

Use of Nathan Phillips Square for Various Events - September 1, 2024 - April 30, 2025

Date: May 24, 2024
To: Toronto and East York Community Council
From: General Manager, Economic Development & Culture
Wards: Ward 10 - Spadina-Fort York

SUMMARY

The City of Toronto provides opportunities to access Nathan Phillips Square for eligible events through a permitting process administered by the Economic Development and Culture Division.

The purpose of this report is to request exemptions from Toronto Municipal Code Chapter 636, Public Squares, and former City of Toronto Municipal Code Chapter 237, Nathan Phillips Square, for events that are proposed to be held on Nathan Phillips Square from September 1, 2024 to April 30, 2025.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The General Manager, Economic Development and Culture recommends that:

1. City Council grant permission to The Caribbean Scholarship Foundation, Toronto Vegetarian Association, City Cultural Events – City of Toronto, JDRF, Canada Running Series, Global Arts Cultural and Heritage Foundation, Maple Leaf Sports and Entertainment Foundation, The Ontario Snow Resorts Association, and Celebrate Toronto, to operate a beer and wine Vintners Quality Alliance garden and to serve alcohol contingent upon the following conditions:

- Approval of the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario
- Approval of the Medical Officer of Health
- Compliance with the City of Toronto's Municipal Alcohol Policy
- Receipt of all the necessary permits associated with the production of the event i.e. building permits, noise by-law extension permit

2. City Council grant permission to The Caribbean Scholarship Foundation, Myeloma Canada, Mexican Day Toronto, Toronto Vegetarian Association, Strategic Partnerships City Manager's Office – City of Toronto, Toronto Council Fire Native Cultural Centre,

City Cultural Events – City of Toronto, JDRF, Canada Running Series, Strategic Protocol and External Relations – City of Toronto, Maple Leaf Sports and Entertainment Foundation, Celebrate Toronto, Fast in the 6 Inc., Turkish Society of Canada, Vietnamese Association Toronto, and Ontario Sikhs and Gurdwara Council to solicit donations in support of their organizations.

3. City Council grant permission to The Caribbean Scholarship Foundation, Myeloma Canada, Mexican Day Toronto, Toronto Vegetarian Association, Strategic Partnerships City Manager's Office – City of Toronto, Toronto Council Fire Native Cultural Centre, City Cultural Events – City of Toronto, JDRF, Canada Running Series, Strategic Protocol and External Relations – City of Toronto, Maple Leaf Sports and Entertainment Foundation, The Ontario Snow Resorts Association, Turkish Society of Canada, and Ontario Sikhs and Gurdwara Council to engage in sports demonstrations.

4. City Council grant permission to allow for sound amplification by the organizations and at the times listed below, which extend beyond the accepted Nathan Phillips Square's amplification schedule policy hours, such policy only allowing for amplification of sound from Monday to Friday between 12:00 pm and 1:30 pm, and between 4:30 pm and 11:00 pm:

City Produced Events:

- Strategic Partnerships City Manager's Office – City of Toronto on September 24, 2024 to present land acknowledgment and African Ancestral Acknowledgment, remarks by Deputy Mayor, City Manager, Deputy City Manager, and President of CUPE Local 4948, light exercise before the official run, band performance, closing remarks by emcee as part of the Civic Run event.
- Environment and Climate Division – City of Toronto in April 2025 (date to be confirmed) media scrum to make Clean Toronto announcements as part of the Clean Toronto Together event.

