testimony for August Art Commission meeting on Wednesday, August 26, at 2:00 pm.

Emily De Ferrari <emilydef@aol.com>
Mon 8/24/2020 11:49 PM
To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>
Dear Commission:

Please accept and enter my testimony into the record regarding the discussion on Wednesday, August 26, about the Christopher Columbus statue.

Sincerely,
Emily De Ferrari

As a brown eyed, brown haired girl coming up in the 1950’s and 60’s, I knew the epithets “Dago and WOP” were hurled by people who could not claim common heritage with Frank Vittor’s magnificent 1958 statue standing watch over Panther Hollow, and over the place that Italian-Americans were carving for ourselves in American culture. Personal pride also for me, because my family name was intricately linked to Christopher Columbus’s birth place on a plaque in the small Genoese village where my father spent the first five years of his life.

Of course, I came to realize that there is likely a cottage industry in Italy that lays claim to Columbus’s early years. And I realized that the myth of his birth is claimed in Italy in the same way that the sanitized version of his life is claimed by Italian-Americans.

I also came to realize there is a complex and contradictory relationship between Italian Americans and Christopher Columbus. We used his fame to lift our fortunes into acceptability by mainstream white culture. But to secure and maintain that acceptability, we deny the humanity of the Taino, the indigenous people Columbus enslaved, brutalized and massacred. We cannot excuse him by citing the morals and ethics of the fifteenth century because when he returned to Spain after his third voyage, he was imprisoned for the barbaric acts of torture he had used. His crimes against humanity were acknowledged then, and don’t need to be whitewashed now.

It’s time. It’s time for Italian-Americans to take the lead on correcting this part of the great denial about the origins of this country. Let it go, we have so much more to gain by pulling each other up and together than by denying that we benefit from the legacies of brutality.

It’s time. Take the statue down. Let the man’s soul rest. Don’t continue to torture him with statues that remind him of his treachery. Let him rest in peace as he struggles with the demons he unleashed, and as we struggle to overcome the legacies of those same demons.

Emily DeFerrari
623 Kirtland Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15208
(Point Breeze)
Columbus statue in Schenley Park

Madelyn Dinnerstein <mdinnerstein@hotmail.com>
Mon 8/24/2020 11:55 PM
To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>

Dear commission members,

It is time to remove the Columbus statue from Schenley Park.

Columbus never was in mainland North America, so he doesn't have any ties to the development of Pittsburgh or the United States. His arrival on the island that now is the location of Haiti and the Dominican Republic resulted in the extermination of much of the population that already was there, so he isn't the admirable, heroic figure people my age learned about in grade school.

Frequently, statues of Columbus were erected in U.S. cities to recognize the contributions/success of Italian Americans at a time when many people still thought Columbus landed in what now is the United States. If that was the case here or if local Italian Americans view it in that way, their contributions could be recognized in the same spot in one of several ways, such as with a statue of an Italian American who has made a great contribution to the United States or Pittsburgh; a sculpture by a current Italian American artist; a statue of Cesare Beccaria, an Italian philosopher whose ideas are part of the U.S. Constitution; or an Italian-themed garden.

Because a significant artist, Frank Vittor, created the Columbus statue, it should not be destroyed, but an area that essentially is a gateway to one of Pittsburgh's major parks without context is not an appropriate place for it. Perhaps the Carnegie Museum of Art, The Frick, or an Italian American entity could use it in a display with context that celebrates the great Italian American artist who created the statue rather than the subject matter. The plinth could remain in the park as the base for a new statue or as a garden centerpiece. The Vittor historical marker now located near the Columbus statue could travel with the statue, or to give Vittor recognition in a high-traffic area, it could be put near the Honus Wagner statue at PNC Park.

Given the increasing recognition of the harm Columbus did to the indigenous people on the island where he landed and the fact that unhappiness will only grow because younger people are more concerned with how European settlers mistreated indigenous people than their elders were, it is time to stop celebrating Columbus. Also, it would be a shame for a work by a significant artist to be destroyed by vandals, and outdoor Columbus statues everywhere likely will have permanent targets on their backs. In the interest of both respecting the destruction of indigenous communities and protecting the work of an important Pittsburgh artist, it is time to remove the Columbus statue.

Sincerely,

Madelyn Dinnerstein
Remove the Christopher Columbus Statue!

Joy <joybkatz@gmail.com>
Tue 8/25/2020 7:54 AM
To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>
Dear Art Commission:

I support the removal of the Christopher Columbus statue in Schenley Park.

Yours sincerely,
Joy Katz
in Highland Park
The Columbus Statue Has To Go!

Ly Rounds <lyrounds@gmail.com>
Tue 8/25/2020 8:59 AM
To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>

Dear board members,

It's too late to be on the right side of history, but it's never too late to start righting relationships. Show your opposition to the continued oppression of indigenous and black people in this country by removing this statue. It is a small gesture, but it will be felt.

Sincerely,

Leif
Christopher Columbus statue

mk <adverbally@gmail.com>
Tue 8/25/2020 9:05 AM
To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>

Hi,

I'm writing to ask you to remove the Christopher Columbus statue in Schenley Park. His genocide is a shameful and tragic part of this country's history, and not one we should be celebrating.

Thanks,

Mk Davis
15224
Columbus statue gotta go!

Scott Gibson <ssssscott@gmail.com>
Tue 8/25/2020 9:08 AM
To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>

To Whom it May Concern,

This is my statement to the commission:

This relic of colonialism and racism represents a problematic history, which we still need to address. Taking this statue down can be a good beginning to addressing this past.

Thank you
Scott Gibson
Bloomfield resident
Remove Columbus Statue

Jennifer Doody <jennifer.k.doody@gmail.com>
Tue 8/25/2020 9:26 AM
To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>

Dear City of Pittsburgh Art Commission,

I am writing you to voice my support of the REMOVAL of the Christopher Columbus statue from Schenley Park. Thank you.

Jenn Doody
Jennifer Doody | 973-229-3346
Remove the Christopher Columbus statue in Schenley Park

Seth Hufford <seth_hufford@yahoo.com>
Tue 8/25/2020 9:57 AM
To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>

Dear Art Commission,
I write in support of removing the Columbus statue in Schenley Park. This man is not deserving a prominent memorial. Columbus had no connection to Pittsburgh, or the United States. He was a colonialist "explorer" responsible for the slaughter of Indigenous populations in the Caribbean...all in the name of Christianity.

I would support a replacement statue honoring one of the many great Black Pittsburghers like Martin Delany. A marker can be placed noting that a Columbus statue used to be here but was removed - further explaining the historical context.

Thank you,
Seth Hufford
North Point Breeze
Remove the Christopher Columbus Statue

Jo Resciniti <resciniti3@gmail.com>
Tue 6/23/2020 2:22 PM
To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>

Hi,

I’m writing to ask the Parks Conservancy and Phipps Conservatory boards and staff to demand the City of Pittsburgh remove the Columbus statue in Schenley Park.

Christopher Columbus represents a whitewashed version of American history that should not be supported by modern-day government. Did you know that as many as 15 expeditions reached the Americas BEFORE Christopher Columbus? (source: Lies My History Teacher Told Me by James W. Loewen) Christopher Columbus represents a brutal colonialism that infects society to this day. It's time to stop honoring him and to make our public spaces inclusive. Let's honor real honest history instead of our country's founding myths.

Sincerely,

Joey Lynn “Jo” Resciniti
1006 York Way
Gibsonia, PA 15044

Pronouns: she/her
joeylynnresciniti.com

So let's not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don’t give up. Galatians 6:9 NLT
Dear Members of the Art Commission of Pittsburgh,

I hope this message finds you well. My name is Prem Rajgopal and I am a masters student at the University of Pittsburgh. I am writing this correspondence to express my concerns over the continued existence of the statue of Christopher Columbus in my Oakland community.

To better contextualize Columbus, I turned to Professor of Anthropology and Communications at the University of Southern California, Dr. Tok Thompson. Below is his statement on Columbus:

While Columbus is certainly a noteworthy historical figure for the modern “discovery” of the Americas (note: he was not the first European, nor did he ever set foot on North America, nor did he ever believe he had indeed discovered a new continent).

He was, in essence, a slaver, and a trader who worked primarily with the slave trade.

Here are some relevant parts from Wikipedia:

_Columbus and the crew of his ship were the first Europeans to encounter the Taíno people, as they landed in The Bahamas on October 12, 1492. After their first interaction, Columbus described the Taínos as a physically tall, well-proportioned people, with a noble and kind personality._

_In his diary, Columbus wrote:_

_They traded with us and gave us everything they had, with good will ... they took great delight in pleasing us ... They are very gentle and without knowledge of what is evil; nor do they murder or steal...Your highness may believe that in all the world there can be no better people ... They love their neighbours as themselves, and they have the sweetest talk in the world, and are gentle and always laughing._[56]
Michele da Cuneo, Columbus's childhood friend from Savona, sailed with Columbus during the second voyage...

The same childhood friend reported in a letter that Columbus had provided one of the captured indigenous women to him. He wrote, "While I was in the boat, I captured a very beautiful Carib woman, whom the said Lord Admiral gave to me. When I had taken her to my cabin she was naked—as was their custom. I was filled with a desire to take my pleasure with her and attempted to satisfy my desire. She was unwilling, and so treated me with her nails that I wished I had never begun. But—to cut a long story short—I then took a piece of rope and whipped her soundly, and she let forth such incredible screams that you would not have believed your ears. Eventually we came to such terms, I assure you, that you would have thought that she had been brought up in a school for whores." [68]

Also from Wikipedia:

In poor health, Columbus returned to Hispaniola on 19 August, only to find that many of the Spanish settlers of the new colony were in rebellion against his rule, claiming that Columbus had misled them about the supposedly bountiful riches of the New World. A number of returning settlers and sailors lobbied against Columbus at the Spanish court, accusing him and his brothers of gross mismanagement. Columbus had some of his crew hanged for disobedience. He had an economic interest in the enslavement of the Hispaniola natives and for that reason was not eager to baptize them, which attracted criticism from some churchmen. [82] An entry in his journal from September 1498 reads: "From here one might send, in the name of the Holy Trinity, as many slaves as could be sold ... “[83]

Columbus was eventually forced to make peace with the rebellious colonists on humiliating terms. [84] In 1500, the Crown had him removed as governor, arrested, and transported in chains to Spain.

However, he became disillusioned with the enslaving the local Taino, and so instead turned to genociding them out of existence, and importing African slaves in their place. This led to one of the largest mass-murders of the world. Although estimates vary, a contemporary estimate stated that he commanded the genocide of some 3 million Taino. Estimates range from 1 million to 8 million, but it was certainly a very brutal genocide, carried out by barbaric means. Men, women, and infants were slaughtered.

Also from Wikipedia, regarding his time as governor

By this time, accusations of tyranny and incompetence on the part of Columbus had also reached the Court. Queen Isabella and King Ferdinand responded by removing Columbus from power and replacing him with Francisco de Bobadilla, a member of
the Order of Calatrava. Bobadilla, who ruled as governor from 1500 until his death in a storm in 1502, had also been tasked by the Court with investigating the accusations of brutality made against Columbus. Arriving in Santo Domingo while Columbus was away in the explorations of his third voyage, Bobadilla was immediately met with complaints about all three Columbus brothers: Christopher, Bartolomeo, and Diego. Bobadilla reported to Spain that Columbus regularly used torture and mutilation to govern Hispaniola. The 48-page report, found in 2006 in the national archive in the Spanish city of Simancas, contains testimonies from 23 people, including both enemies and supporters of Columbus, about the treatment of colonial subjects by Columbus and his brothers during his seven-year rule.

According to the report, Columbus once punished a man found guilty of stealing corn by having his ears and nose cut off and then selling him into slavery. Testimony recorded in the report stated that Columbus congratulated his brother Bartolomeo on "defending the family" when the latter ordered a woman paraded naked through the streets and then had her tongue cut out for suggesting that Columbus was of lowly birth. The document also describes how Columbus put down native unrest and revolt; he first ordered a brutal crackdown in which many natives were killed and then paraded their dismembered bodies through the streets in an attempt to discourage further rebellion. "Columbus's government was characterised by a form of tyranny," Consuelo Varela, a Spanish historian who has seen the document, told journalists. "Even those who loved him had to admit the atrocities that had taken place."

Historian James W. Loewen asserts that "Columbus not only sent the first slaves across the Atlantic, he probably sent more slaves—about five thousand—than any other individual.

Samuel Eliot Morison, a Harvard historian and author of a multivolume biography on Columbus writes, "The cruel policy initiated by Columbus and pursued by his successors resulted in complete genocide." Loewen laments that while "Haiti under the Spanish is one of the primary instances of genocide in all human history", only one major history text he reviewed mentions Columbus's role in it.

Given these factors, and in light of the ongoing use of the “Doctrine of Discovery” to seize land from Native Americans, Columbus emerges as less a symbol of exploration and more of a symbol—particularly to Native Americans—of slavery, racism, and genocide.

This is the reason so many areas (cities, and even states) are replacing Columbus Day with Indigenous People’s Day.

Columbus was not American; he was not a believer in freedom; he never set foot in North America. He was a European slaver who is responsible for horrific atrocities that have
continuing consequences to this day. We can do better to honor Native Americans than
having holidays (“holy days”) dedicated to a mass murderer.

As Dr. Thompson presented, Columbus was clearly a figure we should not revere. And a statute
honoring him does nothing more than reopen wounds in the community while ignoring historical
context. In my opinion, there are 5 ways to potentially proceed:

1. Do Nothing
2. Add signage or a plaque to the site
3. Relocate the statue
4. Relocate the statue while also adding signage
5. Remove the statue altogether

I believe that the 4th or 5th option should be taken. This statue maybe has a place in a museum,
with proper context, but absolutely should not continue to exist in our community. Thank you for
your consideration, and I am looking forward to seeing some direct action by members of the
committee regarding the statute.

Prem Rajgopal
Remove Columbus Statue from Schenley Park

Stephanie Creasy <screasy16@gmail.com>
Tue 6/23/2020 3:36 PM
To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>

Hello --

My name is Stephanie, and I am a citizen of Pittsburgh and resident of Greenfield. I work in Oakland in public health research. I am writing to you today to ask the Parks Conservancy and Phipps Conservatory boards and staff to demand the City of Pittsburgh remove the Columbus statue in Schenley Park. Although erected with presumably good intentions, this statue has no place in our public spaces because it is an emblem of racism and genocide that is harmful to the people of color who live in Pittsburgh. It is also not what Pittsburghers stand for. We can remember our history without maintaining statues of individuals who committed such egregious crimes against humanity. Although Columbus's beliefs and action may have been "normal" at the time, but that does not mean we should highlight racism and genocide now.

Please work together to remove this statue at the request of many, many Pittsburgh residents. It is the absolute least we can do right now, and people have been asking for this statue's removal for years. Please work together to make our parks equitable, safe spaces for ALL Pittsburghers, as you said you would.

