



**STAFF REPORT  
ACTION REQUIRED  
with Confidential  
Attachment**

## Branch Renaming: Jane/Dundas

**Date:** February 26, 2024

**To:** Naming Committee

**From:** City Librarian

**Reason for confidential information:** *This report involves the security of the property of the Board – Public Libraries Act, R.S.O 1990, Chapter P. 44, s. 16.1 (4) (a).*

### SUMMARY

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The purpose of this report is to seek approval for the approach to rename the Jane/Dundas branch so that Toronto Public Library (TPL) can begin the name selection process. The new branch name will comply with the TPL's [Naming Policy](#), align with the City of Toronto's [Commemorative Framework](#) and incorporate input from community and stakeholder engagement.

As part of the larger Dundas Street Renaming Project and renaming of City of Toronto assets bearing the Dundas name, City Council has requested that the Toronto Public Library Board rename the Jane/Dundas branch to remove the Dundas name by Q3 2024.

Staff are recommending renaming the branch after a prominent Black Canadian to align with the City's [Guiding Principles for Commemoration](#), which *encourage greater equity and inclusion in placemaking, and promote a broader understanding of history and its legacy on communities.*

The Guiding Principles for Commemoration also include that any proposed names should be supported through meaningful community engagement where the knowledge and stories behind the commemorative naming is shared. A public engagement process will be launched in April that will include an educational component to inform the community about the rationale for the renaming. A summary of community feedback, along with a recommendation for a name, will be presented to the Naming Committee for consideration. The Naming Committee's recommended name for the Jane/Dundas branch will be considered by the Board at its June meeting.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

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### **The City Librarian recommends that the Naming Committee:**

1. adopts the confidential recommendations in Confidential Attachment 1;
2. pending notification of impacted stakeholders, the naming will be held in confidence until local community engagement begins; and
3. provides for the release of the general terms of the naming subsequent to the public announcement as provided in Confidential Attachment 1.

## FINANCIAL IMPACT

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The renaming of the Jane/Dundas branch is estimated to cost approximately \$0.060 million, and can be accommodated within the 2024 Capital Budget and Plan.

The Director, Finance & Treasurer has reviewed this financial impact statement and agrees with it.

## ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIC PLAN

A focus on equity is embedded throughout TPL's Strategic Plan to ensure that library services and actions break down barriers to access and increase inclusion. This focus includes a commitment to ensure that everyone who wants to use the Library feels welcome and represented in TPL's spaces and is able to access our services. The renaming of these two branches also aligns with TPL's strategic priorities of opening up our public space and providing the vital ingredients for a democratic society.

## EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT

TPL's Equity Statement outlines the library's commitment to creating and maintaining work and public service environments where everyone is welcomed, included and supported, and that are grounded in tolerance and mutual respect, so that library customers, stakeholders, staff and the public can freely and equitably access or deliver library services, which meet the changing needs of Torontonians.

The renaming of the Jane/Dundas branch aligns with TPL's commitment to create culturally safe and relevant spaces that reflect the diversity of Toronto's population and empowers equity-deserving groups. Renaming the branch to honour a prominent Black Torontonian provides an opportunity to confront anti-Black racism, increase awareness and amplify the voices of the Black community in Toronto.

## DECISION HISTORY

At its [July 14, 15 and 16, 2021](#), meeting City Council requested the City Manager to work with the Community Advisory Committee to consider recommending different names for Old Dundas Street, Dundas Square and the various civic assets currently named for Dundas to reflect Toronto's rich culture, heritage and diversity.

On December 13, 14 and 15, 2023, City Council approved [Member Motion MM13.29 - Confronting the Legacy of the Transatlantic Slave Trade: Renaming Civic Assets Bearing the Henry Dundas Name](#), and requested the Toronto Public

Library Board to rename the Jane/Dundas Library, in collaboration with the General Manager, Economic Development and Culture, and the two local Councillors, such that the name Dundas is removed, to be completed by the second or third quarter of 2024.

## ISSUE BACKGROUND

TPL's [Naming Policy](#) requires that names for library branches, rooms, programs and collections be approved by the Board, including honorary naming or naming with a gift.

The policy outlines the naming of branches based on the following priorities:

- the Library will give priority to naming its buildings after their geographic location, either the community or the street location where they are situated;
- alternatively, consideration will be given to naming, where appropriate, after the type of service or function offered at that branch;
- in exceptional circumstances, consideration will be given to naming a branch after an individual whose contribution to the Library or the City of Toronto is well documented and is widely recognized and valued. At least two years shall have passed since the individual's death.

