

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 Harriet Tubman Statue Plaque Text

Dear Alex:

The Office of Arts, Culture, and the Creative Economy (OACCE) is submitting the attached Harriet Tubman statue plaque text to be reviewed at the Administrative level during the February 14, 2024 Philadelphia Art Commission meeting. This submission is in response to the Commissioners' request to see the plaque text during the January 10, 2024 meeting where Philadelphia's Harriet Tubman statue by Alvin Pettit, titled "*A Higher Power: The Call of a Freedom Fighter*," received final Art Commission approval.

Attached, please find the proposed plaque text, consisting of the artwork's title, the artist's name, installation date, the artwork materials and a description of Alvin Pettit's statue. The plaque will be 18"x24", fabricated in bronze and will be recessed in the pavers next to the statue. The plaque fabrication will be consistent with OACCE's standards for public art plaques and will be visually consistent with the existing plaques at City Hall.

The plaque text will include a QR code and website address which OACCE will use to continue engaging the public with exciting ways to talk about Harriet Tubman's contributions throughout the year during Black History Month, Women's History Month, Harriet Tubman's Birthday, Juneteenth, Fourth of July, the anniversary date of the installment of Philadelphia's Harriet Tubman statue, the upcoming semi-quincentennial, and other appropriate times in order to shine a spotlight on Harriet Tubman's life, legacy and ties to Philadelphia.

The plaque text will also be featured on the website, which will provide an opportunity for the text to be translated into multiple languages as suggested by the Philadelphia Art Commission.

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 (OACCE)

THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA HARRIET TUBMAN STATUE

A Higher Power: The Call of a Freedom Fighter

by Alvin Pettit

202X

silicon alloy bronze and matte black granite

Harriet Tubman, who found her freedom in Philadelphia, is historically known as the legendary conductor of the Underground Railroad. Many statues tell the story of Harriet Tubman leading enslaved people to freedom. However, Philadelphia's statue casts her in a different light by celebrating her lesser-known legacy as a Civil War hero, military strategist, and the first known woman to lead troops into battle. Harriet Tubman was not only skilled at escaping oppressors, but she was also capable of bringing the fight to them on the battlefield. Philadelphia's Harriet Tubman statue depicts a moment in history when tyranny was on the run from *her*. It is fitting to celebrate Harriet Tubman's Civil War accomplishments on the Northeast apron of City Hall where statues of two other Civil War soldiers are located.

It is the City's hope that all who visit *A Higher Power: The Call of a Freedom Fighter* will be inspired by Harriet Tubman to use their power to continue to fight for freedom everywhere.

Scan QR Code or visit www.creativephl.org to learn more:



AN ORIGINAL ARTWORK COMMISSIONED BY
THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