Thank you,
Stephanie Creasy

--
Stephanie L. Creasy, MPH
she/her
screasy16@gmail.com

"I swear I will not dishonor my soul with hatred, but offer myself humbly as a guardian of nature, as a healer of misery, as a messenger of wonder, as an architect of peace."
-- Diane Ackerman
Please stand against racism

O.E. Zelmanovich (aka Zoë) <oeelmanovich@gmail.com>

Tue 6/23/2020 9:19 PM

To: mike.lyons@pnc.com <mike.lyons@pnc.com>; wburlack@pcrg.org <wburlack@pcrg.org>; cqureshi@pittsburghparks.org <cqureshi@pittsburghparks.org>; ceo@phipps.conservatory.org <ceo@phipps.conservatory.org>; acarvalho@pittsburghparks.org <acarvalho@pittsburghparks.org>; hr@phipps.conservatory.org <hr@phipps.conservatory.org>; PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>; Gable, Mike <Mike.Gable@pittsburghpa.gov>; Lane, Majestic <majestic.lane@pittsburghpa.gov>

Hi, I’m writing to ask the Parks Conservancy and Phipps Conservatory boards and staff to demand the City of Pittsburgh remove the Columbus statue in Schenley Park.

I applaud your recent statements in support of pursuing racial justice in your organizations and in our city and removing the statue is a clear way to make those intentions concrete and prove to our communities of color that we acknowledge the history of genocide and imperialism and no longer want to glorify it.

Thank you,

Zoe
Please work to take down the statue of Christopher Columbus in Schenley Park

Nina Young <nisoyo@gmail.com>
Tue 6/23/2020 6:34 PM
To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>

I hope this note finds you well. I am writing to ask that the Parks Conservancy and Phipps Conservatory boards and staff demand the City of Pittsburgh remove the Columbus statue in Schenley Park.

As the nation confronts its violent and racist legacy, Pittsburgh must initiate a healing process. In Pittsburgh, the statue of Columbus serves to celebrate and honor a person who was guilty of abuse and murder of thousands of Indigenous people.

There have been numerous individual demands that the City of Pittsburgh take down these statues, to no avail. We are hoping that the weight of your organization will sway them, because individual voices have not been heeded.

Please use your position of power for anti-racist action.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Nina S. Young

Nina S. Young
http://www.ninasyoung.com
405 South Braddock Ave. Apt 22
Pittsburgh, PA 15221
Christopher Columbus Statue

Erin Burns <erburns1116@gmail.com>

Tue 6/23/2020 10:12 PM

To: acarvalho@pittsburghparks.org <acarvalho@pittsburghparks.org>; ceo@phipps.conservatory.org <ceo@phipps.conservatory.org>; cquireshi@pittsburghparks.org <cquireshi@pittsburghparks.org>; hr@phipps.conservatory.org <hr@phipps.conservatory.org>; Lane, Majestic <majestic.lane@pittsburghpa.gov>; Gable, Mike <Mike.Gable@pittsburghpa.gov>; mike.lyons@pnc.com <mike.lyons@pnc.com>; PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>; wburlack@pcrg.org <wburlack@pcrg.org>

Hi, I’m writing to ask the Parks Conservancy and Phipps Conservatory boards and staff demand the City of Pittsburgh remove the Columbus statue in Schenley Park. We know Columbus shouldn’t be honored for his crimes of abuse and murder of indigenous peoples. Removing this won’t be erasing history, but erasing the approval of a colonizer. You can’t say our parks are equitable when there’s a City-owned statue of a colonizer in the most visited park in the city. If the change is made, there’s still more to be done after this, the City still provides a permit to the racist Columbus Day parade through Bloomfield every fall, and we still don’t celebrate Indigenous Peoples’ Day, like many, more inclusive, cities across the country. Our city has always been inclusive of people of all genders, sex, race, religions. But it needs to be proven in more ways than one.

Thank you for taking the time out of your day to read this and I really hope you’ll take this into consideration.
Columbus Statue Request

Tim Resciniti <tim.resciniti@treadstands.com>
Wed 6/24/2020 10:11 AM
To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>

Hello,

As a person who enjoys living in Pittsburgh, I request that you use your power and influence to ask the Parks Conservancy and Phipps Conservatory boards and staff to demand the City of Pittsburgh remove the Columbus statue in Schenley Park. Celebrating the myth of Columbus only serves to misinform us of the realities of history. Columbus should not be honored for his crimes of abuse and murder of indigenous people. The City of Pittsburgh needs to be held accountable by demanding that the display of symbols of oppression runs counter to our goal of being inclusive. Please consider this request and take any and all actions available to you to make Pittsburgh more welcoming and representative of us all.

Sincerely,

Tim Resciniti
Direct – 412.260.2576
Fax – 412.468.7635
TREADSTANDS
www.treadstands.com

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Megan Massanelli <meganmassanelli@gmail.com>

Wed 6/24/2020 12:43 PM

To: mike.lyons@pnc.com <mike.lyons@pnc.com>; wburlack@pcrg.org <wburlack@pcrg.org>; cqureshi@pittsburghparks.org <cqureshi@pittsburghparks.org>; ceo@phipps.conservatory.org <ceo@phipps.conservatory.org>; acarvalho@pittsburghparks.org <acarvalho@pittsburghparks.org>; hr@phipps.conservatory.org <hr@phipps.conservatory.org>; PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>; Gable, Mike <Mike.Gable@pittsburghpa.gov>; Lane, Majestic <majestic.lane@pittsburghpa.gov>; mcheever@pittsburghparks.org <mcheever@pittsburghparks.org>

Hello,

I hope my message finds you well. My name is Megan Massanelli. I am a Pittsburgh resident and member of the Phipps Conservatory. I'm writing to ask that the Parks Conservancy and Phipps Conservatory boards and staff demand the City of Pittsburgh and Office of Public Art remove the Columbus statue in Schenley Park.

I love Pittsburgh parks and Phipps. Both have been my “happy place” and a refuge especially in this tumultuous year. However, I purposefully avoid walking in areas where statues and memorials to colonizers, slave owners, etc. stand, when I can. It's a mar on the otherwise peaceful and rejuvenating experience. It communicates values that I do not typically associate with those of the Parks Conservancy or Phipps.

I appreciate that both of your nonprofits recently signed a letter, with 29 other environmental organizations, on justice, race, and responsibility. I think it’s time to take action, not just words, on these topics and demand that the City of Pittsburgh remove this racist statue. You can’t say our parks are equitable when there’s a City-owned statue of a colonizer in the most visited park in the City. I implore you to use your power and relationship with the City to advocate for this much needed change.

Thank you for your time,
Megan
Please Remove Statue of Christopher Columbus

Katherine Anderson <katherine.anderson912@gmail.com>

Wed 6/24/2020 2:44 PM
To: Katherine Anderson <katherine.anderson912@gmail.com>

Hi,

I’m writing to ask the Parks Conservancy and Phipps Conservatory boards and staff demand the City of Pittsburgh remove the Columbus statue in Schenley Park.

This statue, and man, represents violence, rape, and genocide. I want Pittsburgh to feel safe for all, including indigenous people and their allies.

Thank you for taking the time to read.

Best wishes,

Katherine
Remove statue of Christopher Columbus

Raya McGaughey <rayamcgaughey@gmail.com>

Mon 6/22/2020 10:06 PM

To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>

Hello,

My husband and I moved to Pittsburgh in August and one of the first places we visited was Schenley park and Phipps Conservatory. This part of Pittsburgh is beautiful but were shocked, offended and disappointed to see a statue of Christopher Columbus still standing. I believe this is unacceptable and am writing to ask that the Parks Conservancy and Phipps Conservatory boards and staff demand the City of Pittsburgh remove the Columbus statue.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Raya McGaughey
Please remove Columbus Statue in Schenley Park

Julia Feldman <jsfeld09@gmail.com>

Tue 6/23/2020 11:53 AM

To: mike.lyons@pnc.com <mike.lyons@pnc.com>; wburlack@pcrg.org <wburlack@pcrg.org>; cqureshi@pittsburghparks.org <cqureshi@pittsburghparks.org>; ceo@phipps.conservatory.org <ceo@phipps.conservatory.org>; acarvalho@pittsburghparks.org <acarvalho@pittsburghparks.org>; hr@phipps.conservatory.org <hr@phipps.conservatory.org>; PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>; Gable, Mike <Mike.Gable@pittsburghpa.gov>; Lane, Majestic <majestic.lane@pittsburghpa.gov>

Hello,

I'll keep this short -- I'm writing to ask the Parks Conservancy and Phipps Conservatory boards and staff demand the City of Pittsburgh remove the Columbus statue in Schenley Park.

Thank you,

Julia Feldman
220 S Negley Ave, Apt 10., Pittsburgh, PA 15206
Statue

Greg <gman105@gmail.com>
Tue 6/23/2020 6:41 AM

Hi, I’m writing to ask the Parks Conservancy and Phipps Conservatory boards and staff demand the City of Pittsburgh remove the Columbus statue in Schenley Park. As a historian, I am well aware that Columbus was not actually the first European to 'discover' the new world. Further, he is a symbol of European slaughter of native peoples. Why is he honored with a statue? Please remove it.

Greg Wilson
Remove Columbus statue from Schenley Park.

Marye Phillips <meisaacs@gmail.com>
Tue 6/23/2020 9:25 AM

To: mike.lyons@pnc.com <mike.lyons@pnc.com>; wburlack@pcrg.org <wburlack@pcrg.org>; cqureshi@pittsburghparks.org <cqureshi@pittsburghparks.org>; ceo@phipps.conservatory.org <ceo@phipps.conservatory.org>; acarvalho@pittsburghparks.org <acarvalho@pittsburghparks.org>; hr@phipps.conservatory.org <hr@phipps.conservatory.org>; PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>; Gable, Mike <Mike.Gable@pittsburghpa.gov>; Lane, Majestic <majestic.lane@pittsburghpa.gov>

I’m writing to ask the Parks Conservancy and Phipps Conservatory boards and staff demand the City of Pittsburgh remove the Columbus statue in Schenley Park. Our parks are not equitable when there is a City-owned statue of a colonizer in the most visited park in the City. We know Columbus shouldn’t be honored for his crimes of abuse and murder of indigenous peoples.

The City should also stop permitting the Columbus Day parade through Bloomfield every fall, and start recognizing Indigenous Peoples’ Day, like many cities across the country.

Thank you,

Marye Phillips
Remove Columbus statue in Schenley park

karencoulterperkins@gmail.com <karencoulterperkins@gmail.com>
Tue 6/23/2020 9:58 AM
To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>

Hi, I'm writing to ask the Parks Conservancy and Phipps Conservatory boards and staff demand the City of Pittsburgh remove the Columbus statue in Schenley Park. It tells a totally Eurocentric story and fails to educate us about the imperialistic and racially superior treatment of the native peoples already living on the American continent.

Sincerely,

Karen Coulter Perkins

* * *
138 Fourth Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15215-2916
karencoulterperkins@gmail.com
412-877-0660
Removal of Columbus Statue

Kimberly Ruchti <kimberly.r.ruchti@gmail.com>
Tue 6/23/2020 10:09 AM

Good Morning!

I’m writing to ask the Parks Conservancy and Phipps Conservatory boards and staff demand the City of Pittsburgh remove the Columbus statue in Schenley Park.

In 2020 we shouldn’t have to plead with a city to not honor murderers of the past, however historical. It is tone deaf and disrespectful to think because he never murdered any of your ancestors that somehow his egregious behavior should somehow be overlooked. We wouldn’t think to ask where we might erect the statue of the man who murdered your family members so, why must we pay homage to this man?

It is a not statue in remembrance of our history because if we truly taught in school what this man did there would be no discussion of what to do with his statue. I urge that in 2020 we remove this statue from Schenley Park to show our solidarity with ALL members of the Pittsburgh community. We see you. We hear you and we are committed to making Pittsburgh a safer, better place for ALL citizens.

Warmly,

Kimberly R. Ruchti

Sent from my iPhone
Columbus statue

Teresa <treebeans@yahoo.com>
Tue 6/23/2020 10:47 AM
To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>

Hi, I’m writing to ask the Parks Conservancy and Phipps Conservatory boards and staff demand the City of Pittsburgh remove the Columbus statue in Schenley Park. He is not a hero. As a second generation Italian American with strong family ties still in Italy, no one cares about Columbus. We have a million amazing people we can celebrate and honor. People who cling to him are clinging to racist ideals. America is better then that. Pittsburgh is better then that. Let it go! Infact the city should throw a parade for the removal of this statue.

Thank you

Teresa Martuccio

Sent from my iPhone
Please Support the Removal of the Columbus Statue from Schenley Park

Amanda Gross <amagross@gmail.com>
Tue 6/23/2020 3:43 PM

Greetings board members and staff!

I’m writing to ask that the Parks Conservancy and Phipps Conservatory boards and staff demand the City of Pittsburgh remove the Columbus statue in Schenley Park. Christopher Columbus committed horrific and genocidal acts against Indigenous people. Why would we want to honor such a violent legacy?

This is an incredible opportunity for the City of Pittsburgh to celebrate the incredible contributions of Black, Indigenous, and other People of Color to the Pittsburgh region instead!

Thank you for your public service in supporting our community towards ending racism and beginning the steps of healing from its impact.

Sincerely,
Amanda Gross

Pittsburgh Resident, 15206
Remove the Columbus Statue in Schenley

Bri Castle <brlazevnick@gmail.com>  
Sat 6/27/2020 5:38 PM  
To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>  

Hi,

My name is Bri Castle. I am a citizen of Pittsburgh and a Volunteer Manager with Rebuilding Together Pittsburgh.

I’m writing today to ask that the boards and staff of the Parks Conservancy and Phipps Conservatory and their supporters demand the City of Pittsburgh remove the Columbus statue in Schenley Park.

As a conservation organization, you likely care deeply about how parks function in our community, understand that statues and memorials are part of a park’s meaning and create dialogue among park visitors, and want to make parks and green spaces a welcoming place for everyone.

There is a place for Columbus’ history that would allow us to understand and wrestle with his role in the forming of our nation AND in the murder, enslavement, forced removal, and disempowerment of Indigenous peoples in the Americas.

How is this statue recognizing that fraught and complex history?  
(This [article](https://www.washingtonpost.com/travel/2019/10/07/how-columbus-discovered-america/) from the Washington Post summarizes many of the atrocities Columbus and his men committed.)

The plaque in Schenley merely states "Christopher Columbus / Discoverer of America / October 12 1492"

Where on the statue can viewers learn or read about the Taíno and other Indigenous peoples Columbus and his men killed? Or an explanation of what the "discovery of America" entailed? Where are the statues of Indigenous tribes that fought against colonizers and the decimation of their people?  
Have any members or leaders of Indigenous tribes commented on the statue or been invited into discussions about keeping or removing the statue?  
How does this method of historical preservation generate dialogue or allow for a deeper understanding?

I would argue that this statue silences, erases, and sanitizes a more realistic and complicated history of Columbus. It promotes an image of a strong, independent, and powerful man. One to be revered and looked up to. Knowing the history we know today, are you okay with promoting such imagery?

If you have had conversations about removing the statue at the organizational level, I’d love to know what resolutions or decisions resulted from this dialogue.

Thank you,

Bri
Action Against Columbus Statue

Eric Stein <ericstein@gmail.com>
Tue 6/23/2020 12:56 PM

Good afternoon,

I’m writing to ask the Parks Conservancy and Phipps Conservatory boards and staff to support the City of Pittsburgh and its constituents in removing the Columbus statue in Schenley Park.

