

OUR FUTURE HAMILTON

“Communities in
Conversation”



COMMUNITY VISION

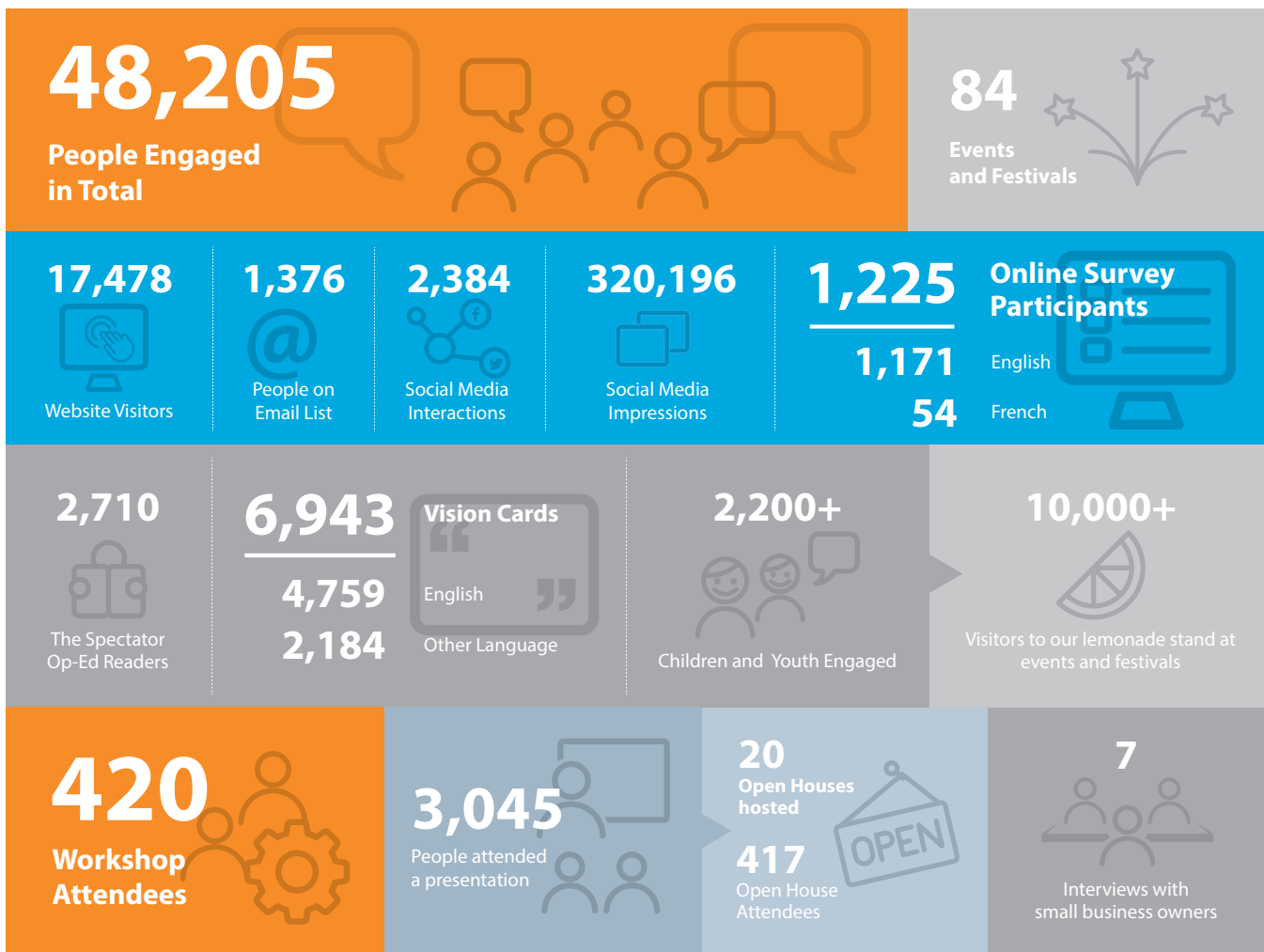
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OUR FUTURE HAMILTON

Our Future Hamilton is Hamilton’s new 25-year community vision. In April 2015, we started with a simple question: **“What is your vision for the future of Hamilton?”** Using a variety of engagement approaches, we gathered the priorities, hopes and dreams from more than 48,000 people who live, work, play and learn in Hamilton to create the community vision.

