

Dundas Street Renaming

Background and Next Steps

TTC Board Meeting
February 22, 2024

Agenda

1. Council Direction EX 25.1
2. Recognition Review Community Advisory Committee
3. Project Timeline: 2021 to 2024
4. Council Direction MM13.29
5. CAC Naming Process and the Meaning of Sankofa
6. Next Steps

Council Direction (EX25.1, July 2021)

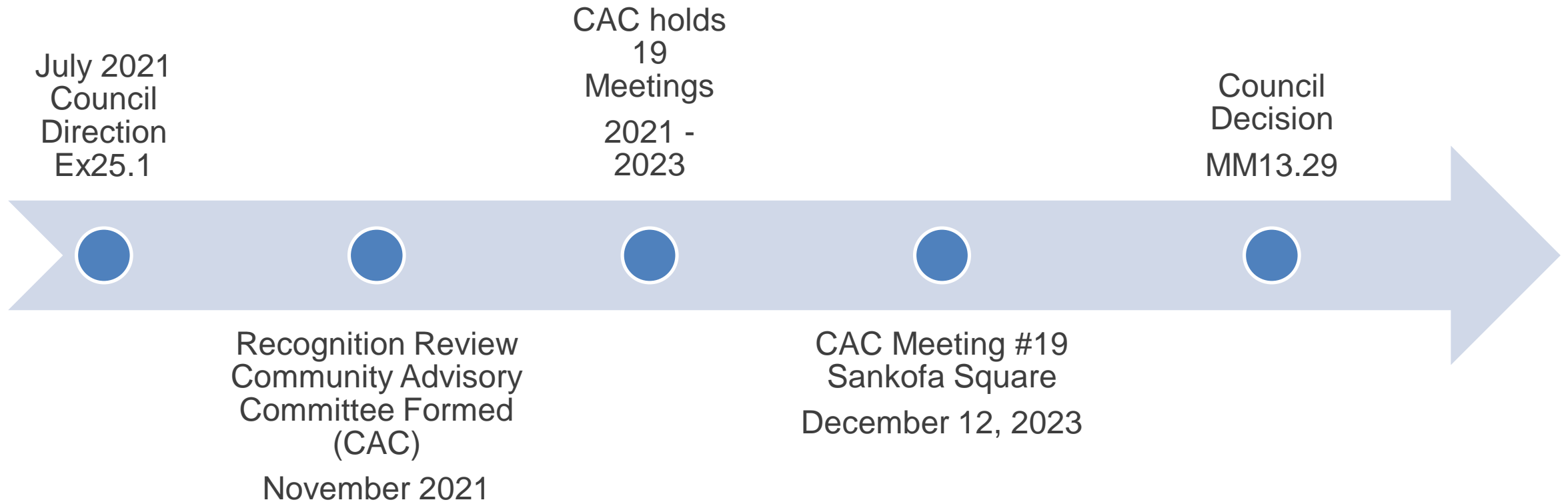
Initiate a renaming process for Dundas Street and civic assets named for Dundas, guided by a Community Advisory Committee

Develop a new framework to guide how the City commemorates public figures and events in street names, place names and monuments

