



RYERSON CITY BUILDING INSTITUTE

The State of City Building
in the Greater Toronto and
Hamilton City Region

Annual Report 2015





RYERSON CITY BUILDING INSTITUTE

Advancing Urban Transformation

Research · Teach · Communicate · Engage

About the Ryerson City Building Institute

The Ryerson City Building Institute is a multidisciplinary centre focused on understanding and finding solutions to the complex urban challenges facing our city regions nationally and globally. The Institute brings together political leadership, policy ideas and people from diverse backgrounds to address critical urban problems. The Institute works with partners across faculties and outside the university to deliver high-quality teaching, research, and public engagement on urban issues. The Ryerson City Building Institute builds on Ryerson University's demonstrated expertise in collaborative city building.

Acknowledgements

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Letter from the Executive Director

We are pleased to share with you our first annual State of City Building report for the Greater Toronto and Hamilton city region. This is an exciting time for city building. There are many organizations actively engaged in research and advocacy efforts aimed at improving the quality of urban life within the Greater Toronto and Hamilton city region (GTHA). This report inventories and analyses organizations outside of government that are involved in studying and advocating for excellence in city building across the region.

The premise of this project, supported by the Province of Ontario and Maytree, is that an increased awareness of existing city building initiatives will expand the capacity of civil society to improve the region. We hope that the information contained in this analysis of approximately 150 organizations will be used as tool to identify opportunities and connect groups with complementary objectives. It can also be used as a resource for governments, corporations, foundations and individuals who seek to engage with specific focus areas.

This first report presents some interesting findings. As highlighted in the report, the growth the GTHA has experienced in the last decades has been matched by a marked increase in the establishment of city building organizations to tackle the accompanying urban challenges and complexities. There are also some aspects of city building that are strongly supported, and others that do not receive much support.

It is our intention to make this growing database available online at citylinx.info to as broad an audience as possible, in order to further effective and collaborative city building. The data used in this analysis has been gathered over a period of four months, and screened based on criteria that have been articulated in this report. It reflects a snap shot in time and our best efforts to identify and record a first group of city building organizations. This is by no means a complete list. If you wish to add an organization to this database or modify an entry, please do so at citylinx.info.

Our intention is to continue to grow this dataset and the geography of coverage in the years ahead to capture more city building organizations in the GTHA (especially in communities outside of Toronto), as well as other city regions in Ontario, Canada and globally. Future annual reports will reflect an increased inventory of information and will include more details on their impact and scope, as well as allow us to track change.

We welcome your feedback and invite you to support and partner with us in our activities and efforts.

Tanzeel Merchant
Executive Director, Ryerson City Building Institute



Table of Contents

A. Introduction and Approach	1
Purpose of the project	1
Geographic scope	2
What is city building and who is captured in this inventory?	3
Method	3
 B. Results and Discussion	 4
Types of organizations	4
Age and longevity	5
Specialties	6
Geographic focus and location	7
Budgets	8
 C. Inventory of City Building Organizations	 9





A. Introduction and Approach

Purpose of the project

Now is an exciting time for city building across the world. There are many organizations actively engaged in research and advocacy efforts that are aimed at improving urban vitality within the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area (GTHA). While there is a great deal of activity across the region, there has not been a comprehensive inventory of these initiatives.

The State of City Building project seeks to fill that gap by identifying and categorizing key organizations outside of government that are involved in studying and advocating for excellence in city building. The premise of this project is that increased awareness of existing city building initiatives will expand the capacity of civil society to improve the region. We will continue to grow the records contained in this inventory year after year.

We hope that this dataset will be used as tool to identify opportunities and connect groups with complementary objectives. It can also be used as a resource for governments, corporations, foundations and individuals who seek to engage with specific focus areas. The analysis presented in this first annual report helps identify some of the strengths and opportunities that exist in city building efforts in the region.



Photo: Adam Zinzen

Geographic scope

The inventory is focused on the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area, a contiguous urban region in southern Ontario comprised of the City of Toronto; regional municipalities of Peel, Durham, Halton, and York; and the City of Hamilton.

Together, this urban area spans more than 7,000 km² and has a population of approximately 6.6 million.¹ This bustling region includes three of the 10 largest cities in Canada by population - Toronto, Mississauga, and Hamilton.