Engagement by Numbers





Building on the legacy of Vision 2020

In 1992, residents were asked what Hamilton should look like in 25 years. The result was Vision 2020, Hamilton's first community vision. Vision 2020 has been a catalyst for collaboration and change within the city. It helped our community make significant progress in the areas of arts and heritage, reducing and managing waste, improving air quality, improving water quality and protecting natural areas. It inspired collaboration in environmental protection, poverty alleviation, cultural and economic growth and leading edge planning in the integration of infrastructure and growth. Vision 2020 made it clear that residents have an important role to play in shaping the future of our city.

Why a new community vision?

Hamilton is a proud and vibrant city on the cusp of great transformation. Capturing the priorities, dreams and aspirations of our community is important as we define Hamilton over the next 25 years. In 2016, the City of Hamilton is developing a new 10-year strategic plan to guide future decisions. As many community organizations begin similar processes, it is important that our planning is informed by community input and that decisions reflect the aspirations of residents.

Making Hamilton's community vision a reality

The community's vision is organized in six themes. Each theme includes a vision statement, key directions for how we get there and signs of success. We will continue to work with residents, community partners and local experts to develop a collaborative action plan. As our city continues to grow and develop, the action plan will help us measure and report on our progress and move forward together.



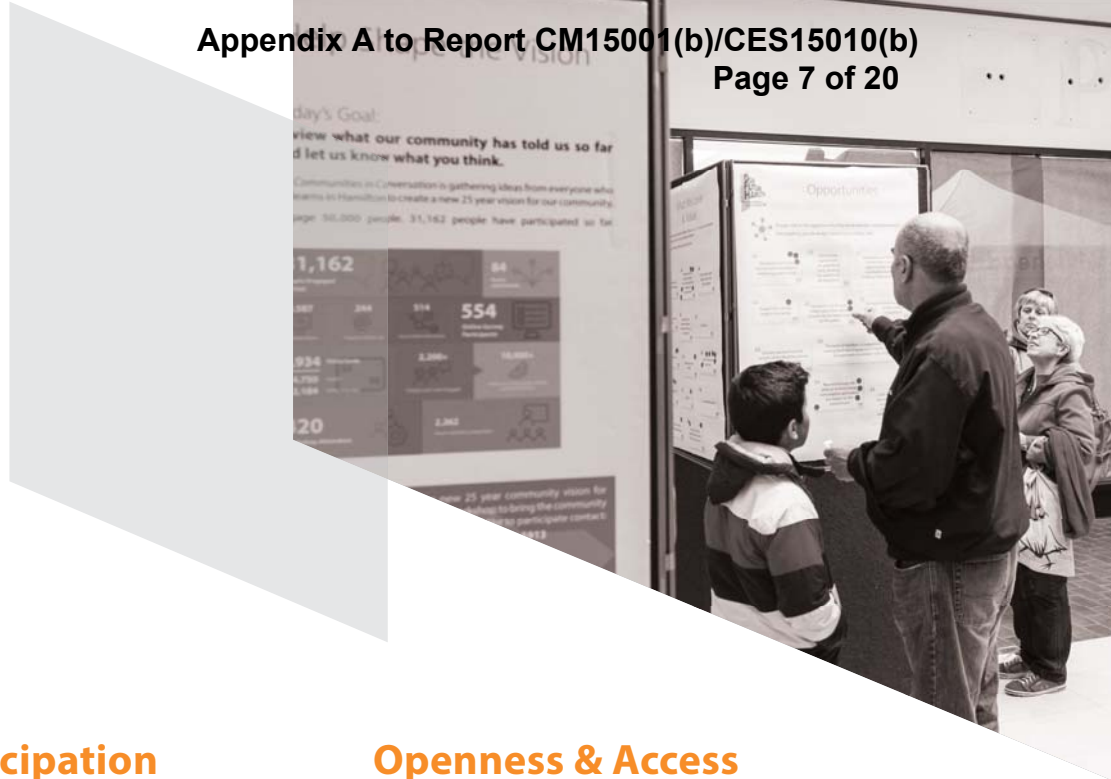
THEME 1



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND PARTICIPATION

Community Vision

Our Future Hamilton is a collaborative place where people work together and make a positive impact on the community. Citizens are consulted and involved in making the decisions that impact them. A passion and sense of pride for the city exists among residents, driving volunteerism and community-based initiatives.



