

Welcome and Introductions

Don Boyle, Chief Executive Officer of Exhibition Place, welcomed the participants to the Community Liaison Consultation Meeting.

- Exhibition Place is committed to a respectful and fulsome relationship with the surrounding communities through engagement, consultation, and setting achievable benchmarks, which will meet both the needs of the surrounding community and the operations of Exhibition Place.
- Introduced Co-Hosts – Councillor Joe Cressy, Peter Leon
- Introduced current members of the Board of Governors of Exhibition Place
- Introduced Exhibition Place Staff – Don Boyle, Laura Purdy, Mark Goss, Kelvin Seow, Tony Porter, Gilles Bouchard, Nigel Fernandes, Catherine de Nobriga, Debbie Sanderson

This evening we will provide a Transportation Update, as well as, an update on our Meetings & Events business at Exhibition Place. As we are in the initial stages of our 2022-2026 Strategic Plan process, we have incorporated a community consultation discussion facilitated by our Consultant in tonight's program. We have scheduled one additional meeting for the community to participate in this consultation process on Tuesday, November 2, 6-7:30 pm, 2022-2026 Strategic Plan - Public Consultation Session. Stay tuned to our social media channels, as a reminder will be posted on Monday, November 1.

Transportation Update – Tony Porter

- Ontario Line – Metrolinx – early works is set to begin this fall/winter on the rail corridor north of Exhibition Place. A temporary pedestrian bridge will be installed, and the new station construction is set to begin in 2023.
- Gardiner Expressway Rehabilitation – City of Toronto – Section 2, Dufferin Street to Strachan Avenue (bent 1-35) is scheduled to begin early in 2023. Work is scheduled to last for 3 years, and will incorporate replacement of the deck structure, as well as, rehabilitation work on the bents.
- Exhibition Place is working closely with Metrolinx and the City of Toronto on coordination of both of these major construction projects. The projects will overlap for several years, 2023-2026/2027. Both projects are Design Build Projects so final designs are not yet determined.

Meeting & Event Update – Laura Purdy

- The Provincial regulation has approved the reopening of Convention Centres and meeting facilities at 100% occupancy with proof of vacation and safety protocols in place.
- Exhibition Place has been operating as a Film Studio during the closures, and the film studios will end effective October 2021.

Meeting & Event Update – Laura Purdy (cont.)

- The 2021 upcoming events:
 - Beanfield Centre – corporate meetings, Gala
 - Enercare Centre – One of a Kind Show
 - Exhibition Place Grounds - Polar Winter Festival
- The Convention Centre will be fully operational in 2022 and to see a schedule of events
 - <https://www.explace.on.ca/event/>

Community Consultation Discussion on the Exhibition Place 2022-2026 Strategic Plan – Facilitated by Optimus SBR

- Introductions of the team from Optimus, Jesse Burns & Giulia De Lorenzis
- Optimus focuses on partnering with leaders to tackle problems, facilitate change, and deliver solutions that drive effect results. They work with organizations in the Government & NFP Sector, Health Care, Energy & Transportation, Travel & Private Sector, and Financial Services.
- Consultation discussions with key stakeholders is a key step to launch the strategic plan process. Optimus’s objectives for tonight’s meeting:
 - is to provide an overview of the strategic planning process for the Exhibition Place 2022-2026 Strategy development
 - capture an understanding from the community’s perspective of Exhibition Place’s current operations
 - envision the future directions of Exhibition Place to support our understanding as we move through the strategic planning process
- Working with Exhibition Place to facilitate the development of a multi-year Strategic Plan that builds upon the foundation laid by previous strategic plans; reflects and responds to stakeholder input and long-term trends, and aligns with the City of Toronto direction and organizations Master Plan.
- We have met with the Senior Management Team, Leadership Team, City of Toronto, Clients, Tenants, and Exhibition Place staff. This is the first of 2 community meetings, with the 2nd meeting scheduled on November 2, 6-7:30 pm.
- Strategic Plans for any organization typically have a vision, mission, and values that underpin the strategic elements outlining the priorities to be pursued. The Vision, Mission, and Values will be developed using our stakeholder engagement activities as the base.
- We are currently in the data collection, stakeholder engagement, phase of the project.
- How is the strategic plan different from the Phase 1 Proposed Master Plan?
 - The proposed master plan focuses on the overall use of physical land across the site, proposing opportunities to use/develop sections of the site for different purposes (e.g. relax, entertain, exhibit).
 - The strategic plan clarifies the direction forward for Exhibition Place as an organization to ensure alignment of operations both internally and externally to allow for successful and informed planning and business operations.

