

Columbus statue

aniyaa024@gmail.com <aniyaa024@gmail.com>

Thu 9/3/2020 9:20 PM

To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>

Hello,

My name is Aniya and I am a resident of Allegheny county. I would like the statue to be either removed or replaced with a statue honoring Indigenous history.

Thank you.

So long Columbus

Joe Wos <wostoon@gmail.com>

Thu 9/3/2020 5:10 PM

To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>

Dear arts commission,

For 45 years the Carnegie Museum of Natural History displayed the wrong head on the Apatosaurus. They likely knew it was the wrong head for some time, but the public had gotten used to it, and though they knew it was inaccurate and an embarrassment to their reputation, they continued to display it. Eventually history and embarrassment caught up with them. They had made a mistake, and in 1979 they corrected that mistake by removing the head and replacing it with the correct one. There were no doubt some people who had grown up seeing that wrong head up there who were upset to see it removed. But at last they had done what was correct. In other words, they did the RIGHT thing.

The statue of Christopher Columbus in Schenley Park, should never have gone up. It was a mistake by some people who had their history wrong. We have known that the story of Columbus and his accomplishments were incorrect for some time now. We have now had decades of embarrassment. Removing the statue corrects a mistake.

It's time to make that correction and do the right thing.

By the way to my knowledge, unlike Columbus the Apatosaurus never committed rape or murder.

So long Columbus!

Sincerely,

Joe Wos

Lifelong yinzer, cartoonist, and pop culture historian

-- Joe Wos Cartoonist/Author/Master Maze Maker Creator of MazeToons, Available from Creators Syndicate www.mazetoons.com wostoon@gmail.com 412-760-1896

Removal of Columbus statue.

Niko Gomez <shakanar1@icloud.com>

Thu 9/3/2020 10:58 AM

To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>

The myth around Christopher Columbus is a lie. It should be unimaginable (But it's so common in America) that someone who in reality was a murderer and motivated by greed would become a symbol of pride to some. It's disgusting.

Remove the statue and replaced it with something that actually Represents some decent values without having to force people to ignore history.

Sent from my iPhone

Replacement of Columbus statue

Roberta Donovan <bobbilee@comcast.net>

Fri 9/4/2020 7:58 AM

To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>

I vote 3 - Replace

It is well passed time to remove the memorial to a murderer and rapist who used his power to kill off the original inhabitants of our country.

The Columbus statue should be replaced with one of a true Pittsburgh hero, preferably one of non-European descent, who made advances in the arts or sciences.

I'm certain there are many suggestions to consider.

I look forward to seeing a memorial to a true hero instead.

roberta donovan
Brentwood

Columbus statue

Patty Himes <pattyhimes@gmail.com>

Tue 9/1/2020 11:16 AM

To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>

take it down

respectfully

Patty Himes

Removal of Christopher Columbus Statue

Smith, Megan Christina <MCS131@pitt.edu>

Tue 9/1/2020 2:04 PM

To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>

Hello,

My name is Megan Smith and I am a resident of Pittsburgh, PA (15232) writing about the Christopher Columbus statue. When the PGH Art Commission votes on the fate of the statue, I'm asking that you please remove the statue. This man was responsible for the theft and genocide of indigenous land, and does not represent the Pittsburgh people.

Sincerely,

Megan Smith

Lab Assistant

Center for Biologic Imaging

mcs131@pitt.edu | 302-562-5300

Please Remove Columbus Statue

Erin Skoog <erincolbygriffin@gmail.com>

Wed 9/2/2020 9:04 AM

To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>

Dear PACD,

Please remove the Columbus statue. There are better Italian people who should be honored, though I believe the statue should be replaced with one of an Indigenous ancestor ideally from the Osage or Shawnee tribes, both of whom have ties to our city.

Thank you for your consideration,

Erin Skoog

Pittsburgh, Pa

Christopher Columbus Statue

Sarah Grubb <grubb.sarah.e@gmail.com>

Wed 9/2/2020 12:11 PM

To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>

Hello,

I am writing to support the idea to remove the Christopher Columbus statue. Thank you for the opportunity to weigh in on this decision.

I support removing the statue & planting a beautiful tree instead.

My second choice would be to replace the statue with a person like August Wilson, Rachel Carson, Robert Lee Vann, Teenie Harris....someone from Pittsburgh who has contributed to the world.

Thanks,

Sarah Grubb

Remove the Columbus Statue!

Noah Purdy <noahpurdy@me.com>

Sat 8/29/2020 9:49 AM

To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>

Hi there,

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

Crimes against indigenous people should not be celebrated, commemorated, or honored in any way.

-Noah Purdy

Sent from my iPhone

Christopher Columbus Statue Schenley Park

Colleen Pilarski <cpilarski98@gmail.com>

Sat 8/29/2020 9:58 AM

To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>

Dear Friends,

I hope that the Art Commission and the City of Pittsburgh decide to take down the Christopher Columbus statue in Schenley Park. I have given this much thought, and I think our city is a better, friendlier, diverse, and tolerant city without the statue. I realize that Columbus, navigationally, did an exceptional feat. However, his treatment and subsequent conquering of native peoples does not deserve to be recognized. I think when we, as Americans, begin to recognize the lies our heroes stand on, we can begin to dismantle the systematic racism in our country.

Thank you for hearing and considering my opinion.

Sincerely,

Colleen M. Pilarski

Sheraden, 15204

City of Pittsburgh

Please Remove the Columbus Statue

Garth Dellinger <garth.dellinger@gmail.com>

Sun 8/30/2020 5:27 PM

To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>

Hello,

Please remove the Columbus statue in Schenley Park. Columbus was a monster of a human being, but has been celebrated because of a false narrative. He did not "discover" America, and his lust for gold led him to murder and enslave countless numbers of indigenous peoples. He should be looked at in the lens of history among the likes of Hitler. Any defense of him and statues of his likeness are indefensible. As a Pittsburgh resident, I want to see my city officials expressing ideas and taking actions that make our city more inclusive.

Thank You,

Garth Dellinger

Re: Christopher Columbus statue

Nicole Moga <nmoga82@gmail.com>

Wed 8/26/2020 9:45 AM

To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>

Please accept my virtual testimony for today's hearing, which discusses/decides the fate of the Christopher Columbus statue in Schenley Park near Phipps Observatory.

I am in favor of permanently removing the statue and placing it in a museum or other location where the true history of his arrival to the "New World" can be explained factually. In my public school experience in Ohio, we were not taught the truth about Columbus and his treatment of the Native Americans he encountered and chose to enslave. Continuing to exalt these kinds of historical figures sets a horrible example of what we value in an "American hero". Let us instead find and admire those who lived in service to others and made the kinds of civil and humane history that we can all look back and reflect on with pride.

Nicole Moga
1809 Harpster Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15212
412-616-9663
nmoga82@gmail.com

Christopher Columbus Statue

Stephen Bucklin <sbucklin@pittsburghparks.org>

Wed 8/26/2020 10:44 AM

To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>

I am writing to express my testimony in favor of the removal of the Christopher Columbus statue in Oakland.

Christopher Columbus was an incredibly cruel and terrible human who committed atrocities throughout the Americas during his lifetime. He was a murderer and a tyrant, and is not a figure who should be celebrated. There are plenty of Columbus's journal entries that outline his attitude towards the indigenous peoples of Caribbean islands, and most of them can be summarized by the brutish quote "we could subjugate them all".

There are surely many more worthy figures throughout history who could replace the Columbus statue. I would love to see a statue celebrating the contributions of black or indigenous people to exploration/discovery or to the liberation of oppressed or enslaved peoples.

Thank you,

Stephen Bucklin
Naturalist Educator

Pronouns: he/him/his



Frick Environmental Center
2005 Beechwood Blvd · Pittsburgh, PA 15217
P: 412.586.4576 ext. 273

Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy (Main Office)
45 South 23rd Street · Suite 101 · Pittsburgh, PA 15203-2120
P: 412.682.7275 · F: 412.622.0160

PittsburghParks.org



Does your company participate in the Education Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) program? Find out and encourage them to support the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy's educational programming. Thank you!

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Christopher Columbus Statue

Erin Gaughan <erin@treepittsburgh.org>

Wed 8/26/2020 11:18 AM

To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>

I am writing to express my testimony in favor of the removal of the Christopher Columbus statue in Oakland.

Christopher Columbus was an incredibly cruel and terrible human who committed atrocities throughout the Americas during his lifetime. He was a murderer and a tyrant, and is not a figure who should be celebrated. There are plenty of Columbus's journal entries that outline his attitude towards the indigenous peoples of Caribbean islands, and most of them can be summarized by the brutish quote "we could subjugate them all".

There are surely many more worthy figures throughout history who could replace the Columbus statue. I would love to see a statue celebrating the contributions of black or indigenous people to exploration/discovery or to the liberation of oppressed or enslaved peoples.

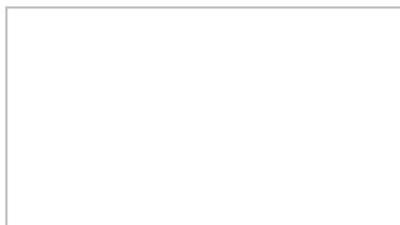
Thank you,

--

Erin Gaughan

Volunteer and Special Events Coordinator

Tree Pittsburgh



412.781.TREE (8733) x 209

32 62nd Street

Pittsburgh, PA 15201

www.treepittsburgh.org

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Comment on Christopher Columbus Statue

Daniel Stock <danielpatrickstock@gmail.com>

Tue 8/25/2020 8:37 PM

To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>

Hello, I am writing to express my support for the removal of the Christopher Columbus Statue.

Specifically, I am supporting the coalition of Pittsburgh organizations, including the Three Rivers Indian American Center, who are hoping that the statue can be respectfully removed, and replaced with a more positive symbol.

Pittsburgh has removed statues before, and over a dozen cities have recently removed Columbus statues in particular. My hope is that Pittsburgh can join them. We can send a message that it is possible to remember our past without celebrating those who mistreated American Indians, and without the myth that America was "discovered."

There is so much of Pittsburgh's history to elevate. And there are so many important people -- from every community -- who should be honored with a statue. Christopher Columbus is not one of them.

Thank you for your consideration,

Daniel Stock
Squirrel Hill resident

Christopher Columbus Statue - Remove The Statue

Christopher Marx <cmarx00@gmail.com>

Tue 8/25/2020 6:24 PM

To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>

Hello,

I am voicing my opinion that the Christopher Columbus statue in Schenley Park should be removed.

