

January 31, 2024

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



SUBJECT: Request for Art Commission Administrative Review of Public Art Conservation

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 2024. 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 6-9, 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. *Emancipation Proclamation Fountain*, 15th and Market St
2. *Untitled* (bas relief), Fire Station 33, 4750 Richmond St
3. *Rocky*, 2600 Benjamin Franklin Parkway
4. *Joseph Leidy*, Academy of Natural Sciences, 19th and Benjamin Franklin Parkway
5. *General Kosciuszko*, 18th St. and Benjamin Franklin Parkway
6. *Hephaestus*, Pelbano Playground, 8101 Bustleton Ave*
7. *Charting a Path to Resistance*, City Archives, 548 Spring Garden St. *
8. *Smith Memorial Arch*, Avenue of the Republic, Fairmount Park*
9. *Philadelphia Beirut Bombing Memorial*, Veterans Memorial Park, 108 Spruce St*

The conservation scope of work for #1 *Emancipation Proclamation Fountain* consists of gently cleaning the statue, the veneered stone pedestal, and the bronze plaque on the front of the pedestal. The bronze statue will be waxed and buffed and a fresh coating of lacquer will be applied to the bronze plaque to prevent oxidation. The work will be performed by Sculptural Services, LLC.

For #2, *Untitled Fire Station 33*, the conservation work will include cleaning and waxing of the bronze bas relief to remove corrosion. The original concrete slab on which the bas relief was mounted is in poor condition, so a new concrete slab will be poured and installed using a French cleating system to support the slab and allow for contraction and expansion of the material to prevent spalling and cracking. The bronze bas relief will be bolted to the new concrete slab using the original hardware. The work will be performed by Sculptural Services, LLC.

For #3, *Rocky*, the conservation work will include cleaning the statue and removing adhesive residue from the statue, and spot patination as needed to unify surface conditions. The statue will then be waxed and buffed. The work will be performed by Heritage Conservation Collective, LLC.

For #4, *Joseph Leidy*, the statue and granite base will be cleaned to remove debris and the statue will be waxed and buffed. The work will be performed by Kreilick Conservation, LLC.

For #5, *General Kosciuszko*, the conservators will perform composite repairs to the marble portion of the base to repair the missing wedge-shaped piece on the west face of the base. The broken granite unit of the north face of the base will be removed and replaced with stone that matches the existing granite. Conservators will remove and re-set dislodged granite stone on the east face of the base and the failing mortar joints will be repointed. The work will be performed by Heritage Conservation Collective, LLC.

For #6, *Hephaestus*, the concrete sculpture and the portion of the base above grade were de-installed and temporarily removed from the site due to a Rebuild construction project at Pelbano Playground. The sculpture and base were transported to the conservator's studio for conservation treatments. The conservator, under the consultation of the artist, will restore missing elements of the sculpture to create a 3-D plastic model from which the sculpture will be recast in aluminum, which will be more durable material than the original concrete sculpture. Once the sculpture is cast, it will be powder-coated in a color to be recommended by the artist and approved by OACCE. The sculpture and base will be re-installed at Pelbano Playground once construction is completed. The work is being performed by Kreilick Conservation, LLC. Due to the time sensitive nature of this work as relates to the overall construction project, this work was initiated and is currently in process.

For #7, *Charting a Path to Resistance*, areas of peeling wallpaper were re-adhered to the wall with wheat starch paste, and the areas were dried under moderate pressure and heat with a tacking iron over silicone-release paper. The work was performed by Corine McHugh Conservation. Due to the time sensitive nature of this work needed to prevent additional peeling, this has been completed and this letter serves as a notice to the Art Commission for record.

For #8, *Smith Memorial Arch*, paint was removed from the masonry using a biodegradable masonry graffiti cleaner and a limestone and marble cleaning gel. The work was performed by Sculptural Services, LLC. 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 #9, *Philadelphia Beirut Bombing Memorial*, green residue left behind from graffiti was removed from the surface of the statue with gentle scrubbing and cleaning. The work was performed by Sculptural Services. 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.

We are requesting for this to be included on the February 14, 2024 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