

FLORENTINE FILMS

Ken Burns

March 15, 2019

Design Commission
Attn: Keri Butler
City Hall
New York, NY 10007

To the Design Commission:

I write to wholeheartedly add my voice in support of the Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony Statue Fund's proposal for a new statue in Central Park celebrating the pioneering suffragists Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony.

As Director and Producer of the award winning documentary *Not For Ourselves Alone: The Story of Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony*, I was blessed with the opportunity of getting to know these remarkable women well, and I believe they represent the very best of our nation. Their achievements, and the fight for women's suffrage that they championed, are wholly befitting inclusion in the world-class public forum that is Central Park.

Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony almost single-handedly created and spearheaded the women's rights movement in the United States. Their cause was virulently opposed by government and religious authority, by the press and popular opinion, by a host of male "progressive" leaders, and even by other women. Still their stalwart commitment never waned, and in 2020 America will celebrate the centennial of women's enfranchisement. The unveiling of this proposed statue next year will honor *all* Americans while framing a discussion around this important anniversary. The passing of the 19th Amendment is, after all, representative of the greatest aspect of American democracy: the ability to evolve in order to right a wrong.

Women's suffrage is about the very meaning of freedom and independence, and Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony—dedicated, unafraid, and indefatigable emblems of female leadership—are evidence of what activism can achieve. They are, quite simply, two of the most important people in American history. As a filmmaker, and as the father of four daughters, I extend my heartfelt support to this initiative.

Sincerely,


Ken Burns