

West Don Lands Committee

EX18.7.9

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

Little Trinity Anglican Church

St. Lawrence Market Neighbourhood BIA

St. Lawrence Neighbourhood
Association

Task Force to Bring Back the Don

By email

October 24, 2016

City of Toronto
Executive Committee

Dear Mayor Tory and members of the Executive Committee:

Re.: EX18.7 – Expo 2025-Feasibility Considerations

Re.: West Don Lands Committee support for Expo 2025 bid;

The West Don Lands Committee reiterates its support for Toronto's Expo 2025 bid, as previously expressed to Executive Committee in May 2016. We urge the Executive Committee to reject the staff recommendation and recommend to Council that Toronto continue pursuing federal and provincial support to stage Expo 2025 in Toronto's Port Lands.

We believe that the staff recommendation is ill-considered in that it sets an impossibly high bar for any international hosting opportunity. In fact, the standard proposed is essentially a "Catch-22" for any such event. It is practically inconceivable that senior orders of government will commit funding to a major international event in Toronto *prior to* Toronto's Mayor and Council supporting the bid and requesting the funding. We ask Mayor and Council to lead the effort to prepare an Expo 2025 bid, not to wait for that leadership to materialize in Ottawa or Queen's Park.

We believe the staff recommendation misstates the conclusions of the Feasibility Study, which states that an Expo bid is contingent upon three major moves – flood protecting the Lower Don; completing an RER station at East Harbour; and creating a coordinating body to expedite planning, approvals and coordination – all of which are achievable. In fact, it has been our contention that pursuing an Expo 2025 bid will focus all actors upon completing the large infrastructure projects on time.

We believe that the staff recommendation underestimates the generational opportunity that an Expo 2025 in Toronto would create. As we have seen with Expo 67 in Montreal and Expo 86 in Vancouver, Canada can transform its major centres in the eyes of Canadians and the world through a successful Expo. The Feasibility Study highlights economic benefits of investing in Expo 2025 for the city, the province and the country – benefits that accrue immediately and compound thereafter. Those are considerable, but the legacy of focusing the eyes of the world on our forward-looking leadership would be similar to Montreal, which demonstrated the city's and Canada's world status in 1967, or Vancouver, which established the city and Canada as a key hub on the Pacific Rim in 1986.

Expo 2025 can establish Toronto, our region and our country as leaders and exemplars of sustainable, inclusive and intelligent communities for the 21st century.

From our vantage point in the West Don Lands we can see that the extension of the city into the Port Lands provides a unique opportunity to model the design of an urban environment that responds to the urgent need to address climate change and energy sustainability through a carbon net zero standard. An Expo that includes this objective as one of its themes could allow Toronto/Ontario/Canada and other exhibitor-nations to demonstrate how that can be accomplished.

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 throughout the city for an Expo 2025 bid.

We ask Executive Committee and Council to thoughtfully and purposefully place Toronto's weight behind the Expo 2025 bid – to ask the federal government to renew Canada's BIE membership, to analyze and complete a request for financial commitments from provincial and federal governments, and to direct staff to prepare to plan, coordinate and lead the infrastructure and organizational steps that an Expo bid will require as set out in the Feasibility Study.

Toronto should be willing, eager and prepared to show our best to the world at Expo 2025.

Yours truly,



Cynthia Wilkey

John Wilson

Co-Chairs, West Don Lands Committee

cc. Deputy Mayor Pam McConnell
Councillor Kristyn Wong-Tam
Councillor Paula Fletcher