



Expo sits on 53 acres to the south of Hayden Island on the Columbia River, right by the I-5 bridge. Metro is working with a range of partners and communities to develop a plan for Expo's future. This plan will include updates to the site and structures, a viable vision for long-term financial sustainability, and ways to meaningfully honor the many histories of the site.

# Expo Future project

Expo is a uniquely valuable exhibition space in the Pacific Northwest. Parts of the campus are more than a century old and the site has a complex history that needs memorialization. The entire facility requires a financial plan that helps this asset – and the region – thrive for the next 100 years.

## Securing Expo's future: A sports center for locals and visitors

Metro is working to pivot Expo to focus on sports. Sports tourism is a multi-billion-dollar part of the nation's economy. In communities all over the United States, competitive sporting events bring visitors from around their regions, the country and the world. They also offer opportunities for local athletes, from children to adults, as well as amateur, professional and recreational sports, to shine in their communities. Collectively, these events support local restaurants, hotels and other small businesses.

The planning process will identify recommended sports uses, related business development opportunities, potential economic benefits to the region from those uses, and estimated costs and steps for the pivot.

## **Elevating Expo's past:** Honoring historic ties

Metro is engaging members of communities with historic connections to the site to develop ways to acknowledge and share these histories as Expo evolves.

#### This includes:

- Tribal Governments and Indigenous communities that have lived along the Columbia River since time immemorial
- Japanese Americans who were imprisoned at the site during World War II and their descendants
- Black people who share the history of Vanport, a nearby area where much of Oregon's Black population lived before it was destroyed by a massive flood in 1948.

Track the project

Learn more, sign up for updates and provide input. **oregonmetro.gov/expofuture** 

## Expo Future now: Engagement, studies, vision

**Late 2024**: The project team will present a comprehensive vision for the future of Expo to the Metropolitan Exposition Recreation Commission and the Metro Council. This will include committee recommendations, cost and funding information, and next steps.

To develop this direction, Metro is

- conducting a sports feasibility study to determine what types of sports and other uses will be most successful for Expo's campus
- engaging the communities most impacted by Expo to ensure these experiences and perspectives shape how Expo memorializes its complex history as it steps into the future.

## Council, Commission, committees, community

The Metro Council and the Metropolitan Exposition Recreation Commission are the two main decision-makers for this project. Their decisions are informed by:

- The Expo Future Executive Advisory Committee
- The Historical Significance and Memorialization Committee
- The Sport and Facility Committee

These committees are made up of local business leaders, sports representatives and government partners. They also include stakeholders from Tribal Governments as well as the urban Indigenous, Japanese American and Black communities.

## Project timeline: key dates and phases of Expo Future 2019 Facing long term financial concerns, Metro set out to better understand the value and A series of workshops convened the potential of the Expo center and site. Japanese American and Black communities, local businesses and vendors to discuss the project values and guiding principles. Collaboration with the urban Indigenous 2022 community, Tribal Governments and stakeholders led to the final set of guiding principles. A public survey and formal request for submissions collected creative ideas and formal pitches for the future of the Expo Center. Metro Council, MERC and other decision makers provided direction based on input 2024 that has been collected, the guiding principles and Metro's core mission. In June and December, the Expo Future team will bring recommendations from governance committees and consultants to Metro Council and MERC to decide on next steps.

## **About Metro**

## 1,600 employees

More than 1,600 employees carry out Metro's mission – from park rangers to economists, from animal keepers to stagehands, from cartographers to designers. Hundreds of volunteers lend a hand at Metro's parks, natural areas, cemeteries, offices, and arts and event centers.

### **Serving greater Portland**

Metro serves more than 1.7 million people in Clackamas, Multnomah and Washington counties. The Metro boundary includes Portland and 23 other cities – from the Columbia River in the north to the Willamette River near Wilsonville, and from the foothills of the Coast Range near Forest Grove to the banks of the Sandy River at Troutdale.

### Diversity, equity and inclusion

Metro is committed to eliminating disparities that people of color experience through policies, programs, services and destinations.

#### **Metro Council**

600 NE Grand Ave.
Portland, OR 97232
503-797-1540
metro.council@oregonmetro.gov











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