

experience  
theVillage

# Volunteer Info

the village  
CHURCH-WELLESLEY

Chris Moise  
Ward 13  
Toronto Centre  
City Councillor

TORONTO MOD  
DEVELOPMENTS

PROGRESS PLACE  
MENTAL WELLNESS

Pride  
TORONTO

THE V 519

minto

CAPITAL  
DEVELOPMENTS

880  
cities

TSA

CENTRECOURT

OPEN  
STREETS  
TORONTO

buddies  
IN BAD TIMES THEATRE

THE ARQIVES  
Canada's LGBTQ2+ Archives

CWNA

# Experience the Village Campaign



<b>Invest</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The 519 Renovations &amp; Historic Expansion</li><li>• Bringing queer organizations home - Pride &amp; Glad Day</li><li>• Barbara Hall Park and the Trans &amp; AIDS Memorials</li></ul>
<b>Reimagine</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Church Street Redesign &amp; Reconstruction</li><li>• This pilot is meant to help inform the detailed design (ie. waste management placement, street activations, etc)</li></ul>
<b>Pedestrianize</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• At least permanent seasonal pedestrianization</li></ul>
<b>Protect</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Cultural District designation</li><li>• The Village as sanctuary - bars &amp; clubs, gathering spaces, etc</li></ul>

# Objectives of the Pilot



1. Reclaim Space for Pedestrians
2. Resurgence of Life in The Village
3. Test Design Concepts for Street Reconstruction
4. Inform the City's Pedestrianization Policy



# Meet the Staff Team



Jaret Sereda



Tyler Johnson



Francesca Policarpio



Young Luk



Kristian Senior

# Montreal Inspiration



Francesca Policarpio with Montreal City Councillor Christopher McCray

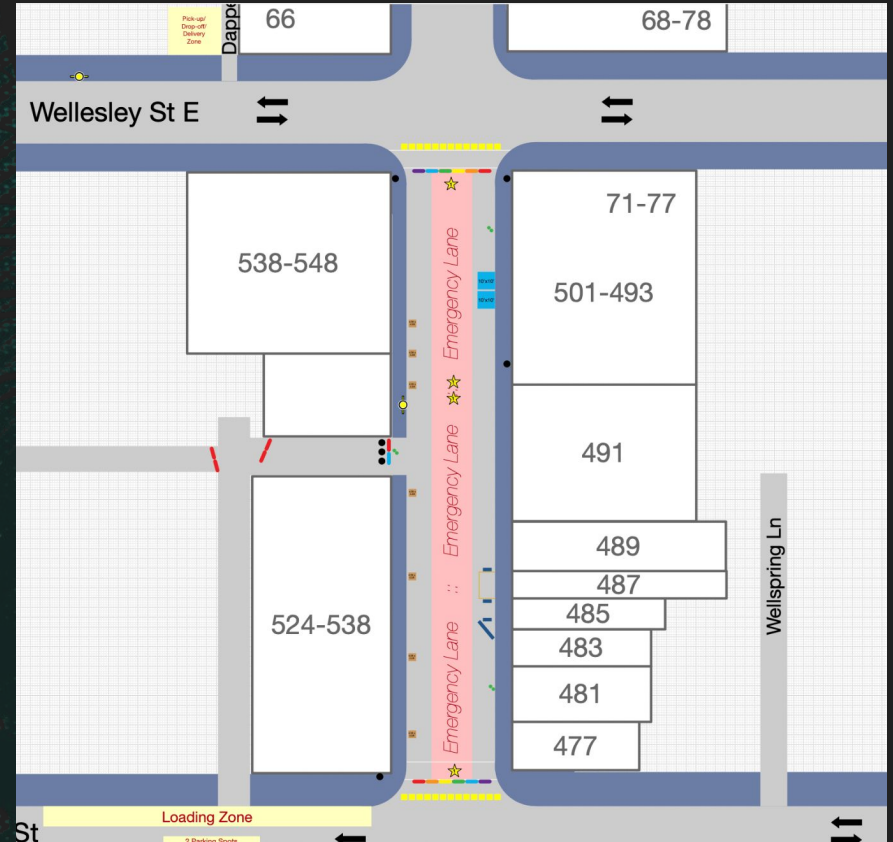


Montreal has 23 pedestrianized streets in the summer. This photo was taken by Francesca in May 2026.

