

City Council

Notice of Motion

MM24.8	ACTION			Ward: 24
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Authorization to Accept the Donation of a Public Sculpture at the Guild Park and Gardens - by Councillor Paul Ainslie, seconded by Councillor Jennifer McKelvie

** Notice of this Motion has been given.*

** This Motion is subject to referral to the Economic and Community Development Committee. A two-thirds vote is required to waive referral.*

Recommendations

Councillor Paul Ainslie, seconded by Councillor Jennifer McKelvie, recommends that:

1. City Council authorize the General Manager, Economic Development and Culture, to enter into and execute a donation agreement with the Estate of Emanuel Hahn to accept the donation of the bronze sculpture “War Horse” by Emanuel Hahn, on such terms deemed necessary and appropriate by the General Manager, Economic Development and Culture, and in a form satisfactory to the City Solicitor.

Summary

This motion requests City Council authority and approval to accept the donation of “War Horse”, a sculpture by Emanuel Hahn, to be re-installed at the Guild Park and Gardens as part of the City of Toronto’s Public Art and Monuments Collection.

“War Horse” is a larger-than-life bronze bust of a bridled horse head, created by celebrated German/Canadian sculptor Emanuel Hahn (1881–1957). Hahn had a prolific career and left an indelible mark on his home city of Toronto. In addition to his monumental works in the public realm, Hahn contributed to the education of countless young artists through his four decades as an instructor and head of sculpture at the Ontario College of Art. He cemented his artistic legacy in the lives (and pockets!) of each Canadian through his design of the Bluenose and the caribou featured on the 10 cent and 25 cent coins.

“War Horse” already has a long history at the Guild Park and Gardens. Over the decades, the Guild became a cultural destination, featuring an exceptional art collection built by Rosa and Spencer Clark, much of which is displayed outdoors. Hahn’s widow, Elizabeth Wyn Wood, a celebrated Canadian artist in her own right, previously loaned “War Horse” to the Clarks for temporary display on the grounds among sculptures by other renowned Canadian artists such as Sorel Etrog and E.B. Cox.

“War Horse” was displayed at the Guild for more than twenty years before it was returned to the artist’s estate, and it has been greatly missed by Toronto residents and park visitors. The artist’s family is now seeking to bring the sculpture back to the park by donating it to the City

of Toronto. Through this generous donation, the estate will be reuniting this cherished artwork with one of Scarborough's unique cultural landmarks.

Staff in the Economic Development and Culture Division are working closely with the artist's estate to plan for the re-installation of the artwork pending Council approval of the donation. With adoption of this motion, the General Manager, Economic Development and Culture, will negotiate and execute a donation agreement with the estate of Emanuel Hahn.

Background Information (City Council)

Member Motion MM24.8