



TORONTO SOCIETY OF ARCHITECTS

May 15, 2023

RE: By-Election for Mayor 2023 | Position on Issues of the Built Environment

Dear Candidate,

Established in 1887, the Toronto Society of Architects (TSA) is a non-profit volunteer-led organization dedicated to bringing people together to discuss, learn and explore around our shared passion for the built environment.

We are committed to the betterment of our city and have played an important advocacy role throughout Toronto's history. We do this through a wide range of programs which foster welcoming and inclusive forums for debate and the exchange of ideas, stimulating critical thinking about the design and building issues of our time. We believe that city-building is a collaborative process strengthened by a diversity of voices, open debate of ideas, and an informed citizenship.

To this end, during the 2023 By-Election for Mayor we are asking all candidates to answer four key questions related to our built environment to understand your vision and strategy on these issues.

We kindly request that you submit your responses to our questions to tsa@torontosocietyofarchitects.ca by May 29, 2023. Answers should be brief and to the point, for a total of not more than 1000 words. Your responses will be made publicly available to everyone through our website, email bulletins and social media accounts.

We look forward to reading your submissions and we thank you in advance for your thoughtful consideration. You will find our questions below.

Sincerely,

Ana-Franziska de la Mora, OAA, FRAIC
Chair

Barbora Vokac-Taylor, OAA, MRAIC
Vice-Chair

Questions

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?
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?
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?
4. Toronto's modern architectural heritage is at risk, with both the redevelopment of Ontario Place and the potential demolition of the Ontario Science Centre jeopardizing some of the most important architectural landmarks in the country. Other modern buildings, including city-owned properties, have been left to decay with inadequate maintenance. What measures will you take as Mayor to protect, preserve and revitalize our city's 20th century built legacy?