

**City Council****Notice of Motion**

MM24.13	ACTION			Ward:All
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**Requesting Staff Report on the Feasibility of Hosting World Expo 2025  
- by Councillor Kristyn Wong-Tam, seconded by Councillor Michael  
Thompson**

*\* Notice of this Motion has been given.*

*\* This Motion is subject to referral to the Executive Committee. A two-thirds vote is required to waive referral.*

**Recommendations**

Councillor Kristyn Wong-Tam, seconded by Councillor Michael Thompson, recommends that:

1. City Council direct the City Manager and the General Manager, Economic Development and Culture to obtain input from the provincial and federal governments and key relevant agencies and boards and report to the Economic Development Committee at its March 2013 meeting on the pros and cons of creating a bid to host World Expo 2025 in Toronto, such report to specifically include comment on the following:
  - a. the Bureau of International Exhibitions (BIE) bid process;
  - b. an explanation of the current provincial and federal process to select a location to host World Expo 2025 in the Greater Toronto Area;
  - c. any information with respect to any competing city-regions and nations;
  - d. the approximate number and types of jobs, including approximate income levels, that can be created by World Expo 2025, including:
    - i. creative sector jobs;
    - ii. service sector jobs;
    - iii. construction jobs;
    - iv. manufacturing jobs;
    - v. temporary jobs;
    - vi. contract jobs; and
    - vii. permanent jobs;
  - e. the approximate amount of revenue the City could receive as a result of World

Expo 2025, operating in Toronto, by:

- i. changes in property tax assessments on the World Expo site and associated businesses/properties;
  - ii. rent, lease or other income from city-owned lands if used for World Expo;
  - iii. equity returns if city lands are used as an equity contribution to a private project;
  - iv. economic returns to the federal, provincial and municipal treasuries; and
  - v. other revenue opportunities, including those that may be negotiated with the provincial and federal governments, including funding to repair and maintain Toronto Community Housing Corporation buildings, to support social programs and to expand and maintain public transit;
- f. identification of potential city-owned lands suitable for a World Expo site;
- g. alternative and multiple ways to maximize Toronto's potential revenues and legacy projects arising from a World Expo;
- h. the impact of a World Expo on Toronto's ability to attract tourists and convention/conference business;
- i. the legacy World Expo would have for Toronto, Ontario and Canada, including the impact on:
- i. trade and investment;
  - ii. the environment and environmental sustainability;
  - iii. transit and transportation;
  - iv. major infrastructure;
  - v. economic development;
  - vi. arts and culture;
  - vii. communities and urban planning;
  - viii. research, high-tech and innovation;
  - ix. new affordable housing, social and community improvements;
  - x. waterfront redevelopment;
  - xi. expansion of Toronto's tourism base by marketing the city abroad; and
  - xii. showing our diversity, citizenship, multiculturalism and inclusion to the world;
- j. land use, physical planning, infrastructure (including transportation) and other matters associated a World Expo site within the City;
- k. how to create a World Expo incorporating the broad principles of innovation, social responsibility, environmental sustainability and advanced technology that will be planned and executed on-time and on-budget featuring extensive civil society participation; and
- l. the history of past decisions of City Council, lessons learned and/or public consultation with regard to prior World Expo bid attempts and the current relevance of those decisions/consultations, and an appropriate process for additional public consultations.

## Summary

A World Expo is held every five years and is the largest ongoing nation-to-nation celebration of humankind's accomplishments. It places world attention on the host City, Province and Country.

The first Expo was held in London in 1851 followed in 1855 by Paris which resulted in the construction of the iconic Eiffel Tower as a legacy which still defines that city. Other cities hosting World Expos include New York, Chicago, Brussels, Barcelona, Nagoya and Shanghai. Canada has an outstanding reputation and track record in hosting the world in Montreal at Expo '67 which drew over 50 million visitors, and Expo '86 in Vancouver which was also very successful and laid the foundation to host the 2010 Winter Olympics.

According to the Bureau International des Expositions (BIE), the governing body for World Expos, the purpose of an Expo is to educate the general public about a topic that is important, current and relevant, and that displays how humankind is poised to deal with the future, and its challenges.

World Expos are meant to be not only exciting and fun, but provocative and engaging as well. In essence, a successful Expo should leave its visitors with lasting, engaging memories and create a formative and even transformative personal experience. Such significant face-to-face interactive experiences cannot be produced over the internet.

Although Canada has previously hosted two world Expos, its largest City has never hosted the event. It is clear that Toronto and Canada have the technical expertise to stage a memorable event and make the World Expo work for us as a catalyst for change and for creation of a positive long term legacy that builds on the City's strengths.

A World Expo in 2025 can capitalize significant city-building opportunities and act as a catalyst to reach valuable, needed and worthwhile city-building goals. It can accelerate new economic development opportunities for new investments in Toronto's waterfront, infrastructure, transit and cultural facilities. In addition, it can showcase our innovation and creativity to the world.

Toronto stands to gain an infrastructure legacy in site services, roads, sewers, transit, affordable housing and public amenities. Legacy buildings can be transformed for needed educational, community economic development and cultural uses on the waterfront, and secondary structures can be transported and re-used anywhere else in the Greater Toronto Area, in Ontario and beyond after the World Expo.

Hosting an Expo in Toronto can inject much-needed new capital and impose a deadline which will accelerate the completion of the key infrastructure needed for the revitalization of the waterfront include public transit, affordable housing and public realm improvements. World Expo can facilitate plans envisioned by the City to create a transit friendly and environmentally sustainable community. These public contributions can leverage additional private and other investments to produce the economic benefits, capital investments to ensure that the World Expo is substantial and can provide an opportunity to build our City and project our image to the world.

(Submitted to City Council on June 6 and 7, 2012 as MM24.13)

**Background Information (City Council)**

Member Motion MM24.13