

San Francisco Monuments and Memorials Advisory Committee FAQ
(Revised 2/24/2021)

1. What is the Monuments and Memorials Advisory Committee (MMAC)?

The MMAC is a partnership between the San Francisco Arts Commission (SFAC), the Human Rights Commission (HRC) and the Recreation and Parks Department (RECPARK). It is a body that will host hearings with community members and establish the criteria and guidelines by which to determine the future of historic monuments in the City's Civic Art Collection.

2. What is the Civic Art Collection?

The Civic Art Collection is comprised of over 4,000 objects that include: historic monuments, memorial gifts to the city, annual Art Festival purchases made from 1946 to 1986 and more recently, the hundreds of contemporary artworks commissioned through the City's Art Enrichment 2%-for-art program. Consistent with the Commission's mission to integrate artwork in the fabric of daily life in the City, the artwork is found in public facilities and spaces such as hospitals, libraries, courthouses, parks, playgrounds, in major plazas such as Union Square, Moscone Convention Center, the airport, the zoo and more.

Of the many of objects in the collection, about 100 of these are monuments and memorials that will be the focus of this committee.

3. How will these guidelines be used?

The criteria and guidelines established by the MMAC will be used by SFAC to make decisions on the final disposition of individual artworks. The MMAC will not be making final decisions on specific artworks.

4. Who will be on the committee?

The committee will be comprised of 11-15 individuals, which includes three co-chairs. The three co-chairs are the San Francisco Director of Cultural Affairs, the General Manager of RECPARK and the Executive Director of HRC.

5. How many committee members will be appointed and how many will be from the applicant pool?

There will be six appointed committee members: the three co-chairs—the directors of the three agencies—and one member from each of the agencies' commissions. The other committee members will be selected from the applicant pool.

6. Are there any possible conflicts of interest that might prevent someone from participating as a committee member?

[The City of San Francisco defines a conflict of interest](#) as one that would result in a monetary advantage as a result of the process. In this instance, the MMAC would only

be issuing guidelines and criteria, and not funds, so there is not an issue of committee members benefiting financially.

An additional possible conflict of interest might arise if an individual committee member who is related to any of the artists of the monuments and memorials under consideration of the MMAC. While this is a possibility, we do not anticipate an occurrence of this conflict.

7. If an artist were to participate as a committee member, would that preclude them from opportunities from SFAC in the future? Alternately, if one was representing an organization, would participation in the MMAC prevent them from any SFAC opportunities?

No, participation by individuals or as representatives of organizations in the MMAC will not hinder any future or present opportunities with SFAC.

8. Will committee members need to be residents of San Francisco or the Bay Area?

Committee members are not required to be residents of San Francisco or the Bay Area, but due to the nature of some of the conversations, there is a strong preference for members to be based in the region.

9. How will MMAC members be selected?

MMAC members will be selected by members of SFAC staff and the three co-chairs of the committee. The Arts Commission will have final approval of the selected members.

The composition of the committee will be a combination of appointed seats and approved applicants. The MMAC selection will collectively satisfy a set of requirements that ensures that the committee is populated by community members with a range of knowledge and experience: that of U.S. history centered on Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) communities; San Francisco history; historic preservation; public art; deep experience and knowledge of BIPOC histories, art and cultural issues; and racial justice and reparation.

10. What is meant by the application's interest in a "strong connection" to community or to a particular arts and culture organization? How will that be defined?

We are looking for committee members who are not only connected to or a member of a particular community but also have a history of community engagement, for example as members of organizations, community or advocacy groups. Applicants should demonstrate not only membership but also engagement with a community.

11. How important is it for an applicant to have classical training in the arts in discussions about the monuments or memorials?

Individuals do not necessarily need to engage in discussions about the aesthetic qualities of monuments or memorials. We are looking for a broad range of skills,

expertise and community connections in the MMAC.

12. Is it required that individual community members apply? Or can organizations apply?

Can organizations “send” multiple delegates?

We are looking for applications to come from individuals rather than organizations. Organizations may choose to have multiple members apply, however each application will be considered on its own singular merit of that individual application and how the applicant might potentially contribute in a collaborative and community-based way to the MMAC.

