-course pin-up conversations.	Public Event (Virtual) (10:00am-11:30pm) Presented the draft design concepts that emerged through the process and provided participants with the opportunity to ask questions and provide feedback through Q&A.
Staff Technical Working Group (1:30-2:00pm) Staff & Stakeholder Workshop (2:00-4:30pm) Community Mapping & Design Card Deck exercises grounded the team and participants in the neighbourhood and started testing design ideas collaboratively.	Public Event #1 (3:30-5:30pm) Public Event #2 (7:00-9:00pm) Introduced the design charrette process and presented engagement results. Participants were invited to see early ideas emerge through preliminary sketches, ask questions, provide feedback, and communicate their vision for the North Shore.	Staff Technical Working Group (2:00-3:00pm) Staff & Stakeholder Mid-Course Pin-Up (3:00-4:30pm) Presented progress made since the Day 1 workshop, received feedback, and confirmed direction.		



EXPAND BUSINESS THAT KEEP TRANQUILLE BUSY AT ALL TIMES

# DAY 1: GETTING ON THE GROUND

#### Walking Tour

The Design Team – accompanied by City staff and members of the NSBIA – walked the Tranquille Market Corridor and North Shore Town Centre to imagine potential urban design possibilities, existing land uses, and opportunities for redevelopment.

#### Staff & Stakeholder Workshop

In the afternoon, the Design Team led a workshop with City staff and stakeholders, which consisted of mapping and design exercises. Participants identified community "hearts", special places, and important gateways on a map. Later, a "design deck" (playing cards) was used to facilitate a discussion on "big ideas" for design, priorities, and strategies for the future of the neighbourhood.

A record of staff and stakeholder input is provided in the separate Appendices document, available at *LetsTalk.Kamloops.ca/NorthShorePlan*.



community mapping with stakeholders

### **DAY 2: EMERGING IDEAS**

#### **Design Team Working Session**

The Design Team reviewed feedback and materials from Day 1 and began to explore early design concepts.

#### **Public Event**

City staff and the Design Team presented preliminary ideas and design concepts to the public. Participants had the opportunity to see the community maps from the Day 1 staff and stakeholder workshop, ask questions, review the emerging design concepts, add comments with sticky notes, share ideas with a graphic facilitator, and chat with Design Team members.

A record of public input is provided in the separate Appendices document, available at *LetsTalk.Kamloops.ca/NorthShorePlan*.

# **DAY 3: MID-COURSE CHECK-IN**

#### **Design Team Working Session**

The Design Team continued to advance materials over the course of the day ahead of an afternoon check-in with the City staff and stakeholders who had provided input to the Design Team on Day 1.

#### Staff & Stakeholder Pin-Up

Concepts were displayed for participants to explore alignment with the ideas generated during the Day 1 workshops. Stakeholders were also able to see public comment from the day before and contribute their own additional feedback. The Design Team received affirmation that the design concepts were moving in the right direction, setting the stage for further refinement the following day.

## **DAY 4: CONCEPT REFINEMENT**

#### Design Team Working Session (All Day)

Day 4 was a dedicated push to the finish line for the Design Team, illustrating key ideas and summarizing the emerging directions.

### **DAY 5: CONCEPT REVEAL**

#### **Public Event**

A public event was held virtually, with a presentation to reveal the concepts developed throughout the week-long charrette, followed by a Q&A session. The presentation is available on the <u>City's Let's Talk page</u>. The concepts and charrette outcomes are also summarized in this document, in <u>Part 3 - Charrette Outcomes</u>.



