

Attachment # 1 to Agreement with Toronto Event Centre  
EB Cox's sculpture of Hercules: Condition and Repair, Post Removal From Base Into Storage  
Exhibition Place, Toronto

**1.0 Background**

During our conservation maintenance work during the summer of 2018, it was noticed that the lower zone of the Hercules sculpture displayed thick dimensioned exfoliation occurring at immediate grade level. This was brought to the notice of Exhibition Place at the time, and was formalized in a letter we sent in September 2018. Essentially, the deterioration had gained pace quickly from the season before. A combination of conditions brought on by a severe winter of deep freeze and thaw temperatures, plus precipitation, was felt to be the accelerator for the damage.

We urged that consideration be given to accessing the structural condition of the lower portion of the statue, and real concern was expressed over how quickly and extensively the damage was occurring. As several sculptures on the property had already been lifted up from the heavy clay subsoil where similar surface loss had been observed and reset on raised beds of good drainage aggregate, our recommendation for Hercules was to have him lifted out of the ground as soon as could be possible. It should be noted that we took the time while on site during last summer, and at no added cost to our contract work, to reattach a large spalled surface at the outer left calf of the sculpture.

Action was taken during the autumn of 2018 to remove Hercules entirely from its location within the property. We did not participate in that move, but our services were called on soon after to visit the statue, now laid upon a flat bed wagon inside an Exhibition Place grounds building (figs. 1).



Fig.1

This brief report sets out to concisely describe the condition of the lower foot and base zone of the sculpture that has deteriorated while set below grade. An outline of conservation treatment/interventions, as well as cost and schedule for completing the repairs are also provided.

## 2.0 Description of condition

It was a shock to see just how extensive the deterioration and associated loss of sculpted surface had taken place at the lower foot/base zone while situated below grade. Broad thick exfoliation has led to a significant amount of detachment and loss (fig.2, 3), especially at the left side.



Fig.2



Fig.3

It is understood that the numerous detached pieces were found to be loose in the ground as the sculpture was lifted from position. These pieces were gathered into a heavy shopping bag, which was observed during my condition assessment visit. The original placement of the pieces could not be referenced or mapped to their original location along the deteriorated surface.

The sculpture is not perfectly protected in the present arrangement of wood and padding support. For example, there is a great of weight load stress upon the vulnerable base/foot and leg region. The fact that the base is directly borne upon the wagon floor is unfortunate, since major fissures and one substantial crack are present within the base (figs.4, 5, 6).

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Fig.4



Fig.5



Fig.6

### **3.0 Proposed repairs**

Some effort is required to attempt reattaching portions of surface sculpted fragments retained in the shopper bag. A low proportion is anticipated to have the required integrity and completeness to make this possible. However, reattachment of a small portion, combined with sensitively prepared mortar fills that are shaped to fill gaps and round off voided gaps will go some way, if small, in returning visual harmony to the artistic quality of the artist's work. But it must be clear to all concerned that only a small percent of original contour and volume of the sculpture form will be returned. It would be ethically wrong, mostly impossible and visually incongruous to attempt inserting new carved or moulded portions of lost surface.

Numerous fissures and cracks present in the base and within the feet zone will be secured by mechanical consolidation methods, namely in the form of stitching and securing with fine stainless steel rods.

### **4.0 Cost and schedule**

A total cost for completing the conservation work, which includes the time spent to communicate, visit the sculpture and prepare this report is **\$16,500.00 +tax**.

The work would be completed during the month of May 2019.

**END**