Key Directions

Community Participation & Engagement

- Work to remove barriers that prevent and discourage women and minorities from becoming community leaders.
- Ensure that all people have the ability and opportunity to add their voice to community conversations about issues that affect them.
- Support community-based initiatives, volunteerism and grassroots movements.
- Involve youth in decision-making and community development.

Openness & Access to Information

- Provide easy access to information about government operations and services.
- Increase access to information about the programs offered by key community institutions and organizations.
- Increase participation in City decision-making and promote the importance of inclusive community engagement.

Community Pride

- Celebrate Hamilton's history, people and achievements.
- Foster pride among Hamiltonians for their city and identity.

SIGNS OF SUCCESS

- Residents are well-informed about important government and community decisions.
- Residents participate in community and civic initiatives.
- More Hamilton residents are voting in elections.
- Leaders reflect the diversity of the community.
- Residents volunteer for local organizations and causes.
- Young people are actively involved in their community.
- Governments and community institutions embrace a culture of openness and transparency.
- Engagement with residents is informed by Hamilton's Public Engagement Charter.



THEME
2



ECONOMIC PROSPERITY AND GROWTH

Community Vision

Our Future Hamilton is an ambitious place where people successfully provide for themselves and their families and have opportunities to grow and develop. Residents can work in the city in one of the increasing number of quality, well-paying local jobs. A prosperous and diverse local and regional economy benefits all residents.

Strategic Directions

Strong Local Economy

- Attract and retain new industries and innovative businesses.
- Remove barriers for people starting and running a business.
- Encourage people to support local businesses that contribute to the success of our economy.
- Keep tax rates competitive to attract and retain businesses.
- Keep public debt sustainable and taxes low for residents.

Farming & Agriculture

- Support and promote local farming.
- Protect agricultural land.
- Sustain food production, processing and distribution systems that contribute to economic development.

Employment Opportunities

- Inspire diverse employment opportunities in Hamilton so people can work locally rather than commute to a job in another city.
- Identify and remove employment barriers and provide opportunities for all.
- Ensure childcare is available for parents and guardians so they can participate in the workforce.

Education & skills development

- Provide education, training and skill development programs that help people reach their goals and find rewarding careers.
- Advance and promote the role of educational institutions as key contributors to innovation, entrepreneurship and community development.
- Develop and use technology to increase access to education for all ages.
- Nurture ambitious career and life aspirations in people from a young age.
- Ensure that young people receive education that prepares them for good jobs.
- Ensure that all children have access to learning that leads to success at school and in life.

SIGNS OF SUCCESS

- Poverty rates are low.
- High school graduation rates are at or above the provincial average.
- The unemployment rate for young people is decreasing.
- Technology is used to advance access to education.
- Children are thriving in school and at home.
- Governments and community institutions collaborate to eradicate poverty.
- Residents are able to work locally.
- People are earning a living wage.
- Affordable childcare is available for everyone who needs it.
- More people are working in secure jobs.
- Local businesses are thriving.
- Hamilton is less reliant on the residential tax base to fund municipal services.
- Farmers are successful.



THEME 3



HEALTHY AND SAFE COMMUNITIES

Community Vision

Our Future Hamilton is a caring place where people lead happy lives in safe neighbourhoods and friendly communities. We all have access to the services and supports we need to be healthy and active. Our city is safe and inviting, and people continue to work together to take care of and support each other.

Strategic Directions

Healthy Lifestyles

- Create an environment that promotes active and healthy living to support a high quality of life for residents.
- Improve the health of Hamiltonians by actively working to address the social determinants of health.
- Encourage all food providers to offer local nutritious food options, education and information about nutrition.
- Support people to disengage from drug, cigarette and alcohol addictions.
- Facilitate physical and economic access to healthy, locally sourced and nutritious food for residents.
- Provide outdoor and indoor recreation spaces to people in all parts of Hamilton.
- Provide opportunities for people of all ages, abilities and income levels to participate in sports and activities.
- Make it easy for people to be physically active by providing safe routes for walking and biking around the city.

Healthcare Services

- Integrate the healthcare system to make it easy for people to navigate.
- Provide advocacy, support and treatment for people experiencing mental health challenges and addictions.
- Facilitate access for people to the healthcare services in a timely manner.

Safe Caring Communities

- Encourage police and community members to work together to keep neighbourhoods safe and inviting.
- Foster a respectful, caring culture among people for their community so that people take care of their own, and each other's property.
- Respect and support people on social assistance.

