

# Sound Mitigation

For Discussion  
PNE Board of Directors  
January 29, 2026



# Sound Mitigation

## Overview

- The PNE recognizes the importance of sound impacts to the surrounding neighbourhood and is committed to implementing and clearly communicating reasonable sound mitigation measures, while continuing to support site operations.
- Neighbours have requested clarification on the following:
  - Sound mitigation measures and protocols for the Freedom Mobile Arch
  - How sound impacts will be reasonably managed across Centre Grounds



# Freedom Mobile Arch

## Design Configurations for Sound Mitigation

Sound mitigation has been integrated into the design and construction of the Freedom Mobile Arch from the outset, with guidance from sound consultants. The recommendations considered most effective were developed into the design

### 1. Mass Timber Roof

- Its design reflects sound back toward audience, allowing for lower amplification levels.
- The roof helps contain sound within the venue while reducing sound propagation into the surrounding neighbourhood.
- Structural connections to the foundation are strategically located to address sound-sensitive areas to the south and east.



# Freedom Mobile Arch

## Design Configurations for Sound Mitigation

### 2. Acoustic Sound Wall

- A 7-metre-high concrete acoustic wall along the south side of the venue (adjacent to Playland) provides an additional barrier.
- The wall limits direct sound spread and helps deflect sound toward the ground rather than outward.



### 3. Landscape Based Sound Buffering

- Dense landscape planting, such as Western Red Cedar hedges will be incorporated to further support sound mitigation, we recognize that the hedges will need to grow over time and may not be an immediate buffer



# Freedom Mobile Arch

## Design Configurations for Sound Mitigation

### 4. Built in Sound System

- A permanent sound system will be installed and mandatory for all events, ensuring consistent and controlled sound delivery.

### 5. Optimized Speaker Design & Placement

- Sound will be directed towards the audience, not the surrounding neighbourhood
- Subwoofers will be distributed to better manage and reduce low-frequency bass impacts



# Freedom Mobile Arch

## Sound Procedures

### Onsite Sound Oversight

- The PNE will assign production/technical manager to:
  - Brief all client and production teams on sound requirements
  - Oversee Sound Checks
  - Monitor sound levels during the event

### Ongoing Sound Monitoring

- The PNE will continue to monitor sound levels at the point of reception using sound meters to ensure compliance with established limits
- After further testing of the permanent sensors', consultants felt that the accuracy of these sensors were not adequate and recommended that the PNE continue with current protocols of having our technical team measure sound with our sound monitors



# Centre Grounds - Sound Mitigation Plan

## In Development

- **Standardizing sound setup** with support from sound consultants, including stage configuration, equipment, and infrastructure
- **Collaborating with promoters and event sound teams** to identify challenges and implement practical solutions
- **Applying best practices from comparable outdoor venues and parks**, including approaches to scheduling, policies, and contractual requirements
- **Updating Centre Grounds sound operating procedures**, covering sound placement, equipment standards, and infrastructure expectations
- **Improving event-day communication**, ensure easy access for neighbors' to reach PNE staff during events



# Centre Grounds – Sound Mitigation Plan

## Standard Operating Procedures

- The PNE is working toward formalizing standard operating guidelines for higher-impact (high bass) music events.
- These guidelines are intended to clearly define expectations, responsibilities, and communication protocols.
- Will be finalized by April 1, 2026
- The following areas are being defined as part of this work:
  - Use Authorized Sound Systems
  - Production Oversight & Approvals
  - Artist Scheduling Controls
  - Event Booking Parameters
  - Event-Day Community Support
  - Neighbour Notification Protocols
  - Onsite Sound Monitoring & Compliance



# Sound Mitigation

## PNE Support For Sound-Related Concerns

The PNE is strengthening how neighbours can access information and raise sound-related concerns.

- **Accessible Sound Mitigation Information**

By April, the PNE website will include a dedicated page outlining sound mitigation plans and protocols for the site.

- **Access to PNE Support During Events**

The webpage will provide direct contact information for the onsite PNE staff member responsible for managing sound concerns during events

- **Clear Accountability**

Oversight and accountability for sound mitigation will sit with the Event Operations team, ensuring clear ownership and consistency in onsite management of sound



# Sound Mitigation

## Final Note

- The PNE recognizes that sound impacts are an important concern for the surrounding neighbourhood.
- Sound mitigation planning is an evolving process, and our approach will continue to be refined based on experience, monitoring, industry standards and community feedback.
- The PNE is committed to ongoing dialogue and welcomes feedback as sound mitigation measures are implemented, reviewed, and improved over time.

