

PEACE PIECE

Community Engagement
Initiative Report

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About the Initiative

On July 22, Peace by Piece brought together community members to illustrate their ideas on what community means to them. Participants were provided with puzzle piece canvases and materials ranging from paints to subway maps. Following completing their own vision, all the pieces were connected together.

What does belonging and community look like? What does it feel like? How do we build it? Who is part of it?

This event was inspired by the potent role art plays as both a mechanism of individual expression and collective action. Dialogues around policy are often blunt and use inaccessible language = art encourages the nuance often missed in these conversations.

This contributed to the research that looks to how community takes many forms and how investing in space and resources based on stakeholder engagement can foster belonging.



“There were
so many
perspectives...
all of the
pieces were
so colorful.”

“When I think of
community, I think
of different people
with different talents
and different
backgrounds...we all
learn and grow
from each other.”



Puzzle pieces created during
the event (above)



Impact

Peace by Piece went beyond what was even imagined for it. Participants used materials beyond what were provided and many felt inspired to create multiple pieces that encompassed their own many dimensions of community. Participants were also very invested in what their peers were producing. Upon seeing other pieces, they often inquired further what the meaning was behind their creativity.

25 community members were able to participate and following the artmaking, there was a conversation held about the artistic processes and how bringing all the pieces together sparked an entire new way of looking at how differences are a framework of community rather than a barrier.

Going Forward

Looking to the future, community members could benefit more opportunities to curate a space of discussion based around art-making, especially ongoing workshops.

Facilitating these creative conversations in public domains like community centres, libraries and schools could serve the purpose of fostering imagination of how these spaces could better serve the communities that rely upon them.

Thank You!



This initiative was made possible by our community partnerships who provided us with resources and a space to come together as well as much appreciation to the creativity and openness of our workshop participants.



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