

ART EKA ACCESSMAP

PARTNERSHIP PROPOSAL - AUGUST 2026

Toronto Accessible Tactile Map Pilot

A 90-day public-interest pilot proposal for Toronto Public Library, accessibility organizations, funders and community partners.

Harmonious, relaxed solutions for people of all abilities - focused on improving accessibility, inclusion, quality of life and community.

Prepared by ART EKA AccessMap through ASLGames.ca

Public demonstration: <https://aslgames.ca/camp-audio-map#order-map>

Contact: artekaarteka@outlook.com

Executive summary

ART EKA proposes a small, measurable Toronto pilot that converts field-verified routes and places into coordinated accessible outputs: raised-line maps, low-relief 3D maps, Braille route descriptions, high-contrast print, plain-language text and audio mental-map descriptions.

The pilot is designed around co-creation with blind, low-vision, DeafBlind, Deaf and mobility-disabled participants. It does not claim that an automatically generated map is safe. Every mobility-related output remains gated by route verification, qualified tactile/Braille review and physical usability testing.

Pilot request	A host site, 3D prototyping access, accessibility staff coordination and introductions to community reviewers.
Initial sites	Rosedale Station to Ramsden Park, Bob Rumball Camp of the Deaf, and one library interior or transfer-point demonstration.
Public value	Affordable access to spatial information, reusable open production methods and evidence for a larger inclusive mapping program.
Commercial path	Paid custom orders support sustainability while sponsored and library-supported pilots reduce cost for people who face financial barriers.

Why this pilot is needed

Mainstream maps usually prioritize streets and destinations. They rarely explain the exact information a person may need to decide whether and how to travel: slopes, surfaces, curb ramps, elevators, stairs, clear widths, seating, washrooms, shelter, lighting, sensory landmarks, decision points and reliable assistance locations.

A tactile map is most useful when it helps a reader form a mental model before entering a place. It must simplify without hiding important decisions and must not fabricate unverified geometry.

Pilot users and co-designers

- Blind and low-vision map readers, including cane and guide-dog users.
- DeafBlind participants who may prefer concise tactile sequences and agreed communication supports.
- Manual and power wheelchair users, walker users and people who need seating or washroom information.
- Orientation-and-mobility specialists, certified Braille/tactile reviewers, library makerspace staff and venue operators.
- Deaf participants who benefit from clear visual route information, accessible emergency cues and ASL-aware support.

Nothing About Us Without Us

Disabled advisors, testers and field auditors should be compensated. Their feedback is not a free validation step; it is core project expertise.

Proposed 90-day pilot

Phase	Weeks	Deliverable
Set up and recruit	1-2	Partner roles, participant consent, accessibility accommodations, baseline route record and risk register.
Field audit	3-4	Measured decision points, route surfaces, slopes, entrances, elevators, rest points, washrooms, alerts and stable landmarks.
Prototype	5-7	Large-print route card, audio mental map, swell-paper master, Braille draft and low-relief STL prototype.
Co-design tests	8-10	Structured tactile exploration, comprehension checks, error logging and revisions with paid disabled participants.
Demonstrate and report	11-13	Library demonstration, production guide, measured findings, costs, accessibility outcomes and next-phase recommendation.

A library card is required for Toronto Public Library 3D printing. TPL currently lists a cost of \$0.15 per gram and accepts STL or OBJ files. Staff approve and start each print; the user remains responsible for the project.

Safety, privacy and quality controls

Release gates

- No production status until the physical route is field verified.
- No distribution until Braille and tactile graphics are proofread by qualified reviewers.
- Every uncertainty is labelled; unknown values never become implied facts.
- Google Maps links may be references only. ART EKA does not reproduce Google map tiles.
- Customer health diagnoses are not requested. Only functional information needed for the order is collected.
- Print partners receive the minimum production and delivery information required.
- Customers receive a private token for order status; public order references alone do not reveal an order.

Standards and methods

The design process is informed by the Braille Authority of North America Guidelines and Standards for Tactile Graphics and by current Canadian accessible wayfinding guidance. Formal certification is never implied unless a qualified certifying organization supplies it.