Statues and monuments provide a public purpose to celebrate and commemorate their subjects.

In the modern historical discourse, Christopher Columbus has not proven worthy of commemoration in the United States.

Columbus is not the "discoverer of America" as the monument states - it was inhabited by indigenous peoples for thousands of years before his arrival. He is not even the first western person to visit the Americas. On top of this - the results of his campaigns were brutal and racist against the indigenous population of the Americas.

Columbus has no purpose in the discourse of American history at such prominence. He was not American, did not discover the Americas, and did not play a part in the founding of the United States. Additionally, the history and behavior of the individual is racist and abusive to indigenous peoples.

The only reason Columbus has been introduced as part of the discourse of the history of the United States is due to a concerted effort by Italian immigrants in the late 1800's to normalize their ethnicity in the United States by introducing an Italian figurehead or symbol into the narrative. It is wrong that Italians were treated so poorly in America at that time, but that does not justify the Columbus statue remaining in today's modern discourse.

Otherwise, until the 1800's Columbus was merely a footnote in the broader context of the United States. Columbus's contribution to the United States is not nearly enough to outweigh the atrocities and abuses he has committed against the Americas' indigenous populations in so much as to deserve public monuments.

I will admit that the statue itself is a work of art by a prominent and important Pittsburgh artist Frank Vittor. The historical plaque attempts to qualify this monument as a commemoration of Frank Vittor and shift the focus to Frank Vittor. However, it is not nearly enough to outweigh the common purpose of statues and monuments and Columbus himself remains celebrated by the work only. A single plaque with context cannot change perception of public monuments.

As such, I would propose that the statue be removed from its public display and be reevaluated for placement in a proper art context - such as at the Heinz History Center or at the Carnegie Museum of Art.

Unless the status is removed from the public and relocated to a properly contextualized space where it is the artistry of the statue and not the subject which is celebrated - the statue will continue to damage and offend due to its celebration of Columbus, a figure which deserves no commemoration or celebration in the discourse of American history.

Thanks,

Christopher Marx

Holding Pittsburgh Back: Columbus Statue

Ariel P <ahringingbell@gmail.com>

Wed 8/26/2020 8:58 PM

To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>

Greetings,

After having heard the statements made during the virtual Art Commission meeting regarding the current placement of the Christopher Columbus statue, it's clear that it's a target. It's something that attracts vandalism and subsequently, the safety of the area becomes compromised.

For those that see value in the statue should actually want to put it away somewhere where it won't be vulnerable to damage. I imagine if one truly cared about preservation, one would put it in a place that is safer, more protected/cared for--and ultimately in a setting where it can be properly appreciated by those that do. Keeping it in its current location would mean saying "yes" to the risk of irreversible damage being done to a piece of artwork and compromising the quality of safety/life in the area.

Considering everyone's concerns, whether the relic is seen as positive or negative, having it up on that public pedestal is simply not a good place for it. Ultimately, the action of relocating it diminishes an active source of contention and trouble as we continue to grow alongside each other in this city so full of possibility and potential.

Thank you for your time.

Warm regards,
Ariel P

the Columbus Statue has got to go!

Sara Lee Coffey <coffeydesigns@gmail.com>

Wed 8/26/2020 7:52 PM

To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>

Hello there!

I am writing to express interest in taking down the Columbus Statue and replacing it with a more relevant one. Columbus is not someone who I am proud to have displayed in my city, as he represents genocide, and colonozation, which has harmed many BIPOC. Please consider removing it. I am a member of Phipps Conservatory, and often when I am in the garden, I see it there and it is quite disturbing to me.

Thank you!

--

Sara Coffey
Graphic Designer
she/her

(c) [330.242.1876](tel:330.242.1876)
www.saraleecoffey.com

#BlackLivesMatter - [learn more and take action!](#)

remove Christopher Columbus Statue

Holly Hickling <hollyhickling@gmail.com>

Thu 8/27/2020 9:43 AM

To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>

Dear Art Commission,

The legacy of Christopher Columbus is harmful to our community. I am in support of removing his statue from Schenley Park.

Holly Hickling
218 Moffat St.
Pittsburgh, PA 15106
412-979-2391

Remove the Christopher Columbus Statue from the City of Pittsburgh

Taia Pandolfi <taia.pandolfi@gmail.com>

Thu 8/27/2020 12:38 PM

To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>

Hello,

My name is Taia and I am an Italian American resident of the city of Pittsburgh. I currently live in South Side, attended the University of Pittsburgh, and previously lived in Mt. Lebanon. As a resident of the city and student of history, I'm well acquainted with the important legacy of Italian Americans in this town and the sense of pride and community that engenders.

I am writing to ask that the statue of Christopher Columbus be removed from Schenley Park. At their best, monuments instruct us, reframe history, and require us to consider how the past has shaped our present. One of the most impactful monuments I've experienced was in the Prenzlauer Berg neighborhood of Berlin, where hundreds of small plaques dot the streets, commemorating the missing Jewish families who were stolen and murdered in the name of German pride and progress. These "stumbling stones," which you cannot avoid when walking through the neighborhood, are a subtle but overwhelming reminder of who is not present—whose voices have been silenced.

At their worst, monuments and memorials service the comforting lies of their creators. Monuments to Confederate generals and soldiers uplift a narrative of Southern pride and nostalgia and obfuscate the true reason for the Civil War: to protect and defend the inhuman economic system of slavery. The monuments to Christopher Columbus serve a similar purpose: they honor a man whose legacy is the genocide of indigenous peoples, the ravaging of the North American continent in the name of Eurocentric civilization, greed, and eventually whiteness, and the introduction of slavery to its shores. They protect a narrative of American colonization that allows this country to proclaim itself the defender of democracy, freedom, and equality for all.

As we mourn the continued loss of so many Black lives this summer, as we experience mass evictions, as we see American citizens with non-citizen spouses be denied unemployment benefits, we can't afford to continue buying the lie that America is a place of freedom and safety and opportunity, that America believes in and safeguards the essential rights of every human being.

If we want to celebrate the legacy of Italian Americans, let's replace the statue of Columbus with one dedicated to [someone who has fought for social justice](#) and worked to make the American dream a reality for more of its people.

Thank you,
Taia Pandolfi
she/her

Remove the Christopher Columbus Statue in Schenley Park

Dominique Carino <dominiquencarino@gmail.com>

Thu 8/27/2020 7:07 PM

To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>

Hello,

My name is Dominique Carino, and I am writing to ask that the statue of Christopher Columbus be removed from Schenley Park. As an Italian American resident of the city of Pittsburgh who currently lives in Highland Park and has previously lived in Oakland while studying at Point Park University, I do not support the rationalization that this monument should be preserved to commemorate Italian history.

My Italian heritage has always been a positive pillar in my life. From growing up and learning about our cuisine in my father's Italian restaurant, to attending yearly family reunions filled with loving stories of my ancestors, my Italian identity has always provided me with a sense of community, safety, and pride. With this pride, I also hold a sense of heavy responsibility for the past actions of our Italian predecessors. For this reason, I cannot condone the continued unmerited lauding of a predecessor so horrific as Christopher Columbus.

I understand that the purpose of monuments is to pay homage to our history. In the case of Christopher Columbus, this homage is gravely undeserved and based on a false, Eurocentric retelling of our history that erases the violence perpetrated by Columbus and the larger European systems that he operated under. The narrative that Columbus "discovered" America is simply not true, as indigenous peoples have inhabited this land far prior to 1492. Even more disturbing, as we can gather from Columbus' own words, his arrival on this land brought with it the genocide of indigenous peoples and the beginnings of the trans-Atlantic slave trade.

When I look at this monument, I am not filled with pride for my Italian heritage. Rather, I see a shameful reminder that this country that we call home was founded upon genocide, greed, and racism. While I understand that we cannot change the past, I am hopeful that we can learn from it in order to create a better future for everyone. This begins with acknowledging past harms and ceasing the celebration of historical figures whose legacies are of violence and oppression.

If concern for preserving Italian history is truly the issue here, then I would love to see this statue replaced with a monument to Italian Americans who have fought for the rights of all American people. If the rationalization for keeping this monument is to preserve the history of this country's founding, then let us instead pay homage to the countless Black, Indigenous, and People of Color on whose backs this country was truly built. What a wonderful opportunity it would be for young Americans such as myself and the generations that will come after me to see a monument of these true role models in Schenley Park, at the center of our city's higher education community.

Thank you,
Dominique Carino
she/her

Commentary on Pittsburgh's Columbus statue

Sue Morris <morris.susanm@gmail.com>

Tue 8/25/2020 9:46 PM

To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>

As pressure grows to take down monuments that commemorate those whose claims to fame are associated with colonialism and exploitation, I am glad to see Pittsburgh addressing the fate of its Christopher Columbus statue.

The Pittsburgh statue wasn't developed with ill intent. The 30 foot tall, 26+ ton bronze statue atop a granite base was carved by sculptor Frank Vittor and erected in October 1958. The cost of the piece was estimated to be \$100,000, with money raised primarily by the Federation Sons of Columbus of America and prominent Pittsburghers of Italian descent. When it was dedicated, Mayor Lawrence proclaimed "Columbus Memorial Week" to honor the contributions of those of Italian descent to "our progress in keeping with the fine traditions which produced not only Columbus but many other explorers, scientists and experts in other fields." The Sons of Columbus hosted a convention in Pittsburgh, and greetings were exchanged by phone with leaders in Columbus' birthplace of Genoa Italy (a big deal in 1958). Following Mass at St Paul's Cathedral the statue was unveiled before the approving gazes of a crowd numbering some 2000 people, to the accompaniment of a 21 gun salute.

But even at that time, people knew that Columbus hadn't "discovered" America. An article reprinted in the Pittsburgh Press just a year later to mark Columbus Day recounted a litany of human inhabitants of the American continent. The article declaimed: "We honor Christopher Columbus because his discovery on Oct. 12, 1492, started an immediate and permanent occupation of America by Europeans... Who found America? Apparently a lot of people. But Columbus made his discovery stick."

Stick? Indeed. Documents uncovered in 2006 confirm that Columbus also "stuck" it to the native and indigenous people who were already here, whose populations were subsequently devastated by the arrival of Europeans. But in 1958, Columbus was essentially a one-dimensional, uncomplicated hero. His "discovery" -- even then acknowledged as questionable -- was taught in every grade school and celebrated annually on the national holiday that bore his name.

