

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

Date: February 3, 2025
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 May 1 - September 30, 2025.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The General Manager, Economic Development and Culture recommends that:

1. City Council grant permission to the Second Harvest Canada, City Cultural Events Production City of Toronto, Rugby Ontario, Casa Cultural Peruana, SickKids Foundation, DeRo Foundation, Red Onion Event Management, Batuki Music Society, Pride Toronto, Taste of the Middle East, Toronto Outdoor Art Exhibition, Artsxplosion Cultural Society, Better Future for Kids Foundation, Young Canadian Alliances, Nepalese Canadian Community Services, Panorama India, Philippines Independence Day Council, Canadian Association of Chinese Performing Arts, The Caribbean Scholarship Foundation, Mexican Day Toronto, Toronto Vegetarian Association, to operate a beer and wine Vintners Quality Alliance (VQA) 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 Turkish Society of Canada, Baycrest Foundation, Evolve Hub Association, Second Harvest Canada, City Cultural Events Production City of Toronto, Sing! The Toronto International Vocal Arts Festival, City of Toronto Newcomer Office, Rugby Ontario, Casa Cultural Peruana, SickKids Foundation, DeRo Foundation, Christian Music Festival, Red Onion Event Management, Pride Toronto, Toronto Outdoor Art Exhibition, Better Future for Kids Foundation, Hiroshima Nagasaki Day Coalition, Strategic Partnership City Manager's Office City of Toronto, Toronto Council Fire Native Cultural Centre, to solicit donations in support of their organization.

3. City Council grant permission to Turkish Society of Canada, Evolve Hub Association, Second Harvest Canada, City Cultural Events Production City of Toronto, City of Toronto Newcomer Office, Rugby Ontario, Casa Cultural Peruana, SickKids Foundation, DeRo Foundation, Pride Toronto, Taste of the Middle East, Toronto Outdoor Art Exhibition, Artsxplosion Cultural Society, Better Future for Kids Foundation, Young Canadian Alliances, Nepalese Canadian Community Services, Panorama India, Philippines Independence Day Council, Canadian Association of Chinese Performing Arts, The Caribbean Scholarship Foundation, Mexican Day Toronto, Toronto Vegetarian Association, Strategic Partnership City Manager's Office City of Toronto, Toronto Council Fire Native Cultural Centre 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 16, 2025, 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.

Third-Party Community Organization Produced Events:

- Toronto Council Fire Native Cultural Centre from September 27-30, 2025, to present Indigenous music, dances, and inspirational talks as part of the Indigenous Legacy Gathering 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 Evolve Hub Association, City Cultural Events Production City of Toronto, Casa Cultural Peruana, Strategic Protocol and External Relations City of Toronto, Pride Toronto, Taste of the Middle East, Toronto Outdoor Art Exhibition, Artsxplosion Cultural Society, Better Future for Kids Foundation, Young Canadian Alliances, Panorama India, Canadian Association of Chinese Performing Arts,

The Caribbean Scholarship Foundation, Mexican Day Toronto, SickKids Foundation, Toronto Council Fire Native Cultural Centre to use open flame as part of their event production.

6. City Council grant permission to the Baycrest Foundation, City Cultural Events Production City of Toronto, Rugby Ontario, SickKids Foundation, DeRo Foundation, Metro Marine Modellers, Batuki Music Society, Pride Toronto, Taste of the Middle East, Toronto Outdoor Art Exhibition, Artsxplosion Cultural Society, Better Future for Kids Foundation, Young Canadian Alliances, Hiroshima Nagasaki Day Coalition, Philippines Independence Day Council, Canadian Association of Chinese Performing Arts, Mexican Day Toronto, Toronto Council Fire Native Cultural Centre to place objects in the reflecting pool.

7. City Council requires 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

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, as outlined in Municipal Code [Chapter 441](#), will be applied.

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 June 26, 2024, the City Council adopted 2024.TE14.42, granting various requested exemptions for the use of Nathan Phillips Square from September 1, 2024 - April 30, 2025.

<https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2024.TE14.42>

City of Toronto Economic Development & Culture Division, Arts and Culture Services, Event Support Unit has received applications from the following for the use of Nathan Phillips Square from May 1 - September 30, 2025:

- Turkish Society of Canada's "International Children's Day - Multicultural Dance and Arts Festival".
- Baycrest Foundation's "The Brain Project".
- Evolve Hub Association's "Toronto Halal Bites Festival".
- Second Harvest Canada's "Second Harvest Truck Pull Challenge".

