

September 6, 2023

Alex M. Smith
The Philadelphia Art Commission
One Parkway, 1515 Arch Street, 13th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19102



Dear Alex,

The Office of Arts, Culture and the Creative Economy (OACCE) is submitting this letter to the Art Commission for Administrative approval of conservation work for the following City of Philadelphia owned public art sculptures to take place during 2023. This work will be performed by professional conservators who have annual on-call contracts with the City of Philadelphia for public art conservation. Note that items 1, 8-11, identified by asterisk (*), required emergency or time-sensitive conservation work that is either in process or completed, and are included in this letter for record/notification.

1. *AMOR*, Sister Cities Park, Benjamin Franklin Parkway* (see revised scope of work listed below)
2. *General George McClellan*, City Hall
3. *Major General John Fulton Reynolds*, City Hall
4. *Matthias William Baldwin*, City Hall
5. *Toleration*, Fairmount Park
6. *AIR*, Schuylkill River Banks
7. *Ellen Phillips Samuel Memorial*, Kelly Drive
8. *LOVE*, Love Park*
9. *John Wanamaker*, City Hall*
10. *General Kosciuszko*, Benjamin Franklin Parkway*
11. *A Quest for Parity: The Octavius V. Catto Memorial*, City Hall*

The revised scope of work for #1 *AMOR* consists of an on-site interim conservation treatment to clean and restore the sheen of the sculpture and improve the condition of the base while we plan and budget for an upcoming full restoration. The conservation treatment, performed by professional public art conservation firm Heritage Conservation Collective, will consist of gently cleaning the sculpture and the pedestal to remove debris and soiling, removing the peeling paint on the base and inpainting the areas where the metal is exposed on the base, and buffing the flat faces of the sculpture on the front, back, and sides and applying a polishing compound. The entire sculpture will be treated with a reversible wax coating, which will unify the surface appearance of the sculpture. Plans for a full restoration in 2024 include the temporary removal of the sculpture from the base by a professional rigging and transportation crew under supervision of Heritage Conservation Collective, who will transport the sculpture to the painting studio, where it will be stripped, primed, and repainted using a paint system recommended by the Robert Indiana Foundation to ensure the proper method and colors are used in re-painting. The base will also be removed, stored with the sculpture, and gently cleaned upon re-installation. The base and the refinished sculpture will be re-installed at its current location in Sister Cities Park. *Note the on-site

interim conservation treatments will take place the first week of September 2023 in order to align the work with various schedules and events taking place near the Parkway.

For #2 and 3, *George McClellan and Major General John Fulton Reynolds*, the conservation work will include cleaning and waxing of the sculpture to remove corrosion, as well as replacing some missing bronze elements from the saddle, reigns, and swords. The work will be performed by Kreilick Conservation.

For #4 *Matthias William Baldwin*, the conservation work will include cleaning and waxing of the sculpture to remove corrosion. The work will be performed by Kreilick Conservation.

For #5 *Toleration*, the graffiti will be removed from the back of the statue. The statue will be treated with a protective lime wash. The work will be performed by Heritage Conservation Collective.

For #6, *AIR*, graffiti will be removed from the plaque. The work will be performed by Heritage Conservation Collective.

For #7, *Ellen Phillips Samuel Memorial*, repairs will be made to the masonry at the stair on the Central terrace. The work will be performed by Heritage Conservation Collective.

For #8, *LOVE*, stickers were removed from the sculpture and the residue was gently cleaned off the surface to remove soiling and debris. The conservator also in-painted small areas of chipped paint with long-lasting, color-matched paints. The work was performed by Heritage Conservation Collective.

For #9, *John Wanamaker*, red paint was removed from the base by Kreilick Conservation. Due to the emergency nature of this work, this has been completed and this letter serves as a notice to the Art Commission for record.


For #10, *General Kosciuszko*, the statue and plaque were cleaned, patinated, and waxed. Graffiti and copper staining from the plaque were removed from the base. Due to the emergency nature of this work, this has been completed by Heritage Conservation Collective and this letter serves as a notice to the Art Commission for record.

For #11, *A Quest for Parity: The Octavius V. Catto Memorial*, graffiti was removed from the base. Additional conservation treatments will consist of replacing missing stainless steel lettering on the granite ballot box and securing them with stainless steel studs and epoxy. The work will be performed by Kreilick Conservation.

We are requesting for this to be included on the September 13, 2023 Philadelphia Art Commission meeting agenda as an Administrative item for approval (as typically presented in the past).

Should you require any additional information, please do not hesitate to call me at 215.686.4596.

Sincerely,



Marguerite Anglin, RA, NOMA
Public Art Director
Office of Arts, Culture and the Creative Economy