

All Questions & Answers

Statue of Peace Town Hall

March 11, 2022

The City of Philadelphia Office of Arts, Culture and the Creative Economy (OACCE), Philadelphia Commission on Human Relations (PCHR), and Office of Immigrant Affairs (OIA) hosted a [virtual Town Hall discussion on February 9, 2022](#) about the Statue of Peace project, now known as the Philadelphia Peace Plaza. The purpose of the Town Hall was to provide an overview of the Philadelphia Peace Plaza project and provide an opportunity for the public to have their questions addressed.

Please find below the answers to questions submitted prior to the Town Hall event, questions asked during the Town Hall, and questions received after the event by February 11. Please revisit this site for translations of the questions and answers in Korean, Japanese, Traditional and Simplified Chinese which will be made available at a later date.

1. Who are the members of the Philadelphia Peace Plaza Committee?

Hyunjin Cha, Shinjoo Cho, Alejandra Gonzalez, SoYeong Jeong, Grace Kim, Edward Lee, Hojeong Lee, Hyeonock Lee, Suna Lee, and James Park.

2. Will the Peace Plaza and Statue of Peace further divide ethnic communities and increase anti-Asian discrimination?

The Philadelphia Commission on Human Relations reached out to the US Department of Justice to determine whether similar statues that were erected in San Francisco, Glendale, CA; and Annandale, VA had caused further divide in ethnic communities and increased anti-Asian hate. While there were concerns within the Asian American and Pacific Islander communities in those cities, there were no detectable rises in hate incidents that could be attributed to the memorials.

3. Will the Peace Plaza Committee be required to purchase liability insurance to cover claims for injuries sustained as a result of the statue? Will the City retain such liability coverage?

No, The Peace Plaza Committee is not required to purchase liability insurance. If the statue is approved by the Art Commission, it will be donated to the City of Philadelphia by the Peace Plaza Committee to be part of the city's permanent public art collection. The City of Philadelphia is already self-insured and does not need to obtain additional insurance.

4. How will the Peace Plaza Committee use the plaza to improve relationships and make sure it has a positive impact in the city? Can you give examples?

Recognize that no community is immune to hatred and violence and that we must work together to bring lasting peace. Connect with organizations and advocates active on improving race, gender, and community relations and create space, programming, and occasions that strengthen their missions. Examples of past programs include:

1. A free monthly outdoor concert series held at 805 S Front St from April-October 2021 featuring music from France, Korea, Philippines, and Latin America
2. Commissioned poems by Michelle Myers and Yolanda Wisher and produced a poetry video to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the first testimony by survivor Kim Hak-Soon.
3. Joined the Office of Immigrant Affairs celebration of Immigrant Heritage month in June 2021 and presented a Korean heritage event with dance performance and games for all ages. We plan to feature different countries in the future

5. Is the Statue of Peace condemning Japan; therefore, is the City of Philadelphia also condemning Japan?

This project is centered on the victims and their rights to healing and justice. It calls for meaningful redress by the government, people, and societies but does not condemn Japan or its descendants.

The City of Philadelphia is in no way condemning Japan. The City supports public art that illuminates the issue of sexual slavery and gender violence. These are important topics that are not traditionally addressed in public art, and the City always supports giving voice to humanitarian issues through public art.

6. Has the PCHR considered the discriminatory intent and effect of the proposed statue on the basis of national origin against Japanese people -- and Vietnamese people as well in view of the rapes and abuses the South Korean Army perpetrated on Vietnamese women during the 1960's -- and in favor of the Korean Association?

The Philadelphia Commission on Human Relations considered the intent of the statue – that it is focused on honoring victims of a wartime government that no longer exists and not condemnation of a particular people. If a memorial for victims of rapes and abuses by the South Korean Army were proposed, it would be reviewed in a similar way, that is, if the intent was to condemn a people vs. honor victims.

Additionally for clarification purposes, the applicant is the Philadelphia Peace Plaza Committee, not the Korean Association.

7. Has the Vietnamese community in Philadelphia been given notice of this Virtual Town Hall or otherwise made aware that the City is considering a statue memorializing sexual maltreatment of Korean women by the Japanese Imperial Army where Vietnamese groups have asserted that the South Korean Army raped and sexually abused Vietnamese women during the Vietnam War?