Columbus Day and Columbus himself were important to Italian-American heritage. Between 1880 and 1920 some four million Italians had immigrated to the United States, working here in Pittsburgh in the most dangerous jobs and facing religious discrimination and anti-Italian bias. The mythology of Columbus as a cultural hero served to unify a beleaguered community by representing values of discovery and risk-taking fundamental to the ethos of immigrant identity.

The toppling of Columbus statues in recent months is part of a global reexamination of the commemoration of individuals who represent different things to different people. To be clear: commemoration is not history. Commemoration is about feeling; history is about facts. They are similar in that neither is unchangeable. We can choose to commemorate different things as the priorities of the times dictate. Our understanding of history itself is fluid, too, for when facts are uncovered they require that our understanding of history be reassessed.

We know better today. And we can do better today. It is no loss to the people of Pittsburgh -- or to history -- to remove a statue of an individual whose legacy was distorted and appropriated, and for whom facts tell a different story.

But this should also be an opportunity to consider different ways of honoring Pittsburgh's Italian community in this proud ethnic melting-pot city. I hope that the Arts Commission will order the removal of the Columbus statue. Let Christopher join Giuseppe Moretti's Stephen Foster in sculptural limbo, at least for now.. But I hope the Commission will also seize the opportunity to create a committee to consider the many Pittsburgh Italian-Americans who made a difference. Replace Columbus by honoring them in some way.

Sue Morris

[Historical Dilettante](#)

[Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#)

Remove the Columbus Statue

Jonnie Rose Hontanosas <jrhontanosas@gmail.com>

Tue 8/25/2020 7:35 PM

To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>

Hi,

Please remove the Columbus Statue from Schenley Park. It is a racist colonial relic that should not be in parks, where it might mistakenly be venerated by the public.

Best,

Jonnie Rose Hontanosas

From: James Mullen <jr.marine@hotmail.com>
Date: August 21, 2020 at 9:43:12 AM EDT
To: pacd@pittsburgh.gov
Cc: william.peduto@pittsburgh.gov
Subject: π **Columbus -Pittsburgh email**

I am CC the council members too. TY

Dear Art Commission Members,

My family immigrated from Italy (my mom was born there), they came here with nothing but a sponsor & wanting a better life for them & their families like many immigrants.

I grew up in the Lower Hill & Uptown section of the city of Pgh. It was a small "melting pot" of race, many nationalities & religious beliefs. Everyone got along, looked out & took care of each other! It was one of the best memories of my childhood.

My family like many others were displaced by the Hill District development in the 1950s. They had to leave their homes & businesses behind.

I want you to realize the Italians were not without having prejudices against them, struggles & not to apply for jobs. They never complained they just worked harder to provide for their families & to be good citizens.

During WWII over 600,000 were classified as "enemy aliens"! They were subjected to curfews, confiscated their property & some sent to internment camps! While their sons & daughters served in WWII & supported the War effort. (Joe DiMaggio's father was one of them interned)

My family served our Country too. My mother's only brother made the ultimate sacrifice- KIA-WWII, my aunt served in WWII in the WACS, as many other family members, my mom & aunt worked in the shipyards.

Please help we Italians to **SECURE** the Columbus monument located in Oakland. We suggest utilizing cameras and other means of security to be included. Please, we must **PRESERVE** our Heritage and **PROTECT** the Columbus statue from being removed and/or vandalized.

Attached is a video with the True & False Facts about Columbus. And a video for more information: PLEASE WATCH!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jVOcXLHj6kQ>

In addition, this Columbus monument is a **beautiful** piece of art! This work of art was sculptured by Frank Vittor who was born in Italy, immigrated to the United States and then resided in Pittsburgh!. He created MANY famous works of Art in our City, County, and elsewhere. There is a PA State plaque at the Columbus monument site honoring Frank Vittor as the Sculptor as well as included his many contributions to our society. Please Google and research him.

Also, keeping the Columbus name for our holiday and annual parade is important to us! There is an Indigenous day dedicated on August 9th recognized by the United Nations. It's not correct to replace the Columbus Day for that one as that's what they want to do when there is all ready a day established! We need to **ALL STAND TOGETHER** as Pittsburghers and more **IMPORTANTLY** as **AMERICANS** and **STOP/END** this assault on erasing our history and culture that happened many years ago!!

We need to **RESPECT** and **PRESERVE** all of our history and all our culture; good as well as the bad to learn from it, not to repeat the bad, and to forge ahead for a better future.

The assault against Christopher Columbus statues must end. For weeks, members of the Italian American community have watched in disbelief as protesters have either toppled or vandalized Columbus monuments with little resistance from police or city leadership.

Columbus Day was recognized in 1892 by President Benjamin Harrison to push back against the fierce prejudice and widespread violence Italian Americans faced at the time. The mass lynching of 11 Italian Americans in New Orleans in 1891 prompted the creation of the holiday.

The statues and parades symbolize unity and a fight against discrimination, and we refuse to have this history hijacked by lawless protesters. We ask that you secure the statue in Schenley Park, and stand up to those who subvert the legislative process by taking the law into their own hands.

Columbus was one of the greatest explorers in history (should be recognized for that)

& who our ancestors associated
with our Italian Heritage coming to America!

They made that same long
voyage across the ocean to come to the "unknown" in the new world too!

Thank You,

In Unity,

Carmella Mullen
412-628-7613
426 Second St
Braddock, Pa. 15104

Columbus Day Parade Committee
St Patrick's Day Parade
Labor Day Parade
Veterans Day Parade
ISDA-Prima Vera Lodge # 149
National Italian American Sports Hall of Fame
Amen Corner Board of Governors
Law Enforcement Officers Memorial
Tuskegee Airmen Memorial Board
Annual POW-MIA Vigil
Veterans Stand Down
VLP Annual Veterans Breakfast
Wounded Warriors Heroes Hunting Camp
Life Changing Service Dogs for Veterans
Veterans & Patriots United
Enterprise Zone Member
Braddock Planning Commission

Fwd: Little more than 70 years ago, Italians were the poverty-stricken immigrants from an "undesirable" country

<https://timeline.com/american-attack-italian-immigrants-immigration-racism-wwii-history-video-282151124d10>

Subject: Ironically, Columbus Statues Symbolize What Protesters Are Fighting For | Italian Sons and Daughters of America

<https://www.orderisda.org/culture/news/ironically-columbus-statues-symbolize-what-protesters-are-fighting-for/>



Why Columbus Day Matters To Italian-Americans

FOR GENERATIONS, ITALIAN-AMERICANS HAVE EMBRACED COLUMBUS DAY AS A SYMBOL OF THEIR IDENTITY, PRIDE AND UNITY.

Columbus Day was recognized in 1892 by President Benjamin Harrison as a national holiday to mark the 400th anniversary of the discovery by Columbus. In fact, The holiday was recognized in part to address the fierce prejudice, widespread discrimination and the lynching's Italian Americans faced in the America of the time. The mass lynching of 11 Italian Americans in New Orleans in 1891 prompted creation of the holiday. Italian Americans were the second largest ethnic group to be lynched in the United States.

Columbus Day is an integral part of the American and Italian American heritage. It was created to affirm the United States as a "nation of immigrants." The Pledge of Allegiance was written to honor the day. While it is not exclusive to Italian American's they have adopted it as their own day when they can freely and openly celebrate their American lives. Columbus Day allows Italian Americans to **collectively** celebrate their coming to America.

Columbus Day stands as a reminder to all immigrants that their unique history and culture will be recognized and to affirm the United States as a nation of immigrants. **PHOTOS:** (Top) Columbus Statue, Genoa, Italy. (Bottom) Columbus Statue at Coit Tower, San Francisco.



Indigenous Peoples Day Is No Excuse To Take Columbus Day From Italian-Americans

The people who claim they are indigenous are the descendants of earlier migrants from Asia and are included in Columbus Day celebrations. One of the most important ideas to come out of the creation of America was that every person be judged as an individual, not when their ancestors arrived on these shores.

It would be a shame if Indigenous Peoples Day were used as an excuse to take Columbus Day away from Italian Americans. There is no good reason to take away one group's day of celebration and replace it with another group's day of protest. The movement to replace Columbus Day puts Italian Americans and native Americans on a collision course. While Native Americans want to eliminate Columbus Day and take the day for their own, Italian Americans are urging them to choose a different day to conduct their protest movement.

Indigenous Peoples day is already recognized as an established international Day on August 9 by the United Nations. California also recognizes Native American Day in September of each year and the federal government recognizes Native American Day in November. There is no good reason to add Indigenous Peoples Day on the same day as Columbus Day since it is already recognized internationally on a different day. Attempts by Italian Americans across the nation to work with Native Americans to establish Indigenous Peoples Day on a different date than Columbus Day have been met with disdain and there have been many confrontations between the two groups across the country.



Columbus Day is observed on the second Monday in October in California and at the national level, and in most cities and states in the nation. The Italian American community celebrates the holiday with Columbus Day parades, dinners and activities in virtually every city in America where they live. The celebrations are part of their heritage. Italian Americans worked hard to gain recognition of Columbus Day as a holiday and adopted it as their own. Now those gains by earlier generations are threatened. To rip this holiday from Italian Americans denies them this historical legacy. **PHOTO:** Italian Cultural Society Folk Dancers and Singers at the Statue of Isabella and Columbus in the California State Capitol Rotunda on Columbus Day in Sacramento (1994).

Indigenous Peoples Day is viewed by Italian Americans and other Americans as anti-Columbus Day. It is a day of race based political and social protest against the European and immigrant roots of America. It is not a Day of celebration of Native American culture but rather a day aimed against the European immigrant roots of the nation.

To erase Columbus Day deprives Italian-Americans of their place in American history and totally disregards their struggles and the many contributions they made to America. The attack on Columbus Day is offensive to Italian Americans and seen as an attack on their heritage. To deny them their day of celebration is to punish and marginalize one ethnic group to appease another.

The Founder of the American Indian Movement (AIM), Russell Means, pronounced **"For America to live Europe must die."** In his speech he urged the rejection of all things European, including writing. Which he sees as "one of the White world's ways of destroying the cultures of non-European peoples" who transmit their history orally.

The Judgement Of History

Those who would deny the contributions of Columbus miss the point of the story of the creation of America and the story of the many immigrants who arrived after him. We cannot change the judgement of history about what happened to the earlier migrants from Asia, nor can we rectify that history. The contributions that America has made to the world and that Italian-Americans have made to America should not be denied to make reparations for injustices that any single group has suffered.

