

AXEL ARVIZU

For a Brighter City
University - Rosedale 2022



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1. Housing is a fundamental human right, and yet an increasing number of residents across the Greater Toronto Area are struggling to pay rent or find an affordable place to live. What policies and actions do you believe need to be implemented to address this crisis?

Our generation is facing a housing crisis. We need to build inventory. I believe we need to advocate and work with building departments to ease basement apartment conversions. We need to improve alternative housing options such as laneway and garden suites so that families can stay together and/or cool down the renters and sellers' market conditions.

We need to take a close look and fix the backlog at the Landlord and Tenant Board, investors and home owners are scared to put their house or apartment in the market because they are afraid that they will have no recourse if they get a bad tenant.

I would want to implement a cap on Rent increases and a different tax structure for multiple homes owners and vacant homes. Resources to subsidize housing should also be allocated to people that need it and not just anyone.

2. The design, construction and operation of our built environment accounts for nearly 40% of energy related carbon emissions, contributing to the ongoing climate crisis affecting us today. What do you believe needs to be prioritised to reduce carbon emissions within the built environment?

We need to plan, design and build with the environment in mind. Account for future forms of energy such as solar power and transportation such as electric vehicles and bicycles. Green spaces over concrete pads on residential properties. Developers accounting for green programs like recycling for condo dwellings as well as green spaces.

3. In towns and cities, so much of life happens in the shared public spaces—in our parks, libraries and streets. How can we ensure these civic spaces achieve design excellence in their initial conception and construction, and that they are properly maintained so they may continue to serve future generations?

Shared public spaces must be in integrated part of the developing process. The building department and city departments in charge of future maintenance should work closely together with the architects' proposal as a part of the developing process and acceptance process. These public spaces should include specific design principles, cultural influences and emerging trends.