The City of Philadelphia did not engage in Vietnamese specific outreach for this Town Hall. The Town Hall invitation was sent to the full list of the Mayor’s Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs asking them to share widely within their communities. The Office of Immigrant Affairs also promoted the Town Hall on their social media that has a following of 3,000 people including Asian American and Asian immigrant residents as well as Asian American and Pacific Islander led organizations. Among the people that registered for tonight’s Town Hall are leaders and organizations that might not be Vietnamese in name or mission, but they do engage with the Vietnamese community in Philadelphia.

8. What text inscription is associated with the Statue of Peace?

Statue of Peace

This statue commemorates hundreds of thousands of girls and women from Asia, Oceania, and Europe who fell victim to the systemic sexual slavery by the Japanese Imperial Army from 1931 to 1945. Starting in 1991, the survivors broke the cycle of shame and silence by testifying and urged the world to protect the future generations of women by facing the past and building lasting peace.

Philadelphia Peace Plaza Committee

9. Will the Peace Plaza Committee or the City of Philadelphia consider placing a second inscription providing an alternate, and documented interpretation concerning the Comfort Women (Statue of Peace) issue?

No, the City of Philadelphia will not be providing a second inscription.

10. Does this Statue of Peace comply with the City of Philadelphia's Public Art Policy MDO Directive 67?

The City of Philadelphia's Managing Director's Directive 67 requires that public art donated to the City and installed on City property should meet certain criteria: It should commemorate individuals or events with significant impact on Philadelphia and beyond; represent broadly shared community values; have a strong thematic connection between the subject and location; have geographic justification for the proposed location; and should have a maintenance agreement that provides funding to the City for its long-term maintenance.

The Statue of Peace complies with Managing Director's Directive 67 because it represents the City's broadly shared values to promote peace, justice, and healing of victims of sex slavery, and shed light on stories of women that have not been told. It also represents Asian communities which have a significant impact on Philadelphia, but are not well represented in the City's public art. Also, the proposed theme of military sexual violence has a strong connection to other military works of public art that are located nearby, such as the Korean War and Vietnam Veteran memorials supporting its geographical justification. Also, the Peace Plaza committee will be providing required funds to the City of Philadelphia for the statue's long-term maintenance.

11. What are the specific procedures or protocols for removing the Statue of Peace in Philadelphia?

The City of Philadelphia will consider removal of City owned artwork if it endangers public safety; if it is determined that removal is in the best interest of the City due to significant protests against the artwork; if it is damaged beyond repair; if it is no longer suitable in its location; or for other maintenance or logistical reasons. The removal process involves collaboration between multiple City departments, community input, and approval by the Philadelphia Art Commission. The current procedure is outlined in the Managing Director's Directive 67 which can be found at CreativePHL.org.

12. Is a statue condemning a specific country an art object? Is it not a politically motivated object?

A work of public art can have political themes. Public art can make statements and represent different ideas, beliefs, or opinions that people may disagree on. Public art can be controversial, but it can allow a space for people to have conversations about difficult topics.

13. What form of apologies are required from the Japanese government and is it necessary for Japan to send an apology to the City of Philadelphia?

If the Philadelphia Art Commission approves the Statue of Peace, the City of Philadelphia will not be requesting an apology from the Japanese government.

14. In the event that the City of Philadelphia's procedures or protocols for erecting a statue in Philadelphia are based on human rights or humanitarian issues, does the City also permit other statues such as protesting U.S. military raping women in Okinawa, protesting Myanmar military rule, protesting Chinese government policies on people in Hong Kong, or condemning humanitarian incidents happening in countries in Africa?

The City will consider any proposal to commission and donate a statue to the City of Philadelphia. The proposed public art will be reviewed by the Office of Arts, Culture and the Creative Economy, will follow the same criteria and process as the Managing Director's Directive 67, and ultimately will have to be approved by the Philadelphia Art Commission.

15. How is the Peace Plaza and Statue of Peace being funded and what is the timeline?

Since 2012 the funds have been raised through grassroots donations organized by volunteers. The Peace Plaza Committee hopes to break ground within a year of final approval by the Philadelphia Art Commission.

