NYC Parks

Mitchell J. Silver, FAICP
Commissioner

T 212.360.1305
F 212.360.1345

E mitchell.silver@parks.nyc.gov

City of New York
Parks & Recreation

The Arsenal
Central Park
New York, NY 10065
www.nyc.gov/parks

May 5, 2015

Ms. Coline Jenkins
Vice President
Elizabeth Cady Stanton & Susan B. Anthony Statue Fund Inc.
c/o Pam Elam, President
P. O. Box 1500 Gracie Station
New York, NY 10028

Dear Coline,

This letter is to confirm our conceptual approval for your organization's effort to commission and endow a monument to Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton, pioneers in the movement for women's suffrage and rights. The site NYC Parks, the Central Park Conservancy and your monument committee have mutually selected to situate this monument is immediately south of the perimeter entrance of Central Park at West 77th Street. The commission of this monument will redress a disparity between those sculptures of actual men placed within the park mainly in the 19th century, and the choice of location represents a highly visible location resonant with nearby New York Historical Society and the American Museum of Natural History, and symbolic association with the sculptures of Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass across the street.

We wish to at this time to again outline the roles and responsibilities that would be required to bring a project of such significance and magnitude to fruition. From the erection of the George Washington sculpture in Union Square Park in 1856 to now, the vast majority of our commemorative statuary and monuments has been privately financed. Since the late 1980s, there has been an additional requirement at NYC Parks that new permanent artworks be accompanied by an endowment adequate to support annual care—ensuring that these monuments—whose very meaning is to perpetuate memory and enduring values—are preserved in a consistent and protective manner, and not subject to the vagaries of city budgets.

We expect such a project as you propose to cost minimally in the range of $500,000 to $1 million. Before retaining professional services, you will need to show evidence of its financial commitment. We are aware that you have already established a non-profit 501-C3, that may serve as a conduit for charitable contributions toward your enterprise, and will dedicate itself toward the realization of the monument.

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Working cooperatively with the appropriate City and Central Park Conservancy staff, your organization should retain the services of a skilled project manager, with prior experience in public art commissions and city review procedures. This project manager would be hired by your organization, handling the myriad of details, and serving as the principal liaison to Parks, the Central Park Conservancy, and other city agencies, as well as the selected artist, engineers, fabricators, installers etc.

The first step would be for the project manager to develop in consultation with DPR, CPC and the Public Design Commission ("PDC") a succinct project mission statement. The project manager would develop a budget based on the available funds. She/he would schedule and organize all meetings, obtain structural plans, develop the full proposal and present it to any relevant design review boards (PDC, Landmarks); conduct community outreach to groups and entities including, but not limited to the community boards contiguous with Central Park.

The selection and commission of the artist will follow the general procedure utilized by the Department of Cultural Affairs' Percent for Art Program. By mutual agreement, a panel will be composed of representatives of your group and the City, and should include artist and community members. This is a two-stage process in which the panel is convened to select three to five artists from a larger and diverse pool of potential artists and designers, and to develop proposals within the pre-defined project mission and budget. The panel then reviews these proposals and selects a finalist and alternate. DPR's office of Art & Antiquities will be the initial contact point for all other matters related to the monument's placement on parkland.

The project manager should have prior experience managing projects of a similar nature. He/she will represent the sponsors and have oversight of all phases of the project from design to installation. The Stanton-Anthony statue fund may see fit to enlist other individuals or entities (a public art consultant, an engineer, development associate, or publicist for example) on a pro-bono or for-hire basis, depending on the nature of a particular aspect of the project, who would report to the project manager. The project manager will oversee payments directly to firms and vendors.

The maintenance fund will be determined by DPR's office of Art & Antiquities and CPC based on the selected design and consideration and estimation of baseline annual care and costs. As a place holder in developing the budget, a certain percentage of the total funds can be set aside for the maintenance fund. This fund, to be raised in its entirety prior to fabrication of the monument, will be held in a dedicated account by the Central Park Conservancy, unless otherwise determined.

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All designs are subject to the advice and consent of PDC, which has the ultimate legal authority in such matters. Typically the design review process is three-fold. First a project is reviewed at a conceptual level. Next a preliminary proposal is submitted for review (this is a detailed proposal, including actual designs, dimensions, material samples, plantings, even text and type). Once preliminary approval is granted by DC the monument may be built. A final requirement is the submission upon completion of photographic documentation that the monument has been built in substantial compliance with the approved preliminary design as well as a detailed maintenance plan. This serves as a permanent record that is especially helpful in terms of future care.

The City will provide additional advice and oversight at critical junctures, help facilitate the project and meet scheduled milestones, and work with the Monument Committee and the Museum to plan an appropriate dedication ceremony.

Our Director of Art & Antiquities, Jonathan Kuhn informs me that the next monument planning meeting for this project is scheduled for May 20 at 10:30am.

Sincerely,

Mitchell J. Silver, FAICP

cc. Pam Elam
Douglass Blonsky

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