Housing

- Provide sufficient, affordable and good quality social housing.
- Support development that provides affordable housing options for people of all income levels and needs across all neighbourhoods.
- Advocate for safe, clean and affordable places for renters to live.
- Encourage communities to support home and health care facilities for the aging.

SIGNS OF SUCCESS

- People eat healthy food.
- People lead active lifestyles.
- Less crime, people feel safe in their homes, streets and neighbourhoods.
- People have timely access to healthcare services.
- Supports are available for people with mental health issues and addictions.
- Fewer people use tobacco industry products.
- Homelessness has been eliminated or substantially reduced in Hamilton.
- Poverty rates are low.
- Reliance on social assistance programs has decreased.
- Those who do rely on social assistance do not live in poverty.



THEME 4



CLEAN AND GREEN

Community Vision

Our Future Hamilton is an environmentally sustainable place where a flourishing natural environment enriches the quality of life for community members. Organizations take a leadership role and operate in a sustainable manner. Everyone has a deep understanding and respect for the natural environment and its important contribution to our lives.

Strategic Directions

Natural Features

- Foster pride in and protect Hamilton's unique natural environment including its waterfront, waterfalls, escarpment and other natural areas.
- Enhance and maintain trails so people can enjoy Hamilton's greenspaces and natural amenities.
- Protect wildlife and plant habitats.

Leadership & Awareness

- Integrate environmental education and stewardship across the city to instill a respect for the environment.
- Encourage governments, institutions, schools and businesses to demonstrate leadership by operating with environmentally sustainable practices.
- Recognize indigenous knowledge and values in respecting the natural environment.

Environmental Impact

- Consider the environment in decisions about growth and development.
- Re-purpose past industrial or commercial locations (brownfields) as a preferred alternative to using undeveloped or rural spaces (greenfields).
- Reduce and eliminate pollution so that everyone has clean air, water and land.
- Reduce harmful health, environmental and economic impacts of waste - reduce, reuse and recycle.
- Use clean energy to protect our air quality and reduce our contributions to global climate change.
- Improve public transportation and active transportation options to reduce our impact on the environment.
- Improve buildings and operations to reduce energy use.
- Maintain clean streets and public areas where people do not litter.

SIGNS OF SUCCESS

- We consume less energy.
- We use clean energy.
- We send less waste to landfills.
- Streets and natural areas are clean and free of litter.
- Brownfields are redeveloped.
- We use cars less and make more trips using active and public transportation.
- Public transportation utilizes clean energy.
- We meet greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets.
- Air quality has improved.
- Environmentally significant areas are protected and rehabilitated.
- Tree cover has increased.
- Water in the harbour and streams is clean.



THEME 5



BUILT ENVIRONMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Community Vision

Our Future Hamilton is a people friendly place where the quality of life, well-being and enjoyment of its residents influences design and planning. It is easy to get around our city and Hamilton's transportations systems are well-connected regionally. Hamilton is connected to its rich history through architecture. Public spaces are well-maintained and vibrant, with greenspace and attractions for residents and visitors. Neighbourhoods have a variety of homes and amenities.

Strategic Directions

Transportation Network

- Develop complete streets that meet the needs of pedestrians, cyclists, transit users, motorists and movement of goods.
- Create a well-connected transportation network that allows people to get around conveniently without a car.

Modern Infrastructure

- Build and adapt public infrastructure and buildings to withstand extreme weather events.
- Construct and renovate buildings to meet environmental standards.

Building & Development

- Design and modify streets and buildings that are safe and accessible for people of all physical abilities and ages.
- Preserve and re-purpose heritage buildings.
- Consider the impact of urban sprawl in planning decisions.
- Develop mixed-use neighbourhoods where it is easy to walk to everyday destinations.
- Develop neighborhoods that have a variety of housing options.

Public Spaces

- Provide well-maintained public spaces that serve as places for community activity.
- Collectively care for shared spaces.
- Build a vibrant waterfront with greenspace and attractions for locals and visitors to enjoy.
- Build and maintain parks, trails and beaches for all residents to enjoy.

SIGNS OF SUCCESS

- We use other forms of transportation (active and public transit) instead of driving.
- Social housing wait lists are short.
- Housing is affordable and there is a variety of housing options.
- Heritage buildings are re-purposed instead of demolished.
- The intensity of urban land use has increased.
- Public spaces are beautiful and well-utilized.
- Infrastructure is maintained.
- Hamilton has more greenspaces including parks, trails and beaches.
- Greenspaces and public parks are close to home.



