

Downtown Cultural Hub

Update and future directions

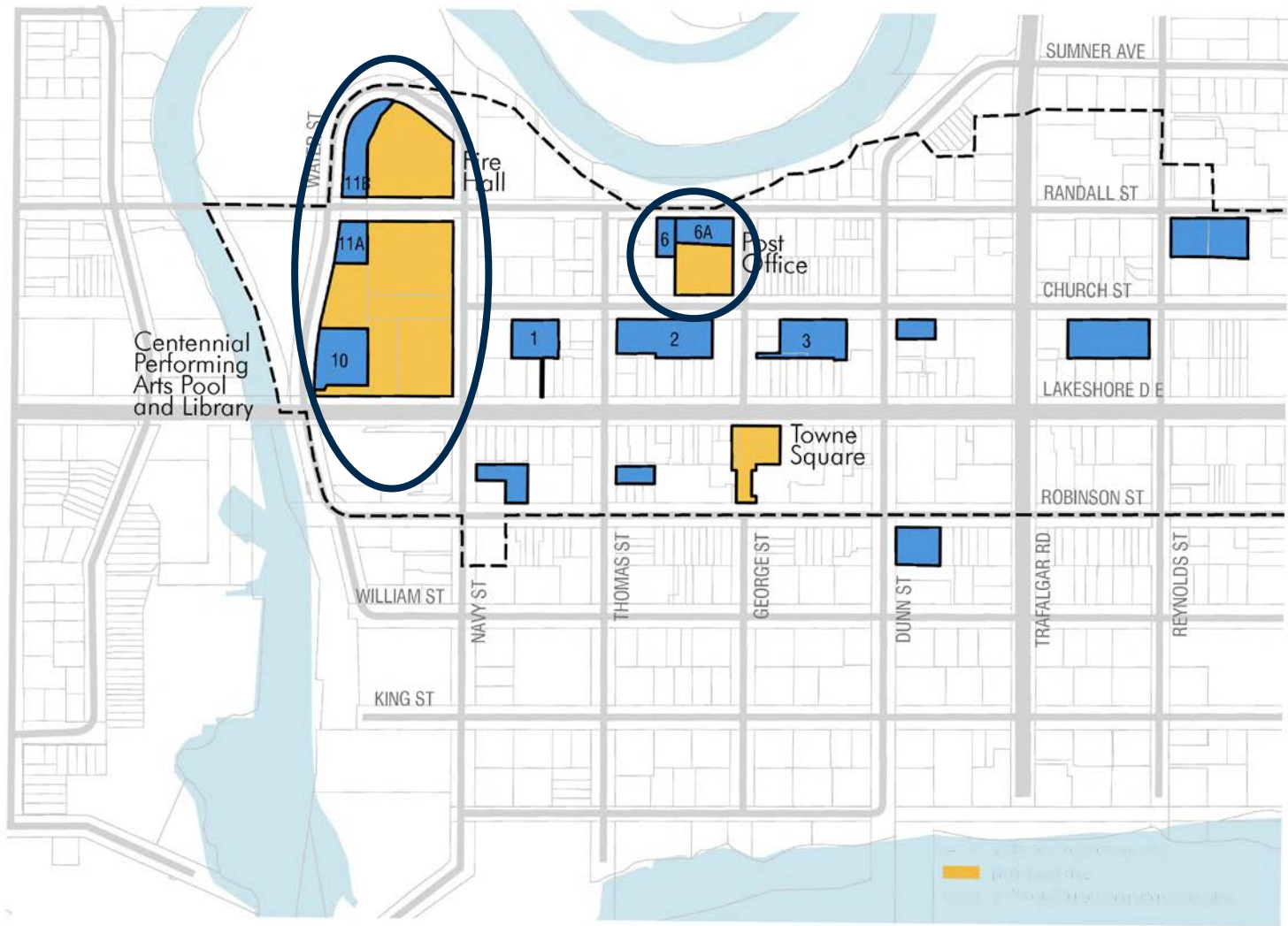
Background

The Downtown Plan articulated five objectives to achieve the vision of an attractive, active, animated and vibrant downtown:

1. Contribute to a successful economically vibrant downtown;
2. Create a cultural focus for the town in the downtown area;
3. Provide facilities and infrastructure that meet existing and future needs;
4. Protect and enhance the natural environmental and cultural heritage of downtown; and
5. Develop solutions that are financially sustainable.

Background

- September 20, 2022 Council approved dispersed model:
 - New Central Library
 - New performing arts centre
 - New home for Oakville Galleries
 - Renewed parks and open spaces
 - Parking needs and rationalization study



DCH Locations

Central Library is in need of significant investment

- Flagship library for Oakville
- Central library building has reached the end of its useful life
 - Significant, near-term investment needed
- Replacement of the facility is a priority
 - Reflect the evolving uses of library
- Timing needs to be advanced
- Former Post Office site offers expedited delivery and limits impact to service during construction
- Community engagement plan in 2024 for the programming of the new library facility

Central Library Delivery Timelines

- Determine amenities, programs, and services: Q4 2023-Q1 2024
- Architectural Design: Q2 2024- Q2 2025
- Construction commencement: Q3 2025
- Substantial Completion: Q2 2028
- Public consultation will be engaged at key milestones throughout the project
- Underground parking options will be investigated
- Staff to report back on overall cost and timing

Oakville Galleries

- Oakville Galleries are exploring options for their new gallery
- Existing Fire Hall being considered. Options include stand alone facility or included as part of a larger development proposal.
- Proposal for a stand alone facility attached to staff report
- Timeline for Council consideration: Spring 2024

Performing Arts Centre

- Feasibility study for a new performing arts centre to be initiated to identify the demand, size and function of a new facility

Centennial Square

- Conceptual plan for this site would be for a new theatre to be built on the site of the Central Library and the old Centennial pool
- Would allow for the existing theatre to remain operational during construction
- A waterfront park as well as parking (underground or structure) is being considered to support the theatre and downtown businesses

Residential and Hotel on Centennial Square

- Options for additional residential and boutique hotel would increase vibrancy of the area and support cultural facilities and local businesses
 - Increased vitality
 - Additional funding source

Financial Request

- \$6.0 million:
 - \$4.2 million for programming and detailed design for Central Library on form Post Office site
 - \$1.8 million:
 - Feasibility study for new performing arts centre
 - Feasibility studies for a waterfront park and parking opportunities on Centennial Square
 - Evaluation of potential for boutique hotel and additional residential on Centennial Square
 - Opportunities to accommodate Oakville Galleries within the DCH
 - Analysis of the downtown parking options and rationalization

Recommendations

- That the capital funding of \$6,000,000 for the Downtown Cultural Hub be considered during the 2024 budget process including the following elements:
 - Programming and detailed design for the replacement of the Central Library on the former Post Office site;
 - Refreshing the existing feasibility study for a new performing arts centre and new feasibility studies for a waterfront park and parking opportunities on Centennial Square;
 - Evaluation of the potential for a boutique hotel and additional residential development on the Centennial Square site;
 - Opportunities to accommodate Oakville Galleries with the Downtown Cultural Hub; and
 - Analysis of the downtown parking lots and fire hall site in order to achieve both additional housing and improved parking opportunities.
- That the location of the new Central Library on the former Post Office site be confirmed.