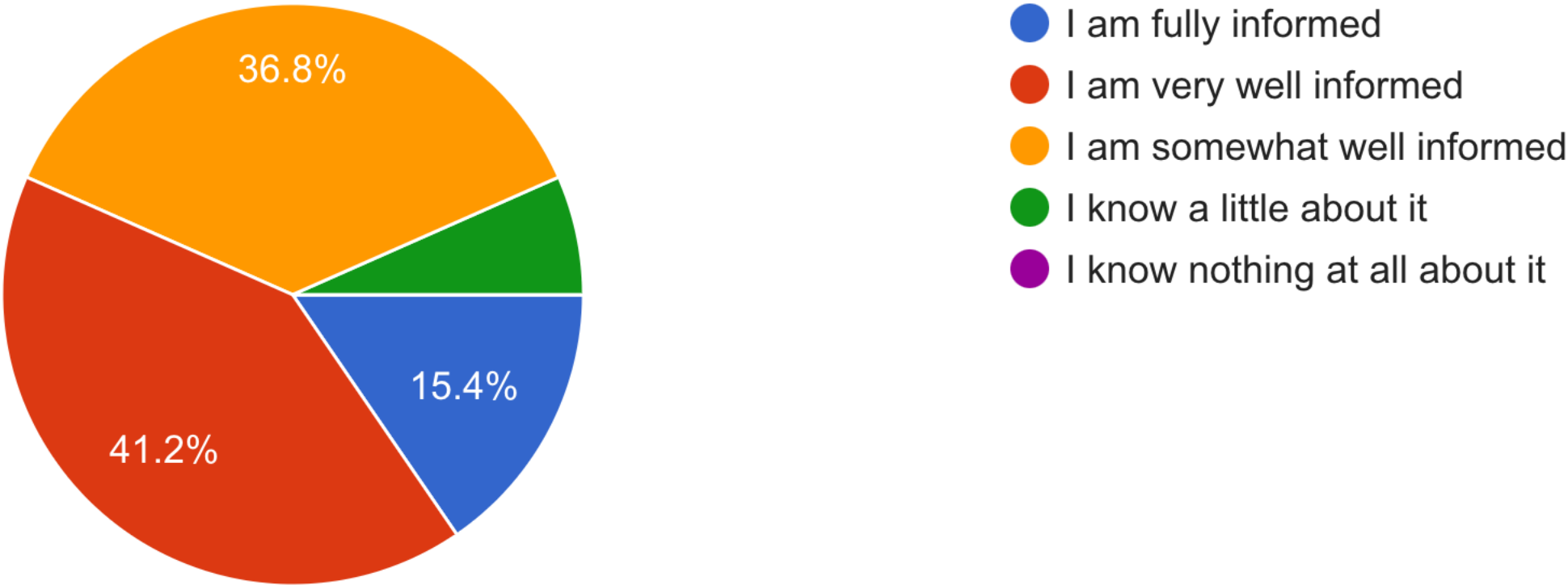


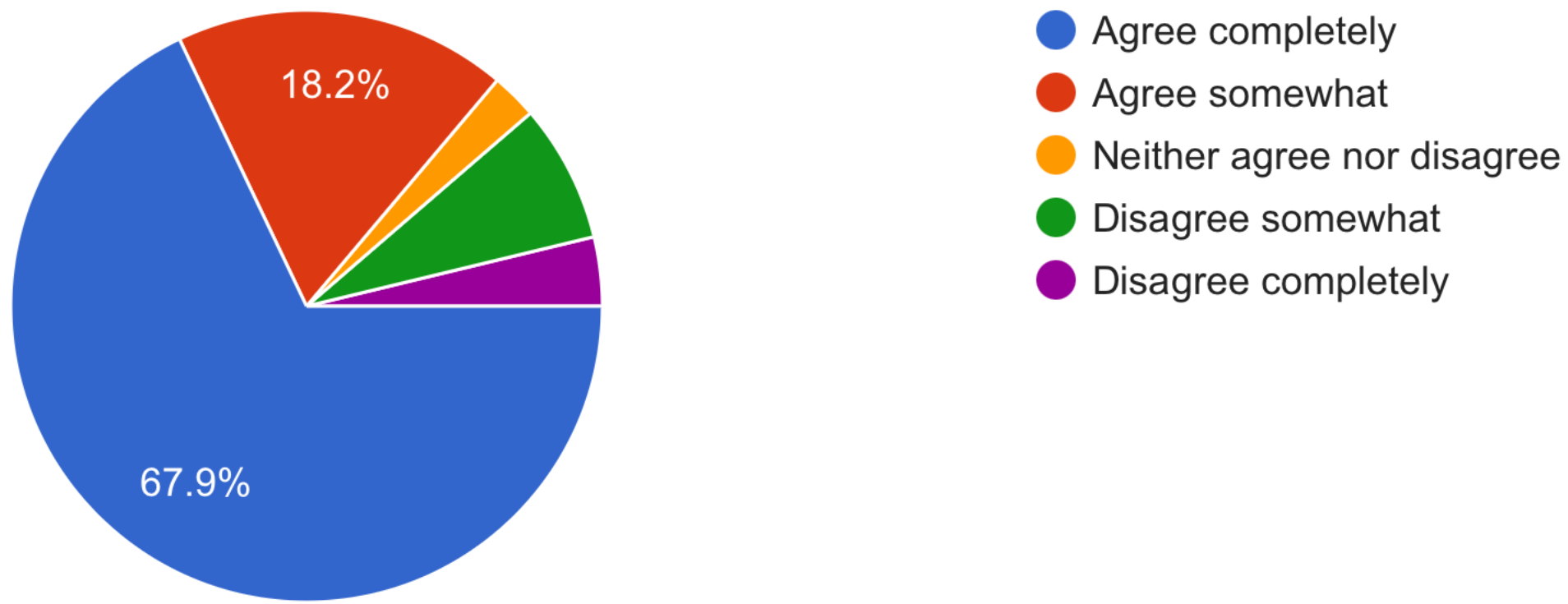
1. At the present time, how well informed would you say you are about the Shaw’s proposed plan for the Royal George Theatre? Please choose one response below.