- City Cultural Events, Production, City of Toronto's "Doors Open".
- SING! The Toronto International Vocal Arts Festival's "Sing! Toronto Preview Event".
- City of Toronto Newcomer Office's "Toronto Newcomer Day".
- Rugby Ontario's "Rugby in the Square".
- Casa Cultural Peruana's "Canadian Latin Festival".
- SickKids Foundation's "SickKids 150th Birthday Community Celebrations".
- DeRo Foundation's "Soccer in the Square".
- Christian Music Festival's "Christian Music Festival".
- Metro Marine Modellers' "Radio-Controlled Boating Regatta".
- Red Onion Event Management's "Nathan Phillips Square Farmers' Market".
- Strategic Protocol and External Relations' "Sunrise Ceremony".
- Batuki Music Society's "Karibu Music Fest".
- Pride Toronto's "Pride Festival 2025".
- Taste of the Middle East's "The 8th Taste of the Middle East Arabic Festival".
- Toronto Outdoor Art Exhibition's "Toronto Outdoor Art Fair".
- Artsxplosion Cultural Society's "Panamerican Food and Music Festival".
- Better Future of Kids Foundation's "Taste of Vietnam".
- Young Canadian Alliances' "Taste of India".
- Hiroshima Nagasaki Day Coalition's "Commemoration on the 80th Anniversary of the Bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki".
- Nepalese Canadian Community Services' "Himalayan Festival".
- Panorama India's "India Day Festival and Grand Parade 2025".
- Philippines Independence Day Council's "Mabuhay Philippines Festival".
- Canadian Association of Chinese Performing Arts' "Toronto Dragon Festival".
- The Caribbean Scholarship Foundation's "Trinbago Festival".
- Mexican Day Toronto's "Mexican Independence Day Celebration".
- Toronto Vegetarian Association's "Veg Food Fest".
- Strategic Partnership, City Manager's Office, City of Toronto's "Civic Run".
- Toronto Council Fire Native Cultural Centre's "Indigenous Legacy Gathering".

COMMENTS

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 Nathan Phillips Square amplification schedule policy, "gated or ticketed" events and engagement in sports demonstrations without the approval of Council.

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

Table 1: Dates for Events and Permission Requested

Date	Event	Organization	Requesting Permission
May 3	International Children's Day – Multicultural Dance and Art Festival	Turkish Society of Canada	Solicit donations Engage in sports demonstrations
May 5- June 6	The Brain Project	Baycrest Foundation	Solicit donations Place objects in the pool
May 16-18	Toronto Halal Bites Festival	Evolve Hub Association	Solicit donations Engage in sports demonstrations Use of open flame as part of their event production
May 13-14	Second Harvest Truck Pull Challenge	Second Harvest Canada	Solicit donations Engage in sports demonstrations Operate a beer and wine Vintners Quality Alliance (VQA) garden and serve alcohol
May 24-25	Doors Open Toronto	City Cultural Events, Production, City of Toronto	Solicit donations Engage in sports demonstrations Use of open flame as part of their event production Operate a beer and wine Vintners Quality Alliance (VQA) garden and serve alcohol Place objects in the pool
May 26	Sing! Toronto Preview Event	SING! The Toronto International Vocal Arts Festival	Solicit donations
May 27-28	Toronto Newcomer Day	City of Toronto Newcomer Office	Solicit donations Engage in sports demonstrations
May 29-30	Rugby in the Square	Rugby Ontario	Solicit donations Engage in sports demonstrations Operate a beer and wine Vintners Quality Alliance (VQA) garden and serve alcohol Place objects in the pool
May 31- June1	Canadian Latin Festival	Casa Cultural Peruana	Solicit donations Engage in sports