The Italian-American experience muddies the waters of racial indignation. Italian-Americans have suffered fierce prejudice and discrimination at the hands of mobs, the media, leading newspapers and intellectuals and politicians. They have had their share of painful experiences in the Italian American experience.



On the eve of World War II in 1941 Italian-Americans were the largest immigrant group in the nation and in California. At the outbreak of war their loyalty was questioned. They were interned and relocated from the West coast and more than 600,000 were restricted nationwide. Their language and heritage were suppressed and their personal property seized. **Their only crime was being of Italian ancestry.** At the same time an estimated one million Italian-Americans served in the armed forces. After the war it was not popular to be too Italian. Many Italians changed their names and hid their ethnicity out of shame and fear. **These events occurred within our living memory.** **PHOTO (Above): Their ONLY crime was their Italian ancestry.**

Injustice cannot be quantified. It is absolute. While many groups in society vie for whose pain is greater than the other to gain advantages, the injustices experienced by Italian Americans are real and deserve the same recognition as those suffered by others.

Columbus Day and the story of the Italian-Americans are just as important, just as deserving, as that of Indigenous Peoples. Erasing Columbus Day and replacing it with Indigenous Peoples Day is an attempt to rewrite American history as a history of a single oppression. **PHOTO (Below Right): Balliamo! Folk Dancers performing at Columbus Day Parade, San Francisco, 2017**

Columbus Day is both an American and an Italian-American holiday and an inspiration to millions who celebrate it across the country. In 2019, the Columbus Day Proclamation made by the President of the United States recognizing the Holiday fittingly stated, "Columbus took pride in the fact that he was a citizen of Genoa, Italy. The celebration of Columbus Day is an appropriate opportunity to recognize the more than 16 million Americans of Italian heritage and the legacy of generations of Italian-Americans who helped shape our nation."



In Defense Of Columbus

COLUMBUS IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ACTS OF THOSE WHO CAME AFTER HIM.

Columbus is an important historical figure. His voyage of discovery in 1492 is one of the greatest events in world history and changed the course of history. He sailed across an uncharted Atlantic with three trading ships as a navigator and explorer to set up new trade routes not as a conqueror. The fall 1997 edition of Life Magazine ranked his discovery as one of the two most important events of the millennium and Columbus as one of the two most important persons who lived during the past 1000 years. With ranking and national recognition of Columbus that high one can begin to understand why Italian Americans would have a difficult time coming up with a replacement, nor should they have to.



Italian-Americans view Columbus as one of their own whose voyages led to the creation of America and their voyages to these shores. While non-Italians may not understand the importance of Columbus Day to Italian-American's they cannot deny he played an important role in history and is widely celebrated by millions of Americans.

Italian-Americans are proud that it was an Italian explorer from Genoa, Italy that discovered the new continent for Europe. And they are proud it was named America –a great Italian name –after another Italian explorer, Amerigo Vespucci. Yet another Italian explorer, Giovanni Caboto, commonly known as John Cabot, discovered North America.

While others have claimed to have discovered America before Columbus, they did not leave a record of historical significance. Although inhabited, the New World was a discovery to the rest of the world. To say it was not a discovery is akin to saying that a gold miner does not discover gold in the ground because it was already there.

There are many myths and misrepresentations made about Columbus by his enemies. Native American activists and their revisionist allies have spread ideologically motivated falsehoods about Columbus but he deserves an honest representation of the facts rather than false accusations. He is often blamed for the acts of those that later followed him to this continent.

When Columbus Landed the native tribes were in a constant state of warfare and practiced widespread slavery and subjugation of other tribes and human sacrifice, cannibalism and torture. Columbus was a restraining force upon the Spanish settlers. Columbus did not bring slavery to the Americas and he forbid it among his men. The African slave trade began more than a hundred years after his death. Columbus also banned child trafficking and forbid his men to steal from or harm the natives.



Columbus established friendly relations with the first tribes he encountered and allied with them against cannibalistic tribes who had been raiding their lands and enslaving them. His actions against more warlike tribes were taken in self-defense.

He is sometimes blamed for the deaths of native Americans who died of diseases brought by European animals and settlers, but these were unintended consequences that occurred years after he died. In 1348, more than one-third of Italians died in the Black Plague. Columbus should not be held responsible for the acts of those who came after him. That is like holding the carpenter who builds a door responsible for the actions of those who walk through the door.

Had all Europeans who followed in Columbus' wake embraced his compassionate lead history would be different.
PHOTO (R): Columbus And Isabella – statue in the Rotunda of the State Capital Building, Sacramento CA.

Claiming Our Heritage And Fighting Bigotry

To Italian-Americans, Columbus is a hero, an Italian-American icon. Continuing attempts to trash Columbus try to make him the scapegoat for injustices committed by other people. **The movement to replace Columbus Day is viewed as anti-Italian American by the Italian community.**



Recent attacks to tear down statues of Columbus in the United States also tear down our history and illustrate the unappeasable ire of the forces arrayed against Columbus the man, Columbus Day the symbol and against Italian Americans who stand in their way. **PHOTO: (R, Top) Italians in Mokelumne Hill, CA, on a ship float in a Columbus Day Parade, California Gold Country, c. 1890**

Italian-Americans have faced bigotry in many forms and the attack on Columbus Day is another face of that bigotry, Just another form of discrimination. In light of the magnitude of Columbus accomplishments, and the emotional stake the Italian-American community has in the holiday named after one of their countrymen, the campaign of rage and misinformation to demonize Columbus is much the same kind of prejudicial treatment and false characterizations that Italian-Americans have experienced throughout much of their history. The bruising ethnic conflict over Columbus Day is another painful episode in the Italian-American experience.

This ethnic struggle has been ongoing since before the 500th anniversary of Columbus Day in 1992. The goal of Indigenous activists and their partisan supporters is to eliminate Columbus Day altogether and they are well on their way to accomplishing their goal. Italian-American's stand in their way. Their movement of victimization over truth and over history has been conducted under the radar by casino tribes, sovereign tribal nations and Native American activists to avoid the spotlight that they are waging a national organized campaign against Columbus Day across the nation. Italian-Americans have organized their communities in response to 'Save Columbus Day.'



Four million Italian Americans arrived in America during the great wave of immigration around the turn of the 20th Century. They represented one quarter of the 16 million immigrants and the largest group of immigrants from Europe who passed through Ellis Island during this period. Today, Italian Americans constitute one of the largest ancestry groups in America, Yet, they are poorly represented in contemporary history books that they too were here and part of the Story of America. **Not even a Footnote.** The confrontation over Columbus Day symbolizes the aspirations of Italian Americans to be recognized and included and treated as equals. **PHOTO: (Above) Italian American children's dancers perform at a San Francisco Giants Italian Heritage Night Game in 2017.**

The Italian American vision of ethnicity promotes group pride and mutual appreciation. It is a vision where our past is honored and in which we can celebrate our common legacy. Italian Americans have relied on their cultural heritage and common traditions to make important contributions to the well-being of the nation. It is up to Italian Americans to claim fair history coverage in the school curriculum for them, for Columbus, and for political support for Columbus Day as a condition of their vote.

Italians in California have been celebrating Columbus Day since their arrival with the Gold Rush and were instrumental in its adoption as a Holiday. The 'Father of Columbus Day,' Angelo Noce an Italian immigrant, arrived in California at age 18 in 1858. He is buried in the Catholic cemetery in Jackson (Amador County) in the foothills of the California Gold Country. He is credited with obtaining recognition of Columbus Day as a legal holiday in 35 states.

PHOTO: (R) The "Father Of Columbus Day," Angelo Noce



Celebrations of Columbus Day are one of the most important and vital building blocks of Italian American identity. It is essential that the Italian American community act to protect Columbus Day, celebrate it, and claim it as part of their Italian-American heritage. Recent polls show that most Americans support Columbus Day.

Protecting our heritage and our holiday is a personal matter for Italian Americans. In a sea of loud and angry voices Italian American voices need to be heard. It is not in quiet assimilation that we become stronger but only in noisy celebration of our past. **Let us not forget where we came from and why Columbus Day matters to us.**

Testimony for art commission meeting 8/26

Eva Conrad <evaconrad123@gmail.com>

Tue 8/25/2020 6:13 PM

To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>

Hello my name is Eva Conrad I am a Pittsburgh resident and studio artist. I moved to Pittsburgh initially for a ceramics residency at the Union Project. I was shocked to discover that a Christopher Columbus statue stands in this city, and very appoled to know that we still honor this man in 2020. I see that the space this horrific figure takes up is an oppurtunity to honor someone who may be more aligned with anti-colonialist living. I am eager to discuss the removal of this colonizer in bronze, and mostly would love to see this happen in a timely manner.

Looking forward to the meeting tomorrow

EVA conrad

Remove Columbus Statue

Adam Swatt <swattadam@gmail.com>

Tue 8/25/2020 6:09 PM

To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>

Hello,

My name is Adam Swatt and I am a resident of Pittsburgh. I'm writing to express my support of the removal of the Christopher Columbus statue in Schenley Park. Recent studies have found that Pittsburgh is one of the worst cities for people of color. For years, celebration of Columbus as an "American hero", despite horrific crimes against indigenous people, has asserted the racist underpinnings of our city. Keeping Columbus's statue would only further assert the notion that marginalized people are not welcome in Schenley Park, nor our community. By removing the statue, the city would show how seriously they are taking their promises to address racism as a "public health crisis".

Thank you,
Adam Swatt

Columbus statue

Charles Smith <chuckie512@gmail.com>

Tue 8/25/2020 6:06 PM

To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>

I support the removal of the Columbus statue from Schenley park.

To many, Columbus represents a false history.

Please remove Columbus statue. He was an awful person.

Cheryl Andrews <cajuly68_andrews@yahoo.com>

Tue 8/25/2020 5:47 PM

To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>

Columbus statue

Shafer, Rick <rickshafer@pitt.edu>

Tue 8/25/2020 3:43 PM

To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>

Hi, I am pleased to see that you're considering removing the Columbus statue. This should be done immediately. The city should provide a transparent and full explanation as to how it got there in the first place, and a detailed apology for having displayed this awful racist statue for over sixty years.

I contacted the mayor's office years ago about this, and the response I received was that Mayor Peduto is not interested in this issue. His staff informed me that nobody else in the city had shown any concern for it, and they weren't willing to even acknowledge the fact that it is awful and racist. This was plainly false, as the statue has been protested and vandalized many times before and after those conversations. The mayor's staff were basically lying and/or pretending like people who protest don't matter. Mayor Peduto has ignored public outcry about this racist message up until now as mayor and as a public figure. Peduto is not a hero for finally, grudgingly, doing the right thing after feeling pressure. But I am glad he finally took this tiny step. He could have taken stronger action and just had the statue removed without any further steps. Please complete this job that he won't do.