Thank you,

--

Eric Stein
ericstein@gmail.com
Cell: 908-698-9557
www.linkedin.com/in/eric-stein-pe
Re: Schenley Park Columbus Statue

Justin Westley <justwestley@gmail.com>

Tue 6/23/2020 12:57 PM

To: mike.lyons@pnc.com <mike.lyons@pnc.com>; wburlack@pcrg.org <wburlack@pcrg.org>; cqureshi@pittsburghparks.org <cqureshi@pittsburghparks.org>; ceo@phipps.conservatory.org <ceo@phipps.conservatory.org>; acarvalho@pittsburghparks.org <acarvalho@pittsburghparks.org>; hr@phipps.conservatory.org <hr@phipps.conservatory.org>; PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>; Gable, Mike <Mike.Gable@pittsburghpa.gov>; Lane, Majestic <majestic.lane@pittsburghpa.gov>

Hello,

I’m writing to ask the Parks Conservancy and Phipps Conservatory boards and staff demand the City of Pittsburgh remove the Columbus statue in Schenley Park.

Columbus’ brutal history as a ruthless and violent colonizer is well established historical fact. To claim otherwise or to leverage his mythology among the Italian immigrant community, is a violent act that honors and memorializes a mass murderer and white supremacist. Our city’s parks must be an open and equitable space for all. As long as this statue remains, our parks will never meet that mission.

I hope that action will be taken. BIPOC yinzers and their allies will be watching.

Best,
Justin Westley

--

Justin P. Westley
(he/him)

Master of Arts Management, Class of 2021
Carnegie Mellon University, Heinz College of Information Systems and Public Policy

B.Mus. in Musical Arts with Concentrations in Voice and Musicology, Class of 2018
Vanderbilt University, Blair School of Music
Statue Removal

Wendy <moon.sparrow11@gmail.com>

Thu 6/25/2020 6:34 PM

To: mike.lyons@pnc.com <mike.lyons@pnc.com>; wburlack@pcrg.org <wburlack@pcrg.org>; cqureshi@pittsburghparks.org <cqureshi@pittsburghparks.org>; ceo@phipps.conservatory.org <ceo@phipps.conservatory.org>; acarvalho@pittsburghparks.org <acarvalho@pittsburghparks.org>; hr@phipps.conservatory.org <hr@phipps.conservatory.org>; PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>; Gable, Mike <Mike.Gable@pittsburghpa.gov>; Lane, Majestic <majestic.lane@pittsburghpa.gov>; mcheever@pittsburghparks.org <mcheever@pittsburghparks.org>

Hi, I'm writing to ask the Parks Conservancy and Phipps Conservatory boards and staff demand the City of Pittsburgh remove the Columbus statue in Schenley Park.

There's no better time to speak out about ridding the community of this racist reminder who's history shouldn't be celebrated.

Thank you for your time and efforts.

Sincerely,

Wyn L
Remove the Columbus Statue

Adrien McGrail <adrienmcgrail@gmail.com>
Mon 6/22/2020 9:46 PM

Hi, I'm writing to ask the Parks Conservancy and Phipps Conservatory boards and staff demand the City of Pittsburgh remove the Columbus statue in Schenley Park.

It's about time our city became active in support of indigenous people rather than a falsely valorizing a genocidal colonizer. I know you will make the right decision.
Hello, I’m writing to ask the Parks Conservancy and Phipps Conservatory boards and staff demand the City of Pittsburgh remove the Columbus statue in Schenley Park. It is absolutely absurd that this statue of a racist and abusive man who did not even discover America for the first time should be standing for all to see. It is not what Pittsburgh stands for and we demand for its removal in order to make all feel welcome in our city and park.

Sincerely,
Sarah McLaughlin

Sent from my iPhone
Hi, I’m writing to ask the Parks Conservancy and Phipps Conservatory boards and staff demand the City of Pittsburgh remove the Columbus statue in Schenley Park. As far as I'm concerned, Christopher Colombus, when examining his history, had very little to do with Pittsburgh. I'm not sure why we have such an outdated statue in our most frequented park. It would do more good for local Pittsburghers to have, instead of the Columbus statue, a monument celebrating a historical local resident, like August Wilson. Far too few Pittsburghers are aware of Wilson’s success as a playwright. If not August Wilson, then maybe a piece from a local artist, like Thaddeus Mosley.

Just a thought.

Alex Abramson, lifelong Pittsburgh resident.
Remove the Columbus statue in Schenley Park

Julia Blake <jblake47@gmail.com>
Fri 6/26/2020 7:42 AM

Good morning,

I’m writing to ask the Parks Conservancy and Phipps Conservatory boards and staff demand that the City of Pittsburgh remove the Columbus statue in Schenley Park.

During this time of reflection on our country's past wrongs, I think that the removal of statues which represent people who have done great misdeeds is extremely important. Columbus himself has nothing to do with Pittsburgh, and indeed never landed on the land which is now the USA. The argument has been used that he is a symbol for Italian Americans, which Pittsburgh has a great number of. However, I do not think that the Pittsburgh of today should be represented by a man who murdered, raped, and brought disease to countless people in the New World.

I ask that this statue is removed, and if another statue is erected, due diligence is done into the research of that person, and perhaps give the citizens of our wonderful city the chance to vote who they would like to see memorialized.

I thank you for your time, and hope to see that you will be on the right side of history.

All the best,
Julia Blake
Please consider removing the Columbus statue in Schenley Park

Melanie Frank <melanie.s.frank@gmail.com>
Fri 6/26/2020 2:42 PM
To: mike.lyons@pnc.com <mike.lyons@pnc.com>; wburlack@pcrg.org <wburlack@pcrg.org>; cqureshi@pittsburghparks.org <cqureshi@pittsburghparks.org>; ceo@phipps.conservatory.org <ceo@phipps.conservatory.org>; acarvalho@pittsburghparks.org <acarvalho@pittsburghparks.org>; PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>; Gable, Mike <Mike.Gable@pittsburghpa.gov>; Lane, Majestic <majestic.lane@pittsburghpa.gov>; mcheever@pittsburghparks.org <mcheever@pittsburghparks.org>; Phipps Human Resources E-Mail Account <hr@phipps.conservatory.org>

Hello all,

Hi, I’m writing to ask the Parks Conservancy and Phipps Conservatory boards and staff demand the City of Pittsburgh remove the Columbus statue in Schenley Park. I appreciate the initial efforts the Parks Conservancy and Phipps have made by signing the recent letter showing support for the people of color in our community, but words are only a start. Our parks, by nature, need to be equitable spaces FOR ALL, and you can’t say our parks are equitable when there is a City-owned statue of a colonizer in it's most visited park. Columbus is not a hero.

Thank you,
Melanie Frank
All,

I am writing to ask that your organizations insist upon the removal of the Columbus statue in Schenley Park. While the legacy of colonialism, genocide, and slavery pervades modern America, it's essential that we look honestly at our past and stop supporting simplified "hero" narratives that ignore history. Continuing to reinforce the heroism of a figure responsible for atrocities is the opposite of taking a stand against modern racism and inequality.

Thank you,
Reuben Aronson
Sq Hill
Elevate The BIPOC in Pgh, Remove the Columbus Statue

Andrea Chiotti <planktenzkeets@gmail.com>
Fri 6/26/2020 4:34 PM
To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>

Hello,

I’m writing to ask the Parks Conservancy and Phipps Conservatory boards and staff demand the City of Pittsburgh remove the Columbus statue in Schenley Park.

For years citizens of Pittsburgh have expressed our outrage that Columbus is celebrated by a statue in a public park in our city. Columbus, who manipulated and killed Natives, who abused his staff (who were people had been imprisoned), who didn't "discover" America. He was mistaken when he came here and killed the people he found.

It is an insult to Black and Indigenous folks in Pittsburgh and it is an insult to white folks, and Italian Americans as well. My grandfather came to Pittsburgh from Italy. To remove the Columbus statue is not an insult to my heritage, it is conscious choice to state that we don’t condone egregious violations of our fellow humans.

To leave the statue is a choice to celebrate colonialism, rape and genocide. I think we can do more to celebrate our Italian heritage than use symbols that subjugate the most marginalized communities in our city. If you want more information about that, I think that many Pittburghers would be happy to share input on how to celebrate Italian heritage.

We have asked, we have written letters, we have marched. Now we DEMAND that the statue of Columbus be removed from one of our most visited parks. Stand with Black lives. Stand with Indigenous lives. Stand with those who say "no "to the atrocities that Columbus represents for many groups of people.

Sincerely,
Andrea Chiotti
Removal of Columbus Statue in Schenley Park

Ben Schenck <ben.l.schenck@gmail.com>

Thu 6/25/2020 3:55 PM

To: mike.lyons@pnc.com <mike.lyons@pnc.com>; wburlack@pcrg.org <wburlack@pcrg.org>; cqureshi@pittsburghparks.org <cqureshi@pittsburghparks.org>; ceo@phipps.conservatory.org <ceo@phipps.conservatory.org>; acarvalho@pittsburghparks.org <acarvalho@pittsburghparks.org>; hr@phipps.conservatory.org <hr@phipps.conservatory.org>; PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>; Gable, Mike <Mike.Gable@pittsburghpa.gov>; Lane, Majestic <majestic.lane@pittsburghpa.gov>; mcheever@pittsburghparks.org <mcheever@pittsburghparks.org>

Hello,

I’m writing to ask that the Parks Conservancy and Phipps Conservatory boards and staff demand the City of Pittsburgh remove the Columbus statue in Schenley Park. Columbus should not be honored for his crimes of abuse and murder of indigenous people in our country, and residents of Pittsburgh should not be reminded of these atrocities when visiting a public park in our city.

Our parks are not equitable when there is a city-owned statue of a colonizer in our most popular park. It is time to speak up about the racism that underlies many aspects of our city, and I ask that you take this opportunity to do so.

Thank you,
Ben Schenck
Columbus Statue in Schenley Park

Julia M. R. <julesknowsall@gmail.com>

Thu 6/25/2020 10:44 AM
To: PACD <pacd@pgh.pa.gov>

Hi,

I’m writing to ask the Parks Conservancy and Phipps Conservatory boards and staff to demand the City of Pittsburgh remove the Columbus statue in Schenley Park. Columbus is not the hero America should be upholding.

The Smithsonian Magazine put out an article in 2015 titled Why Christopher Columbus Was the Perfect Icon for a New Nation Looking for a Hero, which begins; "America's love affair with Christopher Columbus has been a rocky one. Some savor his day to celebrate Italian-American heritage, while others chafe at the impropriety of honoring a man who enslaved and killed thousands of native peoples."

In Pittsburgh, we have a rich enough history on our own that we don't need to claim a man who never even reached mainland America.

As the Smithsonian states, "...Columbus never even set foot on the North American mainland, as John Cabot did in 1497." Keeping the Columbus statue is not only distasteful because of his slaughter of native peoples and major role in instituting slavery, but it is a lie. It's not a harmless lie either.

Recognizing Columbus as a hero has historically undermined historical accuracy and indigenous peoples. The Nation has an article titled The Invention of Christopher Columbus, American Hero. The Nation flat out states that historical protection has never been the intent of Columbus' statues. "Adopting 'Columbia' as an informal name for the budding nation implied that, like Columbus, the colonies were shedding the yoke of the Old World. Historical accuracy was irrelevant."

There's no good that can come from the Columbus statue. The city of Pittsburgh does not support him or his ideals. We either need to remove it or repurpose the state to be a learning opportunity for the harm done in America.

-Julia Resciniti
(Shes/her)
Remove the Columbus statue in Schenley Park

Heidi <heidicard@gmail.com>
Thu 6/25/2020 1:19 PM
To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>

Hello --

I’m writing to ask that the Parks Conservancy and Phipps Conservatory boards and staff demand the City of Pittsburgh remove the Columbus statue in Schenley Park.

To quote a Change.org petition that currently has over 6,000 signatures:

"Christopher Columbus is far from the heroic explorer too many curriculums believe him to be. Columbus, who set out for India in search of spices, instead landed on a series of islands in the Caribbean and later, America. What happened next was horrific: millions of natives were enslaved, raped, murdered, and killed by diseases Columbus brought with him. He didn't "discover" America, he found native-inhabited land and claimed it for himself, using extreme violence and cruelty. Overall, he was a terrible man that should not be celebrated at all.

That being said, numerous statues and monuments to his existence stand still. There's Columbus day on October 12th, statues throughout the United States, and most relevant to this petition, a statue of him at Schenley Park in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Pittsburgh has removed racist statues before, including the Stephen Foster Memorial statue, so why not this one?

Anti-racism is the only way forward in which all people in the US have a fair and equal future. Removing this statue and replacing it with a statue of a famous Black Pittsburgher; like Billy Strayhorn, a musician, Daisy Elizabeth Adams Lampkin, a suffragette, Virginia P. Florence, the first Black librarian in the US, or many other incredible figures. There are hundreds of options for a replacement, none of which terrorized native people and committed mass genocide."

I hope you will take it upon yourself and the citizens of Pittsburgh to see that this offense to humanity is removed.

Sincerely,

Heidi Card
Hi, I’m writing to ask the Parks Conservancy and Phipps Conservatory boards and staff to demand the City of Pittsburgh remove the Columbus statue in Schenley Park. The history surrounding Columbus is not history that we as Americans should hope to be connected to. He was an abuser and murderer who should not be idealized. He does not represent American and we demand that the statue be taken down!

Please be a part of the right side of history and help lift up the voices that have been suppressed for centuries by people like Columbus!

--

Sincerely

Payal Patel
Schenley Park Columbus statue

Gesina A. Phillips <gesina.a.phillips@gmail.com>

Thu 6/25/2020 2:03 PM

To: mike.lyons@pnc.com <mike.lyons@pnc.com>; wburlack@pcrg.org <wburlack@pcrg.org>; cqureshi@pittsburghparks.org <cqureshi@pittsburghparks.org>; ceo@phipps.conservatory.org <ceo@phipps.conservatory.org>; acarvalho@pittsburghparks.org <acarvalho@pittsburghparks.org>; hr@phipps.conservatory.org <hr@phipps.conservatory.org>; PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>; Gable, Mike <Mike.Gable@pittsburghpa.gov>; Lane, Majestic <majestic.lane@pittsburghpa.gov>; mccheever@pittsburghparks.org <mccheever@pittsburghparks.org>

Hello,

I am writing to ask the Parks Conservancy and Phipps Conservatory boards and staff to demand that the City of Pittsburgh remove the Columbus statue in Schenley Park. Although this is not a new issue, recent events around the country have made it clear that the time has come to remove monuments that celebrate the history of genocide and chattel slavery within the United States. Statues of Columbus are one example of public art which valorizes figures who ought to instead receive much more critical attention. Columbus is more than a symbol or a historical figure--historical accounts as well as his own records reveal him to be a slaver, a tyrannical leader, and a brutal colonizer. We can do better with our public art.