Harriet Tubman Statue Plaque

A HIGHER POWER
THE CALL OF A FREEDOM FIGHTER

By: Alvin Pettit

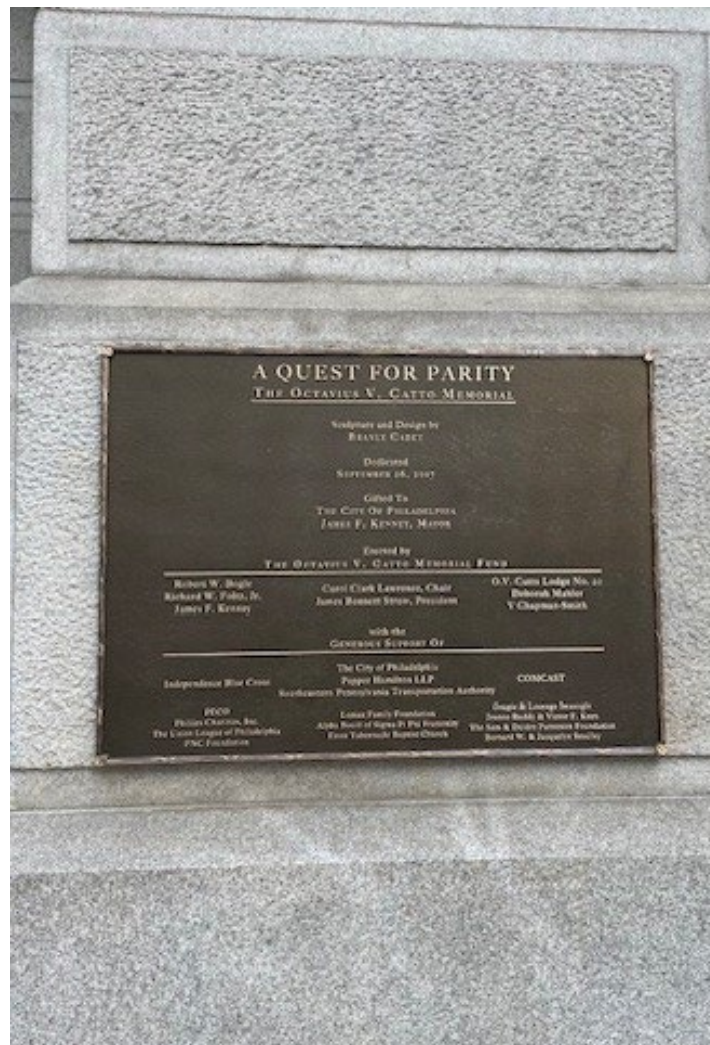
Art Commission Presentation
February 14, 2024



