



June 23, 2020

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

We write in reference to Item EP11.13 – 2017 – 2019 Strategic Plan Achievements – Year Three and EP11.14 – 2020 Capital Budget Update Due to COVID-19

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.

Recognizing that the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) is having devastating effects on all aspects of our lives, and will have an impact on planning going forward, we would like to comment on the 2017 – 2019 Exhibition Place Strategic Plan (now extended to 2021) and update the status of various tactics proposed in that plan specifically referencing section EP11:13.

- 1.) The Strategic Plan brands Exhibition Place as the “Gathering Place”. Part of fulfilling that branding is connecting to the community where, as the plan points out, 10’s of thousands of people have recently moved. Quoting the Strategic Plan: “The initial capture and input phase of the strategic planning process, executed through the Spring and Fall of 2016, ensured input from a cross-section of stakeholders including clients/user groups, city departments, the provincial tourism agency, and residential communities affected by the presence of Exhibition Place.” While we respect the process and thank the Board and the City for the rigorous consultation process on the Ex Place Strategic Plan and the engagement undertaken in the Master Plan consultations, we still lack Board rep. from the actual neighbourhood living in close proximity to the Ex Place grounds. Will the board undertake to rectify this issue going forward and add a board seat to accommodate this stakeholder?
- 2.) Local is becoming the new normal. Moving away from a reliance of international and national visitors over the short and medium term will be a determinant to a successful future of recovery. This refocus will take much planning and discussion from Exhibition Place Board of Governors', Exhibition Place staff, various City departments and the residents of Toronto.
- 3.) There are valuable historical civic assets on the grounds of Exhibition Place and associated projects that cannot be allowed to fall to the wayside. These include: the Garden of the Greek God relocation,

continued development of Festival Plaza, redevelopment of the Baseball Diamond, Carillon Tower repairs, Centennial Fountain repairs. What is the status of these projects? There is a large reserve fund that should be used to to move these projects forward.

- 4.) The plan calls for the opening of a new five-acre urban park surrounding the historic Stanley Barracks. Will this be open to the public in the future since it has been inaccessible through 2019 and into 2020 (the construction and the COVID pandemic notwithstanding)?
- 5.) Has COVID delayed engineering assessments and inspections of the 9 heritage buildings being managed by Exhibition Place? What is the status of these assessments?
- 6.) What is the status of Withrow Common? The space had just two exhibits last year. What is the future of this space?

We hope you will find our comments and thoughts an appropriate way to move forward in these trying times.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ric Amis', written in a cursive style.

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.