

Monumental # Women

STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF MONUMENTAL WOMEN FROM LILY TOMLIN AND JANE WAGNER

Congratulations to Monumental Women for breaking the bronze ceiling to create the first statue of real women in 166-year history of Central Park. We know that you are well on your way to placing the Women's Rights Pioneers Monument featuring New Yorkers Sojourner Truth, Susan B. Anthony, and Elizabeth Cady Stanton on The Mall for all to admire. In addition to the Women's History Education Campaign you plan to launch, you will also give an instant history lesson to many of the 42 million people who visit Central Park annually.

Until your valiant work, Central Park only offered statues of Alice in Wonderland, Mother Goose, Juliet (with Romeo) and numerous figures of angels, witches, and nymphs. It is shocking that throughout New York City there are only 5 statues of women compared with 145 statues of men. We would have expected better from a City that we love. We were also surprised that NYC government bureaucracy has put obstacle after obstacle in your way. As an all-volunteer, not-for-profit organization, it is remarkable that you have been able to meet every challenge and move history forward.

We would like to lend our voices to the many people from New York City and around the country who support you. Please convey our strong support for your Women's Rights Pioneers Monument to the members of the New York City Public Design Commission at the September 16th Public Hearing on your wonderful project. When you unveil that beautiful statue on August 26, 2020, the Centennial Anniversary of the ratification of the 19th "Votes For Women" Amendment, know that women from all across the United States will be celebrating that victory with you.

Lily Tomlin
Jane Wagner