

Welcome and Introductions – Don Boyle, Chief Executive Officer, Exhibition Place

Don welcomed the participants to the Community Liaison Meeting this evening, both in person and online. The purpose of these meetings is to liaise regularly with members of the communities surrounding Exhibition Place, present new Board directions, address major Exhibition Place events and projects, and listen to and respond to issues and feedback raised by the surrounding community.

Don introduced the Board of Governors Members and the Exhibition Place staff in attendance.

- Board of Governors Members – Vice Chair Sharleen Ahmed and Malcolm Bromley
- Exhibition Place Staff – Don Boyle, Kelvin Seow, Hughena Walsh, Prashant Bhalja, Tony Porter, Fiona Crawford, Catherine de Nobriga, Nigel Fernandes, and Debbie Sanderson

This evening, we will provide updates on the: FIFA World Cup 2026, Sales & Marketing Update, Canadian National Exhibition Event Update, Community Events Update, Capital Projects Update, Strategic Plan Update, and the Vision Plan and Concept Scenario.

Exhibition Place continually strive to be good neighbours by maintaining the lines of communication with the community, ensuring you have up-to-date information on what is happening across our campus that may affect the surrounding community. We continue to improve access to, within, and around Exhibition Place, and your input can help us to achieve this goal.

We will be sharing a lot of information this evening, feel free to ask any questions or offer suggestions throughout the meeting

FIFA World Cup 2026 Update – Don Boyle, Chief Executive Officer, Exhibition Place

- The official games will commence at Exhibition Place starting June 12 through to July 2, 2026. The eyes of the world will be on Toronto and the FIFA World Cup 2026, a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for Toronto to elevate its profile locally and globally, celebrating the strength of our diversity.
- The World Cup opening match on June 11 in Mexico City.
- Toronto will stage six matches at Toronto Stadium (BMO Field), kicking off the opening match on June 12, 2026 Canada's Men's National Team vs Bosnia and Herzegovina (Group B), June 17, 2026 Ghana vs Panama (Group L), June 20 2026 Germany vs Côte d'Ivoire (Group E), June 23, 2026 Panama vs Croatia (Group L), June 26, 2026 Senegal vs Iraq (Group I), and ending with the round of 32 knockout match on July 2, 2026 Portugal vs Croatia. The final match will be held on July 19 in New Jersey, USA.
- The FIFA Fan Festival is an invaluable opportunity to celebrate and promote the unmatched diversity, limitless talent, and cultural vibrancy that make Toronto the 'World in a City', and will be operating during all Toronto match dates, and up until the final match on July 19th.
- A Traffic Management map has been updated and will be available showing accessibility to the site and local area road closures surrounding the site.

Sales & Marketing Update – Hughena Walsh, Director-Sales & Marketing, Exhibition Place

Exhibition Place has a list of unique and diverse range of events in 2026:

- His Highness Aga Khan – very large event in the Enercare Centre Halls A & B – 46,000 attendees over 3 days
- Ontario Volleyball Association Championships – young athletics participating in 58 courts in the Enercare Centre Halls ABCD
- National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) – 28th international technical conference on the safety of vehicles Enercare Centre BC
- Skills Canada – 550 competing in 40 skilled trades – thousands of students participating – Enercare Centre ABCD & Heritage Court

Exhibition Place is a home of women's sports, hosting three professional sports Toronto Sceptres, AFC Toronto, and in 2026 the Toronto Tempo. It is a vibrant stage where women athletes compete, inspire, and grow the game in Toronto.

We initiated 5 Things To Do which spotlights what is happening at Exhibition Place. It is showcasing community activations, tenant and client events, positioning our campus as a trending destination for events, culture, and entertainment in Toronto – Jane's Walk-Walking Tour, AFC Toronto Home Opener, Home Opener for the Toronto Tempo, Mother's Day brunch at Valerie & Roses Social at Hotel X, and Phil Sutherland Photo Workshop.

We continue to drive awareness of our environmental sustainability and green initiatives and net zero goals through organic and earned, and paid partnerships with Curiosity. We talk about sustainability and open the conversation to the general public to keep everyone informed, to tell our story and raise awareness.

Canadian National Exhibition Event Update – Mark Holland, Chief Executive Officer, CNE

- August 21, 2026 – September 7, 2026, www.theex.com
- 147 years of history
- Attendance for 2025 – 1.4 million visitors
- 5,000 youth employed with our partners
- Annual Economic Impact for the Province of Ontario - \$164,000,000 / Annual Economic Impact for the Greater Toronto area - \$129,400,000
- 2.5 billion Media Impressions for 2025
- CNE Job Fair for 2026 is scheduled for July in the Enercare Centre
- New things this year – partnership with Rolling Stone Billboard East
- Partnership north by northeast – showcase the best in upcoming artists – we will have an emerging artist stage – winner of fan shows and bands will play at the Bandshell
- Lots of activities in one visit - Agricultural Experience at the CNE Farm, Super Dogs, Ice Show, International Air Show, Spotlight Stage in the International Pavillion, Immersive Exhibit, and 150 games and rides
- Casino will take a different approach – we are working with the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair to have a supper club
- Our role in the vision for Exhibition Place – the Food Building – bring back the heritage of the crystal palace to the Food Building, walk out of the Ontario Line and have guests enter one of the greatest complexes on earth
- Tickets are on sale right now and this will definitely be your highlight of the summer

Community Events Update – Fiona Crawford – Records & Archives Supervisor & Catherine de Nobriga – Tenant and Community Relations Coordinator

A key focus of the vision for Exhibition Place is to create accessible, welcoming and public spaces that are active all year round, which creates a central gathering place that can host local festivals and events – a multi-purpose space for all Torontonians to enjoy.