Not only should you immediately remove it – it is critical that this is done before Columbus day – but you should carefully examine how this happened, and make sure that something like this can never happen again. Columbus did not suddenly become a racist this century. In 1958, your organization sent a clear racist message to the city and beyond; promoting and celebrating white supremacy, slavery and genocide. You need to come to terms with this action and do everything you can to make it right.

Thanks

Rick Shafer

Ref <https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/us/pittsburgh-mayor-bill-peduto-calls-for-review-of-schenley-park-s-christopher-columbus-statue/ar-BB18mwj6?ocid=hplocalnews>

Regarding discussion on the Columbus monument

Rick Landesberg <rick@landesbergdesign.com>

Wed 8/26/2020 9:24 AM

To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>

It seems like what supporters of the Columbus monument most care about is honoring the contribution of Italian-Americans to our community and country. Perhaps what Pittsburgh truly needs and deserves is a monument/space/public experience that honors this, not Christopher Columbus. Done well, it would be wonderful.

Rick Landesberg

Artist,

Founder and former owner Landesberg Design

Columbus statue

PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>

Fri 8/28/2020 3:05 PM

To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>

From: Eric Probola <eric.probola@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, August 25, 2020 2:20 PM

To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>

Subject: Re: Columbus statue

I urge the Art Commission to remove the statue of Christopher Columbus, presently situated in Schenley Park. To the question of where it should be placed upon removal, I suggest somewhere that can present a full and historically accurate portrayal of who Columbus was. Perhaps in a museum? I also urge the Art Commission to undertake a process to consider all city-owned statues within city limits that are controversial. Thank you.

Columbus statue

MARYLYN DEVLIN <marylyndevlin@comcast.net>

Mon 9/7/2020 1:40 PM

To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>

I would like to see the statue go. He is wrongly celebrated. He brought much disease and degradation to the West Indies inhabitants. Let's teach a clearer, less rosy and authentic history to create a better USA.

Columbus statue

Anna <peterintheriver@gmail.com>

Sat 9/5/2020 5:34 PM

To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>

Hi there,

I am putting in my vote to replace the Christopher Columbus statue in the park with a statue of a person relevant to the history of Pittsburgh, one who deserves a place in Schenley Park. If not I vote to remove it all together.

Thanks,

Anna Brown

Christopher Columbus

Mike Schneider <jfate33@gmail.com>

Sat 9/5/2020 12:54 PM

To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>

 1 attachments (28 KB)

QuinCen4.11291;

Hello,

This article (attached & also included as text), which I researched & wrote, appeared in *In Pittsburgh*, a Pittsburgh weekly Arts & Entertainment paper at the time (edited by Mike Vargo), in November 1991. It highlights the history of Columbus & his voyages in the context of the "Columbus Quincentennial" year, 1992 — when various projects were underway to celebrate & otherwise re-consider this history.

Please be aware that Miguel Sague, quoted in the article, is still in Pittsburgh. He's originally from Cuba & is articulate about the history of early interactions between Columbus and other Europeans and indigenous American peoples.

<https://www.facebook.com/miguel.sague.9>

I hope this may be of some use. Thank you,

Mike Schneider

p.s. The smart-ass tone of some of this, especially the beginning, was an editorial style of the publication, and isn't how I normally write.

* * * *

Christopher Columbus for Adults

by Mike Schneider

Niña, Pinta, Santa Maria, who cares? So this guy from Italy begged some ships from the king and queen of Spain cause he thought he could get to China the back way. So it took till the 15th century for Europeans to go sailing and find there was a whole nother world out there. Big deal, at least it's a day off school.

But Columbus Day is different this year. Have you noticed that we're a month into the 500th year of post-Columbus American experience. The Columbus Quincentennial, as it's being called, is the first chance we've had as citizens of the USA to commemorate 500 years of anything, so why not do it big?

Our government appointed a Quincentenary Jubilee Commission and funded it to the tune of \$80 million (call 202-632-1992 to get on the mailing list.) to coordinate a veritable multitude of events — exhibits, lectures and symposia. What's it's all about? This Christopher guy is the only person, other than Martin Luther King, we name a holiday after who's not a president, so he must have done

something great, like fathered the country or freed the slaves, or had a great dream, right? Yeah, right.

They . . . brought us parrots and balls of cotton and spears and many other things, which they exchanged for the glass beads and hawks' bells. They willingly traded everything they owned. . . . They were well-built, with good bodies and handsome features. . . . They do not bear arms, and do not know them, for I showed them a sword, they took it by the edge and cut themselves out of ignorance. They have no iron. Their spears are made of cane. . . . They would make fine servants. . . . With fifty men we could subjugate them all and make them do whatever we want.

Thus wrote Columbus in the log of his voyage, describing his encounter with the Taínos, the people who greeted his landing in "the New World." The place is believed to have been San Salvador, an island in the Bahamas, new only in the sense that Columbus and his men were strangers to it. The gift exchange Columbus wrote about happened after he and his men fell on their knees, thanked God and "took possession" for the king and queen of Spain.

While our school lessons usually include the part about thanking God, they seldom say much about Columbus' generosity with the Taínos. That's not too surprising considering that the full story of Columbus' encounter with the people of this continent is more like Freddy, the Final Nightmare than the cheery stuff we like to put in school books.

Where's the gold? That's what Columbus wanted to know; he had a huge debt to pay his investors, and he still believed — as he did to his dying day — that he had landed off the coast of Asia. "I took some of the natives by force in order that they might learn and might give me information of whatever there is in these parts."

The captive Taínos eventually took him, by way of a stopover in Cuba, to the island he called Hispaniola (present day Haiti and the Dominican Republic). Here he found more Taínos, some of them wearing gold ornaments. He set up a colony and sailed home with extravagant reports of great riches. In November 1493, Columbus came back with 17 ships and 1200 men. He still couldn't find the limitless gold he believed the Taínos were hiding, and having failed to contact the emperor of China, traders of India or merchants of Japan, he decided to pay for his voyage in the one important commodity amply available.

In February 1495, the Spaniards rounded up 1500 Taíno men, women and children, picked the 500 best specimens and crammed them onto ships. Two hundred died en route to Spain. The rest were paraded naked through the streets of Seville and sold as slaves. "Let us in the name of the Holy Trinity," wrote Columbus later, "go on sending all the slaves that can be sold."

Why, you might ask, does our public history take a greed-driven, ruthless adventurer, a man with historical warts the size of cannonballs, and turn him into a fairy-tale hero? "In fourteen hundred ninety-two, Columbus sailed the ocean blue." Why do we learn that he "discovered" America when, as some revisionists like to put it, Columbus no more discovered America than Pocahontas discovered England?

The Columbus Quincentennial gives us a chance to think about these questions. As Gail Britanik says, "It's a teachable moment." Britanik, of the Thomas Merton Center, coordinates a loose affiliation of people, christened the "Pittsburgh People's Quincentennial 1492-1992," that has been meeting since April to discuss these questions and plan activities.

The group, says Britanik, tries to steer clear of Columbus-bashing. "The history of exploitation would almost for sure have happened anyway; whether or not Columbus was the one who started it isn't really the point."

Cuban-born Pittsburgher Miguel Sagué, a member of PPQ, is also active in the Council of Three Rivers American Indian Center. He brings a perspective to the Columbus Quincentennial few people can share. He's a descendant of the Taínos.

An educator and musician (his Salsa band, Guaracha, plays frequently in Pittsburgh), Sagué derides American education for glorifying the European encounter with this continent. "The value of historical education is drained when people can go through eight years of school and still not know the facts surrounding their origin as Americans. This information is not hidden; the truth is available and open."

Yet the more compelling significance of renewed attention to Columbus, Sagué says, lies in understanding the present. "Five hundred years hasn't changed anything. It's the same people doing the same things to the same people for the same reasons. Money is at the bottom. "Indians in the Amazon rainforest are being bombed from airplanes. They're given virus-infected blankets on purpose, so that they'll die. In countries where they're not being exterminated, they're exploited shamelessly. In North America, the reservations are like rural ghettos. Oppression, discrimination, disease and poverty are rampant. But since the Indians are so few, they have no political voice."

One of PPQ's intellectual mentors is Professor Howard Zinn, author of *A People's History of the United States*. Zinn's book has gained wide recognition as a history from the victims' point of view, and his opening chapter, "Columbus, the Indians, and Human Progress," recounts Columbus' encounter with the Taínos.

Historians like Zinn know that history is not merely a collection of facts; it is a written account that inevitably weights the available information according to a point of view. Our own public history, they say, is heavily weighted by the idea of progress. Horrors like slavery and genocide become historical footnotes because they are, according to this point of view, the eggs you break to make the omelette. But who's omelette? The popular history of Christopher Columbus is not about progress for native Americans.

Shipping Taínos as slaves back to Spain still didn't pay the dividends Columbus had promised his investors, too many died in captivity, so he intensified the search for gold. Convinced that in one province of Hispaniola, Cicao, there were huge gold fields, the Spaniards ordered all Taínos fourteen years or older to bring in a "hawk's bell" of gold every three months. If they brought it, they were given a copper token with the date pressed into it to hang around their neck. Taínos found without the token had both hands cut off and bled to death.

Faced with an impossible task, since the only gold in Cicao was traces of dust in the streams, the Taínos fled. The Spaniards hunted them with dogs and killed them. Open rebellion broke out on Hispaniola, and the Spaniards hanged and burned to death any Taínos they could find. The Taínos turned to mass suicide as the only form of resistance left, and they killed their infants to save them from the Spaniards. In two years, half of 250,000 native peoples (a conservative estimate) on Hispaniola when Columbus arrived were dead.

By 1515 there were maybe 50,000 Taínos left. By 1550, five hundred. A report from 1650 shows none on the island.

Howard Zinn will speak in Pittsburgh on November 21. Call 361-3022 for information about this and other Pittsburgh People's Quincentennial events.