Montreal has been pedestrianizing almost 3km of their Village every summer for the past 20 years. They are now envisioning a permanently pedestrianized Rue St Catherine starting in 2027.

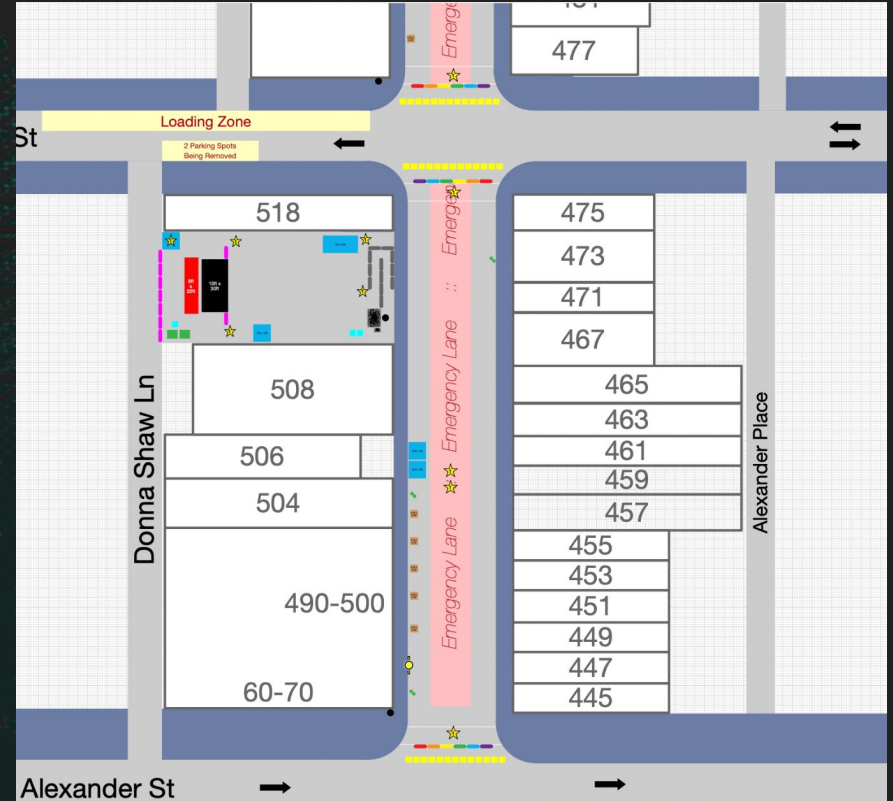
# Street Transformation

- **Full Road Closure:** Friday, June 19 (4:00pm) - Saturday, August 22 (5:00am): Church Street from Wellesley to Maitland and Maitland to Alexander.
- **Vehicle Restrictions:** No vehicular access will be permitted (*except emergency services*).
- **East-West Remain Open:** Wellesley, Maitland, and Alexander Streets will remain open to vehicular traffic.



