

### Garden of the Greek Gods Plaque Installation

**Date:** March 22, 2022  
**To:** The Board of Governors of Exhibition Place  
**From:** Don Boyle, Chief Executive Officer  
**Wards:** All

#### SUMMARY

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This report provides information on the proposed installation of a commemorative plaque to celebrate the relocation of the Garden of the Greek Gods and the work of the artist Elford Bradley Cox ("E.B. Cox").

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

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The Chief Executive Officer recommends that:

1. The Board approve the installation of a plaque commemorating E.B. Cox and the Garden of the Greek Gods.

#### FINANCIAL IMPACT

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Approval of this report will result in an expenditure of approximately \$6,000 for the fabrication and installation of the plaque. Exhibition Place will also finance the ongoing maintenance of the plaque.

#### DECISION HISTORY

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At its meeting of July 26, 1999, the Board adopted a policy for the installation of commemorative plaques on the grounds. The policy sets out guidelines and responsibilities for the installation of plaques at Exhibition Place.

The Exhibition Place 2017-2019 Strategic Plan has a Recognition and Public Understanding Goal to reaffirm and enhance the profile of the Exhibition Place cultural mandate.

At its meeting of April 15, 2021, the Board approved an agreement with the Toronto Event Centre, later approved by Toronto City Council on July 14, 2021. One of the provisions in the agreement permits Exhibition Place to relocate the Garden of the Greek Gods from the tenant lease premise to a more accessible community viewing location at Exhibition Place.

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

## COMMENTS

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Exhibition Place has approximately 100 commemorative plaques on the grounds.

Elford Bradley Cox (1914 - 2003) was an internationally recognized Canadian sculptor whose works can be found throughout the city and the province. E.B. Cox has more works of art at Exhibition Place than any other artist. The grounds is home to 24 of his sculptures, including the Garden of the Greek Gods.

Work on the relocation of the Garden of the Greek Gods to the Rose Garden at the west end of Exhibition Place grounds is currently underway, with an anticipated completion date of summer 2022. As part of the ceremony celebrating the relocation of these 20 sculptures, Exhibition Place will unveil a plaque commemorating E.B. Cox and the Garden of the Greek Gods. The plaque will be approximately 2.5' x 2' in size, mounted on a four-foot pole and have the following wording:

### *THE GARDEN OF THE GREEK GODS*

*These twenty stone sculptures, collectively known as The Garden of the Greek Gods, were created in the 1960s by the late Toronto artist Elford Bradley Cox, RCA (1914 - 2003). The sculptures represent gods, goddesses, and monsters of Greek mythology.*

*In 1979, the collection was acquired by Toronto restaurateur Athanasios Karamanos, better known as Arthur Carman. To celebrate his Greek heritage, Carman donated the collection to the City of Toronto for permanent display at Exhibition Place.*

*E.B. Cox carved the sculptures from massive blocks of limestone using an air hammer and chisels. They are some of the largest sculptures in Canada. Hercules is the tallest, at over three metres. Four additional sculptures by E.B. Cox are located on these grounds, near the Queen Elizabeth Building.*

*E.B. Cox is widely acknowledged as Canada's foremost sculptor in stone. His many works of public art can be found throughout the city and province, with countless smaller works held by private collectors across the country.*

The details of the plaque and its installation adequately address or otherwise satisfy the issues and procedures required by the Exhibition Place Plaque Policy. As well, the plaque will not impede vehicular or pedestrian traffic and will not present a problem to any show or event held at Exhibition Place.

Appendix A to this report provides the name and picture of the Garden of Greek God sculptures. Appendix B to this report indicate the site for the relocation of the sculptures.

## **CONTACT**

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## **SIGNATURE**

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Don Boyle  
Chief Executive Officer

## **ATTACHMENTS**

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Appendix A - Garden of Greek God Sculptures  
Appendix B - Site Sketch for the Plaque and Relocation of the Sculptures