16. In the February 2021 Philadelphia Art Commission presentation the Peace Plaza Committee mentioned this park had room for "Constructive Assembly"... what does this mean?

We intend to utilize this space to celebrate Philadelphia's diverse communities and share it with artists, advocates and educators who work to eradicate sexual violence and sex trafficking.

See examples of programming in question 4.

17. If the Statue of Peace is supposed to represent universal peace for all women, why is the statue nation specific (Korean clothing)?

Rather than represent universal peace for all women, the statue represents the pursuit of peace, justice, and healing for victims of sexual violence and calls for uncompromised human rights for all women.

Creating a nondescript appearance was not the artistic aspiration for this piece and one nation's clothing does not necessarily hinder the artwork's ability to speak to universal issues.

18. Is the Statue of Peace Committee's intention to make this monument a tourist-attraction for Korean visitors to Philadelphia?

No.

19. Senior officials of Palisades, NJ and Bergen County, NJ were treated to all-expense-paid trips to Korea (airfare, hotel, and meals) by Korean sponsors after Japanese vilification statues like the one proposed for Queen Village were erected in those places. Will supporting Philadelphia officials also be traveling to Korea?

No. City of Philadelphia officials will not be traveling to Korea.

20. Will the Statue of Peace be part of the Association of Public Art's Program for Museum Without Walls™ so people can see it, dial on their phones, and get the background information? Who would provide that history, be the consultants on the background of the piece?

The Association for Public Art manages the Museum Without Walls program and determines which projects to include. If the Association for Public Art decides to include information on the Statue of Peace, they would work with the Philadelphia Peace Plaza Committee to provide background on the piece.

21. In the city of Philadelphia, the Japanese population is 0.04% an extreme minority, are you considering the damage that can be done against this minority group in the city of Philadelphia?

See question 6

22. There are 8 local examples of Comfort Women Memorials statues in the area, 5 in New Jersey and 3 in New York. There are examples of harassment and violence against Japanese communities as a whole, how can you call this a Statue of Peace?

See question 6

Since 2011, there has been no documented incident of harassment or violence against Japanese communities as a result of the installation of the 178 replicas of the statue in 10 countries. However, there have been dozens of incidents of vandalization of the statue. Please do share any documentation you may have with the Philadelphia Peace Plaza Committee at admin@phillypeaceplaza.org

On the contrary, we are aware of examples of increased understanding and solidarity between individuals and community groups as a result of the statues. Our intent is to encourage dialogue that can help resolve divisions and distrust that have festered for decades, and centuries and we invite all to talk with us and engage us directly.

23. What is the evidence that the Korean Comfort Women, or their sexual enslavement by Japan over 70 years ago, that those people have significant contribution to Philadelphia or that event had a significant impact on Philadelphia?

The Statue of Peace represents the City's broadly shared values to promote peace, justice, and healing of victims of sex slavery, and shed light on stories of women that have not been told. It also represents Asian communities which have a significant impact on Philadelphia, but are not well represented in the City's public art.

24. How do you hope this statue's commemoration of the history of war in Asia can help address the violence here in Asia? In other words, why do you think this history is relevant to ordinary Philadelphians?

The volunteers of the Peace Plaza Committee and the supporters of the project from Queen Village and Philadelphia are ordinary citizens who value and recognize that we have a part to play in building equality and protecting human rights around the world. Sex trafficking and violence against women, Asian American communities, and Asian American women are pertinent and relevant issues we struggle with in Philadelphia and in the US. This project is a reflection of how ordinary citizens can come together to contribute to protecting human rights.

25. Given the occurrence of removals and vandalism of other Statues of Peace in America, what sort of plans are in place to protect the Philadelphia Peace Plaza from wrongdoer and how can we ensure these protections do not increase any sort of police presence in the plaza to make it a safe space for all.

Graffiti and vandalism are common issues for any artwork that is placed in public spaces. The Office of Arts, Culture and the Creative Economy are stewards of the City of Philadelphia's collection of over 1,000 works of public art, and frequently addresses these issues. The City works with third party vendors and experts to provide on-call conservation services to promptly address graffiti and vandalism to public artworks when they occur.

