

Introduction

As part of a youth workshop organized by the African Canadian Association of Waterloo Region and the Healthy Communities Research Network, groups of youth investigated various public spaces in the centre of Kitchener. Working collaboratively, the groups documented these locations through photography, video, audio recording, drawing and writing. From these investigations, podcasts and videos are being produced in addition to a series of ebooks. Youth recorded both their own ideas and also engaged in interviewing people they encountered at various locations. The goal of the workshop (a pilot project) was to get African Canadian youth (and particularly newcomers) to become participants in the city, to explore and share their ideas and to initiate dialogue with the wider community. The workshop was designed and facilitated by DodoLab as part of an ongoing programming of youth public engagement projects.

This publication includes a selection of images and ideas related to one group's investigations of the Kitchener Farmer's Market. This ebook is a supplement to a podcast of a group conversation in response to the market led by Edwin Laryea (African Canadian Association) and Troy Glover (Healthy Communities Research Network) that will be available at www.dodolab.ca.



**African Canadian Youth Workshop (Book1):
Kitchener Market**

DodoLab





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people because teenagers will be dead bored here.

Today was my first time coming to Kitchener market, I have heard about the Market before from people who have been there. They all told me the same things, all the people I know that have been to the Kitchener Market always say "they have fresh fruits and vegetables." That's all they talk about, the fresh fruits and vegetables. So that make me want to stay home and watch my Saturday morning cartoons. So today when I came to the Kitchener Market I saw all the things people have told me about it was fresh fruits and vegetables alot them. But I also saw other different things. Like flowers, cookies, and a lot people walking around and farmers are busy selling the fresh fruits and vegetables to people But I was a little bored with the market because it was the same things everywhere I go. Farmers sell the things to people. The only time you will see me there again is when pigs fly, but I might change my mind about that if they change the market a bit. The Kitchener Market needs to have a little more diversity, they need other country's foods, the markets need to make teenagers like me want to come with a little entertainment. The Kitchener Market is made for old people not young

I think that the market needs more of entertainment, something that fits each group, things that children enjoy such as video games, enjoyment for teenagers cause food products are only for parents who do grocery shopping. Also it should be less serious, should close later in the day because some people are busy during that time. It seems like people are busy with nothing and things in a hurry here.

- Chantal

To day is my first time at the Kitchener market. I see many different things that I have never seen in the supermarket. Here the markets are so organized. They pile food up neatly. Then have the prices on their food. At home we haggle over the prices. If we only have \$4 and some thing is \$5, we can work something out. "Okay, you can have these flowers and vegetables for the amount you have."

- Chance



There is a small fruit in my country. It's round, small, brown and seems like an orange, the oranges in the market remind me of that fruit. It shows me that I miss my country and the food there, but there are new things to try there.

I kind of like the market place because when your going to buy some kind of food you can first ask to try it and see if you like it or not. I like the place because you can buy things for less, and you can buy less things too. But in my country market there is a group of food and if you want to buy that kind of food you have to buy everything in the group of that food.

- Angelic







