



May 28, 2023

Dear Members of the Civic Appointments Committee,

Re: 2023.CA6.1 – Selection of Candidates for Interview for the Exhibition Place Board

I write as Chair of the West Side Community Council (WSCC), an umbrella organization of thirteen West End community associations, in regard to agenda item number CA6.1.

In reviewing the Exhibition Place PUBLIC appointments to the Board of Governors we have several areas we would like to speak to:

1. The job descriptions for public positions needs to be expanded. Currently, the focus is on strategic planning, property management and development, finance, marketing, legal, public relations and communications, public/private enterprises, and human resources. We believe that the Board's composition does not reflect its mandate under its own adopted Master Plan to integrate with the community. A more inclusive and diverse selection of public appointments would include Indigenous representation, heritage, arts, architecture, etc. This would round out and bring a broader perspective to the governance of the Board of Governors.
2. Over the past 20 years, the population around Exhibition Place's catchment area (within a 15 minute walk) of Exhibition Place has increased by over 125,000 people and many more residents are yet to come. We interpret the mandate of the Master Plan, ie. to integrate with the community, as having a Governor who is actually impacted by the Boards decisions, vis a vis their proximity to the park. These residents need green space for their complete physical, mental and social well-being. COVID has shown us the value of open public green space to Toronto residents. It's time for the residents around Exhibition Place (Parkdale, Liberty Village, Niagara, Fort York, City Place, Bathurst Quay, Wellington Place) to have a say in what happens to this City-owned 192-acre property at their doorstep. For many, this is their backyard or cottage.

3. A lot of changes are coming to the Exhibition Place grounds and the surrounding area. The Exhibition Place Master Plan is starting Phase 2, implementation of the Exhibition Place Strategic Plan 2022-2026, and Hotel X Phase 2 is underway. Then there are the redevelopments at Ontario Place across the road and conversations with the Province, the new Ontario Line subway is moving forward.
4. There is the heritage value and historical relevance of the buildings and other assets on the 192-acre grounds to the first peoples and subsequent colonial settlers place in the past as we move forward.
5. We fully endorse the Values outlined in the Exhibition Place Strategic Plan 2022-2026. In the Strategic Goals 5.4.2 Strategic Goals 2: Promote Site Animation 365-days a Year states as expected outcomes – increase recreational activities and opportunities for community to engage, increase community partnerships, and showcase historic sites and Indigenous history. To this end, having a broader more inclusive representation on Exhibition Place Board of Governors will help meet the objectives of the Strategic Plan
6. Finally, to reiterate, we feel that besides the current qualifications the addition of having representatives that bring other perspectives and reflect the diversity of the surrounding geographic community and, include another stakeholder group would contribute to the good governance of this important iconic City landmark.

We hope you will agree to these considerations moving forward in your deliberations and we thank you for the opportunity to make this submission.

Sincerely,

Ric Amis

Spokesperson/Chair, West Side Community Council

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 Niagara Neighbourhood Now, 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.