There are some arguments that Columbus is a figure of importance to Italian-Americans, but I have to ask (as an Italian-American myself who is already skeptical of this claim): are there not other Italian-American figures (actual Italian-Americans, which Columbus certainly was not) that we might celebrate who did not perpetrate atrocities? Better yet, we could focus on the history, art, and continuing existence of native people of our region instead, perhaps by commissioning art from a regional native artist to replace the statue of Columbus. We will not forget our past by removing statues which represent outdated ideals, but we can improve our present by understanding and addressing the uncomfortable parts of our history.

Thank you for your time and attention. I respect the work of Phipps and the Parks Conservancy, and I love our local art and parks (of which I am a frequent visitor!). I hope that you will consider being a part of this overdue and much needed change in discourse.

Best,

Gesina

--

Gesina Phillips
Resident of Bloomfield, 15224
Hi, I’m writing to ask the Parks Conservancy and Phipps Conservatory boards and staff demand the City of Pittsburgh remove the Columbus statue in Schenley Park.

It is just supremely outdated and his academic or historical standing as a great explorer is fairly questionable.

Please take note of this,

DeVaughn R.

farESH Brand - Brand Manager
www.farESHBrand.com
Schenley Park: Christopher Columbus Statue

Lauren Morris <contact@hirelaurenmorris.com>

Wed 7/1/2020 8:20 AM

To: mike.lyons@pnc.com <mike.lyons@pnc.com>; wburlack@pcrg.org <wburlack@pcrg.org>; cqureshi@pittsburghparks.org <cqureshi@pittsburghparks.org>; ceo@phipps.conservatory.org <ceo@phipps.conservatory.org>; acarvalho@pittsburghparks.org <acarvalho@pittsburghparks.org>; hr@phipps.conservatory.org <hr@phipps.conservatory.org>; PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>; Gable, Mike <Mike.Gable@pittsburghpa.gov>; Lane, Majestic <majestic.lane@pittsburghpa.gov>; mcheever@pittsburghparks.org <mcheever@pittsburghparks.org>

Dear Sir or Madam,

I’m writing to ask the Parks Conservancy and Phipps Conservatory boards and staff demand the City of Pittsburgh remove the Columbus statue in Schenley Park.

A statue is a financial investment in honoring a person worthy of that position of honor. They require monetary investment in creating, installing, and maintaining over time due to the erosion of the elements and outside forces. I believe that monuments and statues should be only maintained for people who are worthy of this investment.

Christopher Columbus never set foot in the modern USA. He was unable to find the gold and spices that he promised The Royalty that he would return with. In order to avoid returning empty handed, he kidnapped natives from the Caribbean islands as well as Central America and returned them to Europe as slaves. Historians approximate that within 60 years of his arrival, the Taíno people (estimated population of 250,000 at the time of arrival) were essentially decimated as a culture (less than 100 members remaining, and scattered throughout neighboring communities for safety). The Taíno people only exist in DNA today, they no longer are an established culture at all. This is a direct result of Christopher Columbus. He was not a man who had kind morals or ethics, he was anti-science and a slave trader at his core.

This man is not worth being held in monetary reverence by our community. I implore you to leverage your position in the community to remove this idol for an abusive man, and replace it with something worth our community investment. Perhaps a monument honoring the story and history of the Taíno people, for example. As a community we can all do better by removing idols that lift up men who lived their lives by enslaving other people and replacing them with gardens, statues, or monuments to the people who lived in their shadow.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

Lauren Morris
Remove Columbus Statue

Tejal Patel <tejp717@gmail.com>

Tue 7/21/2020 12:17 PM

To: mike.lyons@pnc.com <mike.lyons@pnc.com>; wburlack@pcrg.org <wburlack@pcrg.org>; cqureshi@pittsburghparks.org <cqureshi@pittsburghparks.org>; ceo@phipps.conservatory.org <ceo@phipps.conservatory.org>; acarvalho@pittsburghparks.org <acarvalho@pittsburghparks.org>; hr@phipps.conservatory.org <hr@phipps.conservatory.org>; PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>; Gable, Mike <Mike.Gable@pittsburghpa.gov>; Lane, Majestic <majestic.lane@pittsburghpa.gov>; mcheever@pittsburghparks.org <mcheever@pittsburghparks.org>

Hi,

I’m writing to ask for the Parks Conservancy and Phipps Conservatory boards and staff to demand the City of Pittsburgh to remove the Columbus statue in Schenley Park. As a recent alum of the University of Pittsburgh, I have witnessed my school work to change things for the better on campus (changing the name of Parran Hall for instance) and Phipps and Schenley Park were just as important to my life as a university student as the on campus buildings. I want to see these changes being made because I believe that the City of Pittsburgh can do better and honor far more critical heroes of the city in the place of the Columbus statue. I appreciate your time.

Best Regards,

Tejal Patel

University of Pittsburgh December 2019
Christopher Columbus statue

Dana Agostinone <danaagostinone@gmail.com>
Sun 7/26/2020 11:11 AM
To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>
Hello,

Thank you for the opportunity to hear my voice in this matter.

I would prefer not to see this statue and would favor the removal from the city I live in and consider my home.

Sincerely,
Dana
Columbus statue near Phipps

Steve Eckenrode <seck1823@gmail.com>
Sun 7/26/2020 11:04 AM
To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>

Hello,

Thank you for the opportunity and hearing our voice in this matter.

I would prefer not to see this statue and would favor the removal from the city I live in and consider my home.

Sincerely,
Steve

--

Thank you,
Steve
412-901-5087
Columbus statue

Nils Hanczar <nilshanczar@gmail.com>
Fri 7/3/2020 2:19 PM
To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>

I drive by Phipps and the Columbus statue several times a week. Columbus was called “The tyrant of the Caribbean” in his own time. He disobeyed the Queen by capturing and enslaving thousands of natives. He lied about rivers of gold. He had the hands of natives severed who failed to collect their quota in gold. His motivations to explore were purely greed and exploitation. I think about these things as I pass by the beautiful Phipps building. May I suggest a Bruno Sammartino Day and statue for Pittsburghers with Italian pride.
> The tyrant in prison, circa 1500.
> -Nils Hanczar, Pittsburgh
Columbus at Schenley Park

Lori Beth Jones <bambi_beth@yahoo.com>
Tue 7/21/2020 11:11 AM
To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>
Cc: Gable, Mike <Mike.Gable@pittsburghpa.gov>; Lane, Majestic <majestic.lane@pittsburghpa.gov>

Dear Pittsburgh Art Commission:

I am one of 13,000+ signers of the change.org petition requesting removal of the Christopher Columbus monument at Schenley Park. Christopher Columbus did not discover America so much as he found native-inhabited land and wreaked havoc.

I am writing today to request an immediate hearing on removal of the Columbus statue, similar to what was done for the Stephen Foster statue. I also ask that you begin to move forward with an equity and diversity assessment of all City-owned art. It is past time to make Pittsburgh's public spaces inclusive and reflective of our community composition and history.

Thank you for your kind consideration.

Lori Beth

Pronouns: she, her hers  @bambi_beth     Pittsburgh Poetry Collective     West Pittsburgh Bike/Ped     Cultural District 2     814.229.3393
bambibeth@gmail.com

"It takes a great deal of courage to be delightful in this world. Whole religious systems have risen up, joined by governments, to outlaw delightful people... I think our job now is to find out for ourselves exactly how we can best express our delight in this world, and how to best acknowledge others that are doing that."
— Kate Bornstein
Remove the columbus statue now

Gina Evans <gina.evans@mcelhattan.org>
Tue 7/21/2020 2:21 PM
To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>

Hello,

As a lifelong Pittsburgher, I am writing to urge the Commission to remove the Christopher Columbus monument swiftly. The Columbus monument is a celebration of white supremacy. While it is undisputed that Columbus is a part of our history, removing this statue will not "erase" his deep entrenchment in our culture. I am deeply offended that we would herald a man who has been proven to have committed a multitude of atrocities. He decimated native populations, murdering, subjugating and stealing resources to build his own wealth and power (via discovery of trade routes). He did not even discover "america" - The Columbus we are taught about is nothing more than a figment, a nursery rhyme. The statue is a monument to harm. Let that marinate.

Of course, the statue is a piece of art. And there are very real and tough questions about what to do with these statues. If we want a better Pittsburgh, there is only one answer in my mind. Remove the statue. Then take the time to reflect on our past, recognize where we have made mistakes (whitewashing history), apologize, and begin to learn and listen. Let's make and display art that shines a light on truth.

Thank you,
Gina

--
Gina Evans
Program Officer
McElhattan Foundation
4638 Centre Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15213
Email: gina.evans@mcelhattan.org
Office: 412-450-0173
Statue of Christopher Columbus in Schenley Park

Andrea Boykowycz <andreaboykowycz@gmail.com>
Tue 7/21/2020 2:32 PM
To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>

Dear members of the Art Commission,

As a native Oakland resident who grew up in its shadow, I am writing to urge you to retire the statue of Christopher Columbus that stands adjacent to Phipps' garden on Frew Street Extension and Schenley Drive.

Christopher Columbus is not worth the weight of bronze and marble afforded his memory, nor the area of park given over to his memorial. As we all ought to have learned in school, Columbus was a racist primarily interested in plunder, financed by a gold-hungry monarchy that had nothing to do with our modern country or the civic ideals for which it was founded. There was no honor in anything Christopher Columbus ever achieved; his greatest significance is as a rapacious genocidal tool of imperialism, and his monument is an affront to all of us.

As a nation we are long past the need to erect monuments to Columbus as a way of distancing ourselves from the British crown; and we have many superior heroes to choose from, if our intent is to honor exploration, or Italians, or Catholics, or even European settlers in North America.

Furthermore, the statue itself is objectively poorly designed, and far from being attractive or benevolent is actively repulsive. It is not a welcoming figure for anyone entering Schenley Park. Columbus glowers menacingly at the world in general, and his stance is threatening; I have never observed visitors enjoying the benches around the base of the statue; the site was far better used as a fountain.

There is no redemptive value to this monument, and many strong reasons for its removal. Please take it down.

Sincerely,

Andrea Boykowycz
3439 Parkview Ave
Pittsburgh, PA 15213
412-417-5560
Please Remove the Columbus Statue in Oakland

Jeff Cummings <jeffcpgh1@yahoo.com>
Tue 7/21/2020 3:00 PM
To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>
Dear Pittsburgh City Art Commission,

Please remove the statue of Christopher Columbus. We do not need monuments honoring such greedy and cruel historical figures. Of course, we all recognize that Columbus's image was cleaned up by previous generations to make him look like a noble and courageous explorer. The fact that he exploited, raped, tortured, kidnapped, killed and enslaved indigenous people was not explained to me as a child.

Certainly, the colonial nature of our society as a whole is a deeply disturbing fact that we are all just beginning to come to terms with. Our troublesome history is not going anywhere. It is a shock for all of us, but a fact nevertheless.

I am not Italian, so I cannot address the pain of the Italian-American community as they discover the true nature of Christopher Columbus. It must be horrible for them as well. I get it.

Someone might think that all this negative press for Christopher Columbus is just a phase we're going through. It'll pass. Eventually, folks will forget the genocide and go back to thinking Columbus was a brave and virtuous hero.

Of course, some people will never admit the truth. They will continue to resist the truth out of a misguided sense of nostalgia for the innocence of their youth and the myths they were told. There will always be a minority who will insist with their dying breath that Columbus was a great human being that deserves our admiration and emulation. And of course, as long as that generation is alive, there will be politicians and media moguls who will cater to their mythology.

But the truth about Columbus and the indigenous people of Turtle Island is out now. We are not going back to the days of ignorance.

We removed that obscene statue of Stephen Foster Collins and we will remove the statue of Columbus.

I think a review of all city statuary is called for, but I do not think it is wise to delay the removal of Columbus. His crimes were extraordinarily heinous.

Thank you for considering my request.

Yours,

William J Cummings
210 Estella Ave
Pittsburgh, PA 15210
412-370-7666
Remove Columbus statue

Kali Stull <kalistull@gmail.com>
Tue 7/21/2020 7:42 PM
To: PACD <pacd@pghpa.gov>

Hello,

I am writing to request that the Columbus statue be removed. We should not honor someone who led genocide on the Native people on this land. There are so many amazing people to pay tribute to through monuments and statues - please put someone honorable and inspiring there!

Love,
Kali Stull
resident of 15206
remove the colombus statute. It is not hard.

Quinn Kobelak <qkobelak@gmail.com>
Tue 7/21/2020 10:29 PM
To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>
I request an immediate hearing on the Columbus statue. I believe it is a monument that in some way celebrates genocide and colonialism.

Please remove it.

thank you,
removing statues

Mel Packer <melpacker@aol.com>
Wed 7/22/2020 8:53 AM
To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>

Just a quick note to add my voice to the effort to remove any statues of Columbus in our city. It is my hope that this commission can schedule a hearing very soon about this particular statue, but that you will also do a study on all the public art work in our city to determine if may be seen as offensive and/or racist. It is beyond time for us all to recognize our true history and this nation's history of racism and repression against non-white peoples. Please, take Columbus down. Thanks.

Mel Packer
623 Kirtland St,
Pittsburgh, PA 15208-2826

I know what I am asking is impossible. But in our time, as in every time, the impossible is the least that one can demand.

James Baldwin
Re: Columbus Statue

Maeve Gannon <gannon.meadhbh@gmail.com>
Tue 7/21/2020 2:54 PM
To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>

Greetings!

I am writing to demand that the Columbus statue be removed and that the city examine the memorialization of genocide, slavery, and oppression. As a first step I ask that there be a hearing on this statue. Additionally, I ask that there be an assessment of all City-owned art.

The swell of energy and the awakening in our nation is providing us with an opportunity to join other cities in uprooting physical relics of violence. Examining our city so that we can make it more livable means taking a long overdue look at the art, images, and statues that we glorify. And removing harmful elements that condone or celebrate mass atrocity.

I was born and raised in Pittsburgh. I have called it home for 24 years. The people of Pittsburgh want our officials and leaders and organizations with a stake in this to stand with us. Let us all tell truths, shape our future, and build justice into the structure of our city.

Thank you for your time and the work that you are or may already be doing to rise during this year of upheaval, sorrow, transformation, and resilience.

Onward together.

Sincerely,
Meadhbh Gannon
--

Meadhbh Gannon
She/Her

gannon.meadhbh@gmail.com
412-592-7379
Columbus Statue

John Rooke <jsrooke@outlook.com>
Wed 7/22/2020 6:54 AM
To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>

Hello

I’m a tax paying citizen and business owner in the city, and also the father of 4 black children. The statue erected in honor of Columbus bear Phipps in Oakland has had its time in the spotlight and needs to come down OR the city need to commission an artist (or artists) of minority status who can create an addition to that statue, in the same place, that can tell the complete history of the story of Columbus.

Judging by the way things are going these days, if the city acts proactively, they can possibly save and add to this monument. If not, I’m assuming eventually it will get brought down like many other expired relics that have come down in cities across this nation.

As a resident of PGH, I would like to see us embrace these movements for change in an effort to more accurately reflect the true history of our nation.

John Rooke
Columbus statue

Megan Good <meganegood@gmail.com>
Wed 6/24/2020 9:44 AM
To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>; Gable, Mike <Mike.Gable@pittsburghpa.gov>; Lane, Majestic <majestic.lane@pittsburghpa.gov>

Good morning,

I’m writing in support for the demands from the community to remove the Columbus statue in Schenley Park.