Recognition Review Community Advisory Committee

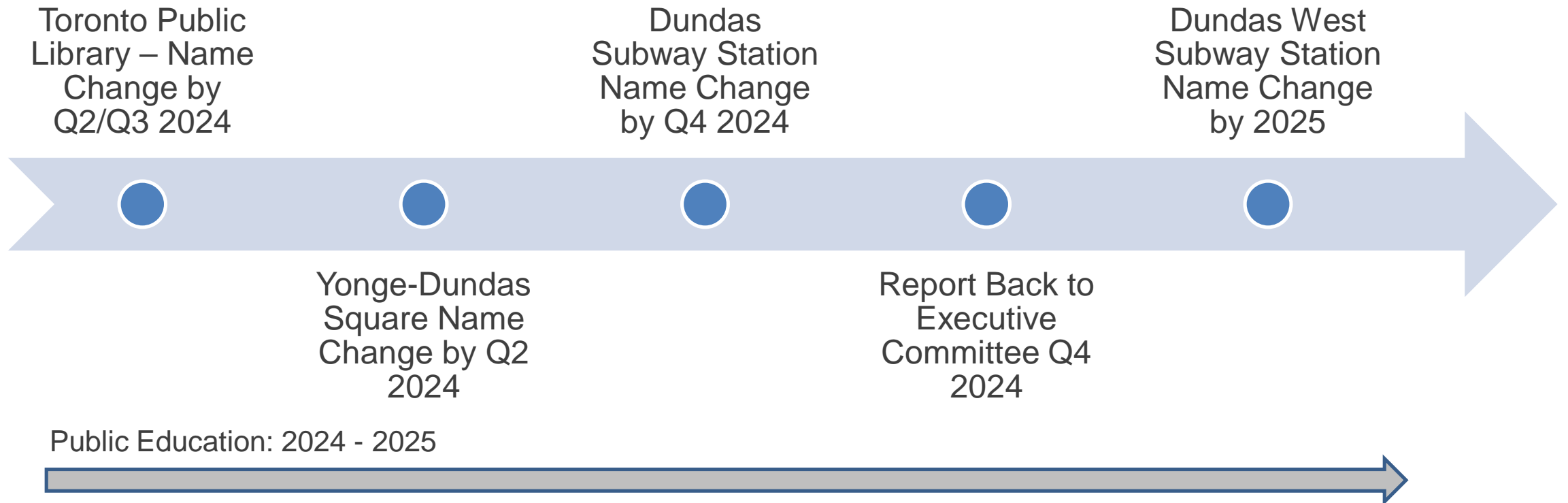
- The 20-member Recognition Review CAC was formed in fall 2021 and was made up of Black and Indigenous leaders, along with other diverse residents and business owners living and working along Dundas Street. Members were recruited through the City's Confronting Anti-Black Racism Unit and Indigenous Affairs Office, and in partnership with the local City Councillors representing wards that include Dundas Street
- Given the significance of renaming, the Committee grounded itself in the principles of placemaking and informed by the history of the Trans-Atlantic slave trade
- The Committee also used the City's [Guiding Principles for Commemoration](#) as a guiding lens to help develop the shortlist of new names.

High Level Timeline



Council Direction (MM13.29, December 14, 2023)

Confronting the Legacy of the Transatlantic Slave Trade: Renaming Civic Assets Bearing the Henry Dundas Name



Recognition Review Community Advisory Committee: Priorities for Renaming

Core Priorities *(must be reflected in the future name)*

Centre "the cause" (or "the why") of the renaming process.

Centre unity, healing, and "a way forward".

Intentionally commemorate untold stories from underrepresented communities.

Focus on how Dundas is a meeting place.

Additional Priorities *(considerations to help refine our list)*

Consider accessibility for multiple languages.

Select ceremonial street names alongside a single legal name.

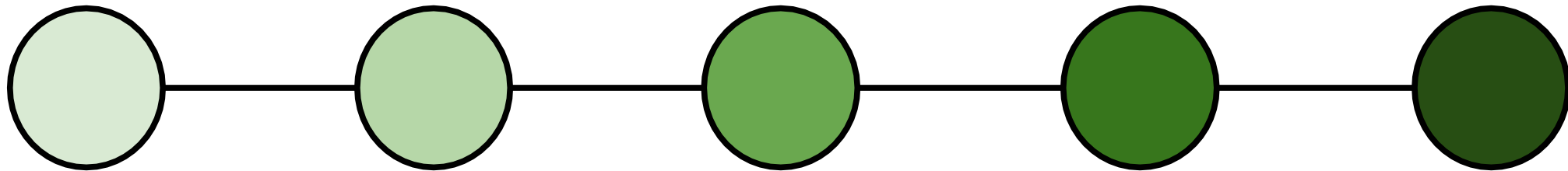
Select a name that represents a concept.

Have a clear historical or cultural connection to Toronto.

Consensus

Consensus is a process used to find the deepest level of agreement where everyone in the group supports, and come to one mind on a particular decision.

We can approach this using a 5-point scale to measure a member's degree, depth of approval and support for a decision.



Strongly Disagree
"I do not agree with the decision."

Neutral
"I can accept the group's decision."

Strongly Agree
"I am enthusiastic about the decision."

Sankofa

- The concept of Sankofa, originating in Ghana, refers to the act of reflecting on and reclaiming teachings from the past, which enables people to move forward together.
- Sankofa is most often reproduced as an image of a bird, with its body and feet facing forward, looking backwards to collect an egg from its own back, or holding an egg in its mouth.
- This powerful concept encapsulates the need for all members of our community to come together to reflect and learn from the loss and tragedy of the histories of Black enslavement.
- It also celebrates histories of survival and community and expresses the joy which we hope future generations of people will experience when they gather together in this central landmark of Canada's largest city.

Next Steps

Toronto Public Library

- Following their renaming policy and process with TPL Board
- March/April 2024: Community consultation
- June 2024: Board Meeting to approve new name
- September 2024: signage replacement

Yonge Dundas Square

- Led by YDS management, currently mapping out implementation
- Supported by EDC and SPEC

TTC

- The next step is voting to adopt City Council's request as per [MM13.29](#)

Public Education

- Co-lead by EDC and CABR
- Approach to be informed by CAC co-chairs and delivered by City

Thank You