

EX15.7.17

May 22-2016

By email: exec@toronto.ca



Honorable Mayor and Committee Members,

**RE: EX15.7 Impementation of the
Mayor's Advisory Panel Recommendations for
Future "Mega" International Event Bidding and Hosting in the Toronto Region**

Re: Letter of Support for Canada Expo 2025

Sick Muse Art Projects is a non-for-profit focused on providing Community Art Programs to vulnerable communities. We currently work providing art workshops to kids at VAW Shelters, Refugee Shelters and most recently, we are working with Syrian refugee kids.

Sick Muse Art Projects is the idea of a group of Latin American artists happy to contribute to the better of our beloved Toronto, a City that not only welcomed us but also embraced us allowing us to continue our artistic and creative careers. Through the Project, Latin American artists cannot only find opportunities to showcase their work, give to the community but also to find spaces for networking and professional development. Our Art Programs seek to promote conversations about Social Justice, inclusion and diversity.

Sick Muse Art Projects supports the bid for World Expo 2025. The City of Toronto has demonstrated that it has the bench strength to lead this bid as demonstrated by the success of the PanAm/ParaPanAm Games. We believe that it was a positive experience for all members of the community and it allowed artists not only to showcase their work, find more opportunities for exposure but also employment opportunities.

While it is true that the PanAm/ParaPanAm gave everyone many experiences allowing us to also explore the areas that needed improvement, it is also true that during the months prior to the event and during the event the Toronto was at the spotlight allowing all of us, newcomers and old-comers feel so much pride of what we can accomplish when we get together.

The benefits of hosting a mega event are enormous, of course , we can never turn our eye to issues that should be at the centre of our City agenda , however, we can do it all. We can take care of our citizen, engage our communities and find many ways to continue cultivating

sense of belonging and showing foreigners and visitors the wonderful place we have here and the reasons why we are a desire vacation, education and culture destination.

We need to continue making our city relevant and continue building on all of those elements that make us proud, guiding visitors to look at Toronto , the fourth biggest City in North America, as the place to be. It helps us all. It increases not only opportunities to the industry but allow us, artists and culture promoters to continue building on our carriers, continue contributing to the better of our City and showcase the local talents.

With this ,I am not trying to take away or underestimate the challenges ahead, on the contrary, I am acknowledging them, I am sure that we are the type of City with the type of people willing to face the challenges , overcome the obstacles and host a mega event in a way that we all feel engaged and very proud.

Sincerely,

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paola'.

Paola Gomez

Co-founder

Sick Muse Art Projects

www.sickmuseartprojects.org