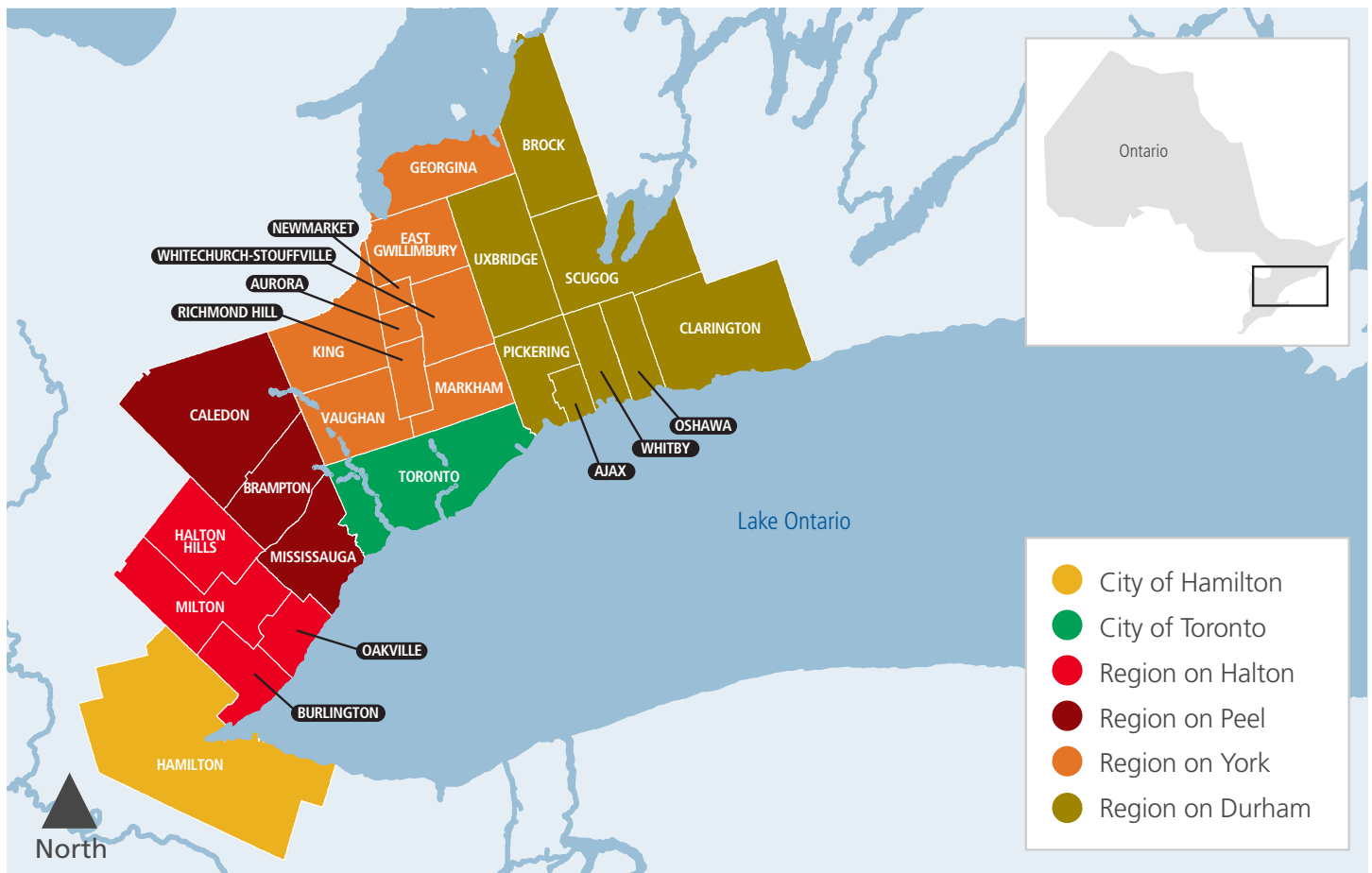


Figure 1: Map of Greater Toronto and Hamilton city region²

1. Source: Based on 2011 census profiles for Hamilton, Halton, Peel, Toronto, York, and Durham. Statistics Canada, 2012.



Photo: Benson Kua

What is city building and who is captured in this inventory for the GTHA?

City building entails conscious, intentional intervention to improve cities. We define city building as initiatives that help communities in cities become more sustainable, integrated, inclusive, walkable, and healthy through research, education, and engagement efforts.

To be included in this inventory, organizations must meet the following criteria:

- › Be active and engaged in city building initiatives within the Greater Toronto and Hamilton city region (GTHA);
- › Undertake activities with a public policy focus (rather than solely focused on service delivery); and
- › The focus of work must transcend beyond the scale of a specific project or an individual neighbourhood (e.g. campaigns focused around a local landmark or projects to improve a neighbourhood are not currently included).

