

# Expo Future MERC Update

May 24 to June 24, 2025



## Phase 3 major activities, as resolved by MERC and Metro Council

### Representation & memorialization of histories and cultures at the site

- H1. Assess feasibility of HSMC's recommendations
- H2. Develop implementation strategy for feasible recommendations
- H3. Conduct a cultural resources assessment
- H4. Conduct engineering study of Hall A's integrity, reuse capacity
- H5. Discuss engineering findings with community and develop recommendations for future use of Hall A
- H6. Engage with interested Tribes re: memorialization and representation in partnership with Tribal Affairs
- H6. Identify approach to governance and engagement for development of site interpretive plan
- H7. Develop site interpretive plan

### Sports pivot and redevelopment

- S1. Continue analysis and refinement of preferred sports scenario
- S2. Propose interim investment in sports equipment for Halls D & E
- S3. Develop and present criteria for solicitation of public-private partnership by June 30, 2025
- S4. Ensure that the pursuit of sports uses at Expo supports R & M recommendations and does not commodify or harm involved partners and communities
- S5. Make every effort to pursue sports events at Expo (specific to Expo Center staff)

## Work completed in this reporting period

### Representation & memorialization activities

- Expo cultural resources assessment: Willamette Cultural Resources Associates, Ltd completed a research-only assessment to identify known and potential archaeological and historic resources, and staff are reviewing the draft report.
- Staff prepared an initial draft scope of work for a phased approach to assess Hall A's structural integrity and its capacity to stand independently if separated from Halls B and C.

### Sports pivot and redevelopment activities

- Metro Council approved a \$2 million initial interim investment in infrastructure and sports equipment/amenities in Halls D & E in the fiscal year 2025-26 budget.
- Staff drafted a memo outlining suggested criteria for solicitation of a public-private partnership for Expo Future redevelopment.
- Collectively, Expo, Sport Oregon and Travel Portland have produced competitive bid submissions to bring youth, amateur and professional sporting events to the Portland Expo Center in coming years. Sales efforts will be presented to MERC and Council in July.

## Key work planned for the next quarter

- Finalize and distribute cultural resources assessment report.
- Engage former HSMC members and other interested parties in the scope of work and phased approach to Hall A's structural integrity assessment.
- Develop a project plan to invest the \$2 million budgeted for sports equipment/amenities in Halls D & E, including contract approach for architect, engineering, and other services.
- Finalize and distribute the memo outlining suggested criteria for solicitation of a public-private partnership.
- Update project website sections to reflect phase 2 completion and current activities.
- Finalize project governance structure.