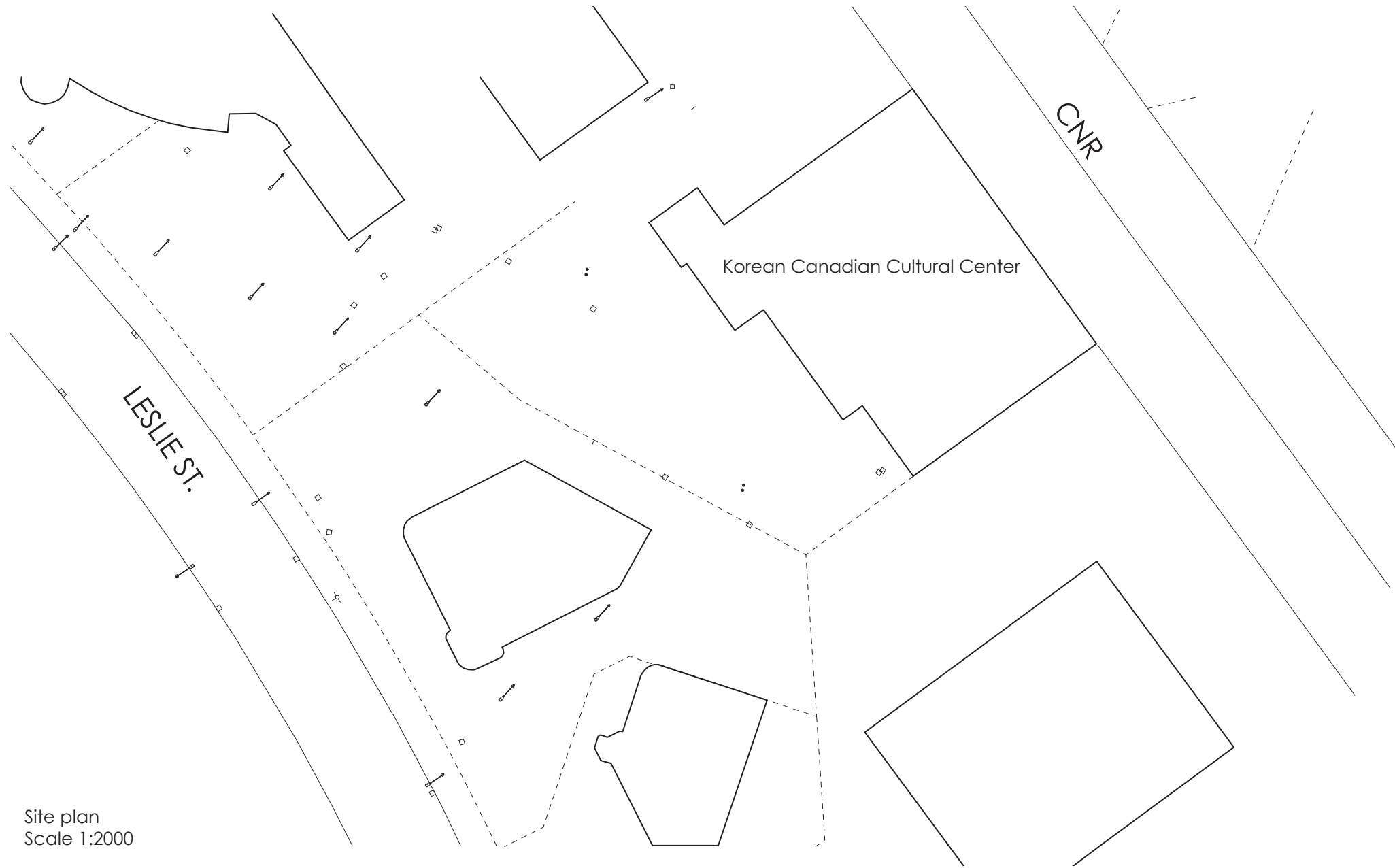


KOREAN CANADIAN CULTURAL CENTER





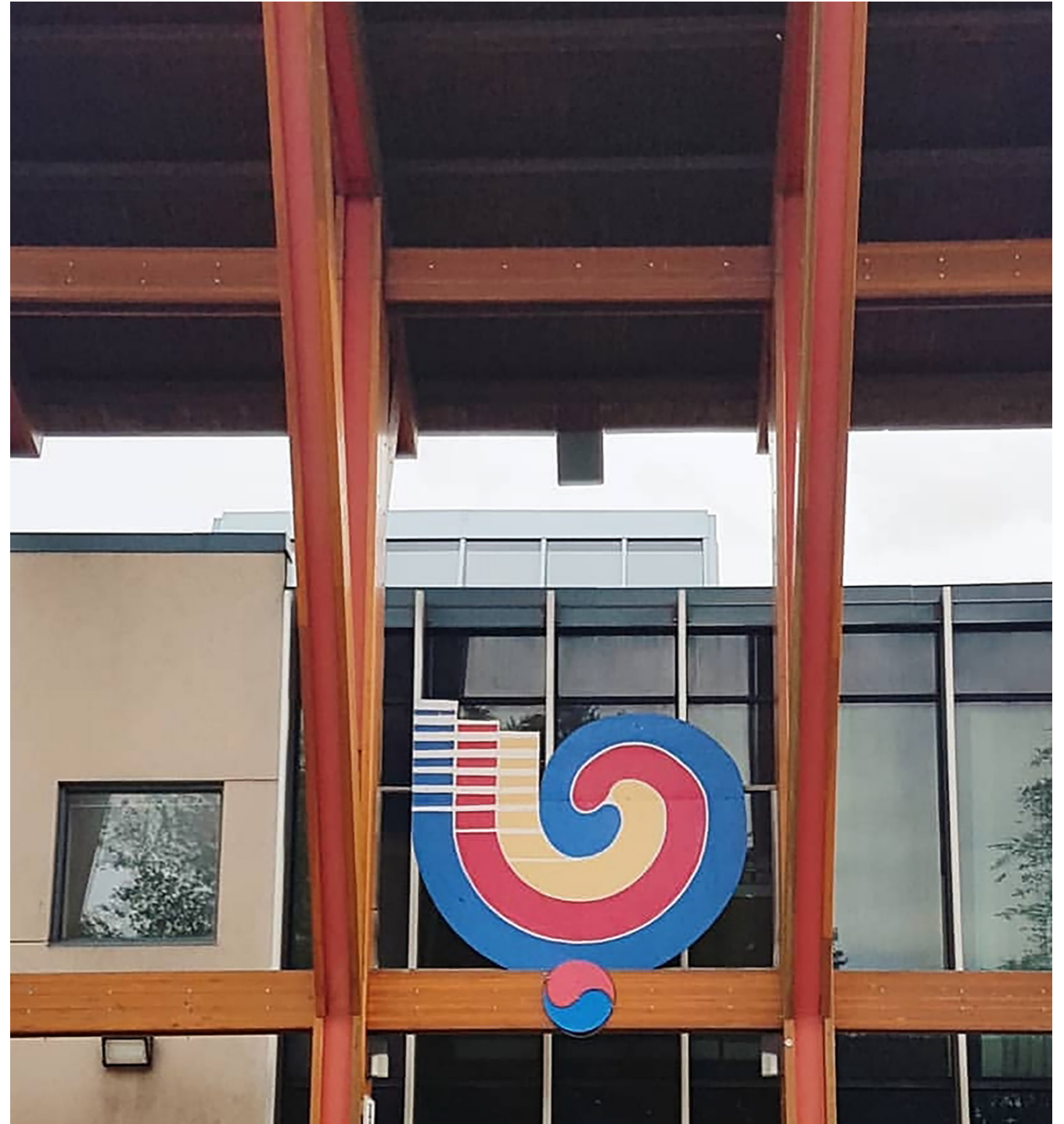
Site plan
Scale 1:2000

The site for the Korean Cultural Center is located on an embankment. Walking up to the building, the road is lined by trees, and the sloped timber clad canopy stands out from a distance as visitors approach it.

Korean - Canadian Community Historical Background

The Korean Canadian community accounts for a significant proportion of the City of Toronto's population. Canada witnessed a high influx of Korean immigrants in the 1970's and incrementally increased since then. The present Korean Canadian Cultural Center was a former warehouse leased to artists in the city, and later was transformed into a community center by C.Y. Lee Architects Inc. The official opening ceremony was 1996. By this time, a dedicated public space was needed to accommodate the greater public and most importantly Korean community.

In Canada, the Modernist movement is most prevalent during the late 20th century, as the economy emerged from the oil crisis, and began to flourish. This subsequently influenced the architectural landscape. Many of the prominent Canadian architects across the country are well known for their modernist approach, in which buildings are designed based on function and maintaining the integrity of materials.



Leaside Historical Background

The history of Leaside dates back to John and Mary Lea whom initially bought 200 acres of land, built their home and managed a farm in 1820. The name Leaside originates from this family. However, in 1913, the Canadian National Railway bought 1000 acres and developed a railway, homes and planned many of the streets in the neighborhood. The Leaside neighborhood is known to be the first planned suburban development in Toronto. However, isolation from downtown, lack of accessible transit and the onset of World War I followed by the Great Depression put the development proposal at a standstill. Landscape architect Frank Todd, designed Leaside, separating industrial, residential and commercial land using the Garden City principle. This became critical during the Depression, since the industrial facilities sustained the community during difficult financial times.

