

July 15, 2020

Civic Art Collection Staff Report

Item 4F. Golden Gate Park Monuments, Music Concourse

Presentation of the status report on condition of Civic Art Collection monuments located in the Music Concourse after the protests that occurred on June 19, 2020.

The bronze statues of the *Padre Junipero Serra* (1906), *General Ulysses Simpson Grant* (1908), and *Francis Scott Key* (1887) monuments were toppled and defaced by a group of demonstrators on Friday night, June 19. Their remaining pedestals along with a number of other monuments and public cultural ephemera in the Golden Gate Park Music Concourse were also vandalized. Additional Civic Art Collection works that were defaced include *Leonitus (Roman Gladiator)* (1881), *The Cider Press* (1892), *Goethe and Schiller* (1901), *Miguel Cervantes* (1916), the *Rideout Fountain* (1923), and *Father William D. McKinnon* (1927). The *Sphinx* sculpture and the *Pool of Enchantment* – which are under the jurisdiction of the Fine Arts Museums, San Francisco, were also vandalized. Based on the types of vandalism, some monuments appeared to be specifically targeted for political reasons while others appeared to have just been casualties based on proximity. Investigations by RPD Park Rangers and SFPD are active and ongoing.

Recreation and Parks Department staff, under the guidance of Arts Commission staff, commenced with graffiti abatement on the monuments later the night of the 19th and early morning June 20th. Several of the monuments had an existing sacrificial protective graffiti coating in place on the stone pedestals, which helped facilitate removal. Additional conservation work is still being evaluated and costed, and will be undertaken as funding allows.

The bronze sculptures are stored safely in an undisclosed, secure fine art storage facility. These works sustained different levels of damage. All three were vandalized with spray paint. The *Padre Junipero Serra* and *General Ulysses Simpson Grant* bronzes appear at staff inspection to have minimal structural damage. The *Francis Scott Key* sculpture appears at staff inspection to have sustained significant structural damage. Staff continues to work with our conservators to assess and cost potential conservation work on these objects. Their disposition will be evaluated as a part of the larger assessment of the Monuments and Memorials in the Civic Art Collection.



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THE STAR-SPANGLED BANNER

FRANCIS SCOTT KEY
AUTHOR OF THE NATIONAL SONG
"THE STAR-SPANGLED BANNER"
THIS MONUMENT IS ERECTED
BY
JAMES H. A.
OF SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA
A. D. MDCCLXXXVII