

CITY OF LOS ANGELES
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September 9, 2025

RE: Community Impact Statement on CF 15-1207-S1: Los Angeles Convention Expansion Project

To Whom It May Concern:

At our regular public meeting on **September 9, 2025**, the Board of Directors of the Downtown Los Angeles Neighborhood Council ("DLANC") voted to provide the following comments below:

The Downtown Los Angeles Neighborhood Council submits this additional Community Impact Statement **in support if amended** of CF 15-1207-S1: Los Angeles Convention Expansion Project

As highlighted in our Community Impact Statement dated [February 13, 2024](#) and [February 11, 2025](#), DLANC reaffirms its overwhelming support to see a phased expansion of the Los Angeles Convention Center (LACC) proceed. Like any major infrastructure project, especially one involving the expansion and upgrade of existing facilities at this scale, there are inherent project risks. However, the risks associated with not moving forward with this investment now could have far-reaching regional consequences, affecting labor, supply chains, and foreclosing on valuable economic development opportunities surrounding the LACC that rely on the facility for their financial viability.

As outlined in the CAO report dated August 22, 2025, safeguards such as liquidated damages for project delays, along with the inclusion of project contingencies and allowances, offer industry-standard protections to address the challenges inherent to fast-track projects with complex constraints. That said, while cost controls and Value Engineering (VE) efforts are crucial to maintaining project feasibility and ensuring completion, they must be approached with care to avoid unintended trade-offs that could compromise the long-term value of the project, particularly to the Downtown community and LACC visitors.

One such concern is the VE recommendation to remove Gilbert Lindsay Plaza (GLP) from the current project scope. Beyond direct facility upgrades, few public-facing design elements remain that engage the community and activate much-needed public space. Upgrading the plaza balances the need for a world-class facility, while removing these vital amenities diminishes the LACC's integration into Downtown LA's urban fabric and its ability to serve as a holistic space for events and community participation both inside and out the hall. While we understand this VE adjustment is necessary to help realize the LACC expansion, **we strongly urge** the City Council to **codify the establishment of a separate bid package for a future stand-alone project** that would allow for GLP improvements in a subsequent phase after the LA28 games.

Additionally, we recommend that funding required by the Public Works Improvements Arts Program (PWIAP) be preserved and earmarked for **a future stand-alone scope of work**. This funding should support place-making enhancements and public realm improvements around the project site, while also exploring revenue-generating opportunities that could offer long-term financial support for enhancements recommended by the Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA) and the City Tourism Department (CTD). We ask that DCA and CTD work with community stakeholders, to incorporate this scope with ample community feedback and public outreach.

The LACC expansion is a crucial infrastructure project, similar to upgrades at LAX or new transit lines, and its public benefits extend far beyond a simple financial return. While revenue and net financial benefits, particularly those from the digital signage program, are important, the City must not let challenges like the signage issue become a barrier to progress. An outdated, underutilized, or even obsolete LACC poses a much greater financial and civic risk to the City if timely investment isn't made.

The recent 34th Annual Anime Expo, held at the Los Angeles Convention Center (LACC) from July 3–6, 2025, saw a turnout of more than **410,000 attendees from over 65 countries** and delivered an **estimated economic return of over \$110 million to local hotels, restaurants, and businesses across Downtown and the greater Los Angeles region—all in just four days**.¹ This type of economic activity demonstrates the critical value of these events to the city's broader economy. Investments like these, made by attendees into the local economy, and by extension into tax bases such as Sales Tax, Business Tax, and the Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT), further underscores the urgent need for the expansion of the LACC to proceed. The indirect benefits of a world-class Convention Center are substantial and long-lasting, fueling regional growth and reinforcing Los Angeles' position as a global destination.

As such, we urge the City and the project delivery team to continue developing creative and inclusive solutions that move the project forward, ensuring that this vital civic asset can evolve and thrive for decades to come. Moreover, it is imperative that the communities who live near

¹ The Society for the Promotion of Japanese Animation. "Anime Expo 2025 Wraps Four Days of Celebration with Attendees from Over 65 Countries, 1300+ Hours of Programming, and Discussions on Its Future." Anime Expo, July 14, 2025. <https://www.anime-expo.org/2025/07/14/anime-expo-2025-wraps-four-days-of-celebration-with-attendees-from-over-65-countries-1300-hours-of-programming-and-discussions-on-its-future>

and contribute to the vibrancy and success of the LACC are not forgotten, but rather supported and uplifted through this legacy investment.

Sincerely,

SUBJECT TO APPROVAL BY DLANC BOARD OF DIRECTORS ON SEPTEMBER 9, 2025

Jens Midthun
President,
DLANC

Heera Kapoor
Chair,
DLANC Livability Committee

Cc: Office of the Mayor (via email)
City Tourism Department (via email)
City Tourism Commission (via email)
City Administrative Officer (via email)
Chief Legislative Analyst (via email)
Board of Public Works (via email)
Bureau of Engineering (via email)
Council District 14 (via email)
Council District 9 (via email)