



Heritage Vancouver

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City of Vancouver
John Freeman, Project Facilitator
453 West 12th Avenue, Vancouver, BC V5Y 1V4

Re: 750 Pacific Boulevard Development Application - DP-2019-00571

Dear Mayor and Council,

Heritage Vancouver Society writes this letter in response to the development application for 750 Pacific Boulevard. We would like to **address our concerns about the potential loss of the Expo 86 pylon**, which is located on the site of the proposed development.

The development application includes a variety of terracing buildings, commercial use, market and non-market use, a Community Centre, and a new community plaza and seawall. To our disappointment, no consideration has been given to evaluate the retention of the original white, blue, red and yellow pylon that marked the entrance of the Plaza of Nations during Expo 86. Shortly after the world fair ended, many of its structures were disassembled and relocated to locations inside and outside Vancouver. The pylon is one of the few remaining artifacts from Expo 86 in Vancouver that continues to stand at its original location.

The absence of efforts in retaining the pylon at the Plaza of Nations is indicative of the lack of appreciation for Expo 86 within Vancouver's cultural, urban and heritage planning. Despite the world fair's troubled legacy—including the removal of many long-term residents in the Downtown Eastside, and a deficit of \$311 million—it cannot be ignored that it put Vancouver on the map as a global destination, and eventually shaped much of the city as we know it today.

In an attempt to stop the further eradication of Expo 86 from Vancouver's cultural memory, Heritage Vancouver Society urges the City of Vancouver to:

- **Retain the Expo 86 pylon at its original location**, or at least within the Plaza of Nations grounds
- Include the **Expo 86 pylon on the Vancouver Heritage Register**
- **Conduct further research on the physical reminders of Expo 86** within Vancouver by assessing their heritage value, and protect them from demolition or removal
- **Provide signage or some other form of interpretation** next to the pylon to communicate to the public the complex legacy of Expo 86

Respectfully submitted,
Heritage Vancouver Society

cc Vancouver Heritage Commission

Appendices

Our 2019 Top10 Watch List for “Legacy of Expo 86”

www.heritagevancouver.org/top10-watch-list/2019-top10-watch-list/8-legacy-of-expo-86/

Image: The original Expo 86 pylon sign that marked the entry to the Plaza of Nations at 750 Pacific Blvd.