This first cut provides an overview of 153 city building organizations across the GTHA. These include registered charities, academic institutes, professional, industry and business organizations, not-for-profit think tanks and advocacy organizations, and one corporation. The inventory does not include government ministries or departments, and for the most part, does not include government agencies, boards, or commissions. This dataset will be added to in the weeks and months ahead, and will be made available as an online, searchable database in the summer of 2015.

Conscious actions to make the region a better place to live, work, and play are by no means limited to the organizations listed. Each person, business, and organization in the region shares responsibility for shaping the region. If you know of an organization that meets the above criteria and wish to add it to the inventory or would like to propose an edit to an existing record, please feel free to do so at citylinx.info.

Method

Data was collected over four months, from October 2014 to January 2015. Organizations were identified by reaching out to known conveners of city building organizations, searching online lists (e.g. Canada Revenue Agency charity lookup, Canada Helps, Community Foundations) and using key word searches by focus area and geography. Academic institutes were identified and recorded through searching the websites of colleges and universities. Criteria outlined above (active in the GTHA, policy focus, broad scope, etc.) was applied as a filter.

The data collected for each organization was compiled to provide an overview of the focus and scale of various initiatives. Each entry includes:

- › Contact information;
- › Year established;
- › Description of mandate and activities;
- › Categorization based on geography of influence (local, regional, provincial, national, or global), focus (social, environmental, and/or economic);
- › Subject areas (e.g. transportation, water, human health, etc.); and
- › Budget, where available.

Descriptions of mandates and activities were compiled using information available on organizations' websites. Financial information was gathered from a range of sources, including the Canada Revenue Agency's charity lookup, annual reports, and telephone interviews.



Photo: Adam Zinzan

B. Results and Discussion

The Greater Toronto and Hamilton city region is enhanced by a myriad of organizations influencing research and policy in the region.

Types of organizations

Organizations were assigned one of the following five typologies:

- › Charities (including charitable organizations and public and private foundations);
- › Academic institutes or organizations;
- › Professional, industry or business organizations;
- › Other not-for-profit organizations; and
- › Corporations.

As depicted in Figure 2, charities make up the largest portion (38%) of organizations in the inventory. This data was further disaggregated to reflect the proportion of charities that are charitable organizations (71%), public foundations (20%), and private foundations (9%). Other not-for-profit organizations comprise 28% of city building efforts, followed by academic institutes (22%), professional organizations (11%), and finally corporations (1%).