Travel notice

ART EKA outputs supplement, but do not replace, current official service information, traffic controls, emergency directions, orientation-and-mobility judgment or personal assistance.

Production and sustainability model

Low-cost prototypes	Toronto Public Library 3D printers for low-relief test pieces and library makerspace learning.
Specialist production	CNIB Beyond Print, CNIB Braileroom, Dot6 or another qualified vendor for professional Braille transcription, embossing and tactile review.
ART EKA in-house	Purchase a Swell-Form system, compatible printer and consumables only after demand, unit costs and trained staffing justify the investment.
Distribution	Use tracked delivery or pickup. Assess Canada Post Literature for the Blind eligibility per shipment; do not assume eligibility.
Revenue	Paid custom orders, institutional mapping contracts, sponsored community maps and grants. Disabled co-design work is a paid project cost.

Indicative pilot budget

Item	Planning range
Paid participant co-design and testing	CAD 6,000-12,000
Field auditing and orientation-and-mobility review	CAD 4,000-10,000
Braille/tactile transcription and proofing	CAD 3,000-8,000
Design, software and accessible documentation	CAD 8,000-20,000
Materials, 3D prototypes and shipping	CAD 1,500-5,000
Evaluation, insurance and contingency	CAD 3,000-8,000
Total planning range	CAD 25,500-63,000

Ranges are planning estimates, not vendor quotes. Confirm staffing, insurance, transcription and fabrication prices before funding submission.

Measures, partnership request and next actions

Pilot measures

- Route comprehension before travel and after tactile/audio orientation.
- Number and severity of user-detected errors before public release.
- Time and cost to create each output format.
- Tactile symbol and Braille label recognition rates during structured testing.
- Participant confidence, perceived usefulness and remaining safety concerns.
- Percentage of map features backed by field evidence and current authoritative sources.

Partnership request

ART EKA asks Toronto Public Library or another civic partner to identify a pilot contact, permit an initial design conversation, advise on makerspace capacity, and help convene paid disabled co-designers and qualified tactile/Braille reviewers. No endorsement or partnership is claimed until a written agreement exists.

Ready-to-send contact

Toronto Reference Library Digital Innovation Hub: trlinnovationhub@tpl.ca | 416-393-7007

ART EKA: artekaarteka@outlook.com | <https://aslgames.ca/camp-audio-map#order-map>

Current funding posture

The 2026 federal Enabling Accessibility Fund call and Ontario EASE Grant call are closed. ART EKA should prepare for future cycles, partner-led applications and other eligible programs rather than represent a closed program as available.

SOURCES

Primary references checked August 2026

- Toronto Public Library Digital Innovation Hubs:
<https://tpl.ca/using-the-library/computer-services/digital-innovation-services/digital-innovation-hubs/>
- Toronto Public Library 3D printers and current fees:
<https://tpl.ca/using-the-library/computer-services/digital-innovation-services/3d-printers/>
- Toronto Public Library accessibility equipment: <https://tpl.ca/accessibility/branch-equipment/>
- BANA tactile graphics guidelines: <https://www.brailleauthority.org/tg/>
- CNIB Beyond Print Braille: <https://cnib-beyondprint.ca/braille/>
- Canada Post Literature for the Blind: <https://www.canadapost-postescanada.ca/cpc/en/support/kb/company-policies/social-impact/literature-for-the-blind.page>
- TTC Rosedale Station: <https://www.ttc.ca/en/subway-stations/rosedale-station>
- City of Toronto Ramsden Park Community Recreation Centre: <https://www.toronto.ca/city-government/planning-development/construction-new-facilities/park-facility-projects/ramsdens-park-community-recreation-centre/>
- Federal Enabling Accessibility Fund 2026 call (closed): <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/services/funding/enabling-accessibility-fund-contribution.html>
- Ontario accessibility funding overview: <https://www.ontario.ca/page/accessibility-ontario-what-you-need-to-know>