engaging members of the public on emerging ideas



presenting concepts and feedback to staff and stakeholders





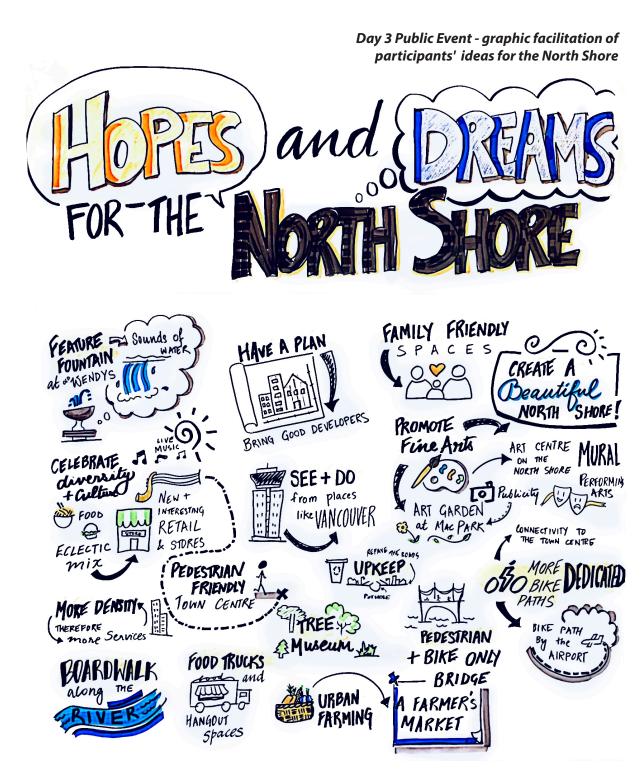
virtual concept reveal at the end of the five days



presenting emerging ideas to community members



process sketch of concept for the North Shore Town Centre



# 3.0 OUTCOMES: DESIGN DRIVERS »

The charrette generated plans and sketches to illustrate design concepts for further refinement and development as the North Shore Neighbourhood Plan review and update continues. A set of design drivers give a framework and direction to the three districts that emerged through the design charrette process.

### **EMERGING PRIORITIES**

Over the course of the first several days of neighbourhood walking tours, conversations with community members, and active design exploration, a series of key themes began to emerge.

Many of these themes were based in part on observations of the Design Team, but often originated with comments made by members of the community that resonated within the context of the design exercise. The following pages illustrate these Design Drivers (i.e. emerging themes) and highlight what makes them important in terms of:

- existing qualities of the neighbourhoods that are unique and defining
- emerging patterns that give direction for future planning (e.g. building on strengths)
- considerations for what the future might hold through managed redevelopment and enhancement of neighbourhood features

The Design Drivers can help serve as a set of guiding objectives for consideration by both public- and private-sector partners in future design development and decision-making on the North Shore. The Design Drivers include:

#### Structure, Clarity & Logic

- An Urban Centre and Welcoming Districts
- Key Gateways
- A Strengthened Grid and Distinct Patches

#### **Connections, Gathering & Continuity**

- The Tranquille "Weave"
- Neighbourhood Portals and
  Interconnected Community Hearts
- Green Gateways, River-to-River Stitching, and
  Continuous Waterfront

#### Honouring the Past, Present & Future

- Historical and Cultural Recognition
- An Approach Led with Empathy
- Phasing and Implementation

## STRUCTURE, CLARITY & LOGIC





#### An Urban Centre and Welcoming Districts

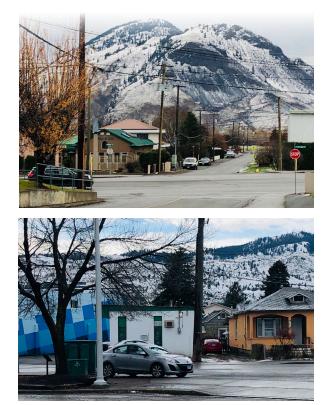
Foundational to development of the design concepts – and to pedestrian safety and comfort – is the idea of basic structure, clarity, and logic in how they connect together.

The design concepts are organized into three distinct, welcoming districts: the North Shore Town Centre, Tranquille Market Corridor, and Riverfront.



#### **Key Gateways**

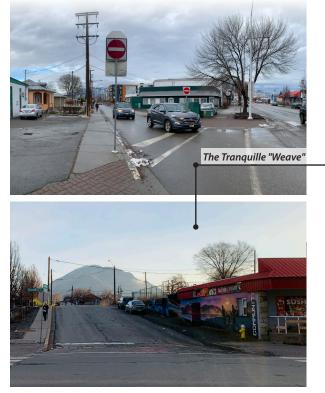
Key gateways in each welcoming district clearly signal arrival and transition to the area, providing visible landmarks and points of orientation.