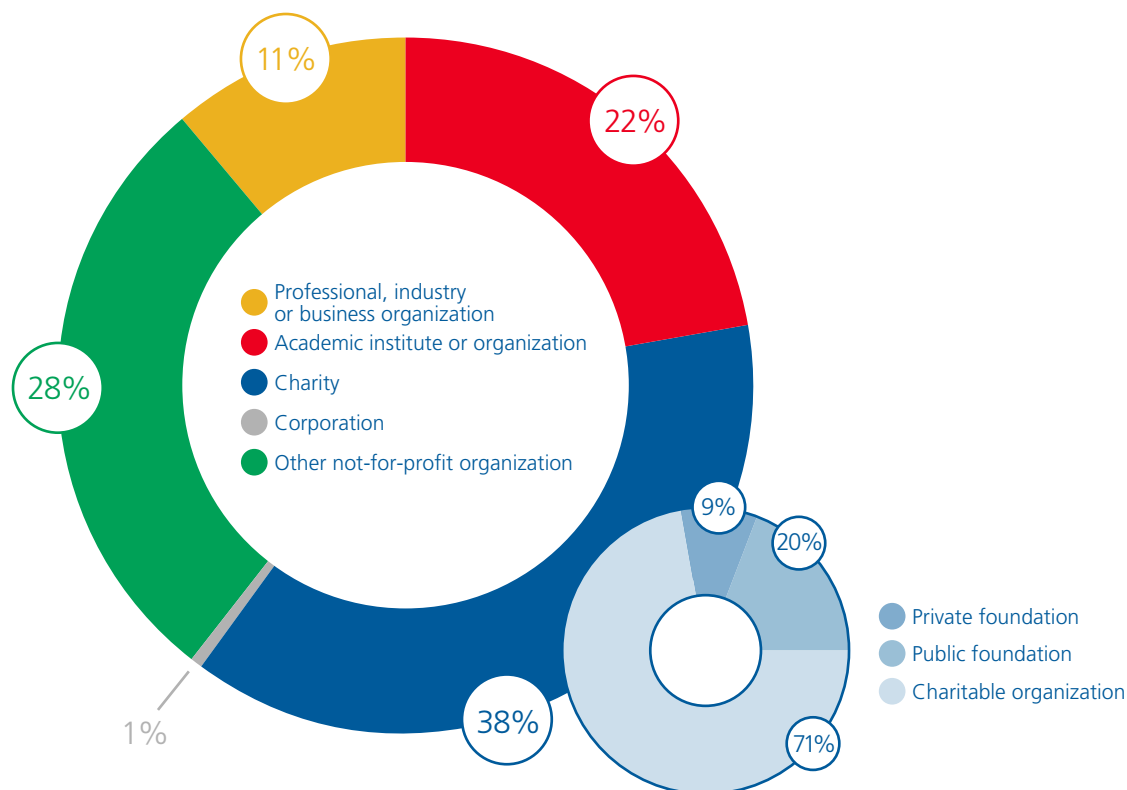


Figure 2: Organizations by type



Age and longevity

This inventory includes organizations established as early as 1855. Figure 3 shows the founding dates of the 153 organizations included in the inventory. As reflected in the graph, new organizations and efforts in city building continue to emerge across the region.

The majority of initiatives in this inventory were established

after 1980. Of note, most academic organizations featured in this dataset were founded from 2000 onward. This may reflect a trend in academia to create centres for the purpose of collating research and innovation outputs. It is also possible that this distribution reflects the life cycle of academic organizations, which often depend on the leadership of specific faculty.