- What is the impact of Ontario Place or Transit expansion projects on the plan?
 - Ontario Place and Exhibition Place are both key parts of Toronto’s waterfront.
 - Bringing transit to the site will create a more accessible Exhibition Place for residents across the City and visitors from outside of the City. This will create opportunities for greater use of the grounds and require coordination with development activities.
 - Determining how Exhibition Place ensures alignment with Ontario Place development and transit expansions, as well as, with the surrounding communities and neighbourhoods will be a key element of the strategic plan and promoting a cohesive approach to Toronto’s waterfront.

Exhibition Place 2022-2026 Strategic Plan Questions for Discussion

- The 3 questions and content below incorporate community input from both the Community Liaison Consultation Meeting on October 28, 2021, and the Public Consultation Session on November 2, 2021.

1. From your vantage point, what does Exhibition Place represent to you?

- A Gathering Place
- Destination for annual family traditions
- Very large property and great place to exhibit
- Living and working museum, heritage and cultural aspects, preserved historic site
- Accessible Transportation Hub – walking, biking, vehicles, transit
- Close access to the waterfront, an opportunity to celebrate, integrate, and open the waterfront access
- Public park space for community sports, arts, and recreation
- Exhibition Place operates as an island, and needs to be better connected to the City
- The first visible City site when travelling into Toronto

2. From your perspective what 2-3 words would you use to describe Exhibition Place?

- Gathering Place
- Amazing collection of buildings, colonial history
- Buildings with original architecture
- Active transportation site
- Historic waterfront
- Green space
- Agriculture in the City, August Fairground, Country Fair
- Toronto’s largest parking lot
- Disconnected and unplanned
- Lack of wayfinding
- Revenue generator but underutilized

3. With respect to the operations of Exhibition Place, what activities/initiatives should be started, continued?

- Broader focus on what Exhibition Place does – need brand awareness
- Keep the focus on the City’s Master Plan and ensure the Strategic Plan will be integrated with the master plan
- Cultural and heritage site with an opportunity to weave various aspects of Exhibition Place to celebrate its history
- Continue with the focus on fine architecture
- Improve wayfinding to ease movement throughout the site
- Ease of access on site from one end to the other (north to south, east to west)
- Green space is valuable to local communities and major asset in attracting people to the area
- Sustainability is incredibly important, continue with all initiatives and implement a plan to decrease emissions by a set target date
- Balance the various uses of space across the site with all stakeholders
- Protect all of the public art across the site both inside the buildings and across the grounds
- Potential for increasing interconnectivity to the site and the city as an active community site, and not just a convention, conference, meeting, and event site
- Animate the site 365 days each year so the site remains active and vibrant all year round
- Desire to incorporate more innovative community programs, activities, and local businesses to the site (e.g. a market similar to the St. Lawrence Market, ice skating, summer music festivals)
- Distinguish between corporate events and community planned events
- Availability of facilities year round if increasing outdoor activities (e.g. skating, basketball courts, centennial park)
- Ensure events and programs reflect the fabric and diversity of the community and city – Diverse Equitable and Inclusive space for all
- Create a great experience for guests, visitors, clients at both the arrival and departure to and from Exhibition Place
- Ontario Line will increase connectivity to the site
- Leverage back end connections of Exhibition Place to Liberty Village, a walking loop similar to the Distillery District
- Change to governance structure as there are four public appointments and like to see it broadened into indigenous arts
- Create a version of the Navy Pier in Chicago or Santa Monica Pier at Exhibition Place with its accessibility to the grounds, location access to the waterfront, and make all the roads and walkways connected and well lit at night
- Connect the waterfront from Fort York all the way to the west to increase interconnectivity
- Exhibition Place should participate in the City ActiveTO program (biking, walking, running, basketball courts)
- Incorporate a strong landscape plan for the site
- Withrow Common has been used for art exhibits and should continue in the future
- Parking issues created by large events and grounds closures and roll into Liberty Village and Parkdale, which cause congestion for both communities
- Public Safety Issue when emergency services cannot access the site due to vehicular/pedestrian congestion
- Incorporate a transit pass with events to push public transit and enhance the walking system

- Major influx of crime in the neighbouring communities with the increase of people to the community
- Enhance technology related activities
- A need for historical plaques about Battle of Fort York and Fort Rouille, Canadians English and Indigenous peoples fought in that battle
- A community member attended an Ontario Place open house and found they are going ahead with planning without Exhibition Place integration
- Making the site more efficient and accessible during move in/move out of events
- OVO Building should be accessible to the public, and possibly host summer camps

At the conclusion, Don thanked all guests for participating in the strategic plan consultation discussion this evening.

Don reminded all attendees we will continue to keep the community apprised of the strategic plan process, and any future meetings to be scheduled.