



Thanks for participating!

In the last couple of months over 800 people have taken time out of their busy lives to join the Downtown Plan discussion; that is fabulous and we thank you for participating!

Here's a recap of the public engagement activities we have held to date:

- Downtown Plan launch - December 2013 ([view video](#))
- Community Arts and Culture Survey - January 2013
- Theatre Audience Survey - January 2013
- Stakeholder meetings - January 2014
- Community Open House & Workshop - January 2014 ([view video](#))

We have also heard from many of you through emails and messages on our phone line. Public engagement is and will continue to be critical to the success of this project.

What have we heard so far?

Here's a summary of the comments and ideas you've shared with us to date:

- The area should help create a sense of place and build a reputation for Oakville as a creative community
- There is a need for a variety of flexible spaces to accommodate different uses
- The library should have a presence in the downtown
- The current performing arts theater is not meeting the needs of all users and does not meet the needs for all types of performances
- A cultural district with dispersed facilities would create the opportunity for each facility to have its own identity while still maintaining necessary linkages
- Clustering services onto one site will allow people to better understand what's going on
- Food and beverage opportunities should be part of the cultural hub
- Retail uses, including a gift shop or specialty store for artisans, should be incorporated
- There is an opportunity to introduce more housing on the Centennial Square site
- New housing should be in keeping with the existing scale and character of the downtown
- Many of the downtown sidewalks are in poor condition and should be widened
- Need to study the benefits to the commercial area of one-way and/or two-way streets.
- Streets should be more pedestrian friendly
- New cycling facilities should be incorporated into the new street designs
- The new cultural hub should maximize its locational advantage to the waterfront
- Create a more accessible Towne Square
- Link the outdoor spaces at Centennial Square with the Towne Square to create more cultural opportunities.
- Make Towne Square more visible from the street level.

What great feedback! For a complete list of comments to date, visit our [website](#).

When is the next chance to participate?

Right now! Join the Downtown Plan conversation by adding your comments to our [online discussion forum](#) or vote for your favourite ideas.

Our next **Community Open House & Workshop is scheduled for Saturday, April 12 from 9 a.m.-noon**. This is when you'll start to see your comments and ideas transformed into real options. We'll have preliminary concepts on April 12 and invite you to join us as we define the cultural hub and downtown streetscape. [Email us](#) now to attend the April 12 meeting. For complete study information visit [oakville.ca](#). Thanks for your input and we look forward to hearing from you again soon.