#### A Strengthened Grid and Distinct Patches

One of the most unique aspects of the study area is the shifting pattern and orientation of street grids along the Tranquille Market Corridor. The proposed concepts seek to strengthen these relationships – and connections beyond – by prioritizing pedestrian spaces. The diverse spaces created by the unique geometry of intersecting streets results in distinct patches. The eclectic mix of uses, buildings, and open spaces defines and unites the character of the corridor.

### **CONNECTIONS, GATHERING & CONTINUITY**



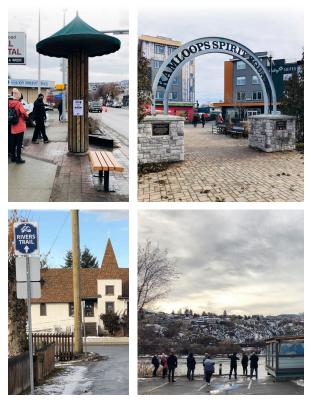
#### The Tranquille "Weave"

The idea of the Tranquille "Weave" functions like a big zipper, which brings together the various street patterns and orientations into a continuous and coherent experience.



#### Neighbourhood Portals and Interconnected Community Hearts

As a compliment to the larger gateways, a series of smaller, more frequent "neighbourhood portals" serve as pedestrian linkages along the corridor, connecting into the quieter spaces and "neighbourhood hearts" beyond the corridor.



# Green Gateways, River-to-River Stitching and a Continuous Waterfront

The need for a larger, more intuitive and continuous system of pedestrian greenways emerged as a strong recurring theme to guide design development. East-west connections, access to the riverfront, and continuous trail connections were emphasized.

## HONOURING THE PAST, PRESENT & FUTURE





#### Historical and Cultural Recognition

Design discussions highlighted the need to recognize and honour historical land uses through interpretive opportunities, and to strengthen the community's relationship to the riverfront as a part of that history.



#### An Approach Led with Empathy

Conversations about planning and design within the study area must first recognize the North Shore and its uniqueness as it relates to the larger Kamloops community. Developed with empathy, these interventions are intended to help address current needs and further strengthen a sense of community.



#### Phasing and Implementation

The design concepts relate to the future. Implementation should explore strategies that build on the community's strengths, consider phased development over time, and adjust the scale and pace of development to suit the different districts. this page is intentionally blank

# 4.0 OUTCOMES: DISTRICTS & CHARACTER AREAS »

This section explores the "structure plan" as a unifying diagram that ties together a series of concept designs – illustrated as districts – and highlights the unique qualities of smaller character areas within each.



Beyond districts and character areas, the structure plan also highlights the location of key proposed public spaces and connections with the waterfront and broader neighbourhood.

#### Key Components of the Structure Plan

- > three districts:
  - North Shore Town Centre
  - Tranquille Market Corridor
  - Riverfront
- > conceptual land use categories, including:
  - commercial and residential use (shaded red to yellow), with the most intense/dense (darkest) in the North Shore Town Centre and least intense (lightest) along the Tranquille Market Corridor and the Riverfront
  - innovation and industry use (purple/pink)
  - community use (blue/teal)
- > gateway locations for vehicles (red circles) and pedestrians (green circles)
- > greenways and parks (green) connecting districts to adjacent neighbourhoods
- > key intersections or "portals" (yellow rectangles) identified for pedestrian realm improvements

# NORTH SHORE TOWN CENTRE »

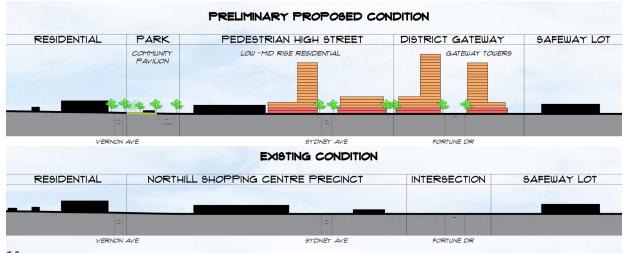
The North Shore Town Centre is understood as the major destination and commercial hub for the North Shore. As such, the proposed concept is ambitious in its scale of redevelopment and transformation. Working within existing road networks and surface parking areas, large-format retail stores (c) are retained to act as commercial anchors during implementation.