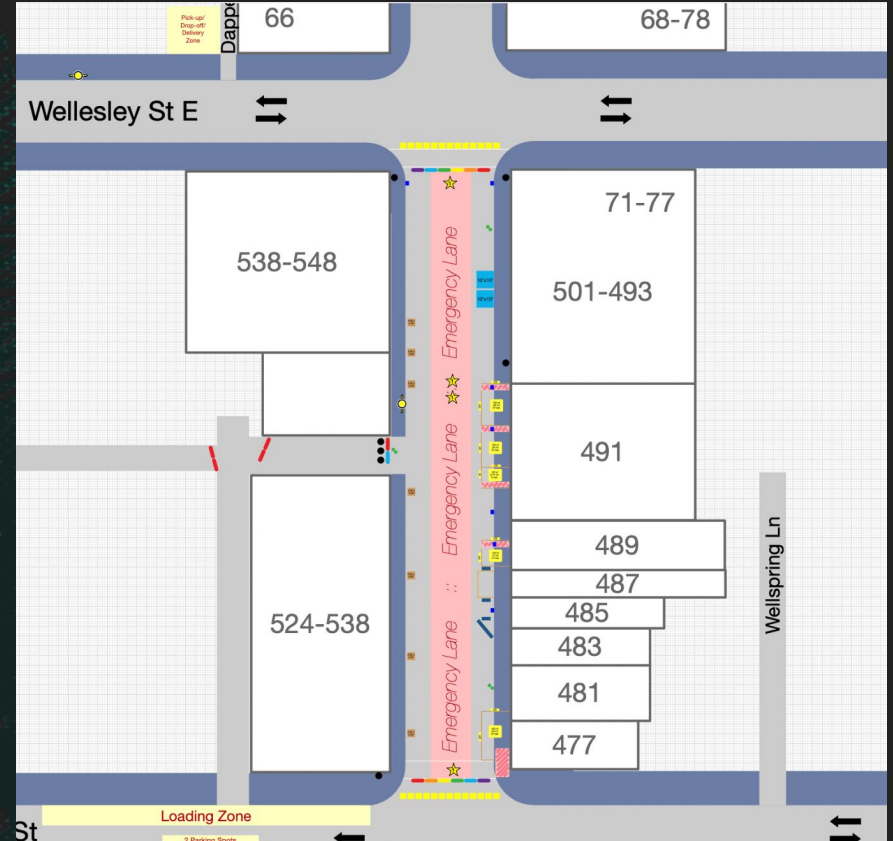
# Street Transformation

- **Village Fest:** Friday, June 19 - Sunday, June 21 in the Parking Lot next to Crews & Tangos.
- **Pride Weekend:** Thursday, June 25 - Sunday, June 28  
Pride Toronto will take over and expand the closure area. The BIA will resume management of the pedestrianized footprint from June 29 to August 21.



