

## **Use of Nathan Phillips Square for Various Events – May 1 – September 30, 2026**

**Date:** February 2, 2026  
**To:** Toronto and East York Community Council  
**From:** General Manager, Economic Development & Culture  
**Wards:** Ward 10 - Spadina-Fort York

### **SUMMARY**

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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 the 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, 2026.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

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The General Manager, Economic Development and Culture recommends that:

1. City Council grant permission to the Second Harvest Canada, Rugby Ontario, DeRo Foundation, Main Street Initiative Public Markets Economic Development and Culture Division - City of Toronto, UHN Foundation, VegTO, Moksha Canada Foundation, Pride Toronto, City Cultural Events Production City of Toronto, Taste of the Middle East, Toronto Outdoor Art Fair, Better Futures for Kids Foundation, Artsxplosion Cultural Society, Young Canadian Alliances, Nepalese Canadian Community Services, Panorama India, Philippines Independence Day Council, The Caribbean Scholarship Foundation, Canadian Association of Chinese Performing Arts, Mexican Day Toronto, Kutuphane Cultural and Community Foundation, 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 grants permission to the Christian Music Festival, Falun Dafa Association of Canada, Second Harvest Canada, Evolve Hub Association, Sing! The Toronto International Vocal Arts Festival, Rugby Ontario, City Cultural Events Production - City of Toronto, Newcomer Office - City of Toronto, DeRo Foundation, UHN Foundation, VegTO, Moksha Canada Foundation, Taste of the Middle East, Toronto Outdoor Art Fair, Better Futures for Kids Foundation, Artsxplosion Cultural Society, Young Canadian Alliances, Hiroshima Nagasaki Day Coalition, Nepalese Canadian Community Services, Panorama India, Philippines Independence Day Council, The Caribbean Scholarship Foundation, Canadian Association of Chinese Performing Arts, Mexican Day Toronto, City Manager's - Office City of Toronto, Kutuphane Cultural and Community Foundation, Toronto Council Fire Native Cultural Centre to solicit donations in support of their organization.
  3. City Council grant permission to Second Harvest Canada, Rugby Ontario, City Cultural Events Production - City of Toronto, Newcomer Office - City of Toronto, DeRo Foundation, Main Street Initiative Public Markets Economic Development and Culture Division City of Toronto, UHN Foundation, VegTO, Moksha Canada Foundation, Pride Toronto, Taste of the Middle East, Toronto Outdoor Art Fair, Better Futures for Kids Foundation, Artsxplosion Cultural Society, Young Canadian Alliances, Nepalese Canadian Community Services, Panorama India, Philippines Independence Day Council, The Caribbean Scholarship Foundation, Canadian Association of Chinese Performing Arts, Mexican Day Toronto, City Manager's Office - City of Toronto, Kutuphane Cultural and Community Foundation, 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:

- Newcomer Office, City of Toronto, on May 28-29, 2026, is requesting audio amplification on May 29 from 9:00 am – 4:00 pm to present land acknowledgment and African ancestral acknowledgment, remarks by the Mayor or Councillor, citizenship ceremony and welcome dance and music as part of the Toronto Newcomer Day event.
- Smart Commute, Environment and Climate Division, City of Toronto, on June 4, is requesting audio amplification from 8:00 am – 12:00 pm to present land acknowledgment and African ancestral acknowledgment, remarks by the Mayor or Councillor as part of the Bike to Work Day event.
- Strategic Protocol and External Relations, City Clerks, City of Toronto, on June 21, 2026, is requesting audio amplification from 5:00 am – 10:00 am to present land acknowledgement, elders' speeches and Indigenous music and dance as part of the Sunrise Ceremony event.