The City of Philadelphia does not anticipate any need for police presence at the Statue of Peace.

26. Will there be new play space where there is current play space around the statue?

The current play space referred to in this question consists of small patches of dirt, low plants, and concrete and there's no play equipment at the site. In addition to the proposed new landscaping, lighting, and sitting area, the new plaza is designed with ample paved area-bigger and more continuous than the current version, that could be used as an informal play space or programmed as a play space if desired as long as that use would not need storage or a permanent location.

27. When will it start and end?

In order to start, the project needs final approval by the Philadelphia Art Commission and to reach the fundraising goal. It will take a few months to fabricate the statue and 4-8 weeks for the plaza to be renovated.

28. How was this location chosen? Why this location?

It was chosen for its intimate and peaceful setting in the historic Queen Village and its proximity to the Memorial District and the Southeast Asian communities. The site is well suited for reinterpretation due to existing conditions and is big enough to host the sculpture and provide an area for gathering but still open (visually and physically) to the sidewalk.

29. How was the historical evidence examined for this project?

Documents, archives, and testimonies from Japan and the countries impacted by the sexual slavery are consistent and recognized by researchers and historians around the world. Examples:

- United Nations Commission on Human Rights. Report of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences by Ms Radhika Coomaraswamy, submitted in accordance with Commission on Human Rights Resolution 1995/85, 5 February 1996, E/CN.4/1996/53/Add.1 <https://undocs.org/E/CN.4/1996/53/Add.1>
- Comfort Women: A definitive account of the of the practice of sexual slavery the Japanese military perpetrated during World War II by the researcher principally responsible for exposing the Japanese government's responsibility for these atrocities. <http://cup.columbia.edu/book/comfort-women/9780231120333>
- Source Document: Concerning the Recruitment of Women for Military Comfort Stations <http://www.e4sjf.org/concerning-the-recruitment-of-women-for-military-comfort-stations.html>

30. Shinjoo, are you connected to WCCW? They were the ones that led the federal resolution. <https://comfort-women.org>

Yes, the Peace Plaza Committee have met the director of the Washington Coalition for Comfort Women Issues, who interviewed the Peace Plaza committee members in 2021.

31. Is there room for other statues? Such as an expression of Japanese internment which actually happened in the United States?

The City will consider any proposal to commission and donate a statue to the City of Philadelphia. Any proposed donation of public art would need to be reviewed by the Office of Arts, Culture and the Creative Economy, follow the criteria and process outlined in the Managing Director's Directive 67, and ultimately will have to be approved by the Philadelphia Art Commission.

32. Will the final project include explanatory text? Will there be an opportunity for public comment on that text before placement?

The City of Philadelphia hosted a Town Hall meeting on Feb 9 to discuss the Statue of Peace and has provided opportunities for public comments before, during and after this meeting. The next opportunity for public comment will occur at a future Philadelphia Art Commission meeting when the Peace Plaza Committee presents a second time to the Art Commission. The date for this meeting has not been determined. Philadelphia Art Commission meetings are held on the second Wednesday of the month and are open to the public. Meeting agendas are made public in advance per the Philadelphia Art Commission's policy. Anyone wishing to have their comments heard by the Philadelphia Art Commission prior to a decision being made about the Statue of Peace are encouraged to attend that meeting and follow the Commission's public comment process.

See question 8 for the proposed explanatory text.

33. Why is there such a large expanse of pavement to the back and north side of the sculpture? There are presently many mature trees in that area.

In the new design, the rectangular area at the back of the plaza is intended to provide an area for events and gatherings. The current landscape within the plaza consists of four hedge maples; a viburnum shrub; and a thin groundcover layer of hosta and

liriope (all non-native plants). There are large areas of bare and very compacted soil. The current trees may seem mature but they're in fair to poor condition and range in size from 8 to 12-inch in diameter and are approximately 25 feet tall. Their form is not pleasing due to lack of structural pruning. They have been limbed up with large diameter limbs removed, some deadwood in the canopy. There is some bark flaking at the base on three of the four trees likely indicating some decay, and root flare are partially visible or covered indicating they may have been planted too deep.