Third-Party Community Produced Events:

- Toronto Council Fire Native Cultural Centre from September 25 to October 1, 2024 to present indigenous music, dances, and inspirational talks as part of the Indigenous Legacy Gathering event.
- JDRF on October 17, 2024 to present event announcements, motivational speakers, and music for stationary bikers as part of the Ride to Defeat Diabetes for JDRF.
- Myeloma Canada on September 12-13, 2024 to present event announcements and music as part of the Over the Edge event.
- Maple Leaf Sports and Entertainment Foundation in January or February 2025 (date to be confirmed) to present event announcements and music as part of the Leaf's Open Practice event.
- The Ontario Snow Resorts Association in February 2025 (date to be confirmed) to present event announcements and music as part of the Go Skiing Go Snowboarding event.
- Celebrate Toronto in March 2025 (date to be confirmed) to present music, dances, band performances, event announcements and part of the Celebrate Toronto event.

All permissions would be contingent upon each applicant securing a Noise Bylaw Exemption permit through the Municipal Licensing and Standards (MLS) Division and adhering to the Toronto Municipal Code, Chapter 591, Noise, along with mandatory sound monitoring throughout the event to ensure compliance with schedules.

5. City Council grant permission to The Caribbean Scholarship Foundation, Toronto Council Fire Native Cultural Centre, City Cultural Events – City of Toronto, Global Arts Cultural and Heritage Foundation, Strategic Protocol and External Relations – City of Toronto, Maple Leaf Sports and Entertainment Foundation, The Ontario Snow Resorts Association, Celebrate Toronto, and Fast in the 6 Inc., to use open flame as part of their event production.

6. City Council grant permission to the City Cultural Events – City of Toronto, Global Arts Cultural and Heritage Foundation, Celebrate Toronto, and Fast in the 6 Inc. to use special effects pyrotechnics as part of their event production.

7. City Council grant permission to the Toronto Council Fire Native Cultural Center, City Cultural Events – City of Toronto, Strategic Protocol and External Relations – City of Toronto, Global Arts Cultural and Heritage Foundation, and Maple Leaf Sports and Entertainment Foundation, to place objects in the reflecting pool.

8. City Council grant permission to Myeloma Canada to rappel from the east and west towers of the City Hall.

9. City Council require that the various events compensate the City of Toronto, through the Corporate Real Estate Management Division, for all the City of Toronto costs associated with an event above the standard staffing complement.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There are no current or known future-year financial impacts arising from the recommendations contained in this report.

The City will be compensated by the event organizers for any costs incurred by the City as a result of these various events and the approval of requested exemptions to Chapter 636 and former City of Toronto Municipal Code Chapter 237 through the Corporate Real Estate Management Division.

Normal fees associated with permitting and staff cost recovery charges as per Municipal Code [Chapter 441](#) will be applied as well.

The Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer has reviewed this report and agrees with the information as presented in the Financial Impact Section.

DECISION HISTORY

On March 20, 2024, City Council granted various requested exemptions for the use of Nathan Phillips Square (NPS) from May 1, 2024 to August 31, 2024.

<https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2024.TE11.29>

City of Toronto Economic Development and Culture Division, Arts and Culture Services, Event Support Unit has received applications from the following for the use of NPS from September 1, 2024 to April 30, 2025.

2024

- The Caribbean Scholarship Foundation's "Trinbago Festival"
- Mexican Day Toronto's "Mexican Independence Day Celebration"
- Toronto Vegetarian Association's "Veg Food Fest"
- Strategic Partnerships, City Manager's Office, City of Toronto's "Civic Run"
- Toronto Council Fire Native Cultural Centre's "Indigenous Legacy Gathering"
- City Cultural Events, City of Toronto's "Nuit Blanche"
- JDRF's "Ride to Defeat Diabetes for JDRF"
- Canada Running Series' "Toronto Waterfront Marathon"
- Myeloma Canada's "Over the Edge"
- Global Arts Cultural and Heritage Foundation's "Diwali - Festival of Lights"
- Strategic Protocol and External Relations, City of Toronto's "Treaties Recognition Week"
- Strategic Protocol and External Relations, City of Toronto's "Indigenous Veterans Day"
- Strategic Protocol and External Relations, City of Toronto's "Louis Riel Day"
- City Cultural Events, City of Toronto's "Cavalcade of Lights"
- Strategic Protocol and External Relations, City of Toronto's "60th Anniversary of the Nathan Phillips Square Skating Rink"
- City Cultural Events, City of Toronto's "New Year's Eve"

