



Community for a Cultural Civic Center

John Aronovici

November 28, 2022

Tom Bates

Dear Landmarks Preservation, Civic Arts, Parks Recreation & Waterfront Commissioners,

Lisa Bullwinkel

We understand that designs for the Turtle Island Fountain, a monument to the Indigenous community located at the landmarked fountain in Martin Luther King Jr in Civic Center Park, are being presented to City commissions for review on December 1, 7 and 14 respectively.

Winston Burton

Ryan Call

John Caner

After 30 years of effort, this project at long last has been fully funded through City and community volunteer fundraising efforts from 2017 to 2022 totaling close to \$1,000,000, from numerous grants and other funding sources (see below). The project is being managed by Parks, Recreation & Waterfront and the Civic Arts Commission, in concert with the City-contracted design firm of PGA Landscape Design.

Wyndy Knox Carr

Karen Chapman

Erin Diehm

WE ARE CONCERNED that a design proposal without a fully funded monument may be presented-- a design lacking its central features, which will get pushed off into 'later phases'. We are concerned that the city contract design team may be prioritizing the surrounding features-- namely, replacing the surrounding flagstone terrace pavers and restoring the Berkeley Peace Wall.

Deb Durant

Claire Greensfelder

Loni Hancock

We strongly urge the commissions to support a design that includes a fully finished monument on time and on budget--using the substantial funds that have been raised, in the time frame designated by the grant funded parameters.

Ann Harlow

Kelly Hammargren

Deborah Matthews

With funding close to \$1,000,000--**money intended to *primarily* be spent on creating a monument to the Indigenous Community and *secondarily* to repairing its surrounding features--** we urge you to support a design that COMPLETES the monument AND requires no additional phases (or years of additional fundraising).

Sergio Mazariegos

Leila Moncharsh

George Petty

As per the attached rendering, a viable alternative was designed in collaboration with eminent landscape designer Walter Hood in 2019, along with a subsequent alternative design alteration proposed by Lee Sprague. These designs can be built with funding available and respects the integrity of the landmarked fountain. Moreover, the design was vetted with scores of indigenous community members and included in all prior grant applications and community meetings.

Mark Rhoades

Arlene Silk

David Snippen

Marc Steyer

The monument will become a newly recognized historic monument, honoring the Indigenous people and communities, located at the landmarked site of the already historically significant fountain. We support your approval of this well-vetted complete design to acknowledge Berkeley's original inhabitants who have lived on this land for thousands of years.

Many thanks for your attention,

John Caner

Convener, [Community for a Cultural Civic Center](#)

Cc: Mayor Jesse Arreguin, Vice-Mayor Kate Harrison, Turtle Island Monument Project Committee Attachment

TURTLE ISLAND MONUMENT PROJECT DESIGNED IN COLLABORATION WITH WALTER HOOD



ALTERNATIVE DESIGN ALTERATION PROPOSED BY LEE SPRAGUE



FUNDS RAISED TO DATE FOR TURTLE ISLAND MONUMENT PROJECT: Totaling approximately \$946,666

On March 1, 2022, CA Governor Gavin Newsom posted a [press release](#) announcing our project had been awarded a Clean California Grant thru Caltrans for underserved communities for **\$591,666**.

On January 20, 2022 the Civic Arts Commission confirmed that there is **\$25,000** being held in the Public Art funds dedicated to conserving and installing the medallions and turtles.

In January 2022 the Parks, Recreation & Waterfront Commission indicated committing **\$20,000-\$30,000** to the project.

In December 2020, the Berkeley City Council passed a resolution approving a list of final projects for the T1 Phase II Bond including funding **\$300,000** for the Civic Center Park Turtle Garden.

In 2019, the Turtle Island Fountain project was awarded a **\$5,000** UC Berkeley Chancellor's Community Partnership Fund Grant in collaboration with University Partner, recent MacArthur Fellowship awardee and Gish Prize winner, Walter Hood, College of Environmental Design professor of Landscape Architecture and Environmental Planning and Urban Design; alongside the project's Community Partner, Berkeley Partners for Parks.

(Additional in-progress grant from EBMUD, initially green-lighting potentially **\$15,000** - pending additional info from PR&W)