

Heritage Toronto 2025 Sponsorship Report

Date: April 3, 2026
To: The Board of Governors of Exhibition Place
From: Don Boyle, Chief Executive Officer
Wards: Ward 10 - Spadina - Fort Yorks

SUMMARY

This report provides information on the collaboration with Heritage Toronto to celebrate the history of women's sport at Exhibition Place.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Chief Executive Officer recommends that:

1. The Board receive this report for information.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There are no financial implications resulting from the adoption of this report.

DECISION HISTORY

At its meeting on June 9, 2022, the Board approved the 2022-2026 Strategic Plan by adoption of EP24.12 as outlined in the report from the Chief Executive Officer, Exhibition Place. The five-year plan established the goal to promote site animation 365 days a year. This includes creating new partnerships and opportunities for the community to enjoy the grounds.

<https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2022.EP24.12>

COMMENTS

For the second year in a row, Exhibition Place participated in Heritage Toronto's

Emerging Historian Program which supports current students, recent graduates, and new professionals in the field. Historians are provided with an honorarium, research support, and access to the Exhibition Place Archives. This collaboration has enabled us to expand the repertoire of professionally developed tours, engage new audiences through novel themes, and ensure Exhibition Place's continued visibility in Toronto's heritage sector.

Women's professional sports have flourished at Exhibition Place in recent years. The Toronto Sceptres taking up residency in the Coca Cola Coliseum in 2024, the inaugural AFC Toronto game at BMO Field in spring 2025, and the much-anticipated first season of the Toronto Tempo this year. However, these milestones are the culmination of a century of women's sport at Exhibition Place, a history that is often overlooked. Developed and led by Mads Bayliss, the walking tour "She Shoots, She Scores" was offered twice in the fall of 2025 and will be offered again twice this year. The tour highlights the experiences, challenges, and accomplishments of women athletes alongside broader cultural shifts in Canadian society. It also explores how intersections of immigration, Black and Indigenous heritage, and queerness impacted these experiences.

The tour content was then developed into a digital story that traces the history of women's sport at Exhibition Place from the early twentieth century to the present, recontextualizing the recent emergence of women's national leagues as part of a longer history of adversity and perseverance. The digital format ensures that this content is easily accessible to audiences through the Heritage Toronto website: [A League of Her Own – Heritage Toronto](#)

CONTACT

Fiona Crawford, Records and Archives Supervisor, 416-263-3676,
fcrawford@explace.on.ca

John Koperwas, Director of IT, Telecommunications, Records and Archives
416-263-3070, jkoperwas@explace.on.ca

SIGNATURE

Don Boyle
Chief Executive Officer

ATTACHMENTS

Appendix A - Heritage Toronto 2025 Sponsorship Report