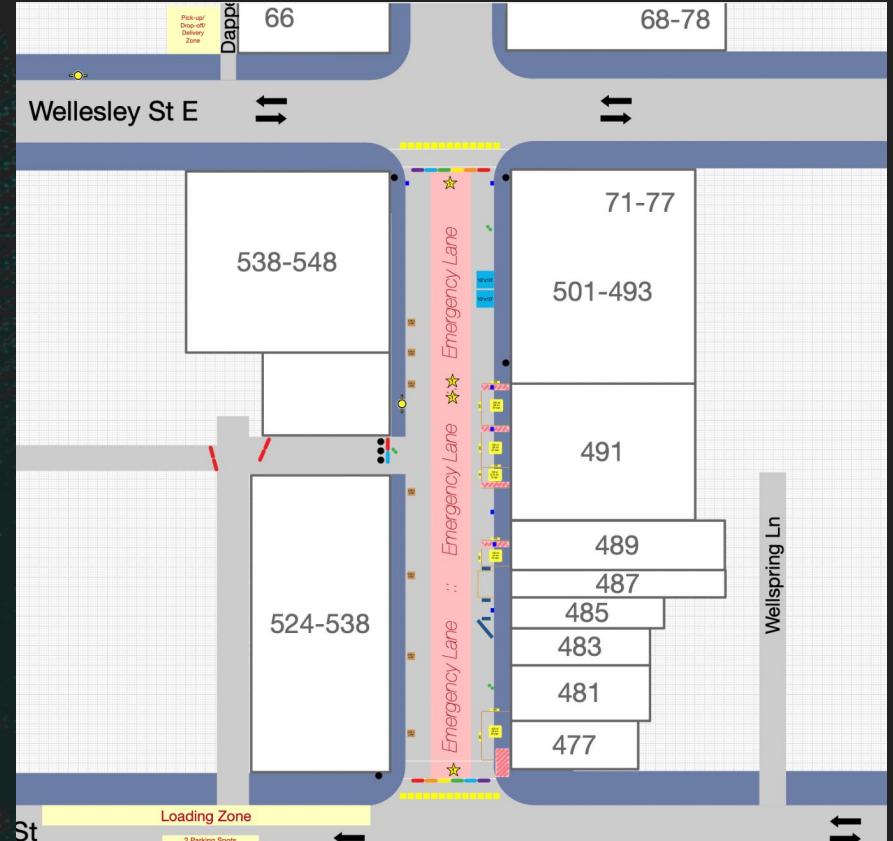
# Street Transformation

- “Food & Beverage (F&B) Zone”
- **West Side:** Sidewalk will remain accessible. 10 Picnic Tables will be deployed.



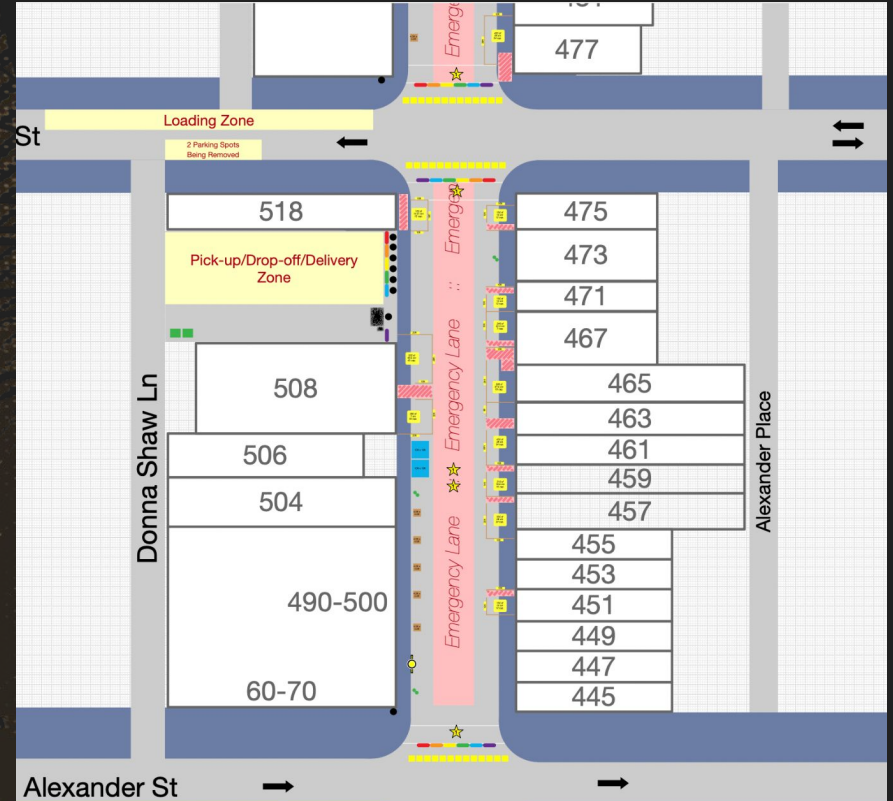
# Street Transformation

- **East Side:** Sidewalks will be closed to accommodate patios. Welcome tents at the north end. Ramps will be deployed at:
  - West side of Church Street at Wellesley
  - East side of Church Street at Wellesley
  - CW Health Centre
  - Starbucks