The existing landscape behind the plaza (the space leaning against I-95 highway) consists of a mature planting of multi-stem river birch, cedar, American holly, magnolia, oakleaf hydrangea, leather leaf viburnum, and shrub roses; and a dense ground layer of liriope, English ivy, and vinca. The vegetation provides a lush landscape backdrop to the plaza and will not be removed. However, there is an area within this mature landscape of disturbance where plants have died and not been replaced and where invasive weeds have moved in. We intend to work with our partners at Interstate Land Management Corporation (ILMC) to improve this existing planting in addition to the new plantings that are part of the new design.

34. Who will care for the plaza? I love the new design (resident across the street)

Philadelphia Peace Plaza Committee will care for the plaza with Interstate Land Management Corporation (ILMC) which is currently responsible for the maintenance of the site.

35. Does the 500k need to be raised in order for this to be executed?

No. The Managing Director's Directive 67 requires that funds for a proposed public art project should not be raised prior to receiving all the necessary approvals from the Philadelphia Art Commission and any required permit or licensing approvals.

36. Can you move the grassy area on the right for more space to play? This space is currently used by children to play, and it seems like that is taken away. It is not underutilized.

See question 26 for response about play space. Currently, there's no formal play space or play equipment for children. The new design offers more potential use of space with amenities such as lighting and a sitting area for informal play.

37. With so many Black and brown people being human trafficked today and within the last 20 years, why do you feel that Philadelphia funding should go towards something that happened to immigrants (Korean Americans) from 1931-1941?

The City of Philadelphia is not funding the statue or its maintenance. If the proposed Statue of Peace is approved by the Philadelphia Art Commission, the statue will be donated to the City by the Philadelphia Peace Plaza Committee who will raise funds for the fabrication, installation, and long-term maintenance of the statue, in accordance with Managing Director's Directive 67.

38. What historical benefit does this project offer the Philadelphia community collectively, especially to the families that have been victimized within the last 10 years in Philadelphia, PA?

The goals of the proposed Statue of Peace public art are to engage people in conversation about the subject and people this statue represents. The Peace Plaza Committee plans to produce future educational events to initiate and host inter-generational and inter-cultural dialogue on gender-based violence, to promote understanding of the history of war-time sexual slavery, and to support women and local immigrant communities. This is beneficial to the entire Philadelphia community.

39. How does the design impact the current tree cover? increase/decrease/stay the same?

See details of existing trees to be removed in response to question 33. The new design calls for more trees, shrubs, and groundcover to be planted than currently exist in this space now.

40. I love the Peace Plaza concept as well as the statue. What plans have been made to provide maintenance and 24-hour security to the plaza?

If the statue is approved by the Philadelphia Art Commission, a maintenance agreement will be created along with an endowment for funds to be provided for long term maintenance per the Managing Director's Directive 67. Philadelphia Peace Plaza Committee will care for the plaza with Interstate Land Management Corporation (ILMC) which is currently responsible for the maintenance of the site. The majority of City of Philadelphia parks and plazas do not have 24-hour security, however any issues impacting the safety pertaining to the statue itself or to visitors to the plaza will be addressed by the City of Philadelphia.

41 Is it possible for me or other audiences to submit a statement related to this comfort woman statue?

The next opportunity for public comment will occur at a future Philadelphia Art Commission meeting when the Peace Plaza Committee presents a second time to the Art Commission. The date for this meeting has not been determined. Philadelphia Art Commission meetings are held on the second Wednesday of the month and are open to the public. Meeting agendas are made public in advance per the Philadelphia Art Commission's policy. Anyone wishing to have their comments heard by the Philadelphia Art Commission prior to a decision being made about the Statue of Peace are encouraged to attend that meeting and follow the Commission's public comment process.

42. How is this statue different from other statues that are offensive to others like the confederate statues, Christopher Columbus, etc. that were offensive to certain groups?

Statues of Christopher Columbus and confederate soldiers are offensive to some because they represent a legacy of racism, slavery, and colonialism that do not reflect the City of Philadelphia's broadly shared values. The Statue of Peace reflects the City's broadly shared values to promote peace, justice, and healing of victims of sex slavery, and shed light on stories of women that have not been told. It also represents Asian communities which have a significant impact on Philadelphia, but are not well represented in the City's public art.

