

Building Update

Community Meeting Notes

On Tuesday, September 12, 2017, Principal Rosemary Evans gave a presentation in the John and Margaret Withrow Hall (UTS Auditorium) detailing the decision-making process behind the selection of 30 Humbert St. as the temporary school site during the renovation and construction at 371 Bloor St. W.

Questions from the floor:

1. **There are several grades currently enrolled at the school whose students will never see the new building. What is the Administration doing about that? Is there a budget set aside to make sure they have a comparable experience?**

UTS is going to work to make our time at Humbert a special one. We will be asking the students what they would like to see and do. We will make sure that there are student spaces. We want to make the experience for students memorable and fun as well.

2. **What exactly are the redevelopment plans for 371 Bloor?**

Our space in the current building is approximately 90,000 square feet; we will have about 120,000 in the new UTS at 371 Bloor. It will be confined to the Huron wing, east of the lobby. An atrium will be built in what is currently the east alcove parking lot. There will be a new 700 seat auditorium and a double gymnasium.

The new building will be built, designed and paid for by UTS, although it, and the land and building are owned by the University. The advantage is that once we move into the new building we will not have to pay any rent to the University. This money can be used for bursary etc. once the building is paid for.

3. What extra- and co-curricular facilities are available at 30 Humbert?

The temporary school site will be set up with science labs, art and music rooms, and has a stage for performance. The stage is in a double gymnasium; and although there is no theatre, per se, there will be room enough to hold assemblies.

4. What is happening on the University's portion of the block? Will UTS be exposed to disruptions at a later date? What is happening with the playground on Huron? Will there be shuttles to the new school?

The west side of this block is being redeveloped by the University; the entire block is known as Site One in their master plan. At present, the project would see a tower at the corner of Spadina and Bloor with retail space at street level. There will likely be an academic building on the site where the UTS auditorium now sits.

The playground on Huron is actually also owned by the University, not the City. The UTS plan is to build the double gymnasium underground, and then to rebuild the playground above it (although likely further to the south). UTS has conducted a user survey of the park and is aware of how valuable the playground and park are to the local community

We will investigate transportation options. The Ossington bus runs every four minutes at rush hours. It is important that we maintain our partnerships with the University. We have begun to investigate shuttle options.

5. Can the School ensure that students have reasonable access to the University libraries?

Currently, UTS students tend to use Robarts Library at the end of the day, after school. There is however also our Global Ideas partnership with the Munk School and the students make good use of athletic facilities. We are looking at shuttle options.

- 6. The added commuting times to 30 Humbert are a concern for the entire UTS community. Is there any risk that the school may not be ready to move to that site by next September?**

The Administration is conscious of the challenges presented by the location of the temporary school. We are investigating a change to the timetable to allow for a 9:00AM start time. The new site is more compact, and will require less time for students to move between classes thus allowing for this later start. We will do more consulting with stakeholders about this. We believe the new site can be upgraded for September.

- 7. Will the historic facade along Bloor be maintained or restored?**

Yes, the facade along Bloor will be restored from the western corner of Upper FEUT, east to Huron, and down the Huron wing. New windows will be installed and the brickwork will be cleaned.

- 8. Will the end of the school day timetable adjust to allow for increased commuting times?**

We are exploring many options with respect to the timetable, but this will not impact required instructional time for students. UTS students already have more class time than any other Ontario School board due to our ten period schedule.. We are required however to observe Ministry of Education standards with respect to minimum credit hours.

- 9. What will happen with the art exhibits and other legacy decorations in the old building? Will they be preserved?**

This is an area which definitely requires feedback from students. We want to document and save, perhaps digitally, as much of the artwork on the walls and the lockers as we can; but realistically not all can be kept. We may auction off some of the special items and we hope to recreate some of the paintings on the walls here at the temporary site to make students feel at home.