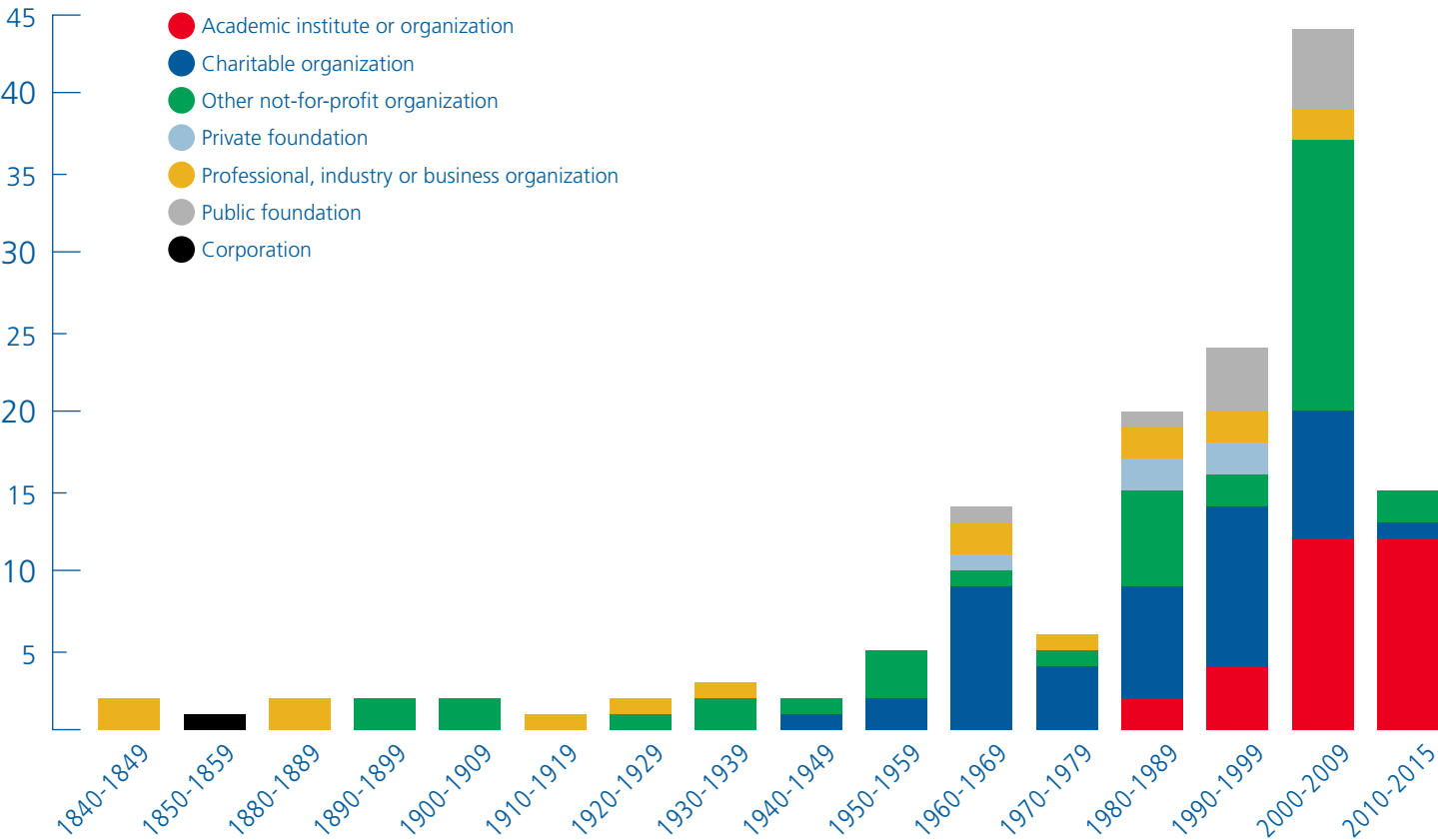


Figure 3: Number of organizations by type and year established



Photo: Adam Zinzan

Specialties

As shown in Figure 4, organizations included in this database cover a wide array of specialties, which speaks to the breadth of issues relevant to city building. Each organization was assigned to up to five out of a possible 27 specialties.

By far, the largest share of city building efforts were focused, at least in part, on community building initiatives. Other specialties were education and literacy (including urban literacy), governance and accountability, and infrastructure and land use.

