Sustainable mega-events: A look at some of the solutions related to organisation of the Olympic Games

Igor Kováč, National Sport Centre, Bratislava, Slovakia

Source: la24.org
No. of municipalities involved in organisation of the Olympic Games

- Athens 1896: 3
- Paris 1900: 10
- St. Louis 1904: 2
- London 1908: 10
- Stockholm 1912: 4
- Antwerp 1920: 15
- Paris 1924: 6
- Amsterdam 1928: 6
- Los Angeles 1932: 3
- Berlin 1936: 5
- Helsinki 1952: 8
- Melbourne 1956: 12
- Stockholm 1956: 9
- Rome 1960: 11
- Tokyo 1964: 12
- Mexico City 1968: 17
- Munich 1972: 15
- Montreal 1976: 29
- Moscow 1980: 15
- Los Angeles 1984: 6
- Seoul 1988: 17
- Barcelona 1992: 26
- Atlanta 1996: 17
- Sydney 2000: 27
- Athens 2004: 32
- Beijing 2008: 51
- London 2012: 24
- Rio de Janeiro 2016: 10

No. of municipalities
Who Wants to Permanently Host the Olympic Games?

Andrew Zimbalist

July 13, 2016

ECONOMICS

It might save money, but it would cost the world dearly in other ways.

After the Soviet Union invaded Afghanistan in December 1979, Andrei Sakharov, one of the world's greatest nuclear scientists and a Nobel Peace Prize-winning dissident, told Western reporters that he supported an international boycott of the Moscow 1980 Summer Games. On January 22, 1980, Sakharov was ordered into internal exile. His arrest was one of the events that precipitated a boycott by 65 nations, including the U.S.

By the time that Russia hosted another Olympics, the Seoul 1988 Winter Games, it was a changed place. Yet Russia and Sochi were met with much of the same criticism as hosts of the U.S.S.R. and Moscow were in 1980. An escalation of human-rights violations preceded both events, which were attended by security procedures that were at once troubling and insufficient.

Making the case for a permanent home for the Olympic Games

With all eyes on Rio, many wonder if the tradition of selecting Olympic host cities needs to end.

Time For A Permanent Home For The Olympics Before It Bankrupts Another City

By CHARLES BANKS ALTEKRUSE

Feb 23, 2010

You may have noticed that Rio de Janeiro is having certain economic problems at present. This is not entirely to do with the city hosting the current Olympics to be sure. The vast scandal concerning Petrobras is having an effect, the manner in which Brazil’s boom has been cruelly ended and the country slipped into recession has hurt too. But all too often hosting the Olympics is thought of as a way of boosting the economy of a city. And it isn’t, it’s a cost. Maybe it’s a cost that should be carried for the greater glory of the local politicians or whatever but it’s not an economically rational thing to do. Thus it might well be a good idea for us to find a permanent place to establish the every four year jamboree and stop this system of one or another place wasting billions upon billions rebuilding the necessary infrastructure every time.

What If the Olympics Were Always Held in the Same City?

A few radical ideas to reform the Games

Andrew Zimbalist

July 9, 2016

IDEAS

The Olympics are here, and I’m not sure how to feel about it. On the one hand, I’m thrilled that a South American city is hosting the Olympic Games for the first time. People around the world will have the opportunity to explore Rio de Janeiro’s many marvels. In an age of fear and loathing, the Parade of Nations and spectacle of countries competing peacefully is most welcome. Brazilians living through political and economic crisis may likewise appreciate the chance to revel in their country’s successes for a change.

The Summer Olympics Should Always Be in Los Angeles. Forever.

Andrew Zimbalist

July 13, 2016

ECONOMICS

International Olympic Committee President Thomas Bach declared last month that with the renovated port and new hotels Rio would be in better shape for having hosted the Olympics. Sure, and the Oklahoma City Thunder will be better off without Kevin Durant.

Rio is an extreme example of what happens to almost all cities that host the summer Olympics. These days hosting the summer Games runs between $15 billion and $20 billion. With some good fortune, hosting may produce $4.5 billion in revenue—yielding a deficit of $5 billion to $10 billion. Not a favorable financial balance in the short run.

Give the Olympics a Home

By CHARLES BANKS ALTEKRUSE

Feb 23, 2010

It’s time to give the Olympics a permanent home

Don’t bail out Greece; just give it back the Olympics

Commentary

It’s time to give the Olympics a permanent home
Do you agree with the establishment of a permanent host for the Olympic Games?

84 responses

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Do you agree with the establishment of a permanent host for the Olympic Winter Games?

84 responses

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