43. Is the City of Philadelphia going to place statues if someone requests it? Are you going to place any statues for so-called victims?

See question 14.

44. I applaud the public amenities, design elements and activation of public space. I also applaud raising awareness of this dark moment in humanity's history. While the goal of this plaza is one of racial equity, peace, and reconciliation— would this not only further fuel tensions between communities, as well as broader diplomatic relations between South Korea and Japan, given the focus of this inscription on the role Japan itself formally played?

The inscription for the Peace Plaza statue has not been finalized. Please see the draft text in question 8. Please contact admin@phillypeaceplaza.org for further questions.

45. How long will it take for construction?

See question 27.

46. The Association of Public Art's Museum Without Walls" audio program that provides a cell # code to get historical information about public art around the city. Will the "Statue of Peace" be part of the Association of Public Art's program, and if so, who will be the consultants on the audio information.

See question 20.

47. Are there any anticipated traffic problems/solutions for the area?

No. The City does not anticipate traffic problems for the area.

48. Question to Shinjoo: In your letter dated Jan 27, 2021, to the City of Philadelphia, there were 7 bullet descriptions along with the young woman. Are those not engraved here in Philadelphia? If yes, please explain them to the audience.

The statue has not been fabricated yet and nothing has been engraved. See question 58.

49. What are the activity plans for the Statue of Peace Plaza to promote education on peace after the plaza is ready?

The Peace Plaza Committee will work with partner organizations and stakeholders to host proactive education programming in-person at the Plaza as well as on virtual platforms, such as Zoom and social media outlets. The programs will include but not be limited to lectures, workshops, events, music concerts, and art exhibits on topics such as war-time sexual slavery and other gender-based crimes that impact individuals and communities in our society at large. The goals of the future educational events are to initiate and host inter-generational and -cultural dialogue on gender-based violence, to promote understanding of the history of war-time sexual slavery, to think together on actionable items to further address gender-based violence, and to support women-owned local immigrant businesses

In addition, we will hold arts and culture programs and events that celebrate the heritage of diverse communities in Philadelphia.

50. I believe that History of Sexual Slavery is one sided story. Is there an opportunity to express other historical facts from Japan's side?

The objective of this plaza is to honor the victims and their courage to speak out to prevent repeat of such history. People who wish to express their beliefs and opinions are welcome to do so in public domains such as this town hall.

51. How do you feel about your statue creating stigma and uncomfortable sentiment within the school community? Such a statue mentioning a certain nationality does create divisions within the Asian community.

History is an essential part of education as it helps us understand our humanity and to learn from our past. Obscuring or censoring history has already created deep divisions and our project aims to lift the existing stigma and close these divisions through remembrance, dialogue, and reconciliation that bring the Asian communities (and beyond) closer.

52. If the focus is the victim, why do you have to label the Japanese Imperial Army?

Labeling hurts. Being labeled as perpetrators and victims victimize all parties. But over 200,000 girls and women have been labeled for decades as victims and the Japanese Imperial Army are labeled as the perpetrators of crime against humanity to direct attention to and highlight the important part of our collective history from where wounds continue to (puss and rot). Causes of harm must be identified and the history learned in its entirety so that we, the next carriers of the history, do not repeat mistakes and their resulting atrocities and do our work to help heal decades of wounds.

See question 51.

53. Would the sponsors consider the addition of memorials to other victims - including the Japanese victims of WWII = if they were offered for donation?

See question 14.

54. Seven major US cities have rejected these statues based on their controversial statues. What do THEY understand that Philadelphia does not?

The City of Philadelphia understands this statue as a space to honor victims of a tragic time in history and educate the public about the atrocities. As with other Philadelphia statues that serve historical and humanitarian purposes, this statue is victim-centered and designed for education and remembrance.

55. What events and/or educational programming does the Committee have in mind to continue to raise awareness of this important history that has been long silenced? I understand victims of Japanese military sexual slavery issue have also stood in solidarity with and supported survivors of sexual violence in Vietnam, DR Congo, Uganda, etc. Their activism has been valuable in forging international awareness of sexual violence in armed conflicts. It also seems that there have been long standing calls for redress that have placed remembrance and peace at the center. Will there be opportunities for visitors to learn more about these and other parts of the transnational movement for justice on this issue and to understand the importance for justice and women's rights?

