

MINUTES

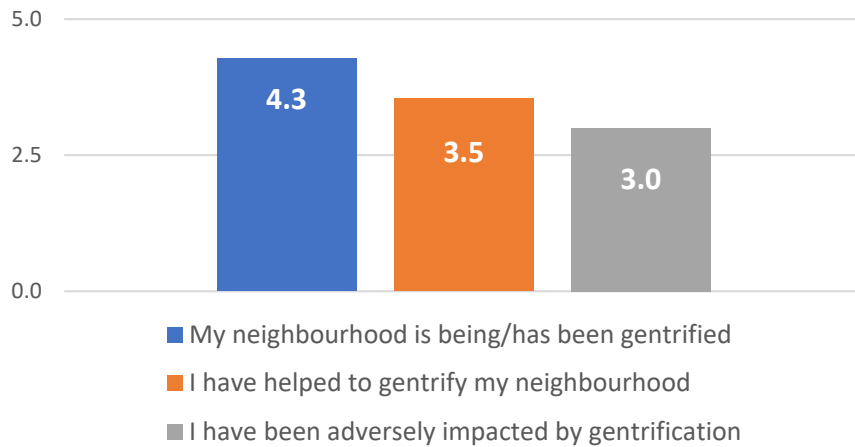
Groundstory Hamilton Advisory Convening 1.1

Players' Guild of Hamilton

May 7, 2018

Appendix 1: Mapping the Room (Participant Survey)

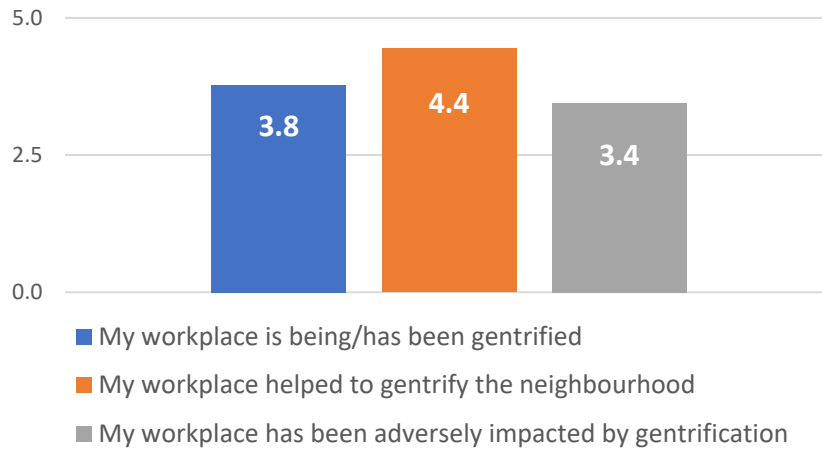
Q1. What is your experience with gentrification at home? 1 = strongly disagree, 5 = strongly agree



Comments:

- I came to Hamilton in 2002 because Toronto was not affordable. I love where I live in Hamilton but I would not be able to afford my home in today's market. Lucky for me, I am already here.
- Have lived in Toronto for decades and seen so many changes.
- Couldn't afford to own in Toronto, but couldn't take commuting to Toronto after moving to Hamilton.
- Dundas already is quite gentrified, but I can see a lot of change in the 12 years. I moved here from Toronto due to the cost of living. I am happier here!
- I opened a gallery/venue in an area that now has restaurants and shops around it. I'm one of the lucky ones works day and night and did purchase a home.
- My income has not grown as rents have increased. As a result, I am looking to move.
- I was gentrified out of Toronto. I bought a house here to join the other side of the coin. My neighbourhood feels safer than it did before, so there are positives to the gentrification at some level. But I see poorer people getting pushed out.

Q2. What is your experience with gentrification at work? 1 = strongly disagree, 5 = strongly agree



Comments:

- Our programs bring attention to depressed neighbourhoods in Hamilton.
- We need more accessible theatre rehearsal/performance spaces.
- I have had to less collaborative art because my friends and collaborators have to work all the time to make rent. I like to think I'm a gadfly.
- Hamilton Fringe has more audiences. People feel safer coming downtown. There is hope.
- The word gentrification seems to be changing for our organization. While we started feeling good about the effort of our work, I feel we analyze the effort more than ever before.
- Not applicable. I work from home!

Q3. Why is it important for you to be here today?