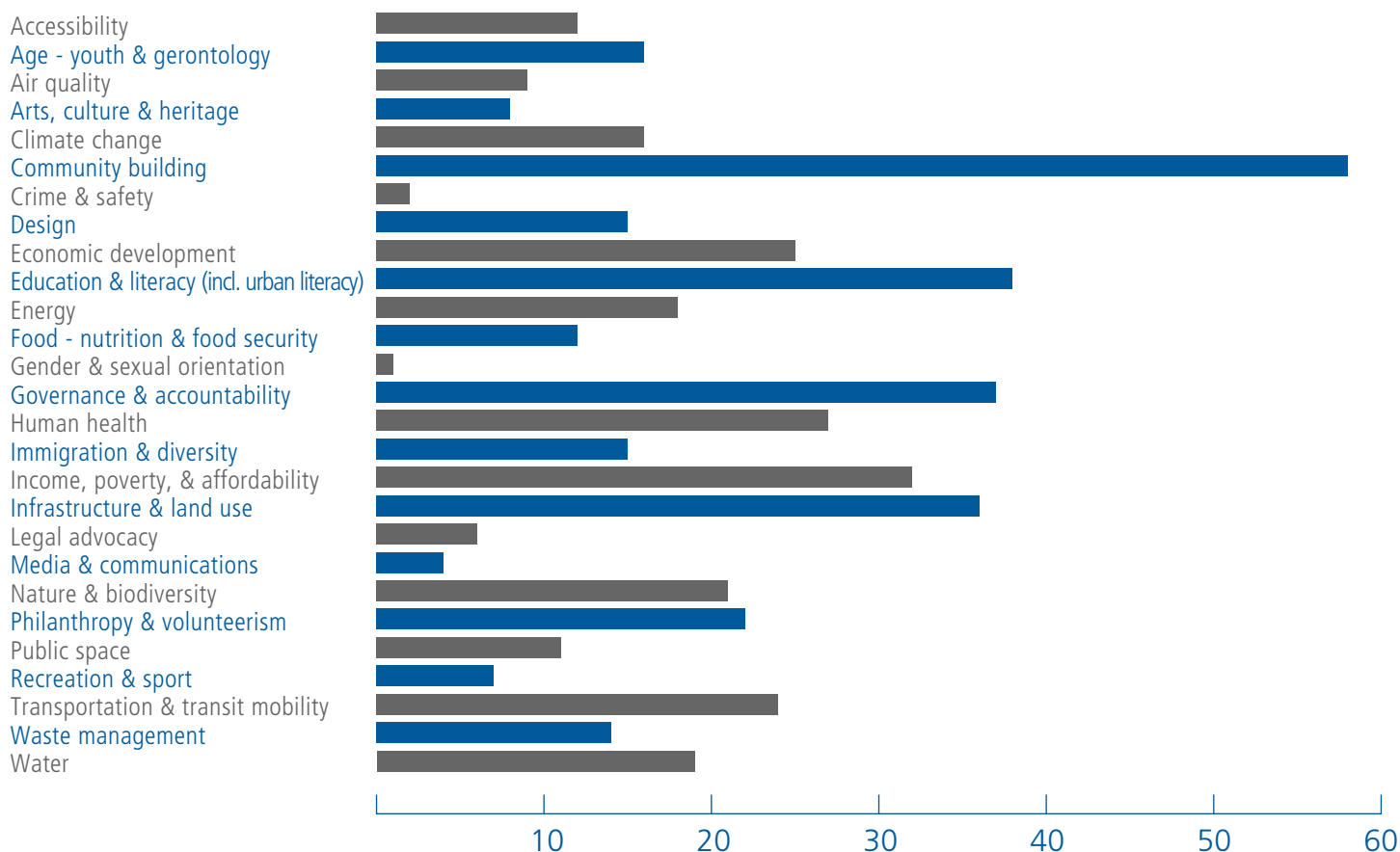


Figure 4: Number of organizations by specialty



Photo: Adam Zinzen

Geographic focus and location

City building initiatives across the GTHA were categorized as local, regional, provincial, national, or global based on the geographic focus of their efforts. The largest proportion of organizations centered their city building initiatives at a local level (27%), with the least representation being found at a regional level (14%).

Given that many organizations direct their efforts geographically, it is important to consider where they are located. As illustrated in Figure 6, the majority of organizations featured in this report are based in Toronto. This is somewhat intuitive based on Toronto’s role as the largest city in the region and Ontario’s capital; however, it may also reflect some bias due to researchers’ prior knowledge of Toronto organizations. Accordingly, future research efforts will be focused on expanding the number of organizations based outside Toronto.