Leaside Viaduct

Canadian Pacific Bridge

Reference: City of Toronto Archives





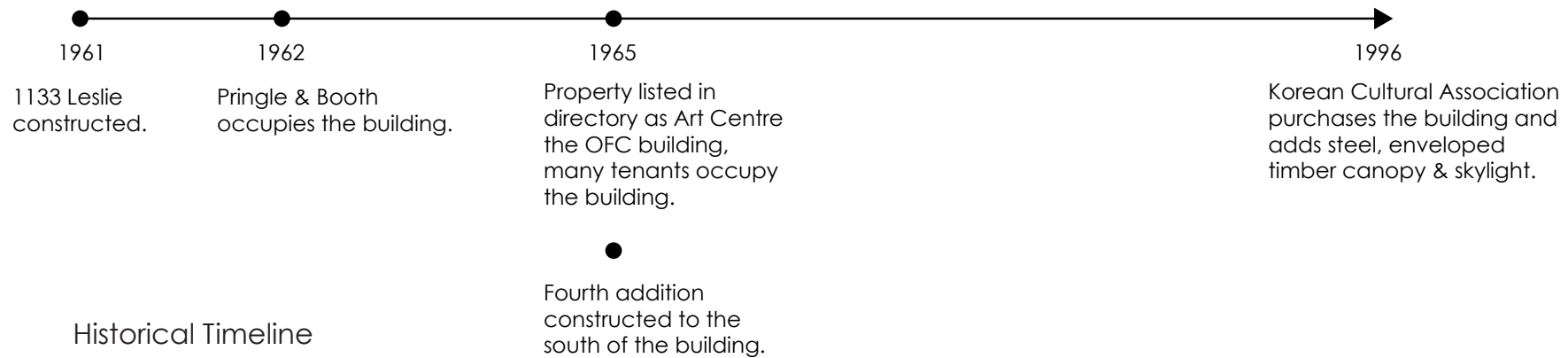
Leaside Train Station

Reference: City of Toronto Archives



Canada Cable & Wire Co.

The Canadian Cable and Wire Co. was stationed in the Leaside neighborhood along with other warehouses and industrial facilities.



1133 Leslie Street, 1961

1133 Leslie Street, 2018

Reference: City of Toronto Archives

The current building occupied by the Korean Canadian Association was built in 1959 by S.D.F. Resznetnik. It was formerly known as the Pringle & Booth Art Center, home to prominent Canadian photographers. 1133 Leslie Street is not visible from the street because it is set back and elevated. Trees line the street, blocking the view of oncoming traffic and providing a serene green view to the entrance.

Portraits of Korean independence activist leaders encircle the foyer space. The foyer serves as a crush space before visitors enter the auditorium space.



a.

The foyer opens out to the lawn and provides a serene view of the exterior surrounding space. Pilotis encircle the foyer, a common architectural feature in the 1960's. The floor to ceiling glazing in the ground floor is supported by aluminum frames. Floor to ceiling windows are replicated in some parts of the upper floor.



b.

c. & d.
The second floor is lined with artifacts expressing Korean dress, culture, architectural finishes and mementos. This is meant to express Korean heritage from centuries past.



e.
The skylight illuminating the foyer is visible from the exterior of the building. This was added to the building during the conversion to the KCCA.



g.
The offices face the parking lot and wrap around to the opposite end of the building. The repetitive ribbon of windows is a common design element in modernist 1960's architecture.



i.

Although the cultural center makes use of masonry cladding, the structural system of the building is steel frame. Open web steel joists support the roof of the gymnasium.

j.

The gymnasium is a critical space in the cultural center. The space can be catered for a younger demographic, and older visitors. The capacity and flexibility of the space is essential to keep the cultural center running and helps to attract younger demographics.



k.
The lounge space at the back of the gymnasium is used as a multi-purpose space and is directly accessible to the kitchen.



k.

l.
The kitchen attached to the gymnasium and hosts catering for the center.



l.



m.



n.

n.
The exterior perspective captured expresses the angular nature of the roof line. The canopy is angled in the opposite direction from the skylight. These angles are intentional based on the orientation of the building to the site and the composition of the elevation. The canopy and skylight were additions made for the KCCA in 1996.



Reference: History.ca



Reference: History.ca

o. The statue placed in front of the cultural center is a significant reminder of the role of comfort women during the second world war. The statue was the third in the world to be erected and serves as a reminder of the pain endured by Korean women during WWII.



o.

p.

The Korean Canadian Cultural Center's mandate includes:

To encourage fellowship and equal benefit between the KCCA members.

To instill a sense of pride in Korea, Korean culture, and the KCCA in upcoming generations.

To provide settlement services and job training for recent immigrants.

To provide women's services.

To promote traditional culture and provide senior services.

To maintain friendship between Korean and Canadian society.

To run engaging programs for a variety of ages and interests.

To efficiently manage the daily operations of the center.

The Korean Canadian Cultural Center is a dedicated space for the celebration and service of the community. The cultural programming, language classes and networks available at the center are housed under one roof. The elevation of the site and conscious design of the space are sensitive to the Leaside community as a previous industrial neighborhood, with Green City principles established. The center ensures the participation and presence of the Korean Canadian community, and has preserved the historical value it served from the 20th century as a modernist, industrial building.



Future Developments

The Leaside neighborhood is very unique because it has a combination of industrial and residential buildings. Many mid rise developments have been completed or are currently underway. These include condominiums and town-homes.



Brown Group of Companies



Kingstone Capital Management Inc.



Leaside Manor

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