This statue memorializes a man who was a brutal terrorist to our nation’s indigenous communities, and to maintain such a statue in one of our city’s most beautiful parks continues to send a message that Pittsburgh is only the most liveable city for its white residents.

We need leaders to be courageous and take actions that will move us forward as a country, which requires us to face our legacy of white supremacy, denounce it, and really hear and respond to the cries of our black and brown friends, family members, and neighbors.

Thank you,
Megan
Hi, I'm emailing to express my support as a Pittsburgh resident for the removal of the Columbus statue in Schenley Park. I demand the monument to genocide be taken down.

--

Malcolm MacKenzie
Actor/ Musician
Columbus Statue- Time to Go!

Carlin Christy <carlinchristy@gmail.com>
Wed 6/24/2020 10:52 AM
To: Carlin Christy <carlinchristy@gmail.com>
Hello Leaders in Pittsburgh,

I am writing as a community member, homeowner and taxpayer in the City of Pittsburgh, and descendent of Italian immigrants to America.

For far too long, anti-racists in Pittsburgh have been calling for the removal of the Columbus Statue situated near Phipps Conservatory in Oakland. Year after year, during the Columbus Day Parade, and on the annual federal "Holiday," questions are raised as to the legacy of colonization, enslavement, murder, and betrayal that Christopher Columbus brought to the Caribbean. His arrival to the "new world" certainly wasn’t a discovery, and it unleashed hundreds of years of death and exploitation of Black, Brown and Indigenous bodies through the slave trade and the colonization of the Americas.

Many cities have already made the move to celebrate Indigenous People's Day each October. More and more we are seeing statues dedicated to Columbus taken down. We can no longer delay action in Pittsburgh. The narrative we tell through the historical leaders we highlight informs future generations.

The late author and historian Howard Zinn wrote:

“To emphasize the heroism of Columbus and his successors as navigators and discoverers, and to deemphasize their genocide, is not a technical necessity but an ideological choice. It serves—unwittingly—to justify what was done.”
— Howard Zinn, A People's History of the United States: 1492 to Present

In your positions of power, authority, and visibility in our City, you have the responsibility to do what is right.

The Parks Conservancy and Phipps Conservatory boards and staff should take leadership on this issue and demand the City of Pittsburgh remove the Columbus statue in Schenley Park.

We can celebrate Italian-Americans’ contributions to this nation and this city without glorifying a racist murderer from the past. Please do not invoke myself or other Italian-Americans like me as a road block to racial progress and healing in our City. I am fully in support of the swift removal of this Statue and I hope the leaders of our non-profits, and city government agencies, who make declarations against racism, will back those words with concrete actions.

Sincerely,

Carlin Christy
Northside Resident (15212)
Columbus is no longer acceptable

Howard Caleb Gamble <h.calebgamble@gmail.com>
Wed 6/24/2020 2:52 PM
To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>

Hello,

I'm writing because it is time. In no way is the statue of Christopher Columbus near Schenley Park acceptable anymore. Really it has never been welcome, but right now we are living in a time of reckoning. The statue is a symbol of terror and erasure, for both native people of this continent and the anybody who knows the real and troubled history of this land. Who we honor in our public spaces reflects so much about us as a people. That affect is massive and compounding, not easing, as some might say, deferring it to the realm of heritage or some term that makes it seems less relevant or violent. The persistence of statues like this is lazy and backwards as public art and a bitter source of embarrassment. To take it down and start again is an opportunity for this city to make real steps towards actually reckoning with its history and being inclusive to all its residents, not just those that relate to these particular icons. Again, icons that represent erasure and genocide to many many people. Take this statue down. Thank you,

caleb gamble
So long, Chris!

Kristen Ehrenberger <kingdomwrker@yahoo.com>
Wed 6/24/2020 9:04 PM
To Whom It May Concern:

When my husband and I moved to Pittsburgh 4 years ago, the Phipps quickly became our favorite place. So imagine our surprise when we discovered the statue of Columbus outside it. My heart sank when I finally read the inscription and realized whom the figure represented. That's the funny thing about statues, isn't it? That they become immobile, even invisible parts of the landscape, until suddenly they aren't, when they become the center of public attention (almost overwhelmingly negative).

I'd like to think that the good people of the Phipps Conservatory, the Parks Conservancy, and the City of Pittsburgh agree that Christopher Columbus is no longer a positive role model for our children, and that he has never truly been an ideal for adults, either. He didn't discover anything, and in fact he was a disreputable figure in his own time.

As a professional historian who has co-authored a book on memory, I agree with the meme-able argument that removing public art does not extinguish collective memories. I wish we could forget what Columbus did and what he stood for, but its effects continue to be felt 500 years later. We don't need a statue in that part of Schenley Park, but if there is going to be one, let it not be of a violently racist colonizer.

Sincerely,
Kristen Ehrenberger
Point Breeze
I support removal of the Columbus statue

Dorothy Cashore <dcashore@gmail.com>
Thu 6/25/2020 6:48 AM
To: Peduto, Bill <bill.peduto@pittsburghpa.gov>; Community Affairs <CommAff@pittsburghpa.gov>; Friedman, Leah <leah.friedman@pittsburghpa.gov>; PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>; Minnaert, Sarah <sarah.minnaert@pittsburghpa.gov>

Hello,

I’m a resident of Pittsburgh’s East End. My mom’s side of the family is Italian, and I grew up thinking of Christopher Columbus as an Italian hero, like so many other people. I also grew up thinking, as the placard on the statue indicates, that Columbus “discovered America” — despite the fact that this land had already been “discovered” by millions of inhabitants who did not call it America. I now understand that to celebrate Christopher Columbus is to celebrate genocide, exploitation, and enslavement, and to collude with the silencing of Native American voices (indigenous Americans were, after all, the group who initiated the growing opposition to celebrating Columbus Day in this country). I want to add my voice to the chorus calling for the removal of the Columbus statue from Schenley Park.

Sincerely,
Dorothy Cashore
Requesting Removal of Columbus Statue

Emily S <emily.schmidlapp@gmail.com>
Thu 6/25/2020 8:01 AM
To: Community Affairs <CommAff@pittsburghpa.gov>; Friedman, Leah <leah.friedman@pittsburghpa.gov>; Peduto, Bill <bill.peduto@pittsburghpa.gov>; Minnaert, Sarah <sarah.minnaert@pittsburghpa.gov>; PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>

Hello,

My name is Emily Schmidlapp—I’m a lifelong Pittsburgh resident, graduate of the Civic Leadership Academy, and Democratic Committee person, among many other things. I’m emailing to ask that the City of Pittsburgh remove the Columbus statue in Schenley Park. We should not be publicly honoring a man responsible for murdering and stealing land from indigenous peoples. In Mayor Peduto’s recent statement on George Floyd and Black Lives Matter, you recognize that the murder of George Floyd is not a singular event, but the result of centuries of racism. I think you understand that systems of oppression are interconnected, and that continuing to honor a man who oppressed and killed the original inhabitants of this land stands in direct opposition to goals of making this city liveable for everyone. I've sent an email to members of Phipp’s and the Parks Conservancy’s boards and staff, as well as my Councilwoman—others supporting this campaign have recently suggested that I should also be reaching out to those of you included on this email. Supporting the removal of the Columbus statue is one small, small step you could take toward putting your values into action. Thank you for your consideration.

Kindly,

Emily

--
lady sans smartphone, so if it’s urgent, text or call please :) 
412-445-5627
preferred pronouns: she/her/hers
Remove all recognition of racist Christopher Columbus from Pittsburgh

John Lavaccare <lvca283@icloud.com>

Thu 6/25/2020 4:35 PM

To: mike.lyons@pnc.com <mike.lyons@pnc.com>; wburlack@pcrg.org <wburlack@pcrg.org>; cqureshi@pittsburghparks.org <cqureshi@pittsburghparks.org>; cceo@phipps.conservatory.org <cceo@phipps.conservatory.org>; acarvalho@pittsburghparks.org <acarvalho@pittsburghparks.org>; hr@phipps.conservatory.org <hr@phipps.conservatory.org>; PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>; Gable, Mike <Mike.Gable@pittsburghpa.gov>; Lane, Majestic <majestic.lane@pittsburghpa.gov>; mcheever@pittsburghparks.org <mcheever@pittsburghparks.org>; Strassburger, Erika <Erika.Strassburger@pittsburghpa.gov>; Peduto, Bill <bill.peduto@pittsburghpa.gov>; Minnaert, Sarah <sarah.minnaert@pittsburghpa.gov>; Friedman, Leah <leah.friedman@pittsburghpa.gov>; Community Affairs <CommAff@pittsburghpa.gov>

Hello,

As a Pittsburgh resident and an Italian-American, I am writing to implore you to remove all recognition of Christopher Columbus in Pittsburgh. Columbus was a racist who is only remembered for his consequential, yet abhorrent role in the pillaging of Indigenous lands. This removal of recognition would begin by removing the statue of Columbus in Schenley Park. Ultimately, it should end by changing Pittsburgh’s recognition of the Columbus Day holiday to a recognition of Indigenous People’s Day.

A common argument against those who have called for the removal of Columbus references is that monuments to Columbus honor the Italian-American community. As an Italian-American myself, I am ashamed that a figure like Columbus, perhaps the epitome of colonialisit racism, should ever be associated with my ethnicity. I reject the idea that Columbus could ever represent me as an Italian-American, or represent my people’s contributions to society.

Some also say that Columbus monuments and holidays should be upheld because they are part of this nation’s history. But a monument or a holiday does not simply recognize a figure’s importance in American history. It reveres and champions that figure’s actions and contributions. By keeping a monument and holiday dedicated to Columbus, Pittsburgh is inherently endorsing his colonial tactics, which had a destructive effect on Indigenous society. This reverence towards colonialism denigrates any attempts Pittsburgh makes to build an inclusive community. This is why I urge you to remove the Columbus statue from Schenley Park and to cease any recognition of Columbus Day in Pittsburgh.

If you would still like to recognize Italian-Americans, there are no shortage of representatives of our ethnicity who have made commendable contributions to society. As an additional note, Columbus’s 500-year-old colonial history has nothing to do with the immigrant history of the vast majority of Italian-Americans, whose families immigrated to the US in the last 150 years and often suffered significant hardship in doing so. If the purpose of recognizing Columbus is truly to recognize Italian-Americans, my people, I ask that you recognize one of the many other less shameful and more representative figures rather than Columbus.

Sincerely,

John Lavaccare
Resident of Shadyside, Pittsburgh
Schenley Park Columbus Statue

Helmet Karim <hek349@gmail.com>
Thu 6/25/2020 8:36 PM
To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>
To whom it may concern,

I have been living in Pittsburgh for a decade now and love our beautiful parks and the city of Pittsburgh. For years though I have seen the Columbus statue near Phipps and have wondered why such an honor would be given to someone like Columbus. He was known for subjugating natives to slavery, cut hands off natives and let them bleed to death, was responsible for thousands of suicides by natives who wished to escape his subjugation, burned and hanged prisoners, and commanded soldiers to use captives as sword practice. I hope that the Pittsburgh Art Commission will remove this statue that symbolizes slavery and genocide.

Sincerely,

--Helmet T. Karim, PhD
Research Assistant Professor
Department of Psychiatry
University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine
Schenley Columbus Statue Concerns

Derek St. Pierre <derekjsp@gmail.com>
Fri 6/26/2020 11:30 AM

Good Morning,

I write to you today as a White-identifying citizen of Pittsburgh, concerned about the Columbus Statue in Schenley Park in front of Phipp’s Conservatory. We are in the midst of a reckoning for our country’s, and our city’s, violent racist and white supremacist history. Columbus represents the epitome of white supremacy, colonialism, and violence against Indigenous communities, as well as violence against Black people and People of Color. Using empathy, I place myself in the shoes of an Indigenous neighbor who has to walk past that statue every day on a commute to work, and what that statue symbolizes and might trigger in that person. This is deplorable. Phipp’s Conservatory is a beautiful community institution that should not stand to have such a symbol of violence and murder on its front steps. How does this disgusting statue represent our ideals for the inclusive, diverse, and equitable community Pittsburgh can and wants to be? Demand more and do better. Speak out against the racism we see and experience in our city. Use your power and privilege at your institution to leverage truth to power.

The City of Pittsburgh must remove this offensive statue immediately.

Respectfully,
Derek St. Pierre
Please remove the Schenley Park Columbus statue

Michelle Augustine Bard <mja.bard@gmail.com>
Wed 6/24/2020 11:45 AM
To: PACD <pacz@pittsburghpa.gov>
Dear members of the Art Commission,

On behalf of my family, I strongly urge you to remove the statue of Christopher Columbus near Schenley Park. I find instructive Harvard historian and legal scholar Annette Gordon-Reed’s perspective on such statues.

Thank you,

Michelle Augustine Bard
Columbus Statue in Schenley Park

Marijke Hecht <marijke.hecht@gmail.com>
Wed 6/24/2020 9:15 PM
To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>

Hello Art Commission Members,

I’m writing to ask the Commission to authorize the removal of the Columbus statue in Schenley Park.

Statues that represent racist and colonial figures are coming down around the country and world. A couple of years ago, the Art Commission voted to remove the Stephen Foster statue in Schenley Plaza. I am asking that you vote for the removal of the Columbus statue as well. Our City can do better than lift up racist and colonial figures.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue,

Marijke Hecht
1100 Portland Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15206
Remove the Statue of Colombus

E B Schongar <elschongar@yahoo.com>

Tue 6/23/2020 1:18 AM

To: mike.lyons@pnc.com <mike.lyons@pnc.com>; wburlack@pcrg.org <wburlack@pcrg.org>; cqureshi@pittsburghparks.org <cqureshi@pittsburghparks.org>; ceo@phipps.conservatory.org <ceo@phipps.conservatory.org>; acarvalho@pittsburghparks.org <acarvalho@pittsburghparks.org>; hr@phipps.conservatory.org <hr@phipps.conservatory.org>; PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>; Gable, Mike <Mike.Gable@pittsburghpa.gov>; Lane, Majestic <majestic.lane@pittsburghpa.gov>

Hello, I am writing to ask you to request that Pittsburgh remove the statue of Colombus from the park. Not only did Colombus initiate the genocide of the indigenous Caribbean population on several islands, he was censured in his own times for his cruelty. And he personally arranged for the first African slaves to be imported into the hemisphere, who he organized not into indentured servants, but into the utterly cruel plantation system. That system included the chaining, physical maiming and killing of slaves by his orders. The plantation system in all its horrors is first found in full blown form under his direct control from the time that Europeans first populated the Caribbean. It was the plantation system of slavery that was later brought to the USA, and became the basis of the anti Black racism that we have struggled with ever since.

And it is not even certain that he was Italian. There are many Italians such as Galileo who would be much better choices to represent the Italian heritage.