- Environment, Climate and Forestry, City of Toronto, on September 8, 2026, is requesting audio amplification from 9:00 am – 5:00 pm to present land acknowledgment, welcome speeches and music as part of the Toronto Electric Vehicle Day.
- City Manager's Office, City of Toronto, on September 17, 2026, is requesting audio amplification from 8:00 am – 3:00 pm for Mayor or Councillor speeches, warm-up exercises, and musical performances as part of the Civic Run and United Way Campaign Kick-off event.

#### Third-Party Community Produced Events:

- Second Harvest Canada on May 12- 13, 2026, is requesting audio amplification on May 13 from 8:00 am – 5:00 pm to present warm-up messages to the participants in the sport, health and safety announcements, music, and speeches as part of the Second Harvest Truck Pull Challenge event
- Rugby Ontario on May 20 - 21, 2026, is requesting audio amplification on May 21 from 8:00 am – 5:00 pm to present warm-up messages to the participants in the sport, health and safety announcements, music, and speeches as part of the Rugby in the Square event.
- Toronto Outdoor Art Fair on July 10-12 is requesting audio amplification on July 10 from 10:00 am – 5:00 pm to present health and safety announcements, welcome speeches and music as part of the Toronto Outdoor Art Fair event.
- Toronto Council Fire Native Cultural Center on September 25 - 30, 2026, is requesting audio amplification on September 28, 29 and 30 from 7:00 am – 5:00 pm to present, sunrise ceremony, speeches by survivors, Indigenous music and dance 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 by the City's preferred audio company, Production Service Industries (PSI), throughout the event to ensure compliance with schedules.

5. City Council grant permission to City Cultural Events Production - City of Toronto, Moksha Canada Foundation, Pride Toronto, Taste of the Middle East, Better Futures for Kids Foundation, Artsxplosion Cultural Society, Young Canadian Alliances, Nepalese Canadian Community Services, Panorama India, Philippines Independence Day Council, The Caribbean Scholarship Foundation, Canadian Association of Chinese Performing Arts, Mexican Day Toronto, City Manager's Office - City of Toronto, Toronto Council Fire Native Cultural Center to use open flame as part of their event production. All permissions would be contingent upon each applicant securing an Open Air Burning permit, [Ontario Fire Code 2.4.4.4](#) from Toronto Fire Services
6. City Council grant permission to the Hiroshima Nagasaki Day Coalition, Metro Marine Modellers, Philippines Independence Day Council, The Caribbean Scholarship Foundation, Canadian Association of Chinese Performing Arts, Mexican

Day Toronto, Kutuphane Cultural and Community Foundation, Toronto Council Fire Native Cultural Centre, to place objects in the reflecting pool.

7. City Council grant permission to the City Cultural Events Production - City of Toronto, to use special effects pyrotechnics as part of their event production. All permissions would be contingent upon the applicant securing a permit from Toronto Fire Services to discharge fireworks under [Toronto Municipal Code Chapter 466, Fireworks](#).
8. City Council grant permission to City Cultural Events Production, City of Toronto permission to cover the City Hall windows.
9. 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**

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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 the 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 per Municipal Code [Chapter 441](#), will be applied as well.

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

## **DECISION HISTORY**

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On June 25-26, 2025, the City Council adopted TE23.23, granting various requested exemptions for the use of NPS from October 1, 2025 - April 30, 2026.  
<https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2025.TE23.23>

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, 2026

- Christian Music Festival's "Christian Music Festival."
- Falun Dafa Association of Canada's "Celebration of World Falun Dafa."
- Second Harvest Canada's "Second Harvest Truck Pull Challenge."
- Evolve Hub Association's "Toronto Halal Bites Festival."