Over the last 3 years we began a year-round commitment:

- 2023-2024 summer only – Pilot Year where we developed a summer series of free events introducing neighbourhoods to the site
- 2024-2025 summer only – Your Yard Series where we expanded the programming with broader event mix adding in yoga, music, walks and workshops
- 2026 year-round – Community Connect – a year-round community partner where summer programming is one part of a broader commitment

Music in the Park will highlight 3 events, 3 mini themes - July 12 Reggae & Latin, July 19 Soul, Jazz & Global, and July 26 Hip-Hop, R&B & Party

Three signature fall activations carrying community Connect into the next season – September Give Me Liberty, September or October Community BBQ, and October Ghost Walks.

Winter (Dec-Feb) – Resolution Run, January community run on the grounds, and Historical Walks

Spring (Mar-May) – Cheery Blossom Walks, Historical Walks, Doors Open Toronto

Summer (Jun-Aug) – Yoga in the Park, Music in the Park, Beekeeping Workshops

Capital Projects Update – Prashant Bhalja, Director-Capital Works, Exhibition Place

We have initiated and completed numerous projects this year.

Princes' Gates

- Centre Arch lighting system upgraded with remote scheduling and full colour efficient LED fixtures. This project won the 2026 Toronto IES Illumination Section Award for Outdoor Lighting Design and has now moved onto international judging.

Freight Elevator Modernization and Machine Room Structural Rehabilitation at the Automotive Building

- comprised of structural concrete rehabilitation of the suspended ceiling slab of the machine room and adjacent stairs / new electrical, lighting, HVAC, painting, sump pumps, and life safety / new elevator machine and associated control system to modern code / new car operating panel, doors, and button system at all floors / new camera and security card access system.

Cobra Poles and Loading Docks Lighting Upgrade

- removed 50 outdated light fixtures along Princes' Boulevard, Canada Boulevard, and Newfoundland Road, and installed 100 new LED light fixtures in pairs on the existing 50 cobra-shaped poles, replaced 49 wall pack light fixtures with new LED fixtures at both the east and west loading docks of Enercare Centre, and purchased directly from the supplier to save cost on installation company markup.

Princess Margaret Fountain

- engaged a Heritage Conservation Contractor to perform a detailed assessment and evaluation for future capital planning. We completed deep conservation steam cleaning removed the scale buildup and restored its original condition / upper bowl edges required localized parging / high quality waterproofing was applied to all 3 bowls to extend the fountain's service life.

Underground High Voltage Cables West

- Underground high voltage cables on the grounds are over 70 years old / Over 12.5 km of HV cables / 4 phases of multi-year project completed thus far, and current phase 5 is for central part of the grounds.

Energare Centre – Main Roof Rehabilitation

- Largest trade and consumer show venue in the country, offering over 1.1 million square feet of contiguous and highly versatile space. Existing roof was restored by applying a high-quality four-coat system to extend the flagship asset's service life and deteriorated snow guards were replaced.

IT & Structural Upgrades at CNE Administration Building

- Address critical infrastructure lifecycle deficiencies, structural reinforcement of these joists to restore building integrity and ensure compliance with safety standards / current IT infrastructure has significantly exceeded its useful service life / necessary electrical improvements to support technology upgrades and electrical requirements / upgrade dedicated environmental controls / new A/C unit to maintain temperature and humidity.

Future Projects 2026/2027

- renovations to Energare Centre Salons 103, 105, 109, and 110 – AV upgrades, lighting, finishes / Parking Lot 853 rehabilitation / Horse Palace East Side Road and Vehicle Maintenance Garage Roof Replacement / Security System Upgrade grounds-wide, and communication infrastructure upgrades.

