

From: Brown Berets [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, January 30, 2018 10:51 AM
To: Nguyen, Tam; The Office of Mayor Sam Liccardo; District1; District2; District3; District4; District5; District 6; District7; District8; District9; District 10; City Clerk; Webmaster Manager; Simon, Dylan; Ferguson, Jerad; Ramos, Christina M; Torres, Omar; Moua, Louansee; Goings, Shirley; Sandoval, Vanessa; Rork, Christopher; McGarrity, Patrick
Subject: Christopher Columbus Statue

Dear Mayor & City Council,

We would like to take the opportunity to once again voice our opposition to the option of relocating the Christopher Columbus statue to the San Jose International Airport. **Our coalition is 100% against relocating the statue to the San Jose Airport.** The whole purpose of this campaign was to remove a symbol of genocide and white supremacy from public view and place it in an area where the community who chooses to appreciate the statue can do so without offending the greater public. Placing the statue in the international airport is only worsening the problem because it will be displaying a message of oppression to all visitors that come to our City.

In a time where cities all across our great country are doing away with outdated tributes to colonialism, we are falling behind by choosing to hold on to the statue of a murderer and rapist. There is literally no justification for maintaining possession of this statue. As a coalition, we will conduct escalating actions to oppose the airport at all costs.

We recommend that the statue is placed in storage at History Park until the Italian American Museum is finished in little Italy. The city can then give the statue over to the Italian community to put on display. The other option would be for the statue to be displayed in the bank of Italy at History Park.

We greatly appreciate your time.

[goog_1481985412]

<https://www.npr.org/sections/codeswitch/2014/10/12/354274630/seattle-swaps-columbus-day-for-indigenous-peoples-day>

<http://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-ln-indigenous-peoples-day-20170829-story.html>

San Jose Brown Berets
Beija Boxer Gonzalez|Co-Chair [REDACTED]
Peter Ortiz|Co-Chair [REDACTED]

From: Alida Bray [REDACTED]
Date: January 28, 2018 at 4:05:05 PM PST
To: "Peralez, Raul" <Raul.Peralez@sanjoseca.gov>
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Columbus

Hello Councilmember Peralez, As you know the future location for the Christopher Columbus statue is on the Council Agenda for January 30. I hope you will support me and History San Jose's position that Option #3: Relocate the statue to History Park in the Bank of Italy should be removed from consideration, or at the least not supported.

History San Jose objects to this process. I do not believe is City Council's job, nor City staff's job, to curate the exhibits at History Park.

That responsibility was given to HSJ with the City contract. The contract specifies that HSJ is to professionally curate and program History Park and the Peralta - Fallon Historic Site to American Alliance of Museum standards, which we do. By giving Council the option to decide that the statue could go to History Park goes against our contract and its intent.

All of the exhibits at History Park have been carefully curated involving Curators, Librarians, Exhibit Designers, Educators and Community members who after careful deliberation decide which artifacts will best tell a particular story to the public and will support educational programming. By randomly placing a statue – whether Columbus or Mickey Mouse, in the exhibit without consulting any professional museum staff is completely unprofessional.

Further, the statue was made for a grand public space, not a small replica bank. It would look ridiculous in the Bank of Italy, it is way too big for the space--completely disproportionate. Further, the only spot where it could fit we have already designated for a hands-on area and have invested much time and energy to that end. The statue has no relation to the bank or to our school programs. If the public asks, "why is that giant statue of Columbus in the Bank of Italy?" What exactly are we supposed to say?

Just because the statue has become a hot potato for City Hall, doesn't mean it should be tossed into the Bank at History Park.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. Alida

--

Alida J. Bray
President & CEO
History San Jose

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: Elisheva Basseri [REDACTED]

Sent: Tuesday, January 30, 2018 10:48 AM

To: District1 <district1@sanjoseca.gov>; District2 <District2@sanjoseca.gov>; District3 <district3@sanjoseca.gov>; District4 <District4@sanjoseca.gov>; District5 <District5@sanjoseca.gov>; District 6 <district6@sanjoseca.gov>; District7 <District7@sanjoseca.gov>; District8 <district8@sanjoseca.gov>; District9 <district9@sanjoseca.gov>; District 10 <District10@sanjoseca.gov>; The Office of Mayor Sam Liccardo <TheOfficeofMayorSamLiccardo@sanjoseca.gov>

Subject: Please Remove the Columbus Statue

Dear Honorable Council Members and Mayor Liccardo,

My name is Elisheva Basseri, I am a lifelong San Jose resident and a homeowner in District 9. I'm writing in to express my support in removing the Columbus statue from City Hall. For too long, our country, and city has had a history of erasing people of color from our narrative, and now is the time to begin to right those wrongs. Keeping the statue in any part of our City Hall sends a message of complicity in Native genocide that I am strongly opposed to.

