Landmarks and Monuments Review
Public Hearing

Presented by
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Input on Criteria and Process Draft

• Meetings with operating departments responsible for the City assets: Parks and Recreation; Public Property; Office of Arts, Culture and the Creative Economy; Managing Directors Office; Mayors Office; Office of Transportation, Infrastructure, and Sustainability; the Law Department; and Department of Records (discussion and written input)

• Pathways to Reform, Transformation, and Reconciliation Internal Work Group (discussion and written input)

• Pathways to Reform, Transformation, and Reconciliation Steering Committee (discussion and written input)
Input on Criteria and Process Draft

- Philadelphia Art Commission and Historical Commission (discussion)
- City Council Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs Committee (discussion) and a briefing to all City Council members
- Review of similar work done by other cities and universities
Outcomes of Discussions and Research

- The Landmarks & Monuments Review should be public driven.

- The renaming or making changes to any landmarks or monuments should be an exceptional event – it should be a high hurdle.

- There should be a pause between the process to approve changing a landmark or monument and the process of developing the new name or monument change.
Guiding Principle
The names of Philadelphia’s landmarks - its streets, parks, plazas, recreation centers, buildings and playgrounds; and its public art and monuments are a commemoration and memorialization of the past. The names and monuments communicate Philadelphia’s values, confer honor, and assert pride. The City of Philadelphia values inclusiveness, integrity and respect for the diversity of its citizenry, visitors and history; hence, will consider renaming or changing any landmark or monument that does not align with these values. The City will also ensure that the future naming of landmarks and the installation of future monuments reflect its values.
Criteria
Criteria

1. Specific behavior of the person (central to his/her life as a whole) after whom the landmark or monument is named is not aligned with the City’s values of inclusiveness, integrity and a respect for diversity of its citizens, visitors, and history

2. Sources or strength of the historical evidence of the behavior is clear and unambiguous

3. Impact or harm that the continued use of the name or current display of the monument / public art may inflict on its citizens and visitors is clear and unambiguous
Criteria (con’t)

4. Strong public support that the landmark’s name should change, or the public art/monument removed or changed

5. Not possible to mitigate by recontextualizing, recognizing and/or addressing the individual’s wrongful behavior in a prominent way due to the type or location of the landmark or public art/monument
Draft Process
The Mayor will appoint a **Landmarks and Monuments Review Commission** ("Commission") to oversee this landmarks and monuments review process. The Commission will include representatives from the Mayor’s Office, City Council, the Managing Directors Office and members of the Philadelphia community that reflect the diversity of Philadelphia, including members with an expertise in diverse histories.
Transparent Oversight

- The Commission will make recommendations to the Administration as to if a request to change the name of a landmark or change or remove a piece of public art or monument should or should not be approved due to the objectional history of the person or event after whom the landmark has been named or celebrates.

- The Commission will ensure that each decision is made with thoughtfulness, fairness, and a commitment to ensure the names of the City’s landmarks and its public art and monuments reflect the City’s values.
Public Driven

• Landmark renaming or public art and monument changes or removal must be driven by the public. The City will develop a landmark and public art/monument change request form, made available online and hard copy, where any member of the public or an organization can submit a landmark name change or public art change or removal request.

• The form will include a request for information including information pertaining to criteria 1, 2 and 3.

• The Commission will review the written request and if the Commission agrees that the request satisfies criteria 1, 2 and 3 “Conditioned Approval to Rename/Change/Remove” is given.
Public Support

• If the Commission grants Conditioned Approval to Rename/Change/Remove a landmark or public art/monument, the person or organization that submits the request will have 6 months to gather public support.

• Public support includes 300 signatures on a petition from residents who reside within a 4-mile radius of the landmark or monument; or if it is a street name 300 signatures of residents or businesses that reside on the street.
Public Support *(con’t)*

- The requestor must acquire written “conditioned” approval of the City Councilmember(s) to rename/change/remove the landmark or public art/monument in whose district the landmark or public art/monument is located.

- If the Commission does not give approval to the written request because criteria 1, 2 and/or 3 are not met, the applicant can resubmit the request after gathering additional information to meet criteria 1, 2, and 3.
Public Meeting

• The Commission will hold a public meeting that allows for a discussion and public engagement on the request to change a landmark’s name or change or remove a piece of public art/monument.

• The public meeting will allow for information on the history of the behavior of the person or event that does not align with the City’s values of inclusiveness, integrity and respect for the diversity of its citizenry, visitors and history to be heard.
Public Meeting *(con’t)*

- The Commission will review the information and testimony shared at the public meeting and the evidence of public support.

- The Commission will make a recommendation to the Administration to approve or deny the request to change the name of a landmark or change or remove a piece of public art or monument.
Renaming/Monument Change

• If the Administration gives official approval to rename a landmark or change a piece of public art or monument, the Office of Public Engagement will assist with working with the appropriate operating department to engage the public, with a focus on engaging the geographic community in which the landmark is located, to identify a new name or identify the new context for the public art or monument.

• If the Administration does not give approval to rename a landmark or change a piece of public art or monument, the applicant will receive an explanation as to why it was not approved.
Landmark Renaming and New Monument Commissions

• No landmark can be named or monument erected after a person who is living.

• A landmark can be named, or a monument erected to commemorate or celebrate a historic event or a person if the person has been deceased for a least 20 years or the historic event occurred 20 years prior to the current date.

• All proposed new names and new public art/monument commissions must align with the City of Philadelphia’s values inclusiveness, integrity and respect for the diversity of its citizenry, visitors and history.
Approval of New Name or Monument Change

• The Commission must recommend the new name or monument change to the Administration; and the Administration must approve.

• The Administration will authorize the appropriate operating Department to make the change.

• City Council must approve the landmark name change of any street, park, recreation center, plaza, building or playground.
Approval of New Name or Monument Change (con’t)

• The Art Commission must approve any changes or removal of public art or monument.

• The Philadelphia Historic Commission must approve any changes or the removal of public art or monuments if the public art or monument is designated historic.
Implementation

- The implementation of the name change of the landmark or the change or removal of a piece of public art or monument will occur once either public or private funding is identified.
Public Input on the Landmarks & Monuments Review

Please go to creativephl.org/landmarks-monuments-review to view this presentation and for an opportunity to provide input or ask questions about the Landmarks & Monuments Review process through May 30.