Strategic Plan Update – Kelvin Seow, Chief People and Strategy Officer, Exhibition Place

Highlights in the current strategic plan year:

- Energare Roof Rehabilitation – resulting in a 2-3% reduction in cooling costs and 500 tonnes of waste diverted from landfill
- Enhanced Lighting – installed new LED lighting systems on the Automotive Building façade and Princes' Gates
- Mobile Parking Payment – implemented a mobile pay parking system across all surface parking lots
- Public Art Partnerships – commissioned Petal and Stone mural partnership with The Bentway
- 80s Were You There? Installation – photo collage on the west side of Energare Centre featuring iconic concerts from the Exhibition Place stadium in the 80s
- Expanded Community Partnerships – partnered with 13 community organizations welcoming over 3,000 visitors
- Development process for the 2027-2031 Strategic Plan – community feedback will play an important role in shaping the development of the new plan, and Optimus SBR the firm that developed the previous Strategic Plan, has been retained to facilitate the development of this plan
- Two Phases – Phase 1 (mid-July) data collection and engagement, focus groups with stakeholders and community members, and in Phase 2 (mid-October) Strategic Plan draft development for feedback prior to submitting a final draft to the Board

Vision Plan and Concept Scenario - Don Boyle, Chief Executive Officer, Exhibition Place

Prior to reviewing the presentation Don discussed the various developments at and around Exhibition Place, staff, in collaboration with Studio tla, and developed the Exhibition Place – Vision Plan and Concept Scenario (the Vision Plan). The work considers the different needs of multiple transformative change proposals for the grounds while ensuring alignment with the recommendations of previous studies and plans, including the latest Next Place – Exhibition Place Master Plan approved by Council.

The presentation addresses the diverse developments occurring on and around Exhibition Place, as well as the long-standing need to connect the neighbourhoods to the north and the new Ontario Line to the waterfront.

This presentation envisions a renewed Exhibition Place as a hub of ongoing development, stronger connections, and expanded public access for residents, visitors, and civic partners. It positions the site as a seamlessly integrated part of Toronto's waterfront and surrounding neighbourhoods – an accessible, lively, future-ready festival destination and gathering place.

At the core of the vision is a new north-south pedestrian corridor that creates a seamless connection from the new Exhibition Station through Exhibition Place to the Waterfront. To the north, it offers a clear, welcoming gateway at the reimagined Food Building for communities of Liberty Village and the future Ontario Line – Exhibition Station. Through the centre of the site, it enhances access by establishing a unified, pedestrian-friendly mobility hub. To the south, it provides a barrier free link to the Waterfront – connecting visitors to the pedestrian bridge over Lake Shore boulevard and the shoreline network. This north-south route becomes a key public space feature, promoting year-round activity, improved wayfinding, and a continuous, people-focused movement corridor.

Complementing the north-south spine is a new east-west multi-use pathway that will seamlessly connect The Bentway, Exhibition Place, and Centennial Square to Dufferin Street. It strengthens connections between Fort York, Liberty Village, and the Waterfront. This trail will unify the new Exhibition Station, Coca-Cola Coliseum, BMO Field, Centennial Square, and the future Festival Plaza into a coherent, intuitive pedestrian network. The north-south and east-west corridors unlock new possibilities for seamless event circulation, seasonal activities, commercial and retail options, and an improved visitor experience.

Additionally, the Vision Plan includes the longstanding proposal for a Festival Plaza at the site of the Better Living Centre (BLC). While earlier versions of the plaza were located on Lot 852, this lot's ongoing role for events, parking, and event marshalling highlights its operational necessity. In contrast, the BLC is a class C facility with limited business prospects and faces structural issues that restrict its viability as an event venue, making it a practical site for the new Festival Plaza.

The proposal transforms the BLC into a vibrant Festival Plaza—a versatile outdoor cultural and event space. Create a landmark civic gathering place that can host festivals, markets, exhibitions, and community celebrations year-round. This enhances the site's identity as a cultural and entertainment district. To preserve and celebrate its heritage value, the design retains elements of the BLC by preserving the northern section of the building. Heritage considerations are incorporated through adaptive reuse and commemorative strategies, ensuring that the purpose-built modernization respects the site's historical significance. The Vision Plan includes sustainable landscaping with a permeable surface, seating, shade, and public art, envisioning the plaza as a central gathering place for year-round activity and visitor engagement. In addition to its programming capacity, the design adds over 69,000 square-feet of flexible, adaptable space.

Essentially, the Vision Plan capitalizes on the transformative developments at and around Exhibition Place. Additionally, this evolution alleviates pressure on overburdened City services by hosting major festivals and events in a purpose-built destination. Festival Plaza will expand Toronto's capacity to host large-scale, high-profile international events year-round, accommodating over 100,000 people on a single site. This opportunity will reconnect Toronto and its surroundings to the heritage and history of Exhibition Place, transforming the disconnected campus into a lively daily gathering place. A more robust public realm is created that links transit, heritage, events, community, waterfront access, and more green space.

As part of the process, City Planning staff and the Waterfront Secretariat have reviewed and provided feedback on the Vision Plan, confirming that they align with the direction outlined in the Next Place – Master Plan Phase 1 Proposal Report and other relevant planning documents. This feedback has been integrated into the Vision Plan.

For more information on the Vision Plan and Concept Scenario, visit the link [Exhibition Place Vision Plan](#).

At the conclusion of the meeting, Don thanked all guests for their support and active participation in the Community Liaison Meeting. Don reminded the guests we will have a 2nd meeting on Wednesday November 18th @ 6:00 – 8:00 pm. We look forward to seeing you all here!

The meeting concluded at 7:45 pm.