2025

- Maple Leaf Sports and Entertainment Foundation's "Leaf's Open Practice"
- The Ontario Snow Resorts Association's "Go Skiing Go Snowboarding"
- Celebrate Toronto's "Celebrate Toronto"
- Fast in the 6 Inc.'s "Fast in the 6"
- Turkish Society of Canada's "International Children's Day"
- Environment and Climate Division, City of Toronto's "Clean Toronto Together"
- Vietnamese Association Toronto's "Journey to Freedom Commemoration"
- Ontario Sikhs and Gurdwara Council's "Khalsa Day"

COMMENTS

The Toronto Municipal Code Chapter 636, Public Squares, and former City of Toronto Municipal Code Chapter 237, Nathan Phillips Square, prohibit the solicitation of

donations, the sale of alcohol, placing objects in the reflecting pool, use of open flame and special effects pyrotechnics, amplification of sound outside of NPS amplification schedule policy, “gated or ticketed” events and engagement in sports demonstrations without the approval of City Council.

Various event organizers are requesting permission to engage in these activities as outlined in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Dates for Events and Permissions Requested

Date	Event	Organization	Requesting Permission
September 6 – 8, 2024	Trinbago Festival	The Caribbean Scholarship Foundation	Solicit donations Engage in sports demonstrations Use of open flame as part of their event production Operate beer and wine Vintners Quality Alliance (VQA) garden and serve alcohol
September 12-13, 2024	Over the Edge	Myeloma Canada	Solicit donations Engage in sports demonstrations Amplify sound outside of the NPS amplification schedule policy (9:00 am – 4:30 pm) Rappel from East/West tower
September 14, 2024	Mexican Independence Day celebration	Mexican Day Toronto	Solicit donations Engage in sports demonstrations
September 20-22, 2024	Veg Food Fest	Toronto Vegetarian Association	Solicit donations Engage in sports demonstrations Operate beer and wine VQA garden and serve alcohol
September 24	Civic Run	Strategic Partnerships, City Manager’s Office	Solicit donations Engage in sports demonstrations Amplify sound outside of the NPS amplification schedule policy (9:00 am – 4:30 pm)
September 25 – October 1, 2024	Indigenous Legacy Gathering	Toronto Council Fire Native Cultural Centre	Solicit donations Engage in sports demonstrations

			Amplify sound outside of the NPS amplification schedule policy (7:00 am – 4:30 pm) Use of open flame as part of their event production Place objects in the pool
October 1- 14, 2024	Nuit Blanche	City Cultural Events, City of Toronto	Solicit donations Engage in sports demonstrations Use of open flame as part of their event production Operate beer and wine VQA garden and serve alcohol Place objects in the pool Special effects pyrotechnics
October 15-18, 2024	Ride to Defeat Diabetes for JDRF	JDRF	Solicit donations Engage in sports demonstrations Amplify sound outside of the NPS amplification schedule policy (10:00 am – 4:30 pm) Operate beer and wine VQA garden and serve alcohol
October 19-20, 2024	Toronto Waterfront Marathon	Canada Running Series	Solicit donations Engage in sports demonstrations Operate beer and wine VQA garden and serve alcohol
October 25 – 27, 2024	Diwali – Festival of Lights	Global Arts Cultural and Heritage Foundation	Use of open flame as part of their event production Operate beer and wine VQA garden and serve alcohol Place objects in the pool Special effects pyrotechnics
November 5/6, 2024	Treaties recognition week	Strategic Protocol and External Relations, City of Toronto	Use of open flame as part of their event production
November 8, 2024	Indigenous Veterans Day	Strategic Protocol & External Relations, City of Toronto	Solicit donations Use of open flame as part of their event production