San Jose has a rich history filled with Latino/ Latina, Native, women and immigrant leaders. I would love to see someone honored who has not had their proper due paid to them. Allowing the Columbus statue to remain signals that San Jose is all talk and no action when it comes to truly honoring and celebrating diversity. Please vote to remove it and continue improving our reputation as a leader of cities with progressive values.

Sincerely,

Elisheva Basseri

District 9 Resident



January 30, 2018

Subject: RELOCATION OF THE CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS STATUE

Dear Mayor Sam Liccardo,
Vice Mayor Magdalena Carrasco,
Councilmember Chappie Jones,
Councilmember Sergio Jimenez,
Councilmember Raul Peralez,
Councilmember Lan Diep,
Councilmember Devora Davis,
Councilmember Tam Nguyen,
Councilmember Sylvia Arenas,
Councilmember Don Rocha
Councilmember Johnny Khamis,
City Manager,
City Clerk,

SOMOS Mayfair is an organization focused on supporting our children, organizing families, and connecting neighbors to uplift the dreams, power, and leadership of community and address systematic inequities. As stated previously, we stand in solidarity with the San Jose Brown Berets campaign to relocate the Christopher Columbus statue because we believe this campaign attempts to address a systematic inequality and change power relations in our city that will only improve our legacy as a progressive city.

As an organization grounded on self-reflection, learning, and action, we ask our local government to dig deeper into the significance of the Columbus statue. In our society history is often taught from the perspective of the winners of war in order to duplicate a single dominant narrative of colonization. Columbus is often celebrated as the poster child of colonization and he is portrayed nationally as a heroic discoverer of the Western World. Columbus holidays are enacted by city governments, parades are organized, and statues are erected to worship his legacy while school children are taught this narrow one-sided narrative. For those who can relate this narrow one-sided narrative of Columbus he might bring a sense of pride. But such uncritical narrative blinds us to the impact of Columbus' legacy on our residents of Native American/Mexican and of African descent. It is clear and historically factual that Christopher Columbus statue also represents a legacy of systematic racism, slavery, and genocide towards people of color. Christopher Columbus' legacy is alive today and we see it in the multi-generational trauma, cultural destruction, community violence, and outright economic and political disempowerment of our communities. We believe this campaign is not just about a statue and its location, but about the type of impact and legacy we want to leave as leaders for our children and city under these turbulent Trump years.

As city leaders we ask to you reflect the type of legacy you want to leave behind for our residents. Our city government cannot continue to waver on this issue and we ask each of you to take a stand and to adhere to the Brown Berets campaign goals. We ask that as our city leaders that you support the San Jose Brown Berets proposed solution to relocate the statue to a local museum, Little Italy, or the Italian American Heritage Foundation. We believe that the solution proposed by the San Jose Brown Berets is a very reasonable request on their part. We believe that placing the statue at the airport further glorifies the legacy of genocide and colonization and associates this legacy with the City of San Jose at an international level. We believe that relocating the statue to the San Jose Airport will also further escalate any perceive tension around this issue and will not address the concerns brought by community residents. We urge you to listen to the San Jose Brown Berets and adhere to their campaign goals and solutions.

Sincerely,

Camille Fontanilla-Llanes & Victor Vasquez

From: Jerry Jeska

Sent: Tuesday, January 30, 2018 12:34 PM

To: District1; District2; District3; District4; District5; District 6; District7; District8; District9; District 10; The Office of Mayor Sam Liccardo; City Clerk

Subject: Columbus statue

San Jose City Council Members,

I am asking you to keep the statue of Columbus in City Hall or at least move it to the San Jose Mineta Airport.

Columbus had his faults but "let who is without sin cast the first stone." He should not be held responsible for the sins of Europeans who followed him, and his sins were not particularly egregious for the time.

Moreover all that resulted from his discovery was not bad. Anyone convinced that it was should return to the Europe of their ancestors, Britain, Spain, Italy, etc. Some pre-1492 practices of the indigenous peoples, such as human sacrifice, were nothing to be proud of.

The ancestors of many of San Jose's residents hailed from Spain, for whom Columbus sailed, and Italy. Recognition of that fact is appropriate, recognition of the courageous Columbus is appropriate as well. Regardless of the fact that a few people realized Earth was a ball, not a plate, he was the sailor who dared to endeavor to demonstrate it. Those boats were not the Queen Mary and the Atlantic Ocean was no smaller in 1492.

At the least, please relocate the statue to the airport where all who fly via San Jose can thereby share in observance of San Jose's Latin (i.e., Italian and Spanish) heritage.

Regards,

Jerry Jeska

40 year San Jose resident/taxpayer