

MPAC Worksheet

Agenda Item Title: Expo Future Project

Presenters: Paul Slyman, General Manager of Major Projects, Giyen Kim, Development Project Manager

Contact for this worksheet/presentation: Giyen Kim, giyen.kim@oregonmetro.gov

Purpose/Objective

Metro owns the Portland Expo Center (Expo) site – a well-positioned, 53-acre employment and exhibition site at the economic center of the Portland Metro region. Before the pandemic, Expo attracted nearly 500,000 visitors yearly to 100+ public trade shows and community events like home and garden, automotive, RV, antique, outdoor shows, and concerts. Pre-pandemic, Expo generated an average of approximately \$50 million in economic impact annually.

The site has 333,000 square feet of existing building area and over a million square feet of paved parking lot. Located adjacent to a Yellow Line Max light rail stop and at an I-5 access ramp, the site is served by significant infrastructure. Halls A, B, and C celebrated their 100-year anniversary two years ago, and Halls D and E are 26 and 22 years old, respectively.

In addition, many communities in the greater Metro region have a unique and important historical and cultural tie to Expo and the land it is built upon. The nearby Vanport floods, WWII Internment at the Portland Assembly Center, and the site's pre-colonial history has had lasting impacts on the Black and Japanese American communities and Indigenous Peoples.

Over the past several years, Metro and the Metropolitan Exposition and Recreation Commission (MERC) have given direction to staff to examine future options for the site as part of the Expo Development Opportunity Study and Expo Future project. The results of these efforts are two overarching recommendations from Metro's Chief Operating Officer that solidify the venue as a destination for youth, recreational and amateur sports while making space to honor and memorialize the site's history. Both Metro Council and MERC unanimously supported the suite of recommendations.

This presentation will inform our regional partners about the project's history, Metro's new vision for the Expo Center, and the immediate next steps Metro is taking to develop this concept.

Outcome of MPAC Discussion

- Increased awareness of the site's history and relevance to the Black and Japanese American communities and Indigenous Peoples.
- Greater familiarity on Metro's vision for the Portland Expo Center as a sport-centered visitor venue and possible benefits to our region.
- Awareness of the Expo Future project's history and community driven process.
- An overview of the project's community driven guiding principles and immediate next steps.

What has changed since MPAC last considered this issue/item?

The Expo Future Project has not presented to MPAC.

What packet material do you plan to include?

- Expo Future project press release
- Guiding principles