- Sing! The Toronto International Vocal Arts Festival's "Sing! Toronto Preview Event."
- Rugby Ontario's "Rugby in the Square."
- City Cultural Events, Production, City of Toronto's "Door Open."
- Newcomer Office, City of Toronto's "Toronto Newcomer Day."
- DeRo Foundation's "DeRo T.O. Street Soccer Tournament."
- Main Street Initiatives, Public Markets, Economic Development and Culture Division, City of Toronto's "Public Market (Pilot Project)."
- Smart Commute, Environment and Climate Division, City of Toronto's "Bike to Work Day."
- UHN Foundation's "ToGether 2026."
- VegTO's "VegTO Fest."
- Moksha Canada Foundation's "South by South East Festival."
- Strategic Protocol and External Relations, City of Toronto's "Sunrise Ceremony."
- Pride Toronto's "Pride Festival."
- City Cultural Events, Production, City of Toronto's "Canada Day."
- Taste of the Middle East's "Taste of the Middle East – 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Toronto Arabic Festival."
- Toronto Outdoor Art Fair's "Toronto Outdoor Art Fair."
- Better Futures for Kids Foundation's "Taste of Vietnam."
- Artsxplosion Cultural Society's "Panamerican Food and Music Festival."
- Young Canadian Alliances' "Taste of India Festival."
- Hiroshima and Nagasaki Day Coalition's "Hiroshima and Nagasaki Commemoration."
- Nepalese Canadian Community Services' "The Himalayan Mela."
- Metro Marine Modellers' "Scale Radio Control Boats of the Nathan Phillips Square Lake."
- Panorama India's "India Day Festival and Grand Parade 2026."
- Philippines Independence Day Council's "Mabuhay Philippines Festival."
- The Caribbean Scholarship Foundation's "Trinbago Toronto Festival."
- Canadian Association of Chinese Performing Arts' "Toronto Dragon Festival."
- Environment, Climate and Forestry, City of Toronto's "Toronto Electric Vehicle Day."
- Mexican Day, Toronto's "Mexican Independence Day Celebrations."
- City Manager's Office, City of Toronto's "Civic Run and United Way Employee Campaign Kick-Off."
- Kutuphane Cultural and Community Foundation's "Anatolia Fest."
- Toronto Council Fire Native Cultural Centre's "Indigenous Legacy Gathering."

## COMMENTS

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Toronto Municipal Code Chapter 636 "Public Squares" and former City of Toronto Municipal Code Chapter 237 "Nathan Phillips Square" prohibits 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, covering the City Hall's windows without the approval of Council.

Various event organizers are requesting permission to conduct the activities outlined in Table 1.

**Table 1: Dates for Events and Permission Requested**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Exemptions Request</b>
May 2	Christian Music Festival	Christian Music Festival	Solicit donations
May 3	Celebration of World Falun Dafa	Falun Dafa Association of Canada	Solicit donations
May 12-13	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 Amplify sound outside of the NPS amplification schedule policy <b>Audio amplification timings on May 13: 8:00 am – 5:00 pm</b>
May 15-17	Toronto Halal Bites Festival	Evolve Hub Association	Solicit donations
May 20	Sing! Toronto Preview Event	SING! The Toronto International Vocal Arts Festival	Solicit donations
May 20-21	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 Amplify sound outside of the NPS amplification schedule policy <b>Audio amplification timings on May 21: 8:00 am – 5:00 pm</b>
May 23-24	Doors Open	City Cultural Events, Production	Solicit donations Engage in sports demonstrations

			Use of open flame as part of their event production Special effects pyrotechnics Permission to cover the City Hall Windows
May 28-29	Toronto Newcomer Day	Newcomer Office, City of Toronto	Solicit donations Engage in sports demonstrations Amplify sound outside of the NPS amplification schedule policy <b>Amplification timings on May 29: 9:00 am – 4:00 pm</b>
May 30-31	DeRo T.O. Street Soccer Tournament	DeRo Foundation	Solicit donations Engage in sports demonstrations Operate a beer and wine Vintners Quality Alliance (VQA) garden and serve alcohol
June 10,17,24 July8,15,22,29 August 5,12,19,26 September 2,9,16,23 October 7,21	Public market (Pilot Project)	Main Street Initiatives, Public Markets, Economic Development and Culture Division, City of Toronto	Engage in sports demonstrations Operate a beer and wine Vintners Quality Alliance (VQA) garden and serve alcohol
June 4	Bike to Workday	Smart Commute, Environment & Climate Division, City of Toronto	Amplify sound outside of the NPS amplification schedule policy <b>Amplification timings: 8:00 am – 12:00 pm</b>
June 5-7	ToGether 2026	UHN Foundation	Solicit donations Engage in sports demonstrations Operate a beer and wine Vintners Quality Alliance (VQA) garden and serve alcohol
June 12-14	VegTO Fest	VegTO	Solicit donations Engage in sports demonstrations Operate a beer and wine Vintners Quality Alliance (VQA) garden and serve alcohol

