



CITY OF PITTSBURGH
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
MAYOR WILLIAM PEDUTO

August 24, 2020

Robert A. Indovina AIA
Chairperson
Art Commission of the City of Pittsburgh
John P. Robin Civic Building
200 Ross Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15219

Dear Chairperson Indovina:

Thank you for your letter of August 3, 2020, regarding the Christopher Columbus statue in Schenley Park. The statue is owned by the City and is on City property, and thus, I wish to turn to the Art Commission, as my art advisory body, to make a recommendation about how I should proceed. As was done with the Stephen Foster statue, kindly begin a public process to review the Columbus statue and make a recommendation to me. With that recommendation in hand and if I decide to take action, the matter will return to the Art Commission for the formal ratifying vote specified in City Code Section 175.04.

Please ensure that the public review process for the Christopher Columbus statue in Schenley Park includes the following:

- Hold a special hearing including a brief presentation on the statue. Interested members of the public will be invited to speak to the Art Commission. A court reporter will be present and will record. No formal Commission action will be taken at this hearing.
- Collect Public comment via online engagement prior to the special hearing. Encourage the public to express their opinion on options for how the Art Commission should proceed with regard to the placement of the Christopher Columbus statue, specifically between doing nothing, removing, replacing, or altering.
- Following the special hearing, the Commission will place the Christopher Columbus statue on the agenda for a regularly scheduled Art Commission meeting, where the Commission will hear additional public testimony, prior to making a recommendation to me for action or no action.

I look forward to hearing from you and receiving a recommendation, a summary of comments, and a final report after a thorough public process has been completed.

Sincerely,
A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "W Peduto", written in a cursive style.

William Peduto
Mayor of Pittsburgh

CC: Daniel Gilman, Chief of Staff
Andrew Dash, Director of City Planning