- I live in the neighbourhood and am interested in the arts and grassroots organizations.
- It is important both for my work (listening, learning, and representing our members in the visual arts) and for myself and my community.
- Many artists are unable to support themselves solely through their art and have 'day jobs' within our BIA as servers, bartenders, or office jobs. It is important that they can have appropriate housing and an ability to live [in our community]. How downtown [Hamilton] can benefit from shared space/empty space and housing for artists when rents are increasing so rapidly.
- I feel like it's not a holistic conversation that I have been a part of. I tend to talk about both myself and our organization's projects being part of reinvigorating our neighbourhood, but I don't know how to feel or fully address displacement. I think Hamilton is at a place where things are just starting and we could potentially avoid some of the regular effects of the reinvigoration of the core if we advocate in an informed way now.
- I come from Waterloo Region where there is intense pressure on space for artists. I am on the board of Globe Studios, Waterloo Region's only artists owned and run building (studios). I am part of the Coalition of Performing Arts Waterloo Region trying to develop performance / studio / community / live-work building.
- To be part of improving the situation for artists in Hamilton. It is my turn to step up when needed.

- How can I contribute to culture through development of creative communities, but identify and stop gentrification at the same time?
- To be heard while I still live here.
- I want to play an active role in protecting artists, and particularly the next generation of artists, against the challenges in housing I faced in Toronto - maybe it is too late!
- Opening the conversation. Determining who else wants to work this topic locally / provincially. Show that my organization is being proactive.
- Such an important topic - you need good research minds thinking about this.

Q4. What do you hope to come away with by the end of today?

- I am open to whatever transpires.
- A sense of how my organization can contribute, keys discussions and issues, and information to share with others (eg, artist and income inequality working group).
- More information on how this issue effects the cultural community, and how BIAs can partner to improve the conversation.
- More understanding of how to prevent the negative [effects of gentrification], and better plan for understanding of how to advocate [for positive change].
- UNDERSTANDING - comparisons. STRATEGIES - positioning. CONNECTIONS.
- A plan, a group of people to work with.
- Better language and understanding of the issue. How I can be available and help strategize around the issue.
- It would be good to make some connections and have some ideas about how to lobby the political class.
- A better sense of who is in the room. And a sense of tangible goals.
- New information. A bit of a path. Partners.
- Next steps. Better understanding of the issues and others' experiences. Clarity of definitions around "gentrification" and "artists" vs "arts worker"
- Find a path to address this issue – with a budget of ~\$10 million how would you spend it on affordable housing/workspaces?

Q5. What are you / your organization / your community doing (or could be doing) to address gentrification?

- Deeper education and systems change around valuing the work/contributions of artists in society, and advocating for legislative changes (e.g. 401 Richmond co-location arts hub taxation issue)
- Our area is under significant growth and change. We feel the need to support this growth while supporting and encouraging affordability and variety of housing opportunities.
- Small and big festivals in underserved neighbourhoods forming partnerships in these areas with all/most stakeholders. In neighbourhoods trying to make services and goods still accessible.
- Create spaces OWNED by artists - both individually and by artist-run organizations. Create live/work spaces in collaboration with groups involved in poverty reduction, and housing for people with disabilities.
- I am asking questions with the theatre I make. I created a piece of site-specific theatre asking the question, "What do you think this neighbourhood needs/wants right now?"
- Continuing conversations on the topic. Build and conceptualize artist housing into development. Contribute to the research. Use my media skills to share stories.
- Currently making a film that addresses gentrification among other things.

- I have connected with other artists about this but everyone has very little time. It is difficult to know what we can achieve. Advocacy is something I am interested in.
- Our organization is actively working on affordable housing and we house cultural spaces in Ontario. Applying for funding to support this project. Paying artists/advisors for language and more.
- Research is what we do. We hope to be able to create/find data in the tricky topic of gentrification. Hope to contribute to the literature review (review comments?)

Q6. Empathy Map – See Appendix 4

Q7. Rainbow Map – See Appendix 5

Q8. How might you be willing to contribute in the next 3-12 months?

- Continued participation would be welcome however you see fit.
- Impact ideas, stories, case studies
- Continue the discussion
- I could help through documentary or storytelling through video and design.
- Writing articles on the issues. I have experience in this area already and would like to do more.
- Dedicated local Hamilton liaison. We're actively working on spaces and would love to gather data.

Q9. Who do you know that should also be at this table?

- More business and neighbourhood associations.
- City Culture Division.
- Local City Councillors.

Q10-13. No notes.