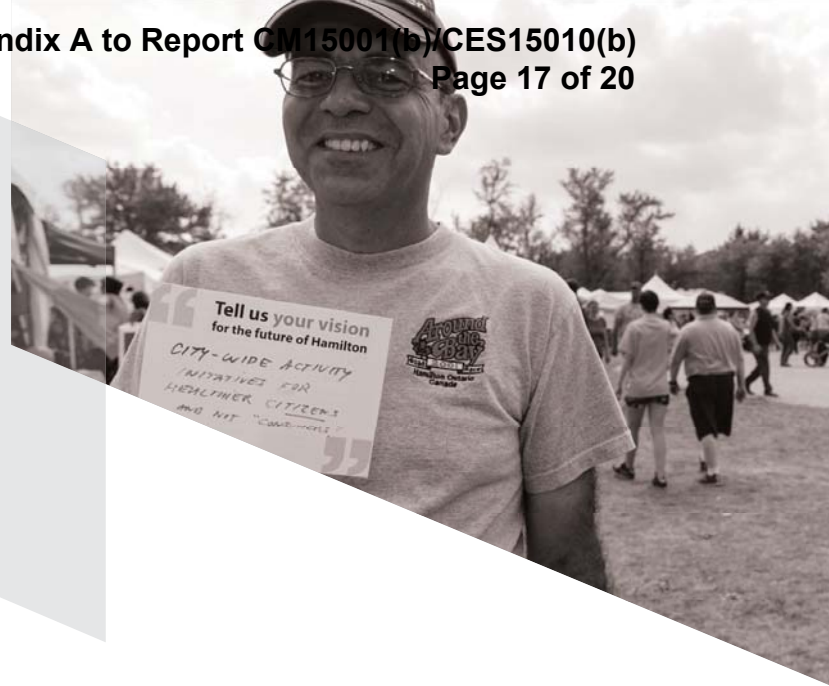
THEME 6



CULTURE AND DIVERSITY

Community Vision

Our Future Hamilton is a vibrant place where people of all ages, backgrounds and abilities are accepted and celebrated. There is always something to do in Hamilton, with a year-round calendar of events and a thriving local arts scene. All our downtown areas are bustling centres of economic and community activity. People of all backgrounds, ages and abilities call Hamilton home and have access to the support and opportunities they need to succeed.



Strategic Directions

Celebrate Culture

- Host year-round local events that celebrate Hamilton's diverse cultures and unique heritage.
- Recognize and celebrate indigenous traditions.
- Support and invest in the arts and local artists.
- Ensure Hamilton's downtown areas are vibrant and inviting to businesses, residents and visitors.
- Support and grow our diverse food scene that includes restaurants, farmers markets and food trucks.

Inclusion & Equity

- Respect and include all residents in community life regardless of age, ethnicity, race, gender, ability and background.
- Provide activities and gathering spaces to help seniors maintain active and productive lifestyles.
- Provide opportunities and supports for all children and youth to achieve their goals and aspirations.

Community Support Services

- Provide excellent and sustainable settlement services to newcomers in Hamilton.
- Provide services and supports for people living with disabilities to live active lives.

What success looks like

- Hamilton is free from all forms of discrimination.
- Hamilton is home to successful cultural institutions and enterprises.
- Newcomers to Hamilton feel a sense of belonging.
- Local events and festivals are well-attended.
- Artists are thriving.
- All people are able to be involved in community and civic activities.



Help Shape the Vision

Today's Goal:
Review what our community has told us so far and let us know what you think.

Hamilton: Communities in Conversation is gathering ideas from everyone who stays or learns in Hamilton to create a new 25 year vision for our community. We have engaged 50,000 people. 31,162 people have participated so far.

31,162 People Engaged in Total	84 Focus Groups		
9,587 Registration	244 Support Staff	514 Social Media Comments	554 Online Survey Participants
6,934 Video Cards 4,730 Signs 2,184 Other Language	2,200+ Online and Youth Engaged	10,000+ Hours of Community Engagement	
420 Workshop Attendees	2,262 Hours of Staff Time		

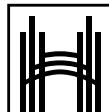
Input will be used to help shape a new 25 year community vision for Hamilton. In December, there will be a public workshop to bring the community together to continue the conversation. If you would like to participate contact: futurehamilton@hamilton.ca or 905-546-2424 ext. 5913

For more information please visit: hamilton.ca/ourfuturehamilton or #futurehamont





hamilton.ca/ourfuturehamilton



Hamilton