

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

Date: November 29, 2022
To: The Board of Governors of Exhibition Place
From: Chief Executive Officer
Wards: Ward 10 - Spadina-Fort York

SUMMARY

This report provides a final update on relocating the Garden of the Greek Gods ("GGG") sculptures, previously located on the Toronto Event Centre patio.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Chief Executive Officer recommends that:

1. The Board receive this report for information.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The estimated cost of \$500,000 for relocating the twenty-one (21) GGG sculptures was 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.

<https://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/2003/agendas/council/cc030624/pof5rpt/cl017.pdf>

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.

<https://explace.wpenginpowered.com/files/file/58c6e0c3de819/Item-26-CNEA-Artifacts.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.

[https://www.explace.on.ca/files/file/58d01e357f43a/MemberMotion-Layton-Art\(1\).pdf](https://www.explace.on.ca/files/file/58d01e357f43a/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.

[https://www.explace.on.ca/files/file/58ca9f946944c/Item-12-GGG\(1\).pdf](https://www.explace.on.ca/files/file/58ca9f946944c/Item-12-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.

[https://www.explace.on.ca/files/file/58c9a6daa8090/Item-14-GGG\(3\).pdf](https://www.explace.on.ca/files/file/58c9a6daa8090/Item-14-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.

[https://www.explace.on.ca/files/file/58c6f5288d9ee/Item-12-GGG-Solicitor\(2\).pdf](https://www.explace.on.ca/files/file/58c6f5288d9ee/Item-12-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.

<https://explace.wpenginpowered.com/files/file/58c6ba56780a6/Item-15-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://explace.wpenginpowered.com/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 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.
<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2021.GL24.8>

At its meeting of September 28, 2021, the Board received a report for information providing an update on relocation plans for the Garden of the Greek Gods statues sculptures.
<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2021.EP19.6>

At its meeting of September 14, 2022, the Board approved of actions taken to award the relocation contract to Colonial Building Restoration.
<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2022.EP25.4>

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, 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 14th, 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.

The estimated cost of \$500,000 for the relocation of the twenty-one (21) GGG sculptures was provided for in the 2022 Capital Budget submission and approved by the Board at its meeting of September 28, 2021.

In consultation with the tenant at Toronto Event Centre, the sculptures were removed from the TEC patio in April 2022 and placed in storage under the Gardiner.

The tender call for the relocation contract was issued on May 24, 2022 and awarded to Colonial Building Restoration on June 20, 2022. Construction in the east Rose Garden area commenced the following week. After several delays due to archaeological findings and mitigation, and the restrictions posed by events, construction was substantially completed on October 28, 2022.

To celebrate the relocation, Exhibition Place hosted an event on the morning of November 1, 2022, for approximately 100 invited guests including members of the Board of Governors, family and supporters of E.B. Cox, members of the Toronto arts and Greek communities, local community members, contractors, members of the media and Exhibition Place staff. Sharleen Ahmed and Peter Leon from the Board, along with CEO Don Boyle were on hand to cut the ribbon to officially unveil the Garden.

The November 1 celebration also launched a collaborative project with the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH)'s HeART Lab, called Digital Amphitheatre. The augmented reality enhanced website encourages visitors to the Garden to share stories and ideas that interact with the sculptures.

Conservation plans for the Garden of the Greek Gods will follow the procedure for all public art at Exhibition Place and will be inspected on an annual basis.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

Don Boyle
Chief Executive Officer