In hope that you will encourage the removal of Colombus’ statue,

Beth Schongar

Sent from my iPhone
Science instead of Racism

colinbaxter01@hotmail.com <colinbaxter01@hotmail.com>

Tue 6/23/2020 11:40 AM

To: mike.lyons@pnc.com <mike.lyons@pnc.com>; wburlack@pcrg.org <wburlack@pcrg.org>; cqureshi@pittsburghparks.org <cqureshi@pittsburghparks.org>; ceo@phipps.conservatory.org <ceo@phipps.conservatory.org>; acarvalho@pittsburghparks.org <acarvalho@pittsburghparks.org>; hr@phipps.conservatory.org <hr@phipps.conservatory.org>; PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>; Gable, Mike <Mike.Gable@pittsburghpa.gov>; Lane, Majestic <majestic.lane@pittsburghpa.gov>

Hello

It's like science.
The Facts say Columbus was a murderer and worse.
Murderers are not good for people.
Columbus is not safe for communities.
Why continue to expose the community to harmful elements?

- Take down the statue.

- Ban the holiday.

- Replace it with a healing and uplifting statue and holiday celebrating the love and resiliency of the life and spirit of the indigenous people and the land.

- And Make Reparations.

Thank you for doing your job to protect the people and the land.

Sincerely,
Colin Baxter
Statue in Schenley Park of Colonizer Guilty of Genocide

Laura Perkins <laura@casasanjose.org>
Mon 6/22/2020 7:08 PM
To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>

Hi there,

I’m writing to ask the Parks Conservancy and Phipps Conservatory boards and staff demand the City of Pittsburgh remove the Columbus statue in Schenley Park.
I work with the Latinx population of Pittsburgh. Although Pittsburgh claims to be a Welcoming City, the statue of a white colonizer who wiped out entire indigenous tribes across the continent tells our population that they are not indeed welcome. And that we value white supremacy and Manifest Destiny over diversity and inclusion.
Do what is right. Take down the statue.

Sincerely,

--

Laura Perkins
Emergency Response Organizer

Laura@casasanjose.org

412-736-7167

Casa San Jose

2116 Broadway Ave

Pittsburgh, PA 15216
Tel. (412) 343-3111 | Fax. (412) 343-3210

www.casasanjose.org
Facebook | Twitter | Instagram | Linkedin
Columbus Statue has got to go!

Jodi Lincoln <jodilincoln@gmail.com>

Mon 6/22/2020 7:45 PM

To: mike.lyons@pnc.com <mike.lyons@pnc.com>; wburlack@pcrg.org <wburlack@pcrg.org>; cqureshi@pittsburghparks.org <cqureshi@pittsburghparks.org>; ceo@phipps.conservatory.org <ceo@phipps.conservatory.org>; acarvalho@pittsburghparks.org <acarvalho@pittsburghparks.org>; hr@phipps.conservatory.org <hr@phipps.conservatory.org>; PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>; Gable, Mike <Mike.Gable@pittsburghpa.gov>; Lane, Majestic <majestic.lane@pittsburghpa.gov>

Hi, I’m writing to ask the Parks Conservancy and Phipps Conservatory boards and staff demand the City of Pittsburgh remove the Columbus statue in Schenley Park. You can’t say our parks are equitable when there’s a City-owned statue of a colonizer in the most visited park in the City. We know Columbus shouldn’t be honored for his crimes of abuse and murder of indigenous peoples. There are many better Italians to honor that history and some wonderful local Pittsburgh Italian Americans! Bruno Sanmaritno has a group of supporters who already have the funding for a statue!

Jodi Lincoln
Actions speak louder than words

Josh Eisenfeld <josheisenfeld@gmail.com>

Mon 6/22/2020 9:34 PM

To: mike.lyons@pnc.com <mike.lyons@pnc.com>; wburlack@pcrg.org <wburlack@pcrg.org>; cqureshi@pittsburghparks.org <cqureshi@pittsburghparks.org>; ceo@phipps.conservatory.org <ceo@phipps.conservatory.org>; acarvalho@pittsburghparks.org <acarvalho@pittsburghparks.org>; hr@phipps.conservatory.org <hr@phipps.conservatory.org>; PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>; Gable, Mike <Mike.Gable@pittsburghpa.gov>; Lane, Majestic <majestic.lane@pittsburghpa.gov>

Hi there,

I’m writing to ask your organizations (the Parks Conservancy and Phipps Conservatory) to demand the City of Pittsburgh remove the Columbus statue in Schenley Park.

Last week your organizations signed a letter, along with 29 other environmental organizations, on justice, race, and responsibility. It was an extremely well-recieved letter and one that I fully support. Now, though, comes the hard part. Now is the time to turn your words into real action.

To be clear I am saying this: **You can’t say our parks are equitable when there’s a City-owned statue of a colonizer in the most visited park in the City.**

I trust I don’t need to go in-depth about why Columbus shouldn’t be honored for his crimes of abuse and murder of indigenous peoples. I trust this will be your first action step towards carrying out the words in the letter you signed on to.

In solidarity,

--

Josh Eisenfeld
412-965-3348
Good evening,

I am writing to ask the Parks Conservancy and Phipps Conservatory boards and staff demand the City of Pittsburgh remove the Columbus statue in Schenley Park.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Meg,
I hope the Commission considers the context of American society at the time the seeds were planted for this statue, and many others like it, in reaction to a lynching of 11 Italian Americans in 1891. It should be obvious by now that the greatest victims of lynching have been Black Americans, yet they've only rarely enjoyed either the political or financial power, and until this year have never had such broad social support, to even consider having their historical injustices admitted, let alone adequately dealt with by the appropriate entities.

Philadelphia, a city well-known for its intransigence, has managed to have 2 official commission hearings on a similar statue (additionally covered by their historical commission), and once again Pittsburgh is stuck in the past. Neither this, nor a city-wide art assessment, is true, necessary, systemic change, but they are both necessary baby steps to creating a City that is livable for all.
It’s time to remove the Columbus statue --

lizzie anderson <em.and.sequins@gmail.com>

Tue 8/25/2020 11:26 AM

To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>

In fact, it's long been time.
It is well known the atrocities Columbus perpetrated upon the peoples of this land and the land itself. Let's celebrate this land, let's celebrate Italians, in other ways.

Sincerely,
Lizzie Anderson
long time resident of Pittsburgh
public comment on columbus statue

Eva Bacas <enbacas@gmail.com>
Tue 8/25/2020 11:31 AM
To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>

Reasons why we should get rid of the Christopher Columbus statue in Schenley Park:

- Everybody already knew the earth was round. He discovered nothing (source).
- He wasn’t even the first European in the Americas. The Vikings landed in Canada around 1000 C.E. (source).
- He enslaved 1000s of indigenous people.
- Historians estimate almost 1/3 of Hispaniola’s original population of 300,000 people were dead within 2 years of Columbus’s arrival (source, p. 190).
- He has nothing to do with Pittsburgh. He was never even remotely close to Pittsburgh.

What should we do with the Christopher Columbus statue?

- Get rid of it. You can melt down the metal and make other stuff. I’m sure the pedestal could be repurposed. I bet Construction Junction would take it.
- Get rid of it and replace it with another statue.
  - Suggestions:
    - Literally any Pittsburgher

Thanks.

Eva Bacas
Pittsburgh resident for 14 years, current resident of Greenfield
Comment about removal of Christopher Columbus statue

João Martins <anvilfolk@gmail.com>
Tue 8/25/2020 11:44 AM
To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>

My name is João Martins. I live in Bloomfield, but am originally from Portugal. I remember growing up with the fetishizing of Christopher Columbus as a hero and “explorer” of new worlds. We all pretended he had some connection with Portugal so we could do that.

However, even in Portugal, a country whose cultural identity foundationally rests of the "Age of Discovery", we are having discussions about the removal of monuments related to those that a modern understanding clearly identifies as plunderers, terrorists and agents of genocide.

The past cannot be forgotten so we do not repeat its mistakes. But statues are not about remembrance. They are about commemoration. And there is no doubt in my mind that we should not - cannot! - commemorate those that were responsible for the intentional genocide and wanton oppression of the indigenous peoples of this land.

Eurocentric feelings be damned, the whitewashing and fetishizing of oppression must stop. Christopher Columbus’ statue must be removed.

Do the right thing.

--
João Martins

Pronouns: they/them
Statue of Christopher Columbus

Marty Taylor <crocojim18@hotmail.com>
Tue 8/25/2020 11:49 AM
To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>

To whom it may concern,

I am a lifelong resident of the city of Pittsburgh, now currently residing in Greenfield. There is no reason for a statue of Christopher Columbus to exist, much less be prominent in a public park.

Statues are made to glorify history, and the history that a statue of Christopher Columbus represents is one of enslavement and destruction of indigenous peoples on this continent. This alone is bad enough, but for it to still stand after years of protest is completely morally bankrupt. It is an insult and a threat to the native peoples of this continent and this community.

I am in complete favor of the removal and destruction of this statue.

Sincerely,
Martin Taylor
(412) 689-3161
The Columbus statue in Schenley Park celebrates a dark period in our Country’s history

Martina Jacobs <martina.magenau@gmail.com>
Thu 6/25/2020 2:37 PM
To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>

Dear Mr. Indovina,

I'm writing to ask that the Arts Commission review the Columbus statue in Schenley Park. I appreciate the 2018 removal of the Stephen Foster statue and eagerly await its replacement with a statue honoring an African American woman with ties to the Pittsburgh Community.

Our parks are not equitable when Schenley Park, our most visited park, includes a statue of a colonizer. For far too long the statue has honored Columbus' crimes of abuse and murder of the original North America inhabitants. It's time to speak out about the racism that Pittsburgh has ignored until now.

The statue belongs in a facility where all such examples of our country's brutal history can be seen. It is more appropriate that they be used to educate us about the sad and violent way in which our country was founded.

Sincerely,

Martina Jacobs

--

Martina M. Jacobs, Ph.D.
Immediate hearing on Columbus statue

Lara Schenck <lara@notlaura.com>
Tue 7/21/2020 6:07 PM
To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>

Hello,

My name is Lara Schenck and I am a resident of the Friendship neighborhood in Pittsburgh. As a frequent patron of Schenley Park, I am very much looking forward to when I can enter the park without being confronted by the Columbus status, a monument to genocide.

I would like to express demand for two items:

1. An immediate hearing regarding the removal of the Columbus statue, as was done for the Stephen Foster statue
2. Similarly assess all City-owned art

I was heartened to hear there was interest and urgency in removing the Columbus statue after the June meeting, and I urge you to take immediate action following this meeting.

Thank you,
Lara
Plea to remove monuments to genocide in Pittsburgh

Paula Goldman <pnggold211@gmail.com>
Tue 7/21/2020 8:18 PM
To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>

To the esteemed members of the City’s Art Commission:

My name is Paula Goldman and I’m a physician at Children’s as well as a resident of the East Liberty neighborhood. I am writing to request an immediate hearing to discuss removal of the Columbus statue that stands as a monument to genocide, which is in contrast to what I know Pittsburgh to stand for. I also request a separate assessment of all city-owned art, although I hope that removal of the Columbus statue will not be delayed while this assessment takes place.

Thank you for your service to our city.

Sincerely,

Paula Goldman
Columbus and other City Statues & Art

Bearskin <bearskin.rug@gmail.com>

Tue 7/21/2020 2:14 PM

To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing because it is important to me that action is taken now to address the hurtful and racist statues here in Pittsburgh which continue to promote racial inequity and uplift a history of brutal colonization, slavery, genocide and the unending historic pain of people of color in this city and across the world.

Now is the time to act.

Please, hold and immediate hearing on the Columbus statue as you did for the Stephen Foster statue. Please have the statue removed from its current location and replace it with a placard or sign informing people as to why this choice was made and was so important. In the future it would be great to see a statue which acknowledges and uplifts the indigenous peoples whose original lands were stolen by Columbus' colonization.

ALSO please, separately assess all city owned art, and remove that which celebrate perpetrators of white supremacy, domination, slave owners or similar painfully problematic "leaders" of the past. Please use their removal as an opportunity for education about the ways white and colonizing Americans have built a country our of the pain, suffering, and work of those who continue to be undervalued, undeserved, and underrepresented. There is no shortage of true heros in the country who have truly fought for the equality of everyone and they are the ones we should commemorate.

Pittsburgh should be a city which makes all of its people feel welcome and valued. Do the right thing.

Thank you,
Jorie Kennedy
360-567-9649
2701 Houston St. 15212
Call for immediate action

Matthew Macar <macarm36@gmail.com>

Tue 7/21/2020 11:22 AM
To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>

To whom it may concern,

My name is Matthew Macar, I'm contacting you as a concerned citizen. My concern is that for too long the history of the United States has glorified men who committed unspeakable atrocities against Indigenous peoples and people of color. One of those men is Christopher Columbus, and his statue must go. He committed genocide against the native peoples he encountered, and we have a responsibility to ensure individuals who committed such crimes are not honored with statues... especially in places enjoyed by the public. I ask that you have an immediate hearing about the removal of the Columbus statue, as was done with the Stephen Foster statue. In addition, I ask that you similarly assess all City-owned art, as there are several other items that need to be addressed.

Thank you,

Matthew
Call to hold an immediate hearing on the Columbus statue in Schenley Park

Maryanna Owoc <MSOwoc@outlook.com>
Tue 7/21/2020 2:27 PM
To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>

Good afternoon,

My name is Maryanna Owoc and I am a resident of the Highland Park neighborhood of Pittsburgh. I am writing to you today to request that the City’s Art Commission hold an immediate hearing on the Columbus statue in Schenley Park. A petition on Change.org currently has 13,385 signatures calling for the removal of this statue from the park. The city of Pittsburgh has a history of removing racist statues from our city parks, such as the Stephen Foster statue, and has a responsibility to remove the Columbus statue as well. Additionally, I would like to request that the City’s Art Commission assess all city-owned art to ensure that our city’s art is celebrating the rich, diverse history of Pittsburgh and the greater United States.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Maryanna Owoc

MD/PhD Candidate
University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine
monuments

marilyn carlisle <carlmari23@yahoo.com>
Tue 7/21/2020 2:51 PM
To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>

Dear Sirs and Mmes.

I am writing today to ask for two things: an immediate hearing on the Columbus statue, as was done for the Stephen Foster statue, and, an assessment of all City-owned art.

It is time for us to tell the truth to our citizens about genocide and the other parts of our history that shame us.

Thank you.

Marilyn Carlisle
419 E. End Ave
15221
Columbus Statue

Shelly Regner <shelly_regner@yahoo.com>
Tue 7/21/2020 4:35 PM
To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>

Good afternoon,

As a Pittsburgh resident, I am asking that an immediate hearing on the Columbus statue take place leading to its removal and that all city-owned art would be similarly assessed. The way we tell our history is an important step to racial justice and equity.

Thank you,

Rachelle Regner
2218 Main Street, FL2
Pittsburgh, PA 15215
Request for an immediate hearing on the Columbus statue in Schenley, and further evaluation of public art in the city

Nathaniel Feuerstein <nathanielf2@gmail.com>
Tue 7/21/2020 4:38 PM
To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>
To whom it may concern:

I am a Pittsburgh resident and lover of the public art and spaces that make our city a more beautiful place to live. I believe that our parks and public spaces are one of the best things about our city. The prominent presence, however, of a memorial to Christopher Columbus in one of our most popular parks is a slap in the face to the our city’s ostensible commitments to making Pittsburgh welcoming and livable for all. A statue glorifying a mercenary who murdered and enslaved Taino and other indigenous populations as well as laying the groundwork for the transatlantic slave trade, all in the name of personal gain and European imperial conquest, is a constant reminder of those crimes and actively makes Schenley Park a less welcoming place for Black, brown, and indigenous Pittsburghers.

