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To: ["Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"](#)
CC: ["City Manager's Correspondence Group - DL"](#)
["Singh, Sandra" <Sandra.Singh@vancouver.ca>](mailto:Sandra.Singh@vancouver.ca)
Date: 3/25/2021 4:31:03 PM
Subject: Memo: "The Dreamer" statue of Columbus at Hastings Park
Attachments: ACCS - GM - Memo (Mayor & Council) The Dreamer statue of Columbus at Hastings Park (2021-03-25).pdf

Dear Mayor and Council,

The attached memo from Sandra Singh provides information on the recent removal to storage of *The Dreamer*, a statue of Christopher Columbus which was sited at the Italian Gardens at Hastings Park.

- In recent years, the statue has been the target of several protest actions.
- Public Art staff and the Italian Cultural Centre have been contacted recently by an activist who has warned that more serious direct action against the statue is likely
- As an interim measure, the public art office has removed the statue from its current site and placed it in storage to insure its physical protection.
- The current action does not prejudge the future of *The Dreamer*. It merely insures the preservation of the sculpture while its future care and siting are considered.

Should you have any questions, please contact Sandra Singh, General Manager, Arts, Culture and Community Services at Sandra.Singh@vancouver.ca.

Best,
Paul

Paul Mochrie (he/him)
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The City of Vancouver acknowledges that it is situated on the unceded traditional territories of the xʷməŋəm (Musqueam), ləwəwú 7mesh (Squamish), and səlilwətał (Tseil-Waututh) Nations.

MEMORANDUM

March 25, 2021

TO: Mayor & Council

CC: Paul Mochrie, Acting City Manager
Karen Levitt, Deputy City Manager
Lynda Graves, Administration Services Manager, City Manager's Office
Maria Pontikis, Director, Civic Engagement and Communications
Katrina Leckovic, City Clerk
Anita Zaenker, Chief of Staff, Mayor's Office
Neil Monckton, Chief of Staff, Mayor's Office
Alvin Singh, Communications Director, Mayor's Office
Branislav Henselmann, Managing Director, Cultural Services
Eric Fredericksen, Senior Cultural Planner, Head of Public Art, Cultural Services

FROM: Sandra Singh, General Manager, Arts, Culture and Community Services

SUBJECT: "The Dreamer" statue of Columbus at Hastings Park

PURPOSE

The purpose of this memo is to provide information on the removal of *The Dreamer* from Hastings Park. A Public Art maintenance crew safely moved the work to storage on Thursday, March 18, 2021

BACKGROUND

The Dreamer was installed at Angelo Branca Plaza in 1986, part of Translink's provision of public parks and plazas in Expo Line right of way. A reproduction of Giulio Monteverde's 19th century sculpture *Il Colombo giovanetto*, it was (going by inscriptions on its pedestal) donated by the City of Genoa, but the recipient is unclear and has not been discovered to date in City archives. Given its original site and the lack of records, it is unlikely that the City has ownership.

The sculpture was moved to Hastings Park during the creation of Il Giardino. As part of the PNE Grounds/Hastings Park, the sculpture's site is the City's responsibility. Staff expect to consider it along with other commemorative statues as part of the creation of a Commemoration Policy for the City.

In recent years, the statue has been the target of several protest actions, ranging from red paint to temporary modifications of the engraving on its current pedestal, which refers to Columbus as someone who “discovered the unknown lands of the new world.”

Public Art staff and the Italian Cultural Centre have been contacted recently by an activist who, while disclaiming personal responsibility for the potential act, has warned that more serious direct action against the statue is likely.

As an interim measure, the public art office will remove the statue from its current site and place it in storage. This act will insure the physical safety of the object while a more deliberate process considering existing commemoration in the city proceeds.

The Italian Cultural Centre and the PNE Board of Directors have been informed of the removal and have no objection.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Funds for the removal will be drawn from the City’s maintenance reserve. Costs are likely to be in the low four figures.

NEXT STEPS

The sculpture will be placed in storage. City staff will engage with the Confratellanza Italo-Canadese, which installed the sculpture in its current location, and other stakeholders including the Italian Cultural Centre and, if they are receptive, the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh Nations.

FINAL REMARKS

The current action does not prejudice the future of “The Dreamer.” It merely insures the preservation of the sculpture while its future care and siting are considered.

If Council has any further questions or needs additional information, please feel free to contact Sandra Singh directly at sandra.singh@vancouver.ca.



Sandra Singh, General Manager
Arts, Culture, and Community Services

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