Schneider DATE 11/14/02 TIME \@ "h:mm AM/PM" 12:52 PM p. PAGE 4

Columbus Statue Public Comment

Jodi Lincoln <jodilindoln@gmail.com>

Sat 9/5/2020 10:16 PM

To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>

Hello,

Submitting the following for the upcoming Art Commission meeting on the 17th regarding the Columbus Statue :

Hi, I'm writing to ask the Art Commission votes to 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
Property Manager
Oakland Planning and Development Corp
Jlincoln@opdc.org
412-621-7863 ext 10

Columbus statue in Schenley Park

L O <Ironufer@gmail.com>

Sun 9/6/2020 1:32 PM

To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>

The Columbus Statue in Schenley Park should be replaced with a statue of an indigenous American hero. Columbus was a colonizer who tortured, raped, and murdered indigenous people. He does not deserve to be memorialized.

Lindsay Onufer

Remove Columbus statue

M Herman <mayan.herman@gmail.com>

Sat 9/5/2020 1:03 PM

To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>

I vote to remove the statue. If the statue isn't removed, then the arts Commission is normalizing a man who brutally colonized Indigenous people. Allowing the statue to remain means reinforcing modern day slavery and racism that makes our country so unequal.

104 McClaw Drive
Pittsburgh, PA 15204

Dear Mayor Peduto,

I support the Art Commission's removal of the Christopher Columbus statue in Schenley Park. Though I recognize that Columbus accomplished an incredible navigational feat, his arrival in the Bahamas and his subsequent actions there were less than admirable. It is time our city stands out as a beacon for tolerance and justice. It is time we recognize the lies our heroes stand on so that we can begin to dismantle the systemic racism we've all come to accept as the norm.

We can continue to credit Columbus for being a fearless sailor who opened up navigation for the world without honoring his slaughter and enslavement of the Taíno people.

The statue should come down.

Thank you for listening to my opinion and concerns.
Sincerely,

Colleen M. Pilarski

Colleen M. Pilarski

Sheraden, City of Pittsburgh

Public Comment - Columbus

Bailey Deucedly <smileydeucepoint0@gmail.com>

Fri 9/4/2020 3:45 PM

To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>

Hi-

I'd like to advocate for the Columbus statue to be removed

Best,

Shequaya

--

--

Shequaya Bailey

President

Pittsburgh Major Taylor Cycling Club (PMTCC)

email: majortaylorpittsburgh@gmail.com

website: www.pmtcc.org

mailbox:PO BOX 24094 Pittsburgh, PA 15206-4055

[2020 McDermott 3-State Ride is Sunday, September 13th](#)

Remove the statue of Columbus

Emma Hundertmark <dilemma1996@yahoo.com>

Fri 9/4/2020 8:44 PM

To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>

Columbus invaded the native Americans' land, treated them like slaves, killed them, and he is celebrated today. This is ridiculous and the statue needs removed immediately.

Emma Hundertmark

Remove Columbus Statue

Joy <manymanysheep@gmail.com>

Sat 9/5/2020 2:43 PM

To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>

dear pittsburgh art commission:

i urge you to **remove the columbus statue.**

thank you for listening,

joy katz

highland park

REMOVE or REPLACE Columbus statue

Abigail Kreckel <abby.kreckel@gmail.com>

Sun 9/6/2020 7:58 PM

To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>

Greetings, friends at the art commission!

My name is Abby, I'm a writer, a biker, a mom, and I live in a fixer upper in Squirrel Hill. I'm overwhelmingly in favor of removing and eventually replacing the Columbus statue.

The statue sends a negative message.

If replacement would take too long, the pedestal should remain empty until a replacement is chosen. An empty pedestal would be representative of a changing time in America, where we're all taking time to reflect together on what we stand for as a nation, and how we wish to treat minorities, women, and BIPOC, and honor the memories of those who suffered and continue to suffer greatly at the hands of people like Columbus.

As Pittsburghers, we want to honor good people, especially good wholesome people who are from or lived in our area. Even characters that were created here, such as Daniel Tiger, would be a better choice than a rapist conqueror. I personally vote for Jeff Goldblum, Fred Rogers, Rachel Carson, Roberto Clemente, or perhaps a memorial to those lost at the Tree of Life synagogue.

Thanks!

Abby

CC Statue

Brittany Catherman <bsc5113@gmail.com>

Fri 9/11/2020 8:22 AM

To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>

Christopher Columbus represents the atrocities this country has yet to fully admit. For many, he represents the reason a lot of families were torn apart and ancestors were murdered & raped. We deserve a statue in this city to represent positive change, a person we can all admire, like August Wilson.

ATTN: Art Commission

Daniel Leger <legerdaniel11@gmail.com>

Sun 9/13/2020 4:41 PM

To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>

ATTENTION: Art Commission Special Hearing on Columbus Statue for September 17, 2020

Dear Members of the Art Commission,

I am writing to express my thoughts regarding the Statue of Christopher Columbus that stands next to the Phipps Conservatory.

Although I believe the statue to be of artistically beautiful design and position, its subject and the message inscribed on its plinth are extremely troubling. We can say that Columbus was an explorer, but certainly cannot say that he was the discoverer of America with any sense of integrity and pride. Columbus was responsible for the beginning of a process in which numerous indigenous nations of the continents we now call the Americas were decimated. These multiple cultures thrived for many centuries before the arrival of Columbus which set in motion much death, illegal appropriation, and subsequent replacement in slavery.

I believe that the statue needs to be removed from its present site.

If a decision is made to retain it at its present site or anywhere else, I would think it imperative that prominent, responsible, and honest information and educational opportunities accompany it.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Daniel Leger
5679 Beacon Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15217

--

Daniel Leger
legerdaniel11@gmail.com
C412-926-4289

Columbus Statue in Shenley Park

Patricia Donohue <pcdonohue@gmail.com>

Tue 9/15/2020 9:40 AM

To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>

To the members of the Arts Commission,

Both my father and grandfather were life-long members of a Catholic fraternal organization called the Knights of Columbus which was founded by Irish American Catholics in large part to combat anti-immigrant and anti-Catholic bigotry in the early 20th century. They chose Columbus as their figurehead because they believed he represented a Catholic person instrumental in the European founding of the Americas. But their choice of Columbus was based on the myth of Columbus, not the historical reality. In reality, Columbus as the governor of the "Indies" engaged in the brutal exploitation, enslavement, subjugation and murder of native peoples. Even in his own time, his actions were recognized by people like Bartolomeo Las Casas as crimes against humanity: "Such inhumanities and barbarisms were committed in my sight as no age can parallel" (cf. Las Casas, A Short Account of the Destruction of the Indies). While my father and grandfather may have been ignorant of this history, we today are not. Clearly and emphatically Columbus cannot be a symbol of Catholic immigrant pride and achievement. However we chose to remember and honor the complicated histories of our European ancestors here in Pittsburgh and elsewhere, we must unequivocally reject the crimes committed against the indigenous peoples of the Americas. Removing the statue of Columbus in Shenley Park is a necessary step towards this more truthful reckoning. **I strongly urge the Arts Commission to remove the Columbus statue.**

Respectfully,

Patricia Donohue
Northside, Pittsburgh

--

Patricia Donohue
she/they

Christopher Columbus Statue

Virginia Dato <vmdato@gmail.com>

Tue 9/15/2020 7:55 AM

To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>

I am a Pittsburgher of Italian American descent who first came to Pittsburgh to attend Medical School which started my journey of discovery about the physical and emotional impacts of racism and othering. And as part of my journey I learned and saw first-hand the adverse experiences that many of my fellow human beings with ancestors from around the world. experience on a daily basis from othering and racism and I see the impact on their health.

I understand that this statue causes trauma to some of my neighbors because they have been subjected to racism and othering and I hope that no one – no matter what country their ancestors most recently came from -- wants to continue that trauma. But I also realize that this statue has also helped heal others.

I propose that the metal statute itself be taken down and temporarily stored, leaving the cement pedestal it stood on as the Pittsburgh Art Commission develops a new way forward that does not traumatize any viewer, that heals many and honors the many discoverers – indigenous, slaves, freemen /women, explorers, immigrants and their descendants who brought us to where we are and can inspire us to make this a better world.

A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step, and I am grateful to the Pittsburgh Art Commission and to all who are commenting for beginning that journey for a solution that meets the needs of all.

Virginia M. Dato MD MPH FACPM

vmdato@gmail.com

North Point Breeze Resident

Columbus statue

Mike madsen <mpmdesign@yahoo.com>

Mon 9/14/2020 5:46 PM

To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>

My vote is to remove and replace the Columbus statue in Schenley Park. I think it would be a good idea to replace Columbus with an Italian American, preferably a notable one from the area. I'm afraid I can't think of any such prominent Italian Americans myself, and so the future statue could bring attention to someone that people like myself don't know about. I can understand folks of Italian descent wanting to honor their heritage, and I don't think paying homage to one's ancestors is a zero sum game. People of European descent are being asked to reckon with our ancestors' destructive legacies, like Jim Crow, slavery, and the genocide of the First Nation peoples. We are being asked to do this reckoning, in firm and unambiguous terms, by the people who continue to be harmed by these destructive legacies, namely Black, Latinx, and Indigenous communities. I see a lot of white people reacting against this, thinking that reckoning with our ancestors' violence means ignoring their other contributions. Christopher Columbus, an icon in our national narrative, was a warlord, he actively murdered and enslaved people. He was also an explorer and a skillful navigator. Both of these things are true, and if we are to be a mature society that honors the complexity of individuals, then we must reckon with our ancestors' curses as well as honor their blessings. I think the Columbus statue should be placed in the Heinz History Center, along with a more complete account of who Columbus was, paired with an honest overview of the settlers' often unprovoked aggression against their Indigenous neighbors. I don't know if any of that is within your ability, but that is my desire, that is what I wish would happen surrounding the Columbus statue.

For the Special Hearing on Thursday Sept. 17th on the Columbus Statue

Patrizia Costa <drpatriziacosta@gmail.com>

Mon 9/14/2020 12:56 PM

To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>

Dear Pittsburgh Arts Commission,

I would like to register my preference of outcome as: ALTER

and offer my recent Op Ed in The Pittsburgh City Paper as a comment. Link to the article is below.

<https://www.pghcitypaper.com/pittsburgh/op-ed-to-take-it-down-or-preserve-the-fate-of-pittsburghs-columbus-statue/Content?oid=17972929>

Thank you in advance for your thoughtful consideration and approach on this issue.

Dr. Patrizia Costa
Highland Park

104 McLaw Dr.
Pittsburgh, PA 15204
August 29, 2020

Dear Art Commission:

It is my hope that you will remove the Christopher Columbus statue in Schenley Park. Though I recognize that Columbus accomplished an incredible navigational feat, his actions upon arrival in the Bahamas were unconscionable. I don't think we, as a city, should honor Columbus. It is time we recognize the lies our heroes stand upon in order to dismantle the systemic racism we've all accepted as the norm.