# Street Transformation

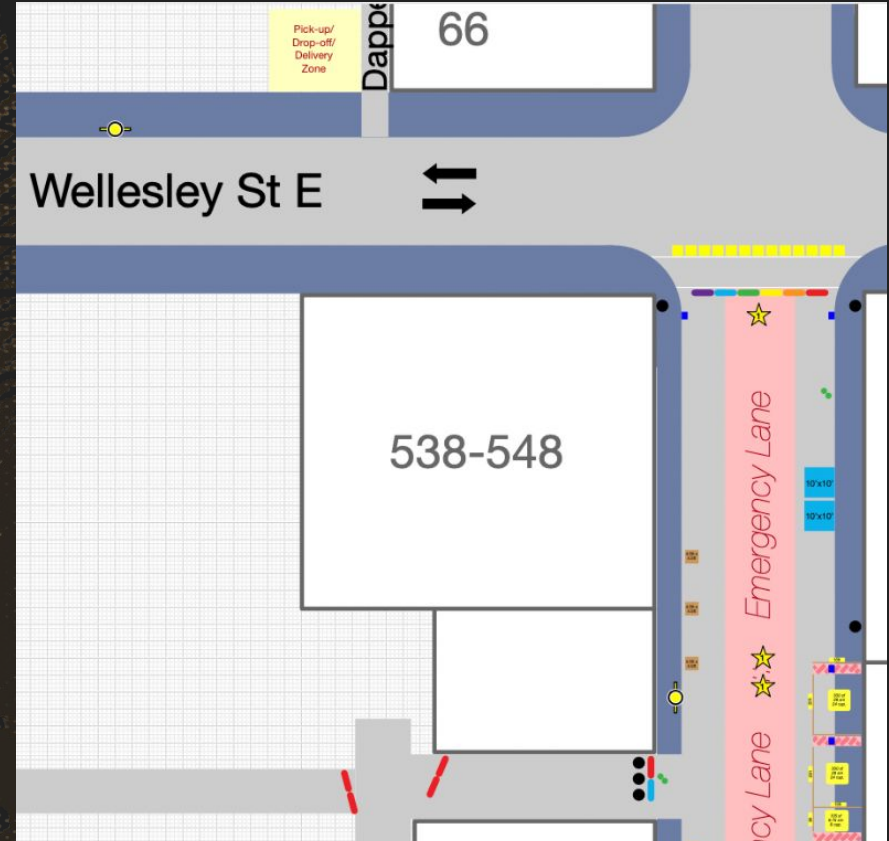
- “Entertainment Zone”
- **West Side:** Sidewalks will be closed to accommodate patios. No accessible businesses. Welcome tents and 5 Picnic Tables will be deployed.
- **East Side:** Sidewalks will be closed to accommodate patios. No accessible businesses.



# Pick-up/Drop-off/Deliveries

- **Rideshare & Parking:** There are several parking lots in the area that will remain open as well as designated rideshare/food app pick-up/drop-off locations.

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1. **66 Wellesley Street East:** Small lot on the north side of Wellesley, west of Dapper Ln.



# Pick-up/Drop-off/Deliveries

- **Rideshare & Parking:** There are several parking lots in the area that will remain open as well as designated rideshare/food app pick-up/drop-off locations.

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2. **North Curb Lane of Maitland:** Loading Zone
  3. **512 Church Street:** Parking lot between O'Gradys and Crews & Tangos.



# Why do we need volunteers?



- While this is NOT an event, the City is treating it as one. We need to ensure we continually remind them and others that this is a pedestrianization exercise NOT an event.
- We need as many hands on deck to help ensure this is successful.
- Focus on ongoing tweaks and evaluation
- We need volunteers to engage visitors, to help keep the area clean and safe, and to help with light activations and occasional programming

# What does success look like?



**880 cities** will be coordinating the evaluation efforts

## Success Measures

- Increase in people coming to the village throughout the pilot, especially beyond Pride.
- People feeling safe, no major safety incidents
- The streets being clean
- Satisfaction of businesses, residents, and visitors

## Challenges Upfront

- Over policing/security presence
- Not being able to effectively evaluate and inform a pedestrianization policy because of all of the requirements placed on this initiative causing it to be executed more like an event

# Team Leads



## Roles and Responsibilities

- Be wearing their team colour T-shirt with “Team Lead” printed on the arm
- Help manage volunteers within a team
- Be the go-to person for volunteers within a team
- Reach out to volunteers and help ensure shifts are filled
- Report to designated staff team: Young Luk and Kristian Senior