136 responses



2. The following statement describes the position that the Niagara-on-the-Lake Residents Association wishes to take when advocating for re...his position? Please choose one response b

159 responses



Here is a summary of the key themes and reasons people gave in section 2(b): “What reasons do you have for feeling this way?” regarding the proposed Shaw Festival Royal George Theatre redevelopment:

◆ Summary of Community Feedback – Section 2(b)

1. Heritage Compatibility & Streetscape (Most Frequent Concern)

- Strong consensus that the design and scale are incompatible with the heritage character of Queen Street and Old Town NOTL.
- Many urge that the design reflect the historic facade, or replicate the original Royal George Theatre appearance.
- Concerns the modern, large structure would permanently alter or damage the town’s historic and charming streetscape.

2. Excessive Size & Scale

- Repeated concerns the proposed building is too large, too tall, and too imposing—described as “massive,” “grandiose,” and “overwhelming.”
- The fly tower, rehearsal spaces, and lobby are seen as unnecessarily large or not required on-site.
- Several note the proposal includes functions (e.g., restaurants, lounges, rehearsal spaces) that could be located elsewhere.

3. Alternative Location Preferred

- Many suggest relocating to the former hospital site or the Shaw Festival compound, where space and parking are more available.
- The idea of creating a dedicated arts hub elsewhere was often described as better for operations and residents alike.

4. Impact on Neighbourhood and Residents

- Fears of heritage home demolition, residential disruption, and visual intrusion on Victoria Street.
- Several residents (including B&B owners) cite concerns about noise, construction impacts, and property devaluation.

5. Support for Theatre, But with Conditions

- Most respondents support replacing or upgrading the Royal George Theatre.
- Emphasis that support is conditional on a contextually appropriate design that respects heritage, scale, and location.
- Calls for a balanced approach between modern needs and historical preservation.

6. Distrust or Skepticism Toward Process

- Some express concern the public process is tokenistic or predetermined.
- Several question whether alternative designs or renovation options were fairly explored.

7. Functionality vs. Heritage Trade-offs

- Some respondents see the need for modern functionality (e.g., accessibility, better facilities) but urge this be achieved within heritage constraints.
- A few acknowledge the design's technical or operational merits but still say it's in the wrong place.

8. Financial and Operational Transparency

- A few want more clarity on funding conditions, operational costs, and long-term financial implications of the current proposal.
- Concerns about whether grant requirements are dictating the scope of the project.

9. Mixed and Minority Views

- A few fully support the current proposal or argue the theatre will bring economic benefit and cultural prestige.
 - Some respondents advise trusting the experts and theatre leadership, suggesting design compromises can be made later.
 - A very small number object to public input altogether, citing conflicting opinions or desire to defer to professionals.
-

Community Feedback Summary – Section 3

Q 3. If there are any other comments you would like to make about plans for the Royal George Theatre and/or the Residents Association's position on this initiative, please record them in the space below.

1. Heritage & Streetscape Concerns

- Most common concern: The proposed building is too large, modern, and out of scale with historic Queen Street and Old Town.
- Residents feel the façade must blend with heritage architecture—several call for a mandate to design it in keeping with NOTL's historic character.
- Loss of nearby heritage homes (especially on Victoria St) is seen as unacceptable.

2. Scale, Height & Design Criticism

- Many say the proposal is “mammoth,” “overwhelming,” “out of place,” and resembles a “monument” or “urban intruder.”
- Complaints that the size increase yields minimal seating gain (fewer than 20 seats).
- General sense that too many functions (restaurant, lounges, classrooms) are being packed into a small site.

3. Location Alternatives Suggested

- Strong support for considering other locations:
 - - Old hospital/nursing home site
 - - Festival Theatre grounds
 - - Shaw’s existing properties
- View that educational and rehearsal space belongs elsewhere, not downtown.

4. Balance Between Accessibility & Preservation

- Accessibility upgrades are welcomed, but some feel they are being used to justify an oversized building.
- Some call for creative solutions within the current footprint to meet accessibility needs.

5. Construction Disruption & Long-Term Impact

- Widespread concern over construction noise, dust, business disruption, and traffic issues on Queen Street.
- Some fear a multi-year project could negatively affect tourism, daily life, and existing businesses.

6. Skepticism Toward Process & Transparency

- Some residents feel the Shaw has already made decisions and is “selling” a plan rather than listening.
- Concerns about government subsidies (e.g. for a restaurant) unfairly competing with local businesses.
- Desire for clearer presentation of the actual plans, including traffic, parking, and economic implications.

7. Call for Genuine Collaboration

- Acknowledgement that the Shaw Festival has shown willingness to engage, but many feel the community must be more meaningfully involved.
- Suggestions include forming a committee of experts and residents to help shape a revised design.

8. Support for Theatre—but with Limits

- Most respondents support the need to replace or improve the Royal George Theatre.
- Many emphasize the need to preserve the charm and identity of NOTL as a cultural and tourism destination.
- Residents want a smaller-scale, heritage-sensitive theatre that serves the community without dominating it.

9. Warnings About Precedent

- Several note that allowing rezoning and demolition of homes sets a dangerous precedent.
- Warnings that NOTL risks losing its identity, citing other developments like the Hyatt in Garrison Village and Rand Estate as cautionary tales.