

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Lewis Shomer, Abilities Expo  
**Date Submitted:** 11/03/2023 02:56 PM  
**Council File No:** 15-1207-S1  
**Comments for Public Posting:** Abilities Expo - Letter in support of the LA Convention Center Expansion & Modernization



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November 8, 2023

Councilmember Traci Park, Chair  
Trade, Travel and Tourism Committee  
200 N. Spring Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

**Re: Council File 15-1207-S1 LA Convention Center Expansion & Modernization**

Dear Councilmember Park:

My name is Lewis Shomer, Chairman of Abilities Expo the largest National Trade Show for people with disabilities. For the past 44 years Abilities Expo has relied on Los Angeles's ability to supply the disability community with a venue that can accommodate the many products and services that change people's lives. Without such a facility, this underserved community would lack the ability to find the vast number of products and services and discover the latest technologies that make them more independent.

Abilities is only one of the many hundreds of Expos, Shows and Conferences that need a place for industry to meet potential buyers of their products and services. Right now, Los Angeles lacks the fire power to attract these many Expos, Shows and Conferences because of the limited space in their convention facilities.

An expanded Convention Center would not only improve the perception that Los Angeles is a forward-thinking city and a place to do business, but the economic impact of bringing thousands more attendees and visitors to the city would have a substantial impact on the City and its many small business operators that would support such an investment.

I hope that the Committee on Trade, Travel and Tourism can visualize the opportunity of such an expansion that could coincide with the Olympics of 2028 and be able to experience the economic rewards that an expansion would provide.

Sincerely yours,

Lewis R. Shomer  
Chairman

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Lisa McGlashen  
**Date Submitted:** 11/03/2023 04:46 PM  
**Council File No:** 15-1207-S1  
**Comments for Public Posting:** Attached is a letter in support of the LA Convention Center expansion and modernization.

November 7, 2023

Councilmember Traci Park, Chair  
Trade, Travel and Tourism Committee  
200 N. Spring Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

**Subject: Agenda Item #2 LA Convention Center Expansion Project  
Council File 15-1207-S1**

Dear Councilmember Park:

The American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery (ASCRS) is a long supporter of Los Angeles. In fact, we will be celebrating our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2025, right where it all started, in LA.

In the years since the pandemic, ASCRS has continued to grow, establishing itself as the leading organization empowering anterior segment surgeons to improve the vision, outcomes, and quality of life of their patients. This growth has had a major impact in the cities where we hold meetings, providing a substantial economic impact benefiting the city and its citizens.

We are currently holding space at the LACC for 2025 and 2029. We are finding it difficult to place our full program in the current space. In fact, once we get to 2025, we will need to limit the number of companies exhibiting in our show. We desperately need contiguous exhibit space to accommodate the growth we anticipate. Without a change in the current layout, the meeting will no longer fit in the convention center.

Should the expansion be approved, we will sign an agreement for 2033, 2037, and 2041. We'll also sign hotel contracts for the over 12,000 people that attend our meeting. With the center and hotel contracts also come event space, transportation, restaurants, etc.

The talk of the center's expansion has been at the forefront of this industry for several years. I'm afraid that if the delays continue, Los Angeles will no longer be seen as a top destination. In fact, as several convention centers are expanding and rebuilding, Los Angeles is already behind. It is crucial that Los Angeles be the leader that we know it is! The expansion promises to bring more meetings, more people, and more revenue.

Sincerely,  
Lisa A. McGlashen  
ASCRS Director, Meetings & Exhibits

CC: Councilmember Tim McOsker, Vice Chair of Trade, Travel and Tourism Committee  
Councilmember Hugo Soto-Martinez, Member of Trade, Travel and Tourism Committee