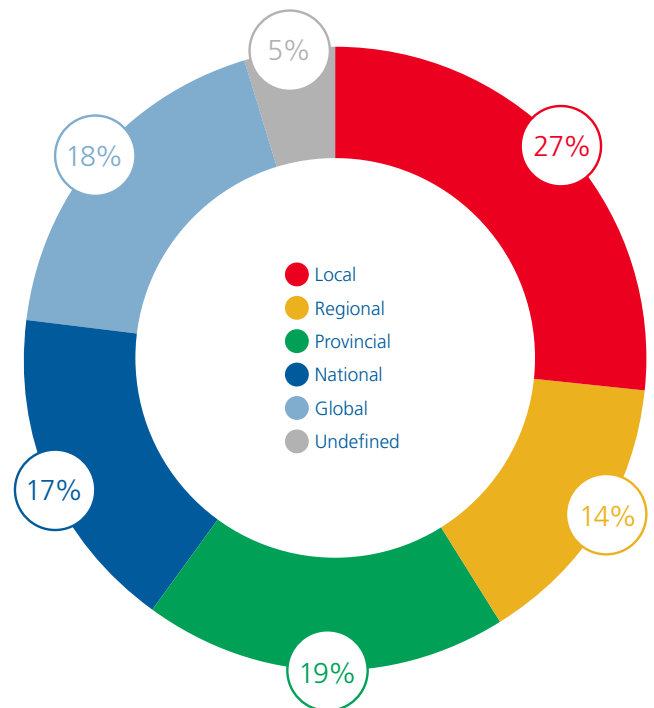


Figure 5: Organizations by geography served

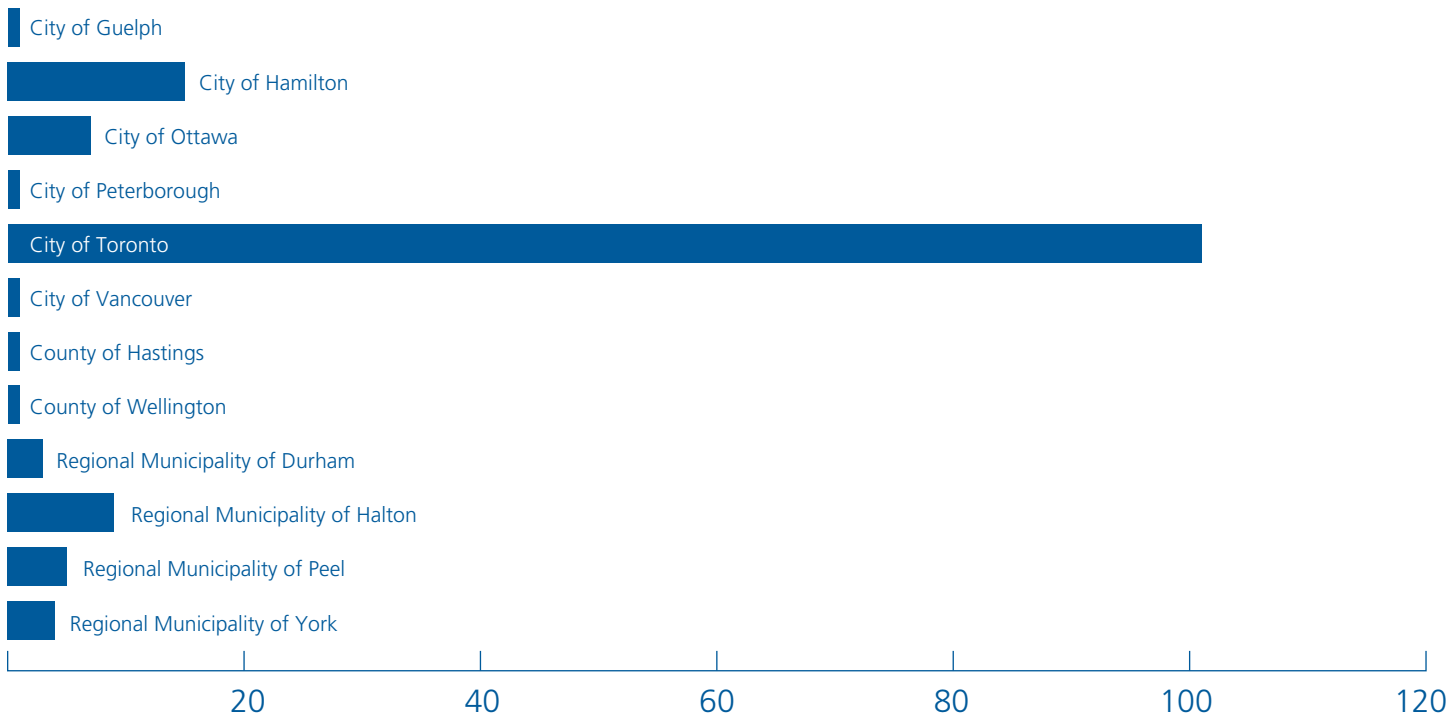


Figure 6: Number of organizations by location



Photo: Benson Kua

Budgets

Budget ranges were compared as an indicator of size and financial capacity. Budgets, defined as revenue for the most recent year reported, was collected for approximately 60% (90 of 153) organizations included in the inventory. Budget information was collected for all registered charities and organizations that have made financial information available online via annual reports. Other organizations provided budget information within a range through telephone interviews, while others could not be reached for comment or declined to share information.

Figure 7 reflects the percentage of organizations within specified annual revenue ranges. The majority of organizations (68%) reported annual revenues exceeding one million.

To view the complete records, please visit the State of City Building database at citylinx.info.

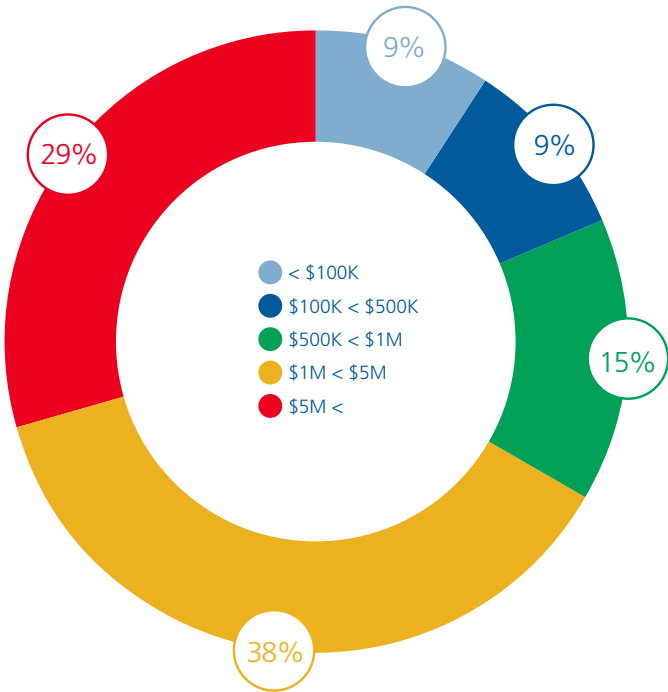


Figure 7: Organizations by budget range

Efforts were made to ensure that the data collected was accurate and fair. If you would like to propose and edit to an existing record, add an organization, or to view the complete records, please visit citylinx.info.



C. Inventory of City Building Organizations

Access Alliance

Active Living Alliance for Canadians with a Disability

Artscape

Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)

Brampton and Caledon Community Foundation

Building Industry and Land Development Association (BILD)

Burlington Community Foundation

Caledon Institute of Social Policy

Canada Green Building Council - Greater Toronto Chapter (CaGBC-GTC)

Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment

Canadian Council on Social Development

Canadian Institute of Transportation Engineers

Canadian Urban Institute

Canadian Urban Transit Association (CUTA)

CARP (formerly Canadian Association of Retired Persons)

Centre for City Ecology

Centre for Global Health and Health Equity

Centre for Health Economics and Policy Analysis

Centre for Social Innovation (CSI)