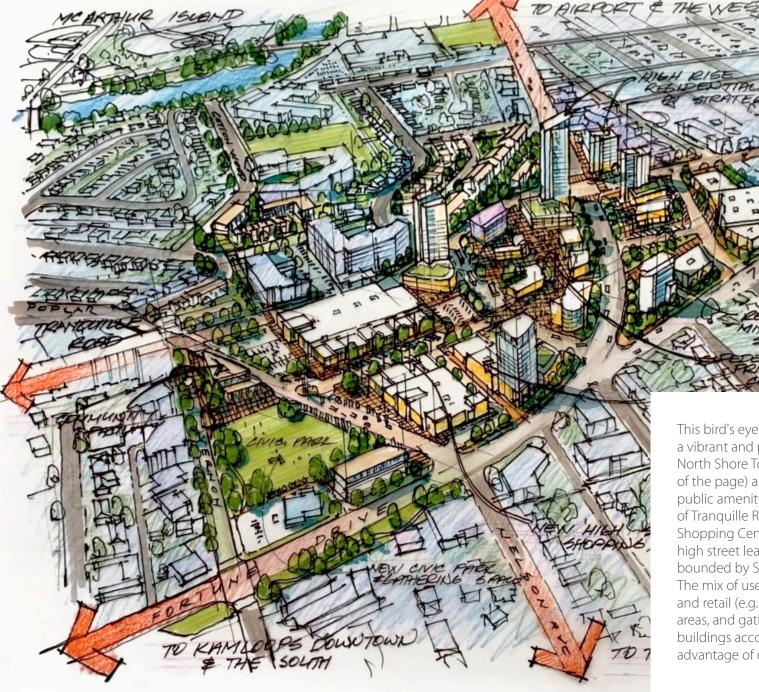
Landmark towers (d) deliver on-site residential vibrancy and stimulate economic vitality for the North Shore Town Centre. Towers are positioned on prominent corners to help define views. Commercial infill creates an urban village with a series of internal "mews" (i.e. narrow pedestrian-oriented streets). Retail uses for restaurants and smaller businesses are kept at grade, with residential uses above. Lower scale residential buildings (e) flank the North Shore Town Centre, offering a wider variety of housing types and tenures. Public realm improvements include street trees, opportunities for public art, and other "placemaking" interventions that will enhance the district's identity.



#### Features:

- a. community triangle
- b. urban village mews
- c. large-format anchors
- d. potential corner tower locations
- e. residential edges





This bird's eye view (looking west) illustrates a vibrant and pedestrian-oriented mixed-use North Shore Town Centre. To the south (left of the page) a proposed new civic park with a public amenity building occupies the corner of Tranquille Rd and Vernon Ave. Northills Shopping Centre is reimagined as an open-air high street leading to the urban village mews bounded by Sydney Ave and Fortune Drive. The mix of uses include commercial office and retail (e.g. shops and restaurants), public areas, and gathering places. Taller residential buildings accommodate greater density to take advantage of expanded/regional amenities.

WESTS/DE

### NORTH SHORE TOWN CENTRE



The North Shore Town Centre is defined by a larger scale of commercial retail and residential development. Multiple factors justify the proposed level of investment :

• as a retail hub serving the North Shore neighbourhoods (and beyond), the North Shore Town Centre is the best candidate district for significant investment and redevelopment



- primarily car-oriented today, this place can better serve pedestrians, transit users, and future residents through public realm improvements
- increasing residential density here provides a mechanism to finance public realm improvements, allows new residents to take advantage of regional amenities, and further activates the area

Public realm enhancements prioritize the creation of urban village (internal) mews to accommodate a more pedestrian-friendly (e.g. safe, comfortable, and enjoyable) environment within the North Shore Town Centre.

While emphasis on these mews should not neglect enhancements for pedestrian comfort and safety along Fortune Drive, this strategy will allow greater investment in areas that might be more likely to succeed.



