

A Note About Sidewalk Labs' Advisory Council

This coming Wednesday (October 17), a number of Torontonians, members of a newly formed Advisory Council to Sidewalk Labs, will join us for lunch at 307, our exploration space and headquarters at Quayside, to learn about Sidewalk Toronto and share with us their thoughts on the project. We host visits at 307 almost every day—please come on over if you haven't yet!

Since we launched the project, we've convened a number of different groups to provide feedback, in addition to the large public consultations we've hosted. Together with Waterfront Toronto, we convened several expert advisory panels on a range of subjects, from housing to data privacy; a citizens' reference panel to represent the views of Torontonians from every part of the city and give us their reactions to our vision; and a fellows program of emerging urbanists and technologists to ask questions, suggest ideas, and express concerns. And, separately from all of this, Waterfront Toronto convened a Digital Strategy Advisory Panel to advise them on a range of matters pertaining to carrying out its role as public steward in the context of digital strategy.

This new group gathering on Wednesday is an opportunity for Sidewalk Labs to learn from a broad range of individuals and organizations across sectors. While our other advisory groups are more topic specific, this group will consider many different aspects of our plans and how they all fit together. We're hopeful that at the end of the process, members of the Advisory Council—along with those who have engaged in other contexts and venues—feel that what we're proposing should move forward, though that certainly is not a condition of participation.

We have arranged three of these meetings: next week, in January, and in April. We'll publicly share what gets discussed. This is just another way we are consulting and by no means replaces any other mode of engagement—and we're excited to hear from more and more Torontonians as we continue to develop and iterate on our ideas

John Brodhead

Director of Policy & Strategy
Sidewalk Labs