As a new organization, we are beginning to connect with people and organizations in Philadelphia and beyond who are already active and dedicated to these issues. It is our hope to strengthen (rather than duplicate) the transnational movement for justice and human rights and we will shape our visitors' experience and program offerings with their guidance and cooperation. For example, our latest conversation is with Asian American organizations based in Philadelphia who are presenting a panel discussion and arts & culture event titled *Korea, Vietnam, and Afro-America: Our Shared Struggle for Peace & Democracy* on March 12, 2022.

See question 20.

56. Have you considered programming that connects the artwork in Philadelphia to similar statues locally or globally (those that honor the Japanese military sexual slavery issue & other human rights violations issues) to promote international solidarity towards justice and human rights?

Yes, and the Peace Plaza Committee welcomes your ideas. Please contact admin@phillypeaceplaza.org

The Peace Plaza Committee is part of the Global Statue of Peace Network whose members are based in the US, Korea, Japan, Germany, and Australia and we have begun interviewing them to gather best practices and to find opportunities for collaborations.

In addition to physical artworks the Peace Plaza Committee aspires to collaborate with a wide range of artists in literature, performing arts, and visual arts. A great example of this is *The World After You Spoke*, a poetry video the Peace Plaza Committee produced in 2021, which is mentioned in question 4.

57. The description on the page entitled “Statue of Peace” mentions “sexual slavery”. It is not an appropriate term and should use “Comfort Women” instead. Isn't that so? Please explain.

The Peace Plaza Committee are using the factual description as requested by the victims who accurately describes the forced captivity, rapes, and murders they suffered. “Comfort women” is a translation of a euphemistic Japanese word for prostitute.

58 a. The presenter explained “briefly” about the statue and description. I was not sure whether her presentation was an interpretation of the young woman, or the descriptions engraved in the plaque. Will the following seven bullet point descriptions be engraved in the plaque? Yes, or no? If the following descriptions are not exact but different versions, please correct and explain.

- 1. The roughly cut hair represents the violent dislocation of the girl from her parents and home.**
- 2. The clenched fists show the strong will to resolve the “comfort women” matter - the lifelong pain.**
- 3. The bird on the shoulder symbolizes freedom and peace. It represents a spiritual medium connecting the living and the dead.**
- 4. The shadow of the grandmother indicates that time has passed as the young girl now became an elderly woman. But nothing has been resolved, and she has never been apologized by Japan for what she had to go through in her life.**
- 5. The white butterfly in the shadow of the grandmother represents reincarnation and the hope for the deceased victims to reincarnate to hear the apology from the Japanese government.**
- 6. The tiptoe of the girl represents the discomfort of the girl's life. The shoes were taken from her not to be able to run away. Even the survivors could not settle down in their hometown when they came back after the war.**
- 7. The empty chair means the absence of the victims already deceased, the companionship with survivors in the present, and the promise to fight with**

the survivors in the present, and the promise to fight with the survivors for the women and children's rights in the future

The answer is No.

b. If the answer is "No" to the above question, the description engraved in the plaque is exactly stated above the photo of a young woman on the page entitled "Statue of Peace" and nothing else. Yes, or No?

See question 8 for the proposed inscription that will be engraved in the plaque.

59. Will there be an additional Town Hall meeting to respond to the questions that were not discussed during the February 9 event?

No. All written questions that were received but not discussed during the Town Hall meeting on Feb 9, as well as additional questions received prior to the deadline on Feb 11 have been compiled and all responses are provided here in this list they are also on CreativePHL.org.

60. Will the current trees remain? They provide wonderful shade. I am concerned that new trees will take years to provide shade.

See question 33 & 39

61. Will there still be play space? I think that is being overlooked for a neighborhood location.

See question 26 & 36

62. Could the grassy area on the right be removed to allow for more play space? It seems to have no use.

See question 26 & 36

63. When will construction begin?

See question 15

64. Is the project completely funded?

Not at this time. Fundraising will become a bigger priority after the project is approved by the Philadelphia Art Commission.

65. How was the location decided on?

See question 28