



Toronto, US

Patio perfection

When the City of Toronto decided to buy a former car park with the idea to transform it into a new green space for the city, the site was temporarily fenced while community consultation and planning got underway.

After more than 12 months watching this valuable space go unused, the local entrepreneurs behind popular venues The Fifth Social Club and The Ballroom each had a similar thought, “Why not activate the site until the city was ready to start building?”

The idea for a huge outdoor patio where people of all ages could eat, drink and hang out was born, with the first iteration opening in the summer of 2020. Marketed as Rendezviews, each hospitality group takes responsibility for the food, beverage and entertainment on one side of the lot. As well as food and drink, performances, music and art are a key part of the experience.

In 2021, in the midst of major lockdowns, artists Bruno Smoky and Shalak Attack transformed the patio's surfaces. Their work, *Reflections*, is all about the need to create community and connection and has made Rendezviews one of the city's most colourful places. Although a temporary installation, it has had a huge impact on Toronto and influenced the way the city thinks about its unused spaces.

Rendezviews will have its final season in 2024. Construction of the new city park will begin in 2025. —●



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