# Logistics Team



## Roles and Responsibilities

- Help build patios and street furniture at the beginning, remove it before Pride, reassemble post-Pride, and disassemble at the end of the pilot.
- Street furniture includes but are not limited to: Garbage & Recycling Bins, Picnic Tables, Tents, Patio Umbrellas, and Patio Fencing.
- Helping to fixing street furniture periodically.
- More hands needed on June 19, June 25, June 29 and August 21
- Report to designated staff team: Young Luk and Kristian Senior

# Clean Streets Team



## Roles and Responsibilities

- Will be wearing Green T-shirts
- Wear orange (sharps resistant) gloves and carry a bag and broom, keeping our pedestrianized area clean.
- Empty garbage and recycling bins and take them to the large waste bins in the parking lot at 512 Church Street.
- Like our ambassadors: answer questions, provide directions.
- Report to Clean Streets Team Lead



# Ambassador Team



## Roles and Responsibilities

- Will be wearing Blue T-shirts
- Will be stationed at our tents, and when we have enough volunteers at a time, walking the street.
- Share the story behind this pilot, answer questions, provide directions
- Oversee lost & found
- Invite people to scan a QR code or fill out the paper survey
- Solicit donations.
- Report to Ambassador Team Lead



# Ambassador Team



TORONTO



Ambassadors will solicit donations using our limited editions tickers in collaboration with Jake Tobin.

# Public Safety Team



## Roles and Responsibilities

- Will be wearing Yellow T-shirts - same as Security so the street doesn't look over policed/security
- Augment the 4 24/7 Security Guards & 4 12/7 Security Guards
- Roam the pedestrianized footprint.
- Foster a safe, welcoming, and compassionate space.
- (This is not about cleansing the street of unhoused folks)
- Contact and liaise with Here2Help, security, and emergency personnel as necessary
- Similar to Ambassadors: answer questions, provide directions
- Support clearing the way for emergency services as necessary
- Ensure patio clearance zones remain completely clear!
- Ensure no parking occurs in the pick-up/drop-off locations.
- Report to Public Safety Team Lead