			demonstrations Use of open flame as part of their event production Operate a beer and wine Vintners Quality Alliance (VQA) garden and serve alcohol
June 6-8	SickKids 150th Birthday Community Celebrations	SickKids Foundation	Solicit donations Engage in sports demonstrations. Operate a beer and wine Vintners Quality Alliance (VQA) garden and serve alcohol Place objects in the pool Use of open flame as part of their event production
June 13	Soccer in the Square	DeRo Foundation	Solicit donations Engage in sports demonstrations Operate a beer and wine Vintners Quality Alliance (VQA) garden and serve alcohol Place objects in the pool
June 14	Christian Music Festival	Christian Music Festival	Solicit donations
June 15	Radio-controlled Boating Regatta	Metro Marine Modellers	Place objects in the pool
June 11-October 8	Nathan Phillips Square Farmers Market	Red Onion Event Management	Solicit donations Operate a beer and wine Vintners Quality Alliance (VQA) garden and serve alcohol
June 21	Sunrise Ceremony	Strategic Protocol and External Relations, City of Toronto	Use of open flame as part of their event production
June 22	Karibu Music Fest	Batuki Music Society	Operate a beer and wine Vintners Quality Alliance (VQA) garden and serve alcohol Place objects in the pool
June 26-30	Pride Festival 2025	Pride Toronto	Solicit donations Engage in sports demonstrations Use of open flame as part of their event production Operate a beer and wine

			Vintners Quality Alliance (VQA) garden and serve alcohol Place objects in the pool
July 3-6	The 8th Annual Taste of the Middle East Arabic Festival	Taste of the Middle East	Engage in sports demonstrations Use of open flame as part of their event production Operate a beer and wine Vintners Quality Alliance (VQA) garden and serve alcohol Place objects in the pool
July 10-13	Toronto Outdoor Art Fair	Toronto Outdoor Art Exhibition	Solicit donations Engage in sports demonstrations Use of open flame as part of their event production Operate a beer and wine Vintners Quality Alliance (VQA) garden and serve alcohol Place objects in the pool
July 18-20	Panamerican food and music festival	Artsxplosion Cultural Society	Engage in sports demonstrations Use of open flame as part of their event production Operate a beer and wine Vintners Quality Alliance (VQA) garden and serve alcohol Place objects in the pool
July 24-27	Taste of Vietnam	Better Future for Kids Foundation	Solicit donations Engage in sports demonstrations Use of open flame as part of their event production Operate a beer and wine Vintners Quality Alliance (VQA) garden and serve alcohol Place objects in the pool
July 31-August 3	Taste of India	Young Canadian Alliances	Engage in sports demonstrations Use of open flame as part of their event production Operate a beer and wine Vintners Quality Alliance (VQA) garden and serve

			alcohol Place objects in the pool
August 6	Commemoration on the 80th Anniversary of the Bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki	Hiroshima Nagasaki Day Coalition	Solicit donations Place objects in the pool
August 8-10	Himalayan Festival	Nepalese Canadian Community Services (NCCS)	Engage in sports demonstrations Operate a beer and wine Vintners Quality Alliance (VQA) garden and serve alcohol
August 16-17	India Day Festival and Grand Parade 2025	Panorama India	Engage in sports demonstrations Use of open flame as part of their event production Operate a beer and wine Vintners Quality Alliance (VQA) garden and serve alcohol
August 22-24	Mabuhay Philippines Festival	Philippines Independence Day Council	Engage in sports demonstrations Operate a beer and wine Vintners Quality Alliance (VQA) garden and serve alcohol. Place objects in the pool
August 28-31	Toronto Dragon Festival	Canadian Association of Chinese Performing Arts	Engage in sports demonstrations Use of open flame as part of their event production Operate a beer and wine Vintners Quality Alliance (VQA) garden and serve alcohol Place objects in the pool
September 4-7	Trinbago Festival	The Caribbean Scholarship Foundation	Engage in sports demonstrations Use of open flame as part of their event production Operate a beer and wine Vintners Quality Alliance (VQA) garden and serve alcohol
September 12-14	Mexican Independence Day Celebration	Mexican Day Toronto	Engage in sports demonstrations Use of open flame as part of

			their event production Operate a beer and wine Vintners Quality Alliance (VQA) garden and serve alcohol Place objects in the pool
September 19-21	Veg Food Fest	Toronto Vegetarian Association	Engage in sports demonstrations Operate a beer and wine Vintners Quality Alliance (VQA) garden and serve alcohol
September 16	Civic Run	Strategic Partnership, City Manager's Office, City of Toronto	Solicit donations Engage in sports demonstrations Amplify sound outside of NPS amplification schedule policy (9:00 am – 4:30 pm)
September 26-30	Indigenous Legacy Gathering	Toronto Council Fire Native Cultural Centre	Solicit donations Engage in sports demonstrations Amplify sound outside of NPS amplification schedule policy (9:00 am – 4:30 pm) Use of open flame as part of their event production Place objects in the pool

Next Steps

If the requested 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.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

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