

FSD2926 KULTTUURIENVÄLISYYS JA JULKINEN TILA TORONTOSSA 2011-2013

FSD2926 INTERCULTURAL URBAN PUBLIC SPACE IN TORONTO 2011-2013

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MG: Yeah. I understand. It's interesting. ... Were you involved in the Pedestrian Sundays?

A: So, yeah, the Pedestrian Sundays is interesting because ... well, I actually play, in a samba band, like a large percussion band, and so we always play at Pedestrian Sundays, and sometimes you're playing for crowds of like eight hundred people that are dancing in the street. And that's also interesting because it takes – Kensington normally already has this little bit of a carnival feel going on, there's always somebody doing something interesting there, but that day, it's like completely taken over, by like musicians and artists. It's really neat that the businesses have bought into it now. Initially, there was a bit of pushback, like, they didn't want the streets to be formally shut down. But now, people informally – like some of the businesses will host their own musicians there that day, and they're not part of the official, like, PSK, but some of the businesses just wanna be more involved. And so they'll allow musicians to just come, and they'll give them a spot in front of their store, and they'll recruit their – kind of make their own schedule outside the normal PSK schedule, so it's cool to see that, those, like, informal things happening.

MG: Well, the – all the times that I've visited Kensington – and I like it, so I tend to go – I realize that the demographics of the people, like the youth in the area and the streets and the cafes, are of a certain kind. I mean, I'm not totally sure about it, but the few times that I've been there, and of course now I'm very observant, I've seen very few ethnic – visible ethnic minorities around. I mean, maybe I'm wrong. Maybe if the Pedestrian Sundays start, it will also change. I mean, it is a certain kind of people, the *alternative* people that tend to go, and those that you say, they come from the suburbs, mostly on the weekends, maybe, those Sundays, well, ... I mean, I don't know, I have to interview people, actually, from the Pedestrian Sundays, that's why I'm asking you if you were involved.

A: Well I know – I definitely know some of the people that I could connect you with, but in terms of, I don't know, I would agree to some degree but also disagree. Because, a lot of the shops in Kensington are ethnically owned and operated. So you have, like, a lot of Hispanic, dry goods, dry foods stores, and, not fast food, but food vendors, and there is, like, a large Hispanic population there. A lot of, like, also, the produce storeowners are Asian. So, I think that ...

MG: Are Asians involved? Because also that was a group that I thought that they were not very visible...

A: Well, a lot of the produce stores are owned by Asian storeowners. I think that Kensington's proximity to Chinatown discourages a lot of, maybe, Asian newcomers, from shopping and using Kensington, because the proximity to Chinatown, for a lot of their, the foods that they're seeking, or if there might be a language barrier –

MG: What about the prices?