

Communication (b)

From: York Pioneers [<mailto:yorkpioneers@gmail.com>]

Sent: Saturday, April 18, 2015 5:24 PM

To: councillor_grimes@toronto.ca; wayne@dataonthespot.com; cdejak@rogers.com;
councillor_karygiannis@toronto.ca; councillor_layton@toronto.ca; councillor_mammoliti@toronto.ca;
hugh@mcipr.com; afowles@toronto.ca

Cc: Dianne Young

Subject: Access to Garden of the Greek Gods

Dear members of the Board of Exhibition Place,

I am writing you today to ask for your support in ensuring that Toronto's public art remains accessible to the public.

"The Garden of the Greek Gods" is a collection of 21 sculptures by the late Torontonians E.B. Cox, a noted artist whose work is considered to be an important part of Canada's art history. The collection was donated to the City of Toronto in the 1970s. It is on the City's inventory of public art, and was on public display at Exhibition Place since 1979, in a garden setting where it was enjoyed by children and adults alike.

I understand that this public art was given away by Exhibition Place to Muzik Nightclub in a 20-year lease that started in 2004. In the spring of 2014, the nightclub expanded its patio, and now fences in the entire collection which is being used as "patio decorations." It can no longer be seen by the public or enjoyed by children or families.

Why is a gift to the City, a collection that is on the inventory of public art, now in the hands of a private company?

Why is a gift to the city now only available to the patrons of a commercial tenant rather than the whole population?

Does this decision represent a change in policy for the city in the way it handles donations of art and other artifacts?

Will other gifts to the city be hired out to private companies? What is the process for these decisions?

I am aware that a "Free the Greek Gods" team, chaired by the artist's daughter, Kathy Sutton, has been trying for the last year to have this situation rectified. Ms Sutton and I have communicated about the plight of the Greek Gods, and the picture she describes is of concern to the York Pioneer & Historical Society.

We agree with Ms Sutton that it is unacceptable to have the sculpture remain on the leased property of Muzik for another year. It would be better to have it placed in temporary storage than to see it remain on the nightclub patio for another year.

How can we all work together to ensure a similar situation does not occur again? I look forward to hearing from you on plans to relocate Toronto's Garden of the Greek Gods, so that a public gift can once more be enjoyed by all.

Sincerely,

David Raymond,
President
York Pioneer & Historical Society
Apt. 412
260 Heath Street West
Toronto, ON
M5P 3L6

CC: Dianne Young
CEO, Exhibition Place

YORK PIONEER AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY
PO BOX 45026
2482 YONGE ST
TORONTO ON CA
M4P 3E3

www.yorkpioneers.org
yorkpioneers@gmail.com