To this end, I would like to request an immediate hearing on the Columbus statue in Schenley Park as well as further evaluation (through a transparent, community-led process) of public art in our city as was conducted for the Stephen Foster statue. Please take this request seriously, as it is being written in sincerity. A monument to genocide has no place in Pittsburgh’s parks.

Nathaniel Feuerstein
Columbus statue review

Susan Petersen <susan.petersen1@gmail.com>
Tue 7/21/2020 4:47 PM
To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>

I urge you to schedule a hearing about the Columbus statue in Oakland as soon as possible. In light of Columbus’s legacy of violence toward Indigenous peoples, we must reconsider whether we want a statue to memorialize this.

Best regards,

Susan Petersen
412.812.1523
Columbus statue

Randall <hall.randall@gmail.com>
Tue 7/21/2020 5:54 PM
To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>

Hello,
I know the Commission is potentially discussing the issue of removing the Christopher Columbus statue at Phipp's and also assessing other City-owned art around Pittsburgh. I'm a resident of Four Mile Run, near to Phipp's, and I walk by there frequently on dog walks. For years I've wondered why people accept this symbol of colonialism and racial violence; this is not a new or trendy issue. I fully support removing the statue of Columbus. I don't see this as a controversial suggestion because of the clearly racist legacy of the man's life, including slavery, racial genocide, and rape. Please consider removing the statue; it would be a good look for the city. I believe a consideration of other City-owned art is in order and would be good to get ahead of any future demands of residents.
Thank you for your time,
Randall Hall
Art Commission, City of Pittsburgh  
Department of City Planning  
200 Ross Street  
Pittsburgh, PA 15219

August 25, 2020

Dear Members of the Art Commission:

Thank you for initiating a process of discussion, review, and listening about the role of the Christopher Columbus monument in our city’s landscape.

As you are well aware, what is placed on public land makes a statement about our collective values and our vision for ourselves and for our community. It is well beyond time for our city to look closely at who and what we have placed on pedestals within the public realm, and what the impact the elevation of these individuals has upon our community members. Likewise, we should endeavor to understand the impact created by removing such works from the public realm. As a community, we must be willing to engage in complex discussions that can lead us to building an inclusive city for all.

The discussion of monuments in the public realm is an incredibly important one, and it does not stop with decisions regarding this one work. Our peers and colleagues in cities across the country have been using this discussion to foster critical dialogue about the issue of what and who we honor in public space, and to begin a collective reimagining of an inclusive public realm. I encourage you to consider hosting a series of listening sessions in the community to have the opportunity to better understand the impact of works such as the Columbus statue and others within the City’s collection. The conversation that you have initiated is an opportunity to educate ourselves and our community about both the roles and the impacts of monuments in public space, and for us to collectively create a new vision for how we honor our ideals and shared values.

The Office of Public Art looks forward to supporting the work of this Commission, and we welcome the opportunity to work with you.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

SallyAnn Kluz, Director  
Office of Public Art

Cc:  Mayor William Peduto  
Chief of Staff Dan Gilman
Remove Columbus Statue from Schenley Park

Shannon Hughes <shanmhugh@gmail.com>
Fri 8/21/2020 11:51 AM
To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>

Good Afternoon,

My name is Shannon, and I am a citizen of Pittsburgh and resident of Lawrenceville. I am writing to you today to ask the Parks Conservancy and Phipps Conservatory boards and staff to demand the City of Pittsburgh remove the Columbus statue in Schenley Park. Although erected with presumably good intentions, this statue has no place in our public spaces because it is an emblem of racism and genocide that is harmful to the people of color who live in Pittsburgh. It is also not what Pittsburghers stand for. We can remember our history without maintaining statues of individuals who committed such egregious crimes against humanity. Although Columbus's beliefs and action may have been "normal" at the time, that does not mean we should highlight racism and genocide now.

Please work together to remove this statue at the request of many, many Pittsburgh residents. It is the absolute least we can do right now, and people have been asking for this statue's removal for years. Please work together to make our parks equitable, safe spaces for ALL Pittsburghers, as you said you would.

Thank you,
Shannon Hughes

--
Shannon Hughes, MPH
716.480.2264
8/26 Meeting: Christopher Columbus Statue

Janet Lunde <janet.lunde@gmail.com>
Fri 8/21/2020 11:58 AM
To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>

I'm one of the many people who signed a petition to have this statue removed from public display. Please vote to remove it.

I live in Squirrel Hill and travel past the Phipps frequently. I hate seeing that statue of a man who enslaved, raped, and committed genocide:

"Population figures from 500 years ago are necessarily imprecise, but Bergreen estimates that there were about 300,000 inhabitants of Hispaniola in 1492. Between 1494 and 1496, 100,000 died, half due to mass suicide. In 1508, the population was down to 60,000. By 1548, it was estimated to be only 500." ("Columbus: The Four Voyages, 1492-1504", by Laurence Bergreen, quoted in Vox.)

That statue is an affront to indigenous people, and to anyone with a conscience. Whatever statues of historical figures that the city displays publicly should not be of people of his ilk.

He wasn't even such a great explorer. Every educated person in his time knew that the Earth was round. His argument was that it was much smaller than had been calculated, so that it would be a quick voyage to the Indies. He was wrong.

Sincerely,

Janet Lunde
Squirrel Hill, Pittsburgh
Ditch Columbus

Bess Adams <bessladams@gmail.com>
Thu 8/20/2020 5:16 PM
To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>
To the Dear Art Commissioners,

I am writing in support of the possibility of removing the statue of Christopher Columbus from Shenley Park. I am a life long lover of history, both the good and the bad aspects of history. Still, knowing what I do about the true nature, behavior, tendencies and objectives of the actual Christopher Columbus, I have inwardly flinched when I have walked past that statue. I am pleased to learn that there is an opportunity to measure the true justification of this man’s historic adulation.

Some may be upset by the removal of an icon, but the legend is a fantasy. The worthiness of his position as an Icon has no basis in documented, historic fact. I will spare you the details of his actual accomplishments. I trust you are aware of them, at least some of them. Your knowledge of the truth is what has led you to this decision. I have hope that you will make the honorable decision.

I am not writing to preach, just to ask that you carry through to the honorable end. I ask that you remove that man’s statue from our lovely park.

Sincerely,
Bess L. Adams
412-580-3170
Columbus Statue

humbert dorazio <humbert.dorazio@gmail.com>
Thu 8/20/2020 7:40 PM
To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>

Can we exchange the Columbus statue for a statue of Guyasuta?

Thanks,

Humbert Dorazio
Remove Columbus Statue(s)

Kat Gregor <kathryn.gregor@gmail.com>
Thu 8/20/2020 11:57 PM
To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>

Good evening,

I am writing to request any statue of Christopher Columbus on the City of Pittsburgh property, like the one in Schenley Park, be immediately removed. It is time that we as a nation stop glorifying the mass genocide, both literally and continued culturally, of the indigenous people. The white supremacists of today are direct descendants of his actions.

In Solidarity,
Kat Gregor
She/her
917.288.0496
Please feel safe to share access needs and respond when possible, as needed.
Hi my name is Jay Walker and I live in the 7th ward (City Council District 8). I'm emailing to ask the arts commission to vote for the removal of the Christopher Columbus in Schenley Park. I'm sure you're all familiar enough with the atrocities committed by Columbus to know that making this recommendation is the right thing to do. Columbus's true legacy is being accounted for all over the United States with statues coming down and holidays being renamed. A city truly committed to racial justice would take this small step and so many others to atone for our horribly discriminatory past AND present. Let's be part of the forward march of progress instead of clinging to monuments to the horrors of the past.

Jay Ting Walker
Pittsburgh Ward 7
Christopher Columbus statue public comment

Jaclyn Belczyk <jbelczyk@gmail.com>
Mon 8/24/2020 10:41 AM
To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>

Dear Members of the Pittsburgh Art Commission,

I urge you to remove the Christopher Columbus statue from Schenley Park. This statute serves as a symbol of colonialism and a reminder of the genocide of Native Americans perpetrated by white settlers to the Americas. While I recognize that not everyone views the statue in this way, its presence is extremely hurtful to so many members of our community. It is time we stop honoring white lives over those of BIPOC individuals. Our city can and must do better.

Jaclyn Belczyk
2213 Federal St Ext
Pittsburgh, PA 15214
Columbus Statue Removal

Jessica Haselkorn <haselkorn.jessica@gmail.com>
Mon 8/24/2020 11:19 AM
To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>

Dear Members of the Arts Commission,

As a resident of Pittsburgh, my family and I frequently visit Schenley park and my small children are always interested in knowing more about the statues and art we encounter on our walks. Please don’t make me explain to my kids that, despite public outcry, our city has chosen to keep someone on a pedestal that has caused indescribable pain and damage to indigenous people and their history. There are countless other ways to record and teach about Columbus’ role in history. This large statue in a public park where children play is inappropriate. To keep it in place after hearing very clearly from the community that it is wrong and hurtful makes the commission appear apathetic and tone deaf. I urge the immediate removal of this statue. These issues have been controversial and emotional in every city where removal has been requested. I applaud you for your courage in addressing the matter head on.

Thanks so much for your continued commitment to public art in our beautiful city!

Jessica Haselkorn
Remove Schenley Columbus Statue

Eli Berman <ejberman@princeton.edu>
Mon 8/24/2020 12:22 PM
To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>

Hello,

I am an Allegheny County resident, and I would like to express my support for removing the Christopher Columbus statue in Schenley Park. My ancestors, the Powers family, are some of the first white settlers to live in this region back in the 1780s, and they were the first white settlers in O’Hara Township specifically. My ancestor Rev. John Black was, in addition to being an important Christian figure in the region, one of the first professors at the now University of Pittsburgh in 1820 and was later president of Duquesne College for one year. I have deep ties to the colonization and subsequent Christianization of this land, and with this legacy, I understand the weight and violence that Christopher Columbus’ statue carries. With this legacy, the only stance I can take is one in full support of this statue’s removal.

Thank you,
Eli

--

Eli Berman
Princeton University | Class of 2020
E. ejberman@princeton.edu
It's time to remove the statue of Christopher Columbus.

Rachael Ellis <rachaelellis529@gmail.com>
Mon 8/24/2020 1:44 PM
To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>
Dear Pittsburgh Arts Commission:

It is beyond time to remove Christopher Columbus from our city's parks. He promoted murder, sexual exploitation, and enslavement of Indigenous peoples in what is now our country. There are many more fitting individuals that deserve the honor of a statue near Phipps Conservatory.

It would be best to highlight and promote a local Black Pittsburgher instead. Some options include: Billy Strayhorn, Daisy Elizabeth Adams Lampkin, Virginia P. Florence, Charles "Teenie" Harris, August Wilson, Billy Eckstine.

As someone of Italian descent, Columbus is a stain on our history that we would like to erase. If a Black person is not chosen for the replacement statue, there are more appropriate Italian figures to consider for a statue: Galileo Galilei, Dante Alighieri, Michelangelo, Leonardo da Vinci, Antonio Vivaldi, Giuseppe Verdi, Giacomo Puccini.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

-Rachael Ellis (she/her)
Theatrical Manager
https://www.linkedin.com/in/rachael-ellis-63a77b106/
Christopher Columbus Statue

Michaels, Zachary David <ZAM38@pitt.edu>
Mon 8/24/2020 5:09 PM
To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>

Hello, I just wanted to voice my support to the Arts Commission for removing the Christopher Columbus statue. As we consider the legacy of white supremacy and imperialism in America, and our institutions pay lip service to anti-racism, a small, but powerful symbolic step forward would be removing this statue. There are far better figures and symbols to celebrate the contributions of Italian Americans than a man who committed crimes against humanity by enslaving and brutalizing an indigenous population. Please vote to take down this statue.

Sincerely,
Zachary Michaels, MSW/MPH.
Supporting removal of Columbus statue

Nancy Lewandowski <nancy.lewandowski1@gmail.com>
Mon 8/24/2020 6:57 PM
To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>

To whom it may concern:

The statue of Christopher Columbus is an affront to our city. With the passing of time and re-evaluation of the past, we now know that Columbus was directly responsible for the suffering of many indigenous people and should not be honored as a hero. For this reason, I fully support the removal of the statue from its current location. Hoping that a monument to those native people who originally lived here could stand in its place.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.
Sincerely,
Nancy Lewandowski
Columbus Statue

Luke Niebler <lukeniebler@gmail.com>
Mon 8/24/2020 7:17 PM
To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>
Members of the Art Commission--

I'm am writing to support the removal of the Christopher Columbus Statue in Schenley Park. As a resident of Pittsburgh, I do not believe that he should be honored publicly with a statue. In light of his well documented abuses of Indiginous populations and enslavement of human beings, there is no reason for the statue to continue to stand. While we can never forget the history it represents, the city does not need to honor him with a statue.

I look forward to the day when I can enjoy Phipps or relax in Schenley Park without passing that statue.

Thank you for your consideration.

Luke Niebler
Assistant Professor, Community College of Allegheny County
In favor of removal of the Columbus statue in Schenley Park

Marie Cosgrove-Davies <marie.cosgrove.davies@gmail.com>
Mon 8/24/2020 7:25 PM
To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>

Hi,
I am a resident of Pittsburgh (zip code 15206) and want to register my request for the immediate removal of the statue of Christopher Columbus in Schenley Park.
Best,
Marie
Remove Columbus

Joe Pasqualetti <joe@joepasq.com>
Fri 8/14/2020 12:26 PM
To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>

Hi,

Yeah so why haven’t you removed Christoper Columbus already? Have you seen the reporting in CityLab? Have you seen the NYTimes report 'How Italians Became White?' Have you seen Columbus' evil behavior?

Remove him.

— https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christopher_Columbus

The indigenous people he encountered, the Lucayan, Taíno, and Arawak, were peaceful and friendly. He called the inhabitants of the lands that he visited indios (Spanish for "Indians"). Noting their gold ear ornaments, Columbus took some of the Arawaks prisoner and insisted that they guide him to the source of the gold. From the entry in his journal of 12 October 1492, in which he wrote of them: "Many of the men I have seen have scars on their bodies, and when I made signs to them to find out how this happened, they indicated that people from other nearby islands come to San Salvador to capture them; they defend themselves the best they can. I believe that people from the mainland come here to take them as slaves. They ought to make good and skilled servants, for they repeat very quickly whatever we say to them. I think they can very easily be made Christians, for they seem to have no religion. If it pleases our Lord, I will take six of them to Your Highnesses when I depart, in order that they may learn our language." Columbus noted that their primitive weapons and military tactics made them susceptible to easy conquest, writing, "these people are very simple in war-like matters ... I could conquer the whole of them with 50 men, and govern them as I pleased."