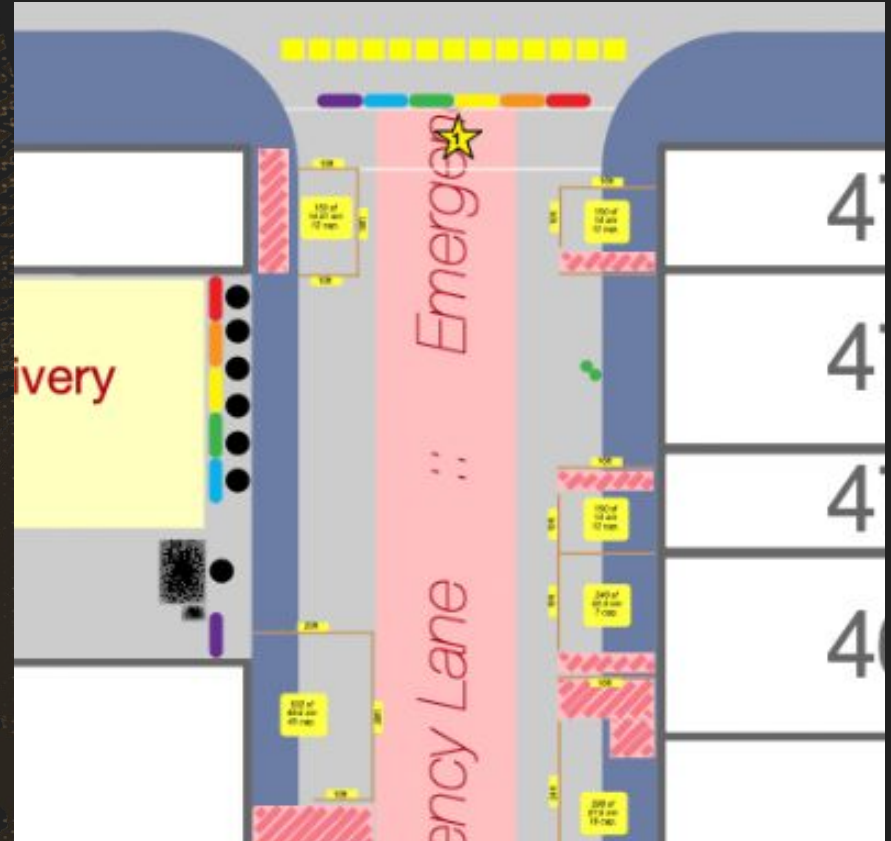


# Interlinx Security

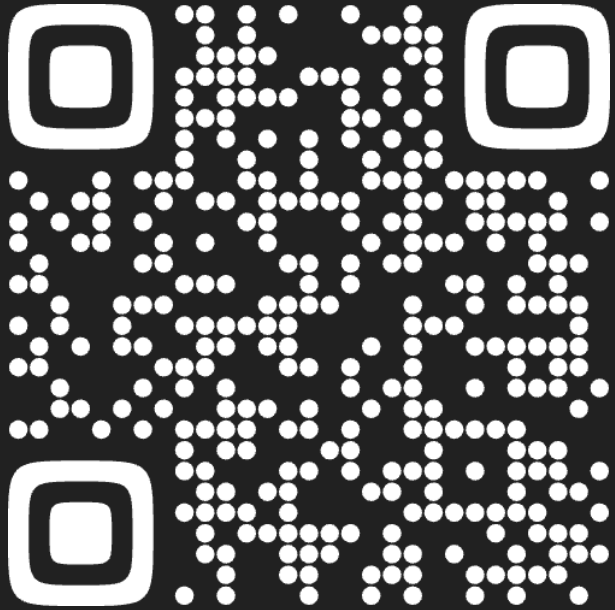


# Safety & Emergency Response Plan

- **Security:** 4x 24/7 + 4x 12/7
- **Public Safety Team**
- **Paid Duty Officers:** If filled, during peak hours (June 19, 20 and July 2, 3, 4)
- **Hostile Vehicle Mitigation (HVM)**
- **Barricades**
- **Large Planters**
- **Emergency Lanes:** Must remain unobstructed at all times
- **Patio Clearance Zones:** 1m/3ft

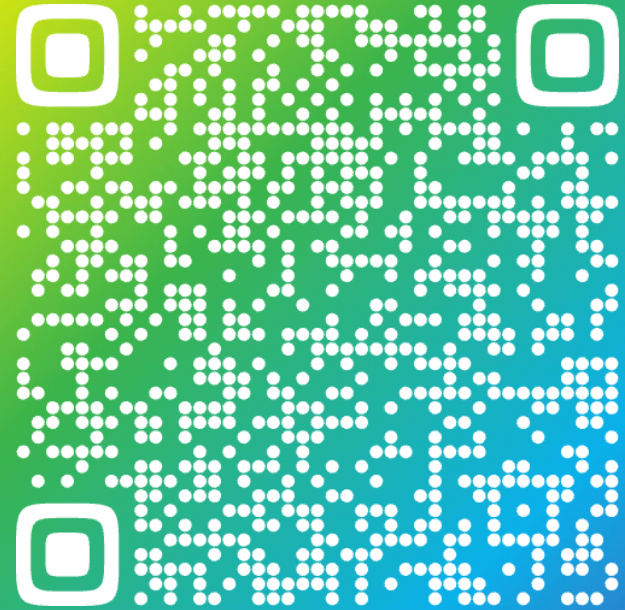


# Sign up for Shifts



[ExperienceTheVillage.ca/Volunteer](https://ExperienceTheVillage.ca/Volunteer)

# Join our Slack Channel



[https://join.slack.com/t/experiencethevillage/shared\\_invite/zt-404xr56wz-IBO\\_dfiwaaAZIZy02Xws1g](https://join.slack.com/t/experiencethevillage/shared_invite/zt-404xr56wz-IBO_dfiwaaAZIZy02Xws1g)