June 17-20	South by South East Festival	Moksha Canada 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
June 21	Sunrise ceremony	Strategic Protocol and External Relations, City of Toronto	Amplify sound outside of the NPS amplification schedule policy <b>Amplification timings: 5:00 am – 10:00 am</b>
June 25-29	Pride Festival	Pride 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
June 30- July 2	Canada Day	City Cultural Event, City of 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 Special effects pyrotechnics Permission to cover the City Hall windows
July 3-5	Taste of the Middle East – 9th Annual Toronto Arabic Festival	Taste of the Middle East	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
July 9-12	Toronto Outdoor Art Fair	Toronto Outdoor Art Fair	Solicit donations Engage in sports demonstrations Operate a beer and wine Vintners Quality Alliance

			(VQA) garden and serve alcohol Amplify sound outside of the NPS amplification schedule policy <b>Amplification timing on July 10: 10:00 am – 5:00 pm</b>
July 16 - 18	Taste of Vietnam	Better Futures 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
July 24-26	Panamerican Food and Music Festival	Artsxplosion Cultural Society	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
July 29-August 2	Taste of India Festival	Young Canadian Alliances	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
August 6	HNDC Commemoration	Hiroshima Nagasaki Day Coalition	Solicit donations Place objects in the pool
August 8	The Himalayan Mela (Festival)	Nepalese Canadian Community Services (NCCS)	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
August 9	Scale Radio Control Boats on the NPS Lake	Metro Marine Modellers	Place objects in the pool

August 15-16	India Day Festival and Grand Parade 2026	Panorama India	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
August 21-23	Mabuhay Philippines Festival	Philippines Independence Day Council	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
August 27-30	Trinbago Toronto Festival	The Caribbean Scholarship 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
September 4-6	Toronto Dragon Festival	Canadian Association of Chinese Performing Arts	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
September 8	Toronto EV Day	Environment, Climate and Forestry, City of Toronto	Amplify sound outside of the NPS amplification schedule policy <b>Amplification timings: 9:00 am – 5:00 pm</b>
September 11-13	Mexican Independence Day Celebration	Mexican Day 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
September 17	Civic Run and United Way Employee Campaign Kick-Off	City Manager's Office, City of Toronto	Solicit donations Engage in sports demonstrations Use of open flame as part of their event production Amplify sound outside of the NPS amplification schedule policy <b>Amplification timings: 8:00 am – 3:00 pm</b>
September 19	Anatolia Fest	Kutuphane Cultural and Community 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
September 25-30	Indigenous Legacy Gathering	Toronto Council Fire Native Cultural Centre	Solicit donations Engage in sports demonstrations Use of open flame as part of their event production Place objects in the pool Amplify sound outside of the NPS amplification schedule policy <b>Amplification timings from September 28-30: 7:00 am – 5:00 pm</b>

### 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 the event organizers submitting all required documentation and permissions to City staff for review and approval. These actions would comply with all other related City policies, procedures, and criteria and follow regular business practices.

Staff will monitor on-site event operations to ensure event organizers comply with the exemptions granted, while maintaining the required procedures and guidelines outlined in the executed permit agreement.

## **CONTACT**

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## **SIGNATURE**

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