For the renaming of branches, in addition to adhering to the criteria above, the policy outlines that the following criteria will apply:

- new naming opportunities may arise when a facility is redeveloped or renovated and will be utilized for a different purpose;
- appropriate recognition of previous donors or honorees may be included in the new or renovated facility;
- when renaming does occur and the original naming opportunity was after an individual, all reasonable effort will be made to inform, in advance, the original donor or honoree and/or their immediate family.

The [City's Commemorative Framework](#) was approved in July 2022 to prioritize commemorations in public spaces significant to Indigenous Peoples, Black communities, and equity-deserving groups. The community-centred approach addresses who and what is recognized, commemorated or honoured through City street names, monuments and property names.

To encourage greater equity and inclusion in place making, and promote a broader understanding of history and its legacy on communities, the City has codified six guiding principles for commemoration through the framework.

Proposals to commemoratively name or rename a street or City Property must:

1. Be informed by historical research, traditional knowledge and community insights.
2. Be supported by communities through meaningful engagement.
3. Honour Indigenous ways of knowing and being.
4. Prioritize commemorations significant to Indigenous Peoples, Black communities and equity-deserving groups.
5. Connect to Toronto, Ontario or Canada's histories and cultures.
6. Share knowledge and stories behind commemorations.

TPL's Naming Policy, which was last updated in 2014, will be reviewed and proposed updates will be presented to the Naming Committee and Board for approval in 2024. Updates to the policy will reflect the City's Guiding Principles for Commemoration, relevant aspects of the City's Property Naming Policy, as well as the learning from the process for renaming this branch.

## COMMENTS

On December 13, 14 and 15, 2023, Council approved [Member Motion MM13.29 - Confronting the Legacy of the Transatlantic Slave Trade: Renaming Civic Assets Bearing the Henry Dundas Name](#). As part of that motion, City Council requested the Toronto Public Library Board rename the Jane/Dundas branch, in collaboration with the General Manager, Economic Development and Culture, and the two local Councillors, such that the name Dundas is removed, to be completed by the second or third quarter of 2024.

### **Proposed Approach to Select a New Name**

Library staff are recommending renaming Jane/Dundas branch after a prominent Black Canadian to align with the City's Guiding Principles for Commemoration.

Renaming Jane/Dundas to honour a prominent Black Canadian supports TPL's commitment to creating culturally safe and relevant spaces that reflect the

diversity of Toronto's population, confronts anti-Black racism, increases awareness and amplifies the voices of the Black community in Toronto.

Jane/Dundas branch is located within ward 4 Parkdale-High Park, and borders ward 5 York South-Weston to the north. In both wards, the Black community represent the largest visible minority population. In ward 5, the Black community comprises 24.0% of the population, compared to 14.0% in the city as a whole<sup>1</sup>.

The Guiding Principles for Commemoration also include that any proposed names be supported through meaningful community engagement where the knowledge and stories behind the commemorative naming is shared. Public engagement will include an educational component to inform the community about the rationale for the renaming, an online survey, and a public meeting, as required, to gather community feedback and support for proposed names.

Councillors for wards 4 and ward 5 have been contacted regarding the proposed naming process, and public consultation efforts will engage the offices of both Councillors to ensure that their constituents are aware of the opportunity to participate in the process.

The engagement process will be launched in April. A summary of community feedback, along with a recommendation for a name will be presented to the Naming Committee for consideration. The Naming Committee's recommended name for the Jane/Dundas branch will be considered by the Board at its June meeting.

More information about the proposed naming approach is included in Confidential Attachment 1.

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<sup>1</sup> 2021 Census Data. [Ward 5 Demographic Profile](#)  
[Ward 4 Demographic Profile](#)

## CONTACT

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Moe Hosseini-Ara, Director, Branch Operations and Customer Experience;  
Tel: 416-397-5944; Email: [mhoss@tpl.ca](mailto:mhoss@tpl.ca)

## SIGNATURE

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Vickery Bowles  
City Librarian

## ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: Confidential Attachment on Proposed Naming for  
Jane/Dundas



# Naming Committee

## Jane/Dundas Renaming

February 26, 2024



# Terms of Reference

- Purpose: to review naming opportunities for compliance with the Naming Policy including providing concept approval of:
  - Naming component for library branches, rooms, programs, or collections, and
  - Prospect lists of potential donors/sponsors which consists of categories of donors/sponsors that the Foundation may approach about naming opportunities
  - Making recommendations regarding approval of naming opportunities to the Board
- Meets on an as needed basis
- Quorum of at least three (3) voting members

