

## LOUISVILLE METRO PUBLIC ART UPDATE

<https://louisvilleky.gov/government/arts-culture/louis-xvi>



COMMISSION ON  
PUBLIC ART

Title: *Louis XVI*

Date: c. 1816-1827

Artist: Achille-Joseph-Étienne Valois (1785-1862)

Medium: Carrara marble statue, Limestone base

Dimensions: Weight: 6.5 tons (pedestal), 9 tons (statue)

Height: 6'10" (pedestal), 10' (statue)

### Requests made in Metro Council resolution 126, series 2020:

1. **Engage a qualified art restoration expert explore the feasibility and estimated costs for repairing the King Louis statue and returning it to its original location at 6<sup>th</sup> and Jefferson**

#### Result:

Three conservation labs were contracted to provide full treatment assessments and proposals for *Louis XVI*. The American Institute for the Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works (AIC) provides a Code of Ethics and Guidelines for Practice to professional conservators. In line with these standards the three conservation labs Metro contracted to provide treatment proposals for *Louis XVI* all cited community engagement and recontextualization as conditions of performing the conservation work, if at all.

2. **Philanthropic, federal, and/or third-party funds be pursued for repairs.**

Result: No such funds were identified

3. **Provide Metro Council with an estimate of the Metro funds to be used, if any.**

Result: Develop Louisville has identified Metro operating funds to cover repairs, if performed. Estimates have been provided, but are subject to change pending the outcome of the community engagement process; identification of appropriate location, if determination is made to reinstall; and methods of presentation and reinterpretation implemented if reinstalled.

| Date /<br>Timeframe               | Action                                                                                                                                | Status   | Actual<br>Costs | Estimated<br>Costs      | Notes                                                                                                                                                                                |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|-----------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 9/2020                            | Statue removed from public space due to safety concerns and vandalism. Relocated to secure Metro storage.                             | Complete | \$27,335        |                         |                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| 5/21/21 –<br>6/30/21              | Solicited bids for conservation assessments                                                                                           | Complete |                 |                         |                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| 6/18/21 – <sup>1</sup><br>7/15-21 | Selected three conservation labs to provide detailed proposals                                                                        | Complete | \$15,020        |                         |                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| 8/1/21                            | All treatment proposals received                                                                                                      | Complete |                 |                         |                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| 8/21 – 2/22                       | Public Art Administrator position vacant from late August 2022 – February 2023                                                        | ----     |                 |                         |                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| 2/3/22 –<br>2/23/22               | Students from Speed School of Engineering to produce 3-D scans of the full sculpture.                                                 | Complete |                 |                         | Beneficial in preserving a historical record of the statue, and/or could be useful if casts need to be made if determination is to repair.                                           |
| 7/6/22 –<br>7/28/22               | Followed up with conservation labs to ask for updated quotes, if different from originally provided due to time lapsed.               | Complete |                 | \$55,000 -<br>\$123,500 |                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| 7/15/22                           | Meeting with conservation lab to discuss community engagement and treatment approaches.                                               | Complete |                 |                         | Conservators reiterated a need for the statue to be indoors if determined to be put back on view. Alternative presentations could include selective cleaning, or projection mapping. |
| 7/11/22                           | Presented draft of community engagement survey to Commission on Public Art for review and feedback.                                   | Complete |                 |                         | Received comments, and request for input from Mayor's Office during COPA meeting.                                                                                                    |
| 7/22/22                           | Received reply from Mayor's Office in response to COPA's requests.                                                                    | Complete |                 |                         |                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| 7/25/22 –<br>7/31/22              | Obtained quote for relocating <i>Louis XVI</i> statue, if determined to put back on view.                                             | Complete |                 | \$10,000 -<br>\$28,000  |                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| 9/8/22                            | Published status update on King Louis page on Metro Arts & Creative Industries website.                                               | Complete |                 |                         |                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| 9/12/22                           | Reported Mayor's feedback and provided final copy of survey to COPA. Published survey online, circulated via newsletters, and social. | Complete |                 |                         |                                                                                                                                                                                      |

|         |                                                                                    |                  |          |                       |                                                 |
|---------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|----------|-----------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| Current | Collecting survey responses                                                        | In Process       |          |                       |                                                 |
| Current | Working with LFPL on strategies to address technology access barriers.             | In Process       |          |                       |                                                 |
| Current | Printing and installation of notice signs re: community engagement survey          | Pending approval |          |                       |                                                 |
| Current | Scouting appropriate location to site <i>Louis XVI</i> , if determine to reinstall | TBD              |          |                       | Pending results of community engagement survey. |
|         | SPENT TO DATE                                                                      |                  | \$42,355 |                       |                                                 |
|         | ESTIMATED FINAL EXPENSES                                                           |                  |          | \$107,355 - \$193,855 |                                                 |

#### Next Steps:

- Continue to collect survey responses and community comments.
- Develop plan for further action based on survey results, in consultation with conservation lab.
- Potential to incorporate community engagement process into strategic planning for Public Art Master Plan update.
- Presentation to Community Affair Committee on Oct. 5, 2022

#### Determining factors:

- Public Input
- Conservator availability
- Suitable and available location to site (if determined to be the most appropriate course of action)

---

<sup>1</sup> Timeline and dates are approximated based on documentation currently available- date stamps on invoices, treatment proposals and correspondence.