LOUISVILLE METRO PUBLIC ART UPDATE

COMMISSION ON PUBLIC ART

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

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 6th 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 / Timeframe	Action	Status	Actual Costs	Estimated 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 – 6/30/21	Solicited bids for conservation assessments	Complete			
6/18/21 – [1] 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 – 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 – 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 - $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 – 7/31/22	Obtained quote for relocating *Louis XVI* statue, if determined to put back on view.	Complete		$10,000 - $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 *Louis XVI*, 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)

[1] Timeline and dates are approximated based on documentation currently available- date stamps on invoices, treatment proposals and correspondence.