# **COMMUNITY TRIANGLE**



The Community Triangle is an open space that functions as a gap between the Tranquille Market Corridor and the North Shore Town Centre. It serves as a "front lawn" and a breathing space between the finer grain of the corridor retail and the Town Centre itself.



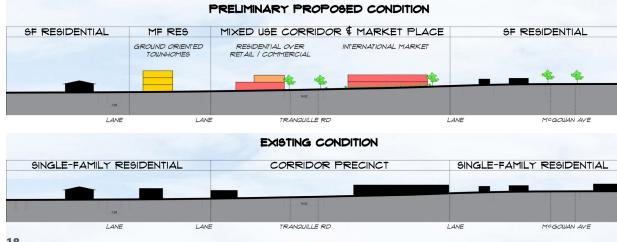


Design ideas for the Community Triangle emphasize the qualities of urban open spaces that are located adjacent to higher-density residential development. The Community Triangle is framed by Vernon Ave to the south, and to the north by a new high street connecting Nelson Ave (with its proposed greenway to the Rivers Trail) and Poplar St. A small civic building or pavilion in the southwest corner of the Triangle provides an amenity and helps to anchor the space.

# **TRANQUILLE MARKET CORRIDOR** »

The Tranquille Market Corridor links the North Shore Town Centre to the north and the Riverfront District to the south. These concepts seek to retain and celebrate the eclectic nature of the corridor as it exists today (e.g. "keep it funky"), identify places of cultural and symbolic importance, and work with the landowners of these sites to maintain and enhance the unique assembly of fine-grained, small storefronts. Beyond opportunities to refresh storefronts, additional small-scale redevelopment (a) – in the form of one to two residential storeys above retail – can stimulate investment while minimizing land assembly. There is also potential for ground-oriented residential redevelopment (e) west of the corridor. Guest accommodation, such as a boutique hotel, may also be appropriate for certain infill sites. There are educational uses and places of worship (d) to the north. Opportunities to co-locate community uses throughout the study area in a more balanced/distributed manner should be considered as redevelopment occurs.

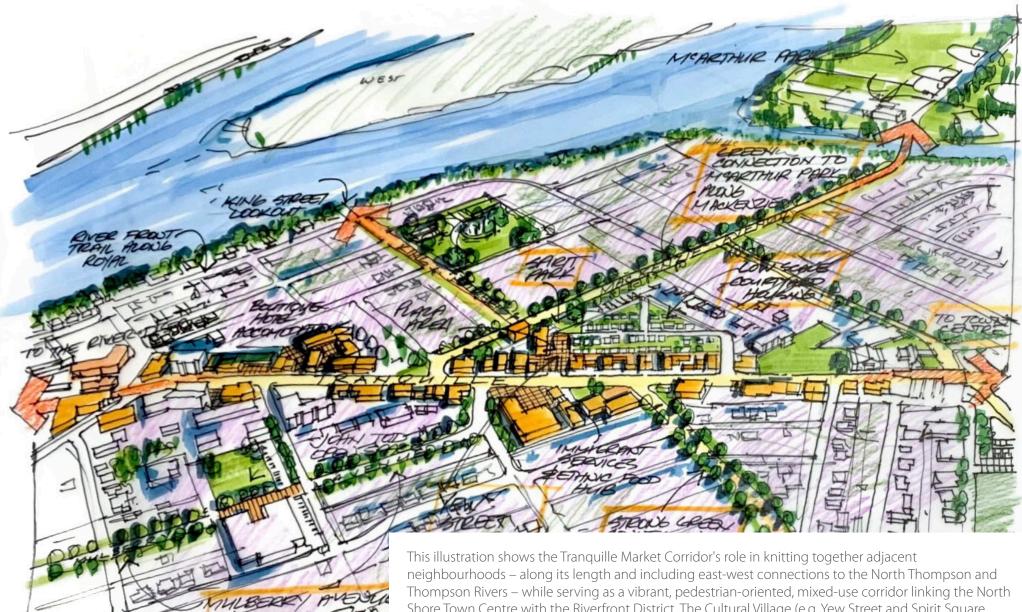
Strategic locations along the east side of the corridor (b) can take advantage of great sun exposure and generous setbacks from angled property lines to establish pocket plazas (e.g. small places) for people to gather and socialize. Existing mature trees are retained (where possible), new street trees are planted, and planters are updated (c) to establish a consistent and attractive streetscape.