# TPL Naming Policy

- [Naming Policy](#) applies to the naming of branches, rooms, programs, or collections
- Sets out criteria and conditions for naming with and without a gift
- Naming will be considered based on the following priorities:
  - geographic location (community or street location)
  - type of service or function offered (e.g. Toronto Reference Library)
  - to honour individuals whose contribution to the Library or the City of Toronto is well documented and is widely recognized and valued
- Names require approval of TPL Board

# City of Toronto Commemorative Framework

- Purpose is to provide guidance when considering proposals to develop new and review existing commemorative monuments, street names and property names
- Guiding principles for commemoration:
  1. Be informed by historical research, traditional knowledge, and community insights;
  2. Be supported by communities through meaningful engagement;
  3. Honour Indigenous ways of knowing and being;
  4. Prioritize commemorations significant to Indigenous Peoples, Black communities, and equity-deserving groups;
  5. Connect to Toronto, Ontario or Canada's histories and cultures; and
  6. Share knowledge and stories behind commemorations.

# Jane/Dundas branch



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- Council request to rename the branch by Q3 2024
- Part of the renaming of City assets bearing the Dundas name
- Recommendation to rename after a prominent Black Torontonian
- Aligns with Commemorative Framework Guiding Principles
  - To encourage greater equity and inclusion in placemaking, and promote a broader understanding of history and its legacy on communities
- Public engagement and education in April
- Summary of feedback and recommendation for approval of name by Steering Committee and Board in June



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# tpl naming policy

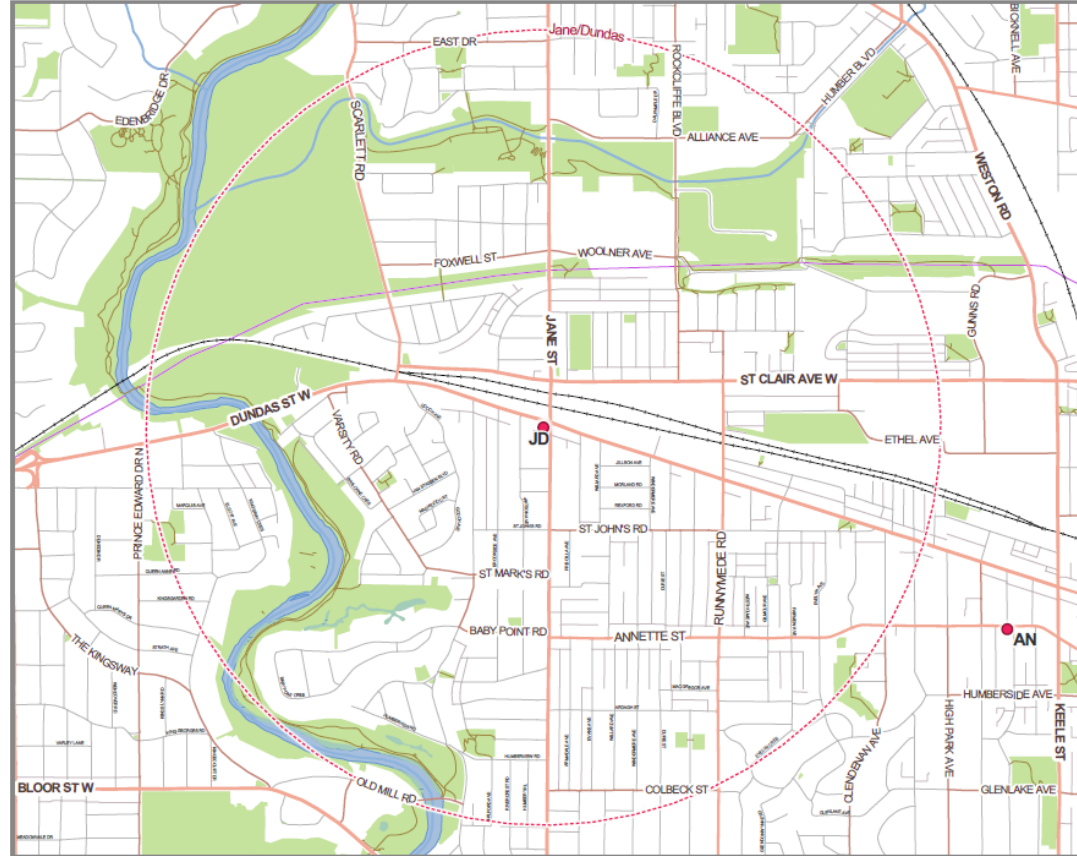
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