Columbus also explored the northeast coast of Cuba, where he landed on 28 October. On 22 November, Martín Alonso Pinzón took the Pinta on an unauthorized expedition in search of an island called "Babeque" or "Baneque", which the natives had told him was rich in gold. Columbus, for his part, continued to the northern coast of Hispaniola, where he landed on 5 December. There, the Santa María ran aground on Christmas Day 1492 and had to be abandoned. The wreck was used as a target for cannon fire to impress the native peoples. Columbus was received by the native cacique Guananagari, who gave him permission to leave some of his men behind. Columbus left 39 men, including Luis de Torres, the converso interpreter, who spoke Hebrew and Arabic, and founded the settlement of La Navidad at the site of present-day Bord de Mer de Limonade, Haiti. Columbus took more natives prisoner and continued his exploration. He kept sailing along the northern coast of Hispaniola with a single ship, until he encountered Pinzón and the Pinta on 6 January.

On 13 January 1493, Columbus made his last stop of this voyage in the New World, in the Bay of Rincón at the eastern end of the Samaná Peninsula in northeast Hispaniola. There he encountered the warlike Ciguayos, the only natives who offered violent resistance during his first voyage to the Americas. The Ciguayos refused to trade the amount of bows and arrows that Columbus desired; in the ensuing clash one Ciguayo was stabbed in the buttocks and another wounded with an arrow in his chest. Because of this and because of the Ciguayos' use of arrows, he called the inlet where he met
them the Bay of Arrows (or Gulf of Arrows). Columbus captured about 10 to 25 natives and took them back with him (only seven or eight of the natives arrived in Spain alive).

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Babadilla reported to Spain that Columbus regularly used torture and mutilation to govern Hispaniola. The 48-page report, found in 2006 in the national archive in the Spanish city of Simancas, contains testimonies from 23 people, including both enemies and supporters of Columbus, about the treatment of colonial subjects by Columbus and his brothers during his seven-year rule.

According to the report, Columbus once punished a man found guilty of stealing corn by having his ears and nose cut off and then selling him into slavery. Testimony recorded in the report stated that Columbus congratulated his brother Bartolomeo on "defending the family" when the latter ordered a woman paraded naked through the streets and then had her tongue cut out for suggesting that Columbus was of lowly birth. The document also describes how Columbus put down native unrest and revolt: he first ordered a brutal crackdown in which many natives were killed, and then paraded their dismembered bodies through the streets in an attempt to discourage further rebellion.
Columbus Statue

Doug Weaver <dooger2000@gmail.com>
Fri 8/14/2020 9:56 AM
To: PACD <pacad@pittsburghpa.gov>

To whom it may concern,

It is past time that we as a city stop celebrating racists with public art. This includes genocidal maniac Christopher Columbus, a man who literally would have the HANDS chopped off of indigienous people who didn't dig him enough gold out of their own hills and who from the very first time he met them planned to take advantage of their generous nature and subjugate them. All this according to his own journals.

It's time to do the right thing and take the statue of Christopher Columbus off of Pittsburgh's city street, which should be considered a place of honor reserved for those who display valor in their lives.

If this is not on the agenda RIGHT NOW it truly should be. Let us not continue the tradition of Pittsburgh being 20 years behind the rest of the country in every regard. Let us take bold action to do the right thing.

Thank you for your time,

Douglas Weaver
5110 Broad St.
Pittsburgh, PA 15224
Columbus Statue

Anna-Lena Kempen <annalenakempen@gmail.com>
Fri 8/14/2020 3:57 PM
To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>

Hello, I would like to request some information from your offices on why the Christopher Columbus statue has not been taken down from the lawn near Phipps. The statue is an atrocity. Please let me know how I can best advocate for its removal and what steps need to be taken.

Thank you,
Anna-Lena Kempen
Public Comment for 8/26 Mtg Re: Columbus Statue

Hana Uman <hanarose.uman@gmail.com>
Fri 8/21/2020 2:31 PM
To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>

To whom it may concern,

Like many residents of Pittsburgh, I am deeply concerned that it has taken this long for the removal of the Christopher Columbus statue in Schenley Park to be considered by the Art Commission. With the current public cries to end police brutality and for white Americans to reckon with the history of enslavement and genocide in this country, we need to remove any statue that glorifies Christopher Columbus. This statue is on Indigenous land, in a public park, and the longer it stays up, the longer it reminds BIPOC residents why Pittsburgh is not really "the most liveable city" for all.

Please do the right thing and vote and/or do whatever it takes to remove the statue of Christopher Columbus, immediately and permanently.

Thank you for your consideration,
Hana

--
Hana Uman
she/her/hers
M.A. in Food Studies
8/26/2020 meeting re: Christopher Columbus Statue

Ron Lunde <rconde@gmail.com>
Fri 8/21/2020 11:10 PM
To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>

I'm one of the many people who signed a petition to have this statue removed from public display. Please vote to remove it.

I live in Squirrel Hill and travel past the Phipps frequently. I hate seeing that statue of a man who enslaved, raped, and committed genocide:

"Population figures from 500 years ago are necessarily imprecise, but Bergreen estimates that there were about 300,000 inhabitants of Hispaniola in 1492. Between 1494 and 1496, 100,000 died, half due to mass suicide. In 1508, the population was down to 60,000. By 1548, it was estimated to be only 500." ("Columbus: The Four Voyages, 1492-1504", by Laurence Bergreen, quoted in Vox.)

That statue is an affront to indigenous people, and to anyone with a conscience. Whatever statues of historical figures that the city displays publicly should not be of people of his ilk.

He wasn't even such a great explorer. Every educated person in his time knew that the Earth was round. His argument was that it was much smaller than had been calculated, so that it would be a quick voyage to the Indies. He was wrong.

Sincerely,

Ron Lunde
Squirrel Hill, Pittsburgh
Columbus Statue

Leah Nicolich-Henkin <leah.nicolich.henkin@gmail.com>
Sun 8/23/2020 8:28 PM
To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>

Hello Art Commission,

I’m writing you to support removing the Columbus statue in Schenley park. In the last few months I’ve heard a lot of things about Columbus that I was never exposed to before. Although I’d long known that he was at the forefront of a wave of colonialism that destroyed civilizations, I only recently learned that Columbus himself was known for his violence and cruelty, to the extent that his contemporaries were horrified by his actions. These are not the attributes of a person who should be honored by a status in our park. I understand that Columbus has been embraced by the Italian-American community, but I know that there are many other Italian-American heroes we could honor who did not spearhead a genocide.

Leah Nicolich-Henkin
5814 Alder St.
Pittsburgh, PA 15232
Colonizer Statue

Emily Foster <efoster4@mail.naz.edu>
Tue 8/25/2020 10:07 AM
To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>

Hi,

I am writing in support of the removal of the Columbus statue in Schenley park. I am surprised a city that claims to be progressive as Pittsburgh does has not taken swift action on this. I have seen cities around the country removing their statues that glorify colonizers and slaveholders. I hope that the art commission decides to remove this statue and replace it with a historical figure that accurately reflects our country’s history with humility and respect for all it's people.

Thank you,

Emily Foster
Remove the Columbus Statue

etta cetera <writealetta@gmail.com>
Tue 8/25/2020 10:16 AM
To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>
To Whom it may Concern:

The time of honoring genocide is over. We will remember Columbus for the whole story. Taking down the statue is not erasing history but allowing for the truth to live as well. Columbus statues represent and perpetuate a sliver of a false history. There are so many people to honor. Let us rethink Columbus and reimagine our heroes and sheroes. If we are going to tell the story of colonization let us tell the whole story.

Stand on the right side of history.

Sincerely,
etta cetera
443-603-6964
Resident of 15213 for 21 years.
Remove the Columbus statue

Lora Matway <lmataway@gmail.com>
Tue 8/25/2020 10:22 AM
To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>

Dear Art Commission and Public Art and Civic Design Division,

As a life-long Pittsburgher I fully support removing the Christopher Columbus statue in Schenley Park from its public place. I urge you as an official body to do it as soon as possible; we've had the statue up too long. It'd be beautiful to put something or someone in its place who isn't a famous perpetrator of violence.

Thank you for your time and attention,
Lora

Lora Matway
she/her
I am writing to voice my hope that you all will decide to remove the christopher columbus statue in Schenley Park. Columbus was just the beginning of the waves of cruel, greedy, heartless men that ended in the genocide of a people. His racist approach to the native populations, his desire to subjugate and control at all costs, and many other characteristics of colonialism he embodied are not the values I want to literally put on a pedestal. You probably don't need it, but for more info on the argument against Columbus see here: https://www.vox.com/2014/10/13/6957875/christopher-columbus-murderer-tyrant-scoundrel

Thank you for hearing me out,
Isaac Beachy
5443 Rosetta St.
Pittsburgh Pa 15206
Support for removal of Columbus Statue

jon farinelli <jonfarinelli@gmail.com>
Tue 8/25/2020 10:50 AM
To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>

Hello,

I am writing to voice my support for the removal of the Christopher Columbus statue in Schenley Park.

As an Italian-American, I realize that Columbus has historically served a significant role in the Italian-American community as a symbol for Italian contributions to the culture of the United States. Columbus, however, did not discover this land or contribute to it - he stole from, killed, and enslaved indigenous people. I believe that it is time for Americans and Italian Americans to recognize and apologize to the indigenous community for Columbus’s contribution to genocide and oppression and to separate its culture from his celebration. Please remove this statue.

Thank you,
Jon Farinelli
Christopher Columbus Statue

Kelly Henderson <k.m.henderson4@gmail.com>
Tue 8/25/2020 10:59 AM
To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>
Dear Art Commission,

I live in Dionde:ga (dee-on-day-gah), otherwise known as Pittsburgh, land which was originally the territory of the Adena, Hopewell and Monongahela, as well as the Sawnee, the Lenape, and the Haudenosaunee, who were all driven off their original land into the Ohio River Valley. These acts of mass displacement and genocide are directly tied to the acts of Christopher Columbus. I am a resident of this city and strong supporter for the removal of the Christopher Columbus statue from Schenley Plaza. Our art and how we display it communicates the stories and people we value. As someone who teaches about systemic oppression and intergenerational trauma as adjunct faculty at Chatham University, I am very aware of how much the socialized messages we receive from parents, teachers and community art contribute to ongoing issues of bias and discrimination in our country. We should no longer allow a colonizer and Committer of genocide to be celebrated in this manner in our city. Please vote to remove it from the public park.

Sincerely,

Kelly Henderson, LEED AP O+M
(she or they)

Eden Hall K-12 Education Coordinator & Adjunct Faculty
Sustainability Leadership Academy Director
Education Department
chatham UNIVERSITY
Eden Hall Campus
6166 Ridge Road, Gibsonia, PA 15044
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Schenley Park Columbus Statue

Elizabeth Tassaro Burbano <etassaro@gmail.com>
Tue 8/25/2020 11:14 AM
To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>

Dear Members of the Art Commission:

There should be no debate about removing the Christopher Columbus statue in Schenley Park. Amongst others, these are reasons to believe Columbus is not representative of Pittsburgh’s art community or city culture, or deserving of any recognition whatsoever.

1.) Ample evidence exists to show that Columbus was responsible for forcing thousands of natives on the Caribbean islands into slave labor, as well as seizing, selling, distributing, and exporting many native women and children, with either foreknowledge of, or indifference to, their fate as sex slaves.

2.) In the year 1500, Columbus himself wrote: “A hundred castellanoes are as easily obtained for a woman as for a farm, and it is very general and there are plenty of dealers who go about looking for girls; those from nine to ten are now in demand.”

3.) Just after his return from the third voyage to the Americas, Columbus was removed as Governor of the American territories after reports surfaced of horrific misgovernment and brutal treatment of natives.

4.) One of Columbus’s crew members, Bartolome de las Casas, left Columbus and his mission to become a Dominican friar, dedicating his life to exposing and opposing the brutalities perpetrated by Columbus and his men. He wrote in his book, A Brief Account of the Destruction of the Indies, “There are two main ways in which those who have travelled to this part of the world pretending to be Christians have uprooted these pitiful peoples and wiped them from the face of the earth. First, they have waged war on them: unjust, cruel, bloody and tyrannical war. Second, they have murdered anyone and everyone who has shown the slightest sign of resistance, or even of wishing to escape the torment to which they have subjected him. This latter policy has been instrumental in suppressing the native leaders, and, indeed, given that the Spaniards normally spare only women and children, it has led to the annihilation of all adult males, whom they habitually subject to the harshest and most iniquitous and brutal slavery that man has ever devised for his fellow-men, treating them, in fact, worse than animals.”

Please take this into consideration and decide when, not if, this statue will be removed.

Thank you for your time,

Elizabeth Tassaro Burbano
412-953-2901
Support for removal of christopher columbus statue

Kyrie Bushaw <kyrie.bushaw@gmail.com>
Tue 8/25/2020 11:15 AM
To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>

As a resident of Pittsburgh, I'm writing to give my support in removing the statue of Christopher Columbus from Schenley Park. The life and legacy of Christopher Columbus should not be revered or honored in this city. He demonstrated no principles that should be imitated by this or future generations. Not only was he an inept explorer but the pain, terror, and death he inflicted on the Indigenous people of America is a bloody stain on our history. One that we are still reeling from, unlearning, and repairing. We should remember his life only in the violent context it appears in and only as a cautionary tale for this and future generations.

Thank you for your time!

Best,
Kyrie

--
Kyrie Bushaw
cell: 443-521-3441
Pittsburgh, PA
Removal of Christopher Columbus Statue

Cynthia Caul <cynthia.caul@gmail.com>

Tue 8/25/2020 11:22 AM

To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>

Hello,

I am emailing to communicate my support for the removal of the Christopher Columbus statue in Schenley Park.

It is time we stop celebrating and honoring those who perpetuated some of the world’s greatest atrocities against other human beings.

Best,

Cynthia Caul

Resident of Pittsburgh
Remove the Christopher Columbus Statue From Schenley Park

Tiffany Wilhelm <wilhe.tj@gmail.com>

Mon 8/24/2020 8:49 PM
To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>

Dear Commissioners,

I write to share my strong support for the removal of the Christopher Columbus statue in Schenley Park. Along with the many thousands of people who have signed this petition, I believe that we no longer can glorify this person who murdered, enslaved, and abused the peoples he encountered. His journeys kicked off centuries of colonization, land theft, and genocide of Indigenous people in the Americas. Removing this statue will not erase history, it will be part of allowing a more truthful history to be told.

Thank you for your work to bring this issue to the Mayor which now allows it to be discussed by the commission.

Tiffany Wilhelm
Lawrenceville

Tiffany "Ti" Wilhelm
/tē/ (she/they)
715-252-6868

In a racist society, it is not enough to be non-racist, we must be antiracist. - Angela Davis
Columbus statue

Leah Patgorski <leahpatgorski@gmail.com>
Mon 8/24/2020 9:20 PM
To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>

Dear Art Commission,

I write to encourage you to hasten the removal of the Columbus statue from Schenley Park. It is time to let go of this childhood myth. Just because it was made and bought and installed back then, doesn’t mean it must stay.

We all know there are better ways to inspire our city with art. Let’s stop putting this guy on a pedestal.

Thank you.
Leah Patgorski

Leah Patgorski
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