



Sept. 13, 2022

Dear Members Board of Governors Exhibition Place,

Re: EP25.9 - 2023 Operating Budget

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 EP25.9 - 2023 Operating Budget.

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 as we recover from the COVID pandemic.

In reviewing the EXHIBITION PLACE 2023 Operating Budget, we have identified several areas we would like to speak to:

1. The 2023 Operating Budget and how it relates to the Exhibition Place Master Plan and the Strategic Plan 2022-2026 in advancing the long-term success of managing the site is of critical importance. More specifically, animating and activating the site 365 days per year, (as reflected in Strategic Goal 2 (5.4.2), should be paramount. We know the board will agree with us, as stated in the Exhibition Place Mission statement, 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, as well as international visitors.
2. In the 2023 Operating Budget (item 50 - 201 Community Benefits), increased financial support of local community-initiated activities and associated services-in-kind would serve two objectives. Investing in community initiatives related to animating the site 365 days a year makes good business sense, while it serves the Board's stated commitment to integrate with and serve the needs of the local community.
3. In the context of animating the site 365 days a year, we would like to note that EP25.13 - 2023 Proposed Capital Works Budget, the revitalization of Centennial Square will greatly impact the enjoyment of all visitors to Exhibition Place. (item 14. Special Projects in the CEO's Report for Action)
4. The restoration and relocation of the Garden of the Greek Gods to the Rose Garden is another example that will reap lasting benefits for all visitors to the site.
5. An important consideration, given the heritage aspects of the site for Colonial

Settlers (of which over 250 years of our colonial history is on display at Exhibition Place) and Indigenous communities (of which there is no representation!), is to design based on the need to recognize the role of Exhibition Place when it comes to Reconciliation. We encourage further attention to this issue. With major changes coming to the property, there will be plenty of areas to install a featured display of some kind.

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.