

From: [Charlie Johnstone](#)
To: [Exhibition Place Board](#)
Cc: [Catherine de Nobriga](#); [Laura Purdy](#)
Subject: NEXT Place - input from the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair
Date: December 12, 2019 4:27:25 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[NEXT Place letter to Don Boyle dated December 6, 2019.pdf](#)

In advance of the next Board of Governors of Exhibition Place on December 19th, as requested, please find attached a copy of our letter outlining our concerns regarding the current process, timeline, communication and direction undertaking by the City of Toronto Planning Department as it relates to the NEXT Place Exhibition Place master Plan.



CHARLIE G. JOHNSTONE

Chief Executive Officer

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December 6, 2019

Mr. Don Boyle
Chief Executive Officer
Exhibition Place Board of Governors
100 Princes' Blvd, Exhibition Place
Toronto, ON M6K 3C3

RE: NEXT PLACE Exhibition Place Master Plan Strategy

Don,

On behalf of our Board of Directors, I'd like to express our concern regarding the process, timeline, communication and direction undertaken by the City of Toronto's Planning Department as it relates to the NEXT PLACE Exhibition Place Master Plan Strategy.

While the proposed Vision Statement states in part "a location for ambitious building programs that have supported the permanent and continued home of the Canadian National Exhibition and the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair", the presentation dated November 28, 2019 makes it difficult for The Royal to envision our long-term viability on site at Exhibition Place.

The emphasis on short term "wins", including growth potential sites, enhancement and expansion of existing entry points (gateways), creating new gateways, and creative solution for providing parking spaces, appear to be driven by the perceived needs of the local community. In our opinion, the community voice is being provided considerable breadth while consideration for the Tenants/Clients, all of whom have substantial financial, historical and cultural stake in this venue is relatively muted.

If Exhibition Place is to remain, or in fact thrive, as a "gathering place" for conference, events, sport and entertainment, priority must be placed on access to and from the site, public transit, traffic congestion, parking, and infrastructure. Failure to address these real issues will result in the continued decline of the consumer experience attending any type of function at Exhibition Place. Is that perhaps the long-term strategic plan as doing so would ensure more "green space" for the community as The Royal and many other events will have conveniently moved to other venues?

We'd be pleased, and welcome the opportunity, to play a proactive role in the development of this Master Plan Strategy.

Sincerely,

Charlie Johnstone

Cc: Laura Purdy, General Manager, Enercare Centre
Rob Flack, President and Chairman of the Board of Directors, Royal Agricultural Winter Fair