13. What is the time commitment for MMAC members?

We anticipate that the time commitment to participate on the committee will be approximately 40 hours over a four-month period (which includes meeting attendance, preparation and community hearings), beginning in April 2021.

We anticipate approximately seven to eight meetings, including a minimum of three community meetings. We anticipate the work taking place in a meeting setting with some prep work occurring before MMAC meetings. This is subject to change as we cannot anticipate the nature, depth or duration of the committee’s conversations or engagement with the community.

14. Will MMAC members be compensated for their time?

Community members who participate in the committee will receive a \$500 stipend.

15. How and when will the MMAC meet?

Meetings will take place virtually. Meetings will take place from April 2021 through early Fall 2021.

16. Can members of the public submit names for consideration for the committee?

Members of the public can submit names for consideration for the committee by emailing art-info@sfgov.org, but anyone who wishes to be considered for the committee must submit an application, which is available here: <https://sfac.tfaforms.net/100>.

17. Will there be case studies for the MMAC to consider?

Monuments that came down in the summer of 2020 will be considered during this process and possibly be used as case studies to help in the development of criteria and to illustrate a real-world examples. We do anticipate robust community engagement around these potential case studies.

18. Given the scope of the committee, how much impact is it anticipated that these recommendations will have on present and future monuments?

We anticipate the MMAC to have a substantial impact. The intention is that the guidelines developed by the MMAC will direct SFAC’s evaluation of existing and future

monuments in the collection.

19. Will there be an opportunity for the public to submit information about the history/impact of a monument/memorial?

Members of the public may submit information at community meetings (dates to be determined) or via art-info@sfgov.org.

20. How might members of the public engage with this process?

The MMAC will be hosting meetings with community members to gather input and information. Dates for these public meetings are forthcoming.

21. What is the budget for removal of art?

At present, there is no funding available for the removal or relocation of artworks in the Civic Art Collection. The budget for the removal of art varies significantly based on the artwork, the materials, its location, scale, how it is installed and many other factors.

22. Is there a fund the public can donate to in support of this process or specifically to help fund removal?

Not at this time. However, there is currently a fund that supports the representation of women in public art.

23. What monuments are already down and where are they now?

The City removed the Christopher Columbus statue on June 18, 2020, at the direction of the Mayor. The bronze statues of Junipero Serra (1906), Ulysses S. Grant (1908) and Francis Scott Key (1887) were taken down by a group of demonstrators on June 19, 2020. All of these statues are in an undisclosed, secure fine art storage facility. Also at that location is the Early Days sculpture that was removed from Pioneer Monument in September 2018.

24. Are any of these monuments going to be for sale or given away?

The San Francisco Arts Commission has guidelines in place regarding the disposal of works in the Civic Art Collection that are removed from public view. These guidelines are found on our website, here: <https://www.sfartscommission.org/our-role-impact/about-commission/policies-guidelines/Public-ArtCivic-Art-Collection>. Each piece is evaluated individually and a number of options may present themselves through that process, including but not limited to: long-term storage, long-term loan, gift to another cultural institution or public sale.

25. Does the Arts Commission have records of statues that get the most complaints and how much money has been spent in recent years to repair vandalism on them?

The Arts Commission keeps data on vandalism to the Civic Art Collection and tracks abatement costs. Complaints regarding individual pieces are registered—particularly if a citizen makes or submits public comment at our monthly commission and sub-committee meetings. Vandalism to the Civic Art Collection takes many forms, the bulk of

which is non-political in nature. While political vandalism to the Civic Art Collection does occur, it is not the sole indicator used to determine the potential removal of a statue. In FY 2020, approximately \$130,000 was spent on removal of all forms of vandalism of the Civic Art Collection.

26. Is there a list of all statues in the city's public collection?

A searchable catalogue of artworks in the Civic Art Collection is on our website:

<http://kiosk.sfartscommission.org/index-tree/tree/45>

The working list of specific monuments and memorials in the Civic Art Collection is on our website, here:

<http://kiosk.sfartscommission.org/objects-1/thumbnails?records=20&query=Portfolios%3D%22451%22>