Features:

- a storefront refresh
- b. community spaces (e.g. parklets)
- c. streetscape improvements (e.g. trees)
- d. community uses
- e. ground-oriented residential at the Cultural Village





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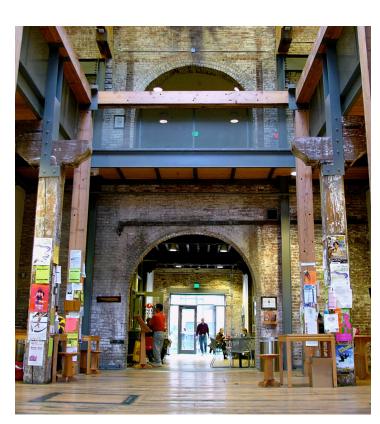
RADDUILE VICEAL

Thompson Rivers – while serving as a vibrant, pedestrian-oriented, mixed-use corridor linking the North Shore Town Centre with the Riverfront District. The Cultural Village (e.g. Yew Street and Spirit Square area) is recognized as an emerging hub along the corridor with further opportunity for pedestrian enhancements, consideration for special event street closures, and potential greenway connections to McArthur Island Park along MacKenzie Ave.

### SOCIAL ENTERPRISE HUB



The Social Enterprise Hub envisions a collection of social-serving organizations whose character is defined by inviting indoor and outdoor shared use spaces.



Dynamic mixed-used buildings accommodate the existing range of social services along the corridor while providing opportunities for people to engage in and serve their community. Public art features lively installations inspired by expressions of community care.





# **CULTURAL VILLAGE**

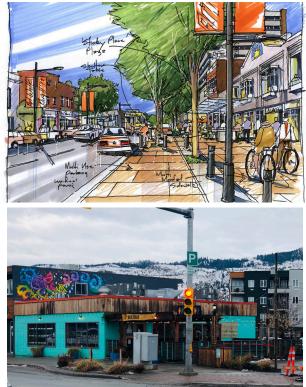


The Cultural Village is the heart of the Tranquille Market Corridor and is defined by the eclectic, fine-grained mix of existing businesses, including smaller "mom-and-pop" retail offerings along the street.

Priority enhancements to the public realm should carefully consider opportunities to support existing commercial businesses. Redevelopment should avoid large assemblies that typically lead to erasure of fine-grain storefront character.



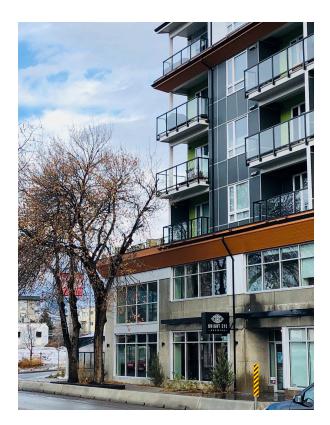
Quiet side streets can provide small pocket plazas while seasonal / special event closures would be well suited to the eclectic shopfronts and street edges of the Cultural Village.



#### **INNOVATION HUB**



The Innovation Hub – defined by the unique and interesting mix of ideas and building forms emerging today (e.g. The Station) – completes the southern extent of the Tranquille Market Corridor district. Future development will be more intensive than what is seen elsewhere along the corridor to accommodate incubator spaces, innovation, and larger institutional and/or corporate partners.



Larger buildings serve to mark a minor gateway/transition along the corridor and clearly distinguish the Innovation Hub from the Cultural Village to the north.