November 16, 2024	Louis Riel Day	Strategic Protocol and External Relations, City of Toronto	Use of open flame as part of their event production
November 18, 2024 - January 24, 2025	Cavalcade of Lights	City Cultural Events, City of Toronto	Solicit donations Engage in sports demonstrations Use of open flame as part of their event production Operate beer and wine VQA garden and serve alcohol Place objects in the pool Special effects pyrotechnics
November 22, 2024	60th Anniversary of the Nathan Phillips Square Skating Rink	Strategic Protocol and External Relations, City of Toronto	Engage in sports demonstration Use of open flame as part of their event production Place objects in the pool
December 27, 2024 - January 3, 2025	New Year's Eve	City Cultural Events, City of Toronto	Solicit donations Engage in sports demonstrations Use of open flame as part of their event production Operate beer and wine VQA garden and serve alcohol Place objects in the pool Special effects pyrotechnics
January/ February 2025	Leafs Open Practice	Maple Leaf Sports and Entertainment Foundation	Solicit donations Engage in sports demonstrations Amplify sound outside of the NPS amplification schedule policy (10:00 am – 4:30 pm) Use of open flame as part of their event production Operate beer and wine VQA garden and serve alcohol Place objects in the pool
February 2025	Go Skiing Go Snowboarding	The Ontario Snow Resorts Association	Engage in sports demonstrations Amplify sound outside of the NPS amplification schedule policy

			(10:00 am – 4:30 pm) Use of open flame as part of their event production Operate beer and wine VQA garden and serve alcohol
March 2025	Celebrate Toronto	Celebrate Toronto	Solicit donations Amplify sound outside of the NPS amplification schedule policy (10:00 am – 4:30 pm) Use of open flame as part of their event production Operate beer and wine VQA garden and serve alcohol Special effects pyrotechnics
March 2025	Fast in the 6	Fast in the 6 Inc.	Solicit donations Use of open flame as part of their event production Special effects pyrotechnics
April 2025	International Children's Day	Turkish Society of Canada	Solicit donations Engage in sports demonstrations
April 2025	Clean Toronto Together	Environment and Climate Division, City of Toronto	Amplify sound outside of the NPS amplification schedule policy (7:00 am – 9:00 am)
April 2025	Journey to Freedom Commemoration	Vietnamese Association, Toronto	Solicit donations
April 2025	Khalsa Day	Ontario Sikhs and Gurdwara Council	Solicit donations Engage in sports demonstrations

Next Steps

If the exemptions are approved by Council, the issuance of permits and exemptions for the events listed in this report will be conditional on submission of all required documentation and permissions by the event organizers to City staff for review and approval.

These actions would be in compliance with all other related City policies, procedures and criteria, and would follow regular business practices.

Staff will monitor on-site event operations to ensure event organizers' compliance with the exemptions granted in a manner that maintains and adheres to the required procedures and guidelines outlined as conditions in the executed permit agreement.

In response to Council directions from [2024.TE11.29](#), staff are taking action to study the impacts of amplified sound on NPS on the office environment of City Hall during the work day.

Such actions include: consultation with the local Councillor and affected "C" street Councillors; testing and monitoring of sound amplification in May 2024; and monitoring sound levels from NPS and in Councillors' offices on "C" Street while events were taking place.

Throughout May 2024, sound amplification testing and monitoring were done at the following events, which were the first permitted weekday events to occur since the motion had been adopted:

- Second Harvest Truck Pull: May 15, 2024
- Newcomer Day: May 23, 2024
- Sing: May 28, 2024
- Rugby in the Square: May 31, 2024

The sound levels were monitored by MLS staff from both the square level and in Councillors' offices occupying "C" Street at 65, 75 & 85 decibels while the events were taking place.

The information and data collected will be used to understand the impacts of the sound pressure and possible options for mitigation.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

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