August 3, 2020

Honorable William Peduto
Mayor, City of Pittsburgh
Office of Mayor
414 Grant Street, 5th Floor
Pittsburgh, PA 15219.

Dear Sir:

I am writing as Chair of the Art Commission of the City of Pittsburgh to convey the sense of the Commission regarding the Christopher Columbus statue in Schenley Park. We have received inquiries from the public and have been made aware of petitions calling for action on the status to the statue. The Art Commission is mandated to review all works of art owned by the City of Pittsburgh and art works to be removed, relocated, or proposed to be acquired by the City. Based on the governing Ordinance for the Art Commission, it appears that the Commission has the ability to bring to a vote these actions regarding Works of Art that are part of the city collection:

• § 175.04 - RELOCATION APPROVAL VOTE; EMERGENCY ACTION. No existing work of art in the possession of the City shall be removed, relocated or altered in any way without the similar approval of the Art Commission. Any work of art shall be removed, relocated or altered, in any way that may be ordered, by a vote passed, and approved in writing, by two-thirds (2/3) of all the members of the Commission, unless the work of art is attached to a portion of a building or other structure in process of demolition.

It is the intent of the Commission, based on a motion of a Commissioner, to initiate discussion, hear input from the public regarding the Columbus statue, and if warranted take action directed by a vote of the Commission. Speaking for the Commission, we would welcome any input or testimony to consider from the Mayor’s office or other City department to in furthering this process.

Sincerely
Robert A. Indovina AIA
Chair, Art Commission of the City of Pittsburgh

ROB INDOVINA, CHAIR | SARIKA GOULATIA | KILOLO LUCKETT
KARY ARIMOTO-MERCER | ANDREW MOSS | RICHARD PARSAKIAN