

If Calgary bids for and is awarded the 2026 OPWG, a hosting corporation (“Hostco”) will be incorporated and will become a party to the Multi-Party Agreement (MPA). Hostco will be the organization (along with The City and the Canadian Olympic Committee) that is generally responsible for planning, organizing, financing, and staging the 2026 OPWG.

As the Host City, The City of Calgary would be expected to plan for and fund various programming activities that augment the Olympic and Paralympic experience for Calgarians and visitors. These costs are not included within Calgary 2026’s Draft Hosting Plan Concept as they are discretionary (that is, not required to deliver the 2026 OPWG).

Determining the overall programming requirements occurs after a city has been awarded the Games and is an integral part of the overall Cultural Olympiad managed by the Hostco. Programming can include activities such as:

- Live Sites, which are community gathering points where residents can go to celebrate the Olympic and Paralympic Games at no charge. Live sites could for example include stages with programmed entertainment and large screens that provide live coverage of the Games;
- Educational programs, special events and activations of local neighbourhoods in collaboration with partners including community and residents’ associations and Business Improvement Areas. It is anticipated that programming activities would occur throughout the city and would be planned at a later date;
- City parks and recreation spaces, community programs and performances: some of these events will build on formal IOC Olympic programs to share the vision of Olympism and values of the Olympic Movement – Friendship, Excellence and Respect; and
- Programs in partnership with Tourism Calgary and Calgary Economic Development to leverage economic and tourism opportunities before, during and after the Games.

To understand the potential costs associated with Live Sites, The City of Calgary hosted two Live Sites planning workshops on 2018 July 19 and July 25. The workshops included representatives from The City of Calgary (Calgary Police Service, Culture, OPWG City Secretariat), GoA, GoC, Town of Canmore and Calgary 2026. At the first workshop on July 19, Live Sites subject matter experts from the City of Vancouver and Town of Whistler led discussions on experiences at the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games. The July 25 workshop focused on potential Live Site locations in Calgary.

An output of the initial workshop was the development of The City’s draft site selection criteria, developed in conjunction with input from the GoC and GoA as outlined below:

Draft Live Sites Selection Criteria:

1. Accessibility:
 - a. Sites should be free or very low cost or a combination
 - b. Sites should be easily accessible by public transit (C-Train)
 - c. Sites should be barrier free to allow access for persons of all abilities

Programming (Live Sites)

- d. Sites should offer programming for all ages (e.g. cultural, entertainment, big screen live competition and medals broadcasts, participatory engagement etc.)
2. Safety:
 - a. Sites should be able to be secured
 - b. Sites should have sufficient access and egress for pedestrians, taxis and ride share
 - c. Sites should have an emergency response plan
3. Location
 - a. Walkable from transit
 - b. Proximity to a Games venue cluster
 - c. Proximity to other commercial venues in addition to services offered on site (food, drink, entertainment, etc.)
 - d. Proximity to other attractions (cultural, tourism attractions)
 - e. Respectful of residential neighbours
4. Amenities
 - a. Space for between 10,000 and 20,000 people with the potential to be scaled down depending on demand
 - b. Ability to brand location as an Olympic and Paralympic Site as well as a Host City site
 - c. Proximity to indoor programmed facilities such as pavilions
 - d. Infrastructure in place or the ability to easily bring in services as required (power, water, etc.)

Potential Live Site Locations:

The City Secretariat, along with OPWG partners, have developed a draft concept plan that identifies two potential Live Sites for the 2026 Olympic Games and one Live Site for the 2026 Paralympic Games. The two sites for the Olympics could be located at Olympic Plaza and in the Rivers District with the intention of using them concurrently. In addition, the single Live Site for the Paralympic Games could be located at Olympic Plaza. Olympic Plaza was selected as a natural community gathering area, with the Rivers District being selected as site number 2. The selection of Olympic Plaza and the Rivers District connects the Games' Stampede Cluster to Calgary's Cultural Corridor that includes: Fort Calgary, the National Music Centre, Calgary Central Library, Municipal Plaza, Olympic Plaza, Arts Commons, and the Glenbow Museum before joining with the Stephen Avenue Mall.

Subject to further consideration and eventual approval, other potential Live Site options could include Prince's Island Park and Shaw Millennium Park. Live Sites costs are not included in the Draft Hosting Plan and would be borne by The City of Calgary. The City Secretariat is continuing to review other Host City experiences including Vancouver 2010, whereby cost-sharing agreements with the federal and provincial governments and sponsorships off-set programming costs. At a later date, Council will be asked to consider approving the draft plan including the Live Site locations, the overall programming plan and costs. Similar to the Vancouver 2010 experience, it is anticipated that a report to Council on Programming and Live Sites would occur three years prior to hosting the Games.