



Christopher Columbus Statue at Marconi Plaza Procedure for Public Input and Timeline

OVERVIEW:

The Mayor's Administration, through the Public Art Director, will send a proposal to the Art Commission for its July 22 meeting outlining a plan to remove the Christopher Columbus statue from Marconi Plaza due to public safety concerns. A hearing will also be held before the Historical Commission.

The Administration is committed to providing ample public process to gather feedback and provide a forum to discuss the future of the Christopher Columbus statue including the statue's proposed removal and a potential new public art installation in Marconi Plaza. The Administration, through the below detailed process, will encourage and provide an opportunity for all interested members of the public to participate in the process. The process and timeline are guided by the Philadelphia Home Rule Charter and other applicable laws and regulations, as well as the Administration's desire for robust public dialogue.

PROCESS:

June 24, 2020–July 21, 2020 – PUBLIC FEEDBACK/INPUT

Beginning on June 24, 2020, the City will provide a website whereby members of the public can submit their opinions and suggestions online to the City regarding the future of the statue, including the statue's proposed removal and a new public art installation in Marconi Plaza.

July 15, 2020 – FORMAL PROPOSAL TO ART COMMISSION

Pursuant to a request from the Mayor made in a June 15, 2020 letter, the City's Public Art Director, working with the City's Chief Cultural Officer, the Managing Director's Office and the Department of Parks & Recreation, will submit a formal, written proposal to the Art Commission no later than July 15, 2020. That proposal will provide further detail on the plan to remove the statue from Marconi Plaza.

July 22, 2020 – ART COMMISSION MEETING

[The Art Commission](#) will convene a special meeting to consider the proposal from the Administration. The special meeting will be held on Wednesday, July 22, 2020 starting at 9:30 AM. The Commission will post public notice of the special meeting. The notice will provide instructions for joining the special meeting along with additional instructions on how members of the public can submit written comments to the Art Commission, in advance of the meeting, or participate in the public comment portion of the special meeting.

July 24, 2020 – HISTORICAL COMMISSION MEETING

In 2017, the statue was designated as a historic object by the Historical Commission. On July 24, 2020 the Historical Commission will review an application to remove the statue from Marconi Plaza. More information will be forthcoming on how members of the public can participate in the meeting and will be made available on the website of the [Historical Commission](#).