Thank you for listening to my concerns and my opinion.

Sincerely,
Colleen M. Pilarowski

Colleen M. Pilarowski
Sheraden, City of Pgh.

Status of Columbus Statue

Henderson, Kayla <KAH278@pitt.edu>

Tue 9/15/2020 12:45 AM

To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>

Dear Commissioners:

I am writing to request that you remove the statue of Christopher Columbus. As a University of Pittsburgh student, I have listened to stories from residents of the city explaining why a murderer should not be memorialized and I have to agree. Pittsburgh is supposed to be a place where everyone feels welcomed, where we pride ourselves on our family feel and close-knit community. If we want to have a truly welcoming environment, we must be mindful of our community spaces and the messages we're sending. Christopher Columbus, a man that is known for his maltreatment of Indigenous people, stands tall on display in Schenley Park. This popular community area is a space for people of all ages and backgrounds—is this how we should greet them? With a statue that glorifies a racist man who brutalized Native Americans? And if we consider the argument that Columbus is a source of pride for Italian Americans, is a statue honoring one group worth being a source of despair for another? Does this represent Pittsburgh? We have cities like Monongahela and Aliquippa named after Native American tribes, a gesture of respect. But what does this gesture mean if we have Columbus on a pedestal in Schenley Park? Long before Pittsburgh became the “Steel City”, it was *home* for many Indigenous people. A home that was taken from them in violent, and even deadly, ways. The *least* we can do is honor those who came before us by ensuring that we don't memorialize their, and our, enemy.

Kayla Henderson

Christopher Columbus statue

Stephanie Fello <washmeclean@hotmail.com>

Tue 9/15/2020 12:00 PM

To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>

I am of Italian heritage on both maternal and paternal sides, and I voted to remove the Christopher Columbus statue. I am ashamed to be connected to a man who committed such terrible acts of genocide and we should not honor him with a historical monument.

Stephanie Fello
542 Center Hill Rd.
Pittsburgh, PA 15239

Public comment on Christopher Columbus statue

Bourque, Delilah G <DGB22@pitt.edu>

Mon 9/14/2020 4:49 PM

To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>

To the members Arts Commission of the City of Pittsburgh,

My name is Delilah Bourque and I am an undergraduate student at the University of Pittsburgh and resident of the South Oakland neighborhood of Pittsburgh. I am writing today to offer comment regarding the Christopher Columbus statue located in Schenley Park.

I believe the city should replace this statue, which celebrates a historical figure who committed genocide against native people and represents the horrible atrocities of settler colonialism. Ideally, this statue would be replaced with a different statue that honors the history of Indigenous people and would have a closer connection to the city we love than an Italian explorer who did not set foot on North American soil, much less in southwestern Pennsylvania. Various Indigenous groups, such as the Monongahela and Shawnee, are the original residents of the land that now makes up Pittsburgh and the surrounding metropolitan area, and in their honor is the most appropriate replacement.

Not only does the statue represent and celebrate a man who slaughtered thousands, but the city of Pittsburgh has already set a precedent in removing problematic and incendiary statues when this same commission moved to replace the Stephen Foster statue outside of the Carnegie Library in Oakland in 2018. Said statue is in the process of being replaced with a statue of a Black woman with ties to Pittsburgh, to honor the contributions to our city and the world made by often overlooked figures in history.

Furthermore, replacing the statue would follow a similar precedent set by other cities in the nation, who have also removed statues of Christopher Columbus. As recently as this past July, two statues of Columbus were removed from parks in Chicago after the work of Black and Indigenous activists and public comment to Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments,
Delilah Bourque

Delilah Bourque
English Writing Major | Fiction
Culture Editor (2019-2020) | [The Pitt News](#)
University of Pittsburgh

Status of the Columbus Statue

Rigot, Autumn C <ACR61@pitt.edu>

Tue 9/15/2020 5:11 PM

To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing this letter to formally request that the Christopher Columbus Statue be removed and replaced with a statue of Daisy Elizabeth Adams Lampkin. It is time that our city recognizes the violence that occurred under the command of Christopher Columbus. He was, in no sense, the hero of our history. He aided in the colonization and conquest of the American continents. A man who is responsible for overseeing the rape and torture of Native people cannot be revered. We must recognize the history of racism in our city. Taking down the Columbus statue will show that our city is ready and willing to work towards ending social injustice.

It is only fitting that a new statue be erected of a leader who has fought to end racial injustices. I suggest replacing the Columbus statue with a statue of Daisy Elizabeth Adams Lampkin. Lampkin worked in the Pittsburgh area for decades, acting as a primary leader in the suffragette movement and working as the vice president of the Pittsburgh Courier. On the federal level, Lampkin served as the national field director for the NAACP and advocated for desegregation and federal anti-lynching laws. Her dedication and service to Pittsburgh is one that cannot be forgotten. Christopher Columbus never even visited the area that is now Pittsburgh but Lampkin lived a majority of her life here. She is an integral part of our history. The Columbus statue needs to be removed and replaced with a statue of Daisy Elizabeth Adams Lampkin. Pittsburgh would not be the city that it is today without her.

Sincerely,

Autumn Rigot
Resident of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Citizen's Concern to the Question of the Christopher Columbus Statue in Schenley Park

Wesley Benson <wesleybenson97@gmail.com>

Tue 9/15/2020 5:37 PM

To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>

Hello,

My name is Wesley Benson, and I reside at 5216 1/2 Carnegie Street, in Upper Lawrenceville, Pittsburgh, PA, 15201.

I discovered today that the statue depicting Christopher Columbus, located in Schenley Park, is pending review per the citizens of Pittsburgh.

I would like to cast my vote, as a yes, for the removal and/or destruction of this statue.

The indirect genocide of the indigenous peoples of this nation could, arguably, have been caused by any such individual, subsidized as he was by such governmental power as the Kingdom of Spain; this, in of itself, can be disturbing.

However, the atrocities directly manifested by Christopher Columbus, in his quasi-exiled reign as Governor of Hispaniola (the island which is our modern-day Republica Dominica and Haiti) are very personal to himself.

It is noted historically that women drowned their own children during his reign, to save the little ones from the pains of starvation, in their state of impoverishment. It is also noted that his executive order carried out the public march of severed heads of noncompliant indigenous folks, surmounted upon stakes, through the streets, as a means to subdue the malcontent through brute fearmongering. Unnecessary deaths directly attributed to his poor ruling were recognized, in shame, by the Spanish crown, and by modern speculation, have amounted upwards of 10,000.

I have personally been disturbed by these stories since my early years in Elementary, and see no place for a statue in Columbus's liking in our communities (or, for that matter, anywhere, except a very dark and far-away, terrible place).

Please respond with any concerns or updates.

Thank you for reading,

Wesley Benson

Status of Columbus Statue

Will, Alexa Katherine <AKW69@pitt.edu>

Tue 9/15/2020 4:27 PM

To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to request the removal of the Columbus statue. The unification of Pittsburgh residents is only possible if we acknowledge the horrors of our past, for a better future. I've been a Pittsburgh resident for 18 years now, and am currently attending the University of Pittsburgh, so the city of Pittsburgh is extremely close to my heart. In accordance with this strong emotion for my city comes strong emotion and passion for change, and the removal of the Columbus statue is a requirement to uphold the honor of our city.

Although a major argument against the removal of the statue relates to Columbus Day and Italian-American heritage, the rationale behind this argument is outdated. Ultimately, the Columbus statue needs to come down because Columbus was a white supremacist who participated in the largest documentation of genocide in history, and we are only perpetuating racism in the present day by keeping this statue standing. We are in an unprecedented time, where we must unite and acknowledge our privilege, a time where we must recognize that the Columbus statue is perpetuating more harm than good. Having statues like Columbus up is a blatant act of racism and the city of Pittsburgh needs to acknowledge this—and there's only one way to do this—the statue's demise.

Beyond recognizing Columbus' blatant racism and genocide, and consequently, our country's history of racism and genocide, it's additionally past time to recognize our problems at the local level. Beyond recording the genocide of Columbus in history books, it's important for individual cities to come together to acknowledge the racist histories of their respective cities and in their own lives. Pittsburgh doesn't have a clean slate, as Kirk Savage mentions in his podcast *Statues Like Columbus in Schenley Park Are 'Not The Best Way' To Teach History, Says Pitt Professor*. In this podcast, he touches on Pittsburgh's history in 1791 of offering a hefty bounty to any white people who would bring the government a head of a native. Clearly, Pittsburgh has a dark history, as many cities do, and it's crucial to recognize this and to learn from it. If we can't hold our own city accountable, how can we hold its people accountable, and how can we individually be held accountable?

We need to work together, to acknowledge that the time has come to tear down the Columbus statue, to stop glorifying a man who committed mass genocide. It's time to hold our own city accountable, to both our country and city's dark history with racism. Removing the Columbus statue is only the first step (though a crucial one) in a move towards an actively anti-racist, aware future, that acknowledges our history, and is implicit in creating a fair and just future.

Sincerely, Alexa Will (Residence: University of Pittsburgh)

Christopher Columbus Statue: Art Commission Review

Kaitlyn Buss <kaitlynbuss@gmail.com>

Tue 9/15/2020 6:49 PM

To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>

To the members of the Pittsburgh Art Commission,

I am writing to you as a resident of the city of Pittsburgh. I live in Squirrel Hill now, but have previously lived in the Oakland and Bloomfield areas. I moved to this city from Philadelphia and I remember being openly confused when I saw the Columbus statue while walking around Pitt's campus. I thought "What does Columbus have to do with anything here? Phipps? The library?" Now I work for that very library, the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh. And I strongly feel that we can no longer ignore the true history of Columbus and what he represents. It makes no sense to glorify such a violent, genocidal man & erect a statue in his honor - a man who never seems to have stepped foot in Pittsburgh. Though I would like to suggest a replacement statue, I understand replacement is a more involved process than calling for removal. So I am calling for **removal**. (But I will name a serious idea for a replacement anyway - I think Virginia Florence would be fantastic, she was the first Black female librarian in the country & earned her degree right here at Pitt, and the statue location is right by the Carnegie Library).

