

Sept. 26, 2021

Dear Members of the Board of Governors Exhibition Place,

Re: EP19.2 – 2022 Proposed Capital Works Budget as Part of Ten-Year (2022-2031) Program

I write as Chair of the West Side Community Council, an umbrella organization of thirteen West End community associations, in regard to agenda item number EP19.2, staff review the 10-year capital plan.

COVID has had a major impact on the workings of Exhibition Place. We applaud the hard work of staff, the Board of Governors and the City of Toronto in maintaining this public asset for today and into the future. A special note of thanks to staff for keeping washrooms open to the public.

In reviewing the EXHIBITION PLACE Draft 3c (Aug 6, 2021) PROPOSED (2022 - 2031) CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAM we have several areas we would like to speak to:

1. #14 SPECIAL PROJECTS EXH907453/B - We appreciate that the Garden of the Greek Gods sculptures are being removed from the privately enclosed outdoor areas of Toronto Event Centre Inc. (AKA Muzik Inc., Horticultural Building). And that in 2022 the sculptures will be moving to an area around the Rose Gardens that will make them publicly accessible again.
2. #2 PARKS, PARKING LOTS, ROADS EXH260/B. 1 thru 6 – The Festival Plaza development is yet again being pushed into the far future. The original Festival Plaza Master Plan of 2010 was to designate 16.56 acres as part of a broader desire to, “enhance our public assets by addressing infrastructure deficits” (Strategic Plan for 2009-2012). This deferral raises doubts as to the intentions of the Board of Governors as reflected in the Exhibition Place Master Plan - setting a low bar by example. It is critical to invest money into the site as a public asset, and not solely as a revenue generator. The two are not mutually exclusive.
3. That there be an acknowledgement of the value of open green space for the health and well-being of Toronto residents. The increase in the population surrounding Exhibition Place has seen some 125,000 new residents in the last 15 years and many more residents are yet to come. Festival Plaza can be a place that people will go to, whether for a concert or the CNE. Festival Plaza will be an important public asset on Toronto’s waterfront.
4. SOGR BACKLOG & CONSTRAINTS BY ASSET TYPES under the category of EXHIBITION PLACE TENANTED BUILDINGS there is no mention of the

HORTICULTURAL BUILDING (currently Toronto Events Centre), LIBERTY GRAND (former Ontario Government Building), ARTS, CRAFTS AND HOBBIES BUILDING (Medieval Times), the MUSIC BUILDING (former Railways Building) or ACQUA DOLCE RESTO VENUE. We urge you to include these buildings in your Capital Works Budget moving forward.

5. Since these properties are missing from this budget proposal what is the SOGR on these assets and, have there been recent inspections of these properties? As an example, upon viewing the Horticultural Building would indicate a failure by the tenant to maintain a SOGR (flag pole on the dome has been missing for over 5 years).
6. We ask that you place a high value on the heritage value and historical relevance of these and other assets on the 192-acre grounds to the first peoples and subsequent colonial-settlers' place in the past as we move forward.
7. Finally, our concern regards the increased interest in the exploitation of Exhibition Place lands for private commercial benefit as is seen in the recent development of Hotel X Phase 2 with its additional 30-storey (400 room) hotel and 7,000 seat "gaming stadium". We question the City of Toronto's infrastructure investment in the site and property relief to the owner. This does not align with the ideals of public open green space. Additionally, the lack of public consultation remains a huge impediment to building public trust.

We thank you for the opportunity to make this submission.

Sincerely,



Ric Amis

Spokesperson/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.



TORONTO EVENTS CENTRE



LIBERTY GRAND



MEDIEVAL TIMES



MUSIC BUILDING



ACQUA DOLCE RESTO VENUE