



## AGENDA

June 24, 2020

### COLUMBUS ART COMMISSION VIRTUAL HEARING Streamed to the City of Columbus YouTube Channel

Call to Order (3:30 p.m.)

#### Applications

[Application: # 20-06-01](#)

**Applicant:**

Department of Finance

**Artist:**

Eduardo Alfieri

**Matter before the Columbus Art Commission:**

On June 18, 2020, Mayor Ginther announced that the Christopher Columbus Statue on the south plaza of City Hall would be removed. As with many cities across the country, historical sculptures and their representation in contemporary America are undergoing reassessment. The sculpture of Christopher Columbus was given to the citizens of Columbus by the people of Genoa, Italy in 1955 in, "...light of the historic bonds of friendship between the American and Italian peoples." The gift was accepted by the City of Columbus, "... as an expression of friendship and goodwill between two cities..."

It is often difficult to determine when a permanent work of art is no longer appropriate, yet the community has made it clear that the time is right to remove the sculpture, as its purpose and goodwill extended to the City some 65 years ago, now represents pain and destruction for many. Support for the Mayor's determination to remove the statue is requested.

**Presenting to the Commission:**

Kathy Owens, City of Columbus Department of Finance

Barry Bryant, City of Columbus Department of Finance

**#1 Motion to be considered:**

A motion to support the resolve of the Mayor to have the Christopher Columbus sculpture moved from its current location and to recommend an experienced art handler supervise removal and storage of the piece in an indoor location until its disposition is determined.

**Commission discussion of the motion**

**Public Comment**

**Chair Calls for a roll call vote on the motion**

**Additional Matters before the Art Commission:**

Mayor Ginther, in his recent [LETTER](#) to CAC Chair, Diane Nance, shared his decision to remove the sculpture and requested the Art Commission undertake the following actions:

1. Launch a community-driven process that embraces diversity to determine how to best replace the statue with public artwork that better reflects the people of Columbus and offers a shared vision of the future;

2. Evaluate the diversity and inclusiveness of all public art, including other monuments and statues in Columbus and the artists, and other symbols associated with the City, including the seal and flag, and to identify any issues of concern;
3. Determine the final disposition of the Christopher Columbus statue, working with appropriate Stakeholders and leaving open the opportunity to display it elsewhere, in proper context.

**#2 Motion to be considered:**

In recognition of Mayor Ginther’s decision to remove the Christopher Columbus statue, as outlined in his letter dated June 18, 2020, the Columbus Art Commission hereby resolves to undertake resolution of the actions requested by Mayor Ginther as outlined above. As the Commission begins to clarify its approach and undertake these actions, it requests that the Administration be aware that additional resources may be needed and requested, in order to carry out the Mayor’s requests in the good faith with which they were requested.

**Commission discussion of the motion and actions listed above, in the following order:**

1. Evaluation of the city’s art collection for diversity and inclusiveness within the context of a 21<sup>st</sup> century city;
2. Inclusion of the review of city symbols including the flag and seal within the review of the collection;
3. Determining the final disposition of the Christopher Columbus statue; and
4. How best to replace the statue with new public artwork.

**Public comment**

**Chair Calls for a roll call vote on the motion**

*Please note: The Art Commission is beginning a discussion of, and laying the groundwork for, the next steps in what will be an inclusive process embracing the diversity of our City.*

**Other Business:**

**Next scheduled Commission hearing**

- **July 15, 2020, Third Wednesday at 3:30**  
Virtual Webex Hearing Streamed to the City of Columbus YouTube Channel  
|
- **Adjournment**

**[LINK](#) TO PUBLIC PARTICIPATION GUIDELINES for COMMISSIONS and DESIGN REVIEW PANELS**