



June 8, 2022

Dear Members Board of Governors Exhibition Place,

Re: EP24.12 - Final Draft Strategic Plan 2022 - 2026 Report

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 EP24.12, Final Draft Strategic Plan 2022-2026 Report.

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 both for today and into the future.

In reviewing the EXHIBITION PLACE Final Draft Strategic Plan 2022-2026 Report, we have identified several issues we would like to speak to:

1. We agree with the clear insight of the consultants in recognizing the multi-faceted importance of the 192-acre Exhibition Place site to the local community, to residents of Toronto and of the Province yet more generally, and to international visitors. The challenges of managing a site like this takes a talented group of people, including management staff, appointed Board members, tenants, and community stakeholders.
2. We are delighted to see the importance that has been assigned to animating and activating the site 365 days per year reflected in Strategic Goal 2 (5.4.2), in integration with the Exhibition Place Master Plan. Developing the 2017-2019 Strategic Plan's "Gathering Place" theme by animating the site 365 days a year strategy is in our view crucially important to all stakeholders, and makes eminent good sense. Such a temporal view of Exhibition Place will operate to fulfill its promise as a destination for local residents and visitors alike.
3. An important consideration, given the heritage aspects of the site for Settlers and Indigenous communities alike, is designing for the need to increase and emphasize Reconciliation in all its elements. We encourage further attention to this issue.
4. We cannot over-emphasize the importance of two historic and iconic events that happen every year on Exhibition Place grounds: first, the Canadian National Exhibition; second, the Royal Winter Fair. Given the COVID-related challenges for these exhibitions, we request that the continuation and flourishing of these

- much-loved events is given high priority in the continued development of the site.
5. A line item is required in the Annual Budget for Exhibition Place showing funds directed to community-initiated supported activities and associated services-in-kind. This will provide a basis for staff, Board, tenants, and community stakeholders to understand the financial implications of investing in community initiatives related to animating the site 365 days a year.
 6. Integrating Exhibition Place into the fabric of the area (Parkdale, Liberty Village, Fort York, Niagara, The Bentway, etc.) through the numerous community organizations and local BIAs will have lasting beneficial repercussions for all. We request that there be continuing engagement with these local organizations as we move towards making Exhibition Place a true 'gathering place'.

In closing, we would like to thank the Board and staff for the opportunity to present the thoughts of local residents and look forward to working with you in the future.

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.