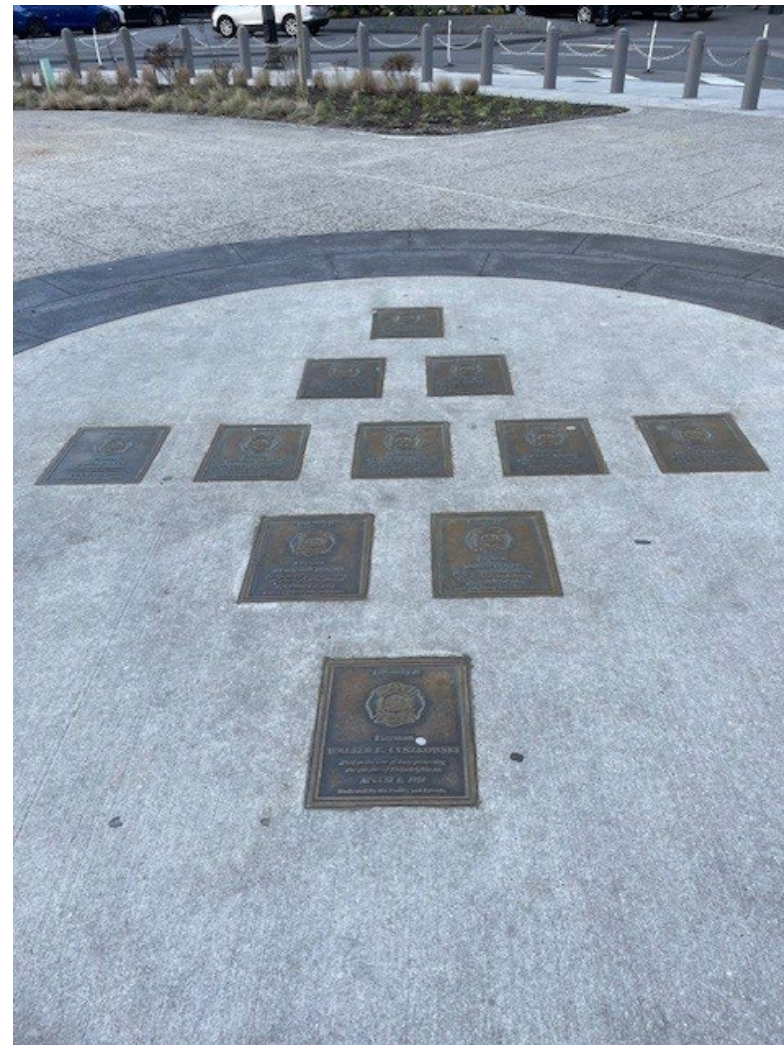
City Hall Plaque Examples



Alexander Milne Calder Plaque



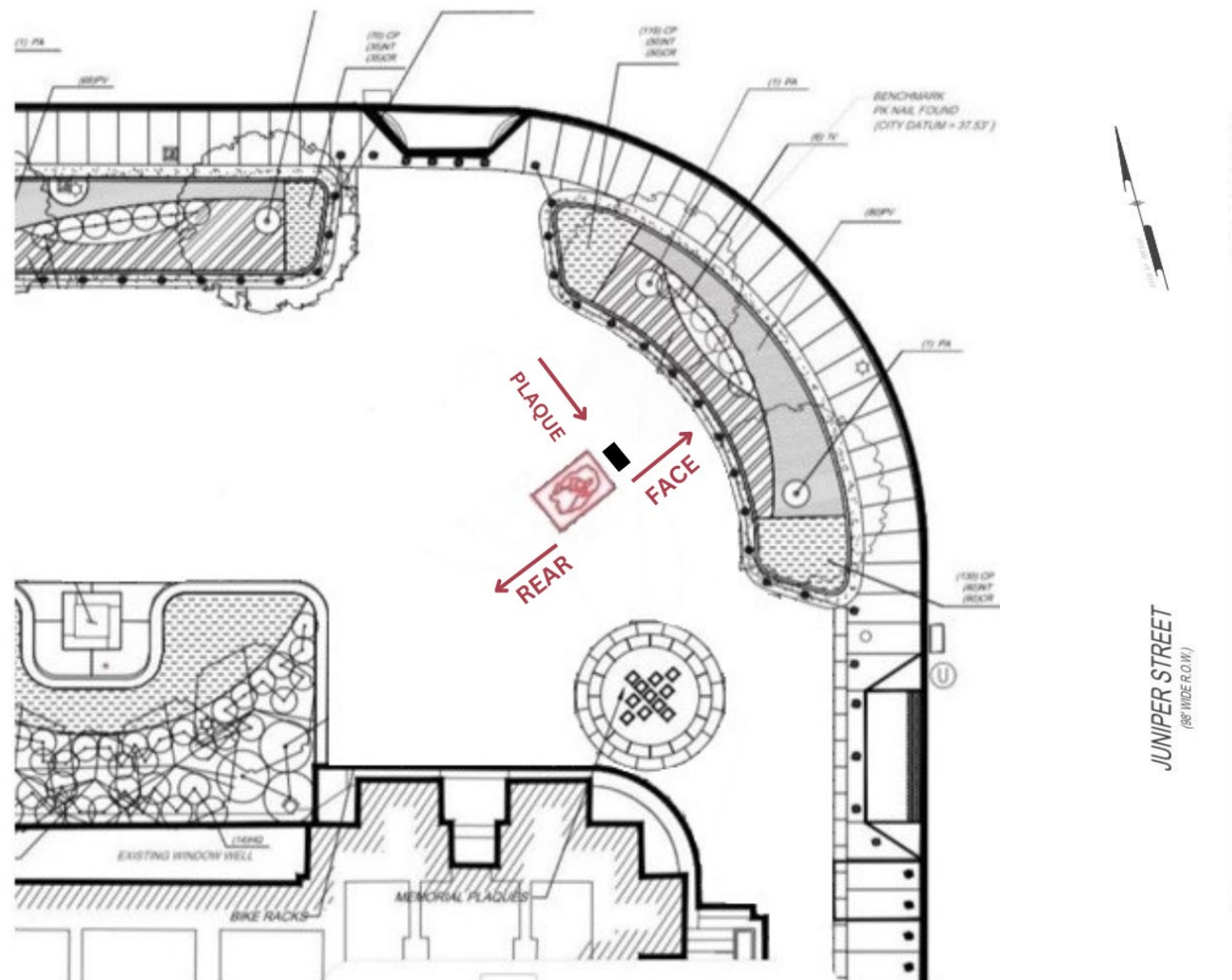
The Octavius V. Catto Memorial Plaque



Firefighters Memorial Plaques

Harriet Tubman Statue - Plaque Location

City Hall Northeast Apron



Harriet Tubman Statue - Plaque Text

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Plaque Description

- **Cast Bronze w/Raised Lettering**
- **Recessed in Pavement**
- **18" x 24"**