

Authority: MM2.17, by Councillor Mike Colle, seconded by Councillor Josh Matlow, as adopted by City of Toronto Council on January 30 and 31, 2019

## CITY OF TORONTO

### BY-LAW 947-2019

**To designate the property at 901 Lawrence Avenue West as being of cultural heritage value or interest.**

Whereas the Ontario Heritage Act authorizes the Council of a municipality to enact by-laws to designate real property, including all buildings and structures thereon, to be of cultural heritage value or interest; and

Whereas authority was granted by Council to designate the property at 901 Lawrence Avenue West as being of cultural heritage value or interest; and

Whereas the Council of the City of Toronto has caused to be served upon the owners of the lands and premises known as 901 Lawrence Avenue West and upon the Ontario Heritage Trust, Notice of Intention to designate the property, and has caused the Notice of Intention to be posted on the City's website for a period of 30 days in accordance with Municipal Code Chapter 162, Notice, Public, Article II, § 162-4.1. Notice requirements under the Ontario Heritage Act; and

Whereas no notice of objection was served upon the Clerk of the municipality; and

Whereas the reasons for designation are set out in Schedule A to this By-law;

The Council of the City of Toronto enacts:

1. The property at 901 Lawrence Avenue West, more particularly described in Schedule B attached to this By-law, is designated as being of cultural heritage value or interest.
2. The City Solicitor is authorized to cause a copy of this By-law to be registered against the property described in Schedule B to this By-law in the proper Land Registry Office.
3. The City Clerk is authorized to cause a copy of this By-law to be served upon the owners of the property at 901 Lawrence Avenue West and upon the Ontario Heritage Trust and to cause notice of this By-law to be posted on the City's website for a period of 30 days in accordance with Municipal Code Chapter 162, Notice, Public, Article II, § 162-4.1. Notice requirements under the Ontario Heritage Act.

Enacted and passed on June 19, 2019.

Frances Nunziata,  
Speaker

Ulli S. Watkiss,  
City Clerk

(Seal of the City)

## SCHEDULE A

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE REASONS FOR DESIGNATION

The property at 901 Lawrence Avenue West (Columbus Centre) is worthy of designation under Part IV, Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act for its cultural heritage value and meets Ontario Regulation 9/06, the provincial criteria prescribed for municipal designation under the two categories of historical/associative and contextual value.

#### **Description**

The property at 901 Lawrence Avenue West is located on the south side of Lawrence Avenue West, to the west of Dufferin Street and contains the Columbus Centre, which includes the three-storey St. Mary's Training School (1941), a one to three storey sports and recreational centre including a swimming pool (1962, 1968 and 1980), a double-storey entry atrium (1980) with the Joseph Carrier Art Gallery and the three-storey Rotunda (1980) through an agreement between the Italian Canadian Benevolent Corporation (ICBC) and the Government of Ontario. The complex is clad primarily in red brick with curtain wall-glazing on the 1978-80 addition and faces a large landscaped setting with a sculpture garden and tennis courts.

#### **Statement of Cultural Heritage Value**

The property at 901 Lawrence Avenue West has historic value for its association with the Sisters of the Good Shepherd, a religious order whose purpose was to provide refuge and education for young women who found themselves in perilous conditions or living as social outcasts. The Sisters purchased the property to build the St. Mary's Training School, which was occupied by the school from 1941 to 1973 and later adapted as part of the Columbus Centre complex. The property is also valued for its association with the ICBC (now known as Villa Charities) which through the dedicated, voluntary leadership of individual members undertook the fund-raising campaigns and building of retirement and community facilities for Italian Canadians from the late 1960s onward which culminated in 1980 with the completion of the Columbus Centre which has become a primary centre for Italian Canadian culture and heritage.

Located on the south side of Lawrence Avenue West at the heart of the former Sisters of the Good Shepherd property, the Columbus Centre has contextual value as it defines and maintains the character of the property as a hub of Italian community facilities. The rotunda which is the most visible architectural expression of the Columbus Centre sits within a sculpture garden with mature trees, pathways and tennis courts, surrounded on its borders by social and cultural institutions of the Italian community which include schools, retirement homes, long-term care, as well as the social, athletic, business, research and cultural facilities of the centre itself. The Columbus Centre is visually, physically, functionally and historically linked to its surroundings. As the physical and cultural focal point of the landscape as well as the neighbouring community, the rotunda is a landmark.

The heritage attributes of the property at 901 Lawrence Avenue West are:

- The setback, placement and orientation of the Columbus Centre rotunda sitting within the landscaped setting of the sculpture garden which includes mature trees, and provision for sculptures and a pathway which connects with the Villa Colombo
- The scale, circular form and massing of the three storey rotunda designed as a large gathering space
- The mosaic-tiled and brick door frame at the east corner of the south elevation of the St. Mary's Training School with the words "St. Mary's Training School" and decorative mosaic patterns

**SCHEDULE B**

## LEGAL DESCRIPTION

PART OF PIN 10238-0112 (LT)

PART OF LOT 5, CONCESSION 3, WYS, GEOGRAPHIC TOWNSHIP OF YORK,  
DESIGNATED AS PARTS 1 AND 5, PLAN 64R-16596

City of Toronto and Province of Ontario

Land Titles Division of the Toronto Registry Office (No. 66)