The character of the Innovation Hub – and the new buildings being built within this area – is largely defined by larger-scale, mixed-use buildings with an industrial modern look and feel. this page is intentionally blank

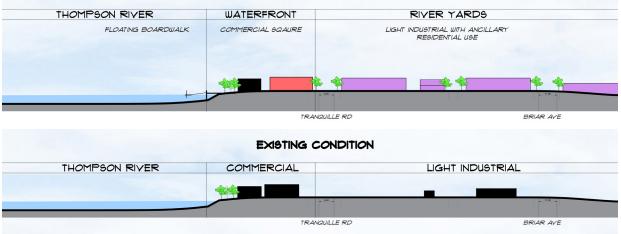
# **RIVERFRONT** »

The Riverfront District presents unique opportunities for waterfront-oriented placemaking as well as more extensive redevelopment. A boardwalk and pier extension of the continuous public waterfront takes advantage of the old bridge pillars (a). Companion to the pier extension is a large maker-space works yard (b) north of Tranquille Road and in alignment with the pier. Designed as a large courtyard, this area allows for an interesting mix of entrepreneurial, industrial, and maker-related creative activities within a public space. There is potential for this precinct to grow business and entrepreneurial activity with some residential use while being mindful to mitigate displacement of existing residents. Low- and mid-rise housing forms (c) could open river views to residents and enhance / extend continuous access to the riverfront and Rivers Trail.



# (e.g. boardwalk / pier extension)

c. river-view housing forms



This sketch of the Riverfront District highlights the enhanced public boardwalk and open space along the river's edge. The riverfront concept begins with a "river interpretive park" (via an extension of Palm Street) that seeks to celebrate the unique identity, character, and history of early riverfront settlement and Indigenous peoples' use of the river and surrounding lands. Adjacent shops and restaurants are set on a boardwalk, affording great views of the river and establishing a landmark at the southern end of the Tranquille Market Corridor. A lookout pier extends out into the river atop existing structural piers and a floating portion provides a close view of the shore, forming a loop and leading back to the interpretive park. East of the pier, green corridors framed by residential buildings extend the Rivers Trail. The grittier light industrial areas to the north of the district are maintained, e-imagined, and refreshed as an industrial arts district of maker spaces. A central works yard allows the public to look at the activity and events held there. An expanded urban farm anchors the north end of the works yard, speaking to the North Shore's heritage as a fruit-growing area.



#### **RIVERYARD**



The character of buildings and open space in the Riveryard – occupying both sides of Tranquille Road and unifying both sides of the street – is defined by their physical proximity and connection to the Thompson River's edge.



Pier structures, riverfront boardwalks, and riparian vegetation extend into the Riveryard and define its character.

The public realm is activated by unique indooroutdoor and live-work maker spaces associated with the working waterfront as it is drawn into this character area.

### **RIVERHOUSE**



Immediately adjacent to the Riveryard on the east side of the pier, Riverhouse is defined by quieter residential uses with a passive recreational waterfront edge.



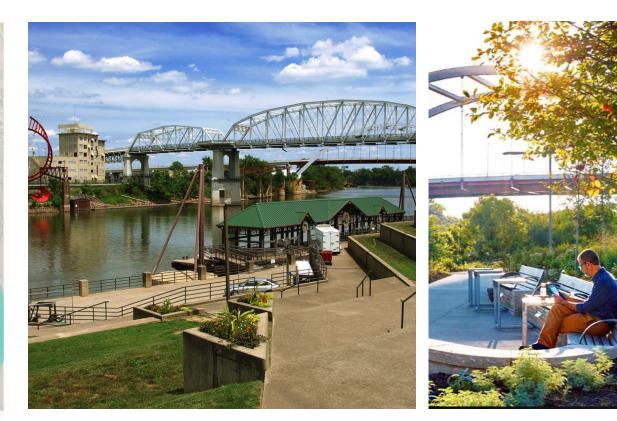
The Riverhouse is a place where ground-oriented residential forms frame green spaces that open towards the river.

This place fills a key missing piece of the Rivers Trail riverfront connectivity, circling from Overlander Park through to the Riveryard and deeper into the plan area.

#### **OVERLANDER**



Overlander Park serves as the southern terminus of the study area. Future consideration should explore what the park may ultimately become and where opportunities to accommodate more activity along the river's edge may occur.



In addition to connecting to the Rivers Trail, there is potential for arts and cultural programming and passive recreational uses, accommodated through programmed hardscape areas (e.g. special events programming and performance spaces), landscaped pathways, and riparian vegetation.



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