Frankly, (and I hope you know I am not trying to dilute my point with a joke here) even a statue of Sauerkraut Saul would be a better representation of Pittsburgh, our culture, and our values. As far as I know, he has never enslaved, raped, or demonized indigenous people of color. The bar is pretty low here. Let's make the effort to show our Black and indigenous neighbors that we hear them. We respect them. We value them as members of our community. **We have no responsibility to continue to revere a monstrous man. We have every responsibility to do better as a city and to do what's right.**

I wish you all the best. Stay safe out there.

Kaitlyn Buss
5920 Nicholson Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15217

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.

(http://www.nonnopuinelallanorma.it/html/en/christopher_columbus.html)

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

9/20/2019

On Addressing the Statute of Christopher Columbus

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 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.^[92]

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.^[92] 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.^[93] "Columbus's government was characterised by a form of tyranny," Consuelo Varela, a Spanish historian who has seen the document, told journalists.^[92] "Even those who loved him had to admit the atrocities that had taken place."^[92]

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."^[155] 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) <oezelmanovich@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@phippss.conservatory.org <ceo@phippss.conservatory.org>; cqureshi@pittsburghparks.org <cqureshi@pittsburghparks.org>; hr@phippss.conservatory.org <hr@phippss.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

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Demand Removal of Columbus Statue in Schenley Park

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@phippis.conservatory.org <ceo@phippis.conservatory.org>; acarvalho@pittsburghparks.org <acarvalho@pittsburghparks.org>; hr@phippis.conservatory.org <hr@phippis.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 than that. Pittsburgh is better than 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 Schenely

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](#) 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 <ericestein@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 it's constituents in removing the Columbus statue in Schenley Park.

Thank you,

--

Eric Stein

ericestein@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@phippys.conservatory.org <ceo@phippys.conservatory.org>; acarvalho@pittsburghparks.org <acarvalho@pittsburghparks.org>; hr@phippys.conservatory.org <hr@phippys.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@phippss.conservatory.org <ceo@phippss.conservatory.org>; acarvalho@pittsburghparks.org <acarvalho@pittsburghparks.org>; hr@phippss.conservatory.org <hr@phippss.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.

Remove Christopher Columbus statue

Sarah McLaughlin <themick35@icloud.com>

Thu 6/25/2020 8:15 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. 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

August Wilson

Alex Abramson <alexkabramson11@gmail.com>

Thu 6/25/2020 11:26 PM

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. 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 mornig,

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

Gable, Mike

From: Reuben Aronson <reuben.aronson@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 23, 2020 8:52 PM
To: mike.lyons@pnc.com; wburlack@pcrg.org; cqureshi@pittsburghparks.org;
ceo@phipps.conservatory.org; acarvalho@pittsburghparks.org;
hr@phipps.conservatory.org; PACD; Gable, Mike; Lane, Majestic;
mcheever@pittsburghparks.org
Subject: Removing the Columbus statue in Schenley Park

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 Indiginous 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 Pittsburghers 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 Indiginous 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@phippys.conservatory.org <ceo@phippys.conservatory.org>; acarvalho@pittsburghparks.org <acarvalho@pittsburghparks.org>; hr@phippys.conservatory.org <hr@phippys.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@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. 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
(She/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

TAKE DOWN THE RACIST

Payal Patel <PayalPatel2023@u.northwestern.edu>

Thu 6/25/2020 1:21 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 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 murder 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>; mcheever@pittsburghparks.org <mcheever@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

TAKE DOWN COLUMBUS

DeVaughn Robinson <devaughnrobinson@me.com>

Thu 6/25/2020 6:14 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.

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 Taino 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 Taino 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 Taino 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 <tejpat717@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 <danaaagostinone@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

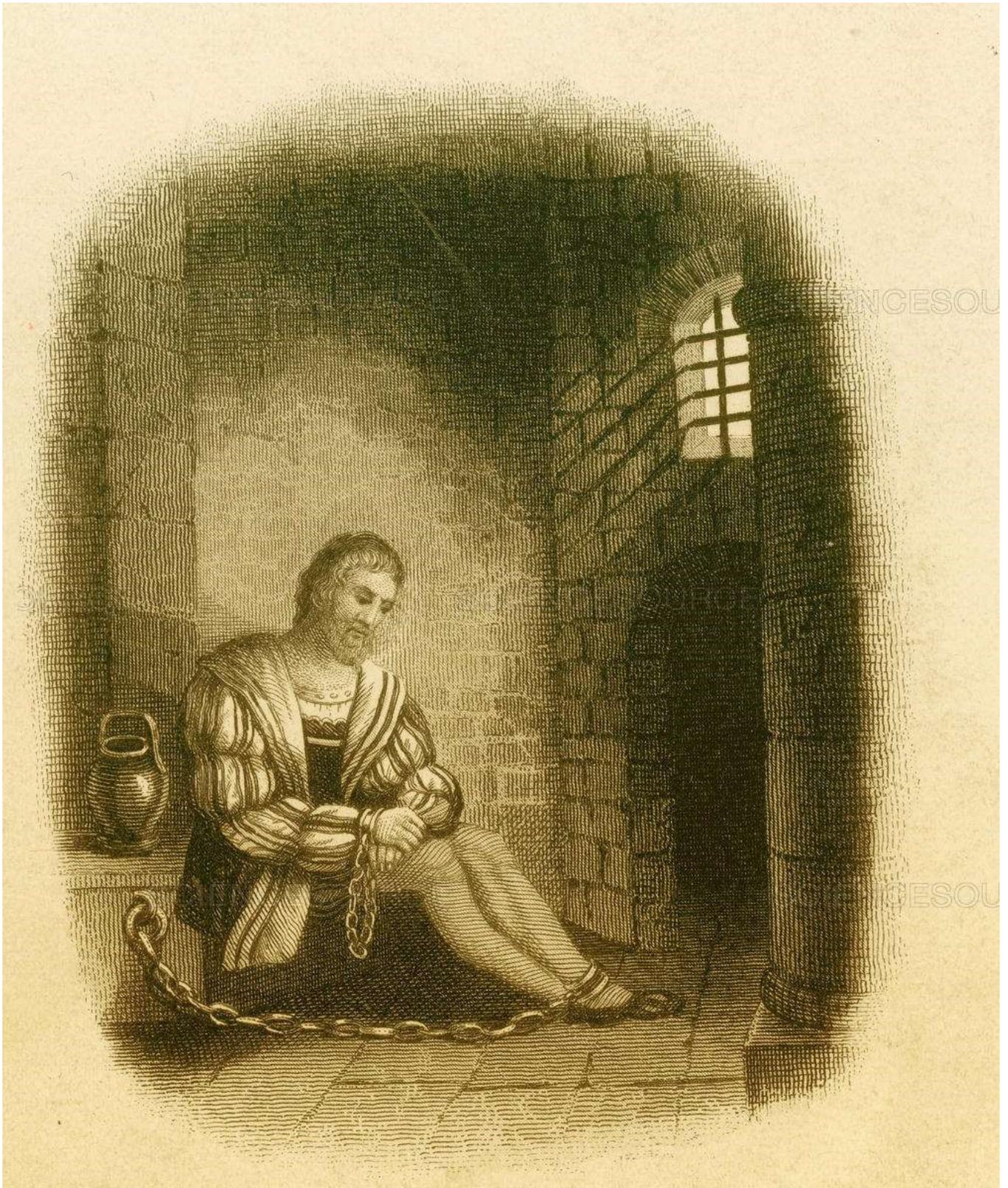
Columbus statue

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@pittsburghpa.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

Schenley Park

Malcolm MacKenzie <malcolm.m.mackenzie@gmail.com>

Wed 6/24/2020 10:40 AM

To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>

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,

Im 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 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 <lvc283@icloud.com>

Thu 6/25/2020 4:35 PM

To: mike.lyons@pnc.com <mike.lyons@pnc.com>; wburlack@pcrg.org <wburlack@pcrg.org>; cquireshi@pittsburghparks.org <cquireshi@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>; 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 colonialist 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 <pacd@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 Columbus

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@phippis.conservatory.org <ceo@phippis.conservatory.org>; acarvalho@pittsburghparks.org <acarvalho@pittsburghparks.org>; hr@phippis.conservatory.org <hr@phippis.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 Columbus from the park. Not only did Columbus initiate the genocide of the indigenous Caribbean population on several islands, he was censored in his own time 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 Columbus' 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@phippss.conservatory.org <ceo@phippss.conservatory.org>; acarvalho@pittsburghparks.org <acarvalho@pittsburghparks.org>; hr@phippss.conservatory.org <hr@phippss.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](mailto:laura@casasanjose.org)

412-736-7167

Casa San Jose



[2116 Broadway Ave](#)

[Pittsburgh, PA 15216](#)

Tel. [\(412\) 343-3111](tel:(412)343-3111) | Fax. [\(412\) 343-3210](tel:(412)343-3210)

www.casasanjose.org

[Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Instagram](#) | [Linkedin](#)

Columbus Statue has got to go!

Jodi Lincoln <jodilinc@pnc.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@phippis.conservatory.org <ceo@phippis.conservatory.org>; acarvalho@pittsburghparks.org <acarvalho@pittsburghparks.org>; hr@phippis.conservatory.org <hr@phippis.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

(No subject)

Meghan Sullivan <meghansullivan1@gmail.com>

Mon 6/22/2020 9:43 PM

To: acarvalho@pittsburghparks.org <acarvalho@pittsburghparks.org>; ceo@phipps.conservatory.org <ceo@phipps.conservatory.org>; cqureshi@pittsburghparks.org <cqureshi@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>; w Burlack <wburlack@pcrg.org>

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 statue, 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 out of the pain, suffering, and work of those who continue to be undervalued, undeserved, and underrepresented. There is no shortage of true heroes 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 Msms.

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



GREATER PITTSBURGH ARTS COUNCIL

Arts loud and clear

Office of Public Art

810 Penn Avenue, 6th Floor
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15222
tel 412.391.2060
Publicartpittsburgh.org

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,



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.

Columbus Statue

Jay Walker <jayjaywalker3@gmail.com>

Mon 8/24/2020 10:06 AM

To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>

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 Christopher 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 Guacanagari, 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).

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 Statue

Doug Weaver <dooger2000@gmail.com>

Fri 8/14/2020 9:56 AM

To: PACD <pacd@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 indigenius 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 <rlunde@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 <writeaetta@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

Christopher Columbus Statue

Isaac Beachy <isaacbeachy@gmail.com>

Tue 8/25/2020 10:38 AM

To: PACD <pacd@pittsburghpa.gov>

Hi,

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

cell: 203-536-9918

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Schenley Park Columbus Statue

Elizabeth 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 Tassaró 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

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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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