

Envision City Art Challenge: Under the Gardiner

Introduction:

The Gardiner Expressway has been the mainstay for Torontonians commuters since its completion in 1966. Today, it's the subject of a very heated debate. There are people that suggest building an extension to relieve traffic, others believe in tearing it down altogether.

25 Million dollars have been privately funded to support renovating the space under the Gardiner. By 2017, Toronto will be home to a 1.75 kilometre public space beneath the Gardiner. The Globe and Mail notes that it will be composed of more than 55 outdoor "rooms" and cycling trails, stair cases and areas suitable for social gatherings. As part of the next generation of commuters and torontonians, we want you to find unique ways of utilizing downtown space beside the expressway.

The Challenge:

Pick one of the following sites or choose your own. Create a Landscape Design of your change to the Gardiner. Make sure to use the unique pillars and columns Under the Gardiner.

This first site is at the waterfront. Demolishing this section of the Gardiner would open up a lot of valuable property. The waterfront is seen as a vibrant community, and a natural extension of the neighbourhood westward would probably see a lot of commercial development.



This second site is at an already demolished section of the Gardiner. Can you conceive of an urban space that would fully integrate perhaps utilize the pillars in a positive way?



This final site is at the Spadina ramp. As of now, there is a lot left to be desired, as the expressway rises on top of empty ground. Some city councillors consider burying the expressway in the downtown sections to make room for residential and/or commercial development on the surface level



What to submit?

- Submit a half page Brainstormed Mind Map on the different possible changes to add
- Submit a Landscape Design/ Floor Plan of your future Under the Gardiner
Draw your design on a full piece of blank paper or draw it over a current design of the Gardiner that you find. Photoshop, Pencil or any other methods to draw your design are equally appreciated. Your work can be scanned and submitted online.

Resources

Landscape Design: <https://www.smartdraw.com/landscape-design/templates/>

<http://www.undergardiner.com/what.html>

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/toronto/public-space-project-reimagines-area-under-gardiner-with-paths-cultural-spaces/article27280670/>

http://www.blogto.com/city/2015/11/massive_public_space_planned_for_under_the_gardiner/

Judging Criteria

The judging for the prizes will be done by a “teacher, alumni, student” panel. Here are the main criteria for submissions:

- Utility: How useful will your design be for Torontonians? For the neighborhood that surrounds the area you’ve chosen? Value will be awarded to submissions that can identify and solve problems and/or improve quality of life with their design.
- Clarity: Does your design give a clear idea of the final product that it might one day be?
- Art Style: How do the designs overall art fit with the idea of the design? Is it appealing as a design to the target audience? Value will be given to proposals with a quality in aesthetics; however judges will not place weight on the level of completion or complexity of the design. Instead focus will be placed on the art style as a means to reflect the idea of the design proposal.

Prizes:

Most Practical: Midoco’s Parallel Pilot Pen

Most Creative: \$30 Indigo gift card or a Mandela colouring book TBD

Lottery Prize: 3D Printer Pen or gift card TBD