

Garden of the Greek Gods Existing Statuary Relocation & Conservation Plan Update

Date: September 14, 2021
To: The Board of Governors of Exhibition Place
From: Chief Executive Officer
Wards: All

SUMMARY

This report provides an update on the relocation plans for the Statuary Garden of the Greek Gods statues ("GGG"), presently located on the Leased Premises of Toronto Event Centre.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Chief Executive Officer recommends that:

1. The Board receive this report for information.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The estimated cost of \$500,000 for the relocation of the twenty-one (21) GGG statues is provided for in the 2022 Capital Budget submission.

DECISION HISTORY

At its meeting of April 25, 2003, the Board approved of the terms of the Lease with Muzik Clubs Inc., which was subsequently approved by City Council at its meeting of June 24, 25 and 26, 2003.

<http://www.google.ca/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=1&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=0CB8QFjAAahUKEwj7h6nwuzHAhWEox4KH5yC9Y&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.toronto.ca%2Flegdocs%2F2003%2Fagendas%2Fcouncil%2Fcc030624%2Fpof5rpt%2Fcl017.pdf&usq=AFQjCNFNnGxqjNunUbJ3HhellLjspi6rxw>

At its meeting of April 23, 2010, the Board approved the purchase of the Greek Gods from the CNEA at a value of \$500,000.

<http://www.explace.on.ca/database/rte/files/CNEA%20%20PURCHASE%20OF%20ARTIFACTS.pdf>

At its meeting of May 23, 2014, the Board approved a Member Motion brought by Councillor Layton which recommended that the CEO, with relevant City staff, report to the Board on several matters related to the Greek Gods.

[http://www.explace.on.ca/database/rte/files/MemberMotion-Layton-Art\(1\).pdf](http://www.explace.on.ca/database/rte/files/MemberMotion-Layton-Art(1).pdf)

At its meeting of June 25, 2014, the Board approved recommendations / motions with respect to the development of a policy related to Exhibition Place Public Art Collections; access to, relocation of, and determining the condition of the Greek Gods.

[http://www.explace.on.ca/database/rte/files/Item%2012-GGG\(1\).pdf](http://www.explace.on.ca/database/rte/files/Item%2012-GGG(1).pdf)

At its meeting of September 10, 2014, the Board considered an information report and adopted a motion to establish a working group to evaluate options for the relocation of the Greek Gods; costing for the removal; legal implications relating to the lease agreement, copyright etc.

[http://www.explace.on.ca/database/rte/files/Item%2014-GGG\(3\).pdf](http://www.explace.on.ca/database/rte/files/Item%2014-GGG(3).pdf)

At its meeting of December 1, 2014, the Board considered a report from the City Solicitor, which outlined copyright and lease arrangement issues with respect to the Greek Gods sculptures.

[http://www.explace.on.ca/database/rte/files/Item%2012-GGG-Solicitor\(2\).pdf](http://www.explace.on.ca/database/rte/files/Item%2012-GGG-Solicitor(2).pdf)

At its meeting of April 24, 2015, the Board considered a report on the terms of reference of the Working Group and the Final Conservation Report of the Board's consultant, and adopted a motion to expand the group membership and to proceed with urgent repairs to the sculptures.

<http://www.explace.on.ca/database/rte/files/Item%2015-GGG.pdf>

At its meeting of February 12, 2016, the Board adopted a motion referring Report No. 19 dated September 25, 2015 entitled "Relocation of the Garden of the Greek Gods – Report of Working Group" to a special meeting of the Business Development Committee, with an invitation to all Board members, followed by consideration of the report and the recommendations of the Business Development Committee at a special meeting of the Board.

<https://www.explace.on.ca/files/file/58d03ea64c3b2/Item-19-GGG-Working-Group-Relocation-Report.pdf>

At its meeting of May 13, 2016, the Business Development Committee received subject report for information and recommends the motion outlined above to the Board.

<https://www.explace.on.ca/files/file/58b5ff7610c51/Item-3-GGG-Working-Group-Relocation.pdf>

At its meeting of June 13, 2019, the Board adopted a motion to direct the Chief Executive Officer to not undertake any construction activities on the patio of Toronto Event Centre related to the reinstatement of the sculpture Hercules, but report back to

the Board at its meeting on September 19, 2019 on the condition of Hercules and the results of the conservation and restoration efforts.

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2019.EP3.23>

At its meeting of April 15, 2021, the Board, by its adoption of Item EP17.3, approved, subject to obtaining the necessary City authorization, the Agreement, substantially on the terms and conditions set out in Appendix A and Confidential Attachment 1.

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2021.EP17.3>

At its meeting of July 14, 2021, Toronto City Council approved the Agreement with the Toronto Event Centre. One of the provisions in the agreement permits Exhibition Place to relocate the Greek Gods to a more accessible community viewing location at Exhibition Place.

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2021.GL24.8#>

COMMENTS

In September 2014, the Board of Governors approved a Working Group to evaluate options for relocating the Garden of the Greek Gods. Chaired by Exhibition Place management staff, the Working Group included Kathy Sutton (the artist's daughter), staff from the local Councillor's office, representation from the City's Museum and Heritage Services and the Toronto Greek Community, as well as, Exhibition Place Archive staff.

After a thorough analysis and consideration of fourteen (14) potential sites, the Working Group determined that the Greek Gods' best location would be the Rose Garden area south of Bandshell Park. Notably, the artist in 1979, prior to the establishment of the original sculpture garden on the south lawn of the Horticulture Building favoured this site.

In 2018, Exhibition Place retained James Bailey Architect to design new sculpture platforms for the Garden of the Greek Gods and conduct a Stage 2 Archaeological Assessment of the Rose Garden in anticipation of the relocation.

At its meeting of July 14, 2021, Toronto City Council approved an Agreement with the Toronto Event Centre. One of the provisions in the agreement permits Exhibition Place to relocate the Greek Gods to a more accessible community viewing location at Exhibition Place.

James Bailey Architect and Trevor Gillingwater, Stone Conservator, have been retained to continue the work on the relocation of the Greek Gods on the new accelerated timeline. Locating and preparatory work will be completed at the Rose Garden site in summer 2022.

Monthly inspections of the Garden of the Greek Gods conducted by Exhibition Place staff will continue while the statues are on the Toronto Event Centre patio. Trevor Gillingwater, Stone Conservator, will accompany staff on periodic inspections to assess the statues' ongoing integrity prior to relocation.

The Working Group, chaired by Exhibition Place staff, will reconvene in fall 2021 and will be an integral part of the relocation project throughout. The greater community will be kept informed through a dedicated web page on the Exhibition Place website, including inspection information and photographs, project timeline, and progress updates.

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SIGNATURE

Don Boyle
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