



June 23, 2020

Dear Mark Grimes, Board of Governors' Members, and CEO Don Boyle:

We write in reference to Item EP11.23 – Exhibition Place Master Plan – Update

We, the members of the twelve community associations comprising the West Side Community Council, write to express our continued support for the Exhibition Place Master Plan.

The Next Place Plan Phase 1 Proposals Report for Exhibition Place is a substantive and illuminating document. We thank all those involved in its preparation.

We have several areas that we would like to speak to:

1. As mentioned in our deputation re item EP11.13 – Exhibition Place 2017–2019 Strategic Plan update to December 2021 needs to continue to align with the Exhibition Place Master Plan. We feel they are not working in consort but at odds with a holistic approach and rather focus on only the financial aspects of this 192-acre site. It is critical to invest money into the site as a public asset, and not solely as a revenue generator. This approach will expand the overall attractiveness of Exhibition Place as a destination – Gathering Place.
2. Exhibition Place has seen the cancellation of numerous events at its various venues since mid-March, and staff advise they have proactively initiated discussions with the Toronto Office of Recovery and Rebuild regarding innovative strategies toward reopening the site. In this context, the Master Plan Proposals Report offers a first step toward a physical framework to support economic recovery, guiding the restoration of publicly accessible open spaces, and promoting flexibility and resilience in the use of civic assets. It also proposes a number of “quick start” actions that can be implemented in the short term to enhance mobility and connectivity to Exhibition Place as it begins to restore activity.
3. Rather than “receive as information” the City Planning staff progress update on the Exhibition Place Master Plan Framework we would recommend that the Board of Governors’ endorse City Planning staff recommendations starting immediately to implement elements of item 4.3 Quick Start Initiatives; and continue through future phases, technical and feasibility studies and further consultations.

4. We remind you the financial subsidy to Exhibition Place by taxpayers is annually quite considerable and will increase substantially through the COVID crisis on capital investments and maintenance on the 192-acre site. Benefits should accrue directly to Torontonians' and local residents.
5. Unifying the municipally owned Exhibition Place and provincially owned Ontario Place lands would be a positive step, but we ask that rather than waiting for a provincial government's response you proceed with the Master Plan through the various Phasing stages.

Finally, the best interest of tenants/clients, Exhibition Place staff, the citizens of Toronto and local area residents will be better served by maintaining a clear alignment between the Exhibition Place Strategic Plan extension and the Exhibition Place Master Plan.

Sincerely,



Ric Amis  
Chair, West Side Community Council  
Secretary/Chair, Parkdale Residents Association

Members of the WSCC include the Grange Community Association, the Harbord Village Residents' Association, the Garment District Neighbourhood Association, the Trinity Bellwoods Community Association, the Ossington Community Association, the Lakeview Avenue Neighbourhood Association, the Liberty Village Residents' Association, Beaconsfield Village Residents' Association, Active 18, the Parkdale Residents Association, Roncesvalles-Macdonell Residents Association, and the Bloordale Community Improvement Association.