



TPL Centre for Democracy

Toronto Public Library Board – Board Education

Pam Ryan – Director, Service Development & Innovation

Will Scott – CEO, TPL Foundation

June 23, 2025

strategic plan objective

1. Social connection, civic engagement and democracy			
Objective	Workstream	Active Years	2025 Goal
C1.2 Widen participation in civic dialogue	C1.2.1 Civic Engagement and Democracy Learning Centre Develop and implement a vision and service model for a learning and engagement centre focused on celebrating, practicing and promoting democratic values.	2025-2028	Develop a vision and service model for a learning and engagement centre focused on celebrating, practicing and promoting democratic values.

work to date

- Feasibility Study with MASS LBP
- Implementation Plan Approach with MASS LBP
- TPL Centre for Democracy Road Map
- TPL Centre for Democracy Renderings
- TPLF Fundraising Approach

feasibility study

feasibility study

Three-step research process:

- International scan of existing democracy-related programming;
- TPL leadership workshop; and
- External stakeholder and potential partner interviews.

implementation plan approach

implementation plan approach

- Identify base operating requirements;
- Surface assumptions; and
- Wire-frame work streams:
 - Governance, Financial Sustainability and Positioning strategy*
 - Capital Project Plan*
 - Partnership and Community Engagement strategy*
 - Service Development and Programming strategy*

vision, mission & promise

vision

TPL envisions a world where an engaged and informed society flourishes, with public libraries leading as essential pillars of democracy and civic participation.

mission

TPL's Centre for Democracy will provide participants with the understanding, confidence and capabilities needed to build social connection and foster community dialogue, and promote the role of libraries globally and TPL locally as a force for strengthening democratic values.

vision, mission & promise

promise

Supported by TPL's resources, expert staff, a Centre for Democracy Advisory Council comprised of international experts and in partnership with key agencies working in support of democratic values, the Centre for Democracy brings people of all ages together in a welcoming space to learn, connect, and build the skills, confidence, and understanding needed for meaningful engagement and active participation with each other and about the policies and systems that shape their lives.

budget model

- Capital project
- Staffing
- Programming endowment
- Individual new service initiatives examples:
 - City Hall School
 - Democracy Fitness



tpi:centre for democracy

the book sanctuary

THE
BRAM & BLUMA
APPEL SALON



Introduction

It is the purpose of this presentation to provide an overview of the concept of civics and its importance in our society.

What is Civics?

- CITIZENSHIP - the condition of being vested with the rights, duties, and responsibilities of a member of a state or nation
- SOCIETY - a group of humans broadly distinguished from other groups by mutual interests, participation in characteristic relationships, shared institutions, and a common culture

fundraising

- Successful record of fundraising in this area
- Initial stakeholder engagement positive
- Institutional and individual donors feel a sense of urgency

next steps

- Existing democracy-related programs and services will continue
- New democracy-related programs, services and campaigns will proceed at current scale
- New partnership development will proceed at current scale
- Recruit Senior Manager, Centre for Democracy and pursue completion of the work streams and service model development
- Stand up the capital project when funding secured



Questions?