Centre for Social Justice

Centre for Spatial Analysis

Centre for Studies in Food Security

Centre for the Study of Commercial Activity

Centre for Urban Energy

Centre for Urban Research and Land Development

Citizen Lab

City Institute at York University (CITY)

CivicAction (Greater Toronto CivicAction Alliance)

Clean Air Partnership

Coalition on the Niagara Escarpment

Community Development Council Durham

Community Food Centres Canada

Community Foundation of Halton North

Community Foundation of Mississauga

Community Foundations of Canada/Fondations communautaires du Canada

Community Living Ontario

Comparative Program on Health and Society

Conference Board of Canada

Conservation Council of Ontario

Credit River Alliance

Daily Bread Food Bank

Digital Media Zone (DMZ)

Diversity Institute

Durham Community Foundation

Ecosource

Environment Hamilton

Environmental Governance Lab

Escarpment Biosphere Conservancy

Evergreen (and CityWorks)

Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM)

Friends of the Grand River

Friends of the Greenbelt Foundation

Gilbrea Centre for Studies in Aging

Global Cities Institute

Great Lakes Policy Research Network

Green Communities Canada

Hamilton Chamber of Commerce (and other chambers of commerce)

Hamilton Community Foundation

Hamilton Poverty Reduction Roundtable

Heart and Stroke Foundation

Heritage Toronto

Innovation Policy Lab

Institute for Competitiveness & Prosperity

Institute for the Study of Corporate Social Responsibility



Institute on Governance	Ontario Health Coalition
Institute on Municipal Finance and Governance (IMFG)	Ontario Healthy Communities Coalition
Institute without Boundaries (IwB)	Ontario Home Builders' Association
Jane's Walk	Ontario Land Trust Alliance
Laboratory for Geocomputation	Ontario Municipal Social Services Association (OMSSA)
Lake Ontario Waterkeeper	Ontario Nature
Local Enhancement and Appreciation of Forests (LEAF)	Ontario Non-Profit Housing Association
MaRS Discovery District	Ontario Professional Planners Institute (OPPI)
MaRS Solutions Lab	Ontario Public Health Association
Martin Prosperity Institute	Ontario Public Transit Association
Maytree	Ontario Smart Growth Network
McMaster Centre for Climate Change	Ontario Trails Council
McMaster Centre for Scholarship in the Public Interest	Park People (Toronto Park People)
McMaster Institute for Energy Studies	Pembina Institute
McMaster Institute for Transportation and Logistics	Pollution Probe
Metcalf Foundation	Population Health Research Institute
MIRANET (Mississauga Residents' Associations Network)	Professional Engineers of Ontario/Ontario Centre for Engineering and Public Policy
Mosaic Institute	Protect Our Water and Environmental Resources (POWER)
Mowat Centre	Regional Planning Commissioners of Ontario (RPCO)
NAIOP Greater Toronto Chapter	Ryerson Centre for Cloud & Context-Aware Computing (RC4)
Nature Conservancy Canada - Ontario Chapter	Ryerson Centre for Immigration and Settlement
Oak Ridges Moraine Foundation	Ryerson City Building Institute
Oakville Community Foundation	Ryerson Urban Water
OCAD Strategic Innovation Lab	Samara Canada
Ontario Association of Architects (OAA)	Social Planning Toronto
Ontario Association of Landscape Architects (OALA)	Sustainable Urban Development Association
Ontario Chamber of Commerce	Sustainable Youth Canada
Ontario Clean Air Alliance and Ontario Clean Air Alliance Research Inc.	TD Economics
Ontario Coalition Against Poverty (OCAP)	TD Friends of the Environment
Ontario Community Support Association	The Natural Step Canada
Ontario Council of Agencies Serving Immigrants (OCASI)	The Neptis Foundation
Ontario Environmental Industry Association	Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TCRA)
Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA)	Toronto Association of Business Improvement Areas (TABIA)
Ontario Good Roads Association (OGRA)	Toronto Centre for Active Transportation (TCAT)



Toronto Environmental Alliance (TEA)
Toronto Foundation
Toronto Region Board of Trade
Toronto Region Immigrant Employment Council (TRIEC)
Toronto Society of Architects (TSA)
Toronto Workforce Innovation Group
Transport Futures
United Way Burlington & Greater Hamilton
United Way Durham Region
United Way Halton Hills
United Way Milton
United Way Oakville
United Way of Greater Toronto
United Way Peel Region
United Way York Region
University of Toronto Transportation Research Institute
Urban Land Institute (ULI) Toronto
Volunteer Hamilton
Wellesley Institute
York Region Community Foundation

