



West Don Lands Committee

By email:

Citizens for the Old Town /
Architectural Conservancy of Ontario

Corktown Residents & Business
Association

Distillery Historic District

Dixon Hall

Enoch Turner Schoolhouse Foundation

Friends of Corktown Common

Gooderham & Worts Neighbourhood
Association

Queen East Business Association
QUEBA

Little Trinity Anglican Church

St. Lawrence Market Neighbourhood BIA

St. Lawrence Neighbourhood
Association

Task Force to Bring Back the Don

May 20, 2016

City of Toronto
Executive Committee

Dear Mayor Tory and Members of the Executive Committee:

**Re: Re.: EX15.7 – Implementation of the Mayor’s Advisory Panel
Recommendations for Future “Mega” International Event Bidding and
Hosting in the Toronto Region**

Re: WDLC support for an Expo 2025 Bid;

The West Don Lands Committee urges the Executive Committee to continue pursuing the direction of the first four recommendations in international hosting opportunities, while setting aside Recommendation 5, as it seems to be premature and overly cautious.

We believe that a Toronto bid for Expo 2025 is a singular opportunity, not likely to be repeated in our lifetimes, to catapult Toronto to the top of the competitive list of dynamic, intelligent, 21st century global cities. This would be a great benefit for Torontonians of all economic statuses, ages, and cultural heritages, including the many newcomers who will make Toronto their home in the next decade.

We believe Toronto City Council needs to take the first step to unequivocally express interest in Expo 2025 in the Port Lands. While the federal government must formally lead an Expo bid, and the provincial government will need to be an equal partner, the impetus and energy should properly come from Toronto as the host city. The other orders of government undoubtedly appreciate the opportunity for international branding and economic growth that can result from an Expo (such as happened with Expo 67 or Expo 86), but those governments must first be confident that Toronto City Council is ready and eager to host Expo 2025.

We believe that Expo 2025 in the Port Lands will focus the attention of all orders of government on expediting infrastructure work that is already in position to move forward – infrastructure work that includes:

- Naturalizing and flood protecting the Don River Mouth;
- Building transit including East Bayfront LRT, Smart Track and Regional Express Rail connections, and local transit links;
- Servicing the lands in the Port Lands to an exceptional standard, resilient in an era of climate change and disruptive technologies;
- Laying the groundwork for an “intelligent”, inclusive, sustainable and globally competitive community.

A World Expo is not the Olympics. The footprint of Expo 2025 can be limited exclusively to the 800-acre area of the Port Lands. An Expo takes place over half a year, bringing a steady, manageable stream of tourists, ready to strengthen our economy and experience the advantages of investing in and moving to Canada.

Most of the costs for Expo 2025 buildings would be financed by the foreign governments that participate. Those buildings would largely be temporary and modular, capable of being transported and reused elsewhere – leaving the land ready for the next phase of redevelopment. Those structures that are permanent could be designed for reuse - as with the Pan Am Athletes' Village - and in a manner that advances the city's ongoing Green Building program.

We have spoken to business leaders, community leaders (including the members of our coalition), and civil society leaders who are ready to commit their resources and their energies to winning and hosting Expo 2025 in the Port Lands. There is great enthusiasm spreading through the city as people become aware of the potential for an Expo 2025 bid.

It is time for the Mayor and Councillors to throw their weight behind a bid process. It requires bold, confident action to grow our city, rather than waiting for circumstances to soften all risks. Toronto has an excellent chance of winning the 2025 bid. In the intense global competition among major cities, Toronto cannot afford to wait for other orders of government to act. We must be prepared initiate, inspire and innovate in order to chart our own destiny. An Expo 2025 bid is exactly the kind of move that Council should be supporting.

Thank you.

Yours truly,



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Co-Chairs, West Don Lands Committee

cc. Deputy Mayor Pam McConnell
 Councillor Kristyn Wong-Tam
 Councillor Paula Fletcher
 Hon. Bill Morneau PC MP
 Adam Vaughan MP
 Julie Dabrusin MP
 Hon. Glen Murray MPP
 Peter Tabuns MPP