



JCRA Downtown Position Paper June 7, 2014

The Joshua Creek Residents Association (JCRA) supports the Town of Oakville's proposal for a downtown cultural hub as a means to revitalize the economy of our downtown. We have taken the opportunity to study the different concepts as presented in the Downtown Plan and present our position for consideration.

The following principles are the cornerstones that the JCRA strongly believes must guide the Town's revitalization plans:

1. All facilities (theatre, art gallery and library) of a cultural hub must stay downtown.
2. Disperse the new cultural facilities in different areas of downtown rather than on one site.
3. Development plans must preserve the "small town" feel of the downtown.
4. Ensure public access and use of an improved waterfront area.
5. Parking availability is a critical problem in the downtown area and must be included at the start of the development design process. Parking cannot be an afterthought.
6. All cultural hub facilities must have uses and spaces that will bring people downtown during the day. They cannot be "evening only" event spaces. One example is having a farmer's market on Centennial Square.
7. Oakville residents must be assured prior to the development and construction of the cultural hub facilities that they will not be a financial burden on current taxpayers or on future generations.
8. Planning for increased traffic in the downtown area must be included at the start of the development design process. Managing traffic flow in and out of the downtown is very important.
9. Improved public transportation must be an integral part of the revitalization plans. Regular and more frequent bus service in the downtown will be key to

managing increased traffic and parking problems. Shuttle service from mid town into the downtown should also be considered.

10. Residential intensification in the downtown will increase as part of the cultural hub but should be dispersed away from the library, theatre and waterfront.

Bearing these principles in mind, JCRA supports a new larger multi use theatre, a new flagship library and a new gallery space for the Oakville Galleries.

### Theatre

The JCRA would like to see the existing OCPA torn down and rebuilt into a larger, multi use theatre with 600 to 700 seats and include a smaller theatre with 200 to 300 seats. This is described as The Edge City Performing Arts Centre in the Downtown Plan. However, it is important that Oakville residents be assured of the financial benefits and sustainability of two theatre spaces. It should stay at its current location on Navy Street. The new facility should be architecturally striking, have the technology and ability to host a variety of performing arts events and be acoustically outstanding (like Koerner Hall in Toronto).

Parking must be housed in the facility.

The new theatre must have spaces for meetings and other events that can be used during the day.

Centennial Square should be renovated at the same time to be used for a variety of functions including festivals, concerts, fairs and markets.

### Library

JCRA supports a newly constructed 30,000 square foot flagship library that is architecturally distinctive. Administrative functions for the Oakville library system should be housed in the building in order to maintain employment in the downtown core. The library is a very important and truly public space for all Oakville residents and should stay in its current location on Navy Street.

### Oakville Galleries

We recognize the need for Oakville Galleries to have a new and larger space dedicated to housing and showcasing its collections. The new gallery must also include spaces for art classes, local student programs, artist studios and event spaces. JCRA would prefer the new gallery to be housed in the Post Office on Church Street.

We look forward to everyone's feedback and our further participation in the evolution of the Downtown plan.

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Regards

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On behalf of JCRA